



From the Pastor's Desk

A DIFFICULT WAY TO GO

As for me, I am in your hands; do with me what you think good and right. Jeremiah 26:14

From Jeremiah's struggle and resolution, we can find help for walking out of darkness when it engulfs us.

To Jeremiah prayer was not just a matter of petitioning or thanking God. It was an intimate sharing of the soul. Whatever his tensions, he brought them to God. There he discovered that the Lord was a sympathetic listener and that God wouldn't back off or refuse to hear certain things. He wouldn't gasp in surprise, and he wouldn't say, "I would never have believed that of you." We can be honest with God.

Jeremiah's conversations with God remind us that sometimes repentance may be needed as part of the soul work we need to do to get over being depressed. Jeremiah had a difficult way to go, a way that any person would find difficult, but that doesn't mean he was completely innocent.

Brenda Poinsett. *When Saints Sing the Blues.*

A BIG "THANK YOU"!

We extend our appreciation to Fr Philip Chircop, SJ who preached our parish mission last week. Fr Philip's insights, wisdom and humour brought us all to a deeper understanding of what it means to be "Church" by choosing life and even "Catching on Fire"! We also thank the members of the Spiritual Committee, Mary Lou Zingrone and Larry Bilokrely who co-ordinated the receptions each evening. There were also many who provided the goodies for hospitality and those who helped with the clean-up each night. Thanks to all for making this year's Parish Mission a wonderful opportunity for our parish to grow stronger as a faith community.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun, Nov 23 – Feast of Christ the King

- Guest Homilist – Fr Luc Amoussou, SJ

Wed, Nov 26 – 12:00-3:30pm Seniors Social Club meets in hall

Thurs, Nov 27 – 9:30-12noon Pastoral Team meets in rectory

- 7:00pm Baptismal Preparation class for registered parents in the Church basement meeting room.

- 7:30-8:30pm. Parish Home Catechism Program's Catechists meet in rectory

Sat, Nov 29 – 4:30pm – Rite of Enrolment for Candidates for Confirmation in May.

Sun, Nov 30 – First Sunday of Advent

- Homilist – Fr Andy Macbeth

- Rite of Enrolment at all Masses for Candidates for Confirmation in May.

Wed, Dec 3 – Feast of St Francis Xavier

- 9:30am Mass with students and staff of St Margaret's School

- 7:45pm Pastoral Council meets in parish hall

Thurs, Dec 4 – 9:30-3:00pm Advent Retreat Day for priests of

Central Region at Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre

Fri, Dec 5 – Pastoral Team meets with Fr Cherian in rectory

- 7:00pm Family Movie Night in parish hall

Sat, Dec 6 – Parish Home Catechism Program. 10:00am Advent

Prayer Service in Church. 10:30-11:30AM Catechism classes in hall.

Sun, Dec 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

- Guest Homilist – Fr Terry Kersch, CSB

- Social Sunday in hall after 9:00 & 10:30am Masses

- 2nd Collection for St Vincent De Paul Society

- Right to Life Christmas Cards and Campaign Life Christmas Cakes/Day Planners are available for purchase in the hall after all the weekend Masses.

- 5:00pm Farewell Reception & Potluck Supper for Fr Cherian in the parish hall

Wed, Dec 10 – 9:30am Pastoral Team meets in rectory

- 12:00-3:30pm Seniors Social Club meets in hall

- 7:30pm "Friends of the Street" meet in hall

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CAKES

At our next Social Sunday (Dec 6/7) you will have the opportunity to purchase "Right to Life" Christmas Cards and Campaign Life Christmas Cakes/Day Planners in the parish hall after all the Masses that weekend.

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (CCODP) CAMPAIGN 2008
"WORKING OUR LAND, FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS"**

Each year, **Development and Peace** has conducted a **Fall Campaign** dealing with the areas of mining, land and water. This year's education campaign will approach **food sovereignty** within the larger context of access to land. Moreover, D&P will continue for a third year to press the Canadian government to take action on the corporate social responsibility of Canadian mining companies operating overseas.

- One will be sent to **our Member of Parliament** and the other to **our Prime Minister** through Development and Peace.

Our brothers and sisters in the South don't want handouts. They need us to affirm them in their struggles to help change unjust systems and alleviate their hunger and poverty.

Please take the time to pick up the brochures and action cards that are available and become informed and then help show our solidarity by completing the Action Cards and depositing them in the box at the back of the church.

WIN GREAT PRIZES

It is time once again for the Friar's Student Writing Award. Students aged 14-18 are invited to write a five hundred word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated Jan 18-25, 2009. The theme for this coming year is *That they may be one in your hand (Ezekiel 37:17)*. First prize is an iPod touch (32GB memory), second prize is an iPod nano (16GB memory) and third to sixth prizes are a one-year subscription to the Catholic Register and other prizes. Essays will be published in the Catholic Register. Deadline for entries is 12 December 2008. E-mail your essay to editor@catholicregister.org or FAX it to 416-934-2409. For further information call 416-934-3400, ext 344 or 416-934-2410 ext 407. Don't miss this opportunity.

ADVENT RETREAT DAY - QUEEN OF APOSTLES

On **Saturday, November 29th, 2008**. This retreat is open to all. Consider this day as a prayerful preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Please call the Centre at 905-278-5229 to register and for any additional information.

OPEN HOUSE

Hawthorn School for Girls is an independent school that provides an education based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. Join us for presentations and tours and learn about the exceptional education Hawthorn offers.

Thursday, November 26th 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Hawthorn Schook for Girls, 101 Scarsdale Rd, (Leslie & York Mills)

www.hawthornschool.com

For more information contact Mary Romanelli at 416-444-2900 or admissions@hawthornschool.com

NEWS FROM ST EUGENE'S

On **Sunday, December 7th, 2008** at 5:00pm there will be a farewell Pot Luck Supper in honour of Fr Cherian at St Margaret's hall. If you and your family would like to attend please contact Angie Mussen at 416-781-1988 (home) or 416-394-2089 (work). This is a sit down dinner and seating is limited, so please call Angie as soon as possible. Thanking you in advance.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Each year the Society asks for your financial help at Christmas to address the needs of approximately 80 families who call the parish for assistance. Envelopes for this special collection will be given out on Nov 29/30 and this special second collection will be taken up on the following weekend, Dec 6/7th.



Monday, Nov 24 – 8:20am

+Veronica McNally requested by Marguerite McNally

Wednesday, Nov 26 – 7:00pm

+Wilfrid Nolan requested by the family

Thursday, Nov 27 – 8:20am

+Frances Nolan requested by the family

Friday, Nov 28 – 8:20am

+Barbara Munson requested by the Kalia family

ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

presents **A Christmas Overture – Friday Dec 12 at 8:00pm and Saturday, Dec 13 at 3:00pm.** Come celebrate Christmas with Toronto's renowned boys choir as they make their overture into the season. The concert features sacred choral masterpieces from Christmas past and present, arranged by composers from Canada and beyond. Join St Michael's Choir School and special guest True North Brass for a spirited celebration of seasonal music at Massey Hall (Shuter/Victoria St) To Order Tickets call 416-872-4255, online at www.masseyhall.com or in person at the Roy Thomson Hall Box Office. Cost \$36.50 - \$22.50.

PLEASE "NO GUM"!

We are finding lots of gum stuck under the pews, kneelers and slots for the hymn books. Please have respect for "The Lord's House" and dispose of your gum in a proper receptacle.

COMMUNION FAST

This is also a good time to remind all who receive Holy Communion that Canon Law directs us to fast from all food and drink, except water, for one full hour prior to reception. Thus there should never be any food in the church. The only "Food" in the church is the Body and Blood of Christ that we receive in the Eucharist. Any other food being brought into the Church is disrespectful.

NEW SUNDAY MISSALS FOR 2009

The new Missals for 2009 are available at the back of the Church for purchase (\$4). You may take one and deposit \$4 in the box provided.

HOW TO USE MISSALS

I am often asked about yearly missals (and, of course, missalettes) Should they be used? Clearly, the answer is yes. The real question is how?

An official statement from Rome speaks, for example, of our listening attentively to the readings, not reading ourselves. But it speaks also of our preparation, our understanding what we hear, and of reflecting back on what we have celebrated. In this regard missals are particularly useful. Indeed, they can truly help bring liturgy into life.

It is at home that missals have their first place. Here they facilitate the use of the Sunday Gospel in prayer. Husband and wife can share its meaning with each other, and with their children. Parish groups similarly can employ missals effectively for reflection on the week's readings.

Missals are particularly helpful as preparation aids. Numerous readers (and priests) regularly take up their missals on Mondays or Tuesdays to prepare for the following Sunday. Because they include liturgical texts beyond the readings, they are a near essential resource for liturgy planning groups. Missals make available for meditation and study the eucharistic prayers (with their prefaces) and collects not otherwise readily accessible to the laity. Those who compose intercessions can use missals to review the liturgy and to see whether some of the sample ideas provided might be matters the local community may need to pray about. Choirs and other musicians might use them similarly before selecting hymns.

As remote preparation aids, missals can help introduce the shifts in liturgical time. More immediately, they can assist us to enter into the spirit of the celebration before we leave home, or in the period before Mass begins. Here, many people find the weekly reflection they often provide thought-provoking and helpful.

During Mass itself, missals can properly be used for unfamiliar congregational prayers and acclamations. Where they are available generally to members of the assembly, they may also be a resource for psalm responses or for some hymns. For those whose hearing is impaired, when acoustics are bad, or when the Eucharist is being celebrated in a language not entirely familiar, missals can assist, at least, that "full, conscious, and active participation" in the liturgy that Vatican II called for.

But if missals have their proper uses, it is equally important to know when to put them aside. We can read the scriptures at any time, but during the Mass we are called to listen to our sister or brother speaking God's word to us in faith. We will want to join together in hearing the priest pray to God with us and on our behalf. During the general intercessions we should be attentive to the petitions for our local needs, for these are our prayers, not prayers from books, but from the hearts and lives of members of this community.

Obviously too, the Church takes pains to maintain special reverence for the altar, the lectern, and the presider's chair. Each of these is an important symbol of Christ's presence: in word, in sacrament, and in the one who presides. Thus for altar, lectern, and chair the liturgy provides for books of special dignity. They are not places for missals.

Of course, Christ is not present in any book, simple or elaborate. Christ is present in us who pray together and in the priest, who leads us, present in the word proclaimed to us, present, especially, in the sacrament of the altar. In the Mass, what unites us to neighbour or presider, focuses us on the word proclaimed in our midst, or draws us to the altar is always good; what removes our attention from any of these is not. Raymond J. Lahey, Bishop of Antigonish, NS

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO "REMEMBER"!

Wisps of Memory by Andrea Murray

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
Mud plasters my front, cold wind whips my back
Brace yourselves, lads, its another attack!
We leap from the pits, our guns ready to fire
Bravado drains steadily with the sweat we perspire.*

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
Feather light touches, a close brush with death
Another bullet sings by with a quickly drawn breath.
My aim ne'er wavered, my death-knell rang true—
But always we wondered whose brother we slew.*

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
Each new trembling step, each next furtive mile
Death marched among us and flashed her grim smile.
The lumps in the ground, the blood freshly spilled
Cry out from the ground like Cain's cursed first kill.*

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
Numbed fingers and toes, starved stomachs grew tight
And still we pressed on, to fight the good fight
My dwindling troop, once foolishly brave
Now lie snuggled together in poorly dug graves.*

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
The question remained, the dark shadow of thought
Will we ever return? Will freedom be bought?
Yet the darkest of all, the bringer of fear—
How long will the terror of war linger near?*

*Courage! they cried. For Country! and died.
It came with a price, this thing we hold close
Of everything else, Peace cost us the most.
Their last solemn gift—thus protect it, we must
Lest the trials of our forefathers crumble to dust.
Courage! they cried. For Country! they died.*