

REFLECTION for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

This week's readings challenges us to look closely at how we live our lives as Christians. We claim that we are followers of Jesus; we are 'laborers' in the mission fields-home and at work.

But if we seriously asked ourselves this question,- would Jesus be pleased with our way of life as we attempt to love God and love our neighbor-, how would we truthfully respond? Are we committed to spreading the Good News or are we contend to just look after our own interests?

Do we believe that the work of saving souls is the priest's job or the job of our parish leaders? Do we sit on our behinds and leave others to go out among the 'sheep' to tend to them compassionately, mercifully, and lovingly? Is ours a 'I-am-only-concerned-about-me' mentality?

In our Gospel, we read that Jesus and his disciples were tired after ministering to the people (sheep) and that they (shepherds) wanted to get away for a rest. But the people wanted them to continue their ministry. They wanted their teaching, their healings, and their assuring presence. And, with compassion and mercy, Jesus and the disciples gave them what they wanted. Jesus and Jesus' followers could do no less. And neither can we.

Fast forward to today and there are still many people who want and need compassion and mercy. There are those suffering the pain of loss- loss of a deceased loved one, lost of a job, loss of health, loss of a relationship, loss of faith, or loss of peace of mind. They are seeking consolation; they are seeking a 'shepherd'; someone to care for them, someone to journey with them and to assure them that there is light ahead; that the darkness can be dispelled.

They look at you and me. Like the Chosen People of our first reading, like the crowd following Jesus and his disciples in our Gospel, and like the many lost souls seeking our help in today's troubled world, they call out for divine assistance. That assistance has to come through us- through our helping hand, our comforting voice, and our being a friend in their time of need.

They are aware that we call ourselves Christians and so they look to us for that 'Blessed Assurance'. It's a gift and grace from God and it is beautifully expressed in a sacred hymn; here is one verse and the chorus:

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

CHORUS: *This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.*

We have to be available to those who need us. Let us, with courage, conviction, compassion, mercy, and love, be true shepherds when the sheep are in need of tender-loving care. Let us give them, through our efforts, the Blessed Assurance that comes only from following Jesus.

Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses in Week Days:
Wed 7 pm
Thurs, Fri 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of the Month,
at 2 pm

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

Marriages:
Six month notice is required.
A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

July 19, 2015
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

	<u>July 04, 05</u>
Collection	\$1,378.00
Building Fund	115.00
Votive Candles	82.00
Misc. Donation	500.00
Mass requests	30.00
Garden Party	205.00

MASS INTENTIONS

July 20	No Mass
July 21	No Mass
July 22	Columbus Hall/ Dr. O'Connor
July 23	Special Intention
July 24	Josephine Salazar de la Cruz
July 25	Joseph Whynott
July 26	Parish Community

CEMETERY MASSES SCHEDULE

Mount Cecilia	Tues	July 28, 7pm
Mount Patricia	Wed	July 29, 7 pm
Town-site	Thurs	July 30, 7pm

QUALIPU CELEBRATION

Next Sunday July 26, members of the Qualipu First Nation Band will join us for the celebration of our 11 am Mass. Together we will praise and glorify the Lord at our Eucharistic celebration. And we will join the Band in celebrating Jesus' earthly grandmother for this date is also the Feast Day of St. Anne, mother of Mary, and the Qualipu First Nation's patron saint. Immediately following Mass, a sacred procession in honor of St. Anne will proceed from our Church to a reception or 'feast' in

the United Church basement across the street. All are welcome.

SUMMER HOURS

During the summer the **office** will be open in the morning & closed in the afternoon. Morning hours will continue until after Labor Day. Afternoon hours will resume on Sept. 8th.

A PARISH REGISTRATION

Now 53 have been returned. Please fill it out and return it. Fill in enough so that we can register your family. It will help us enumerate our parish community. Additionally, if you know a family who you believe would like to register with our Parish, please take a form and give it to them to complete.

MUSICAL CONCERT OF PRAISE

We wish to thank all those who helped in making last Sunday evening's concert so blessed, sacred, and successful. It was truly awesome to hear all those voices praise the Lord in song. \$407.00 cash and lots of food items were donated to the Food Bank Network by those in attendance. Thanks.

CONCERTS OF PRAISE SCHEDULE

July 19 - 6:30pm Host church – Westside Pentecostal - at Sir Richard Squires Parking Lot
July 26 - 6:30pm Host church - Salvation Army Citadel - at Sir Richard Squires Parking Lot

August 2 - 6:30pm Host church – Son-rise Ministries - concert in Margaret Bowater Park

August 9 - 6:30pm Host church - St. Michael and All Angels - at Sir Richard Squires Parking Lot

August 16 - 6:30pm Host church - Seventh Day Adventist - at Sir Richard Squires Parking Lot

August 23 - 6:30pm Host church - Salvation Army Temple - at Sir Richard Squires Parking Lot

August 30 - 6:30pm – Hosted by all Churches- Concert at Margaret Bowater Park

WELCOME VISITORS

This is the time of year when many people come home or come to visit friends and/or relatives. So, we extend a sincere hello to anyone visiting us and joining in our Eucharistic celebrations. Good to see you and God bless you.

A SUGGESTION- COME and SEE

All of us know persons who have, for various reasons, stopped going to church. In living our faith, we believe they are missing out on many graces and blessings from God. In September, we are planning a COME and SEE Campaign. We will be inviting those who have stopped coming to come and see. We miss them and want them to be part of our Parish family. Perhaps you could mention this to persons you know and

invite them to come with you during our Campaign. Start now.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This notice will serve as a reminder that three (3) new members will be elected to Parish Council in September. Nomination forms will be available in August. Please consider either nominating yourself or someone else to fill this vital role in the life of the Parish.

CEMETERY MASS CLEAN-UP

We have cut the grass and done a general clean-up of the Cemetery. And we have a load of topsoil available nearby. We would like to encourage any families with loved ones buried in our Mount Cecelia Cemetery to make an effort to clean-up the individual grave-sites over the next week in advance of our Cemetery Mass on Tuesday July 28 at 7 pm. Thank you

MASS INTENTIONS

We have only a few Mass intentions requested for August. Again we encourage you to put Mass requests in with your Sunday offering. We will schedule the Mass either ASAP or on the date you request.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at the Cathedral. Talk on July 16th: The Gift of Prophecy.