

REFLECTION for Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

Remember the song *What's it all about Alfie*. Here are some of the lyrics of that classic song:

Is it just for the moment we live? What's it all about when you sort it out, Alfie? Are we meant to take more than we give, or are we meant to be kind? And if only fools are kind, Alfie, then I guess it is wise to be cruel and if life belongs only to the strong, Alfie, what will you lend on an old golden rule? As sure as I believe there's a heaven above, Alfie, I know there's something much more, something even non-believers can believe in. I believe in love, Alfie, without true love we just exist, Alfie.

Living our faith and anticipating our salvation are choices. We need to ask someone, God could be our Alfie, or, we could ask ourselves, *what it life all about?* How are we to choose to live life lovingly? How do we love God and neighbor? How do we embrace God's wisdom? How do we keep the law and show love?

We tend to privatize our way of life (*I Did It My Way*). But the Biblical record is clear; there a communal aspect in walking this path to salvation. We must make informed choices; choices that offer life or death.

The ways of life and death are not mainly about getting to Heaven or Hell. The WAY chosen dictates the world that we create for ourselves and for others, especially our loved ones. Led by the Holy Spirit, if we allow the Spirit to lead us, we can choose to live joyfully and successfully; we can '*live long and prosper*' and, ultimately, we will reach, and pass through, that heavenly 'narrow gate.'

Some religions set forth a set of laws and doctrines that they prescribe for attainment of these life-saving goals. Today's scriptures add a note of caution to those who choose to live by laws alone. They remind us that it is not merely by following laws, but by choosing a WAY of live, that we attain our faith and our salvation. It we get the message, we come to know that JESUS is the WAY to choose.

Here is Pope Francis' take on this: '*Our mission reminds us that, despite the challenges we face, we are called to choose to be faithful. Putting Jesus among his people means having a contemplative heart, taking up and carrying the crosses of our brothers and sisters, and touching the wounds of Jesus in the wounds of a world in pain, which longs and cries out for healing. If we choose to follow God's wisdom, it will lead us to actively engage with our world. We choose to be men and women who are constantly forgiving, who are anointed in Baptism and sent to share that anointing and that consolation of God with everyone.*'

The Way of life, if chosen, enables humans to flourish and give life. Walking this path means exercising mercy, compassion, love, forgiveness, and generosity, as well as easing the burdens of others, especially the poor, weak and vulnerable. It means keeping God's laws, imitating Jesus' WAY, and being Christian.

The Way of death is well-travelled. It is my way and not God's WAY. It is categorized by fear, sinfulness, selfishness, apathy, injustice and viciousness. This path creates a living hell-on- earth; and we may not even know this. Our world becomes a place where the holiness in people is snuffed out, where the ego reigns, and the comfort of a few comes at the price of the misery of many. It leads to doom.

This Two-Way theology is a continual refrain in the Bible. We have two paths before us, life and death. We are free to choose either one; we walk the pathway we choose, and we reap the consequences.

We can choose to put ourselves with Jesus amid his people. If we take this route, it would be so good, so peaceful, so freeing and so hope-filled. To leave our comfort zone and to encounter others, is not only good; it also turns our lives and hopes into a YES to Jesus. We become participants, and not bystanders.

Our second reading affirms: '*These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.*' The faint of heart beware! Many times, we will do that which we would rather not do- submit to God's wisdom.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wednesday, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Friday at 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

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

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

February 12, 2017

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Feb 4, 5)

Collection	1,558.50
Bldg. Fund	75.00
Votive Candles	40.00
St. Vincent de Paul	5.00
Mass Stipends	45.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 13	No Mass
Feb 14	No Mass
Feb 15	For the deceased
Feb 16	For the sick and suffering
Feb 17	Fr. Raymond March
Feb 18	Intention of Betty Caines
Feb 18	Edward Callahan, Angela Childs, Maurice Boland, Michael & Ada George, and Thomas Griffin Sr.
Feb 19	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (Feb 18, 19)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Matthew English	Joanne Hackett, Joanne Connolly
Victoria Murphy	Barbara Neville

Communion to Sick John Carroll

Don Gallant **Elizabeth Carew, Brian Sparkes**
Janet Jackson **Patsy Payne**

OFFICE HOURS

Please make note of the new Office Hours printed on the bulletin cover.

MASS REQUESTS NEEDED

Right now, we do not have enough requests to complete next week's Mass schedule. So, once again, we invite you to request Masses for your deceased or sick loved-ones. Either call the Office or put your request in your Sunday envelope.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS 2016

Thank you for your generosity. These are now available at the back of the church. We have them in envelope number-order. If there are any discrepancies, they should be reported to the Parish Office.

PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Members are asked to meet on **Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 15, at 1 pm** in the parish house.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening Feb 13 at 7 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

CALLING PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are planning to offer a Youth Mass on the last weekend of February. To do this, we require our young people to participate. At this Mass, they will take the lead in the many ministry roles. We hope to make this a monthly activity. *We have some more good news.* NET Ministries will spend some time working with youth in our parish.

NET MINISTRIES- COME MEET THEM

Please mark these dates. On Thursday March 16 at 7 pm. This group of 10 young men and women will join us in a brief Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. WE will follow this with a social. Come and hear about their work and to meet them.

The following Friday evening and on Saturday, they will meet with our youth to share their faith experiences and to encourage them to actively practise their faith.

STAND WITH REFUGEES

A petition has circulated "**Will you stand with refugees?**" which calls on all governments to work together and do their fair share for refugees. The petition will be delivered to UN headquarters in New York before the UN General Assembly high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled for September 19. This petition, which is only available on-line, may be found at <http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/petition/>

ST. VALENTINE, Feb 14

Legend states that Valentine was executed on this day in 273 AD. It is said that he wrote a farewell message to jailor's daughter, whom he had cured, and signed it affectionately '*From Your Valentine,*' a phrase that lives on even to today. He aided the Christian martyrs during the persecutions. There was a decree forbidding marriage; the Emperor believed that single men made better soldiers than married men. Valentine defied this decree and urged young lovers to come to him in secret so that he could join them in the sacrament of matrimony.

STS. CYRIL and METHIDIUS, Feb 14

These Greek brothers became missionaries, teachers, and patrons, of the Slavic peoples. They are specially venerated by Catholic Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, Serbians and Bulgarians. Much of their daily crosses had to do with the language of the liturgy; they got the liturgy into Slavonic with the courage and humility of Christ.

ST. PEREGRINE- SERVITE ORDER, Feb 17

He is the patron saint of cancer patients. Here is a pray to use in praying for his intercession:
O great St. Peregrine, you have been called the Mighty, the Wonder-Worker, because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years, you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and you had recourse to the Source of all grace when human power could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. (silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying) Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

BINGO DONATIONS Thank you to the following people for their generous bingo donations; Madonna Elford, Madonna English, Evelyn Ezekiel, Don Gallant, Mary Gallant, Sharon Gallant, Alvina George, Maureen George, Sheila George, Tom George, Margaret Gillis, Linda Green, Annie Griffin, Jackie Griffin, Brenda Griffin, Tony Griffin, Julia Hackett-Myles, John Hancock, Patsy Hall, Barbara Hayes, Col Healey, Diane Hearn, Joan Hutchings, Kay Hynes, Janet Jackson, Helen Jones, Pat Jones, Clara Joyce, Clara Joyce, Patrick Joyce, Edna Kearney, Edith Leonard, Mike Leonard, Frank Lewis, Elaine Lynch, Kathleen MacDonald, Helen McCarthy, Edmund McGrath, Shirley McGrath, Ann McHugh, Linda McIsaac, Camille Bruce, Donna Mitchell, Gertrude Daye, Vivian Donahue, and Veronica Stone. Together we have raised \$ 867.50!

Why do Catholics consider it so important to go to Mass every Sunday?

Well, first of all, God told us in the commandments that we should keep holy the Sabbath Day. We don't need to be in Church to pray; we can – and should – pray everywhere and anywhere, from the privacy of our own home to a special place in nature to a gathering with our friends. But when we participate in the Eucharist on Sundays, we have the opportunity to praise God through song, prayer and the Scriptures. We get an opportunity to get together with the other members of our Catholic faith community, kind of like a family gathering. And most importantly, we get to receive the body and blood of Christ. That's what makes the Mass so important and so special!

St Vincent de Paul Society

To assist those in need 638-9010

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.