

REFLECTION for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'even the hairs of your head are all counted. So, do not be afraid.'

Remember the fatherly sergeant on the police TV series Hill Street Blues. Each show started with him sending his officers out into the mad troubled city; but not before he said: Hey, let's be careful out there. Their profession dictated that they had to go out there. It was risky business; sometimes terrifying and often dangerous. They must always be on guard, someone might seek to harm them or even take their life.

Our lives as disciples are like that. Our Christian profession of faith calls us to go out there; out into the mission fields where souls are in peril, out to where we are called to confess Jesus. Our apostolic voice within bids us go, while a human voice cautions us that it could be costly. **Fear not**, Jesus assures us- Go, trust in me.

We live in a changing/frightening society. Respect for the other is in decline, it's near dog eat dog. Financial, societal, and interpersonal strains lead to family breakdowns. Human life, at every level, is devalued. The 'nones- who profess no religious affiliation- outnumber believers. Personal faith in God wanes and is tested.

What is the conscientious faithful Catholic to do? Are we to just thrown up our hands and concede?

This crisis of faith is not new and this hesitancy to admit God and truth is not new. Thank God for the examples of true discipleship found in scripture. Thank God for Jeremiah, the reluctant prophet. He tells us that *terror is all around but the Lord is with me like a dread warrior*. He felt a great burden as he preached God's words. He was demeaned, ridiculed, and persecuted. The people of his times would say to him, '*why bother*'. They refused to listen to him; ultimately it led to their ruin. But he persevered, remain faithful, rejecting the temptation to give in. Fear not, countless others have succeeded as he did, including St. Paul.

The way of the world is not the way of God. We often wish it were so. We seek the easy path. Following God often requires self-denial/suffering. Again, if we look for examples in scripture we see the example of Jesus. He followed the narrow way, the way that leads to righteousness and salvation. For that choice, he was crucified.

Discipleship is not for the faint of heart. Courage, conviction, and commitment are the armor of the faithful. Our Gospel today encourages us to have confidence that God keeps us in his care - numbering even the hairs of our heads. Yet, we are reminded that, like the sparrow that falls to the ground, we are going to come to grief. This may sound harsh, it may sound unattractive. Indeed, it discourages and drives away many would-be disciples in our difficult times. Scripture warns us of these worldly allurements- that battle of good and evil.

Like any gift worth having, true discipleship comes with a cost. But, in the end, that cost pales when compared with the prize. But doubt pervades our life experiences. How are we to reconcile the existence of physical diseases, mental anguish, or malicious cruelty, with the belief that the whole universe is held in being by an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God? Now, there is the test of faith; faith that requires submission to a higher power. Lord, it's hard to be humble, to believe in God's promise to be in communion with us.

Jesus tells his disciples what they are in for. He is sending them out, he says, as sheep into the midst of wolves. Jesus tries to bolster their fears with cheerful upbeat remarks that they are not to fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. He assures us too; teaching us that the love God has for us will enable us to triumph over evil. It takes humility, faith, hope, and love, to believe this teaching. If we are truly to be disciples of Jesus, if we are to be found worthy of him, if we desire to live our vocational call, the truth is we will not be able to escape taking up our own cross and following him. Discipleship costs dearly. But fear not!

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

465 Curling Street

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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed, Thurs, at 7:00 pm, Fri at 10 am

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

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

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

June 25, 2017

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (June 17, 18)

Collection	\$ 1546.45
Cemetery Fund	\$ 60.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 30.00

MASS INTENTIONS

June 26	No Mass
June 27	No Mass
June 28	Robert/ Madonna Gremmels (Collier)
June 29	Thomas & Lucy Collier
June 30	John & Frances Darrigan
July 1	William & Frances Gregory
July 1+	Dennis, Chris, Tony Murphy
July 2	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (July 1, 2)

READERS EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Joan Penney	Frank Lewis, Joe Byrne
John Carroll	Art Hall
<i>Communion to the Sick</i> Joe/Marie Byrne	
Hedy Kenny	Wayne Dicks, Amelia Dicks
Mike Leonard	Margaret Dalley

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, June 26 at 7 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.' This week's focus is Corpus Christi.

FLOWER GARDEN

Please help us by bringing perennials to plant. We ask that you donate them either in support of the beautification or in memory of a loved one. We thank John Hancock who has overseen the planting of annuals in the Cross again this year.

TABERNACLE ART WORK FOR SALE

Limited edition Prints of the beautiful painting which adorns our tabernacle are being made available. The small prints will cost \$30.00 The medium prints are \$45.00. To order one, please sign the sheets which are available at the back. These would make a nice addition to your home or make a great gift for family living away.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We recently held our last meeting of the year.

Each year 3 members complete their term and are then replaced in September by parish election. We express our gratitude to Joan Penney, John Noseworthy, and Brian Sparkes, as they have served their 3-year term.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Join Sacred Heart & Star of the Sea Parishes in celebration of **Father Don Leonard's 11th Anniversary** as a member of the priesthood on **June 28th.** Sacred Heart will be hosting a special mass in his honour @ 5pm, followed by POT LUCK SUPPER at the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. All are welcome; Don't forget to bring your favourite dish.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS

Katie and Matthew have prepared all the photos which you have provided over the past few years. We have hundreds. There are digitalized and now reprinted and ready to be grouped by category. We hope to display them in some sort of album and on our website. To aid in this project, we are inviting volunteers to come forward to help in identification of these pictures/ events. Contact the Office if you are interested in helping. BTW, it's not too late- if you have some old photos that you think may belong in this project, please bring them to us for inclusion.

CHURCH FLOORS TO BE RE- CARPETED

Thank God, we have a little money, and a generous donor, to allow this project to proceed. We have contracted a flooring company to replace our old carpet with new, Also, we are placing high-quality durable non-slip vinyl in our side-rooms. Work will begin in a few weeks. There will be some disruption. Hopefully, this will be minimal.

MT. CELILIA CEMETERY MASS

We will gather in the cemetery on **Wednesday July 12 at 7 pm.** Please notify any friends or relatives who might want to attend.

TOWNSITE/ MT. PATRICIA MASSES

FYI, here is the schedule for uptown:

Tuesday, July 25, 7 pm- Townsite Cemetery.

Wednesday, July 26, 7 pm - Mt. Patricia Cemetery.

CROSS IN THE CEMETERY

FYI- The men of the parish have committed to erecting a large lighted cross in the cemetery before the above Mass. We will bless and dedicate it at that Mass. Thanks in advance.

SUMMER STUDENT BEGINS WORK

Matthew English begins work this Monday, June 26. He will be with us for seven weeks, to continue digitalizing our sacramental records, cataloging our parish history, updating our cemetery records, and doing some office work. WELCOME.

CEMETERY RECORD FOR UNMARKED GRAVES

We have many unmarked gravesites. This summer we are asking families with loved ones buried in unmarked graves at Mt. Cecilia to submit their names. We plan to erect a large memorial plaque displaying these names. Given the circumstances, it is the best option for memorializing them available to us. Please support this effort.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The Society is still looking for new members. And there is a need for used furniture. Call: 638-9010 for more information. They thank you for your generous support of their 4th Sunday collections.

FEAST of ST. IRENAEUS JUNE 28

Back in the 2nd century there was a group called the Gnostics who claiming access to secret knowledge imparted by Jesus only to them. After thoroughly investigating them, Irenaeus contrasted their teaching with that of the apostles and the texts of Holy Scripture. Gradually the influence of the Gnostics ended. He taught us that a genuine concern for other people leads to the discovery that truth is not the domain of the few, but rather all should claim a share in the truth. Here are two of his most famous quotes:
'The business of the Christian is nothing else but to

be ever preparing for death.'
'The glory of God is man fully alive.'

SOLEMNITY of ST. PETER and ST. PAUL- JUNE 29

The fact that this is a solemnity indicates the importance of these two giants of Christianity. Jesus said to St. Peter: *"It is not you who have chosen me, but I who have chosen you. Peter, it is not human wisdom that makes it possible for you to believe, but my Father's revelation. I, not you, build my Church."* St. Paul's experience of the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was the driving force that made him one of the most zealous, dynamic, and courageous ambassadors of Christ the Church has ever had.

HAPPY HOLIDAY FOR NEWFOUNDLAND

Monday, June 26, is a statutory holiday here in our province. **Discovery Day** is celebrated in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador on the nearest Monday to **June 24.** It is also known as Cabot 500 Day and remembers Giovanni Caboto's (also known as John Cabot) discovery of the province's island portion. Long may our big jib draw. Have a safe and joyous long weekend. As Simani once sang to Mainlanders- *you can't have Joe Smallwood and you can't have John Cabot.*



JESUS PRAYER

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