

REFLECTION for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fr. Don

In his latest exhortation **The Joy of Love**, which addresses marriage and family life, Pope Francis wants all Catholics to have an informed conscience and to follow its promptings upon our minds and souls.

Because we believe in the promises of Jesus, because we wish to be faithful to Him and to our ancestors, and because we wish to live happy and blessed lives, we have to inform our consciences. We have to think before we act. Our soul calls out to us to listen; for free will acts have consequences.

Just what is an informed conscience and how do we use it in staying faithful to our faith in Jesus?

Well, here is a good aid that I found at a difficult time in my life. It afforded me great comfort as I battled issues within my Deposit of Faith; while seeking to remain a faithful Catholic.

In his book **Principles for a Catholic Morality**, Father Timothy O'Connell puts forth the terminology that enables one to discuss informed conscience decision-making. He speaks of conscience as acting on three levels - *Conscience one*, *Conscience two* and *Conscience three*.

We use **Conscience one** when we make simple everyday right or wrong decisions. For example, deciding if we eat that extra cookie or deciding what is appropriate to wear today.

We use the level of **Conscience two** whenever we need to make moral judgments. Here begins the type of decision-making that relate to religious matters. A person in such a situation begins a reflective process during which (s)he solicits advice from knowledgeable people; (s)he prays, (s)he strives to apply moral/religious principles to the situation and seeks to evaluate the bad and good consequences that will flow from the decision. At this level then, one opens oneself to the guidance of the Church's magisterium. Respect is shown for the education, study, and consultation, which have led the magisterium to its conclusions.

It used to be that conscience formation stopped here for most Catholics. But in today's society with its 'show-me-convince-me' mentality, the next level, **three**, is considered.

For when doubt in the Church's teaching still persists within us, the level of **Conscience three** kicks into gear. We strive to be totally open to the Church's teachings, and we pray to the Holy Spirit to lead us to accept this; but if we are drawn in a different direction we must pray some more that some dark power is not influencing us. One should seek trusted spiritual/religious guidance. Ultimately Christians have to be true to Jesus and their conscience. Recall **I-THOU**. I wrote about the **I-THOU** relationship (me and Jesus) a few weeks ago. So if we get to this point, and still believe that we are right and the Church teaching is not, then we must follow our conscience.

At this level it is firmly said that an individual's conscience is inviolable and sacred.

Even the great Catholic theologian St. Thomas Aquinas states that the conscience must be obeyed even if it means death or excommunication. Hopefully, it won't come to that for us.

Form an informed conscience! The mercy of God allows this for His beloved- **I**, as in you and I.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish In Love With Christ

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
website--www.sacredheartrcparish.ca
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Liturgical Celebrations

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

Masses in Week Days:
Wed, Thurs 7 pm
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.

April 24, 2016

Fifth Sunday of Easter

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

April 16, 17

Collection	\$1760.00
Building Fund	15.00
Votive Candles	45.00
Pastoral Dues	100.00
Certificates	20.00
Mass Stipends	60.00
Baptismal Stipend	25.00
Ecclesial Students Collection	20.00
Bibles, Catechisms	130.00

MASS INTENTIONS

April 25	No Mass
Apr 26	No Mass
Apr 27	Intention of Harry Woodman
Apr 2	Ignatius Power
Apr 29	Dorothy & Henry Keough
Apr 30	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Hall
May 1	Parish Community

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to those young men and women who were confirmed this weekend. You are now fully initiated into our church. Please join us each Sunday to continue growing in your faith. Bring your parents too.

CONGRATULATIONS

Conner Patrick Quigley was baptised last Sunday at our 11 am Mass. May God continue to bless him and his parents.

FIRST COMMUNION

Next Sunday, May 1, the children will receive their First Communion. Congratulations to each of you

BINGO

May's game takes place **this Sunday, May 1 at 2**

pm in the school cafeteria. Please support this parish event.

SPRING VARIETY CONCERT

Friday evening May 6 at 7 pm has been set as the date and time of our Variety Concert. Our organizing committee is busy lining up talent to entertain you again. More details will follow soon.

LADIES GROUP FUND-RAISER

Here's a chance to get involved in a worthwhile event in our parish. Please take a book of tickets to help the Ladies Group in their effort to raise funds for the parish. The beautiful hand-made quilt can be viewed at the back of the church.

MEN'S GROUP MEETING

This group will meet Wednesday, April 27 following evening Mass at 7 pm. They will meet in the parish house. New members joyfully welcome.

ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING

This meeting is scheduled for evening of Sunday, April 24, at 7 pm. It will be held in the church. Please come to hear a brief pastor's report, the 2015 financial report, and to share in an open forum in which to share any concerns, suggestions, compliments, or complaints. Mark the date and time and make your attendance a priority.

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES MEETING

Members on this Committee are to meet this Thursday evening after 7 pm Mass. We will meet in the parish house.

SUNDAY, MAY FIRST

At our 11 am Mass, the children who have

prepared for First Communion will receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. We plan to begin this celebration with a Procession to honor and crown the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will end with a social at the parish house after Mass.

YOU ARE INVITED (TWICE) DOWN & UP

At 2 pm on Sunday May 1, there will be a special Mass celebrated **down** in Stella Maris Church in Benoit's Cove. Bishop Hundt will be the celebrant. You are invited to come to join the Parish in thanking Sr. Mildred and Sr. Donna for their ministry.

ALSO, you are invited to attend the priestly ordination of Andrew White. This blessed event takes place **up** at the Cathedral on Sunday, May 15, at the 5 pm Mass.

BIBLE STUDY

This group meets each Monday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. We would like to encourage/ invite others to join us for sharing the Word of God in scripture and for fellowship.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

We have sold out of the large print **NRSV Bibles** again. If you still want one, let us know and we will order more. Four copies of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** are still available at \$20 each. Every Catholic home should have a copy of both of these books.

WEEKEND OF GRACE RETREAT

This retreat is for men only and is being offered on the weekend of April 29 to May 1. It is taking place at a retreat center near Halifax. For more information please visit the website www.weekendofgrace.com

CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE

This Diocesan training session for catechists will be held at the Civic Center in Corner Brook on Friday, May 13 (7-9 pm) and on Saturday, May 14 (9am -4pm).

We are hoping some people from our parish will attend. Beginning in September, all the parishes in the Diocese are to offer religious education and sacramental preparation classes for our young people. We are asking for help, please consider attending this conference so as to help your parish.

PAMPHLET MINISTRY

Many beautifully illustrated and inviting pamphlets are now available for free at the back of the church. Please have a look and take any that are of interest to you.

MOUNT PATRICIA CLEANUP

Do you have a loved one buried there? There will be a general clean-up on Monday evening May 2 from 6-8 pm. Please bring your family, some gloves, and some garbage bags and join others in this annual event prior to Mother's Day.

THE GIFT: A Holy Spirit Based Faith Building Course

This will be offered on **May 14 & 15 at Sacred Heart School cafeteria from 9am. to 4pm. each day.** For more info contact Wayne or Amelia Dicks at 388-1048. This weekend is free of charge & lunch will be provided. The Holy Spirit enriches our lives with Wisdom, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Compassion, and Self-control.

PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY

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