

REFLECTION for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

Today's readings present us with Amos, St. Paul, and the apostles of Jesus. They are sent out to be ambassadors of the Word. In their time, it was their task to spread the Word of God and they did it to the best of their ability; aided by God's presence dwelling within them.

We, like them, have an inescapable vocation and an unavoidable mission. If we are truly Christians, then we have to tell God's truth, to uphold God's covenant, and to proclaim the unity of all God's people. In-season and out-of-season, the Good News remains as true today as it was in Biblical times. We have to proclaim- by deed and by word- the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

And as harsh as it may seem, there is a warning: if there are those who refuse to listen, then we should not be afraid to *'shake off the dust that is on our feet'*, and leave the task to others, possibly at another time and in another place. We are to be messengers offering hope and salvation through faith and belief in the Person and Message of Jesus.

But God has given all of humanity the gift of free-will, and so we are all free to choose.

Hopefully each of us, the messengers, has said YES to Jesus and YES to being His ambassadors. We offer and others are free to accept or reject what we offer. Our faith must remain steadfast.

There seem to be two clear messages in today's Gospel; one, that Christ's church must not allow itself to get bogged down with too much 'baggage', too many irrelevant additional rules that may detract from the proclaiming of the Message; and two, that it must be prepared for those who refuse to listen, but stay determined to continue to proclaim the Good News in the same way that Christ himself continually proclaimed it.

Modern technology should assist in that task. It enables the Message to reach beyond the boundaries of the conventional church. Cell phones, instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and whatever else is available, can facilitate us in reaching a generation of people who may have never darkened church doors nor read from a Bible. Come home, come home, is God's plea.

But we cannot allow these gizmos to become 'baggage'. In this fast paced and ever-changing and ever-challenging world, there is a call within Christian circles for a New Evangelization.

What is this so-called New Evangelization? It is an awakening to the truth that we are the Church. We have listened to the Word of God and rejected injustice, rejected contempt for others, rejected evil. We have sought and found Love and what is true. We have attempted to follow ways of peace; we live in hope. We have rejected the allure of material prosperity at the expense of others. This is what we should be as Church.

We are commissioned to be modern day prophets and God sends us as out, as he sent Amos and others, long ago. We will certainly feel uncomfortable, and make others feel uncomfortable, in proclaiming our Message. But again there comes the cry- ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Summer Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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 12, 2015
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

	July 04, 05
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 13	No Mass
July 14	No Mass
July 15	Rosaline Bourgeois
July 16	Columbus Hall
July 17	Joseph Whynott
July 18	Mary Leonard
July 19	Parish Community

ADVANCE NOTICE: CEMETERY MASSES

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

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 38 have been returned. So this is a gentle reminder of our Parish Registration. Please fill it out and return it. If you do not want to fill some parts in or answer some of the questions, that's OK. 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

These concerts are sponsored by the Bay of Islands Ministerial Association. Various churches offer them on a weekly basis throughout the summer. **Our folk choir and ministers will present an evening of music and praise at 7 pm this Sunday, July 12.** *The Service will be held here at our church.* There will be an Offering collection taken up with proceeds being donated to the Food Bank or if you wish you may bring some food items instead.

Please come, you'll enjoy it. .

QUALIPU CELEBRATION

On 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.

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.

ASSISTED SUICIDE DEBATE

Our diocese has begun an awareness campaign to bring attention to this vital issue. Over the summer, there will be posted on the Diocesan webpage links to four articles that feature debate on assisted suicide and its possible consequences. They will be put on the site at two week intervals. We encourage people to read them. The website is www.rcchurch.com

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. Now we would like to encourage any families with loved ones buried in our Mount Cecilia Cemetery to make an effort to clean-up the individual grave-sites over the next few weeks in

advance of our Cemetery Mass on Tuesday July 28 at 7 pm. Thank you

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass Intentions for the month of July are now posted on the board at the back of the church. We have only a few 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.

ENCYCLICAL ON THE ENVIROMENT

Pope Francis calls for all people to have a more compassionate concern for the protection of our environment by:

- Finding happiness in life's simplest things.*
- Praying for a greater respect for nature.*
- Getting to know the poor.*
- Being more attentive to nature.*
- Starting in the home to change the world.*
- Practicing the 3 R's- reduce, reduce, and reduce.*
- Using technology for good.*
- Adopting a greener diet.*
- Knowing that eco-justice is also social justice.*
- Examining what we buy.*

He also suggests that each Parish establish a 'Green Team' to promote environmental care.