

REFLECTION for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'Whoever comes to me and does not hate their father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

Holy Cow, is Jesus having a bad day! Does He really mean this? Please tell us, how is this Good News?

We all want to be faithful followers of Jesus; it is our Christian duty. We all aspire to go to heaven.

In today's Gospel, Jesus wants to infuse our zeal with a dose of reality. He is warning us that we have to be willing to bear many crosses along the way and to make many sacrifices. He wants us to think over the cost of discipleship; it only really makes sense when we let the cost to us filter through the Cross of Christ.

It means that we must put Christ first, be ready to suffer/risk hardships and conflicts, and we humbly bear them. We do this because we know that the Truth-God's Will- will ultimately triumph.

Those people, and many of us in today's world, are following Jesus but not always for the right reasons. Like them, we follow because we want change, or we want security, in this life. The hungry want to be fed, the sick want to be healed, the poor want to become rich, and their relatives want the dead raised.

Jesus challenged them. He wanted to know if they really knew where He was going. Like the tower builder, did they appreciate the cost of the journey? Like the king, did they appreciate the enormity of the task? Did they know that they are called to live in the image and likeness of the Son of God? The human Jesus shows us the Way to the Kingdom and it is Him we follow, accepting the good with the bad.

There was misunderstanding between Jesus and His followers. They were following Him the old way. The people wanted a better position in the old order- *in an earthly kingdom*. Jesus came to create a new order- *in a heavenly kingdom*. And Christ will win. He has counted the cost. He has faced and defeated our worst enemies. We must not be afraid to share in His sufferings, so as to share in His victory.

We follow Him enthusiastically, full of hope, looking for the good things in this *present life*. Filled with holy zeal, Jesus wanted to give them, and He wants to give us, *another life*. Jesus was thinking about the Kingdom of God and of humanity as God's family on its way to a final glorious home.

They, like us, were thinking only of themselves, their families, their lives, and their possessions. All these things are transitory, only heaven with its built-in communion of saints, is forever and ever.

Jesus explains that He spoke this language of *'hatred'* against one's family, because he wants us to prefer him to our parents and family and friends. So perhaps hate is too strong a word. We have to love Jesus more than life itself. We love everyone. Love builds-up a Kingdom of Love in which Christ reigns.

We need to take stock of what we must do and what it might cost. There is a reality: whatever the decision to follow Christ means, there is no guarantee of a conflict-free life this side of death.

We know where Jesus was going- to his crucifixion and ultimate return to the Father. Back then and now, Jesus desires His people to think in terms of the Kingdom of God and to resist the things of this world: whatever else distracts our attention from God; He warns that this can even include our family.

Yes, salvation (heaven) requires determination, commitment and true, often costly, discipleship.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Reconciliation: Wednesday evening after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week at Sacred Heart Church:

Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm, and Friday at 10:00 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 pm at Sacred Heart Church

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

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

Sept 4, 2016

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS	Aug 27, 28
Collection	\$1,541.20
Building Fund	16.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Votive Candles	72.80
Windows	3,015.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 5, 6	No Mass
Sept 7	Brian Griffin
Sept 8	Roy Reid
Sept 9	Marie 'Dennie' Wiseman
Sept 10	Rodney Blanchard
Sept 11	Parish Community

MINISTERS (Sept 10, 11)

READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Basil English	Marie Byrne, Joan Penney
Matthew English	Art Hall
<i>* Joan Penney- Communion Minister to the Sick</i>	

Mike Leonard	Margaret Dalley, Donna Eldridge
John Carroll	Hedy Kenny

OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder that office hours will return to as usual on Sept.6. *Tue. to Fri. 1pm. to 4pm.*

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We remind you that Elections will take place in three weeks. There are three positions. Please give serious thought to joining Parish Council to do your part in keeping Sacred Heart a vibrant and healthy parish. We have placed nomination forms at the back for this purpose. Please return them to the Parish Office.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend condolences to the Neary family on the recent death of Shawn. We assure Albert

(Ab), Diane, Joy, and all who grieve his death, that our continued prayers will be offered.

LADIES GROUP MEETING

A meeting will be held on Sept. 11 at 7pm. to have an **election of officers**. All members are expected to attend. New members are always welcome.

A pot luck lunch is planned for Sept. 25 following Sunday Mass at the school cafeteria. All parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring a dish & join us for our first social event of the year. What better way to spend time than with good friends & good food?

Our Fall Sale will be held on Nov. 5. Now is a good time to consider-or put aside-donations for the sale. Baked goods, preserves, knitted items and home made crafts are always in demand at these events. More info to follow

BINGO

Our first game for the year will be held on Sunday, Sept 11 at 2pm. in the school_cafeteria. The list of donors will be posted soon. If you are not currently on our list & would like to be added, please call the office. Donors are called three times a year for a merchandise prize, gift card, or cash.

SUMMER TURNS TO SEPTEMBER

During the summer holidays, people have all kinds of reasons to put church activities on the back-burner. It is a time of peaceful relaxation, enjoyment of nature, and truly a time to recharge our batteries. This time-away should prepare us for the necessary work to keeping our parish active, vibrant, and growing. So, we hope you enjoyed your summer. But now we ask that you join us in spreading the Good News. Soon, the new catechism program

will begin for our children. Soon, actually on Sunday Sept 11, we will have a Parish Bingo. Soon, we will begin planning for our Fall Fair. Soon, we hope to see new people sitting in our pews. And that's where you can do your part. Please tell others about the happenings here at our church. And be bold and enthusiastic, invite them, maybe even bring them, to church with you. Ask them to come experience the Mass and the hope and faith it signifies. And urge them to participate in the life of our parish. It is their parish and it can only continue with their support.

HAVE A RESTFUL LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

Tempus Fugit! Time flies! This weekend we pause to recall the sacrifice and dedication of all who work for the good of society. It also marks the end of summer holidays and a return to school for students. Please be sure to enjoy the next few days. Give thanks to God for the many blessings in our family, our parish, our community, our province, and our nation. God has indeed been good to us.

REPLACING WINDOWS- YOU CAN STILL HELP

Our church windows, all 26 of them, need replacing. We have contracted with Premier Siding and Windows to do this work. To this date, 17 families have donated the cost of one window (\$1000). A plaque will be put on the window indicating in whose memory the donation was given. If you wish to participate in this venture, please contact Fr. Don or the parish office.

FAMILY CATECHESIS- IT IS NEW

In September, a new sacramental preparation program will be offered and will be done at home. This is NEW and It will be Challenging for

parents; we want to be of assistance. Please discuss this with your children. The textbooks have arrived and a date for our first meeting will soon be announced. Julia Myles and her other volunteers are ready to be of assistance to you. Spread the word about this everyone.

MARY'S KITCHEN: Will be continuing to operate throughout the Summer months but will be changing its time starting Friday, July 15th, to 12 noon till 1:30 PM. Mary's Kitchen offers a free meal to anyone in need of food or some company. It is located in the basement of Most Holy Redeemer Cathedral.

MOTHER THERESA IS NOW A SAINT

Mother Teresa once said, *"If I ever become a saint, I will surely be one of darkness. I will continually be absent from Heaven to light the light of those in darkness on earth."* On Sept. 4, Mother Teresa will indeed be made a saint by Pope Francis at a ceremony at the Vatican. Here is one of her most memorable quotes:

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it."

MERCY PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST SON OF THE LIVING GOD,
HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER.