

REFLECTION for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'This brother/sister of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

In the spiritual realm, to be lost is to be separated from the mercy and love of God. The lost are seen as *'being in sin and will remain in sin'* as long as they remain separated from God's love. Figuratively, we say that they are dead, and again they will remain spiritually dead as long as they remain separated from God.

If we see ourselves as spiritually alive, do we have a Christian responsibility to those who are lost and spiritually dead? Are we too sometimes lost and spiritually dead and do we want to be found?

Jesus wishes to find the lost. In today's Gospel, the Pharisees and the scribes are critical of Jesus' actions. To their mind, He spends far too much time and effort searching out and ministering to known sinners- tax collectors, prostitutes, and the dregs of society. From their *'high stools'* as the Jewish elite viewing themselves as God's favorites because of their adherence to the *'rules'*, they turn down their noses at the *'lost.'* In their vaunted perception of life, these lost are to be blamed for their lot in life. These leaders try their best to avoid these 'types' at all costs. Is our attitude like that of the Pharisees or like that of Jesus?

With a little sprinkling of *'there but for the grace of God, go I'*, let us proceed in Christian deliberation. Besides occasionally our very selves, who are the 'lost' in today's world and how can we minister to them in genuine selfless *'love of our neighbor'*? We must be careful not to judge but rather we must love.

Are they the many lapsed Catholics, the divorced, those with same-sex attraction, our friends of other denominations? Truly some members of our Catholic faith would include some or all of these among the lost. On a personal level, just think about members of our own families. Do some of them not go to church services, not trust or believe in the power and mercy of Jesus, and not show by their way of life that Jesus is a priority in their lives? Are they like the son who allowed the lure of the world get the better of him?

As practicing Catholics, we have to take stock of our own lives, recognize that sometimes spiritually we get lost; sometimes our loved ones get lost; sometimes we see complete strangers who seem lost. What are we called to do in such situations? Do what Jesus would do! The answer is to be Christ-'like.

The Prodigal Son parable allows us to imagine ourselves as the wayward son (and we are), or the loving merciful father (and we are), or the resentful but faithful son (and we are). There is good and bad in each of these characters. This world and society functions daily with interactions by all three types. There are too many sons (daughters) and not enough father (mother) types. By meditation upon this story we can see ourselves as sinners like the sons and, hopefully, desire to imitate the father of the Prodigal son.

Without doubt the father is the hero of this story. He embodies all the traits of the perfect Christian- loving, forgiving, patient, gracious, merciful, compassionate, and, above all, faithful. He is our conception of what God must be like. Made in God's image, it is also our conception of what we desire to be like.

Sin separates us from the love of God. This separation is not God's doing but ours. Thanks be to God, the Gospel message of today rings true in all times and all circumstances- the lost can be found, and the dead- those who die because of their sins- can find new life- in Jesus Christ. Here's a quote from an awesome poem with an awesome truth: *'Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee. (John Donne- 17th century)*

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.

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Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
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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:

Tuesday, 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 11, 2016

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u>	Sept 3,4
Collection	\$1,685.00
Building Fund	95.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Votive Candles	42.00
Windows	4,000.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 12	No Mass
Sept 13	Bernadette & Anthony George
Sept 14	Brian Griffin
Sept 15	Agnes, John, Ron Carroll
Sept 16	Edward Buckle
Sept 17	Brian Griffin
Sept 18	Parish Community

MINISTERS (Sept 17, 18)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Carol Reid	Theresa Dobbin, Joanne Connolly
Joan Penney	John Carroll
<i>* John Carroll- Communion Minister to the Sick</i>	

Donna Eldridge	Brian Sparkes, Patsy Payne,
Don Gallant	Donna Eldridge

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee members are invited to the first meeting of this new year on **Wednesday evening Sept 14 following Mass**. It takes place in the parish house. Please attend as we have lots of planning to do leading to Christmas time.

SPECIAL BINGO AT CHURCH IN BENOIT'S COVE

You are invited to attend this BINGO as a means of supporting our sister parish. It takes place **Sunday Sept 25 at 2 pm** in the basement of the church. There are lots of good prizes to be won. At this bingo, the draw on the 50-50 tickets now being sold (\$5000 possible prize) will take place. Fr. Don has 50-50 tickets if you want one (\$10)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elections will take place in two weeks. There are three positions. We have placed nomination forms at the back for this purpose. Please return them to the Parish Office.

HOLY HOUR

Sunday, Sept 18 at 2 pm in the church, we will have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Please come and join us in this traditional Eucharistic Adoration celebration.

LADIES GROUP MEETING

A meeting will be held on **Sunday 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

SEPTEMBER and YOU

Soon, the new catechism program will begin for our children. Soon, we will begin planning for our Fall Fair. Soon, we hope to see new people sitting in our pews. Soon Parish and Finance Councils will meet. 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.

PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

Western Health is pleased to offer a NEW training program for pastoral care volunteers, "Caring for the Human Spirit". The 5- week training program will begin on October 3rd from 1:30 -3:30 (every second Monday) and is **FREE**. Registration deadline is September 21st. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don

REPLACING WINDOWS- THANK YOU

Our church windows, all 26 of them, need replacing. We have contracted with Premier Siding and Windows to do this work. To this date, 20 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, please contact Fr. Don or the parish office.

FAMILY CATECHESIS- STARTING SOON

In September, a new sacramental preparation program will be offered and will be done at home. 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.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

Will be held on the **first Friday** of each month at **the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM**. Intention: For world peace and for a stop to the persecution of Christians and torture of children.

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE:

Please note that the Diocesan Resource Centre located next to our church is open again. If you are interested in seeing what is available (DVDs, Videos, Books, and Magazines), the staff look forward to serving you. They are open for visits and borrowing on Thursday afternoons.

ANNUAL "Take Back the Night" RALLY.

This rally and march to bring attention to sexual violence against women and children will be held uptown on **Fri, Sept 16th at 7:30 pm**.

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEAST DAY Sept 13

He was an early Church Father and Archbishop of Constantinople. The zeal and clarity of his preaching, which appealed especially to the common people, earned him the Greek surname meaning "golden-mouthed." His tenure as archbishop was stormy, and he died in exile. His relics were brought back to Constantinople in about 438, and he was later declared doctor (teacher) of the church. He spoke out against the abuse of wealth, teaching that personal property is not strictly private but a trust, and declaring that what was superfluous to one's reasonable needs ought to be given away.

MERCY PRAYER

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