

REFLECTION for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'I won't be here next Christmas.' From 1989 and continuing until 2014, those were my father's words to all of us as we gathered at his house for our traditional Christmas Eve visit. My mother died in May of 1989 and he began praying that God would let him die so as to reunite them.

Quick math tells me that it took 25 years for his prayer to be answered. That's perseverance!

Perseverance in prayer is the message of today's readings. Our prayer is a conversation with God. Since God is Love/Our Father/Mother, we anticipate the time for prayer to be answered will be brief. We fail to see the merit, the reason, and the necessity, to wait. In these days of instant satisfaction, most people do exhibit a degree of faith that directs them to turn to God in their times of trouble. But they are conditioned, by society, to expect the quick fix. They might pray a few times for their intentions, but to persevere for the long-haul is seemingly beyond their capability- logic being that a loving caring parent (*God*) would not do this to a child (*me*).

So arises the obvious questions- why does God make us wait for answers to prayer, what good comes to us by making us wait, and why does God seem to sometimes not answer our prayers?

Abraham's prayer with God in our first reading gives us some insight into possible answers. He seems to be 'bugging' God, being disrespectful, and not willing to accept the answer God intends. He is bargaining with God. Is this a showing of good example for us to follow?

Should we merely take our prayer requests to God and leave the formulation of the answer in God's capable hands? Our reading indicates that God loves our active participation in the determination of the answers to our prayer requests. God is more than a favor-dispenser.

Prayer, in its proper form, is a dialogue (remember the '*I-Thou*' relationship. It is an intimate loving relationship). In this relation, *God (the Loved) appreciates, maybe desires, our (the lovers) active involvement*; it can be a moment of grace in our life's journey. It is an opportunity for us to exhibit child-like and not childish faith. So, our prayer must be reverent, simple, respectful, bold, and generally persistent. Spiritual growth comes while we faithfully await a divine reply.

The sleeping friend in our Gospel had every right to be upset with the persistent man knocking and knocking at his door late at night. Yet it is the persistent man that Jesus praises. He would have kept knocking, he had an urgent need, he knew the friend had what he wanted, and he was not going to give up. He may have been a 'pain' but he would not accept anything other than having his request granted. Do we realize what Jesus is telling us? **'Knock, the door will be opened; ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find.'** PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.

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.

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

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

Liturgical Celebrations

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

Masses in Week Days:
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm
Fri 10:00 am

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of the Month,
at 2 pm

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

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

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

July 24, 2016

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS	July 16, 17
Collection	\$1,512.00
Building Fund	35.00
Mass Stipends	30.00
Votive Candles	65.05
Garden Party Collection	160.00
Dues	100.00

MASS INTENTIONS

July 25	Cemetery Mass	Mt. Cecilia
July 26		Basil Donahue
July 27	Cemetery Mass	Mt. Patricia
July 28		Maurice Boland
July 29		Brian Griffin
July 30	John & Ada George/Roche Family	
July 30+	Captain Anthony Connolly	
July 31	Parish Community	

MINISTERS (July 30, 31)

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Communion</u>
Sat.	Matt. English V. Murphy	Joanne Hackett S. Noseworthy Mary J Perrett
Sun.	Don Gallant J. Jackson	Elizabeth Carew Brian Sparkes Patsy Payne

** J. Carroll- Communion Minister to Sick

CEMETERY MASS SCHEDULE- THIS WEEK

- Star of the Sea (Benoit's Cove) Mass

Sun July 24 at 2 pm.

- Mount Cecilia (Curling) Mass

Mon July 25 at 7 pm

- Mount Patricia Mass

Wed July 27 at 7 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jamie Molloy and Matthew Skeard were united in marriage this Saturday afternoon

in our church. We wish to extend our prayers to them. May their life together be long and happy as husband and wife.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Soon it will be August. We remind you that Elections will take place in September to fill three positions. Please give serious thought to joining Parish Council to do your part in keeping Sacred Heart a vibrant and healthy parish. Next week we will place nomination forms at the back for this purpose. Please return them to the Parish Office.

REPLACING WINDOWS- YOU CAN HELP

Some of our upper large windows in the church leak and so heat is lost/cold comes in during the winter months (the windows are 35 years old). They need replacing. We have a quote from a company who will replace them for us at a cost of \$1000.00 per window. We are asking that families consider donating the cost of one window. 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. It will be challenging for parents; we want to be of assistance. Please discuss this with your children. We should be ordering texts now but honestly we have no idea as to the

numbers we will need. Spread the word about this everyone.

FOOD BANK MESSAGE

“ As you know, we just had our Christmas in June Food Drive. Our shelves are now stocked for the summer months. “ Thanks!

St. JOACHIM and St. ANNE- JULY 26

This Tuesday evening at 7 pm, we will gather here in our church to celebrate Mass for their Feast Day. By tradition Joachim and Anne are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. We have no historical evidence, however, of any elements of their lives, including their names. Any stories about Mary’s father and mother come to us through legend and tradition. In 1628, St. Anne, who had the respected status of grandmother, was adopted as the Patron Saint of the Mi’kmaq (Qalipu) people. We are privileged in that members will join us in celebrating through their active participation at various stages in the Mass. Please come join with them in honoring this special saint on this a special day for the Qalipu. Through generations of struggles, these First Nation people have endured, she has always been there as Protector and Intercessor.

OUR GARDEN- IT’S LOOKING NICE

There is still a little space remaining in our flower garden. If you would like to plant

one in memory of a loved-one, please do so. John can help if you need help.

T’IS SUMMER-- MINISTRY SCHEDULE

The new July-Oct schedule is now available at the back. This is also a reminder to our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. If you are going to be away, please try to arrange for another minister to cover for you. It will make our job easier. Thanks.

SUMMER STUDENT

Matthew has completed an accurate record of the layout of all the gravesites. Also he is doing work to digitalize our archive material collected last year. If you have anything to add, he would love to hear from you. We need pictures of several priests. How about pictures of events associated with the Sacred Heart Social Club, the Msgr. Stoyles K of C, the re-opening of the church after the two fires, or any other past parish event.

SECRETARY AWAY

Veronica will be away from the office for two wks. beginning July 26 & returning Aug.9. Matthew will be available to take your calls during office hours.

MERCY PRAYER

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