

REFLECTION for Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.' *'God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.'*

This Sunday we hear more from the Sermon on the Mount. Re-read the above passages, the message is becoming more challenging. Jesus teaches us how we might totally fulfil the New Law of the Gospel, which is the law of perfection. Perfection should be our goal; we seek it, realizing perfection is elusive and hard to attain here. The home of perfect humans is heaven. On earth, we must work out our salvation.

'Turning the other cheek' is challenging. Our humanity gets in the way. The battle of wills- doing God's will or doing our own will- renews itself every day. We want to avoid anger but we get angry, we want to befriend everyone but we make enemies, and we want to love but to love requires sacrifice. The choice of evil or good rages within us. Holiness seems unattainable. We are so humanly flawed. Yet, we are holy.

Holiness is elusive; we nearly become holy and then, resting on our laurels, we sin. We must start over. It's one step forward two steps back. And yet, we persevere because we have the God-given demand to be holy. It's that old *'we are made in the image and likeness of God'* dilemma. Why does God love us so?

God's love places specific demands upon us. We are not only to love our neighbours but love our enemies as well, those who persecute us, those who wish to do us harm. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian Gospel. That explains why there is such an uproar about the present discrimination against Muslim people. They too *'are God's temple and God dwells in them.'* They are God's children.

Christian concern is always about what course of action is more likely to re-establish justice in the sense of good order. It is done to achieve a little of paradise here on earth; a place where unconditional love reigns supreme. We must ascertain the good and seek to do it. We must overcome the Them versus Us.

Like Jesus, we are charged to forgive people and to restore relationships. The Beatitudes (with their call to humility, peace, meekness, mercy, righteous) represent the New Law; the New Law entails one word-LOVE. Some might find today's Gospel message harsh, it calls us to treat each other with love.

Love is a learned behavior and love is a choice. The Word of God found in the Bible stands as the best teaching tool on Love available to serious committed Christians. Practice, practice, practice! Remember, love is a many splendored thing, love does make the world go around. But sadly, love is elusive too.

Life situations affect our loving. How loving we may naturally be as individuals differs immeasurably and depends on many factors. Some are blessed with the kind of upbringing and charisma that enables them to be very loving by nature. However, for a person who has never known love, or whose ability to love has been weakened by experiences in life, loving at all can be difficult. As Christians, we are often not very good at loving, just because we do not have the resources to love much. Love, if you have known it, would be the best gift you could ever share. The courage/conviction to love our enemies is a badge of honor.

Loving takes faith and requires a healthy sprinkling of hope. Often to love, even a little, is a heroic act. And yet the invitation is there for all to experience, even if just for one moment, the freedom that God has given to us, by helping us to act lovingly towards someone else, to act for their good. Like John the Baptist, we decrease that they may increase. The degree to which we accomplish this challenge denotes how far we have progressed on the road to holiness, the road to perfection, the road to home.

So, let us, like Dorothy of The Wizard of Oz, follow that road, follow, follow, follow, that road. She found Oz; we will find Paradise, we will find God, we will find that holy place which fulfills our wildest dreams.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wednesday, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Friday at 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

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

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

February 19, 2017

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Feb 11, 12)

Collection	1,598.00
Bldg. Fund	95.00
Votive Candles	37.00
CMIC	188.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 20	No Mass
Feb 21	No Mass
Feb 22	Gordon Maher
Feb 23	Thomas Griffin
Feb 24	Roche Family
Feb 25	John Joe & Ada George
Feb 26	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (Feb 25, 26)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Basil English	Frank Lewis, Art Hall
Gen Quigley	Joe Byrne
<i>Communion to Sick</i>	Joe/ Marie Byrne
Calvin Gillis	Margaret Dalley, Wayne Dicks
Donna Eldridge	Amelia Dicks

JOHN CARROLL- THANK YOU

John has asked to retire from his position as of the end of the month. We extend a thank-you to him. He worked tirelessly and long for the good of this parish. His dedication and faithfulness to his duties were appreciated. Enjoy a well-deserved rest. We hope you will remain a strong presence in the life of Sacred Heart Parish.

MAINTENANCE POSITION

Our parish has an immediate opening for a person to perform these duties in and around the church and parish house. We invite persons to apply by Wed. Feb 22. Hours and a list of duties are available on our website. Please contact the Office if interested.

MASS REQUESTS NEEDED

Right now, we do not have enough requests to complete next week's Mass schedule. So, once again, we invite you to request Masses for your

deceased or sick loved-ones. Either call the Office or put your request in your Sunday envelope.

SHROVE TUESDAY-PANCAKE SUPPER

We are offering a free Pancake Supper on **Tuesday Feb. 28, beginning at 5 pm** in the parish house. Please come join other parishioners in a time of community and to share a meal. This event is courtesy of our Ladies Group.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This annual celebration among all the churches in the Bay of Islands area takes place on the first Friday of March each year. On Friday March 3, it will take place at the First Pentecostal Church on Premier Drive beginning at 7:30 pm. All are invited.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening Feb 20 at 7 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

YOUTH MASS for our YOUNG PEOPLE

Our 7 pm Ash Wednesday Mass, March 1, will be our Youth Mass. We require our young people to participate. At this Mass, they will take the lead in the many ministry roles. We hope to make this a monthly activity going forward. Julia Myles will be contacting some of you to invite your participation. Please parents, encourage your children to join us and, come with them.

NET MINISTRIES- COME MEET THEM

Please mark these dates. **Thursday March 16 at 7 pm.** This group of 10 young men and women will join us in a brief Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We will follow this with a social. Come and hear about their work and to meet them.

The following Friday evening and on Saturday, they will meet with our youth to share their faith experiences and to encourage them to actively

practise their faith. They call this an Encounter Retreat.

LOTS OF LENTEN ACTIVITIES HERE

At our Church for this Lent, we have several things planned and we hope you will participate.

-On each Friday evening at 7 pm, we will have the Stations of the Cross in the church.

-At our Ash Wednesday Mass, we will distribute two booklets with daily reflections for each day of Lent, please take one and join us in prayer.

- On Thursday March 16 and on Thursday March 30, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction beginning at 7 pm in the church.

-On our parish website we will have posted 'Reflections on Jesus' Seven Last Words.' We invite you to read these at your leisure.

MARK these dates down, so as to remember.

These are in addition to our regular week-end and week-day Masses. Please join us in making this Lent a time of spiritual renewal.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

This group is active in our area. They are looking for members from our parish to join them. They work to feed and comfort the poor and needy. Also, they have asked, and we will allow them, to take a collection as you leave church on the last weekend of each month. Please consider joining them and giving when they collect.

STAND WITH REFUGEES

A petition has circulated "**Will you stand with refugees?**" which calls on all governments to work together and do their fair share for refugees. The petition will be delivered to UN headquarters in New York before the UN General Assembly high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled for September 19. This petition, which is only available on-line, may be found at

<http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/petition/>

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER, Feb 22

This feast commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the authority of the whole Church. Like the committee chair, its first occupant stumbled a bit, denying Jesus three times and hesitating to welcome Gentiles into the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a Pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish, and as a focus for the universal Church.

FEAST OF ST. POLYCARP, Feb 23

St. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the 2nd century. At 86, he was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: *'Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour.*

Why do Catholics consider it so important to go to Mass every Sunday?

Well, firstly, God told us in the commandments that we should keep holy the Sabbath Day. We don't need to be in Church to pray but when we participate in the Eucharist on Sundays, we can praise God through song, prayer and the Scriptures. We get an opportunity to get together with the other members of our Catholic faith community, kind of like a family gathering. And most importantly, we get to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Envelope # 158 If this is your envelope please contact the parish office.

JESUS PRAYER

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