

REFLECTION for the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don.

Marriage, the nuptial mystery, matrimonial wedlock, and the battle of the sexes are just a few of the phrases used to refer to the husband-wife relationship. In the beginning the Creator’s intent was that they live blissfully as equal partners in Paradise where suffering and sin were non-existent.

But the giving and loving Creator went one step further and gave Adam and Eve free-will. They used it to choose to defy God; committing what is called the original sin. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and God blamed all three. So began the relationship blame-game. O how human- how intolerant, how impulsive, how selfish, how mean-spirited, how sinful, and how isolating from God- the divine source of all good- it makes those who partake of it. But from the beginning , it wasn’t meant to be like that.

The first reading from Genesis tells us: *‘Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.’* Our ancestors believed and followed this teaching and it led to institution of the sacrament of marriage. But, given the flawed human traits attributed above, I would hazard to guess that divorce was instituted very shortly after marriage. We know divorce existed in the time of Moses; all a man had to do was write a note to dismiss/divorce his wife.

Yet to this very day I believe most Christians, even those who do divorce, believe in the sanctity of the marriage vows. Few of us would argue that God’s original intent for husband and wife was very good.

In the Gospel Jesus reiterates the Father’s original unitive intent for man and woman- *‘the two shall become one flesh.’* Knowing humanity, Jesus points out that it is *‘hardness of heart’* that has brought about divorce. He then declares the indissolubility of marriage by stating: *‘what God has joined together, let no one separate.’*

That is the theology, the hope to which we are called, but alas there exists a human weakness- *hardness of heart*- as Jesus calls it. Jesus knows that marriage bliss is not always the reality. It did not exist among some couples in his day and it truly does not exist today, when half of all marriages end in divorce.

This fact disappoints our Lord and Savior. As a society, as a church, we are called to do all in our power to promote the sanctity of marriage. But, at the same time, we must reach out in love to those facing the turmoil inherent in divorce. The Holy Spirit within us screams for merciful action- from us as individuals as church- the People of God. And it calls for action by the institutional Church- the Roman Catholic Church.

Next week, in Rome, a Synod of Bishops meets discuss family life and to tackle the problem of divorce and remarriage and to formulate our Church’s response. Let us pray for its merciful Spirit-driven fruitfulness. Healthy families are the building blocks of a healthy church.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec 8, Pope Francis will open a JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY. During this year we will all be called to pray/ reflect upon the mercy freely given by God and its availability to all who seek it. God, our Creator and Redeemer, be merciful to us, to the married, and to the divorced.

Sacred Heart Parish

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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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses in Week Days:
Wed 7 pm
Thurs 10 am, 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.

October 4, 2015
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Sept 26, 27

Collection	\$2115.00
Building Fund	5.00
Votive Candles	60.00
Garden Party	25.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Needs of Canadian Church	270.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Oct 5,6	No Masses
Oct 7	Marie Manuel
Oct 8	Theresa, Roche/Tompkins Family
Oct 9	Special Intention
Oct 10	John Tobin
Oct 11	Parish Community

NOTE: Rosary will be prayed after Mass on Wednesday evening. Why? See below

THE ROSARY

October 7th is the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary and the whole month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Why do Catholics pray this way? In the early 13th century, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a young Spanish priest we now know as St. Dominic, who is credited as having given this prayer to the Church, upon the expressed wish of Mary the Mother of God. The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. The Rosary has grown into a timeless family prayer that has been prayed by billions of souls in countless languages around the world. At literally every moment of the day, in almost every corner of the earth, someone is praying the rosary.

HOLIDAYS FOR PRIEST

Fr. Don will be away for a holiday for three

weeks from Tuesday Oct 13 to Tuesday Nov 3. During that time Fr. Gash will be filling in during the weekends. There will be no weekday Masses during this time. Weekday Mass will resume on Wednesday Nov 4.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRATION

We are beginning our sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Forms are available at the back of the church. *Please, please*, parents and grandparents of little children, take a form and encourage participation in this most essential of parish activities. It is the call/duty of all of us to introduce children to the mysteries and joys of the sacraments. We cannot shirk our duty as Christians.

Knights of Columbus Scholarships:

Available to students who graduated Grade XII with Honours in June 2015 and will be attending a Post-Secondary institution in September. Application deadline: October 31, 2015. Information and applications under **scholarships** on the State Council website at www.kofcnl.org.

VARIETY CONCERT

Our parish variety concert will take place on Friday, Oct. 30 starting at 7:30 pm. featuring the Griffin Family & other parish members. This event will take place at Sacred Heart School gymnasium. Cover charge is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Please reserve this date & join us for a fun filled entertaining evening.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL

Congratulations to Carl Bennett, Patricia

Jones, and Carol Reid on their election. Our first meeting for Parish Council, including the newly elected members, will take place this Monday evening, Oct 5 at 7 pm in the priest's house.

MENS' GROUP TICKET SALE

Tickets are available this weekend. Please take a few books of tickets to sell to friends and relatives. The Men have them available for distribution in the porch as you leave the church. Also they are selling them at tables set up in Coleman's and Canadian Tire stores and are looking for people to volunteer a few hours at these sites. Consider helping out because this is a parish fund-raiser.

ANNUAL PARISH FALL FAIR

Our annual Fall Fair will be on Nov. 7, 8

Saturday Nov. 7:

1 pm. ---sale of baked goods, crafts, & assorted small items in school cafeteria.
5:30 pm... cabbage roll supper, including tea & desert, will be served in the school cafeteria. Cost per plate is \$10.00.

Sunday Nov. 8

2 pm.... there will be a Bingo in the school cafeteria.

We are asking for various donations again this year. Please be generous & support this fund-raiser. To donate baked goods please call Mary Gallant at 785-5176, crafts-call Patsy Hall at 785-2556.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

There is a box available at the back of the church for collecting food donations. Let's make an effort to bring some food each time we come to Mass from now until

Thanksgiving.

EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL

It's nice to see that some people are taking advantage of this silent place for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Remember, to aid in this, there are pamphlets on a side-table in there with prayers specifically designed for Eucharistic Adoration.

PAP TEST AWARENESS

The last week of October 25-31 is Pap Test Awareness Week. It is recommended that women have this test at least once every three years. Call your health care provider today to make your appointment and help us kick cervical cancer. For further information please call 637-5000 ext. 5918 or email: margiemccarthy@westernhealth.nl.ca.

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTER

Our resource center is finally open for business! The contents of the former Catholic Resource Center housed in Labrador City have been merged with the Diocesan Resource Center in Corner Brook. All videos and print materials have been catalogued and the catalogue may be viewed on the Diocesan web page at www.rcchurch.com. The Center will be open to the public on Thursday afternoons from 1-4pm. Drop by and view the collection!

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

This group meets every Thursday evening at the Cathedral at 7:30.