

REFLECTION for 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'You also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.'

What, in the name of God, is the gist of the above words of St. Paul from our second reading?

Well, that exploration is the objective of this reflection. Often the rich intent of scripture is locked away until its interpretation is given. In each Christian community, the Holy Spirit gives, as a gift to some, the ability to do this. It's a gift that must be used properly; for the building-up of the faith. Out of love for us and others, God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has given each of us gifts. May we never use them to lord it over others.

We are all capable of holy things, we all are essential to the community in which we live, and we all are children of God. Do you know that one of the principal effects of Baptism is that we die to sin and live for Christ? All of us know the struggle to die to sin. It has been said that a saint is a sinner who keeps trying.

It is rare to meet someone who has died completely to sin, but there are saints who have done that.

Mere humans, you and I, continue to struggle with sin until death, when we shall pass into the bright light of eternal life; only then is sin conquered. St. Augustine reminded us of this inner restlessness/doubt. It's so true that the devil roams about like a roaring lion. He is the Lord of deceit, seeking who he may devour.

Our humanity places obstacles before us too; we struggle not only against sin, but even to live in God's love. But help is around every corner. Our Baptism and Confirmation commissions and equips us to do good. Most of us are riddled with feelings of inadequacy; we see good in others but not in us.

The way to goodness is to receive the grace of God and share it with others. It's for giving away. Goodness is like a seed, it must be nurtured, must be germinated. How do we grow in Christ, receive grace, and pass it on?

Remember St. Therese and her Little Way. There are so many little ways that we can share with others God's blessings in our lives. We can be caring and of service to them. We don't need to do anything big. Love is most often a gift of small awarenesses. Acts of kindness, such as a phone call, a cheerful greeting, a word of encouragement, even a glass of water or a fresh-baked raisin bun, can change another's view of life. Look around our parish. There is that lonely widow who would love a visit, that elderly man who would love a feed of fish or moose, that young teen who would sure appreciate a few dollars for cutting grass or shoveling snow, that parish cemetery which needs upkeep, that Guide group in need of leaders, that sorrowful soul in need of a hug- get the point, being alive to Christ means being available to love our neighbors, and thus, to love God.

Hospitality binds Christians and heals those who sense a loss of the ties that bind. That's what being dead to sin and alive to Christ means. It means that we must fulfill our duty as children of God, claim our baptismal call. We have what others need to bring them to Jesus; and others have what we need to bring us to Jesus.

The three Ts- talent, time, and treasure- are ours to give and ours to receive. And never forget; occasionally, we must take time to thank God for the gift of grace that allows/empowers us to do these little things.

Healthy, vibrant parishes don't just happen. Commitment, dedication, and tons of free-will generosity is required. Successful parishes are those who do not rely on the 'paid-help' but rather are those filled with laity who claim co-ownership and its accompanying co-responsibility. And it requires an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach. Cardinal Avery Dulles called this the Body of Christ model of church. In this model, all members must see themselves as vital parts of the whole. For the full potential of the parish to be realized, all members are called to do their part- to provide the gift God has given each for the building up of the whole community.

The will of God is that we live in this way; now all we must do is conform our will to the will of God. To die to sin and live to God means saying yes, I claim my role as a baptized Catholic. Let us walk in the way of the Lord.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

465 Curling Street

Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8

Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com

www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

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

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed, Thurs, at 7:00 pm, Fri at 2 pm (Lohnes)

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

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

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

July 2, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (June 24, 25)

Regular Collection	\$1587.40
Building Fund	\$10.00
Cemetery Fund	\$30.00
Votive Candles	\$80.00
Garden Party Donations	\$50.00
Mass Requests	\$20.00
St Vincent de Paul	\$55.50
Flower Donations	\$20.00

MASS INTENTIONS

July 3	No Mass
July 4	No Mass
July 5	John & Emma Wiseman
July 6	Henry & Dorothy Keough
July 7	Int. Rita Hall/John Mendes
July 8	Roche Family
July 9	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (July 8, 9)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Carol Reid	Joan Penney, Eileen Moore
Lynette Taylor	Marie Byrne
<u>Communion to the Sick</u> Tony Griffin	
Dennis Bruce	Don Gallant, Hedy Kenny
John Carroll	Barbara Neville

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy and offer our prayers to the family of the late **Nora Griffin**. She lived and raised her family here in our parish. Rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our wishes for a happy 92th birthday to Theresa Murphy. She will receive a Papal Blessing to mark the occasion. May she have many more years of healthy living.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, July 3 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.' This week's focus is Corpus Christi.

FLOWER GARDEN

For the last time, we ask you to help us by bringing

perennials to plant. We thank John Hancock who has overseen the planting of annuals in the Cross again this year. Please feel free to just plant your flower in any available space.

ROSARY FOR FATIMA

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to the 3 children at Fatima. The Ladies Group of our parish are participating in a special devotion wherein the rosary is recited on the 13th of each month for six months. It was begun in May. On **Thursday July 13**, they will lead recitation of the Rosary at **7 pm** in our church. Please join them.

TABERNACLE ART WORK FOR SALE

Limited edition Prints of the beautiful painting which adorns our tabernacle are being made available. The small prints will cost \$30.00. The medium prints are \$45.00. Only a few remain. Please contact the Office or Joan Penney.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS

Katie and Matthew have prepared all the photos which you have provided over the past few years. We have hundreds. There are digitalized and now reprinted and ready to be grouped by category. We hope to display them in some sort of album and on our website. To aid in this project, we are invited volunteers to come forward to help in identification of these pictures/ events. Contact the Office if you are interested in helping. BTW, it's not too late- if you have some old photos that you think may belong in this project, please bring them to us for inclusion.

CHURCH FLOORS TO BE RE- CARPETED

Thank God, we have a little money, and a generous donor, to allow this project to proceed. We have contracted a flooring company to replace our old carpet with new. Also, we are placing high-quality durable non-slip vinyl in our side-rooms. Work will begin in a few weeks. There will be some disruption. Hopefully, this will be minimal.

MT. CELILIA CEMETERY MASS

We will gather in the cemetery on **Wednesday July 12 at 7 pm**. Please notify any friends or relatives who might want to attend.

CEMETERY MASS IN BENOITS COVE

This Mass will be celebrated in the old cemetery at **7 pm on Tuesday July 18**. This will be followed by a brief prayer service in the new cemetery.

CEMETERY RECORD FOR UNKNOWN

We have many unmarked gravesites. This summer we are asking families with loved ones buried in unmarked graves at Mt. Cecilia to submit their names. We plan to erect a large memorial plaque displaying these names. Given the circumstances, it is the best option for memorializing them available to us. Please support this effort.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The Society is still looking for new members. And there is a need for used furniture. Call: 638-9010 for more information. They thank you for your generous support of their 4th Sunday collections. \$176.15 was collected last week.

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS, Apostle July 3

Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one.

FEAST of ST. ELIZABETH of PORTUGAL July 4

Another holy example for us to follow. Elizabeth had an unfaithful husband and rebellious children. Yet, she worked to promote peace with a calm and quiet demeanor. It takes a clear mind, a steady spirit, and a brave soul, to intervene

between people whose emotions are so aroused that they are ready to destroy one another. This is all the truer of a woman in the early 14th century. But Elizabeth had a deep and sincere love and sympathy for humanity, an almost total lack of concern for herself, and an abiding confidence in God. These were the tools of her success.

SUMMER TIPS FOR CATHOLICS

- Don't forsake Mass while you're away. Visit a nearby church on Sunday morning. You'll see that the Lord is worshipped in different songs, settings, and people; but still glorifying Jesus.
- Take time daily for prayer and Bible reading. Maybe early in the morning, maybe late in the evening, but make some space/time for God.
- Keep in touch with your home parish. Let your priest know that you'll be away.
- Be bold in professing your faith to others. *May you have a wonderful, exciting, rejuvenating, safe, and exceedingly spiritual summer.*

JESUS PRAYER

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

THE PRIEST THANKS YOU

'You gotta know when to hold em, know when to fold them.' Thank you to those who joined in the celebration with me on Wednesday. It's been a gloriously grace-filled 11-year journey, a gift from God really. The month of July will fly and I'll be gone. Again, I thank you. May God bless this parish and its people. Pray for me sometimes.

