

ST. THERESA'S CHURCH

ACCENDO

TO KINDLE, ILLUMINATE AND INFLAME



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2014

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JAMES

Dear sisters and brothers,

We have begun our journey through a new year of parish activity, and we are off to a very good start! This year we have many activities to offer for us as parishioners, and at the same time our Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth is preparing to launch the new pastoral plan. This plan will be unveiled in October 2014, and we all hope and pray that this pastoral plan may bring new initiatives and new growth to our communities.

Our task as a parish is to follow the voice of the Holy Spirit, who has called us out of the world into His Church, into the community and communion of Jesus Christ. We, as community and communion are the modern disciples and followers of Christ, for whom the same truth is valid as for the community and communion of the apostles nearly two thousand

years ago: Like the apostles and the disciples we are called to enter into the mystery of God walking with us, and to discover His presence in our life as parish, and in our lives as followers of Christ. This is only possible if we wrestle with this mystery, and if we allow our whole being to be formed by the image and likeness of Christ, so as to give space to Him in the here and now. This forming of our persons will then lead us to proclaim the joy of the Gospel to all those who are willing to listen and to see with their own eyes and ears.

We are community and communion, let us therefore continue to gather on Sundays and on all the other beautiful occasions. We are disciples, let our minds and hearts therefore be formed by the word of God, by the teaching of the Church, so that our truth may diminish

and the truth of Christ may appear. Let us go out and invite people to our community, to a personal encounter with the living and risen Lord, not only in the celebrations of the Eucharist, but most of all in encountering us, His disciples, who have been formed to His image and likeness.

This is a responsibility that we all share, as it is not only for our well-being and happiness that we do these things, and at the same time it is not only the task of a few chosen ones, but ours! Our world, especially our youth and young adults, is so much in need for the announcement of the joy that living in Christ can bring, and we have the choice of sharing the beautiful news of God walking with and in us with them. Let us do so, today and for the next months.

Fr. James+



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Message from Fr. James*
- *Dogmatic Theology Program*
- *Catholic Spirituality*
- *The Rosary*
- *Halifax Vincentians*
- *Ask Father James*

THE DOGMATIC THEOLOGY PROGRAM

The Dogmatic Theology Program is a DVD course developed at the John Paul II Institute here in Halifax using presenters Father James Mallon and Dr. David Deane. Dogmatic Theology is a fancy title for "teaching on Divine things"; i.e. Faith. Each segment also has someone give their testimony of faith regarding the given topic.

For example in the forth session, Natalie MacMaster speaks about "surrendering her life to Christ". The course consists of eight sessions.

Father James is using the program every second Wednesday at St. Theresa's, Pius X Room, Sr. Rita is holding sessions on Tuesday night at Saint Catherine's in

the Siena Room, and also with the parents of the Religious Ed. Program every second Sunday (Gatherings) at St. Theresa's in the Lounge of the Rectory. Please check the bulletin for dates and times.

It is hoped that parishioners will take advantage of this opportunity as a means of nurturing their Faith.



Catholic Spirituality: Prayer

This month's article will focus on liturgical moments which are always forms of prayer. From my experience I have come to understand that one of the biggest problems of our time, and maybe of all times, is the division between "Sacred" and "Profane". In order to arrive at an understanding of this division, and therefore a deeper understanding of liturgical moments I want to analyze them a little bit.

In our day and age there appears to be a sharp distinction between the Sacred and the profane, making them two different realities, where one, the Sacred, manifests itself in the realm of the other, the profane, and therefore gives it meaning (for example do we go to Mass and participate in the Sacred in order to understand our profane lives). This means that there is a kind of dualistic understanding of the world. Here lies a great danger, that can lead to a distinction between matter and the spirit, where one is without meaning and sense (matter), and the other full of sense and meaning (spirit, or the Sacred). This, however, has already been present in many heresies, from the many different strands of gnosticism, to Jansenism, to modern conceptions of the same idea.

It becomes clear that this also influences our understanding of liturgy. What are the consequences of a distinction and division between Sacred and profane? The first consequence that comes to mind is a division between the world out there and the participants in a liturgical celebration. The world outside is seen as profane, as not having sense and meaning in itself. Only the Sacred, the liturgical action, conveys sense and meaning, in the Sacrament, in which Jesus Christ, through the action of the Holy Spirit, becomes present once more in this time and space, and therefore makes the place of worship, and the participants as well, a place of sacredness. We could also call this the "magical" understanding of liturgy. After the liturgical celebration is over, we again enter into the profane reality of the world, and to live a profane life, leaving behind the sacred. Or this whole process can also be seen as happening the other way around: only the profane exists as a tangible reality, and the gathering of the people for the liturgies is nothing but a continuation of the profane that meets in order to elevate itself above the everyday reality and to draw some inspiration from the Sacred.

"God created all things with his limitless power, brought them into being, holds them there and gathers them together and sets boundaries to them; in his providence, he links them all – intellectual beings as well as sensible – to each other as he does to himself. In his might, God draws up all the things that are naturally distinct from each other and binds them to himself as their cause, their origin and goal; and through the power of this relationship to him as source, he lets them also be drawn toward each other. This is the power through which every being is brought to its own indestructible, unconfused identity, both in activity and in being."

This also has implications for the life of every Christian. The whole life of a Christian has to become Sacred. This is expressed in the vocation to Holiness, that we share by the virtue of our baptism. All our life, therefore, is a liturgy, in which we offer our life to God. The celebration of the Eucharist, and indeed of all Sacraments, yes even the simple act of prayer, conforms the faithful more and more to Christ. This is the tremendous mystery of the liturgy, that far surpasses our understanding.

Fr. James+



"Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15-16).

*Chapter I, Maximus the Confessor, also cf. Cosmic Liturgy, VON BALTHASAR, Hans Urs, Ignatius Press, 2003, pg 68-69.
cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2013-2014*

Pray the Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

Parishioners are invited to pray the Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in St. Theresa's Chapel.

Started by lay members of St. Theresa's and St. Catherine's to pray for the people of Haiti after the earthquake in 2010, the gathering provides an opportunity for intercessory prayer, thanksgiving, and meditation (this is a perfect time to pray for our families, our parishes and peace in the world) in the presence of Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. Our prayer group is very small in number, additional members would be most welcome.

If you are interested, be assured that there is no pressure to attend every Monday although you are encouraged to come as often as possible. Entry to St. Theresa's is by the parking lot door. Please come around 7:20 to 7:25 as we begin the Rosary at 7:30pm sharp.



The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses".

HALIFAX VINCENTIANS GO BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

St. Theresa's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has about 10 active members and operates in the north west section of Halifax. The Conference meets every Friday morning and once a month Brother Nathanael of the Franciscans of Halifax presents a spiritual reflection and discussion for the members.

The members of St. Theresa's Conference in Halifax have been working with the residents of a large rooming house within their parish area for the past 15 years. The residents, mostly single men, but also a few single women and a couple of couples need the usual material necessities of life which the Vincentians have been providing. In Halifax, like most Canadian cities, the number of rooming houses has been reducing drastically over the past 10 years as redevelopment of the properties occurs. In 2004 there were over 230 registered rooming houses in the greater Halifax area; in 2013 there were only 23. This rapid reduction in available rooms has placed extreme pressure on those looking for rooms. Many of the people we serve only want a room; they do not want "affordable housing" units that include kitchenettes, etc., only a safe (clean would also be nice) room that they can go to and lock the door. The above factors really contribute to the importance of this property.

As you would expect most of the residents are on Social Assistance although there are a few "working poor" in the building, as well.

This year the Conference put together a "Rooming House" kit. Many people living in rooming houses do not have adequate bedding, towels or toiletries.

We are now keeping a supply of these kits on hand to be able to respond quickly to any requests.

Each room has their own small refrigerator and there are a couple of sparsely equipped common kitchens. Many of the residents do not cook so their meals are usually packaged foods that can be heated in a microwave oven. There are very few "home cooked" meals prepared in the building.

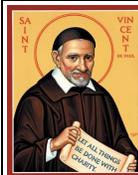
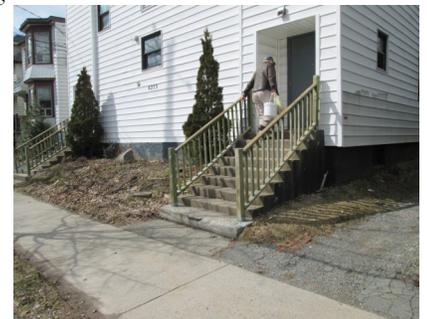
Over the past five years in early December the Conference has purchased all the food requirements for a Christmas turkey dinner, which was prepared by the then building manager (who has since moved on). This dinner would be prepared and served around the 8th of December. The residents would come down to the common kitchen and get a plate full of food and return to their rooms to eat.

Last year (2013) the Conference decided that it would prepare a Christmas Day meal and arranged with the Parish to serve the meal to the rooming house residents in the basement of the church. Working with the building manager, we promoted the meal for a few weeks before Christmas as well as when we delivered Christmas gifts to the residents around Dec. 20th. I am not sure how many of the 36 residents we expected, but 9 people showed up, and we sent three meals back to the building to a few guys who were "drinking" and did not come over. A month later the Parish Youth Group hosted a Spaghetti Lunch for the residents and got 3 people. Based on these two attempts to get the residents to come to the church for a meal we decided that if we still want to provide a meal to the rooming house tenants, we would have to go to them.

Attempt number one was a pancake and sausage supper on Shrove Tuesday. Again we purchased the food and went to the rooming house and with the manager cooked pancakes and sausages and served the residents. One woman commented as she piled her plate high that "this is the first meal I have had today" and it was 6:00 PM. We served about 20 people that day which was considered a success compared to the Christmas venture. The Conference members were definitely pumped up by this success and quickly suggested we try a meal for St. Patrick's Day which was on a Monday this year so we decided to serve on Sunday. We enrolled the help of the Catholic Women's League who had offered support and they were assigned the task of cooking a large pot of Irish Stew to three members. We delivered the meal around 12:00 noon on March 16 and the crowd gathered almost immediately resulting in almost 30 people being fed.

On the heels of this success the Conference planned an Easter meal for April 20th. This included baked ham for starters with veggies and dessert. One of the members has three young daughters who prepared hand drawn Easter cards for the folks. This is so reminiscent of the days of Frederic* when they delivered the pots of soup prepared by Sr. Rosalie**; we are now delivering Irish stew and baked ham that was prepared by Conference members and climbing the steps of the rooming houses of Halifax to deliver the food.

This program appears to be working very well and meeting the objective of providing a good home-cooked meal for the residents of the rooming house. The Conference is also showing signs of rejuvenating as the members enthusiastically embrace this new approach of serving our brothers and sisters - by going back to our roots.



(Frederic Ozanam* was born in 1813 in Milan. In 1853 he died at the early age of 40. During those 40 years, Frederic Ozanam lived a life of Christian love that provided an example for his contemporaries. In early 1833 Frederic met Sister Rosalie Rendu**, a Daughter of Charity, who served the needy and stood at the barricades with the poor. Sister Rosalie inspired Frederic and his companions and through their association with her they learned first hand the needs of persons oppressed by poverty.

Committed to do more than talk about faith, Frederic, with a small group of friends, formed the first "Conference of Charity," which met weekly to contribute to a secret collection and then visit the poor in their homes. In 1834 the "Conference of Charity" was renamed the "Conference of St. Vincent de Paul").

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WE ARE A FAMILY IN CHRIST

EMAIL ANYONE?

Should you wish to receive your monthly newsletter via email or view all the issues on our website, please let us know by emailing Pat at:

sttheresachurch@ns.sympatico.ca



Ask Father James,

We would like this space to become a section for our children to make a contribution to our Newsletter.

If your child or neighbour's child has a question about Faith that they would like to ask Father James, have them send an e-mail or drop off a written copy to the office. He will be pleased to answer their questions. They need only sign their first name or a pseudonym.

The Editors



WITHOUT GOD
our week would be
SINDAY
MOURNDAY
TEARSDAY
WASTEDAY
THIRSTDAY
FIGHTDAY
SHATTERDAY
7 days without God
makes ONE WEAK

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.'

'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'