

REFLECTION for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

'Land of Zebulun, Land of Naphtali, Galilee of the Gentiles' For the Jewish people, this referred to that place where the lost, the displaced/deported, the most defenseless, lived. Geographically, and by popular perception, people's view of this place would be comparable to NL in the eyes of the rest of North America (they see us as living in an uninviting land far to the north), so we should be able to identify with it.

Once it was Jewish land populated by Jewish people, but due to roving bands of raiders, the Jews were displaced and Gentiles of differing ethnicities were moving in. From a Jewish faith perspective, it was a land believed to be in spiritual darkness; where the faith glimmered at best. No Jew would want to be in that place; yet it was where Jesus went. It was where a lot of His ministry/miracles occurred. We believe He and His apostles lived in the city of Capernaum in this region. Jesus loves the 'poor in spirit.'

The point being made in today's readings is that it is to such places that true disciples of Jesus are called to minister. The people living in such places have a lot going against them, they could easily fall into despair and feel abandoned, and they have little reason for hope. Someone seeking to be a 'light to the nations' would find fertile soil, physically and spiritually, in such a place. We know Jesus did; plus, His apostles were mostly fishermen and this was a prime fishing area. (Again, note the NL similarity).

For many centuries, countless followers of Jesus became foreign missionaries; from places like France, Italy, Spain, they would go off to far-away lands to bring the Good News to a 'people in darkness.' They went to China, India, Africa, even to remote areas of NL. Many saints were made as men and women sacrificed to spread the message of salvation, to offer the Body and Blood, to educate 'savage' children into the ways of God, and to save the poor souls. This call continues today; but in a different way.

Today, the mission fields are outside our home/church doors. On a personal level, friends and neighbors, even ourselves, are likely to be living spiritually in that place of darkness and despair. Many in our own town may not had the Good News proclaimed to them. It takes conviction to minister in such places

Our second reading presents what is our greatest challenge in bringing Jesus to our world. For a myriad of reasons, there is dis-unity among Christians in terms of what is the essence of the Christian message and how to make it known. We have formed ourselves into divisions. We send mixed messages. We promote one set of rules and teachings- those specific to our denomination. Another group, with the same salvific goal but with differing guiding principles as propagated by their denomination, has different rules and teachings. Those in the 'spiritual Zebulun and Naphtali places' are left confused; they are left in the spiritual darkness, unsure of where is the true source of light and hope. There is only one Jesus.

Each denomination worries about scandal within their particular church. But, through their dogmatic adherence to their way, they are acting scandalously. Jesus' ministry was such that He preached and practised unity. He saw division and challenged it. He was adamant- there is only one God and Lord of all, one church, one Way, one Spirit. It is the first of the ten commandments for God's sake.

As Christians, we are tasked with bringing Jesus to a spiritually starving world, a world that is hungry but cannot identify that for which it hungers, a world veiled in spiritual darkness. When we share this message- *Repent for the Kingdom of God/heaven has come near*- let us do so with a strong united front. Together, in unity, we can be the Light dispelling the Darkness in our world. Jesus promised us success.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



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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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 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.

January 22, 2017

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Jan 14, 15)

Collection	1,360.00
Bldg. Fund	55.00
Votive Candles	36.00
Dues	25.00
Mass Stipends	50.00
Cost of Envelopes	55.00
Bingo	846.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 23	No Mass
<u>Jan 24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</u>	
<u>Service 7 pm at 7th Day Adventist Church</u>	
Jan 25	Bernadette & Anthony George
Jan 26	Howard & Denise Brake
Jan 27	Fr. Joe Kelly
Jan 28	Roy Reid, Howard & Denise Brake, Joan Hearn, Richard Samms
Jan 29	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (Jan 28,29)

READERS **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Art Hall	Joanne Connolly, John Carroll
Edna Dwyer	Frank Lewis

Communion to Sick Joe/Marie Byrne

**Calvin Gillis Margaret Dalley, Donna Eldridge
Debra Allen Hedy Kenny**

HOLY HOUR- EXPOSITION/ADORATION

Our next Holy Hour will take place this **Sunday, Jan 22 at 2 pm**. It will include the Rosary and Benediction. We encourage families to attend; children should experience this most sacred and ancient expression of our faith.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening Jan. 16 at 7 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Copies of the new schedules, covering the next several months, are available at the back of the church. We ask all Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to pick up a copy. If there are any concerns, please contact the Office.

CALLING PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are planning to offer a Youth Mass on the last weekend of February. To do this, 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. *We have some more good news.* From Thursday March 16 until Saturday March 18, NET Ministries will spend some time working with youth in our parish.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

To assist those in need - 638-9010.

REVERENCE IN CHURCH

Now that the Blessed Sacrament is in the sanctuary area, we wish to remind you of the need for holy reverence. It is recommended that you genuflect (or bow) and make the sign of the cross before entering your pew. And we wish to begin a period of reverent silence before Mass begins. Please try to be silent for a few minutes.

Thank You!

Bingo donations were graciously received from: Debbie Allen, Mike Basha, Donna/Evelyn Beales, Diane/Sharon Bennett, Marjorie Blanchard, Colleen/Judy Boland, Cathy Bolt, Carol Reid, Bill/Dorothy/Edward/Leila/Mary/Michelle/WC Brake, Jeanne Brown, Eileen/Karen/Sandy Buckle, Nora Burton, Hilda/Joan Butt, Marie Byrne, Roberta Canning, Cathy Carroll, Marina Cashin, Helen Cook, Lynn Coombs, Linda

Corbett, Lena Curnell, Barbara Dicks, Theresa Dobbins, Rosemarie Doody, Don Gallant, Linda Green, Donna Eldridge, Assumpta Roche, Mary Gallant, Bill Peddle, Kay Musseau
To the men & women who helped run the game, set up & clean up THANK YOU & GOD BLESS.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This is an annual ecumenical celebration. This year, we pray with the Christians of Germany. They have chosen as the theme "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us," *inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:14-20*. They invite Christians around the world to celebrate God's reconciling grace, call us to recognize the pain of the deep divisions which afflict the Christian Church, and urge us to become ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation. On **Tuesday, Jan 24 at 7pm** at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Philip Drive. All are welcome/encouraged to attend.

NOTE: IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT WE CELEBRATE THESE TWO FEAST DAYS DURING THIS WEEK OF UNITY

One, ST. FRANCIS De SALES on Jan 24

He was Bishop of Geneva and is honored as a saint in our Church. He became noted for his deep faith and his gentle approach to the religious divisions in his land resulting from the Protestant Reformation. In 1609, he wrote a book called Introduction to the Devout Life. It provides spiritual direction and is available online for free; google it. Interestingly, in this book he gives readers pointers on prayers and meditations to say or do while attending Mass. Older people can all too well remember when the Mass was said in Latin and not knowing Latin we read our prayer books. Even now, as a priest, I notice some people still doing this. Old habits die hard!

Two, ST. TIMOTHY and TITUS Jan 26

Pray to these two saints if you have a stomach disorder; they are patron saints of us people. They were companions of St. Paul. Whenever he had a stern letter to deliver to the Christian communities it was these two whom he sent. He trusted them to reorganize, renew fellowship, correct liturgical errors, and 'set right again' the churches where abuses and laxity were causing division. St. Paul's Letters to Timothy are filled with instruction and advise for the early Christian churches. St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy, Chapter 3:1-13 has some interesting qualifications for bishops/priests in the early church; try to read this and meditate upon it.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Jan 28

In terms of human influence on the teachings of the Catholic Church, St. Thomas ranks near the top. Here are a few quotes from him:

- *'The things that we love tell us what we are.'*
 - *'There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.'*
 - *'To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.'*
 - *'If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.'*
- And he had a sense of humor:
- *'Sorrow can be alleviated by good sleep, a bath and a glass of wine.'* (order them as necessary)

JESUS PRAYER

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