

REFLECTION for the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don.

This week our reflection comes from Pope Benedict XVI. He delivered it in a homily on this Sunday's Gospel which he presented in September 2012.

'At the heart of today's Gospel (Mk 7: 31-37) there is a small but, very important word that - in its deepest meaning- sums up the whole message and the whole work of Christ.

This word is "*Ephphatha*," which means, "be opened."

Jesus was travelling through the region known as the "Decapolis", between the coast of Tyre and Sidon, and Galilee, therefore in a non-Jewish area. They brought to him a deaf man, so that he could heal him - evidently Jesus' fame had spread that far. Jesus took the man aside, touched his ears and tongue, and then, looking up to the heavens, with a deep sigh said, "*Ephphatha*/ be opened." And immediately the man began to hear clearly and to speak fluently.

This deaf mute, thanks to Jesus' intervention, "was opened." Before he had been closed or isolated. It was very difficult for him to communicate. His recovery was "openness" to others and the world, an openness that, starting from the organs of hearing and speech, involved all of his person and his life. He was now able to communicate and thus relate to Jesus and to others in a new way. What Joy he surely felt. Can we possible experience such joy; can we be healed?

We all know that closure of a person, with its isolation, does not solely depend on the sense organs. There is an inner closing, which covers the deepest core of the person, what the Bible calls the "heart". That is what Jesus came to "open" and to liberate, to enable us to fully live our relationship with God and with others. Opening our hearts and souls to do God's will is liberating.

That is why I said that this little word, "*Ephphatha* – Be opened," sums up Christ's entire mission. He became human so that humans, made inwardly deaf and dumb by sin, would become able to hear the voice of God, the voice of love speaking to the heart of each of us, and enable us to learn to speak in the language of love, to communicate with God and with others.

For this reason, the word and the gesture of "*Ephphatha*" are included in the Rite of Baptism, as one of the signs that explain its meaning: the priest touching the mouth and ears of the newly baptized says: "*Ephphatha*" praying that they may soon hear the Word of God and profess the faith. Through Baptism, the human person begins, so to speak, to "breathe" the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had invoked from the Father with that deep breath, to heal the deaf and dumb.'

Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 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, 7 pm, Fri 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Sunday **September 20**,
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.

September 6, 2015
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Aug 29, 30

Collection	\$1628.00
Donation (Book)	200.00
Building Fund	40.00
Votive Candles	72.00
Mass requests	20.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 7 No Mass

Sept 8 No Mass

Sept 9 7 pm Francois & Therese Deveaux

Sept 10 7 pm Theresa Tompkins

Sept 11 10 am Michael & Mary Leonard

Sept 12 Roderick Blanchard

Sept 13 Parish Community

Please note that this Thursday's Mass will be at 7 pm. Father has to attend a meeting of priests from 9-4 on Thursday.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Our Parish provides fruit for tables at the Canadian Cancer Society's Survivors Luncheon. This event takes place next Saturday afternoon Sept 12. We are asking you to please donate a bag of fruit for this cause. You can drop it off at the priest's house next Thursday or Friday afternoon. The Ladies Group has volunteered to bring it to the Luncheon. Thank You.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Thank you to all who filled out the registration form. As Roman Catholics, we are all called to belong to a Parish Community and we are glad that you have chosen Sacred Heart Parish. Once we have the information collated we will have a listing of members of our Parish. Thus far it appears we have 200 or so families

registered. If you or someone you know have not, but wish to register, it is not too late.

CATECHIST WORKSHOP

The Diocese is offering training for catechists. **Next Saturday Sept 12**, facilitators will come to the Pepsi Center in Corner Brook to train those interested. All you need to do is express interest in attending and you are heartily welcomed.

MINISTRIES VOLUNTEERS

In the next month or so we will be updating our schedule of Lectors and Eucharistic ministers for the fall season. If you would like to volunteer for either of these ministries, let us know. If you were doing these in the past and have stopped, we would heartily welcome you back. If you have never done these ministries, we would love to add your name to our lists. We can provide training if needed. And it will be spiritually enriching for you.

LADIES GROUP MEETING

The ladies met last week and laid plans for their activities during the Fall season. They have many exciting and worthwhile projects planned. Please support their efforts by attending their events. Also they would love to have new members join them. Arms are outstretched waiting for you. So if any ladies wish to join them please let the Priest or one of the Executive know. Theresa Dobbin, Patricia Jones, or Joan Penney would love to hear from you.

Holy Spirit Prayer Group meets every Thursday evening at the Cathedral at 7:30.

COME and SEE, PLEASE PARTICIPATE

September is upon us, we are beginning our COME and SEE Campaign. We are inviting those who have stopped coming to church to come and see. We miss them and want them to be part of our Parish family. We want them to join us for worship. Please support us by reaching out to persons you know and invite them to come with you during our Campaign. Bring them with you. Bring them to week-end Masses with you.

COME and SEE PARISH EVENTS

We have some special activities planned for the month. Again we ask you to come out to support these. *Nothing says I care like actually being there.* Here are some of them:

-On Sunday Sept 13, the Ladies Group will hold their first BINGO of the season at 2 pm at the School cafeteria.

-On Saturday Sept 19 following 4:30 pm Mass we will have a pot-luck supper at the priest's house. Please come and bring a dish.

-On Sunday Sept. 20 at 2 pm we will have a Holy-Hour with Rosary and Benediction.

Please plan to come to each of these events yourself and bring a friend.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We have a box available at the back of the church for collecting food donations. During the month of September, please make an effort to donate some food.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nomination forms are now available at the back of the church. Three (3) new members will be elected to Parish Council in

September. Please nominate yourself or someone else to fill this vital role in the life of the Parish.

MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

We are looking for a volunteer to prepare our schedules in the future. The next schedule is needed for late September. If you are willing to help us, please let Fr. Don know.

FEDERAL ELECTION

With the election called for Monday, October 19th, the Catholic Bishops (CCCB) have issued a guide on key ethical and moral issues that voters, especially Catholics, are invited to consider. It is important to ask all candidates what their personal position is on these issues, what the position of their political party is, and whether their political party will be allowing members to vote according to their conscience or will be requiring them to follow party policy. The "**2015 Federal Election Guide: Making Our Voices Heard**" provides points for reflection on five key issues: respect for life and the dignity of the human person, social justice, the family, world peace, and the environment. For the link to this guide, go to www.rccchurch.com

BAPISMAL BLESSING

"May Jesus soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

This is the Ephphatha Blessing we have all received at our baptism.