

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2008

40/3/50  
THE PASCHAL SEASON

John 14:15-21

The Father will give you another Counsellor, "the Spirit of truth.....you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." I know, Lord, that the same Holy Spirit joins me to you as joined Jesus to his Father. That Spirit dwells in me, an abiding presence whose voice can easily be drowned by my everyday plans and concerns. To be open to the Spirit, I must quieten my body, then my heart.



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Agnes McDonald by Senior's Sunshine Group Gerry Fahey by Pat and Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Patrick Murphy by Mary Callahan and Leo Philippe
	11:00 a.m.	George Hamilton by Grace & Family

## WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:

\$ 2,496.40

Thank you

## What a beautiful – and hopefully faith-building – experience that was!

It was beautiful weather last Sunday, and here we spent some four more hours in the church and in the church hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass! That refers to the 'mini-retreat' for our Confirmation candidates. Not only were the candidates themselves there, but also many of their parents and sponsors. That in itself was so encouraging! And then there were the leaders, the facilitators and the workers 'behind the scenes'. "Many thanks to all" That is the way to build a Church, in small bits and pieces!

We started with a sumptuous lunch for which the parents had brought the ingredients. After that, we went to work with a reflection on the Grace of Baptism. That was a little heavy going, but Baptism is so basic and central. Of course, it is important to children when they are baptized, but it is even more crucial for adult believers. If we as Church are to be renewed, it is beyond question that a more deliberate taking ownership of our having been baptized is to be at the root of it. That is not only true for those who are to be confirmed, but for all of us. Being baptized is such an enormous gift, not to be taken for granted, but to progressively become more conscious of it, cherish it and take good care of it.

Of course, we did not forget Confirmation itself. With a mixture of serious presentation and delightful skits and Jeopardy-style games we got in touch with some aspects of what it means to be confirmed in the faith we cherish. After that it was time for prayer where the candidates reflected on and digested the note their parents had written them.

Again, many thanks to all who made it work. And we pray that the Spirit of the Risen Jesus found fertile soil to work in.

## Next Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Mass, our Bishop Roger Ebacher will be with us for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Years ago, on many occasions, when it was time for Confirmation, the bishop might come some time during the week and confirm us, and it could be any time of the year. Now we prefer to have the Bishop, who is our chief pastor, confirm during one of the parish's Sunday Eucharists, because that is where Confirmation belongs: in the midst of the parish community and when that parish community is 'at its best', at its Sunday

Eucharist. Here is where not only the candidates are confirmed, but we as a Spirit-filled community are re-confirmed in the faith we cherish. Moreover, the preferred time for Confirmation is the 50-day Easter season. There is where we plead with the Risen Christ to share with us his Energy, the Force that energized and still energizes Him, the Holy Spirit. All this amounts to a “heavy workload” for our Bishop at this time of the year. You should see his Confirmation schedule!

So next Sunday, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we will have our Bishop and 28 of our younger parishioners to be confirmed in our midst. We support and surround them, their families, their sponsors and those who have led them on their journey with our prayers.

### **A different, but still beneficial English Zone meeting**

The turnout was a bit disappointing at last Saturday’s meeting of representatives from the English parishes in our Diocese. Did the beautiful weather get in the way?

At the last four sessions we have held, the focus has been on some aspects of the diocesan document ***Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom***. This time we had a guest speaker, Father Bill Burke. He had read that document and the minutes of our four previous meetings. What he did was he linked all that with some quotes from a document that Pope Paul VI wrote in 1975 on evangelization in today’s world. At first sight, a somewhat surprising link, but on second thought a clear indication and a good reminder that what we are wrestling with in our Diocese is not unique to us. There are huge challenges that we face, when it comes to living from and bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our time. For the moment we have to be satisfied with small, even tiny steps in getting a handle on the situation. That is what our meetings at the Zone level - but also at the local level - are clear evidence of. One thing we cannot do is run away from it, close our eyes to it and wish it would all go away. It won’t.

With the Feast of Pentecost approaching we may want to, we certainly need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the faith, the strength and the perseverance we need to hang in there. Or to put it another way, we pray that the Spirit of the Risen One will give us hands and feet to put on – what is not an easy bumper sticker slogan – the hard-fought profession of faith “I know that my Redeemer lives”.

### **Let us take advantage of Saint Paul University being so close!**

“Me going to University? No way!” some might say. The point is that Saint Paul University has two Summer Institutes, one in Pastoral Liturgy and the other in Religious Education. They are not formal degree programs, but programs that try to assist people in parishes that are involved in their parish’s liturgies (we all are!) or in their parish’s faith formation activities (we all are!). Some more formal formation for these areas of parish life can be so beneficial. And here it is offered in our own backyard. Let us take advantage of it!

These Summer Institutes run from **July 7 to 18**. Brochures for them can be found at the entrance to the church.

There is some financial assistance available for parishioners who may be interested in this and who will thus be better equipped to assist our parishioners.

### **The Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec City is fast approaching (2)**

Not many of us will go to Quebec City to participate in that Congress which will take place in the week of June 15-20. Still, it is a good occasion for us who stay at home to take a second look at some aspects of what they spend an entire week on, namely the treasure we hold in our Sunday Eucharist. Here is a second instalment:

For the older ones among us, remember when we used to say “*Mass is made up of three parts: offertory, consecration and communion*”? Something pretty drastic has happened to that since the reform of the last 45 years. It is the kind of reform that takes a long time to take hold of us and for us to become at ease with.

Now the teaching of the Church says flat out: “*The Mass is made up of two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There is the table of God’s word and the table of Christ’s body and blood.*” In other words, there are two major ‘chunks’ to the Mass. When we assemble as God’s people in church, we have two focal points that are equally important: what we do around the Word of God, the Bible from which some passages are proclaimed; and what we do around the altar with the bread and wine.

I sometimes like to use a comparison based on the fact that when we come together for Mass we are the Body of Christ. A healthy body breathes with two lungs, walks on two legs, sees with two eyes. It is the same with us as the Body of Christ. We have two tables around which we gather. It is from these two tables that a gracious God feeds us. One table needs as much care and attention as the other.

It is unfortunate that in the course of the Church's history a split has occurred. We as Roman Catholics gave much attention to the second part, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, while Protestants emphasized the Liturgy of the Word. That is not very helpful. That is why the Second Vatican Council made an immense effort to have us as Catholics re-discover the importance – even for the sake of the health of the second part – the Liturgy of the Word. And what is happening in many Protestant Churches is that they rediscover the Liturgy of the Eucharist. God's grace must be at work.



**SPRING AUCTION:** Our Lady of Annunciation Parish will be holding a **Spring Auction on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Church Centre, 189 Archambault Street, Gatineau (Hull Sector). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for viewing, bidding starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission \$2.00. FREE Refreshments available. For more information, call 819 771-4613 or 819 777-8825.

### **SOME EASTER REFLECTIONS FROM RON ROLHEISER:**

*What the Resurrection of Jesus promises is that things can always be new again. It's never too late to start over. Nothing is irrevocable. No betrayal is final. No sin is unforgivable. Every form of death can be overcome. There isn't any loss that can't be redeemed. Every day is virgin.*

*The Resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, that we can regain lost innocence and move beyond bitterness. In a scheme of things where Jesus breathes out forgiveness on those who betray him and God raises bodies from the dead, we can begin to believe that in the end all will be well, including our own lives.*

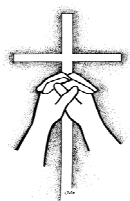
*However, the challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can begin each day afresh. No matter what we've done, our future is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibility. Resurrection is not just a question of one day, after death, rising from the dead, but it is also about daily rising from the many mini-graves within which we so often find ourselves.*

*We are human and we cannot avoid falling—into depression, bitterness, sin, betrayal, cynicism, and the tiredness that comes with age. Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us. Yet our faith in the Resurrection invites us precisely to live beyond these.*

*As John Shea once so aptly put it: What the Resurrection teaches us is not to live—but how to live again, and again, and again!*

### **ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?**

Welcome to all who want to make their faith home here! You may come from other places. You may have been "away for a while". Be assured that we love to have you among us. We would appreciate it very much if you identified yourself at Mass. It would also help if you would take time to fill out a registration form. The next time you are with us, you may leave it in the collection basket or give it to one of the ushers or the priest. WELCOME!



**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Kindly remember Dave McCormick, Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslawski, and their families in your prayers.

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Campbell-Pelletier Families on the loss of Laura.

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