

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 24, 2008

Matthew 16:13-20

Am I open to Jesus' question "Who do you say I am?"

This text has been used so often for apologetic purposes that it is hard to recapture the drama, the uncertain silence that must have followed Jesus' question. He wondered what they would say, and wonders what I say to the same question. Peter confirmed Jesus' growing sense of his vocation and role... *Lord, I linger with this question: what are you to me?*



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25TH

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Adriane Mes by Femmy Mes
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Sylvia Lapointe by Jean-Paul
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Gerry Charron by Don & Lana
	11:00 a.m.	Deceased members of the Kelly Family by the Debanne Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:

\$2,342.00

Thank you!

SLOWLY BACK TO NORMAL...FOR A PARISH TOO!

This coming Monday: Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Apart from the regular Sunday Masses, the occasional funeral, the Strawberry Social, and some St. Vincent de Paul activities, not much has been happening in the parish the last little while. It is about time that we pick up the pace again. This Monday evening, our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets again with that in mind. The primary focus of the meeting is to see how we want to handle the launching of our pastoral year. What do we have to do to give some coherence and new energy to the four poles of parish life: Liturgy, Faith Formation, Fellowship, and Service/Outreach? The idea is to let the parish community take ownership of these four modes of being a parish. The suggestion that "*somebody will look after that!*" is not good enough. Of course, some parishioners will be more involved in it than others, but we all have a stake in it.

THE NEXT TIME WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM HERE IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28; BUT IT NEEDS TO BE PREPARED!

It is unheard of today to celebrate Baptism without any preparation. The times that you could simply phone the rectory and inquire about "*when can we get it done?*" are behind us. We can no longer proceed that way for a variety of reasons. Our society and our church have changed so drastically, and that also affects the way we believe and the way we practice our faith. Moreover, we also try to respect the immense richness of the *Sacrament of Baptism*. After all, Baptism is much bigger than "*Taking away original sin.*"

Every parish struggles with finding a way to take this into account. It affects the way Baptism is celebrated, but also the way we prepare for it. In our case, the preparation consists in a home visit after the initial contact is made. Then, we have three evenings of reflection on the significance of what the parents are asking for their

children, and the children are presented to the parish community at one of our Sunday Masses. After that, we take the plunge!

Yes, it could be done differently, but this is what we feel comfortable with. If you are interested in being part of the preparation or of the celebration of Baptism itself, let us know. Let us make it a parish activity. We begin the preparation for the next Baptism on Wednesday, September 10. So if you know of anyone who would be interested in that, please pass on this information.

“ARE ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?” AN INTERESTING EDITORIAL...

This editorial is from *The Christian Century* and reflects the American religious scene, but it raises an issue we talk and think about here too...

A recent survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that Americans are quite accepting of religions other than their own. Seventy percent of those with a religious affiliation agreed that “many religions can lead to eternal life.” Among mainline Protestants that figure jumped to 83 percent, and among Catholics to 79 percent. As would be expected, the response among evangelical Protestants was lower; still, well over half of evangelicals – 57 percent – agreed that “many religions can lead to eternal life.” More than 80 percent of Jews, Hindus and Buddhists agreed with the statement, and more than half of Muslims did.

The figures may be misleading. One suspects that many Christian respondents, when they heard the reference to “many religions,” thought about Christian denominations other than their own, not about other religions. (Methodists may have been thinking about Baptists, not about Muslims.)

Nevertheless, the poll suggests a remarkable degree of religious tolerance, and probably reflects the everyday consequences of religious diversity. When almost everyone you live and work with believes and behaves more or less the way you do, it is easy to believe that your way is the only way. But in a society in which Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, sceptics and atheists rub shoulders with one another at work and school, people start to learn, as Oscar Wilde did, that “the truth is rarely pure and never simple.”

The triumph of toleration is hardly complete. The decisions people make about where to live, whom to befriend and who to accept as political leaders also say something about the limits of tolerance for other religions. A sizable portion of Americans were uncomfortable with the idea of Mitt Romney as president simply because he’s a Mormon. Some of Barack Obama’s opponents try to portray him as a Muslim on the assumption that a Muslim president would be unacceptable to the electorate. Suspicions and fears of “the other” have hardly vanished.

Tolerance of others is a virtue, but it is a complex one. The Pew report is good news if it means that Americans are learning to know and respect neighbours who espouse a different religion and are coming to have a measure of humility about their own beliefs. It is bad news, however, if it reflects indifference to or ignorance about religion.

Embracing the virtue of tolerance should not lead us to think religions are all the same or that all religious beliefs are compatible. Tolerance should not preclude Christians from humbly and joyfully witnessing to the truth about God revealed to them in Jesus Christ, Christians are called to proclaim this distinct truth, while affirming the kind of religious tolerance that arises from their own belief – the kind voiced by the apostle Peter when he said, “God shows no partiality, but in every nation {ethnos/ethnei} anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34b-35).



SIGN UP FOR A GOLF GAME AT KINGSWAY GOLF CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 17TH

Charles Patrice from the Diocesan Centre is putting together a golf tournament. It has two purposes: (a) to have fun, and (b) to raise funds for the Diocese Pastoral projects. If interested, put a "foursome" together and register by calling 819 771-8391 or by emailing: patrice@diocesegatineau.org

THE OTTAWA LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

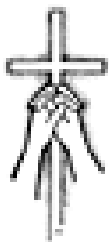
Founded in 1963, under the auspices of the Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches, The Ottawa Lay School of Theology offers a service of lectures on topics relevant to the Christian faith, to people of other faith backgrounds, and to those without a specific faith. Its approach is non-denominational and ecumenical, and it attempts to bridge the gaps in understanding other faiths and traditions.

Courses start September 15th and will be held Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church (Richmond Road at Churchill Avenue in Ottawa). For more information, please check the Brochures in the church or check their website at www.olst.ca

THE OTTAWA SACRED MUSIC SOCIETY ADULT CHOIR: is holding its membership drive for 2008-09. The 40-member choir, under the direction of Uwe Lieflander (ulieflander@rogers.com), performs at special liturgical celebrations and sacred music concerts throughout the Archdiocese. Please contact 613 226-1140 to schedule an audition or visit the following website for more information: (<http://www.sacredmusicsociety.com/index.html>)



GARAGE SALE: Our Lady of the Annunciation, 189 Archambault St. in Gatineau is holding a garage sale on **Saturday, September 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Info: 819 771-4613



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

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the Connolly Family on the loss of John (Jack).

Bulletin design & website content/design by: *Catherine LeGuerrier*
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