

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

September 14, 2008

John 3:13-17

- Jesus says these words to Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to him at night, searching for answers.
- Jesus' message is not of condemnation, but of God's love and a promise of eternal life. What does all of this mean to me?



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Doreen Moore by Gerry & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Patrick Murphy by Ken & Stormie
	11:00 a.m.	Maria Mello by Dulce Lopes & Delia Mello

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$ 2314.41 Thank you!

Next Sunday, September 21: "Catechetical Sunday"

Let us Make it Work!

The Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops has this to say about the initiative to launch what they hope will be an annual event for all Catholic Parishes in Quebec: *"We hope that this annual event will contribute to better informing the entire Catholic population about the new realities of evangelization in today's culture.....The responsibility for Christian Life Formation, for children and people of all ages, belongs to the Church.....Throughout Quebec, while parishes acknowledge difficulties, we will gather and invite all those who are baptized to be in solidarity with the Church's catechetical mission.....It is a sort of mobilization of all those involved in the transmission of faith, a mobilization that can become an occasion for all of us as baptized men and women to deepen our own faith journey. For the Christian community it can become a time of renewal."*

An important first step in this mobilization is the recognition of facts. While a good number of Catholics can still identify with the traditional religious practices that mark us as Catholics, they no longer resonate with an increasing number of men and women of our time. There is abundant evidence of it in our own circles, in our own families. Nothing is gained from complaining about it. Nothing is gained from playing the ostrich hoping somehow that it will all go away. It won't. We face a new situation, and it is a challenging one! Can we ourselves live from and bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way that others may be attracted to it?

It is one thing for the Quebec Bishops to launch this sort of timely initiative. It is quite another thing for the actual faith communities, such as parishes, to make it a bit more concrete and manageable. Our own **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** thought it opportune to link **Catechetical Sunday** with our efforts to give more prominence to the **Four Poles of Parish Life (liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach)** and to familiarize ourselves with a renewed understanding of **catechesis** in the sense of what the Quebec Bishops describe as *Christian Life Formation, for children and people of all ages*. At last Sunday's Masses, Julie Cool as a member of our **PPC** gave a fine presentation on the shape we at St. Mark's would like to give to **Catechetical Sunday**.

This Sunday, we will all be given a **reflection guide**. We hope that all members of the parish will find some time to reflect on it and let the Spirit of the Lord Jesus enlighten us as to what our Spirit-led contribution to St. Mark's life will be. You are asked to fill in the little paper that is attached to the guide and to present it in next

Sunday's *special collection basket* which will then be our offering as the gifts of bread and wine are brought up for the Eucharist. **Please note:** the little paper will not be read by anyone; it will be between God and you. Next Sunday, September 21: it will be our **Catechetical Sunday**. The four poles of parish life will each have a sort of booth in the four corners of the church hall where representatives of the different parish activities will explain what their particular activity is all about. We are all asked to take some extra time to **come and see**, to mingle with fellow parishioners and we will have the opportunity to sign up for one or more activities.

Indeed, Let us Make it Work!

Catechesis is not the same as Catechism!

Translation from French into English is not easy. The little pamphlet **Catechesis Today**, that was part of the inserts in last Sunday's church bulletin, is a good example of it. Yes, the pamphlet was translated from the original French version. The unfortunate thing is that at several places the original French **catechèse** was rather carelessly translated as **catechism** instead of **catechesis**! There is a world of difference between the two. **Catechism** refers to a book or a program with the primary aim to pass on or acquire knowledge. There is nothing wrong with that. In fact, it is very necessary too. **Catechesis**, on the other hand, intends to be a lot broader. It means making the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, resonate throughout our lives, hearing an echo of the Word that makes sense of our lives. We move from learning 'things' by rote to discerning our life experiences through the prism of Jesus Christ to whom we belong by our baptism, all along relying on and testifying to God's love and compassion. That may sound like a mouthful, but here is **an example**:

We get a call to prepare some sandwiches or squares for a funeral lunch (*see below*). Yes, we could do that, but so much could be done around that. We could let other family members, including the children or grandchildren, know about it. We could reflect for a moment on how the family concerned will be affected by the death, pray for them, pray for the deceased. The deceased person may be unknown to us, but he/she is our sister/brother, because we are baptized in Jesus' name. We could look at the experience with our '*Christian glasses on*', that is to say, through the prism that the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us. We look at the event with faith and hope. We share those faith-insights with other family members, including children and grandchildren. And in Christian charity and compassion we reach out tangibly to the bereaved family, we support them with our sandwiches or squares. That is doing catechesis for ourselves, for and with those around us. We are being catechized as we catechize. Look at what sandwiches or squares for a funeral lunch can do!

"Could you make some sandwiches for the Funeral Lunch?"

When one of the members of our parish dies we have the beautiful custom of providing a light lunch after the funeral service in the church, if the family so desires. It is one of the best services our parish provides. In fact, it is a very concrete way of supporting-in-faith the family that mourns the death of their loved one. Even if we may not know the family ourselves, in the faith community we are (we know them as our) brothers and sisters. The preparation and the service of the lunch are all done by volunteers, and it depends very much on the cooperation of all parishioners. So every so often you are contacted by phone with the question: "Could you prepare some sandwiches or squares, please?" It is true that such a request rarely comes at a convenient time. But when we keep in mind the difficult situation the bereaved family is experiencing, it may make handling our own inconvenience a little easier; in fact, it becomes a tangible and effective gesture of solidarity and support to the bereaved family. In other words, your generous response to the request is much appreciated.

The light lunch is put on by volunteers of our parish. If you are free to be called upon every so often to give a hand, please let Agnes Laroche (819 684-6926) or Rita Danis (819 684-8445) know; they coordinate/organize this beautiful service on behalf of St. Mark's parish.

Bishops' Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada

The *Bishops' Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada* will be held next weekend. The monies raised will be sent to our diocese, which will use the total amount collected to pay its annual contribution to the

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC). This contribution is determined according to a *per capita* calculation that takes into account the number of Catholics in each diocese of Canada.

The CCCC offices are located at 2500 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa. A staff (of approximately 40) works in different services, supporting the pastoral work of the Bishops nationally and internationally. Evangelization, faith education, ecumenism, social justice, liturgy, theology, the Marriage Tribunal...these are some of the areas where the Bishops are especially involved.

This Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada is one of five "special collections" in the yearly calendar of the Catholic Church of Canada.



Faith Formation: Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Wardens Meeting: Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Baptism Preparation: Wednesday, September 17th 7:30 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE – AYLMEER ROAD:

Liturgy of the Gospel (Bilingual service)–September 21st at 2:00 p.m. In case of rain, the service will be held at St. Paul's Church. The cemetery will be closed to vehicles between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.



SPAGHETTI SUPPER & AUCTION:

We will be hosting our **5th Spaghetti Supper & Auction** on October 19th. If you have items to donate for the auction, please call Rita 819 684-8445, Joan 819 684-5039, Fran 819 684-3329 or Florence 819 682-5619.

SIGN UP FOR GOLF GAME AT KINGSWAY GOLF CLUB, SEPTEMBER 17TH

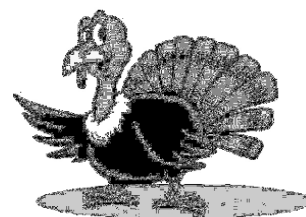
Charles Patrice from the Diocesan Centre is putting together a golf tournament. It has two purposes: (a) to have fun, and (b) to raise funds for the Diocese Pastoral projects. If interested, put a "foursome" together and register *ASAP* by calling 819 771-8391 or by emailing: patrice@diocesegatineau.org



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: (<http://www.sacredmusicsociety.com/index.html>).

TURKEY SUPPER: On **Friday, September 19th at 6 p.m.**, St. Aloysius Parish, 300 Abbe-Murray in Gatineau, will be holding a turkey supper. Funds raised will be used for roof repairs. Tickets: \$10 for adults; \$6 for children ages 6 to 12; FREE for children under 6. Deadline to buy tickets is September 14th. For tickets call Susan Arnold 819 663-3619 or Phyllis Seguin 819 663-1635. Tickets are also available at the Parish Office – Call 819 663-5244.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Dave McCormick, Tony Sciampacone, Cory Welch, Kent McConnell, Michael Dolan and their families in your prayers.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY: Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the van der Gulik family on the loss of Richard and the Arial/Somerville families on the loss of Rose Marie.

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

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

Need a website or flyer? Visit www.catleg.ca or e-mail: catleg@catleg.ca