

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9, 2009

John 6:47--51

- This sixth chapter of St. John lifts us with the thought of the Lord's Supper, the meal of thanksgiving, "Eucharist." Here is Jesus sharing his life with us.
- The Eucharist nourishes us, strengthens us for struggles that fill Our day, nurtures a life that will not end with death.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 10TH

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Jeannette Salois 10 th anniversary By Gerry, Liz & family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	June Williams by Anthony & family
		Eugene Smithson by Don & Lana
	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Ranger by the Ranger family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$ 1,918.00 Thank You!

Are you new to our Parish? Welcome!

Welcome to all who want to make their faith home here. You may have come from other places. You may have been "away for a while". You may be "checking us out". Perhaps you may wonder what "we do here on Sunday morning" or at other times. 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 the 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 to the priest.

Welcome!



TWO IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

I. Diocesan Workshop on *Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom*

It was Pentecost 2004: our Bishop presented to the Gatineau Diocese a little document entitled ***Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom***. It had been in the making for a number of years by means of surveys, workshops, various working papers, and documents. In that particular document the Bishop outlined his pastoral vision for the Church in Gatineau. It had less to do with how to do things than with what - as Church in the Outaouais - we would be all about in the next 25 years or so and what our pastoral priorities would be.

After the document has been around for five years, it was felt that we needed to take stock and see what the Church of Gatineau has actually done with it. Has the vision caught on? Has it had any impact on the life in our actual parishes? Has it been ignored? What have we done with it? That is what the Diocesan Workshop of August 28-29 is all about. The workshop itself has the title ***Colloque en Catéchèse: Le Terrain Réel de la Catéchèse***. Yes, it is in French, and that is a handicap for some of us. But if we can get a group of us together who can handle the French somewhat, then we can still make our contribution and benefit from it. At least, it would be a shame if we missed out on it altogether. After all, they have some good resource people that will be working with us: one from the Quebec Catechetical Office, one from the University of Laval, and one from Brussels who is well-known internationally in the field of catechesis.

Here at St. Mark's we have tried with small steps to follow the lead of the 2004-document. Some of it has worked; some of it has not worked. It is hard to let go of familiar ways of doing things, even if they no longer fit in our new society and really bear hardly any fruit. But it is also challenging to try new things, especially when the results of them are not immediately evident. Let us face it, the new times are challenging for the Christian faith, how to live from it, and how to pass it on. We experience that in our own families. But that does not mean that we are prepared to give up on it.

At the level of the English Zone Pastoral Council we have worked with the above mentioned document for the last few years. For a variety of reasons it was not always easy going, but it has at least given us the opportunity to present a brief to the committee that organizes the Workshop of August 28-29. So there is a bit of an Anglophone input; and hopefully we can learn from what is offered.

Anyway, if anyone is interested in joining us at the workshop mentioned above, please, let us know, and we'll get the troops together.

II. Quebec-wide Catechetical Sunday: September 20

That really is an initiative which the Quebec Bishops started last year. They designated the third Sunday of September as **Catechetical Sunday**. It is the sort of initiative that tries to address the new situation we as Church find ourselves in. Is there any need for that? Much depends on how one reads the religious scene in Quebec, and really not in Quebec only; it is true of much of Canada. Let us face it. The situation of the Church in Quebec society – and for that matter in the entire Western world – has changed drastically. We experience and live it daily in many different ways, in our own parish, in our families.

The question is: how do we handle it? We can lament and complain about it. We can idealize and romanticize about '*the good old days*'. Little is achieved with that. Do we have to passively accept it and resign ourselves to it? That would be a defeatist attitude that can in no way be reconciled with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, we are being challenged today. No question! It is tough going. That is why the initiative of **Catechetical Sunday** is launched. And it is very much in line with what the August 28-29 workshop is all about.

We plan to give **Catechetical Sunday**, which falls on September 20 this year, our own particular take, like we did last year. We can look upon it as an opportunity to mobilize the entire parish for the project that is not the property of a few, but really the challenge of us all. How can we make our parish community into a catechizing community?

More on the subject is to come.

Interested in getting a little more familiar with the Bible?

The Bible is not an easy book to handle. Actually it is not **one book**. It is a collection of 72 different writings that are the very source of our Christian faith. There are many ways of gaining a bit of familiarity with it. Some work, some don't.

There is one monthly that I find particularly helpful: **God's Word Today**. It is serious, but it is also accessible; that is a rare combination. Here are some of the titles that the monthly publication deals with:

Who is this Man? Encountering the mystery of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark.

1-2 Corinthians. Paul's Advice: The Church needs us.... and we need the Church.

1 & 2 Chronicles. A worshipping community testifies: God is with us, no matter what.

Never give up hope! The Book of Revelation.

The Gospel of Matthew (1-13): Have you found the treasure?

Making the Psalms our Prayer. Psalms 1-50.

I have some 20 other titles, and of each 10 copies. If you want to take a stab at them, let us know.

This is the way the writer introduces the issue on the Psalms, which are a school of prayer for us:

Talking heart-to-heart with God

I like the psalms very much. They have been my daily and faithful companions for the last thirty years, an abiding source of inspiration for all seasons and moments in life, whether in sorrow or in joy. They have been alternately comforting and disturbing, thrilling and disconcerting; they've never been dull or drab.



I like the psalms because the words, although originating from a remote past and culture, reflect the wide range of human emotions, from fear to trust, from distress to hope, from aloofness to communion, from hatred to love. The psalms are not prayers of people who think they have achieved perfection. They are prayers of real people, who are well aware that they are but pilgrims on earth, struggling with life and meaningfulness, struggling with the daily battle of choosing between good and evil, trust or distrust, justice or injustice, indifference or compassion.

If there is one thing we can learn from these prayers of old it is precisely this: Our human emotions and struggles do matter to God. It is all right for us to pray from within our human needs and concerns, from within our humanness and our vulnerability. Yet, the psalms do not confine us to a position of beggars before God. They do express a profound yearning for life, for communion, for reaching out to God and to neighbour in the firm conviction that, no matter what, God cares for us and wants us to enjoy the fullness of life: "Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.... I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord." (Ps 118:5, 17) Psalms are just great because they are a wonderful tribute to life.

I truly hope that this first of three instalments on the book of Psalms will encourage you take this little book as your daily and friendly companion for prayer. We can also make it the inspiration for our own psalms and for an enduring conversation, heart-to-heart, with God: "I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live" (Ps 116:1-2).

An invitation from Wayne and Louise Owens to support a cause

Come join us for a fundraising party at the Château Cartier Hotel, Aylmer Road, on Friday, August 28th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The fundraiser is in support of our son-in-law Ray (Debbie's husband) who has ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). The evening will include door prizes, live and silent auctions, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. A large portion of the funds raised will go towards the cost of home renovations needed to accommodate Ray. A percentage of the proceeds will also go to support the ALS society of Ontario. If you would like to join us, please, contact Wayne or Louise Owens (819 684-2032) as soon as possible for tickets. The cost is \$20 per person. We hope to see you there.

When Saint-Paul parishioners join us at Mass and contribute to the collection...

It is quite an adjustment for Saint-Paul parishioners now that their church has been destroyed. There will be occasions that they join us for Sunday Mass; naturally, they are very welcome. When at the time of the collection they make a financial contribution and identify it as intended for Saint-Paul parish, of course, we will honour that. If there is an indication that it is meant for Saint-Paul's, we will pass it on.

Lorsque des paroissiens de Saint-Paul se joignent à nous lors des célébrations eucharistiques et contribuent à la quête...

C'est tout un ajustement pour les paroissien(ne)s de la paroisse Saint-Paul maintenant que leur église a été détruite. Quelques-un(e)s se joindront à nous à l'occasion pour célébrer la messe du dimanche, et bien naturellement, ils/elles sont les bienvenues. Si ils/elles effectuent une contribution financière à l'intention de la paroisse Saint-Paul, nous allons évidemment honorer cette aide. Prière d'indiquer clairement votre intention, et il nous fera plaisir de l'acheminer à votre paroisse.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Pearl Proulx, Magdalena Mueller, Hilda Preslawski, and their families in your prayers.

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