

# TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 16, 2009

Ephesians 5:17--20

- This is strong stuff, Lord. You warn me against the illusion of happiness that alcohol inspires, but urge me to make melody in my heart.
- Thank you. As Nietzsche observed, without music, life would be a mistake.



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>

Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Vincent Gauvreau by Margo & Family Coleman McConnell by Nano & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Barbara Labonte by Ethleen & Donna Jean Charette by Gloria & Family

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:** \$ 2,472.70

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.

## **About Father John's Departure...**

Some newer parishioners may not know Father John. He used to "help out" here on Sunday's and other occasions for many years. But especially the last year he has not been around very much because of other commitments. As mentioned earlier he is now on his way to Rome, since he has been elected as a member of the General Council of the religious community (Priests of the Sacred Heart, S.C.J.) that he and I belong to. Actually, his work at St. Mark's goes back many years. In the seventies he, Mrs. Collins and others worked with the youth in Aylmer (**Tillage**). Nano McConnell knows more about that.

Anyway, Father John plans to leave for Rome mid-September to begin his six-year term there. Plans are underway to have a bit of a send-off for him on Sunday, September 13. He will preside at our Masses then, and we are working on what we can do after the Masses.

## **What is the point of offering Mass for the dead?**

That is a fair question asked every so often. There is even a shift in how to understand the practice of asking for a Mass for a deceased person, while a monetary donation is made. Until not so long ago the thinking behind the practice was quite often that the deceased needed all the Masses they could get to help them get to heaven. When you poke at that sort of motivation a bit, then you cannot help but wonder what, in the process, we are saying about God and what the Mass is supposed to be for. Of course, when it comes to our final destiny, our home coming, it is pure gift from a God who loves us.

There is another way of looking at that practice of asking for a Mass on the occasion of the death of a person we have known. It is an expression of faith that says that around Christ's Table we know that those who have

died are still united with us. In other words, it is another way of saying what we profess in the Creed: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints*. It is our faith *in the communion of the saints* which makes us want to mention the names which for us is anchored in Christ's victory over death of those who have died around the communion table. In other words, we are moving from **for** the deceased to **with** the deceased. Not an insignificant shift! And a hope-filled one at that!

That shift is akin to the change the Church made in its funeral liturgy. It is unfortunate that not too many have taken note of it. It concerns the prayers recited over the coffin at the end of a funeral Mass. Those prayers were called Absolution (or Absoute in French). They gave the impression that we, as it were, had to plead with God... Now those prayers are called *Final Commendation*. We let the deceased go out of our keeping; give them over to God's keeping: *à-Dieu*. They are an expression of our faith and trust in God's mercy, another hope-filled expression.

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

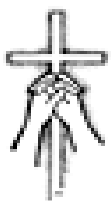
It is quite an adjustment for Saint-Paul parishioners now that their church has been destroyed. There will be occasions that they join us for Sunday Mass; naturally, they are very welcome. When at the time of the collection they make a financial contribution and identify it as intended for Saint-Paul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

**Worship this Day:** September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m., Carleton University Alumni Theatre

Family Radio CHRI and the Dekker Team are presenting this event. It's a gathering for all generations and every denomination from around the city to come together for a night of encouragement and worship that exalts Jesus Christ with host, Kevin Bloodworth, and worship leader, Casey Darnell, from North Point Ministries in Atlanta. No tickets are required; a \$5.00 offering at the door entitles attendees to a wristband redeemable at Moe's South Western Grill. For more information on Worship This Day visit [www.worshipthisday.com](http://www.worshipthisday.com)



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

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY:** Our prayers and Sympathies are extended to Cynthia Vandevonne and family on the loss of her son Jack and Florence LeGuerrier and family on the loss of her brother Henry.

**Visit our Website: [www.stmarkparish.ca](http://www.stmarkparish.ca)**

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

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