

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

Mark 7:31--37

- This deaf, speech impaired man stands for millions who cannot communicate, nor enter into dialogue with those who would talk with them. They cannot find the words; they are cut-off.
- Jesus treats the man quietly and physically. Aside in private, he handles the deaf man with intimate gestures, even sharing his spittle, sighing, and praying.
- Lord, I can hear and I can speak; but I have much to learn about really being in touch with others. Open my ears, release my tongue, teach me to speak plainly.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7TH

Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Mickie O’Heare by Karen Brouillard Henry Trudeau by Theresa Gaudesboos
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	June Williams by Anthony & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Lucien Ranger by the Ranger Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$ 2163.90 Thank You!

On our way to *Catechetical Sunday*: September 20

Last year, the Bishops of Quebec launched a new initiative for the Church in Quebec. 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. Things are no longer the way they used to be, when it comes to church life or when it is a matter of identifying with church life. We experience it in many ways.

The question is: how do we handle it? We can lament and complain about it? That does not produce much. 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 that we believe in and that, as individual Christians and as a parish community, we are the bearers of. Yes, we are being challenged today. No question!

The Quebec Bishops hope that with designating September 20 as ***Catechetical Sunday*** they will entice parishes to develop strategies that will in some way try to meet the challenges. Naturally, we don’t need to start from scratch. We can build on what we have, but in some instances we can be a little more deliberate about it. That applies especially to the involvement of the larger parish community. Our own Bishop wrote a fine little document about that a few years ago: ***Becoming Communities that are Schools of Catechesis***.

What is called for today is a catechesis that is borne by the parish community. It cannot be left to a few generous volunteers (yes, they will still be necessary) who will be asked to do things a little differently. It is the entire parish community that is asked to be more aware of the four poles or areas of activity that mark it as a parish community: **liturgy, faith formation, fellowship, service/outreach**. When a parish community takes good care of these, then it is both catechizing and being catechized, it is a ***school of catechesis***.

Our particular take on “*Catechetical Sunday*”

The last paragraph of the above indicates how we here at St. Mark’s would like to handle ***Catechetical Sunday***. We don’t have to invent something new; we build on what is in place. In fact, it is really continuing the mission of Jesus Christ that has been entrusted to us as his Body, as his Church. In the course of the Church’s

history that mission of Jesus Christ has taken on those four poles that you find displayed in the diagram at the front page of our Sunday bulletin

We would like **Catechetical Sunday** to serve as the launching of our pastoral year and to take the shape of giving a prominent place to the four poles of our parish life. These four poles or four areas of parish life are not neatly separated compartments where each can do its own thing. They are dependent on each other, they feed each other, they interact with each other, they need each other.

This Sunday begins the build-up towards **Catechetical Sunday**. We hope that the whole exercise will give new energy to and renewed interest in what makes us tick as a parish. Part of that is that we would like that same Sunday to sort of hold an **Open House** from 12:00 (noon) to 1:30 p.m. Visitors are invited to take a tour through the church and the church hall. The various parish activities will be on display in the basement; parishioners are asked to come down to welcome new parishioners and to familiarize themselves with what makes us tick as a parish; interested outsiders (non-parishioners or former parishioners) are also invited to come and take a look, check us out and see how St. Mark's functions. That aspect falls perfectly in line with the theme of this year's **Catechetical Sunday: "Doors are Opening... Thank God!"**

Registration for Confirmation and First Communion: September 20

Strange to have registration for Confirmation and First Communion on that Sunday? In his pastoral orientations of a few years ago **Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom**, our Bishop urged us to move from a narrow preoccupation with preparation for sacraments towards formation in the Christian life. It does not mean that we stop preparing for these sacraments, but we try to place it in a broader context. That is especially called for when we are dealing with Confirmation and First Communion as Sacraments of Initiation. The proper setting for these is our parish life. In that light, it makes a lot of sense to place the journey towards Confirmation and First Communion in the midst of the parish's four poles that will be more prominently on display at our **Catechetical Sunday**. That will also show in what such a journey or preparation ideally consists of. Some changes are subtle, but others are not so subtle.

Registration for Confirmation and for First Communion after the three Masses of Sunday, September 20.

Next Baptisms: Sunday, September 27

What is said above of Confirmation and First Communion should ideally also apply to Baptism, because that is the first Sacrament of Initiation. And, in fact, when those requesting Baptism are adults, then the above applies very much. But when it comes to baptizing infants, we are not that far yet. That, for a variety of reasons, will take some time.



This coming Wednesday, September 9, the parents who have asked to have their children baptized on September 27, will be together for the first of the three evenings of reflection in preparation for the baptism of their children. That is exciting, but also challenging. Because let us face it: many of these parents have only sporadic contact with the church and our parish community is not really much of a "faith-home" for most of them. Still, they have requested that their children be baptized. And we honour that request by reflecting together with them on the significance of the request they have made for their children, but also for themselves. Hopefully, the Spirit may help us sow some seeds that, in due time, may bear some fruit.

Send-Off for Father John: next Sunday, September 13

Next Sunday will be the last time Father John will be with us before he leaves for his six-year term in Rome. He will preside at the three Sunday Masses. After each of the Masses we'll have a chance to say *goodbye*, and after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, it will be a little more elaborate: the plan is to have a bit of a BBQ (looked after by Greg and Michel) with some pot-luck salads and desserts (coordinated by Anne Marie 819 684-9177, Mary 819 685-1079 and Rachel 613 277-4761). It is a thoughtful way of acknowledging with gratitude the way Father John has served our parish and the Aylmer community for many years.

Sunday, September 20, 2:00 p.m.: Annual Cemetery Service

It is going to be a busy Sunday: Our Catechetical Sunday, our Open House (see above). The same Sunday the annual Cemetery Service will be held at which we remember, in the light of Christ, members of our families

who have been buried at St. Paul's Cemetery here in Aylmer. The service will be at 2:00 p.m. In case of rain, the service will be held here at St. Mark's.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL UPDATE:

To all St. Mark's parishioners, we would like to update you on what your contributions to the monthly collections have provided. At the end of June, through your contributions so far we have helped 62 families, which represents 96 adults and 72 children by making 122 visits. Also, we were able to issue vouchers for the "SVDP comptoir" to 12 families. On behalf of the people we were able to help, **THANK YOU!** ~ Andre Sirois, SVDP representative

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: St. Mark's Conference is seeking two more **volunteers** to help provide its feed-a-child program this fall. The position requires two hours a week (from 10 am to 12 noon Monday) to welcome parents of the recipient school-children and to bag the groceries that they come to pick up. To volunteer or make inquiries, please call Karleen at **819 682-1452**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS GENEROSITY!

Update on Taffan Project

Several weeks ago, we asked for your assistance with a special St. Vincent de Paul project, to help a widowed mother assist her deaf son - whom she adopted from Bangladesh - to obtain an education. The family are living on a very small pension. We had estimated that \$1500.00 would cover expenses for the required psychological assessment, assistance with needed hearing aids and other expenses to prepare for school. **You have donated over \$1900.00!** The assessment has been completed, the second hearing aid will be acquired this week and further meetings are taking place with the school board to plan the needed approach to his specialized program.

St. Vincent de Paul will administer the use of the remaining funds, applying them as needed to additional costs relating to his admission to school. Taffan's Mom is exceedingly grateful to St. Mark's and has said, "**You were sent by God!**" She says she is now able to relax, her tremendous anxiety is relieved, and she rejoices that her son now has an opportunity for an education and to find independence for himself. God Bless You All! – Truly, you are the Lord's hands and feet. ~ Jack Croft for St. Vincent de Paul

CWG MEETING / POT LUCK – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH: **Membership Registration:** from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. followed by a "**POT LUCK SUPPER**" in the church hall. All ladies in the Parish are most welcome to attend. For more info: call **819 684-6926**.

GARAGE SALE: Our Lady of the Annunciation Annual Parish Indoor Garage Sale – 189 Archambault St. Gatineau (Hull Sector), **Saturday, September 12, 2009** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Household items, nearly-new boutique, jewellery, toys, books. To donate or for further information, please call: 819 771-4613 or 819 777-8825.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER / SILENT AUCTION: **Sunday, September 27th. Tickets: \$10.** Any donations to the auction would be greatly appreciated. To donate your items, please call Rita 819 684-8445, Florence 819 682-5619, Fran 819 684-3329 or Joan 819 684-5039.



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

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

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