

# TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## OCTOBER 11, 2009

Mark 10:17--22

- An extraordinary meeting: Mark, the least political of the evangelists, throws in details that brings the gospel to life.
- Why does Jesus take issue with the man calling him “good”? Then, “Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Something in Jesus’ gaze was unforgettable.
- Mark does not spare us the shock and grief of the man as he hears, and then rejects, Jesus’ invitation, or Jesus’ calm acceptance of that refusal. He will not do violence to our freedom.



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotion
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Harold Blackman by John MacMillan Alan Munro by the Senior Choir
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	June Williams by Anthony & Family Addie Shea by Jim & Theresa Shea
	11:00 a.m.	Stephen Ranger by the Ranger Family

**WEEKEND COLLECTIONS:**     \$ 2,657.03     Thank You!



### **It is getting close to closing time for Registration for Confirmation and First Communion 2010: Is there a Trend?**

For about a month now, we have received registrations for Confirmation and for First Communion that will be celebrated in April and May of 2010. Next Sunday is the last day for that. So far the number of candidates for Confirmation is rather low compared to other years, while the number of candidates for First Communion is quite high for us. It is hard to know what that is saying; it could also be mere coincidence.

At any rate, next week we plan to get the journey to these two faith-events going, the journey itself is, of course, undertaken in faith too. On Sunday evening (October 18) the candidates for Confirmation and their parents (of the 15-year old ones) will meet. It will be a ‘getting acquainted’ session, which also gives us an opportunity to explain the rationale and the make-up of this year’s journey. It is a bit different from the way we used to do it. That is not for the sake of being different, but to bring the process a bit more in line with what our Bishop expressed in the little document *Discovering Jesus Christ: the Path to Freedom: “moving from the narrow preparation for the sacrament towards formation in the Christian life.”* That is not an easy switch to make, but certainly it is called for in our time.

On Monday evening (October 19), it will be the turn for the parents of the candidates for First Communion to get together. Here too, we will try to emphasize that making one’s First Communion is really part of a larger package – begun already in the earlier request of the parents to have their son/daughter baptized – and ideally it is not something for the candidate in isolation, but for the family and for the parish as well. Otherwise, there is the danger that – as with Confirmation – it becomes something of *been there, done that*. If that is in fact the case, then those two events do not amount to much.

If you know of families who may be interested in joining the candidates already registered, please, let them know. Thank you.

### **How is the Collaboration with St. Paul's Parish working?**

Of course, the fire that destroyed St. Paul church has had a disturbing impact on the life of St. Paul's Parish. Much remains to be done and discussed concerning the future. In the meantime, they seem to be coping quite well considering the circumstances. The fact that they could maintain their regular Sunday schedule for their Sunday Masses by having them in the theatre was a welcome solution. Of course, it is not the same as having them in the church, but what is the alternative in the circumstances?

Most of their funerals – and they have quite a number – are held at St. Mark's. They remain St. Paul's funerals, in terms of the ministers, the choir, the records etc. The same applies to a few of their weddings and baptisms which are celebrated here. For us, it is good that we can be of some assistance to the parishioners of St. Paul's in their difficult time.

The above concerns their more formal celebrations. For the rest of their parish life, they make much use of their rectory and of St. Médard.

Needless to say, some challenges lie ahead, for them and for us. What do we do with celebrations during the week, when the theatre is not free, and when they and we would like to have them at the same time? Think of Christmas, for example, or the Easter Triduum Services, or Ash Wednesday, or the Advent Penitential Service... On our part, we may have to be flexible and show a willingness to accommodate them as their difficult situations persists.

In the meantime, we are happy to be of some help to them in their difficult situation.

### **Two Interesting Notes about an activity**

#### **we all participate in, and are responsible for, once a week**

##### **1. How important the Beginning of Mass is...**

*"In the introductory rites, Christ joins the Church to himself and gathers her children to join their voices to his perfect hymn of praise. Thus, the liturgical assembly, 'where two or three come together in Christ's name, and where he is found in their midst' (Mt. 18:20), is the 'first image that the Church gives of herself'. Thus an important function of these rites is to enable the gathered assembly to take on the form of a community, alert and ready to listen to the Word and celebrate the sacrament."* In other words, when we come to church on Sunday (Saturday) we do not come as isolated individuals, but as members of Christ's Body and we join Him in the worship of God. Is there a sense of oneness in us when we begin Mass?

##### **2. Something to work on together...**

Here is a good description of why we should take good care of our liturgical celebrations: *"It is the beauty of all the symbols from which the celebration is woven, including the worship space itself, that bears an unspoken invitation to the faithful to enter into God's presence and embrace."* Of course, we are in each other's presence, but at this point our presence has everything to do with our shared relationship with God. Are our liturgical celebrations such that we get a sense of being in God's space? That is impossible to measure, but we could all be attentive to promoting it and making sure that we avoid doing things that may get in the way of it.

### **A Spin-off from Father John's having left for Rome**

One of the hats that Father John wore was being Regional Superior of the Canadian Region of the religious community that he and I belong to, *the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJ)*. Our Canadian Region is not very numerous: 25 of us spread out over three local communities in Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa (to which I technically belong). That position of Regional Superior needed to be filled again now that John has left for Rome. A consultation process among our membership was set in motion and the outcome of it is that the General Council of our community in Rome has appointed me as the Regional Superior of our Canadian Region for a three-year term. It is not exactly a position that I was looking for, but I could not ignore the number of confreres who had put my name forward for that position.

Yes, I will remain your pastor here at St. Mark's, but the service I am called to provide for my community will occasionally disrupt my presence here. I do not think that it has to become a matter of competing loyalties. With some effort and with your cooperation and understanding I hope to be able to manage both positions in a satisfactory manner.

~ Bill Marveve scj

### **Some further thoughts on the difficult question of Suicide**

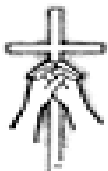
A few weeks ago, our Sunday bulletin included an insert with some thoughtful reflections by Ron Rolheiser on the difficult question of suicide. Some readers have expressed their satisfaction with having made them available in this format. Daniel O'Leary – whose writings we occasionally meet in the form of an insert in our Sunday bulletin – sheds some further helpful and challenging light on the same question in his book ***Begin with the Heart***: *"If social and cultural beliefs play a significant part in the frequency with which people are taking their own lives, can spiritual beliefs about how loved and precious they are begin to redeem them, to restore some of their lost dignity, sense of self-worth and hope?..... When desperate thoughts and tendencies towards suicide are threatening fragile psyches, a strong sense of God as comforting, constant Spirit can bring a life-restoring healing and trust to a confused and distressed soul."* Would confused and distressed souls find in our parish – especially in our liturgy, in our faith formation, and in our fellowship – a beacon that could give them that sense of God? Something we want to keep in mind and attend to when dealing with various parish matters.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**: Boxes and pamphlets are at the exits for anyone interested. This project involves filling a shoe box with toys and other presents, which are sent to hurting children around the world for Christmas. This year the boxes will be distributed in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, El Salvador, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Please bring the boxes back to the Church by November 7-8<sup>th</sup>. For information, please call Shirley at 819 685-0576.



There was a time in Canada when the word 'farmer' would immediately conjure up the image of a man. Women were valued for supporting roles including cooking for family and farm hands and managing the books. But the men were considered the food producers and the hours women spent in the fields were all but ignored. Within the Global South, women's key role in feeding their families, indeed our planet, continues to be neglected and under-valued.

Because women farmers tend to focus on smaller crops – often called minor crops because they have less commercial value – women's farming remains largely invisible. Agricultural farming systems worldwide will quickly reveal that women are the primary custodians and protectors of our planet's crop diversity – our agricultural biodiversity. **"Life Before Profit"**



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



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