

## Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning September 24th, 2017

Quote to carry in your heart this week

"If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts." St. Vincent de Paul

**September 24th is the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary time.** "Some of us are baptized as babies and grow up in the Church. Some develop a relationship with Jesus Christ later as adults and are baptized in our communities according to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Still others live a Christian life in another denomination and then discern a call to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Like the workers in the vineyard, some cradle Catholics might see those joining us more recently as later comers. But most welcome them with joy. New Catholic Christians refresh us and our Church. To learn more about the process of Christian Initiation, go to <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults/>. How do these seekers learn about the faith? In addition to Scripture, prayer, and good catechists, they enter into the community, observe, and emulate. Whether you know it or not, you are modeling the Catholic Christian way of life for seekers. You can do so more intentionally by contacting the coordinator of Christian initiation at your parish and offering to help – as a sponsor, catechist, or by providing hospitality or childcare at meetings. At varying speeds, those considering Baptism are working toward the time when they can profess the faith and mean it. Slowly pray your way through the Creed, which recite each Sunday, but rarely savour." AT HOME with WORD 2017. LTP, page 125

September 25<sup>th</sup> is also **Franco-Ontarian Day**. Five years ago, the Ontario government declared September 25 as Franco-Ontarian Day – a day to "officially recognize the contribution of Ontario's Francophone community to the cultural, historical, social, economic and political life of the province." This contribution goes back more than 400 years! The French were the first to explore and establish settlements in Ontario. Read about the history of the French presence in Ontario. You may wonder why September 25 was chosen. Well, it was on that day in the year 1975 that the Franco-Ontarian flag was raised for the first time! Read about the history of the Franco-Ontarian flag? [Learn more](http://on.cpf.ca/blog/whats-new/download-posters-for-franco-ontarian-day-sept-25th/) about the significance of this day. <http://on.cpf.ca/blog/whats-new/download-posters-for-franco-ontarian-day-sept-25th/> Fly the flag proudly today!

September 26<sup>th</sup> is the feast of **Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions**, Martyrs, Secondary Patrons of Canada. "On this day the Church honours the saints who gave their lives to spread the Catholic faith in North America: two Jesuit priests, St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) and St. John de Brébeuf (1593-1649), and their companions. St. Isaac was captured and tortured for his preaching of the Gospel. He escaped and returned to Europe, but only to seek permission to offer Mass with his scarred and mutilated hands. The pope granted his wish, and St. Isaac returned to the New World where he was put to death in 1646. Jean de Brébeuf dedicated himself to preaching the Gospel among the Huron people in what is now upstate New York and Canada. He translated the Catechism into the Huron language and wrote a series of "Instructions for Missionaries" that mingled divine and practical counsels: Love the Hurons as brothers, he urged, and bear with their shortcomings. Never keep them waiting, and learn to get into a canoe without carrying sand or water with you. Eat first thing in the morning, because that's what the Indians do. Work as they do, and serve them in whatever way you can. Jean de Brébeuf knew that only by understanding the Indians could missionaries hope to help them understand the Gospel. *North American martyrs, pray for us.*" Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 120. A martyr is one who dies for a just cause. Would you be willing to die for your faith?

September 27<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **St. Vincent de Paul**, Priest. "St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), a French priest, gradually became aware of the growing disparity between rich and poor; therefore, he laid the framework for a confraternity of caring, called the Servants of the Poor, which provided for the physical needs of the poor. Recognizing the call to care for not only their physical needs, but also their spiritual needs, he established a society of priests, the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), dedicated to preaching to peasants, catechists of the marginalized, and other charitable works. In collaboration with St. Louise Montfort de Marillac, he founded the Daughters of Charity, a new community of sisters not bound by traditional vows or enclosure, devoted to the sick, orphaned, and imprisoned. St. Vincent is the patron saint of charitable societies. Many day care centres, hospitals, thrift stores, and soup kitchens are named in his honour." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 120. *St. Vincent de Paul, help us to see those around us who are in need.* Do a small act of kindness today!

September 27<sup>th</sup> is also **World Tourism Day**. "A World Tourism Day was created in 1979 by the World Tourism Organization. The Church is concerned about tourism in the world, remembering the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace lives there, your peace will rest on that person" (Lk 10:5-6)." Ordo Liturgical Calendar 2015-2016, p. 359

September 28<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **St. Wenceslaus**, Martyr. "Most people are familiar with St. Wenceslaus (c. 907-929), due to the popular Christmas carol *Good King Wenceslaus*. Although this ancient carol is not based on historical events, it illustrates the fame

King Wenceslaus received because of his heroic life. As a Christian king in Bohemia, a primarily pagan country, he worked fervently to Christianize his people. His attempt to evangelize the Bohemians was not received well by some, including his brother who eventually murdered him. As he was dying, he prayed that God would forgive his brother. Shortly following his death, people proclaimed him a martyr." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 120 *Good King Wenceslaus, inspire us to be good too.* Sing the refrain of the song.

September 29<sup>th</sup> is **Faith Day** for H-SCDSB staff. Come wearing your school colours or an Orange shirt! Remember it is happening at the SMC.

September 29<sup>th</sup> is the feast of the Archangels, **Holy Michael, Holy Gabriel and Holy Raphael.** "We celebrate the feast of three Archangels. Holy Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the great heralds of salvation and defenders against the power of evil. Michael is guardian and protector of the Church, from its roots in Israel to the Church of today and beyond. In Hebrew, his name means "who is like God?" Gabriel, whose name means "hero of God," announces that John the Baptist will be born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. He is entrusted with the most important task of revealing to Mary that she will bear the Son of God. Then, there is Raphael, whose name is Hebrew for "God has healed." He is named in Tobit 12 as the one standing in the presence of God and in 1 Enoch (early Jewish writing) as the healer of the earth." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 121 *Holy Angels of God share God's goodness with all who believe.* Read one of the passages in Scripture wherein the archangels are mentioned.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **St. Jerome**, Priest and Doctor of the Church. "St. Jerome (c. 345-420) is the patron saint of scholars and librarians. With a great love of learning and books, as a monk and priest he developed a passion for the interpretation of Sacred Scripture. With a comprehensive knowledge of classical languages, St. Jerome produced a Latin text of the entire Bible which came to be known as the Vulgate. He wrote numerous commentaries on several books of the Bible. Along with writing, he provided spiritual guidance to wealthy widows and mentored young monks in monastic discipline, St. Jerome joins three other saints (Ambrose, Augustine, and Gregory the Great) as the four great Latin Doctors of the Church." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 121 *St. Jerome we pray that we will have a love of the Scriptures.* Savour your favourite passage of Scripture, read it three times slowly and see what God will say to you through it.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is **Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters.** In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation we wear orange shirts to remember what happened to one little girl when she arrived at Residential School. If you would like to meet this little girl...now a woman...watch this video > <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

**Renewing the Promise** ~ Praying the Promise - a quote for the week

**"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."** Luke 10:27

#### **Catholic Character Education and the Virtues + FAITH +**

During the month of September we strive to grow in the virtue of faith. **Faith is a gift from God. Take off the ribbons and paper and USE it!**

#### **Living Our Mission Statement**

**We are called and committed to develop the full potential of each child** – In order to do this, we have to get to know each child and what they are able to be and to do. We have to see each child as created in the image and likeness of God. See potential, possibilities, promise in each child, in each person we interact with every day.

**Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week** – Drink plenty of water every day to flush out any toxins that come into your system. Water is the natural solvent and is the healthiest fluid we can put into our bodies.

#### **Relationships – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan**

It is important that we acknowledge the work everyone does to make our School Board operate. Take time to say "please" and "thank you" when someone assists you during your day. If people are appreciated, they are more likely to go out of their way to do more than expected. We are all in this together! Right !!

## **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2012 Calls to Action**

“In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

### **Justice**

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

### **Twenty-first Century Learning**

[https://devpeacemy.sharepoint.com/personal/ewright\\_devp\\_org/\\_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?folderid=06a8a19536c654ff5894ed1dbd7a7eb6f&authkey=AfnDsOXOy6VNigeshIsGOA](https://devpeacemy.sharepoint.com/personal/ewright_devp_org/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?folderid=06a8a19536c654ff5894ed1dbd7a7eb6f&authkey=AfnDsOXOy6VNigeshIsGOA) – This is a recorded webinar from D&P on the theme of the fall campaign called *May Peace Be With Her*. Elana Wright, Julie Lapalme, and Nagui Demian from Development and Peace presented the campaign, along with concrete examples from our projects in Syria and Lebanon that illustrate how women are our best hope for establishing peace in the world today.

<http://wccm.org/> > World Community for Christian Meditation > This is a site for Christian Meditation for teachers and students alike.

[www.CARFLEO.org](http://www.CARFLEO.org) > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

### **115 Saintly FUN Facts ~ Smiles and Surprises for Kids of All Ages by Bernadette McCarver Snyder**

**“Martin de Porres** – This saint tried to help all God’s lonely ones – orphans and slaves, the poor and the sick, and even stray cats and dogs! Martin was born in Lima, Peru. His father was a Spanish knight, and his mother was a black freed-woman from Panama. When Martin was only twelve years old, he became an apprentice to a barber-surgeon. (At that time, barbers did not just give a shave and a haircut! They also treated the sick and dispensed medicines.) After three years, Martin left that work to join the Dominicans – not to become a priest but to become a Brother. He continued to dispense medicine to the sick and was put in charge of giving out the convent’s daily ration of food to the poor. He soon opened an orphanage and a hospital for foundlings (infants “found” after they were deserted by their parents). He also worked a great deal with the African slaves who had been brought in ships to Peru – visiting them on the docks to comfort them and to give them food and medicine. It was said that Martin helped anyone who needed blankets, shirts, candles, miracles, or prayers! He even helped animals by providing a home for stray cats and dogs at his sister’s house! Martin is the patron saint of interracial justice. Do you know anyone like Martin – someone ready to reach out a helping hand to whoever needs help whenever? Maybe YOU could be somebody like that. Think about it.” page 105

### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW? ABOUT THE CROSS IN ART ~ Peggy O'Neill Fisher**

1. What does a Greek cross look like?  
A. The horizontal beam is longer  
B. The beams are of equal length  
C. Like the cross used by the Red Cross organization  
**D. B and C**
  
2. What is a tau cross shaped like?  
A. Like the Greek letter tau (T)  
B. The cross beam on top of the vertical beam  
C. The cross beam on the bottom of the vertical beam  
**D. A and B**
  
3. What does a Celtic cross have where the bars intersect?  
A. a rectangle  
B. a triangle  
C. a circle  
D. a square
  
4. What do we call the cross that is carried in the beginning of Mass?  
A. a leading cross  
**B. a processional cross**  
C. a cross  
D. does not have a special name
  
5. Which saint is said to have found the real cross?  
A. St. Francis of Assisi  
**B. St. Helena**  
C. St. Padre Pio  
D. St. Lawrence

### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW? ABOUT GOD'S CREATION ~ Peggy O'Neill Fisher**

1. What does creation give us a glimpse of?  
A. variety  
B. the world  
C. the beauty and greatness of God  
D. uniqueness

2. Who shares responsibility for caring for the earth?  
A. the animals      B. each one of us      C. gardeners      D. the plants
3. With whom do we need to share the goods of creation?  
A. all people      B. generations to come      C. our neighbours      D. all of these answers
4. What is the study of the relationship between living things and the environment?  
A. biology      B. physiology      C. geography      D. ecology
5. Who is the patron saint of ecology?  
A. St. Francis of Genua      B. St. Francis of Assisi      C. St. Clare of Assisi      D. Pope Francis

### **Taking Jesus to the Movies ...A blog by Pat Carter**

**Everything, Everything** – This is a story about how fear can block us. A high school aged girl is enclosed in her home because of an immunodeficiency disorder. A boy moves into the house next door and everything changes. The stars in this movie are Amandla Stenberg, Ana de la Reguera, Anika Noni Rose and Nick Robinson. It was released in 2017. This movie is a family movie. I give this movie **❤️❤️.5/5** hearts.

### **A Blog for Eclectic Readers -- by Pat Carter csj**

**Following the Path – The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy** is written by Joan Chittister, one of my women religious heroes. Joan says in the jacket of the book, “This book is meant to give someone in the process of making a life decision at any age – in early adulthood, at the point of middle-age change and later, when we find ourselves at the crossroads without a name – some ideas against which to pit their own minds, their own circumstances. Its purpose, as they wrestle with the process of trying to find and follow their own special call at this new stage of life, is to both provoke thinking and to clarify it.” This book inspired me to do more spiritual reading. I have been enjoying a lot of fiction the last few months. Time to read more substance. This book is available to borrow through Shalom Place at the Mount on the top floor. I give this book ☺☺☺☺/5☺

### **Trivia for Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies.**

“Did you know that Africa and Antarctica are the only two continents that have not hosted the Olympics? It’s true.” <http://trivia.fyi/>