

## Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning December 16th, 2018

Quote to carry in your heart this week

**“Cry out with joy and gladness.”** Isaiah 12:6a

**December 16th is the Third Sunday of Advent. “Practice of Charity – “What should we do?”** To each who asked this question, crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers, John gives a specific response. Each person is called to a conversion of heart expressed in the circumstances of their lives. As we open our hearts to the Lord’s presence among us, the fruit of conversion is shown through our lives of joyful service. ♦ Show that you are ready to welcome the Lord into your midst by beginning each day with a prayerful commitment to serve the Lord with joy in all you do. ♦ Reflect on the example of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (see <http://www.saint-therese.org/about-therese/>) who served her heart’s desire to be a missionary by offering her prayers from the cloister and, in so doing, became a patron saint of missionaries. ♦ Focus your prayer this week on the Psalm response: “Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.” Praying Scripture phrases or short prayers often throughout the day reminds us that God is always near.”

AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 23

**“Scripture Insights > Good News!** Let us rejoice in anticipation! This theme is evident in today’s readings. In the First Reading, we hear that on that final day when God’s justice is fully manifest, he will take away Jerusalem’s shame and give her cause for great rejoicing. “Daughter Zion” is a personification of the ideal city of Jerusalem where God, the king of Israel, can dwell as its saviour and lover. Today’s Responsorial Psalm closely parallels this notion of the exultant “Daughter Jerusalem,” even though the phrase is not used. Likewise, in the Second Reading, Paul exhorts his readers to rejoice in the nearness of the Lord and not to be anxious, but always to act with kindness (Greek *epieikés*, meaning “mildness; forbearance, fairness, moderation”). Then, when they make their requests known to God, they will experience the fullness of God’s peace. Today’s Gospel describes a scene in which John the Baptist preaches repentance in anticipation of the coming messiah. When John tells the crowds that they must live righteously, they are so enamored of his words that they think he is the long-awaited messiah. He lays that idea to rest, saying, “one mightier than I is coming.... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” The Greek *baptizo* means “to dip or submerge, as in a ritual.” With that, John continues to preach the “good news” to the people. One may wonder how the crowds could consider a baptism “with the holy Spirit and fire” to be good news?

- What does the First Reading tell us about the nature of God and God’s relationship toward the chosen ones?
- As you reflect on the Second Reading, consider how acting with kindness and offering gratitude to God in prayer has brought you a sense of God’s peace.
- What does it mean to you to be baptized “with the Holy Spirit and fire”? AT HOME with WORD 2018. LTP, page 23

### Advent Traditions ~ The “O” Antiphons – December 17-23

“An antiphon is a short passage or verse, usually from Scripture, which is prayed before and after the Psalms and canticles in the Liturgy of the Hours. In the last days of Advent, from December 17 through December 23, the antiphons for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer call upon Christ under the many names used by the prophets in the Old Testament, and ask him to hasten his return. Each of these antiphons begins with “O” (hence their name). The first “O” Antiphon begins, *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom). Then comes *Adonai* (Sacred Lord), *Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex gentium* (King of peoples), and finally *Emmanuel* (God-is-with-us). The favourite Advent carol, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, is actually John M. Neale’s translation of these ancient antiphons. Medieval poets loved intricacies of language and the first letters of the titles by which Christ is addressed in the “O” antiphons – *Sapientia*, *Adonai*, *Radix*, and so on – form a verse acrostic, spelling the Latin words that mean “I will be there tomorrow.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 4

December 21 is the memorial of **St. Peter Canisius**, Priest and Doctor of the Church. “St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597) was the first Dutchman to join the Jesuits. He is known as the second apostle of Germany for his work restoring Catholicism after the Reformation, writing a “German catechism,” which defined basic Catholic beliefs in German. Peter felt that it was more effective to clarify the teachings of Catholicism rather than engage in polemics with the reformers. His last 20 years were spent in Switzerland, where he founded the Jesuit College that is the core of the University of Fribourg. He is credited with adding “Holy Mary, pray for us sinners” to the Hail Mary. This appeared for the first time in his catechism of 1555.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 151 *St. Peter help us to restore the relationships in our lives that are broken.* Take a first step to reconcile a relationship that needs healing.

December 21/22 is the **Winter Solstice**. “Today marks a turning point in the year. For people of the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night. From now on days will lengthen. For ancient peoples of Europe, the winter solstice was one of the greatest feasts of the year. Once the harvest was in, there was little farm work to do, and so there was plenty of time to relax and celebrate. Sometimes the festivities lasted for two months! Many northern Europeans called these days “Yule,” from the word *wheel*. They thought that the year was like a wheel. When the days started to get longer, it was as if someone had given the year a fresh turn.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 152

### **Journeying Together in Faith – a quote for the week**

There is a fine line between being prophetic and being orthodox. Discernment of the spirits is an essential posture so you are sure that you are speaking for God. Pat Carter

**Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – An effective communicator who listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values.** Active listening is a practice that is challenging. We tend to compose a response to what someone is saying as we listen to him/her. To understand and learn in light of gospel values...a significant challenge in and of itself. The lectio divina is a way to have students delve into a scripture passage and relate it to themselves. Teachers are encouraged to make scripture connections when the opportunity arises.

### **Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Hope**

Last night I watched the newsmagazine 60 minutes and was struck by the power of the virtue of hope. As young man, Ryan Speedo Green, was full of anger and contempt for the world. He grew up in a single parent home with an abusive mother. He eventually found himself in a school for juvenile delinquents. Two people who had the greatest impact were a teacher and support worker in the school. The reason because while he behaved badly (throwing a chair), they still cared for him and showed him respect. He is now a professional opera singer of some renown. Watch the episode if you need a little hope today.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ryan-speedo-green-from-juvenile-delinquency-to-opera-stardom-60-minutes/>

### **Living Our Mission Statement**

We strive to cultivate enriching opportunities that will deepen faith. I had a surprising experience recently with a group of children. I wanted to know what Christmas carols they need. They did not know carols but they knew all the secular songs very well. We might hesitate to teach children songs like Away in a Manger or Silent Night. How does tradition move from generation to generation if we do not share the treasures in the chest.

**Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week** – Hug someone today that you could live without!

**Christian Meditation Insight – “Daily Wisdom** – I think human beings feel deeply uneasy, unhappy, and frightened when we lose that sense of connectivity, that sense of connection. Some little glimmer of that might be our need to be online, to be connected, and we might feel anxious with good reason if we come offline, we can’t get online, can’t connect. But that is nothing compared with the existential dread and fear of sensing that we are not in the web of reality, or off the radar, off God’s radar of the web of being. So there is deep in the human being a longing to belong, the fear embedded in this web of reality. As John Main said ‘find our insertion point in the universe’, that little hole that we plug into, and it’s only if we fit into it. Only my particular shape, my particular mind, my particular identity fits into that hole.” The Experience of Being, Laurence Freeman OSB 2018 C

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

“In the words of one of the great Catholic theologians of the present century, James Joyce, Catholicism means HCE -- Here Comes Everyone.” [http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1993-08-25/news/1993237082\\_1\\_cafeteria-catholicism-catholic-leadership-laity](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1993-08-25/news/1993237082_1_cafeteria-catholicism-catholic-leadership-laity) It was intended that we had a EIE policy in place since the very beginning. Jesus was always getting into trouble for the types of people in his circle of belonging. Let’s do a personal check, who is in our circle of belonging? Is everyone welcome to join us?

### **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.

#### **Education for Reconciliation**

64. We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders. [The revised Grade 11 World Religions courses have a focus on Indigenous Religions now.](#) It is hoped that teachers will connect with an Elder and invite them in to speak to their spiritual beliefs and practices firsthand.

## Twenty-first Century Learning

<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/> This website by teachers for teachers assists those who teach religious education. This week's email is about teaching the faith with current events.

[www.gratefulness.org](http://www.gratefulness.org) > subscribe to this daily email to provide yourself with messages of gratefulness

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

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

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources> > Resources for teaching difficult topics in history

**Saints Kit – All the saints of the Roman Calendar and More** by Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D., and other Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon

**“St. Frances Xavier Cabrini- December 22nd-** If you've ever moved to a new city, you know how lost and alone you feel until you get settled and make friends. Imagine what it is like for immigrants who make their way to other countries. It was to these people that Mother Frances Cabrini came. Francesca Cabrini was born on a farm in Italy, the youngest of thirteen children. As a little girl, she filled paper boats with violets and sent them sailing down a canal by her uncle's house. She pretended that the violets were missionaries going to faraway lands. When she was eighteen, Frances wished to become a Sister. Three times she asked to enter the convent, but each time the Sisters said her health was not good enough. After teaching for a while, Francesca began working at an orphanage. It was here that she herself began an order of Sisters called the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Several of the orphan girls joined her group. Frances took the name of the great missionary Francis Xavier. She hoped to travel to China and the East as a missionary. When Frances Cabrini went to Rome for approval of her order, Pope Leo XIII told her, “No, not to the East but to the West.” The pope knew that many Italian people were going to the United States. Life was very hard for most of them. They could not speak English correctly. They could not find a decent place to live and had to work long hours. When Mother Frances Cabrini and six other Sisters arrived in New York in 1889, she found many boys and girls whose parents had died. Many others roamed the streets while their parents worked. Only a few weeks after she and some of her missionary Sisters first landed in America, Mother Cabrini asked the archbishop of New York to let the Sisters start an orphanage. The archbishop was afraid to let Mother Cabrini do it. He knew that the \$5,000 they had would not feed and care for the orphans very long. The woman reminded the archbishop that in the Our Father we ask God to give bread only for a day, not for a year. What could the archbishop say? He blessed Mother Cabrini and granted permission to open the home. The very first day Mother Cabrini and the Sisters went to their new home, they found a surprise at the feet of the statue of the Sacred Heart by the entrance. Someone had placed a loaf of freshly baked bread there. Mother Cabrini took the loaf into her hands and kissed it. She praised God, saying, “Bread of heaven, bread of love, bread of life, shall never be lacking from God's little orphaned children.” God always rewarded her complete trust in him. Sometimes she begged for money. Sometimes she received money as a gift. At other times she told Sisters to look for the money she needed in a certain drawer, or even in the Sister's pocket – and there it was! Some people tried to cheat Mother Cabrini. They thought she would not know if they overcharged her. However, they were mistaken. Mother Cabrini quickly shoed them that she knew how to make a business deal. To cheat her would be to cheat the poor or the sick. Mother Cabrini would not let that happen. Frances couldn't speak English at first, but that didn't matter. People could tell that her heart was full of love. Frances and the other missionaries who came with her helped many Italians. They built schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She also founded schools in South America. In thirty-five years Mother Cabrini founded nearly seventy institutions and crossed the ocean thirty times. Mother Cabrini became a citizen of the United States before she died of malaria in her own hospital in Chicago. She is the first American citizen to be proclaimed a saint. *St. Frances Cabrini, pray for immigrants who come to our country and to the United States today!*” Card 179

## CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O'Brien – Catechist November/December 2010 page 40

1. During Year C of the Church's liturgical cycle of readings, the Gospel readings are drawn primarily from

- A. Matthew                      B. Mark                      **C. Luke**                      D. John

2. What did John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees?

- A. whitened sepulchers    B. righteous                      C. big bad bullies                      **D. brood of vipers**

3. Which of the following is *not* part of the Mass?

- A. general intercessions    B. Penitential Rite    C. preface    **D. ciborium**
4. "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." This quote is attributed to which saint?  
**A. St. Irenaeus**    B. St. Francis    C. St. Nicholas    D. St. Margaret of Scotland
5. The Church uses this word to describe the fact that "the Son of God assumed a human nature to accomplish our salvation in it."  
A. Annunciation    B. Incantation    C. Intinction    **D. Incarnation**

**CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O'Brien – Catechist November/December 2010 page 40**

1. What kind of oil is used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?  
A. oil of catechumens    B. oil of the sick    C. sacred chrism    D. baby oil
2. Every manner of taking and using another's property unjustly is contrary to this Commandment.  
A. Third    B. Seventh    C. Sixth    D. Second
3. This saint taught us to "pray without ceasing."  
A. Paul    B. John of the Cross    C. Teresa of Avila    D. Ignatius of Loyola
4. A famous prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola goes by the Latin title of  
A. Agape    B. Sushi Pray    C. Suscipe    D. Regina Coeli
5. A girl wearing a crown of candles is associated with the celebration of this saint's feast.  
A. Elizabeth of Hungary    B. Hedwig    C. Clare    D. Lucy

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

**Christopher Robin** – This movie was released this year. Ewan McGregor plays the role of Christopher Robin as an adult. He is a workaholic who needs an intervention which comes in the form of Winnie the Pooh and the gang from Hundred \_\_\_\_\_ Wood. There is a mix of animation and real life which is so well done. The story is uplifting and joyful. I was very sad that the movie ended, as all good things do. I give this movie /5 hearts.

**A Blog for Eclectic Readers** – by Pat Carter csj

**The Book of Joy** is a conversation between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams. This great conversation took place over a week that was followed by a celebration of the Dalai Lama's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Awesome source of practicing exercises to experience joy in a chaotic world. I give this book /5 happy faces

**Catholic WORD of the Week – For Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies**

**"IHS** – a monogram for the name of Jesus, using the first three letters of the word written in Greek. In the Middle ages, it was erroneously thought that HIS stood for *Iesus Hominum Salvator* (Jesus, Saviour of Men) or *In Hoc Signo [Vincis]* (In this sign you shall conquer), or even popularly in English, "I have suffered." As a sign for the Holy Name, it was popular with the Dominicans and Franciscans, as well as with the Jesuits." Our Sunday's Visitor Catholic Encyclopedia, page 495