

Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning January 6, 2018

Quote to carry in your heart this week

“Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” Psalm 72:11

January 6 is the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. “Practice of Faith – On Epiphany, we celebrate Christ made known to all people. Attentive to the signs and seeking to know God more fully, the Magi followed the star and worshipped as a king the child they found with Mary. May we have eyes to see the signs given to us that will lead us to know Christ manifest in our lives. ✧ Following the example of the Magi, who opened their treasures in homage, share a gift that God has given to you in service to another. ✧ Consider how interreligious dialogue recognizes humanity’s common desire for God and community by reading the text of Nostra aetate, the *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*. What opportunities do you have to work together with people of all faiths for the common good? ✧ Recognizing Christ manifest to us in the Eucharistic presence, pray the Anima Christi, before the Blessed Sacrament if possible.” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 33

“Scripture Insights > Epiphany is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian calendar, and, as its name suggests, it is a celebration of the manifestation of Christ to the world. The Greek *epiphaneia* means “manifestation,” especially as it relates to the manifestation of a deity. Today’s First Reading is about the reestablishment of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. The prophet issues a double imperative. He tells them to arise and then to allow their light to shine, because God’s glory has dawned on them and radiates forth in the city to such an extent that they become the light to the nations. The Hebrew word *kabowd*, translated here as “glory,” is also used to describe God’s presence in the Holy of Holies. During the exile, God’s glory left the Temple, but now it will return in full radiance! Compare this song, to the Gospel that tells the story of the Magi who come from the East, perhaps Persia or Arabia, to seek out the newborn King of the Jews. Scholars of the esoteric sciences (for example, dream interpretation and astrology), theme men also represent the Gentile nations who come to see this great king. However, this manifestation is also fraught with danger as we see in Herod’s treacherous activity. The Magi’s gifts of gold frankincense are also mentioned in today’s First Reading, but myrrh is a strange gift to give a mother and baby, since it was used as a painkiller and for burial. Is it an omen of the future? In the Second Reading, we are told that God planned from the beginning that the nations (Greek *ethne*, also translated “Gentiles”) would be coheirs of the one body in Christ. Thus, we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the world.

- Reread the First Reading and create a picture in images or words of how this vision of the new Jerusalem might manifest itself. What new insights did you glean about the significance of this text?
- When and how have you experienced God’s *kabowd*, or glory, in your life?
- Prayerfully reflect on the Gospel, and converse with Mary about “all these things in her heart.” What did you discover in prayer?”

AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 33

January 7 is the memorial of St. André Bessette, Religious. “The most unlikely people can become saints. André Bessette was sickly all his life. He failed at every job he tried. He could barely read or write. Yet he became famous and well beloved for his holiness. André, the eighth of twelve children, was born in Montreal and baptized Alfred. His parents, who were French-Canadians, died early. André was adopted when he was twelve years old and became a farmhand. Later he tried being a shoemaker, baker, and blacksmith, but was unsuccessful. André then joined the Congregation of Holy Cross. At the end of a year, however, he was told to leave because of his bad health. Luckily, a wise bishop convinced the community to allow André to remain. Brother André became the beloved doorkeeper at the College of Notre Dame for forty years. In his room, near the door, André kept a statue of St. Joseph on the windowsill. André spent many hours praying during the night. Soon it was discovered that André had healing powers. He would visit the sick, pray with them, rub them with oil, and they would be cured. Before long, throngs of people were coming to him for healing and spiritual direction. André would say, “It is St. Joseph who cures. I am just his little dog.” André ministered to people eight to ten hours a day. In the meantime four secretaries were kept busy handling the 80,000 letters André received each year. The Holy Cross community had tried in vain for many years to buy a piece of land nearby. Then André buried a medal of St. Joseph on the property, and suddenly the owners agreed to sell the land. André raised money to build first a small chapel and then a church on the property. He even cut students’ hair for five cents. At the church he received visitors. Cured people left behind their crutches and canes. It took fifty years to build St. Joseph’s Oratory, which is probably the world’s main shrine to St. Joseph. André, the weak failure, let God use him to accomplish great things. He is known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal.” *Blessed André, pray that we may let God work through us!*” Saints Kit – All the Saints of the Roman Calendar and More by Sister Mary Kathleen Galvich, S.N.D. Card 4 EVERY time you walk through a door today, pray to allow God to work through you.

January 9 is Taizé Prayer at St. Jerome's Church at 7:00 p.m. Come away for a while to rest in God's loving embrace.

January 12 is the memorial of **St. Marguerite Bourgeoys**, Virgin. "The first Canadian woman to be canonized, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, was born in France on April 17, 1620. When she was nineteen, her mother died, and Marguerite took on the responsibility of caring for her brothers and sisters. A year later, during a procession in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, she felt inspired to consecrate herself to the service of God. She tried joining the Carmelites and the Poor Clares, but both communities refused her entrance. Once Marguerite learned about the French settlement at Ville Marie in Canada – later known as Montreal – she realized that her vocation was to missionary work. The founder and governor of the settlement, Paul Chomody de Maisonneuve, persuaded her to dedicate herself to the education of French and Indian children. She started a school but soon realized she would need help and returned to France to recruit other young women. These became the founders of the Congregation de Notre-Dame. Originally, Marguerite intended her community unclastered and take simple vows, an innovation at the time that enabled the sisters to pursue an active apostolate rather than remain in a cloister. Soon French Canadian and Native American women joined the group. The Congregation of Notre Dame received approval from the Vatican in 1698, and by the late 19th century, the sisters had spread through Canada and into the United States. Marguerite Bourgeoys is considered the co-foundress of Montreal, where she died on January 12th, 1700 after offering her life for the cure of a younger sister. She was canonized by [St.] Pope John Paul II in 1982." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 35

Rooted in Prayer – a quote for the week

"We can think of being rooted in prayer like being marinated in God's presence." Pat Carter

Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – An effective communicator who presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others. This is a great lesson idea. In this time of social media, people do not think about these guidelines. They post whatever they are thinking without thinking about the effect the post will have on people. So the adage, "think before you speak" can be extended to "think before you post" could be the new version.

Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Wholeness

Wholeness is so necessary for a happy life but sometimes difficult to achieve. To be whole is not to be perfect, rather it means balancing all the parts of the self to create a person with fullness of life. Wholeness helps us to focus on building the beauty and strength of the individual. We are physical, thinking, feeling, social and spiritual beings. We need to be sure each part of us is nurtured and allowed to grow strong. Growing in Christian Morality, pages 44, 156

Living Our Mission Statement

We mutually invite, encourage and support one another in our efforts to transform the world. There is scientific data that proves that if a butterfly flaps its wings in a particular way in a moment in time at one place in the world, it can cause weather in another part of the world. If this is indeed true, how I treat those around me sends ripples of energy in the world like ripples of water. A simple smile can transform the world a little bit.

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – Routine has been given a bad reputation but it can be foundational for a joyful life.

Christian Meditation Insight – "Daily Wisdom – We find meditation as a universal human wisdom in all the great families of humanity and for this reason, meditation offers us today a very wonderful opportunity for dialogue at a deep level, for reconciliation, for the healing of the wounds of division, whether it's in politics or over race, or in economic divisions between rich and poor. In meditation, I think we can discover a common ground, a new depth of being human in the modern world with so many different forces at work, so many different divisions and so much conflict. So, I think again God has given us meditation as a gift which we are learning to rediscover in the modern world because our need is so desperate, because we need this deeper experience of being human, this deeper experience of being one family. So, there's a universal aspect to meditation. Meditating as a Christian, Laurence Freeman OSB 2013C

Relationships – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan

"What does it mean to be an ally?"

Being involved in any kind of anti-oppression work is about recognizing that every person has a basic right to human dignity, respect, and equal access to resources. At the end of the day, being an ally goes beyond checking actions off a list and it is not a competition. Being an ally is about a way of being and doing. This means self-reflection, "checking in" with one's motivations and debriefing with community members is a continual process; it is a way of life." http://reseauumtlnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Ally_web-2.pdf

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.

Museums and Archives

67. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and to make recommendations.

Twenty-first Century Learning

www.taize.fr > website for the Taize community in France

www.communionsblogs.org > Benedictine Spirituality for the Laity

<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer>

<http://www.sacredspace.ie/plain/daily-prayer> > joint ministry of Irish Jesuits and Loyola Press

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 > 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. Raymond of Penyafort – January 7 Religious vocations sometimes come late in life. Raymond entered the Dominican Order at age forty-seven. He was already a successful lawyer, university teacher, and vicar of a diocese. This brilliant man, who had given example to priests with his charity to the poor, became a beginner, a Dominican novice. Raymond was serious about his new life. He begged his superiors to give him a penance to make up for sins of pride he may have had in his past. They made him a writer! They asked Raymond to write a complete work about the Sacrament of Penance. He wrote about sins and gave priests examples of how to handle problems of conscience. His writings filled four volumes. Raymond desired to go to Spain to convert the Jews and Moslems, but this was not God’s plan for him immediately. Pope Gregory IX noticed his abilities and called him to Rome to be his confessor. He also asked Raymond to collect in one volume all the decrees of the popes and councils from the past eighty years. The pope was so pleased with Raymond’s work on Church law that he told him that he was going to be made an archbishop. This news was such a shock to Raymond that he became ill. He pleaded with the pope to let him return to Spain as an ordinary friar. The pope consented, and Raymond returned to his Dominican friary. Three years later his friars elected him general of the order. While in office, Raymond revised the order’s rules. After two years he asked to resign. Finally he was able to do what he desired. He spent the next thirty-five years evangelizing the Jews and Moslems in Spain. He lived to be nearly one hundred years old. *St. Raymond, pray for us!*” Card 5

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

1. “O come, O come, great Lord of _____, who to your tribes on Sinai’s height...”
A. sight B. light **C. might** D. fright
2. In July 2010, an order of cloistered Benedictine nuns in France signed a deal to produce
A. an album of Gregorian chant C. a documentary
B. a reality TV show D. a Christian rock album
3. The nine days of a novena are symbolic of the nine days that Mary and the Apostles waited in prayer between the _____ and (the) _____.
A. Nativity/Presentation C. Crucifixion/Resurrection
B. Ascension/Pentecost D. Transfiguration/arrest of Jesus

4. When Scripture refers to God as the “God of hosts,” the word *hosts* refers to

- A. communion wafers
- B. hosts of banquets
- C. heavenly armies of angels
- D. creatures in which a parasite lives

5. The liturgical colour for the Christmas Season is

- A. white
- B. green
- C. pink
- D. red

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

1. Mary’s words, “Let it be done to me” are captured in the Latin word

- A. fiat
- B. mazda
- C. magnificat
- D. mandatum

2. St. Francis Xavier was an associate of this saint.

- A. Frances Cabrini
- B. Ignatius of Antioch
- C. Jane Frances de Chantal
- D. Ignatius of Loyola

3. It is believed that the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written as a catechetical device, with each number representing a key aspect of the Catholic faith. What do the “eight maids a milking” represent?

- A. the Corporal Works of Mercy
- B. the Beatitudes
- C. the Precepts of the Church
- D. the various choirs of angels

4. What liturgical season follows the Christmas Season?

- A. Ordinary Time
- B. Lent
- C. Easter
- D. Advent

5. The “O Antiphons” used in the Evening prayer of the Church from December 17-23 refer to Hebrew titles referring to

- A. the prophets
- B. the Messiah
- C. Elijah
- D. Elisha

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

Mary Poppins Returns – This Disney movie was released this December. It stars Emily Blunt (who has a fabulous voice) and Lin-Manuel Miranda, as well as Ben Whishaw and Emily Mortimer. It is a sequel to the first Mary Poppins, but I had not seen the first movie and I could really enjoy the second. The words to the songs were lovely. The music was great. The dance sequences were wonderful. I think it is my favourite movie of 2018. I give this movie /5 hearts.

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

NYXIA – by Scott Reintgen. It is a Young Adult sci-fi novel. It is about a group of young people who travel to another planet to mine a substance of great value. It is one of the stories that are very difficult to put down. It is part of a trilogy. I asked a young friend to read it before I did so he could give me his evaluation. He loved it as much as I did. I give this book /5 happy faces
Thanks Marcus!

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

“Kenosis – The term is from the Greek verb *kenoun*, which occurs in the famous hymn of Philippians 2:6-11. At Philippians 2:7, we learn that Christ “emptied himself” (Greek, *heaton ekenosen*), taking the form of a slave, born in the likeness of humankind. Christ’s emptying of Himself or His humbled state is expressed in verses 6-8, and His exaltation is in verses 9-11. The passive voice of the verb at verse 7 suggests Christ’s being rendered powerless, ineffective, just like any slave. The point here is that Christ’s free choice to live as a slave, assuming the condition of a slave when in reality He was the King, expresses the great love God the Father has placed in His mission to draw back to Him all of His creation through the forgiveness of sins by the work of the cross. Christ’s self-emptying consisted of his free renunciation (expressed in the fact of the Incarnation), by which He renounced His being God (“in the form of God”), which meant renouncing the Divine Majesty and Dominion, and therefore taking on existence as God in “the form of a servant.” Exactly what one makes of “taking the form [of a servant]” is still highly contestable. Suffice it to say that it included a full and real humanity, totally integrated with His divinity.” Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia, pages 552-553

Something new for 2019

Church bulletins – these sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at masses.

“The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.” LOL