

Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning February 3, 2018

Quote to carry in your heart this week

“I will sing of your salvation.” Psalm 71

February 3 is the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. “Practice of Charity – The prophets God sends to call his people back to faith are rarely welcomed. Each of us, as members of the Church, is called to share in the prophetic office of Christ, to give witness to God’s love and faithfulness in the circumstances of our life. ♦ As you read or listen to the news this week, look for evidence of prophets among us. Choose a work for justice or way to advocate for another to share in the work of the prophets leading us to love beyond words. ♦ Use this resource from Catholic Relief Services to reflect on the prophetic example of St. Oscar Romero and discover ways you might follow his example: <http://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/uspos-resources/us15129-romero-advocacy-final.pdf>. ♦ Ask God to strengthen your call to share in the prophetic office of Christ as you pray these words written by Bishop Kenneth Untener: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/archbishop_romero_prayer.cfm.” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 43

“Scripture Insights > All of us, because of our Baptism in Christ, are called to do the work of God. Today’s readings help us to reflect on what it takes to respond to God’s calling. The First Reading recounts Jeremiah’s call to be God’s prophet. We are told that it is a vocation for which he was destined even before he was born, and it is not an easy one. He must make the leaders of Jerusalem recognize their wicked ways, but Jeremiah need not be afraid, because God will make him strong and give him the right words to speak. Today’s Gospel picks up where last week’s Gospel ended, with Jesus identifying himself as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy about bringing Good News to the afflicted. At first, the crowds clamor after him, until some realize that he grew up among them and begin to question, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?” Jesus responds by comparing himself to two prophets of old who, likewise, were rejected by their people. The tone is accusatory and the situation quickly escalates to the point that they try to throw him off a cliff. In the Second Reading, Paul offers a teaching that is patterned after the Greek literary form, “praise of the greatest virtue.” He writes of a love that surpasses all other spiritual gifts, is unending and totally self-giving. This is what it takes to respond to the call to do God’s work. Without it, we are nothing.

- What message about love do you take away from the Second Reading?
- Ask Christ to speak with you about the attitude necessary to continue doing God’s work in the face of opposition.
- When you have encountered obstacles when seeking to do what is right, how have you proceeded?”

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The Season of Nonviolence – January 30 – April 4 – We learn to practice nonviolence one step at a time, one choice at a time, one day at a time. This is how each of us, in our own way, move the world in the direction of peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions at home, at school, in the workplace and community. This is the season of nonviolence. The Gandhi King Season of Nonviolence commences on January 30 and marks the 64 days between the memorial anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and that of Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4th. Individuals, schools and organizations in 900 cities in 67 countries have participated since the campaign began in 1998. The objective is to create an awareness of nonviolent principles and practices as a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and communities. It is, therefore, the purpose of the Season and the following of the 64 Daily Practices to educate and inspire individuals and organizations alike to actively seek out nonviolent means by which to empower themselves and others to co-exist in peace and prosper together in community.

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February 3 is the memorial of **St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr**. If you are already familiar with St. Blasé, it is probably because of the blessing of throats – a Catholic custom on his feast. According to tradition, Blase had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest. He became the bishop of Sebaste (now in central Turkey). During a period of persecution, he fled to a cave where he lived as a hermit. It is said that he cured and tamed the wild animals there. One day hunters discovered him and took him to the governor, who sentenced him to be tortured and killed. About four hundred years after his death, many stories began to be told about Blase, and he became a popular saint, especially in France and Germany. One legend says that while Blase was in prison, a mother brought him her small boy, who was choking on a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blase prayed over the child, and he was healed. Every year on St. Blase’s feast, two candles tied with ribbon in the shape of an X are used to bless throats. In the prayer the Church prays that

those blessed may be delivered from diseases of the throat and from every other illness. Candles are used because of another story: It is said that while Blaise was kept in a dark prison, a woman secretly brought him some candles and food. Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints who were patrons for almost every aspect of life. People in the Middle Ages showed devotion to these saints as a group. *St. Blaise, pray for us!*" Saints Kit card 17 Wear a scarf mindfully today in honour of St. Blaise.

February 5 is the memorial of **St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**. "In Italy people celebrate St. Agatha's feast with fireworks. Many stories are told of her. According to these, she was born of noble parents. Her reputation for loveliness and kindness came to the attention of Quintian, governor of Sicily. When Agatha rejected his proposal, he had her sent to a house of prostitution. She was preserved from harm. Then Quintian put her into prison for being a Christian. There she underwent extreme tortures. At one point St. Peter supposedly healed her, but the tortures finally killed her. We know for certain that Agatha was a martyr. She probably died during the persecutions under Decius that lasted from 240 to 251. Although Agatha lived in Sicily, devotion to her was so widespread and so fervent that her name came to be included in the first Eucharistic Prayer. She has long been honoured for her great courage in suffering and for remaining pure for the sake of Christ. Pictures often show Agatha holding a plate, a candle, or a house in flames. A year after her death a city survived the eruption of the volcano Mt. Etna. People said it was because of Agatha's prayers. In the sixteenth century two churches in Rome were named for her. *St. Agatha, pray that we may be strong followers of Christ!*" Saints Kit card 18 Consider "Would you die for your faith?"

Faith Development – Introduction to the Gospel according to Luke by Michael Cameron

"Further, Luke transmitted many unique *sayings* of Jesus: "One's life does not consist of possessions" (12:15). "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock" (12:32). "The kingdom of God is among you" (17:21). "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (23:34). "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (23:43). And many well-known parables are found only in Luke: the Good Samaritan (10:29-37), the Woman's Lost Coin (15:8-10), the Prodigal Son (15:11-32), the Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19-31), the Widow and the Unjust Judge (18:1-8), the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (18:9-14). Luke's first sentences in the prologue (1:1-4) address an otherwise unknown figure named Theophilus (the name means "God's friend"), who symbolizes any Christian seeking a deeper understanding of Jesus. For each reader who takes up his "orderly sequence" with serious intent, Luke has a single stirring aim. Literally translated, it reads, "that you may come to know a deep assurance about the teachings you have received." AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 9

Sharing the Good News – a quote for the week

Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – A reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker Who creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good. The Common Good is a social teaching that reminds us that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers so all we do needs to keep this teaching in mind. The Pope wrote an encyclical entitled *Laudato Si* about the care of our common home, Mother Earth. Some of the criticism he received was that the Pope ought to keep his comments to spiritual matters only. But from a Catholic Social Teaching standpoint the Pope is expected to address issues in the world that undermine the common good.

Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Love

Love is a theological virtue meaning that it is a gift we receive from God and it is a gift that takes us to God. Love means caring for one another, making sacrifices for one another, and rejoicing in one another's companionship. Love is the crown of all the virtues and an intimate participation in God's life. Without love, all other virtues are empty. There are many types of love: self-love (good self-love), friendship; sexual love; romantic love; nurturing and parental love; love of nature and love of God.

Living Our Mission Statement

We are called and committed to develop the full potential of each child. Think of the example of someone who developed your potential as you were growing. Follow their example.

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – The days are getting longer. Good to spend time walking outdoors. Breathing in that fresh air to help you sleep well.

Christian Meditation Insight – "Daily Wisdom – 'Commitment' is a scary word at the best of times and these are not the best of times. A friendlier word to describe what it means is 'embodied'. The '-mit' part of the word commit comes from the Latin meaning

to send. By commitment we send ourselves. We go out from ourselves, push out from shore into the ocean of faith. To commit means to give oneself to the tangible, the actual, the embraceable and to feel that you truly belong in the arms of the real.

...that which we have heard and
we have seen, that which we have
perceived with our eyes and we have
touched with our hands (Jn 1:1)

Meditatio Newsletter January 2019, Laurence Freeman, OSB

Supportive Environments and Well Being – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan
Affirmations go a lot further to encourage well being than does criticism, no matter how constructive.

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

69. We call upon Library and Archives Canada to: iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools. [Mona recently purchased a resource entitled “Go Show the World – A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes” by Wab Kinew. Great book!](#)

Twenty-first Century Learning

<http://www.seasonofnonviolence.com/>> Extra-curricular activities for the season of nonviolence

www.globalissues.org > take a look at global issues that require some conversation

<http://theturtleislandnews.com/> the news from an indigenous perspective

www.biblestudytools.com

<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. Paul Miki and Companions – February 6 – When the first missionaries, like St. Francis Xavier, came to Japan in 1549 they were welcomed. Many Japanese became Christians. When the leader Hideyoshi took command, he feared that Christians would take over the government. In 1587 he banished them and destroyed many of their churches. Some missionary priests stayed and went into hiding, dressing like Japanese in order to minister to the Christians. More than 3,000 Christians were martyred in Japan. On December 8, 1596. Hideyoshi arrested and condemned to death the friars of Miako. Among them were three Japanese Jesuits, six Franciscans (four of them Spanish), and seventeen Japanese laymen. Charged with attempting to harm the government, they were sentenced to crucifixion. Some of these men were very young: Louis was 10; Anthony, 13; Thomas, 16, and Gabriel, 19. The best known is Paul Miki, who was a Japanese of a noble family, a Jesuit brother, and a brilliant preacher. The twenty-six men were tortured and then forced to walk more than 300 miles from Miako to Nagasaki through snow and ice and freezing streams. Along the way they preached to the people who had come out to see them. They sang psalms of praise and joy. They prayed the rosary and told the people that such a martyrdom was an occasion of rejoicing, not of sadness. Finally, on February 5, they reached Nagasaki, where twenty-six crosses awaited them on a hill now called the Holy Mountain. It is said that the Christians ran to their crosses, singing. Soldiers bound them to the crosses with iron bands at their wrists, ankles, and throats. Then they thrust them through with lances. Many people came to watch the cruel deaths. Hideyoshi and his soldiers had hoped the example would frighten other Christians. Instead, it gave them the courage to profess their faith as the martyrs had. In 1858, Japan again permitted

Christianity in Japan. Missionaries found thousands of Christians still in Japan. For two hundred years they had carried on the faith in secret. Paul Miki was born in Japan and educated by the Jesuits. He would have been the very first Japanese priest if he had escaped arrest, for he had already completed his studies for the priesthood. From his cross he forgave his persecutors and told the people to ask Christ to show them how to be truly happy. *St. Paul Miki, pray for us!* Card 19

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O'Brien – Catechist February 2019 page 18

Quiz Mash-Up A little on Lent, a little on youth ministry

- _____ is the event every three years when the Pope gathers with youth and young adults from around the world for prayer and celebration of our Catholic faith.
A. Pope camp **B. World Youth Day** C. Pope-a-looza D. Teen Mass
- As baptized members of the Church, young people are expected to live as disciples of Jesus _____.
A. when they get married and have children C. never
B. when they become adults **D. right now**
- “Turn away from _____ and be faithful to the Gospel” is the exhortation Catholics hear when we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.
A. candy B. bullies **C. sin** D. your enemies
- Some churches use the more ancient Ash Wednesday exhortation: “Remember that you are _____ and to _____ you will return.”
A. dirt **B. dust** C. a saint D. a sinner
- Youth ministry encourages teens to fully participate in the life, mission, and work of _____.
A. the Catholic faith community B. Christian rock music C. altar serving D. car washes

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Catechesis and Catechists

- The Catholic understanding of creation and humankind is that they are evil and God regrets creating the world. T or F
- The universal catechism is written primarily for the _____, who are the lead catechists in their diocese.
A. bishops B. Catholic school RE teachers C. priests D. parish catechists
- In order to be an effective catechist, a person has to know _____.
A. the *Catechism* cover to cover C. all of Church teaching
B. the entire Bible by heart D. Jesus
- Catechesis and _____ go hand in hand, like dance partners, leading people to a personal encounter with Christ while at the same time instructing people about his life and teachings.
A. sleeping B. homework C. tests D. evangelization
- The idea of catechesis was invented by the pope at Vatican II. T or F

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

The Dead (1987) – I saw this movie during summer holidays. A friend had it on DVD. It is an art film. Based on James Joyce’s short story from “The Dubliners”, it focuses on a January evening when a family hosts a dinner with extended family. The director was John Huston. Anjelica Huston plays the role of householder’s wife Greta. She was the only actor I recognized. I would like to read the short story to try to understand the significance of the epiphany that the host couple come to at the end of the story. The story was dense or I was! I give this movie ♥♥♥.5/5 hearts.

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

A Gentleman in Moscow – by Amor Towles. This is a fictional story of a man of means who was put under house arrest after the revolution in Russia. It is a delightful story that involves two young girls and the rest of the hotel staff. The gentleman is indeed kind, gracious and joyful. I cannot imagine being held hostage in one location. He is able to move throughout the hotel (which is a large building) but not being able to go outdoors, to visit parks, the ballet across the street, etc. would depress me. I could not put this book down. 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

“Oath – A solemn invocation of God to witness the truth of what one asserts to be the case or the sincerity of one’s undertakings in regard to future actions. The Scriptures discourage facile or frequent oath-taking (Mt. 5:33-37; Jas 5:12). Some Christians (Quakers, Baptists, Mennonites and Waldensians) have construed these texts as constituting an absolute prohibition against the swearing of oaths. However, most Christians have acknowledged the importance and appropriateness of oath-taking on occasions of great importance.” Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia, page 690.

Something new for 2019

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

Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.