

## Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning February 10, 2018

Quote to carry in your heart this week

**“In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.”** Psalm 138

**February 10 is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.** **“Practice of Faith** –In today’s Second reading, St. Paul summarizes the key elements of his preaching. In these words, we find expression of the faith that we still profess today as we pray the Creed. As Christ’s disciples, we repeat these words often in hopes that they will find expression in our actions. ♦ Take opportunities this week to observe how your actions flow from what you believe. As you finish each day, offer a prayer of thanks to God for this sign of grace. ♦ Learn more about the profession of faith we make when we pray the Creed by reading paragraphs 185 to 197 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/P14.HTM>. ♦ Meditate on the words of the Creed that we pray at Mass. Consider writing in your own words what we profess in the Creed.” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 45

**“Scripture Insights >** Today’s Scripture readings invite us to reflect on our sense of inadequacy in answering God’s call. This reality reminds us that we do not need to be fearful, because we are called to do God’s work and not ours. The First Reading is an account of Isaiah’s vision of God seated on his throne in the Holy of Holies of the Jerusalem temple. When Isaiah realizes that he is in the presence of God, he laments, “Woe is me, I am doomed!” He thinks he will die, because ancients believed that no one could see the face of God and live, but the Hebrew root of the word translated here as “doomed” also means “brought to silence.” Thus, the seraph responds by bringing a coal from God’s altar to purify Isaiah’s lips. Only then can he respond to God’s call. In today’s Gospel, we also hear of Simon Peter’s call. A fisherman by trade, he complains when Jesus tells him to take his boat into deep water and prepare for a catch. But before they know it, the nets are bursting and the boats so full that they are in danger of sinking. When Peter gets to shore, he is overcome with emotion, asking Jesus to leave him, because he feels he is not worthy of his presence. Instead, Jesus tells him, “Do not be afraid,” and invites Peter to be a fisher of people on Jesus’ behalf. In the Second Reading, Paul assures the Corinthian community that they will be saved by believing in what he preaches. What follows is a creed and a list of witnesses to Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearances. Paul identifies himself as the last to witness to resurrected Jesus and the least of his Apostles. To what does he attribute the honour of being an apostle? God’s grace.

- In the First Reading, what do the descriptions of God’s presence suggest about the nature of God?
- What is the source of Peter’s fear? How is his fear alleviated?
- How do you experience God’s grace?” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 45

**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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Website > [www.gandhifoundation.ca](http://www.gandhifoundation.ca) Email us at [gandhifoundationcanada@gmail.com](mailto:gandhifoundationcanada@gmail.com) To manage your subscription to our email list visit > <http://www.mailman.srv.ualberta.ca/mailman/listinfo/gandhifoundationcanada>

February 10<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **St. Scholastica, virgin**. “St. Scholastica (+547) is thought to have been the twin sister of St. Benedict and was “dedicated to the Lord from infancy” (see 1 Samuel 1:24). Her story is told in Book 11 of the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*. Once a year Scholastica would visit Benedict at a guest house on the grounds of his abbey in order to spend time together in worship and holy conversation. At the end of one such visit, Benedict rose to leave, but Scholastica, having a premonition of her own death, begged him to stay. When he insisted that he had to return to his cell for the night, she bowed her head and wept in prayer. A wild storm arose, making it impossible for Benedict to leave. When Benedict realized he could not return to the abbey, he complained to his sister, “God forgive you, what have you done?” She answered him, “I have desired it of our good Lord, and he has granted my petition. Therefore if you can now depart, in God’s name return to your monastery, and leave me here alone” (*Dialogues*, Book II). Gregory comments that God heard Scholastica’s prayer rather than her brother’s because, since “God is love,”

it is natural that she who loved more, did more. The next morning, the two returned to their respective monasteries, and three days later, Benedict, as he prayed in his cell, saw his sister's soul ascend to heaven in the form of a dove. St. Scholastica is the patron saint of female Benedictine monastics. Because of Benedict's vision of her death, she is depicted in art accompanied by a dove. St. Gregory's narrative is also found in the Office of Readings for this memorial." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 47 *St. Scholastica, thank you for your good example of how to love our siblings. Give your brother or sister or both a heartfelt hug today.*

February 11<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. "It was on this day in 1858 that the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, a peasant girl in Lourdes, saw a "Lady" in a grotto near the river Gave, at the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains in France. Over the next several months, Bernadette encountered the "Lady" many times. During one of these apparitions, the Lady directed Bernadette to drink from the fountain. But there was no fountain there – only the river. At the Lady's command, Bernadette began to dig in the ground near the grotto, and a spring of water began to flow. Immediately, numerous miraculous healings took place, of those who bathed in or drank the water of the spring. Only later did the Lady reveal to Bernadette who she was: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Today, Lourdes is one of the most popular pilgrimage places in the world. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people make the pilgrimage to the little town, to drink the water, and to feel close to the Virgin and to her Son, Jesus Christ, healer of body and soul." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 47-48 *Our Lady of Lourdes, encourage us to be a healing presence in the lives of those around us. Carry a Kleenex in your sleeve in case someone needs one.*

February 11<sup>th</sup> is the **World Day of the Sick**. "Since 1992, the World Day of the Sick has been celebrated each year on the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. [Saint] John Paul II had already been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease when he instituted this World Day of Prayer. Today we pray for all who are sick and suffering, that they may see in their suffering a share in the Cross of Christ. We pray also for caregivers, for nurses and doctors, that they may be unfailingly gentle and compassionate. We pray, too, for researchers and scientists who seek to eradicate disease. And we pray for the poor of our world, who do not have access to adequate health care." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 48 *Healing God, bless all our sick and heal them.*

February 14<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **Sts. Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop**. "Saints Cyril (827-869) and Methodius (815-884) were brothers born in Thessalonika (Greece), in the ninth century and are known as the "apostles to the Slavs." Cyril was a scholar and linguist, and Methodius was a monk. In 862, Prince Ratislav of Moravia asked the Byzantine Emperor Michael III and the Patriarch of Constantinople, Photius, to send missionaries to his people. It is likely that Ratislav turned to Constantinople for help rather than fall under the influence of the Franks. At the time, there was no written form of Old Slavonic, so Cyril and Methodius developed the Glagolitic alphabet, from which their disciples developed the Cyrillic alphabet, still used today in Slavic languages such as Russian and Ukrainian, as well as by the Russian-influenced languages Moldovan, Mongolian, and Tatar, among others. As part of their work, they translated some of the Scriptures into Old Slavonic and devised a liturgy in that language. Shortly before his death, Cyril became a monk; Methodius continued the mission alone and later was made an archbishop. The Eastern Orthodox churches venerate them as saints with the title "equal-to-apostles," and they are celebrated with national holidays in Bulgaria and Macedonia. In 1980, [St.] John Paul II declared them co-patrons of Europe, an honour they share with St. Benedict of Nursia. Their joint commemoration is celebrated on the anniversary of Cyril's death. Sts. Cyril and Methodius are the patron saints of ecumenism, of unity among the Eastern and Western Churches, of Europe, as well as countries such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Moravia." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 48 *Sts. Cyril and Methodius, inspire us to work on including all people into our circle of belonging. Send a Valentine message of caring to someone who may not get one.*

February 14<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of **St. Valentine**. "An ancient, mysterious legend explains this day's origins. Two St. Valentines, both third-century martyrs – one a bishop, the other a priest – sent letters of encouragement to people dreading persecution. Hence, we send valentines decorated with flowers, hearts, and the colour red, which symbolizes the blood of martyrdom. Initially, the celebration was not meant to be exclusive; now it has taken on romantic overtones. However, to retrieve the original sense, Peter Mazar suggests handmade cards for people who might not otherwise receive them: residents of retirement centres or hospitals and members of the armed forces. While the day provides revenue for card shops, jewelers and florists, it's intended to celebrate the Christian values of thoughtfulness and tender care. And it enlivens a long winter!" Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 48 *St. Valentine, guide us to love those closest to us who we sometimes take for granted. Tell someone close to you that you love them.*

February 15<sup>th</sup> is National Flag of Canada Day. “Canada’s flag is a symbol that unites all Canadians and reflects the common values we hold so dear – equality, diversity and inclusion. Take this opportunity to honour our iconic flag. Let’s celebrate the #CanadianFlag in communities across the country! <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-flag-canada-day.html>

### **Faith Development – Introduction to the Gospel according to John** by Michael Cameron

“This Gospel has no year of its own in the Lectionary’s three-year cycle, but it is strongly represented every year during Christmas, Lent, and Easter Time; it also appears in Ordinary Time in Mark for Year B, Sundays 17-21. John shares some features of the first three Gospels (called “synoptic” for “seeing together”). Some stories overlap, characters seen in the Synoptics reappear, and John clearly voices the evangelistic, instructional purpose of all the Gospels: that you may believe and receive life in Jesus’ name (20:31). But its vision stands majestically apart, like the eagle that became this Gospel’s symbol. It is rooted in the teaching of a mysterious unnamed figure, the “disciple who Jesus loved” (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20), who authenticates this Gospel’s “testimony” (19:35; 21:24). It uniquely portrays the divine Word acting with God and as God to create all things (1:1-5), taking human flesh to reveal the Father’s glory (1:1, 14-18). John communicates in distinctive ways. The Synoptics tell Jesus’ story in compact vignettes, John constructs chapter-long dramas (see especially chapters 4, 9, and 11). The first three Gospels contain pithy, memorable sayings about God’s Kingdom; John’s Jesus speaks hypnotically repetitive discourses focused on eternal life (for example, 6:22-59; 10:1-18; chapters 14-17). The Synoptics’ homespun parables pique curiosity about Jesus’ message; the Johannine Jesus poetically develops elements like water (4:7-15), bread (6:25-35), and light (3:19-21; 9:4-5; 12:35-36) into metaphors for contemplating divine truth.” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 10

### **Living as Joyful Disciples – a quote for the week**

Let anyone who comes to you go away feeling better and happier. Everyone should see goodness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile. Joy shows from the eyes. It appears when we speak and walk. It cannot be closed inside us. It reacts outside. Joy is very infectious. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – A reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker Who** thinks reflectively and creatively to evaluate situations and solve problems. This is a skill that is desired in the workforce. Give your students activities that can be solved with multiple responses. Have the students evaluate which response is the one best suited for the situation.

### **Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Love, L’Amour, Zaagidwin**

In the Grandfather Teachings Love is Zaagidwin. The eagle that represents love because he has the strength to carry all the teachings. The eagle has the ability to fly highest and closest to the creator and also has the sight to see all the ways of being from great distances. The Eagle’s teaching of love can be found in the core of all teachings, therefore an eagle feather is considered the highest honour and a sacred gift. To know love is to know peace. View your inner-self from the perspective of all teachings. This is to know love and to love yourself truly. *Then you will be at peace with yourself, the balance of life, all things and also with the creator.* <http://ojobweresources.weebly.com/ojobwe-teachings--the-7-grandfathers.html>

### **Living Our Mission Statement**

We are called and committed to nurture a personal relationship with Jesus. We are invited to get to know Jesus personally, as a friend. When we know Him that way, we can speak out of that relationship authentically, sometimes using words. Who do you know that can help mentor you? Do you have a family member who has a relationship with Jesus? Ask them how they bonded to Him.

**Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week** – Recently I woke up with a severe headache and realized that I was taking in too much caffeine. Caffeine dehydrates the body and gives us a headache. Watch your caffeine intake, when you don’t maintain your caffeine level you can become irritable. It may be a sign that you are taking too much in.

**Christian Meditation Insight – “Daily Wisdom** – There is a very close relationship between the way we imagine or what we think about God, and the way we experience God. Part of the problem we face when we come to meditation is that there is often a big gap between what we think about God, the God in our minds, and what we actually experience of God, the God in our hearts, between the God beyond images, and the God we have put into an image. This gap between image and experience, or thought and experience is one of the wounds, one of the divisions within ourselves that is healed by meditation. It is a wound or division that usually, for most of us, begins in childhood.

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

There is no greater indicator of good relationship than to hear laughter coming from the staff room. Of course the stories or jokes cannot be told at someone's expense. It is a sign of trust and of relaxed conversation. Having a good belly laugh at recess or lunch break makes the rest of the day a more joyful experience.

## 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

70. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to:

i. Determine the level of compliance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *United Nations Joint-Orontlicher Principles*, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools. During Edmund Metatawabin's presentation last year, he shared with the participants in his workshop that at St. Anne's Indian Residential School in Fort Albany there was an electric chair that was used on the Indigenous children.

### Twenty-first Century Learning

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

[www.globalissues.org](http://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](http://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](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

**“Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, Religious – February 17** – Imagine that seven famous businessmen in [Toronto] left their homes and careers today to live together in solitude and prayer. [Would the world be surprised and led to reflect on its values?] Seven wealthy, well-known cloth merchants lived in Florence, Italy in the mid-thirteenth century: Bonfiliius Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Ugucione, and Alexis Falconieri. They found themselves in a society in which many people ignored God's law. Riches and the easy life meant more to these people than the love of the poor and service to the needy. These seven men decided to withdraw from the city and to lead lives of prayer and penance. They chose to turn their lives over to God and give witness to all that is good and true. Two of the men were married and two were widowers, so they first had to provide for their families. It took great courage for these men to leave their prosperous businesses and live a life of prayer and penance. They had been leaders in society, so their decision to change their way of living caused a stir and inspired others to rethink their values and make some changes in their lives. At first, so many people came to see them on the outskirts of the city that it was necessary for some of them to move. This group of men fostered devotion to the Blessed Virgin, particularly in her seven sorrows. They called themselves the Servant of Mary or Servites. Although they began as monks – living apart from the world and devoted to solitude, prayer, and penance – they gradually became more like friars, involved in helping others. Eventually all the founders but Alexis was ordained. When the order was finally approved, he was the only founder still living. We live in a confused society, too. As Christians we must witness to eternal values and love of the poor. *St. Alexis and other founders of the Servites, pray for us!*” Card 23

**Catechesis and Catechists**

1. The Catholic understanding of creation and humankind is that they are evil and God regrets creating the world. T or F
2. 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
3. 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**
4. 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**

5. The idea of catechesis was invented by the pope at Vatican II. T or F

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

1. Youth ministry is a form of daycare for middle and high schoolers. T or F
2. When God called \_\_\_\_\_ to become a prophet, \_\_\_\_\_ said "I do not know how to speak. I am too young!"  
A. Micah                                      B. Joel                                      C. Billy Graham                                      D. Jeremiah
3. "Let no one have contempt for your \_\_\_\_\_, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).  
A. athletic ability                                      B. grades                                      C. youth                                      D. height
4. In 1993, the city of \_\_\_\_\_ hosted Pope John Paul II at the only WYD in the United States.  
A. Denver                                      B. New York                                      C. Los Angeles                                      D. Toledo
5. Youth ministry addresses all of the following except:  
A. who Jesus calls us to be  
B. how to become a professional video gamer  
C. how to forgive those who hurt us  
D. why we need to be cautious and selective in how we use media

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

**The Upside** –I saw the French version of this story a few years back at the Shadows of the Mind festival; it was entitled *Intouchable*. This movie stars the hilarious Kevin Hart, Brian Cranston and Nicole Kidman. It tells the story of a man with quadriplegia who requires a carer to live. The man is very wealthy and Kevin Hart's character needs a job but he doesn't want to work. Some people have found the movie's depiction of the quadriplegic insensitive but I did not. I think it gives shows that everyone can have a quality of life if they have a circle of belonging that deeply care about their humanity. I laughed out loud a lot. I give this movie /5 hearts.

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

**Inviting God – Simple, Creative Prayers for Meetings** by Krystyna Higgins. This easy to use prayer book with sections entitled: Seasonal and Commemorative Prayers; Prayers to Saints; Prayers for Particular Virtues or Spiritual Gifts; Prayers for a Cause or Issue; Prayers within a Specific Profession or Work Group; Prayers Inspired by Nature; Prayers Centred on Everyday Objects and Concluding

Prayers. The prayers are not long and Krystyna has used words that are familiar to everyone. 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**

**“Pacem in Terris** – An encyclical, whose title means *Peace on Earth*, issued by Pope John XXIII, concerning the promotion of peace, security, liberty and human rights that are necessary for the establishment of enduring international peace. It emphasized that peace requires proper relationships between individuals, between individuals and states, and among states. One of many encyclicals on these issues, it asserted the traditional Christian claim that peace among individuals and communities requires proper ordering of our own personal lives.” Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia, page 711.

### **Something new for 2019**

**Church bulletins** – these sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at masses.  
**For those of you who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs.**