

Catholic Culture Update 2

Quote to carry in your heart this week

“Blest be the Lord.” Psalm 28:6

September 15 is the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary time. Practice of Faith – In the readings offered this Sunday for our reflection, forgiveness and mercy have a great significance. We are loved by our God in an unlimited way. If we understood this fully, we would glow with joy. No matter what I do, God loves me. No matter what I say, God love me. God wants me to grow and be the best version of myself. But even when I do not measure up, God loves me. It takes faith to believe this reality. Take time today, read the gospel. Imagine God looking for you as a lost sheep or a lost coin or as a lost child. Participate in the joy of the celebration of being found.

Scripture Insights for Sunday’s readings – “As we look back over our lives, we recall with embarrassment and guilt events we would rather forget. Each of the readings recalls such moments but these are celebrated instead of forgotten. In the reading from Exodus the people of Israel, whom God has liberated from slavery, have turned away to worship false gods. In prayer, Moses mediates on their behalf and they experience the joy of God’s merciful love. In his Letter to Timothy, Paul recalls his former way of life as he persecuted Christ and his followers. Without excusing himself, Paul celebrates the forgiveness he has experienced through the Risen Christ’s call and transformation. The Gospel offers three parables displaying God’s immense love and forgiveness. “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.” This joy is captured in the parable that could be called the “Parable of the Forgiving Father.” After patiently awaiting his son’s return, the father sees him in the distance, runs, and embraces him. Such actions may have been extraordinary for a Jewish patriarch. The son begins to ask forgiveness, saying, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you,” but the father interrupts his prepared speech and throws a party to welcome him back. Forgiveness results in celebration. The second part of the parable, contrasts the father’s joy and forgiveness with the elder son’s inability to forgive. He cannot share his father’s joy. Undoubtedly, the father portrays the greatest example of God’s forgiving and embracing love.

- Which of the characters do you identify with most in the parable of the prodigal son?
- Why was the elder son unable to share in his father’s joy?
- How can you imitate St. Paul in celebrating God’s loving forgiveness in your life?”

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, LTP, page 127

September 16 – “The more I contemplate God, the more God looks on me. The more I pray to him, the more he thinks of me too.” St. Bernard of Clairvaux Do you “contemplate” God ever, throughout the day? You don’t have to be in church, or at Mass, to do so. Spend some time today thinking about God, praying to God, just quietly whispering or talking with him.” My Year with the Saints for Kids compiled by Peter Celano, page 108

September 17 – “Today is the feast day of St. Hildegard of Bingen. She founded convents, wrote theological books, and was an expert in her era on the subjects of plants and medicines. She was also a mystic and often misunderstood by others. Long considered a saint by some in the Church, since she died in 1179, she wasn’t officially declared a saint until 2012, when Pope Benedict XVI officially canonized her: He also declared her a “Doctor of the Church.” *Pray for me today, St. Hildegard. I am also sometimes misunderstood.*” My Year with the Saints for Kids compiled by Peter Celano, page 108

September 18 – “Remember to read the Gospels. Open your Bible today and read from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. “In the mighty power of God, who is both God and human, and in every place – for his power extends everywhere – the faithful must be empowered by the four Evangelists, pondering God’s precepts and filled with virtuous prudence, so that they may understand from where they’ve come and what they will become.” St. Hildegard of Bingen”

My Year with the Saints for Kids compiled by Peter Celano, page 108-109

September 19 – “The angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” Revelation 19:9 “I was growing in the love of God. In my heart I felt upward impulses that I had not known until then. Sometimes I was truly transported by love.” St. Thérèse of Lisieux / *want to grow in your love, Lord. I want deeper connections to you.*” My Year with the Saints for Kids compiled by Peter Celano, page 109

September 20 – “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1 “Almost the soul’s whole work is to realize its unworthiness to receive such great good and to occupy itself in thanksgiving.” St. Teresa of Avila - My Year with the Saints for Kids compiled by Peter Celano, page 109

September 21st is the feast day of **St. Matthew**, Apostle and Evangelist. “St. Matthew (first century), referred to as the “tax collector,” is one of the Twelve Apostles and the Evangelist who authored the first of the four accounts of the Gospel. His account has a two-fold purpose: one, to announce that Jesus is the eternal king of all creation; and two, to encourage faith in the face of doubt, especially regarding persecution. We have very little information about him, other than he invited Jesus to his home to dine with societal outcasts (see Matthew 9:9-13), and that he preached the Good News after the Resurrection. Tradition says he began preaching in Judea, then moved on to Ethiopia, Persia, Syria, Macedonia, and possibly Ireland. He is venerated as a martyr, even though history does not tell us how or where he died.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 118. *St. Matthew teach us to be humble.* Humility is not a virtue honoured in our society...look around today for a humble person.

September 21st is the **International Day of Peace**. There is such a great need of peace in the world. This year we invite our schools, classes and employees to show their commitment to peace by flashing a peace sign, taking a photograph and posting it on social media with the hash tag **#FlashItForPeace**. Last year over ½ million impressions were created worldwide in support of this Peace Works online event, and this year we can make an even BIGGER impact. Join with others all over the planet on this one amazing day and FLASH IT FOR PEACE! Promotional tools you can share are: The CYNTHIA DALE YouTube video – <http://youtu.be/a2HRzhAct.ZA> and the Peace Works website <http://peaceworks.tv>

Catholic Prayers – “Grace before Meals

Before the meal, while making the Sign of the Cross on yourself, pray:

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts,

which we are about to receive from thy bounty,

through Christ our Lord. Amen. +” Catholic Prayers – Second Edition – LTP page 37

Igniting HOPE – This is the new theme for Catholic Education week 2020.

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination and instill a love of learning.” Brad Henry

OCSGE – Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations

A caring family member who recognizes human intimacy and sexuality as God-given gifts, to be used as the creator intended. In our sex-saturated culture, this statement is counter-cultural. It is important to support our students as they grow in their understanding of human intimacy and sexuality. Encouraging our students not to grow up too quickly is key. These God-given gifts are meant to enhance our lives not complicate them.

September’s Virtue of the Month – Faith, foi, debwe`endaagozi

“Faith is a theological virtue because it springs from God as a gift and moves us to God. Faith means having trust in others and being trustworthy and loyal in return.” Growing in Christian Morality page 41.

Our Mission Statement – we are a Catholic learning community – All are welcome, all belong...in our learning community. That’s what Catholic means. When we sing the song, we are celebrating our Mission!

Supportive Environments and Well Being – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan

Our schools and workplaces have been cleaned over the summer. The carestaff take much time and energy to make every place look amazing. Thank you for helping us to have supportive environments. It is a shot in the arm to walk into our beautiful schools.

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – Voices will be used more this week than last week. Be gentle! Take care of your voice. Use other means to get the students’ attention.

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.

MEDIA and RECONCILIATION

85. We call upon the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, as an independent non-profit broadcaster with programming by, for, and about Aboriginal peoples, to support reconciliation, including but not limited to:

i. Continuing to provide leadership in programming and organizational culture that reflects the diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples.” [I appreciate the programming on APTN. It is helpful to me to learn the culture of Indigenous people by watching the programs.](#)

Church teaching on the Sacredness of all life

“The Image and likeness of God – Only humankind is said to be made in the image and likeness of God. To be human and to be God’s image and likeness are two truths that cannot be separated from each other. There never was, and never can be, a human being who does not in some way reflect the image of God. We may be tempted to deprive others of the chance to express this extraordinary dimension of their being, but we must remember that to be human is to be like God.” *Roots – Finding Strength in Biblical Tradition – Part 1 Resource Book, page 120*

Twenty-first Century Learning

www.theturtleislandnews.com > a newsletter that comes directly to your email address. It addresses the news items connected to indigenous peoples

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

www.CARFLEO.org > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

www.kairoscanada.org > September is Climate Action month at Kairos. Explore the website for ideas about how to act.

www.WorkFlowy.com > “Modelling smart project management can have a major impact on students. By demonstrating assignments with this simple tool – break a project into bullet points and each point then expands into a new document – students witness how to chop a challenge into manageable chunks. Grades 5-12. Free for basic version.” As recommended by Professionally Speaking September 2019, page 23

www.Coggle.it > “Is a big task overwhelming to some of your students? Try this visual mind-mapping app to break it down, and nix the stress. Students can brainstorm ideas, then drag and drop assignment elements and steps into a flow chart. Suddenly that massive project is Mission Possible! Grades 5-12. Free for basic version.” As recommended by Professionally Speaking September 2019, page 23

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. Cornelius and St. Cyprian, Martyrs. Beginnings can be difficult. The beginning years of the Church and the lives of Cornelius and Cyprian show this. These two martyr-saints found themselves facing heresies, divisions, and persecutions. The emperor Decius believed in pagan idols. He made a law stating that all who would not give up the Christian faith should be killed. Pope Fabian, along with many others, were martyred. Some Christians did give up their faith. Decius prevented the election of another pope for fourteen months. Then in 251, while Decius was away at war, Cornelius was made pope. Cornelius believed that those who had given up the faith should be able to return. Another man, who had hoped to be pope, disagreed and made himself a rival pope. Cornelius called a council of bishops to settle the matter. They supported Cornelius. After two years as pope, Cornelius was arrested by the emperor’s order and banished. He died in exile, but his body was buried in the cemetery of Callistus in Rome. Cyprian, a bishop in North Africa, was a close friend and supporter of Cornelius. He was the son of pagan parents but became a Christian at the age of twenty-five. He was intelligent and a powerful speaker. His reputation for holiness grew, and he became a priest and then bishop of Carthage for ten years. During a plague he urged Christians to help even their enemies. Cyprian had to deal with a priest who believed that all Christians who left the faith should be taken back. Cyprian held that the approval of a bishop was needed. When new persecutions broke out, Cyprian was arrested and exiled. When he was read his death sentence at his trial, he exclaimed, “Blessed be God!” He was beheaded in front of a crowd. Both Cornelius and Cyprian were faithful to Jesus in the midst of difficulties. Although separated by many miles, they were good friends and supported one another in seeking the truth and leading a good life. They are mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer 1. *St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian, pray that we may be good Christian friends.*” Card 126

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning

Water and Spirit – Enjoy these quizzes about Baptism – David O’Brien – CATECHIST – September 2019, page 14

1. Jesus commissioned the apostles to “make _____ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).
A. teachers B. slaves C. kings **D. disciples**
2. Holy water found at the doors of the church is considered a _____.
A. sacramental B. sacrament C. relic D. vestment
3. We believe that through the sacraments, we have real encounters with _____.

- A. priests
- B. bishops
- C. Christ**
- D. all the cool symbols the Church uses like oils, water, fire, etc.

4. The sacraments were first celebrated by _____.

- A. King Solomon
- B. Jesus**
- C. the Pope
- D. Sister Pat

5. St. Peter baptized _____ even though he was a Roman centurion and a pagan Gentile (see Acts 10).

- A. Bruno Mars
- B. Optimus Prime
- C. Julius Caesar
- D. Cornelius**

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning

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1. No one had ever heard of Baptism before Jesus was baptized.

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2. _____ begins the process of initiating a person into the believing Body of Christ, which is the Church.

- A. Memorizing the Our Father
- B. Catholic School
- C. Sunday school
- D. Baptism

3. The sacrament of Baptism unites all _____ as brothers and sisters in Christ.

- A. Canadians
- B. monotheists
- C. Christians
- D. religious people

4. Which sacrament did Jesus tell Nicodemus was necessary for salvation? (see John 3:5)

- A. Baptism
- B. Communion
- C. Anointing of the Sick
- D. bar mitzvah

5. Ananias baptized _____ after _____ heard Jesus’ voice and was told to stop persecuting Christians (see Acts 9).

- A. Nero
- B. Paul
- C. Valentine
- D. Blase

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

The Day of the Jackal (1973) – This movie was fascinating. Its plot in a nutshell is that an assassin is going to try to kill the French President – Charles de Gaulle. The assassin’s codename is Jackal, played by Michel Auclair. The secret service work as seen through a 1970’s lens was so tedious and labour intensity. The acting was great! I give this movie /5 hearts.

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo. This book explores why it is so difficult for white people to speak to the topic/issue of racism. It proposes that the only real racism is black/white racism. As I don’t agree with this premise, I continued to read the book. There were many good insights. I own a copy of the book and would be willing to lend it to interested readers. 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

Lamb of God – Any Catholic attending Mass will recognize the phrase “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” This liturgical prayer has deep roots in Sacred Scripture. In the Old Testament, Jeremiah described his experience of persecution as a lamb which one leads to the slaughter (Jer. 11:19). The idea of a slaughtered lamb provides the impetus for Isaiah to describe the suffering servant of God whose death pays for the sins of God’s people – “as a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep before the shearers, silent and not opening its mouth” (Is 53:7). Philip explains to the eunuch of the Ethiopian queen how this passage from Isaiah is fulfilled in the action and Person of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:31-35). Reference to the Old Testament suffering servant tradition, which Christ’s mission on earth fulfills and perfects, may be at least implied at John 1:29. The Old Testament background for the Lamb of God obtains its

fundamental importance in God's command to offer a lamb in preparation for the exodus from Egypt (ex. 12:5). In biblical and pre-Christian rabbinic tradition (Pirque R. Eliezar 29; Mekhelta, Ex. 12), note the stated belief it was because of the paschal lamb's blood that the Hebrews were freed from slavery in Egypt, leading to their becoming a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6). Jesus is the Lamb (1Pt 1:19; Jn 1:29; Rv 5:6) without blemish (Ex12:5) or sin (Jn 8:46; 1Jn 3:5; Heb 9:14), Who delivers by His Blood (1 Pt 1:18ff.; Rv 5:9ff.; Heb 9:12-15). Thus the Paschal Lamb delivers from "earth" (Rv 14:3), builds up the redeemed by helping them to avoid sin (1 Pt 1:15ff.; Jn 1:29; 1 Jn 3:5-9), forming a new royal priesthood and consecrated nation (1 Pt 2:9; Rv 5:9ff). The contrast between the immolated Lamb and the exalted Lamb lies in the exalted Lamb's power, situated on the throne (Heb 12:1-3), receiving adoration (Rv 5:8-13; 7:10), executing God's judgments (Rv 6:1) and finally being consecrated King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rv 17:14; 19:16) The Lamb is also the Shepherd, leading the faithful to living water and heavenly blessedness (Rv 7:17; 14:4).

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