

Catholic Culture Update #8
Quote to carry through the week
“I love you, Lord, my strength.” Psalm 18

October 25th is the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. “Practice of Charity > In the Judeo-Christian tradition, hospitality flows from the Ten Commandments, which show that love of God and love of neighbor are integrally connected. As Christians, we seek to welcome others into our lives as we would welcome Christ. This Christian hospitality extends to family, friends, and neighbours, as well as to those we do not yet know, especially to those most vulnerable.

- ✚ Hospitality is an attitude expressed in our daily encounters with others, especially shown in our care for the poor and vulnerable. Take steps to ensure that you are reflecting the fullness of Christian hospitality in your relationships.
- ✚ The shared response of Christians to migrants and refugees should be “to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate,” the pontiff states in the “Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018.” Reflect on how your parish community can enact the holy father’s message.
- ✚ Consider making this question part of your daily examination of conscience: How did you respond as you met Christ in those you encountered this day?”

AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Liturgy Training Publications, page 135

- ✚ **Scripture Insights** > “When Jesus is asked about “the greatest commandment,” he replies with a dual commandment: love of God and love of neighbor. There is neither opposition nor separation between these two loves, as if one must choose one over the other. One cannot have one without the other. Jesus has no problem, then, loving people by understanding their need for food or by healing them on the Sabbath, a day that something should be reserved solely for loving God (cf. Matthew 12:1-14). The way Jesus juxtaposes these two loves as dual and the greatest commandment implies that the violation of neighbor violates God and the commandment. In Matthew Jesus responds to those who want to honour God but bypass their needy neighbours with a statement that places mercy before sacrifice (Matthew 12:7). Today’s passage from Exodus 22 seems to compare offering sacrifices to other gods with reluctance to care for aliens, widows, orphans, and the poor, since both practices result in the wrath of and punishment from God. In that our compassionate God will always hear the cries of our neighbours. As Psalm 18 indicates, God will save those in distress and under oppression but will also exact vengeance on those who act unjustly and abusively. Paul, in the beginning of his First Letter to the Thessalonians, emphasizes the welcoming of others as a marker of discipleship that deserves emulation from others. Just as consideration for the Thessalonians brought them to follow Jesus and imitate Paul and his fellow missionaries, the Thessalonians’ reciprocal welcoming of Paul and his missionaries became a model for followers

of Jesus all over the region. Relations among people, as we have seen in the other passages, define discipleship and human relationship with God.

✚ Who is my neighbor?

✚ What is the relationship between love and welcome?

✚ How does Jesus welcome?"

AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Liturgy Training Publications, page 135

October 28th is the feast of **Saints Simon and Jude**, Apostles. "Today we honour two Apostles (first century) about whom we know very little. Tradition maintains that St. Simon the Zealot preached missions throughout Persia and Egypt. St. Jude, not to be confused with Judas Iscariot, is the patron saint of hopeless causes and is called Thaddeus in the Gospels according to Matthew and to Mark. It is believed that he engaged in missionary work in Mesopotamia and Persia. Both Sts. Simon and Jude were supposedly martyred in Persia, and their relics were transferred to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome sometime during the seventh and eighth centuries." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 133 *Sts. Simon and Jude inspire us to live a good life as a disciple of Jesus.*

October 31st is **Halloween**. "By the end of October, in most of North America and Europe, days have become short and cold. The Church keeps two great festivals at this dark time of year – All Saints and All Souls, the first and second days of November. And, like every other Christian festival, the holiday begins at sunset on the day before. An old name for All Saints' Day was All Hallows. ("Hallow" is another word for *saint*.) The eve of All Saints was called All Hallows' Eve, which got shortened to Halloween (from Hallowe'en, i.e., Hallows evening). This festival has an interesting history. Many of the peoples of northern Europe divided the year into four seasons based on the length of days, but these were a bit different from the seasons as we know them. "Winter" was the period of the shortest days. It began on November 1 and ended on February 1. On this night, huge bonfires were lighted on hilltops to welcome the dead who would return home for a bit of comfort by the warm hearthside. Food was set out. Any stranger was welcomed into the home. Who knew? Maybe the stranger was really a dead relative. But the annual return of the dead brought trouble, too. Not all of them were friendly. So everyone stayed together all night for protection, and they told stories of the dead and of narrow escapes from cranky ghosts. People dressed up like the dead to make any ghostly visitors feel more welcome and also to confuse the angry ones. In the earliest days of Christianity, the remembrance of the dead and the celebration of the saints was kept at Easter Time, because we Christians look forward to the day of resurrection of all who have died. But in the tenth century in western Europe, the Church began to keep the remembrance of the dead in November, in autumn, when it seems as if the earth itself is dying. In most of Europe, Halloween is strictly a religious event. Sometimes in North America the church's traditions are lost or confused. Still, All Hallows' Eve has been kept by the Church for over 1,000 years. Halloween night still can be a Christian celebration, kept as the holy eve of All Saints' Day. Halloween customs reflect the Gospel. Trick-or-treat is just good, old-fashioned hospitality. In the name of Christ, we

welcome all who knock on our doors. Walking in the streets in masks and costumes reminds us of our journey to heaven. Once our journey is done, we will take our masks off and see ourselves as we truly are – the beloved children of God, the saints in glory.”

Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 134 *Holy Spirit guide all the trick-or-treaters so they are safe and have a fun time.*

October 31 and throughout November – **Ghost Feasts/Supper** – is an Indigenous tradition that some of our students may participate in at this time of year. “A ghost supper is a feast that combines celebration and commemoration of what we’re thankful for, and to show respect for our ancestors,” Winnay Wemigwase said. “It’s one of those traditions that our whole community still practices ... it’s really fun, which I think has helped it to stay at the forefront of our active culture today.” “These suppers, according to Wemigwase, cultural preservation director for the tribe, date back hundreds of years, and are a way for tribal members to honor their ancestors who have “walked on.”

http://articles.petoskeynews.com/2009-11-27/supper_24015692

Nurturing Hope – Sowing seeds of gratitude

One who can give thanks for little will always find s/he has enough. Anonymous

October’s Virtue of the Month – Courage, le courage, zoongide’ewin, maskawâtsiwin A prayer to encourage courage –

From the cowardice that dare not face new truth.

From the laziness that is contented with half truth.

From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,

Good Lord, deliver me. Kenyan Prayer

Our Mission Statement – Dedicated to excellence in education – It is a challenge to work toward excellence in education when so many outside factors influence our efforts. I cannot listen to the Minister of Education for a while because some of what he proposes makes my effort less effective. I need to be accountable for my efforts toward excellence.

Fratelli Tutti – Pope Francis’ new Encyclical – On Fraternity and Social Friendship Chapter 1 – Dark Clouds Over a Closed World

Under the dark shadows of this ever more tightly closed world, precious words like democracy, freedom, justice, and unity are manipulated and emptied of meaning (*FT* 14). We see people sowing despair and discouragement, hyperbole, extremism, and polarization—these are the strategies for dominating and gaining control over people. The system denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Politics has been turned into marketing (*FT* 15).

Some parts of our human family are readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Persons considered no longer productive or useful are disregarded and discounted by this throwaway culture (*FT* 18) that prevails beneath the dark clouds of our closed world.

Twenty-first Century Learning

<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

<https://www.deedly.com/> > “The Deedly app allows classrooms to sign up to engage in global collaborative efforts that support education, environment and health. Through learning and taking "challenges" to test their knowledge, students unlock Deed Coins, which translate to real-life donations for on-the-ground organizations. It is free and Grade 8 & 9 users welcome.” <https://professionallyspeaking.oct.ca/2020-06/2020-06-Tools-of-the-Trade-PS.asp>

<https://www.dosomething.org/us> > “The DoSomething program (and associated DoSomething app) motivates students to take action on the issues they care about, and encourages them to engage their friends, families and communities. Student-driven projects around the world have included clothing drives, water conservation projects, and mental health campaigns. It is free and it works for Grades 10 to 12.” <https://professionallyspeaking.oct.ca/2020-06/2020-06-Tools-of-the-Trade-PS.asp>

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. Anthony Mary Claret, 1807-1870, October 24. The well-liked Spanish priest Anthony Claret was the fifth of eleven children. His family was poor but hard working. Weaving was a family trade. Anthony’s earliest memories of home were the family’s praying the rosary and going to church. From this environment grew his deep love and devotion to Jesus and Mary. By age twenty-one Anthony had been educated and was in much demand for his skill as a weaver. At one time he suffered because of poor health, and during the days of recovery he imagined himself as a Carthusian monk. Anthony went to the bishop for advice. The bishop suggested that he first go to the diocesan seminary and then, if he wished, leave and become a monk. Anthony followed this advice and enjoyed seminary life. He was ordained two years earlier than usual because of a civil war in Spain. Anthony finally realized that his health would prevent him from being a monk or a Jesuit missionary. He was sent to a small mountain village where he studied medicine and helped many sick people. He discovered his power to read hearts and his ability to understand people. Anthony began a busy schedule of preaching throughout Spain. His gentle faith and great courage in spreading devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and in reviving devotion to the Eucharist made him a popular preacher. He also published a catechism that led the bishop of the Canary Islands to invite him to preach there for a year, fulfilling Anthony’s dream to be a missionary. When Anthony returned to Spain, he founded a congregation called the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians). Then he was assigned as archbishop of Cuba. Not having had an archbishop for fourteen years, the island was in need of renewal. Anthony reorganized the seminary

training, preached in all the churches, heard confessions, and guided people to Christ. He worked for updated farm methods and credit unions. He wanted the people to own their own farms, knowing that this would improve family life. He made enemies by teaching black slaves. Fifteen times people tried to assassinate him. Once a man stabbed him and was given a death sentence, but Anthony had this changed to a prison sentence. After eight years, Anthony was called to Spain to be Queen Isabella II's confessor. He obeyed unhappily. He and the queen agreed that he would live at the place but come only to hear her confession and instruct the children. This freed him to open a religious publishing house and write more than two hundred books and pamphlets. IN 1886 a revolution took place, and those associated with the court were accused of treason. Anthony fled to Rome where Vatican Council I was in session. There he defended the infallibility of the pope. Then he returned to a Cistercian monastery in France where he staying in solitary until his death. *St. Anthony Claret, pray for us!*" Card 152

A Blog for Eclectic Readers - by Pat Carter csj

Stories from Ford County by John Grisham, 2009. This is a book of short stories. Not all the stories are of the same quality. There were a couple of stories that were grizzly and one I really stayed with me for the week after I read it. John Grisham is a great storyteller. I had not read a book of short stories since high school. I give this book 😊😊😊.5/5 happy faces.

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

Charlie Wilson's War – 2014. Features Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and Amy Adams. This movie is based on a true story about the USA defeat in the war against the Russians in Afghanistan. It shows how much politics decides how long wars are fought. This movie stars I give this movie ♥♥♥.5/5

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

“Tantum Ergo – The final two verses of the Eucharistic hymn, *Pange Lingua*, composed by St. Thomas Aquinas for the Office of the feast of Corpus Christi. Increasingly, it is known in an English translation beginning with the line, “Down in adoration falling.” Along with the *O Salutaris Hostia*, This hymn is customarily sung kneeling at Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.” Our Sunday Visitor's CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 920