

## Catholic Culture Update #19

### Quote to carry through the week

“Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.” Psalm 40: 8a, 9a

January 17, 2021 is the **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** > **“Practice of Faith** > Samuel and John have very different responses when God appears in their daily life. Samuel is confused and slow to respond, while John is strikingly certain and bold, but both are dependent on a quality of openness and an initial willingness to see and hear God. Two model of faith – one that has to be nurtured and grown; one that is authoritative and in full force – lead to a life of following God. Faith is a habit of initial openness followed by responsiveness, often patiently cultivated by a trusted parent, role model, or mentor.

- ✚ Review your week and ask where you saw and heard God. What did you do in that moment?
- ✚ Eli and John both played roles in helping others see God. Do you have a spiritual director, even an informal one?
- ✚ Consider attending or leading a faith formation class, Bible study or religious education program in your parish.”

AT HOME with the WORD 2021, Liturgy Training Publications, page 39

**Scripture Insights** > “The genre of today’s First Reading is that of a “call narrative.” While many call narratives are in Scripture, the call of Samuel is unique. Other such narratives depict an individual hearing the voice of God and understanding who it is that is speaking (consider, for example, Abraham, Isaiah, and Jeremiah). Samuel does not grasp whose voice is calling him. The priest Eli, however, understands this call and instructs Samuel in how to respond, should he hear that voice again. Verses that are cut from today’s text are especially interesting since within them we learn that by responding faithfully to God’s call, Samuel has difficult words that he must deliver to his mentor, Eli. In the Gospel selection from John, we are presented with a remarkable story. Like the First Reading for today, it can be described as a call narrative. The scene opens with John the Baptist standing with two of his disciples when Jesus walks by. When John refers to Jesus as the “Lamb of God,” John’s disciples immediately leave him to follow Jesus. It is as if John has fulfilled his responsibility to these two men. He has helped them to recognize Jesus. Andrew, one of John’s disciples who left John and followed Jesus, in turn, “found his own brother Simon [Peter]” and “brought him to Jesus.” Seemingly evident in today’s selections from First Samuel and the Gospel of John is that people of faith are called to assist one another in recognizing the mystery and presence of God among them. Clearly, the priest Eli, John the Baptist, and Andrew were instruments of God.

- ✚ Consider the significance of someone who has helped you recognize the voice of God in your life. Give thanks to God for the gift of this individual.
- ✚ Reflect on how remarkable it is to be alive and how your body has allowed you to know some of God’s many blessings.

✚ How are you a disciple of Jesus and how do you help others to recognize the living God?" AT HOME with the WORD 2021, Liturgy Training Publications, page 39

January 17 is **World Religion Day**. Normally there would be gatherings in various locations to celebrate Religious traditions coming together to promote interfaith understanding and harmony. This year there will be a zoom meeting of the Sault Ste. Marie group. The theme for this year is "Healing through Shared Experience." The group will meet to pray together. Normally there would be time for fellowship too. Keep the third Sunday in January 2022 open so you can participate in this annual gathering next year.

January 18 – 25 is the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. "The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated around the world on January 18-25, which are also the dates recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, there has also been a long-standing practice by a number of communities to celebrate the Week of Prayer on optional dates, in order to include two Sundays. This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires. The importance of unity among Christians and the responsibility of the people of each parish to work for this unity should be emphasized throughout the week. All members of the parish should seek to have a deeper understanding of ecumenism." Ordo Liturgical Calendar 2020-21 page 122. *Let us pray for the unification of the Church that Jesus started.*

"January 21 is the memorial of **St. Agnes**, Virgin and Martyr. Saint Agnes (c. 292-305) is one of the women whose name is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer I. She is thought to have been a member of Roman nobility, and was martyred at the age of twelve under Diocletian on January 21, 304, for refusing to marry a prefect's son. She is the patron saint of Christian virtue and is often represented with a martyr's palm and a lamb (a translation of her name in Latin). This gave rise to the tradition of blessing lambs at the Roman Basilica of St. Agnes on this day. The wool from these lambs is then used to weave the pallium worn by archbishops and others of metropolitan rank." Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 38

**Nurturing Hope** - The glory of gardening: hands in the earth, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul. Alfred Austin

January's Virtue of the Month – **Wholeness, l'intégrité, Gwayakwaadiziwin (Ojibwe) ka kwayaskwesihcikewnihk (Cree)** A prayer to inspire wholeness: Gracious God, you offer us every day to accomplish what we need to do. Help us to remember to breathe deeply, to love tenderly and to forgive others and ourselves when we forget to breathe and love.

**Our Mission Statement – we mutual invite, encourage and support one another**  
When we forget to mutually invite, encourage and support one another, let us forgive one another. These are incredibly stressful times.

### **Catholic Social Teaching – Sacredness of all Life**

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision known as *Roe versus Wade*, which made abortion legal throughout the United States, and struck down many

states' laws restricting abortions. Did you know that Canada does not have a law against abortion? It does not have a law for abortion. Abortions happen in public hospitals but not in Catholic hospitals because of this Catholic Social teaching.

## **Fratelli Tutti – Pope Francis' new Encyclical – On Fraternity and Social Friendship “Chapter 2 – A Strange on the Road**

72. The parable begins with the robbers. Jesus chose to start when the robbery has already taken place, lest we dwell on the crime itself or the thieves who committed it. Yet we know them well. We have seen, descending on our world, the dark shadows of neglect and violence in the service of petty interests of power, gain and division. The real question is this: will we abandon the injured man and run to take refuge from the violence, or will we pursue the thieves? Will the wounded man end up being the justification for our irreconcilable divisions, our cruel indifference, our intestine conflicts?

**George Floyd's face come to mind as I read this passage.**

**What is your response?**

## **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](http://www.CARFLEO.org) > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

<https://www.thegodminute.org/> A blog that helps you to grow your prayer life.

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/> For a few quiet prayerful moments go to sacred space.

**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 - Abbot - January 17 -** The life-style of St. Anthony may seem unrealistic and uninviting, but his example and message are important for anyone who wishes to know God. Anthony was born in Egypt. He disliked school and its social atmosphere. At age twenty, when his parents died, he made sure that his sister was educated in a community of holy women. Then, instead of managing their property, he sold all his possessions and left for a life of solitude in the desert. There he found a hermit who taught him about prayer and penance. For twenty years he lived alone, taking only bread and water once a day at sunset. The devil tempted him in many forms. These years made Anthony radiant with God's love and full of compassion. One biographer wrote, “Strangers knew him by the joy on his face.” People came to Anthony to learn how to become holy. Some wanted to stay, so Anthony founded a type of monastery made up of hermitages near one another. He wrote a rule to guide the monks in a life of silence, prayer, and manual work. When Anthony heard of the persecutions of Christians, he wanted to be a martyr. At age sixty, he left the desert to minister to the Christians in prison. While doing this he realized that a person can also

die daily for Christ by serving him in ordinary ways with great love. So Anthony returned to the desert. At age eighty-eight he had a vision of the harm Arian followers were doing to the Church by denying the divinity of Christ. Anthony went to Alexandria to preach against Arianism. There he worked miracles and won converts. When the Emperor wrote to Anthony asking for his prayers, people were impressed. Anthony, however, explained, "Don't be surprised that the emperor writes to me. He's just another man as I am. But he astounded that God should have written to us, that he has spoken to us by his Son." Another vision when Anthony was ninety sent him searching the desert for St. Paul, the first hermit. Together these two men spoke of the wonders of God. Anthony is said to have died peacefully in a cave at age one hundred and five. He taught us that through solitude and penance we do not move away from those in the world but come closer to them. *St. Anthony, pray that we may be strong against temptation!*" Card 7

### **A Blog for Eclectic Readers** - by Pat Carter csj

**A Shimmering of Hummingbirds** by Steve Burrows, 2017. The fourth book in the Birder Murder Mysteries. Chief Inspector Dominic Jejeune travels to the rainforest to investigate his brother's murder accusation. The marvelous description of the rainforest and the colourful birds found there is vivid. The story continues and gets better and better. I give this book 😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces.

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

**Transcendence** – 2014, directed by Wally Pfisher, starring Johnny Depp, Rebecca Hall and Morgan Freeman. This is a story about how AI goes all the way. A scientist downloads his own mind into a computer network. Questions of immortality, ego and technology are posed. I give this movie ♥♥♥/5

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

**“Genuflection** – This act of bending the right knee to the floor and rising up again has had a number of meanings associated with it. From an act of penitence and supplication (e.g., before one's master), to an act of veneration in front of a person of prominence (e.g., emperor or bishop) or holy object (e.g., altar, relics, especially those of the True Cross), to an act of reverence before the exposed or reserved Sacrament in church. Evidence of the liturgical use of the genuflection goes back as far as John Cassian and the custom in Egyptian monasticism of reciting twelve psalms for the major hours. Eleven of these were recited solo by a monk, after which all would stand, pray in silence with arms outstretched, kneel for a moment, then stand for the concluding oration prayed by the monk leader. When the act of elevating the consecrated Bread and Wine came into the Roman liturgy, the prescribed gesture for the faithful was an act of genuflection (before and after); later the gesture became prolonged into the act of kneeling from the *Sanctus* through the Great Amen. In the Baroque era, when Mass

was frequently celebrated *coram Sanctissimo* (in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the main altar), the number of genuflections for the priest increased to show reverence as he passed before the tabernacle. The postconciliar liturgical books indicate that “three genuflections are made during Mass: after showing of the Eucharistic Bread, after the showing of the chalice, and before Communion” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, n. 233) and that “genuflection in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, whether reserved in the tabernacle or exposed for public adoration, is on one knee” (*General Instruction on Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass*, n. 84). Our Sunday Visitor's CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 435

**The Great CANADIAN Puzzle Book** – a new feature for 2021

**Hockey Quiz** – Sorry forgot to give the answer last week.

“Who is the only player to have scored a 200-point season?”

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| A. Wayne Gretzky | B. Mario Lemieux |
| C. Gordie Howe   | D. Bobby Orr     |

**Provincial and Territorial Trees** - Page 9.

Match them correctly.

Alberta – Lodge Pole Pine	Nova Scotia – Red Spruce
British Columbia – Western Red Cedar	Ontario - Eastern White Pine
Manitoba – White Spruce	Prince Edward Island – Red Oak
New Brunswick – Balsam Fir	Quebec – Yellow Birch
Newfoundland & Labrador – Black Spruce	Saskatchewan – White Birch
Northwest Territories – Jack Pine	Yukon – Sub-alpine Fir

**This week's quiz is a Geography Quiz with three questions** page

1. In which ocean are Queen Charlotte Islands?  
A. Pacific                      B. Indian                      C. Southern                      D. Atlantic
2. The Magnetic Hill tourist attraction is located in which Canadian province?  
A. Nova Scotia                      B. New Brunswick                      C. PEI                      D. Newfoundland
3. Hamilton is the capital of which island in the North Atlantic Ocean?  
A. Bermuda                      B. Grand Bahama                      C. Jamaica                      D. Puerto Rico