



# Huron-Superior Catholic

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Catholic Culture Update #9

#### Quote to carry through the week

**“I love you, O Lord, my strength.”** Psalm 18:1

**October 31<sup>st</sup> is the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time. “Practice of Charity –** Daily global, national, and local news can be overwhelming, leaving people feeling powerless. What God asks of us is straightforward. As the Gospel states, we are to love God, with our heart, soul, mind, and all our strength, and love our neighbours as ourselves. This may be harder than it sounds, but when we love others through our actions and thoughts, we are doing what God requests. Kindness felt in the workplace, school, and at home can have a ripple effect, reaching many others and creating waves of grace.

- ✚ Be especially attentive this week to people you encounter who may need an encouraging word.
- ✚ Follow up the question of “How are you?” with more care and be open to establishing a deeper connection.
- ✚ Try to realize that prayer includes listening to God. Carve out some of your prayer time to just be quiet with God.” AT HOME with the WORD 2021, Liturgy Training Publications, page 143.

**Scripture Insights >** “The scribes knew God’s law. They loved God’s law. When a scribe, then, asks Jesus which is the first or greatest of the commandments, he is testing the Lord. Jesus answers the query by naming the two “love commandments”: love God and love your neighbor. The command itself explains how to love God – with all one’s soul, mind, and strength. That is, with your entire being, from head to toe. The scribe agrees; Jesus has identified the heart of the law. The psalmist provides another illustration of what it means to love God, by expressing that love in song, praising God as his deliverer and stronghold, his rock and salvation. Deuteronomy provides another example. To love God is to fear God – that is, to show appropriate reverence and awe toward the Creator of the universe. To love is also to obey, to honour only the Lord and no other gods. While the reading from the Gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as the wisest of scribes, the Book of Hebrews reveals his identity as a high priest. Jesus is like the high priests because he offered a sacrifice that atoned for the sins of the people. But the Risen Christ is unlike them because he will never die; his priesthood endures forever. He is also unlike them because the other high priests had to continually offer sacrifices. Christ needed to offer only one sacrifice: himself. As both priest and sacrificial lamb,

Christ made one perfect sacrifice on the cross, “once for all.” Despite this, Jesus’ work as priest is not done. Although he no longer offers sacrifices to atone for sin, the author of Hebrews writes that “he lives forever to make intercession” for those who approach God through him. That is his priestly role now: when we come to Jesus, he intercedes with God on our behalf.

- ✚ What does it mean to love God with the heart and the mind?
- ✚ When the scribe asks Jesus which is the first of the commandments, why does Jesus name two?
- ✚ How would you like Jesus Christ to intercede with God for you?” AT HOME with the WORD 2021, Liturgy Training Publications, page 143.

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 Hallowmas. (“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](http://articles.petoskeynews.com/2009-11-27/supper_24015692)

**Month of November** – “The name for the eleventh month really means “the ninth month.” In the ancient Roman calendar November was the ninth month because the year began in March. In Church tradition, November is a month to remember the dead and to pray for them. The month begins with All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day. Either in the last days of November or the first days of December, Advent begins. In folklore, November had a strange name. It was called *Gossamer*, which means “goose summer.” That meant something like “Indian Summer,” which is a time of warm weather after the first frost. Saint Martin’s Day, the eleventh day of the eleventh month, was a time to feast on roast goose. Perhaps that’s where “goose summer” comes from.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 135

November 1st is the **Solemnity of All Saints**. “On this day, the Church honours all the saints, those who have finished the race and now rejoice in God’s presence. We honour the towering figures like Sts. Peter, Paul, Augustine, Francis and Thérèse of the Child Jesus, and we honour the humble saints as well, those whose names are known to few or to none: the grandparents and ancestors, the friends and teachers who lived their faith to the full and inspired faith in others. This is a day to celebrate them all. An observance in honour of all the saints has been celebrated on November 1st since at least the seventh century, and it originated even earlier, with a feast in honour of all martyrs in the year 359. “Why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this feast day mean anything to the saints?” asked St. Bernard of Clairvaux in a homily on All Saints’ Day. “Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed with a tremendous yearning. Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company.... We long to share in the citizenship of heaven to dwell with the spirits of the blessed.... In short, we long to be united in happiness with all the saints” (Office of Readings, Volume IV, p. 1526). *All holy men and women, saints of God, pray for us.*” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 137 **Pray for the wisdom to be a Saint!**

November 2nd is the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)**. “Why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them,” said St. John Chrysostom (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], 1032). On the day after All Saints comes All Souls, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, in which the Church prays for all who have died. As Catholics, we believe in Purgatory, that cleansing fire through which must pass “all who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC, 1030). Today, we pray for them, trusting that God will hear and answer our prayers that they know eternal light, happiness, and peace. As we

remember and pray for our loved ones who have died, the reality that we ourselves must one day die is also brought home to us as a gentle, insistent reminder. In Mexico, the *Día de los Muertos* or The Day of the Dead is a way of praying for our ancestors, remembering and celebrating them, and making friends with death. As St. Ambrose wrote, “Death is then no cause for mourning, for it is the cause of [humanity’s] salvation. Death is not something to be avoided, for the Son of God did not think it beneath his dignity, nor did he seek to escape it” (Office of Readings, Volume IV, p. 1539). *May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 138 Pray for someone who has lost a friend or relative this past year.

**Month of the Holy Souls** – “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins,” observes the writer of Maccabees in the Old Testament (2 Maccabees 12:45-46; quoted in *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 958). Intercession on behalf of those who have died is a cherished tenet of our Catholic faith, springing from our belief in the resurrection of the body and the communion of saints. “Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayer and intercession” (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6). Trusting in God’s mercy, we continue to pray for them, knowing that this spiritual bond with our brothers and sisters who have died can never be broken. In the month of November, when we celebrate All Souls, we pray in a special way for those who have died – those who are known to us, and those who are unknown.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 136

November 1-7<sup>th</sup> is **Treaties Recognition Week**. “The goal of this week is to promote public education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. In Ontario, we believe all students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are enriched by learning about the histories, cultures, contributions and perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada.” Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister. For more information about the treaties of our area look here. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>  
<https://www.amo.on.ca/advocacy/indigenous-relations/treaties-recognition-week-november-1-5>

November 4 is the memorial of **St. Charles Borromeo**, Bishop. “St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584), a doctor of civil and canon law, was a great champion of the Church redefining itself in light of the Protestant Reformation. As archbishop of Milan, he promulgated the reforms of the Council of Trent, giving special attention to liturgical and clerical renewal. Other significant contributions he made to the Church include the establishment of new seminaries for the education of the clergy, defining a code of moral conduct for clergy, and founding the Oblates of St. Ambrose, a society of diocesan priests to enforce the reforms of Trent. St. Charles adopted a simple life in which he responded to the needs of the poor and sick by providing monetary and spiritual support.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 138-139

## **Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together – Restore Together**

This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, ‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up...’ Acts 15:15-16

## **November Virtue of the Month – Wisdom, Nbwaadaawin, La sagesse, iyinîsiwin**

Wisdom is one of the four cardinal virtues that means the other moral virtues hinge on wisdom. “[Wisdom] is the ability to figure out what is right in a practical situation and to act on it.” Growing in Christian Morality page 44. Some people refer to this virtue by the name prudence.

**Our Mission Statement – Dedicated to excellence in education and the desire to live the values of Jesus.** It is a tall order but oh so worth the effort and energy, especially when the students recognize that we are not motivated by how much we are paid, or by the holidays we share with them. Our motivation is a desire to see them become the people God is inviting them to be.

## **Strategic Directions – Success and Well-Being of our Students**

We will foster a culture of high standards and excellence. No settling for second best. It is important that we offer our students our very best and expect the same from them. It is the reason parents send their children to us.

## **Twenty-first Century Learning**

[http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2017/08/11-tips-for-catechists/?utm\\_source](http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2017/08/11-tips-for-catechists/?utm_source) > a great website for new religion teachers or those who

need a little inspiration

<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://cruxnow.com/> > John Allen Jr. gives the Catholic pulse from around the world.

**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

**Sts. Simon and Jude – first century, October 28.** Sts. Simon and Jude were apostles who left all they had to follow Jesus. Simon was also known as “the Zealot” to distinguish him from Simon Peter. Zealots were a Jewish group who believed that the promise of the Messiah meant a free and independent Jewish nation where they would never have to pay taxes to the Romans again. Some Zealots were concerned that the spiritual ideal of their religion be kept, but others acted like terrorists by raiding, killing, and rioting. Jude Thaddeus was supposed to be a fisherman. In Scripture he is called the brother of James, probably James the Less. Along with ten other men, Simon and

Jude followed Jesus, lived with him, fled when he underwent his passion, and rejoined him when he rose from the dead. At Pentecost they were filled with the spirit and a burning desire to spread the Good News to all. Jude supposedly travelled to Mesopotamia to preach, and Simon went to Egypt. Both Simon and Jude are said to have preached the Gospel in Persia, modern-day Iran, where they were both martyred. Jude has been pictured with a club, the instrument of his death, and with a flame over his head to show the Spirit's coming upon him at Pentecost. Simon is pictured with a fish, the symbol the early Christians used to identify themselves secretly as Christians. (The Greek initials for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour" spell *fish*.) Both saints have special shields. Jude's shield is red with a sailboat that has a cross on the mast. Simon has a red shield bearing two oars and a hatchet. Traditionally St. Jude the apostle is identified as the author of the Letter of Jude in the New Testament. He has also come to be known as the saint of hopeless cases. Both apostles are mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer 1. *St. Simon and St. Jude, pray for us!?"* Card 153

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

**Twisted Twenty-Six** by Janet Evanovich, 2019. As the title implies there are 25 previous novels in this series. It continues the story of a two female bond-recovery agents Stephanie Plum and her sidekick Lola. Stephanie Plum's grandma Mazur has decided to remarry and her husband, Jimmy Rosolli dies on the honeymoon shortly after the nuptials take place. Jimmy belongs to a crime family so they all think Grandma Mazur is after his fortune. I give this book 😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces

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

[Pieces of a Woman, 2020, Vanessa Kirby, Ellen Burnstyn, and Shia Laboeuf star in the drama. A mother gives birth at home to her first child, the child dies, and the parents lives fall apart. It was a very sad story. I give this movie ❤️❤️/5](#)

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

**“Occurrence** >The falling of two feasts on the same day of the liturgical calendar, in which case, the higher-ranked feast is observed. If a solemnity is impeded by a liturgical day that takes precedence over it, it is transferred to the closest day which is free. ” Our Sunday Visitor's CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 694