



Huron-Superior Catholic

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Catholic Culture Update #17 **Quote to carry through the week**

“Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” Psalm 98:3c

January 2nd is the Epiphany of the Lord “Practice of Hope – “Global positioning systems (GPS) have transformed the way that many people navigate. In today’s Gospel, the Magi use the original GPS – God’s star – to lead them to the Christ child. In our spiritual life, we can turn to the Word and Eucharist and a deepening prayer practice for the guidance that we need. Our close friends and family also can lead us through instability.

- ✚ Make a commitment to enhance your prayer life in this new year so that you feel led by God’s Spirit rather than the chaos of the times. Perhaps this is the year that you try another prayer discipline, such as lectio divina.
- ✚ Consider becoming involved in one of your parish’s liturgical ministries.
- ✚ Explore some small groups at your church that study Scripture or spiritual writers in order to meet others who also want to deepen their prayer life.” AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 37.

Scripture Insights > “Our study and worship thus far has led us to the Epiphany of the Lord. The Greek *epiphaneia* means “manifestation” or “appearance” and indicates that we now commemorate God’s gift of the Christ to all humankind in Jesus of Nazareth. The prophet Isaiah proclaims the light shining in the darkness of the world. Regardless of the dark challenges life in this world present, the radiance of God permeates all corners. The psalmist grounds this symbolic vision in the reality of the just and peaceful rule of God’s Anointed One in history. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians tells of God’s stewardship of creation. Gentiles, coheirs of God’s plan for the salvation of all humankind alongside their Jewish brethren, fully express the revelation of God through the grace of God’s manifold wisdom. The true people of God are made up of all kinds, perfected in the eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. God can use any and all possibilities creation offers to reveal himself to those he calls for diverse purposes. Matthew’s Gospel tells of the Christ child, born in Bethlehem in the time of King Herod, who had a death wish for all potential claimants to his status and throne. After the Gentile wise men are profoundly affected by their encounter with the Christ child and his family, they make their own way in the world, defying the powers that be. The magi exemplify how God might call us to live his plan in this world despite our best-

laid plans. Further, we all have leading roles in our stories, but we never know when we might be significant supporting actors in the lives of others.

- ✚ Reflect on the concept of “epiphany” and the multifaceted ways God can manifest in your life.
- ✚ Considering Paul’s summons in his letter, how diverse are the people and purposes in your life? How might you broaden your openness to the wisdom and revelation of God?
- ✚ In what ways might God be calling you to defy the status quo – your own or society’s? How could this benefit you and those around you?”

AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 27.

January – The first month of the year gets its name from the Roman god Janus, whose name means “gate.” Janus has two faces. One look behind, the other ahead. January is a month in which we look back in time and look ahead. January is also the month of Epiphany. That can be the merriest day of our merry Christmas Time. In most churches in North America, Epiphany is kept on the first Lord’s Day of the year. A Greek name for Epiphany is *ta phota*, which means “lights.” It was Advent during most of December, when the days got as short as they can get. But now the light is growing. That’s something hopeful to keep in mind. Even in the dead of winter, spring is on its way. These winter days of growing light take us to Lent. They are Carnival days. Carnival is the customary time of year for plays and puppet shows and circuses and all the human arts that can help drive the cold winter away. This is a time of hospitality. To people in need, wintertime hospitality can be a gift of life and light.” Companion to the Calendar: A guide to the saints, Seasons and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 27-28

“Month of the Holy Name – Throughout the month of January, we give special honour to the name of Jesus. St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: “At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11). We hold the name of Jesus in special reverence. The very name of Jesus is a prayer.” Companion to the Calendar: A guide to the saints, Seasons and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 28

January 2nd is the feast of **Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen**, “Bishops and Doctors of the Church. “Sts. Basil the Great (329-379) and Gregory Nazianzen (329-390) became close friends as boys in Cappadocia. They both were sent for advanced studies in Athens, where the future emperor Julian the Apostate, was among their classmates. As emperor, Julian would return to paganism and start a severe persecution of Christians. Basil was from a wealthy family of saints and martyrs in Cappadocia, which is in modern-day Turkey. His grandmother, father, and several siblings – his sister, Macrina, and brothers Peter of Sebaste and Gregory of Nyssa – are all venerated as saints. Gregory, too, came from an illustrious family. His family, also named Gregory, was bishop of Nazianzus in southwest Cappadocia. After returning from Athens, Basil dedicated himself to God and studied monasticism, traveling to its sites of origin in Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. He founded a monastic

community on the family estate and wrote two rules, *The Longer Rules* and *The Shorter Rules*. They are the basis of monasticism in the Eastern Church and are referred to in *The Rule of Saint Benedict*. Basil and Gregory were both consecrated as bishops, and together they fought against the Arian heresy, which denied the full divinity of Christ. Their writings also aided the Church's understanding of the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. With Basil's brothers, Gregory of Nyssa and Peter of Sebaste, they are among the Cappadocian Fathers. Gregory is known as "the Theologian" by the Eastern Churches. Basil is known as the "father of Eastern Monasticism." He influenced the liturgy of both Eastern and Western Churches: Eucharistic Prayer IV in *The Roman Missal* is based on the Anaphora of St. Basil, which dates back to the fourth century and is still used on some occasions in the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches." Companion to the Calendar: A guide to the saints, Seasons and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 31

January 3rd is the memorial of the **Most Holy Name of Jesus**. "Names are important. They tell us something of who we are, and where we come from, and they speak of our parents' hopes and dreams for us. The name of *Jesus* is especially important. It means "God saves." Jesus' name is not chosen for him by his family but given him by God before he is born." She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). In Jesus' name is not only his identity, but his mission. Jesus' name is powerful: "I will do whatever you ask in my name" he tells his disciples (John 14:3). In the letter to the Philippians, St. Paul sings a hymn to the power of Jesus' name: "Therefore God also highly exalted him / and gave him the name / that is above every name, /so that at the name of Jesus / every knee should bend, / in heaven and on earth and under the earth, / and every tongue should confess / that Jesus Christ is Lord, ? to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). In Jewish tradition, a boy was named and circumcised eight days after birth. That is why the Church celebrates this memorial so close to January 1, the octave day of Jesus' birth." Companion to the Calendar: A guide to the saints, Seasons and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 31

January 7 is the memorial of **St. André Bessette**, Religious. "The most unlikely people can become saints. André Bessette was sickly all his life. He failed at every job he tried. He could barely read or write. Yet he became famous and well beloved for his holiness. André, the eighth of twelve children, was born in Montreal and baptized Alfred. His parents, who were French-Canadians, died early. André was adopted when he was twelve years old and became a farmhand. Later he tried being a shoemaker, baker, and blacksmith, but was unsuccessful. André then joined the Congregation of Holy Cross. At the end of a year, however, he was told to leave because of his bad health. Luckily, a wise bishop convinced the community to allow André to remain. Brother André became the beloved doorkeeper at the College of Notre Dame for forty years. In his room, near the door, André kept a statue of St. Joseph on the windowsill. André spent many hours praying during the night. Soon it was discovered that André had healing powers. He would visit the sick, pray with them, rub them with oil, and they would be cured. Before long, throngs of people were coming to him for healing and spiritual direction. André would say, "It is St. Joseph who cures. I am just his little dog." André ministered to people eight to ten hours a day. In the meantime four secretaries were kept busy handling the 80,000 letters André received each year. The Holy Cross community had tried in vain for many

years to buy a piece of land nearby. Then André buried a medal of St. Joseph on the property, and suddenly the owners agreed to sell the land. André raised money to build first a small chapel and then a church on the property. He even cut students' hair for five cents. At the church he received visitors. Cured people left behind their crutches and canes. It took fifty years to build St. Joseph's Oratory, which is probably the world's main shrine to St. Joseph. André, the weak failure, let God use him to accomplish great things. He is known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal." *Blessed André, pray that we may let God work through us!*" Saints Kit – All the Saints of the Roman Calendar and More by Sister Mary Kathleen Galvich, S.N.D. Card 4 Every time you walk through a door today, pray to allow God to work through you.

CEW 2022 Tuesday's theme of Rebuild Together

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Audre Lorde

January Virtue of the Month – Wholeness, L'intégrité, Gwayakwaadiziwin(Ojibwe) – Ka kwayaskwesihcikewnihk (Cree)

Wholeness is so necessary for a happy life but sometimes difficult to achieve. To be whole is not to be perfect, rather it means balancing all the parts of the self to create a person with fullness of life. Wholeness helps us to focus on building the beauty and strength of the individual. We are physical, thinking, feeling, social and spiritual beings. We need to be sure each part of us is nurtured and allowed to grow strong. Growing in Christian Morality, pages 44, 156

Our Mission Statement – We are guided by the Spirit on our journey.

Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you select a New Year's resolution?

Strategic Directions – Equitable Stewardship of our Resources

Allocate resources equitably, not necessarily equally. For me, this is a "no-brainer." To meet the needs, equity provides assurances that the greatest needs are met with greater resources.

Twenty-first Century Learning

<http://www.eoccc.org/resources.html> > The Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Corporation has many resources free for use based upon the Ministry expectations.

<https://novalisseedsoffaith.com/> > Novalis provides reflections and prayers on memorial days. Check out January 1st.

<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.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0742051X20314347?via%3Dihub> > Highlights of article entitled **Novice and expert teachers' situation-specific skills regarding classroom management: What do they perceive, interpret and suggest?**

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. John Neumann – Bishop – January 5th,” As a boy, John Neumann lived in Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. He studied hard, for he wanted to be a missionary priest in America. By the time he was twenty-four, he had learned six languages and had completed his studies for the priesthood. He was not ordained, however, because his bishop thought there were enough priests in his country. So John Neumann decided to leave for America, hoping to be ordained there. He said goodbye to his parents and brother and sailed for the United States. When he arrived, he had one suit of clothes and one dollar in his pocket. Three weeks later, the bishop of New York ordained him. Father John's first work was with the German-speaking people in mission parishes near Buffalo, New York. He was not considered very handsome, and some people disliked him and his ways. Priests at that time travelled on horseback and went long distances to care for people in neighboring towns and villages. People laughed at the clumsy way Father John rode. Because he was short, his feet did not reach the stirrups. Children made fun of him. John remained silent, however, and continued going about teaching religion, visiting the sick, and training teachers. Father John felt the need for community life, so he entered the Redemptorist Order. He was the first Redemptorist to make vows in the United States. He became the superior of the American branch of the order. When Father John was forty-one years old, he became the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. Still, some people did not welcome him. They did not care for his accent and his plain style. Besides these people, John had to deal with an anti-Catholic group that was burning convents and schools. Because John felt he wasn't capable of doing his job, he asked for a smaller diocese, but he was told to stay. John started Catholic schools in his diocese, for he believed it was very important for children to be educated and taught the ways of Jesus. In eight years Philadelphia's two Catholic schools grew to one hundred schools. John brought many teaching orders to his diocese. He published two catechisms and many articles. Bishop John Neumann died of a heart attack while he was walking down the street. Throughout his life, John Neumann went about his work quietly and humbly. No special honours were given to him. He was even unpopular. Only after his death did people begin to talk about their humble, good bishop who worked so hard for God. *St. John Neumann, pray for the people of the United States!* Card 3

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

Call Me Indian by Fred Sasakamoose, 2021. The first treaty Indigenous Canadian to play in the NHL. The title is a tribute to the gracious humour of Indigenous people to an ignorant comment of a fellow player. I highly recommend this book to give an inside

scoop to the racism that is present in professional athletics. I give this book 😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces.

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

Black Panther, 2018, this movie was a huge hit when it came out. I waited until now to watch it so I was not influenced by the hype. It starred Chadwick Bossman and Daniel Kalaaya. Wakanda is located in Africa and they have technology far superior to anywhere on earth because of a mineral. This Marvel adaptation of their comic book story was so well done. It was celebrated because it made a statement that indeed “Black Lives Matter”. I give this movie ❤️❤️❤️❤️/5

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

“Aggiornamento – This Italian word for “updating” was popularized by [St.] Pope John XXIII for the modernization, renewal and revitalization of the Roman Catholic Church by the Second Vatican Council. This word is used to indicate the attempt to present Roman Catholic teachings and practices so that people will better understand and accept them. It also means new approaches in ecumenical dialogue.” Our Sunday Visitor's CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 49