

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

While I was in the Philippines, part of the Jesuit program was to be sent out into the remote Mountain Province to assist with the Novena before Christmas. All of the churches we were to be sent to also served even more remote villages. A priest may visit these small chapels only a few times a year. As we were waiting to hear to which town we would be sent, we all knew that one of us would receive the most difficult assignment. One of us would be sent not to a town or village, but to the jungle. Each day, with the assistance of locals, that Jesuit would have to walk great distances to the next village. In the morning he would say Mass, visit with the community and then head to the next chapel. It would be very physically demanding. You would think that we would all be praying not to receive this assignment. Most of us, however, wanted it. It became a sort of competition, a selection as to who was the strongest. Though I wanted to be chosen, I think the size of my belly disqualified me from serious consideration. When Fr. Tim got the nod from our Superior, I remember feeling so jealous and even angry. In not choosing me, I felt judged, "passed over." It was hard for me to allow another to be in the spotlight, to see someone else as "Number 1." It can sometimes be challenging to see God's embrace embracing all.

This Sunday, we have a Gospel that not only seems "unfair," but is, in fact, unfair. By most of our standards, it is perfectly reasonable to expect that those who have worked more than others, should, in all justice, receive more. And yet, this is not how Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven. Rather, he tells his followers that at the end of the day, all receive the same. The Lord is trying to reveal to us the type of love the Father has for us. When I want to be "Number 1," when I feel jealous or envious, I do so for one reason only – I doubt that the Father's love is freely given. I feel I need to be "special," to be the "golden" child in order to be noticed by God, to be loved by Him. Yet, each of us is fully loved and embraced in our own particular way. "And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'" The love God has for another never means God's love is then somehow less for me. His embracing of another never means that there is no longer room for me. The beauty and goodness of another is never a challenge to our own. This week's Gospel is a parable on God's love. The love of God is a merciful love. It is merciful because it embraces all of us. It is also merciful because it embraces each of us in our whole being. The kingdom of heaven does not need to be achieved or earned; rather God's love need only be accepted and welcomed into our hearts. God's love for you is absolute, it knows no boundary. Our challenge

then, is to believe this, welcome this in our hearts and to lives through this truth. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable."

God bless and take care!

Fr. John

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As many of you know, Fr. Bill German has been dealing with some serious health concerns over the summer and has spent much time in hospital and at Providence Centre recovering and gaining strength. He is doing much better and we are grateful for all the prayers and good wishes people have sent his way. In consultation with him, it has been decided by the Jesuit Provincial that Fr. Bill be reassigned to the Jesuit infirmary in Pickering. He moved into the infirmary this past week. This is a big change, as Fr. Bill was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes in 1986. We are so grateful for his presence here, for how he made us laugh and how he shared his love for Christ and his love for each of us. As his strength increases, we hope that he won't be a stranger but will continue to be active here through regular visits. Fr. John will speak with Fr. German about having a great celebratory Mass and evening in gratitude for his wonderful years of service once he feels able. To Fr. Bill we say thank you and send our love and prayers!

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Alpha Catholic: Alpha Catholic is a gentle program of evangelization. For example, it never mentions conversion to the Christian faith. Instead, there are designed talks on the meaning of life and the basic sharing of the faith followed by conversations where any question and comment is welcome without judgment. And each evening begins with supper. Alpha Catholic is built upon three pillars: Food, Faith and Fellowship. The Program is for those who have been away from the Church for many years, or for those who have never belonged to any church or faith. Do you know someone who might benefit from Alpha? Consider inviting a friend, a family member, a co-worker, even a stranger to our introductory evening on Tuesday, September 23 at 6pm. For more information contact Rey and Gigi Yu through the Parish Office or to register someone, call 416-924-6257 or e-mail parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca.

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Fr. Bill Addley, S.J. Centre of Faith Formation – Fall Offerings: Our Parish's Faith Formation Centre has its offerings for the Fall Semester ready for show. This term take your pick from some great possibilities, including:

Jesus Christ with Fr. John Sullivan, S.J.

The Gospel of Mark with Sr. Gabriel Mary Riddle, cps
Prayer in the Family with Sr. Mary Babic, NDS

Pick up a brochure from the entrances of the church for details. There is no cost for the sessions but we ask you to register by calling the parish office at 416-924-6257 or e-mail us at parish@ourladyoflourdes.ca

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 22

8:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory [Josie Thorne]
 12:10 pm Deceased Relatives & Friends + [Teresita Mabugat]
 5:15pm Ronald Dickie + [Tony, Helen & Family]

Tuesday, September 23

8:00 am All Souls in Purgatory [Christine Lewicki]
 12:10 pm Maria Agda + [Agda Family]
 5:15 pm Felicitas Guiruela Yaguel + [Estrella Tolentino]

Wednesday, September 24

8:00 am Reine Jakimow's Intention [Christine Lewicki]
 12:10 pm George Nedanovski + [Lily Errazo]
 5:15 pm Amanda De Estrada + [Grace Ramirez]

Thursday September 25

8:00 am Bernard Healy + [John Healy]
 12:10 pm Edmund Casey + [Eileen Casey]
 5:15 pm Kathleen O'Connor & Charlotte Hall + [Dora O'Neil]

Friday, September 26

8:00 am John Healy's Intention [John]
 12:10 pm All Souls in Purgatory [Oliver Family]
 5:15 pm Giorgio & Assunta Porretta + [Patty, Mary & Rachel]

Saturday, September 27

8:00 am Servant of God, Frank Duff + [Legion of Mary]
 12:10 pm Gliceria Buhay + [June Williams]

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

Caesar Oligario

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Enjoy Singing? The 1 p.m. Choir is welcoming new members in both men and women's sections during the month of September. If you would like to learn how to sing more beautifully for God and also prepare to sing for Christmas Midnight Mass, please go up to the choir loft after the 1pm Mass. No past choir experience is necessary, only a loving commitment to sing for the Lord.

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Lourdes Food Bank Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Parish food collection in support of our local Food Bank will take place on Thanksgiving weekend, October 11 & 12. We will be collecting non-perishable food items (cans, boxes, packages) at the doors of the church at each of our weekend Masses. The Health department does not allow us to give any outdated products or partially used or opened packages. Thank you for your generosity and support of our Food Bank.

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Sacramental Catch-up Classes: 1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion: Ages 7 to 13 take place Saturdays 10 am to 11:30 am in the Library The program begins in October. To register your child, please call the Office at 416-924-6257.

Novena to the Canadian Martyrs: Join us for the Novena to the Canadian Martyrs from **Wednesday September 17 until Thursday, September 25 at 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday and 4:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays in the Church.** Our prayer will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

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Pauline Book & Media Fair: This Weekend! Saturday & Sunday September 20-21 in Bernadette Hall, before and after all of our Masses. *Catholic books, Bibles, Music CD's, DVD's, and More...* This is an excellent opportunity to get something inspirational to listen to, watch, or read for your spiritual life. Be sure to stop by and see what's on display.

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On Saturday, September 27 starting at 5:30 pm, **All Inclusive Ministries (AIM)** presents its Annual General Meeting in Lynch Hall. This is an opportunity for the AIM community to review the past year, elect a new executive and discuss the future of AIM. The regular Mass will begin after the meeting at 7 pm in the main body of the church. For more information, visit AIM's website www.allinclusiveministries.org or you can contact AIM Coordinator Todd Langis at aimtoronto@gmail.com or 647-522-2367.

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Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you considering become Roman Catholic? The Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults or RCIA is for you. The RCIA is designed for those who are thinking about or would like to be Baptized and for those who have been baptized but not Confirmed. It offers a communal program of preparation for those considering the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist) and Reception into the Roman Catholic Community. The program runs from September to Easter. If you would like to know more, call us at the Parish Office, 416-924-6257.

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BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH

"Jesus does not stand by and leave you alone to face the challenge. He is always with you to transform your weakness into strength. Trust him when he says: 'My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'"

~ Saint John Paul II

Lourdes @ a glance: the week of September 14-20						
Sun 21	Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27
25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:00 pm [Church]	Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:30 pm [Church]	Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:30 pm [Church] Alpha Introductory Evening 6pm	Prayer & Life Workshop Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:30 pm [Church]	Novena to the Canadian Martyrs 4:30 pm [Church] Faith Formation: Gospel of Mark 7pm [Library]	Feast of St. John de Brebeuf & St. Isaac Jogues Youth Gym Night	Pilgrimage to the Martyrs Shrine