

**GOD CALLS YOU BY NAME: BECOME WHO YOU ARE! (Part 1)**

*"Who am I? Where do I come from? Where is my life going? What do I value? What should I be doing with my life?"* Such questions surface at various times in our lives. Typically, we suppress, deny, or postpone giving them an answer. Where can we begin? It is tempting, when such questions arise, to lose ourselves in more general discussions of the "meaning of life", when life confronts us with a question far more intimate – and unsettling: *"Who am I? What is the meaning and purpose of MY life?"*

A good place to begin is your own experience. For instance, you might ask yourself: *"When I was a child, what absorbed my attention so much that the time literally just flew by? What makes me feel alive? What fills me with joy and gratitude? What stories, movies, songs, and works of art speak to my heart? When I was young, who did I want to grow up to be like? What do my friends tell me they like best about me? Finally, what is it that I always find myself doing – no matter what I do?"* These are not easy questions to answer. But as we attend to our experience, patterns emerge: through introspection and self-reflection, yes, but also in the context of *community*, through the perceptions of others who know and care about us, and through the many needs of the world around us, crying out to be answered. In *The Sacred Journey*, Frederick Buechner connects care of self and generous service to others in defining *vocation* as *"the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hungers meet."*

In Christian circles, we use this word *"vocation"* to describe that inner voice: that dynamic of call and response through which we hear God calling us by name, and guided by God's light, discern the response we will make to that invitation. Unfortunately, the church has often restricted it to the "state of life", leading to the mistaken notion that only clergy and vowed religious "had a vocation." (More recently, we have expanded this to include the call to marriage and to single life.) In the secular world, "vocation" has typically been reduced to the identification of a set of talents or skills, equipping us to do some particular work. The danger of both these perspectives is that they give priority to "doing" over "being". More subtly, they can reflect an image of God as distant, making demands on me, imposing on me a mission that may have little to do with my true nature, my needs and desires.

Quaker author Parker J. Palmer, in his book *"Let Your Life Speak,"* reminds us that *"in the end, vocation is not a goal to be achieved, but a gift to be received: accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation comes not from a voice 'out there' telling me to become something I am not, but from a voice 'in here' inviting me to be the person I was born to be, to live out the name given to me at birth by God."* **To explore this question further, come and join Catherine Cherry and Fr. Raymond this Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., for our Faith-CAFÉ: "God Calls You By Name: Become Who You Are!"**

### **CANCELLATION OF ST. MONICA'S 2015 PARISH LENTEN MISSION**

**Due to health reasons, Fr. Mike Shaw is unable to preach the St. Monica's 2015 Lenten Mission March 16 to 18 on Reconciliation as previously scheduled.**

We encourage you to attend the **Diocesan-wide Lenten Mission** "The Catholic Faith and You!" with Bishop Thomas Dowd, which will be held **March 17, 18 and 19 at 7 pm** at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish (11775 Filion, Montreal). For more info, contact Corey Jolly 514-931-7311 x 251 or [cjolly@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:cjolly@diocesemontreal.org).

The **Lenten Retreat** "How Can I Share My Faith with Others?" with Michael Dopp will be offered twice; on **March 26 from 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Catholic Centre**, 1857 de Maisonneuve W., and on **March 27 from 1:00 to 3:30 pm at St. John Brebeuf Parish**, 7777 George St., Lasalle. Please register for either session with Cynthia Paginado at [cpaginado@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:cpaginado@diocesemontreal.org) or 514-931-7311x 229 before March 20.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – Sowing Seeds Of Love Through 15,200 Projects And Partnerships**

*We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor.*

*May we never abandon them. – Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel,*

For nearly 50 years, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has been committed to nurturing the bond between the faith of Canadian Catholics and the poorest of our brothers and sisters in the human family. Since our founding in 1967, Canadian Catholics have supported 15,200 local initiatives around the world through your generous Donations. These initiatives, in areas such as agriculture, education, community action, peace building and citizen participation, continue to help the poor today.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEB. 21 TO MARCH 1, 2015

### Saturday, February 21: St. Peter Damian

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Pietro Di Meglio, Mike Kilbertus, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Alessandro Palladini, Pasquale D'Addio, Danny Dupont.

### Sunday, February 22: First Sunday of Lent

8:30 Special Intention for a Parishioner By Family  
Velma Valleau By Millie & Dominic Silvestri  
11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family  
Elmer Cere By Alfredo & Maria Diodati

### Monday, February 23: St. Polycarp

8:00 Tom Francoeur By Patricia Brabant

### Tuesday, February 24: Weekday Mass

8:00 Derek Menezes By his Wife & Family  
Emilia & Francesco Ciampini By Ernesta Ciampini

### Wednesday, February 25: Weekday Mass

8:00 Carlo & Santa Fiori By Settimia Onesi  
Lennox Ferdinand By Richard & Patricia Haber

### Thursday, February 26: Weekday Mass

8:00 Deceased members of the Keenan & Bibby Family By Lillian Bibby

### Friday, February 27: Weekday Mass

8:00 James Webb By Marion Doyle

### Saturday, February 28: Our Lady's Mass

4:00 Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family  
Giovanni & Donata Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

### Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Nunzia Petosa, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,  
Emma & Colombo Salvati  
11:00 Rosolino Sparapani By Maria Sparapani  
Elmer Cere By the Nolin Family

### Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of February 14-15, 2015 totalled \$2,379.65.

## COOL (Children of Our Lord) YOUTH RETREAT

Friday, March 13 at 6:30 pm until Saturday, March 14 at 5:30 pm

To Register Contact: [stmonicasyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasyouth@gmail.com) or call Claire at 514-482-7493

Suggested Donation \$20 (includes dinner Friday, Breakfast & Lunch on Saturday). In partnership with NET Ministries of Canada <http://www.netcanada.ca/>

If anyone is interested in helping out with food donations for the retreat, there will be sign-up sheets after the masses for the next couple of weekends. Contact Claire for more information.

## 2015 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets



The 2015 Lenten Prayer and Reflection Booklets, which are a wonderful resource for your Lenten journey, are still available for you to purchase at the main entrance of the church. The adult, family and children's editions are priced at \$2.00 each. Please put your

payment in the Missalette and Newspaper Payment Box.



## ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

### God Calls You By Name: Become Who You Are!

When do you feel most alive, most yourself? Come join **Catherine Cherry and Fr. Ray Lafontaine**, on **Wednesday, February 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall, and discover the "Name" God gave you, your "personal vocation" - that which you are and do no matter what you are doing. Our "Name", our "personal vocation", becomes the signpost, the lighthouse that guides all our decisions and actions. When we live it, we are on track, and even in stormy waters, we are safe. We can live God's call to abundant life!

Free babysitting available upon request at registration.

Please register by **February 23.**

**Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information.**

**If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.**