

Living Stones

“Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”

In today's first reading we see that the Hellenist Christians of the early Jerusalem community were being neglected. In response to this, we see the apostles laying hands upon seven men chosen from the community to whom is given the task of serving the physical needs of the people of God. They are particularly tasked with ensuring that those who were previously neglected are included in the daily distribution of food. These men were the first “deacons”. The word deacon is derived from the Greek word for “servant”. These men were ordained to serve.

The same is true of the modern deacon. It is said that we are ordained in the person of Christ the servant. We are called to serve the community of the faithful. The Church re-established the Permanent Diaconate in the early 1970's, following the teachings of Vatican II. For many centuries before that, the order of deacon founded by the apostles had become one of the steps for seminarians preparing for the priesthood; what is called the “Transitional Diaconate”.

In today's world the need for servants is acute. All around us the cultural influences are contrary to the idea that we are to be in service to our sisters and brothers. The most benign forms of these cultural influences tell us that we must acquire things and experience luxuries in order to live a full and happy life. The most perverse and evil forms of this mindset tries to tell us that we come first above all--at all times. Both are truly devastating concepts. The one can cause us to miss seeing the needs of our sisters and brothers, just as the Hellenists were being overlooked. The other can bring us to purposefully exploit others, even the poorest of the poor, for our own gain and power.

Our faith calls us to not only resist today's culture, but to be the antidote to its excesses. Jesus calls us to be servants, to serve just as he, the Son of Man, came to serve. Diaconate, service, is more than a ministry. We are called by our baptism to follow the path of Christ the Servant, whether we are ordained persons or not. More than that, we are called to be deacons because diaconate is the path that Peter speaks of in the quote from this week's Epistle above. It is the path to priesthood.

We are called to be living stones that are built into the church, the body of Jesus here on Earth. We are called to be a Royal Priesthood by the anointing of our baptism. It is by living the example of Christ the Servant that we, the servants, grow to be the priests that Jesus calls us to be.

Deacon Bernie

Confirmation Celebration

We are happy to have Monsignor Frank Leo, C.S.S. here this weekend to celebrate the Confirmation of 28 of our young people. Congratulations to: Vanessa Altieri, Sadrac Anglehart-Reven, Julius Bau-Martin, Niall Cunningham, Katerina Daskalakis, Michele Ferrara, Sabrina Gentile, Samantha Gipa, Lucas Hewel-Spicer, Emmanuelle Hunter, Kayley Hussein, Cristiana Iannotti, Maggie Jung, Maxwell Kavcic-Babinski, Stefania Mazzocco, Annie McSharry, Madison Montgomery, Thierry Mouget, Marcopolo Oca, Tiarnán O hAllmhurain, Kristin Orlando, Ana Sofia Perez-Battista, Matthew Popieraites, Shaelynn Rooney, Jeremy Roussel, Joel Sierra-Alonso, Gayle Marie Sissaouri, and Emily-Rose Tomasiello.

May you always live fully the faith you are confirming today; and may each of you, including Vanessa Altieri who also celebrated her First Communion this weekend, always treasure the gift of Eucharist and celebrate it often.

Thank you to all the catechists and catechist helpers who have so lovingly and faithfully prepared our young people for this special privilege.

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 17 TO 25, 2014

Saturday, May 17: Weekday/Sunday Mass

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Leonard & Terry Winslade, Mike Kilbertus, Deceased members of the Charles J. McDonald Family, Ignazio Ciampini, Aniello D'Addio, Danny Dupont, Alessandro Palladini, Arsenio Dagdag.

Sunday, May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Florencio & Ignacio Dandin By Myrna Dagdag
11:00 John Caporicci By Giangaspero Family

Monday, May 19: Weekday Mass

8:00 Eva Ciampini By Claudia & George

Tuesday, May 20: St. Bernardine of Siena

8:00 Muriel Winkworth Jubran By Nicholas & George Lomonossoff

Wednesday, May 21: St. Eugene de Mazenod

8:00 Gabriele & Claudio Pedicelli By Ernesta Ciampini

Thursday, May 22: St. Rita of Cascia

8:00 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By the Piccolino Family

Friday, May 23: Weekday Mass

8:00 Edda Fiori By Berardina Fiori & Family

Saturday, May 24: World Day of Prayer for Church in China

4:00 Alba & Luigi Paliotti By the Paliotti Family
Helen Des Roches By her Faith Sharing Group

Sunday, May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Italo Falcone, Italo & Anna Mariani, Carole Rouse, Madeleine Derome.
11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family
James McCadden By the Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of May 10 & 11, 2014 totalled \$3,397.85

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION

Faith First registration forms for the 2014-15 season are now available at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory. All new, as well as returning students must fill out a form **before August 15** and return it to the rectory office to guarantee a spot. The cost of the program is \$75 for one child, \$100 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more. Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further information, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

ON SALE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES
LOONIES and SPARE CHANGE WILL ALSO BE
COLLECTED.

SPRING CLEANING DAY

Saturday, May 24
At St. Monica's Parish



9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(Coffee & Muffins to start)

Sign-up sheets are at the back
of the church to register.



35TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

New Hope Senior Citizens' Center is celebrating their **35th Anniversary**. A gourmet lunch, prepared by renowned Montreal Chef, Oliver DeVolpi, will be served at 1:00 p.m., preceded by cocktails at noon.

Guest speaker: Mr. Marc Garneau, M.P. for Westmount Ville-Marie. Tickets are: \$75.00 adults and \$60.00 for students. A partial tax receipt will be issued for \$50.00 adults, and \$35.00 for students. There will be a **Live Auction** and **Exhibit of local artists' work**.

Contact: Mr. Gerry Lafferty, 514-484-0425

Date: June 14th, 2014

Place is: New Hope Center,
6225 Godfrey Avenue, in N.D.G.