

OPENING THE DOOR OF FAITH: INTENTIONAL LOVING

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that through the efforts of Paul and Barnabas, God "opens the door of faith" to the Gentiles. In our very secular world, with so many people expressing indifference or even outright hostility to faith, how might we go about doing that? The key to the answer is found in today's Gospel: "I give you a **new** commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you." Jesus invites us to **love** one another: it is by the depth of that love, by its authenticity and perseverance that people will know what we **really** believe.

Most of us try, each in our own way, to do just that. Since "charity begins at home", we start there: we do our best to love our parents, siblings, spouses, children, friends, neighbours, fellow parishioners. But we are also called to take it beyond that inner circle and include "random acts of kindness": simple courtesies, such as a note acknowledging a kindness received, a meal for a family coping with the illness or death of a loved one, offering up our seat on the bus, holding the elevator for someone rushing to catch it. When we extend ourselves in such ways, we learn that the road to happiness is not just about satisfying our own desires, but is found in acts of **intentional** loving, freely chosen. When we act in such ways, we communicate to others that they have worth, that they are remembered and appreciated – that they are loved. We bear convincing witness to the One who is Love.

Over the last few weeks, with the events surrounding my mother Ursula's illness, death, and her glorious funeral Mass, my family and I have been extremely grateful for the words of sympathy and the deeds of kindness with which we have been graced. We thank all of you who shared memories and kind words, who attended the wake and the funeral Mass, who offered Masses and contributed to her memorial fund, who brought flowers and food, and who helped us in a thousand different ways.

This week, try to be conscious of the small acts of kindness directed toward you: by your inner circle of friends and family, by acquaintances and work colleagues, even by strangers. Take some time to be consciously grateful for these signs of love. Then ask yourself: how can I be a channel of God's love for others this day? How will I communicate to others today the reality that they are precious in God's sight, that they are loved and appreciated? Let these tender mercies signal to them – and to you – that we all have worth, that we are loved. In this way, God will be glorified. This is how God creates, little by little, "a new heaven and a new earth."

ST. MONICA'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

(St. Francis Xavier Mission-Kahnawake)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 * R.S.V.P. BY THIS MONDAY, APRIL 25

(Sign-up sheet at main church entrance or

Sr. Lorraine Lebert at 514-481-0267 or email at llebert@videotron.ca)

The cost per person is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

Please contact Sr. Lorraine if the cost is an issue for you.

A minimum of 40 people must be registered for the pilgrimage to take place.

Program for the Day:

8:45 a.m. Meeting and blessing of the pilgrims at St. Monica's Parish

9:00 a.m. **Departure by bus for the Shrine**

10:00 a.m. Guided tour

11:00 a.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Raymond Lafontaine

12:00 p.m. Lunch and fellowship (Bring your own lunch) Dessert, water, juice, and soft drinks will be provided.

2:00 p.m. Departure for St. Monica's Parish

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 23 TO MAY 1, 2016

Saturday, April 23: St. George, St. Adalbert

4:00 Giovanni & Palma Farinelli By the Family
Tito Forlini By Maria De Ciccio
Alessandro Palladini By his Wife & Family

Sunday, April 24: Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Alba & Luigi Paliotti,
Emma & Colombo Salvati.

11:00 Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei
Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family
Antonio Ricci By Wife & Family

Monday, April 25: St. Mark

8:00 Agnese, Martino, & By the Family
Antonio Gagliardi

Tuesday, April 26: Our Lady of Good Counsel

8:00 Clementine & John Larson By Erik Larson

Wednesday, April 27: Weekday Mass

8:00 Deceased members of the Deane By Cecilia Clarke
Family
Giovanni, Pietro, Americo & Argeo By Michele &
Forlini Vincenzina Ferrara

Thursday, April 28: St. Peter Chanel

8:00 Angelo Sabatucci By Ignazio Mattei

Friday, April 29 St. Catherine of Siena

8:00 Eva Ciampini By Claudia & George
Santa Mattei By Giuseppina Fiori & Family

Saturday, April 30: St. Marie of the Incarnation

4:00 Filomena Di Ciero By Luisa & Angelo Falcone
Deceased members of By Mary McDonald
Charles J. McDonald Family
Elvira Arciaga Flores By Janine Flores

Sunday, May 1: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Ercole Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Mark Mazzella By the Family
Giuseppina Scifo By Graziella Buscemi

11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Beatrice Gagnon, Charles Corner.

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of April 16/17 totalled \$3,129.70.

YES WE CAN!



The Confirmation Children's drive for empty soda cans and plastic bottles **continues until May 15th**. Special collection bags for these items are at the entrances of the church. This project is to help out our Food Pantry.

LIVING ROSARY

To celebrate the month of Mary, please join with us, the Faith First children, in reciting the rosary in a very special way. On **Saturday, April 30 at 3:30 pm or Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am** we will become the living rosary!



Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming events

Bible Study

Please join us for the last session of our bible study, **The Holy Spirit and the Life Worth Living: *The Acts of the Apostles Bible Study***, with **Robert Assaly**, this coming **Wednesday, April 27th**, from **7 to 9 p.m.**, in the parish hall. All are welcome.

St. Monica's Spring Retreat

What are the characteristics of good leadership? How can Christian faith make leaders better at meeting their responsibilities? Join us for our Spring Retreat, **Christian Leadership: *Empowerment, Service and Mission***, with **Richard Boileau**, on **Saturday, May 7**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, for an exceptional opportunity to explore how to recognize and develop gifts in ourselves and others, build community, and be good stewards of God's gifts to us. Please register by **May 4**.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Note: Samia Boghdady, of Theologia Book Ministry, will be at St. Monica's during the retreat with a wonderful selection of books and other media for you to purchase.

Please refer to our website and posters at Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.