

**RICH IN MERCY: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS
"R" IS FOR REPENTANCE AND RECONCILIATION**

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy – and in a special way, during this season of Lent – we are invited to ponder the deeper meaning of such words as **“mercy”, “forgiveness”, “repentance” and “reconciliation”**. For example, Pope Francis and Donald Trump have at least one thing in common: they are both sinners. But the similarities end there. Pope Francis knows that he is a sinner, one whom God has looked on with mercy: he asks for our prayers. Mr. Trump, on the other hand, tells us that he is not a bad person, and therefore “doesn’t have to ask for forgiveness.” As Pope Francis rightly pointed out, he seems much more intent on building walls of division than bridges to understanding. Who do *you* think is a more credible embodiment of Christian faith and mercy?

There are many in this world who accuse Christians of weakness, suggesting that Jesus’ commandment of non-violence – love of enemy, forgiveness of those who sin against us – implies that Christians are nothing more than passive doormats, without boundaries. In their insightful book, *Don’t Forgive Too Soon: Extending the Two Hands That Heal*, Dennis, Sheila, and Matthew Linn shed light on this question:

*“In Matthew 5:38-42, Jesus teaches us to extend the **two hands of non-violence and forgiveness**. The one hand takes from the oppressor what is not his due. This hand says to the oppressor, ‘No, you can’t do that anymore. You cannot humiliate me, or take away my power, or turn me into a poor helpless victim.’ The second hand of forgiveness slowly calms the oppressor. It invites them to take a moment of reflection. It invites our oppressor to the awareness that hurting others is ultimately futile and degrades oneself as well as one’s victims. With the second hand, we cannot always offer friendship, since there are situations in which it would not be safe for us (or for others) to do so. But we can always offer our choice not to seek revenge, our wish for that person’s higher good.*

The two hands of forgiveness are a way to love those who hurt us and themselves as well. Used rightly, they free us from passivity in the face of abuse, and they offer oppressors the possibility of freedom from their abusive behaviour. Because love is the essence of Jesus’ message, the love that forgives through non-violent engagement is at the heart of the Gospel.”

Want to hear more? Then make sure you come out next week for our parish mission, **‘RICH IN MERCY: THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS’** led by Fr. Mike Shaw from Monday through Wednesday evening, March 7-8-9. Fr. Mike will also preach at all the Masses next weekend. Please come and invite a friend – or an enemy!

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA SHRINE

SAVE THE DATE of JUNE 4th for St. Monica’s pilgrimage to St. Kateri Tekakwitha’s Shrine in Kahnawake. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

The Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is located in the main church of the St. Francis Xavier Mission. In 1972, a sacred chest containing her relics were placed in a marble tomb. The tomb, located in the right hand transept of the Saint Francis Xavier Mission is inscribed with these words, “KAIATANORON KATERI TEKAKWITHA”, Precious Kateri Tekakwitha.

Kateri, a Mohawk woman from Kahnawake, is the first native woman to be canonized a Saint on October 12, 2012 in Rome Italy by Pope Benedict XVI. This event was the culmination of years of homage to Kateri Tekakwitha and dedication to honor and recognize her as a special and precious woman. She has always been respected by the Mohawk community who view her in many ways, a woman, a saint, our ancestor.

The Mohawk people, First Nations and all Nations alike have prayed to Kateri for years asking for her intercession or to obtain special favors. Many people share their personal miracles with Kateri, how their family members were cured, how a special favour was granted. Their faith in her and their thankfulness for her intercession needs no words, their faces say it all.

ST. MONICA’S PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

PART OF THE “LENTEN PARISH MISSION” MARCH 7, 8 & 9, 2016 * JOIN US!

MASS INTENTIONS FEB. 27 TO MARCH 6, 2016

Saturday, February 27: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family
Antonio Bei By his wife Gabriella Bei
Antonio & Domenica Poliziani By Marie De Ciccio

Sunday, February 28: Third Sunday of Lent

8:30 Cesare & Violante Camaiani By Piccolino Family
Antonietta & Biagio Libertini By Luisa & Angelo Falcon
Giulio Salvati By Rosa & Luigi Salvati
11:00 In Loving Memory: Rinaldo Caucci, Aline Allard Liautaud,
Alice Catherine Fitzpatrick-Lloyd.

Monday, February 29: Weekday Mass

8:00 Msgr. T. Mooney & By the Hyland Family
Alfred Malowany

Tuesday, March 1: Weekday Mass

8:00 Cruciano Nardinocchi By Edda Nardinocchi

Wednesday, March 2: Weekday Mass

8:00 Rinaldo Caucci By Alessandrina Caucci

Thursday, March 3: Weekday Mass

8:00 Ignazio Ciampini By wife Ernesta & Family
Norina & Giovanni Ones By Zilli Family

Friday, March 4: St. Casimir-Jubilee of Mercy "24 Hours for the Lord"

8:00 Leonardo Ciampini By his Son & Daughter

Sat., March 5: Jubilee of Mercy "24 Hours for the Lord" Continued

4:00 In Loving Memory: Italo & Anna Mariani, Italo Falcone,
Alessandro Palladini, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Deceased
members of Charles J. McDonald Family.

Sunday, March 6: Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 Pietro Di Meglio By Wife & Family
Deceased members of the By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli
Petosa Family
11:00 Michael Collins By Sr. Marthe Carmel
Ella Lewis By Judy Young

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of February 20/21, 2016 totalled \$3,199.75

LIVING WITH LIMITS --- LIVING WELL

For the past seven weeks, 25 parishioners came together to further their understanding and discuss the impact of today's way of living on the environment. These weeks were a positive experience that brought about the opportunity to meet new people with a common vision and feel a sense of community. The realization that our commitment to the environment is rooted in our faith and relevant in today's church was reassuring. The group was appreciative of the different viewpoints offered and the new awareness and sensitivity they gained.

The group's wish is to continue with other projects such as holding a panel discussion with our Provincial and Federal MPs and our City councillor, putting information on our web site, and studying Laudato Si. On the weekend of March 12-13, there will be an insert in the bulletin with a list of what we can do to create a climate of change.

SUNDAY DONATION BOXES

Using our Sunday Donation Boxes is a good way for parishioners to have their donations recorded and a tax receipt issued to them at the end of each year. To receive a box, just call the parish at 514-481-0267.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Monica's Lenten Parish Mission

Rich in Mercy: The Gift of Forgiveness - "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy!" **NOT** "Lord forgive us, Christ forgive us, Lord forgive us!"

It is rare that we know that we are forgiven before we ask! That is God's approach to our failures. How are we able to include this wonderful gift in our daily lives? Come, and together let us find the answer to this question with **Fr. Mike Shaw**, who will lead us over three evenings, from **Monday, March 7 to Wednesday, March 9, from 7 to 9 p.m.!** *Fr. Mike will introduce the Mission at all the Weekend Masses of March 5 and 6.* All are welcome!

Note: Samia Boghdady, of Theologia Book Ministry, will be at St. Monica's from March 5th to March 7th with a wonderful selection of books and other media for you to purchase.

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

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

D & P is challenged to respond to questions in Pope Francis' encyclica Laudato Si. Questions such as: "What is the purpose of our life in this world?", and "What kind of world do we want to leave for those who come after us?" This week the pamphlet inserted in the bulletin will give insight into their response in Indonesia, Paraguay, Haiti and The Holy Land.

