

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

THOUGHTS FOR SOWING

PRUNING

... and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. John 15:2

God's pruning in our lives can be very painful and feel much more like it's leading to death than to more fruit. Often it's only years – even decades – after a painful event that we can look back and see the craft and subtlety of God's pruning skills. Even seeing what God has done for us in the past, when a new painful pruning is upon us, God may seem very distant.

The pruning I've experienced most often is having to let go of attitudes, ideas and even people to which I cling. Losing these can disorient me. Suddenly, I'm floundering, struggling to keep my head above water. I sink, struggle upward and sink again, crying to God for help. God is very close in these times, but often it may not feel like it. I must loosen my grip on what God is pruning and let its weight fall away in order to reach the surface again. In spite of how it feels, often the only handhold I can find in these times is prayer: "Thy will be done."

Patricia Livingston
From: **LIVING FAITH**

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. May 16 **FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

- **Congratulations to Fr. Michael Lehman, CSB** on your **34th Anniversary** of your ordination to the Priesthood

Sun. May 23 **FEAST OF PENTECOST**

Mon. May 24 **VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY**

- Parish Office Closed for holiday

Thur. May 27 7:00pm Finance Council meets via Zoom

Sun. May 30 **FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

- **Bundle Up Sunday** for SVDP at St. Margaret's

Sun. June 6 **FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)**

Tues. June 8 **Congratulations to our Deacon Robert Kinghorn**, on the **36th Anniversary** of his ordination to the Diaconate for the Archdiocese.

Sun. June 13 **11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON PANDEMIC RESTRICTION

Due to the **Enhanced "Stay At Home Order" restrictions**, announced by the Ontario Government, we offer the following information:

- As of **Monday, April 19th**, there will be **NO PUBLIC MASSES** celebrated, at St. Margaret's or St. Eugene's, and **both** churches, **will not** be open to the public, until further notice.
- Please know that the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions should be strongly encouraged to remain home. Livestreaming of services should continue where this practice is underway and the dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist remains. A full list of livestream services can be accessed at: www.archtoronto.org

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in May 2021 & supports the bulletin service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-64-4422

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH

Our Parish is where we are married and bring our children to be baptized. It is where we come to be fed in the Holy Eucharist, be reconciled with God and the world, and hope to leave this world on our final journey to meet the God that we love.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 9, 2021

Offertory	\$2,037	PAG	\$925
Budget	\$8,300		(\$5,338)

SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN 2021

One of the key message Jesus left us is to "*love one another as I have loved you.*" Our generosity toward ShareLife agencies is one of the ways we can help transform the lives of the marginalized in our society.

Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign. Thus far we have **raised \$17,049** toward our **goal of \$150,000**. Thank you to those who have contributed to our annual appeal. If you have not yet done so, you are invited to reflect on your ability to help those in need, and make a sacrificial gift to help those who turn to our agencies for help.

Monthly Pre-Authorized Giving is convenient way to spread your ShareLife contribution throughout the year. You can learn more about PAG at sharelife.org

However you give, whatever you give, please give

MAY 16, 2021

generously to ShareLife.

2021 YTD \$17,049 Goal \$150,000

Previous Results	Amount	Donors
2020	138,138	395
2019	148,555	821
2018	140,836	814
2017	146,628	802

BUNDLE UP FOR SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL MAY 29TH & 30TH

Bundle Up

For the

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



We are collecting your donations at

St. Margaret

222 Ridley Blvd., Toronto

On

May 29 - 30, 2021



WE DO NOT ACCEPT
appliances, baby or regular furniture,
books, mattresses, dishes,
construction material or video tapes
For more information visit
www.ssvptoronto.ca



A St. Vincent de Paul truck will be in the church parking lot so please share what you can with those less fortunate. We will donate & sell these donations to support our outreach efforts. **The truck will be open all day Saturday and all day Sunday until 4:00pm.**

TORONTO CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

One of our goals is to get our young people – Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike – involved in their community by realizing their God-given gifts and how they can use them to serve others. Thus, we invite you to share with your parishioners our series of forthcoming virtual talks by Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations of the Archdiocese of Toronto, as part of our continuing diocesan celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Feel free to use the following materials:

- **Social media graphic:**
<http://bit.ly/URGiftedtoGive-graphic>
- **Poster:** <http://bit.ly/URGiftedtoGive-poster>

Kindly consider including the following announcement in your parish bulletin:

“U R Gifted to Give!” Virtual Short Talks by Fr. Matthew “Matt” McCarthy

For the youth, young adults and young at hearts!
Every Saturday in May at 12 p.m., join Fr. Matt as he shares how YOU can discover your gifts and use them for God’s greater glory!

May 15: Woundedness Is No Obstacle to Giving
May 22: Listening to the Spirit

View online at our website www.ph500toronto.com, Facebook (www.facebook.com/500yocTO) or YouTube (<http://bit.ly/GiftedToGive>).

Kindly share. Please email questions to:
ph500@archtoronto.org. Thank you for your support!

ASCENSION OF THE LORD FROM STEWARDSHIP

1st Reading: Acts 1.1-11

2nd Reading: Eph 1.17-23 or Eph 4.1-13

Gospel: Mark 16.15-20 – *Jesus Commissions the Disciples*

Being Authentic Stewards

This Sunday we celebrate the great solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his apostles, and us as well, to “go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” To spread the Gospel is an essential aspect of our stewardship. The greatest gift we possess is the knowledge and experience of Christ’s love and mercy and we should seek to share this with as many people as possible.

In order to spread the Gospel, we must overcome the temptation of having a split personality or a double life. We shouldn’t hang up our faith on the door as if it were a jacket we took off when we walked into the office. Our faith should instead be woven into every aspect of our lives. To always live as a disciple of Christ and showcase the joy of being a Catholic is perhaps the greatest good we can do in evangelizing our neighbour.

St. Charles Borromeo says, “Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.” If people know we are practicing Catholics, we can potentially scandalize them if we act uncharitably or contrary to the faith. Therefore, let us strive to make our entire lives a reflection of God so that we may constantly spread the Gospel.

Summary

Before His ascension, Jesus tells His apostles, and us, to

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go into the world and spread the Gospel. To be authentic stewards we can't hang up our faith on the door as if it were a jacket we took off when we walked into the office. Rather, we should realize that living as a disciple of Christ at all times and showcasing the joy of being a Catholic is perhaps the greatest good we can do in evangelizing our neighbour

THE POPE'S PASTORAL WORKS MAY 16TH

This collection provides an opportunity for Catholics to make a financial offering to assist the Holy Father. One-third of the funds collected is for what is traditionally known as Peter's Pence: donations used by the Pope for his charitable contributions to those most in need throughout the world, as well as for the support of the Holy See and its activities. Two-thirds of the Collection for the Pope's Pastoral Works is to support the Holy Father in administering the Holy See and serving the Universal Church (see Canon 1271). Information about how Peter's Pence is used, as well as donations in response to Canon 1271, is available in the Holy See's yearly financial report.

An appropriate petition may be added in the Prayer of the Faithful this day.

"Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid... The old question always returns: 'How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?' (1 John 3:17)."

POPE FRANCIS, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 187

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY – May 16th

Today Catholics are invited to reflect upon the media of social communication (films, radio, television, newspapers, audiovisuals) and how these influence our lives.

The media can promote values that lead to a more fully human society. The Church's ministry is twofold. The media can be used to help promote the gospel. At the same time, as receivers of the materials presented by the media, the faithful have a duty to support and promote the Gospel. At the same time, as receivers of the materials presented by the media, the faithful have a duty to support and promote worthwhile presentations on media and reject those which promote

values contrary to spiritual growth.

THE JUST ONE SUFFERING IS UNAVOIDABLE

"Let us Beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us." ~ Wisdom 2:12A

Here's how we know we're on the right path. The road to heaven is a toll road. It costs something. If we're entirely comfortable in our practice of religion, it's a sure sign we've got this wrong. If being Christian seems easy, and fits our personal politics and lifestyles perfectly, then it's time to seek spiritual counsel.

Jesus is clear that genuine discipleship is away of the cross. There needs to be some abrasion. As anti-apartheid writer Alan Paton noted, at the end of life, the one question God will ask is: "Where are your wounds? Was there nothing worth fighting for?" It must be clear that justice is worth fighting for. IF we haven't spoken out for someone with no voice, if we haven't fed someone who's hungry, if we haven't clashed with some power for the sake of someone victimized, then we've played it safe. And lost everything of value.

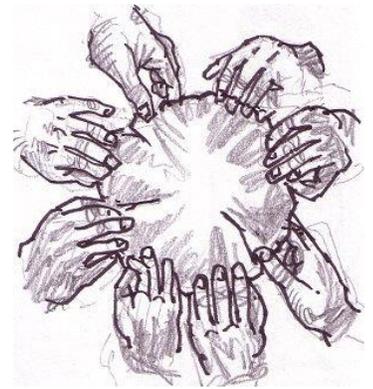
From: **ALICE CAMILLE**

MAY WE BE ONE BY PAT MARRIN

"There broke out a severe persecution of the church ..." (Acts 8:1).

Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40

The death of Stephen in Acts reveals that there was a division between the Palestinian Jewish Christians and the Hellenists, or Jewish Christians of the Diaspora living in Jerusalem. We recall that Stephen and other deacons were appointed



by the Apostles because the Hellenist widows were being neglected in the distribution of bread. The scandal of this division was electrified by the stoning of Stephen and the subsequent persecution of the church that focused on the Hellenists but spared the Palestinian Jewish Christians led by the Twelve.

Acts' attempt to present a harmonious Christian

community from the start is marred by this truth, which showed how long it would take the early church to open itself to the larger expansion of the mother church not just to Greek Jewish converts but also to Gentiles. It is ironic that Saul, who was violently pursuing the Hellenist Jewish Christians, would become the most important evangelist to the Gentile world as St. Paul. Any attempt to idealize the primitive church as being one in mind and heart is exploded by the infighting and competition of the two groups from the outset. Our ideologically divided church today is nothing new and confirms that during its long history, the Catholic church has always been a serious work in progress.

The historical tension between the ideal and the reality frees us from nostalgia and challenges us to address today's divisions as part of the witness of the church to continue despite its many problems. The Eucharist has not been called a feast of enemies without reason, because the Table of the Lord is often more like a family feud than a harmonious agape, yet it is the one place where reconciliation and forgiveness are the real work of the people, the essence of liturgy. The dynamic struggles between traditionalists and progressives, liberals and conservatives, are the church's witness that the love of the crucified and risen Jesus still has the power to hold the family together despite our ideological differences.

Jesus testifies in John's Gospel that he will not lose anything or anyone the Father gave him. Our celebration of the "breaking of the bread" commemorates both the death of the Lord and the promise of unity in love his sacrifice makes possible in our fractured world. Jesus died not to save the saved but to heal a broken humanity, to overcome the hostility between those who are near and those who are far. The Father who loves the Prodigal Son also loves the angry older brother and will not cease trying to bring them together to the table that celebrates the victory of life over death, love over division. The sign to the world is that unity is possible, even if the real church has always struggled to practice what it preaches before it could preach it to the world.

From: **NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER**

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THE CATHOLIC FAITH COULD HELP YOU LIVE BETTER?

How it could help you find more *joy* at work, *manage*

your personal finances, *improve* your marriage, or make you a *better* parent?

THERE IS GENIUS IN CATHOLICISM.

When *Catholicism* is lived as it is intended to be, it elevates every part of our lives. It may sound simple, but they say *genius is taking something complex and making it simple*.

Dynamic Catholic started with a dream: to help ordinary people discover the *genius of Catholicism*.

Whenever you are in your journey, we want to meet you there and walk with you, *step by step*, helping you to discover God and become *the-best-version-of-yourself*.

To find more helpful resources, visit us online at dynamiccatholic.com

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO'S ONLINE SESSIONS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. The single-session consultation is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern.

Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.



Online Quick Access Single Session Counselling For Individuals, Couples & Families

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering Online Quick Access Single Sessions.

To arrange for a session, please email info@cfstoronto.com or call 416 921-1163 or 416 222-0048. Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you.

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is a Catholic Charities member agency supported by ShareLife.



HUMANITARIAN RELIEF – India's COVID-19 Outbreak

India is reeling from a devastating COVID-19 outbreak. In recent days, the country has been reporting more than 400,000 of new cases and 4,000 deaths every 24 hours. International observers expect that the actual numbers are significantly higher. The medical system, funeral services and other social supports are unable to

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meet the country's needs at this time.

In response to numerous inquiries from parishioners and clergy, we are providing information for those who may wish to contribute to relief efforts to assist the people of India.

The Archdiocese of Toronto will send donations through **Development and Peace to Caritas Internationalis**, an international confederation of Catholic humanitarian organizations that is already in India helping those who are suffering during this COVID-19 outbreak.

Since the pandemic began, India's Catholic Church, acting principally through Caritas India, has been supporting some of the most disadvantaged groups, such as those with inadequate housing, migrant labourers, persons with special needs and widows. Relief services and materials provided by the Church, or with its support, include:

- ❖ **Food at kitchens and distribution centres in slums, at migration transit points, etc.**
- ❖ **Masks, sanitizers and hygiene kits to vulnerable communities**
- ❖ **Psychosocial support and hotline services to traumatized and grieving people**
- ❖ **Public education campaigns on infection prevention and vaccination**
- ❖ **Supporting the public healthcare system, including donating expertise, facilities and equipment from Church-run clinics and hospitals**

To learn more about Caritas' work in India, please watch this video: <http://bit.ly/CaritasIndiaRelief>

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- **Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org**
- **By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411**
- **Through the parish, making cheques payable to:**

Name of Parish – India's COVID-19 Outbreak – Disaster Relief

Please continue to pray for the people of India and all those who are suffering from COVID-19 worldwide.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

contact us by phone only on: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00am – 12noon, 1:00pm – 4:00pm or any day by e-mail at st.marg@sympatico.ca

2. **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

Obviously due to the present restrictions, it becomes even more important to have the e-mail addresses of as many parishioners as possible. If you or you know anyone who may not have already informed the parish office of your e-mail address, we strongly encourage you to contact the parish office during the above scheduled times!

3. **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** **by appointment only**

4. **The Church dispensation** from attending Sunday Eucharist, for all the faithful, who are unable to attend Sunday Mass, continues throughout the covid-19 pandemic.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves, via our website and parish blast. We pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. May God continue to bless you now and always!

IT'S HERE – OUR NEW WEBSITE

Take a peek! We encourage you to visit and explore our new website.

Our new website, aside from being aesthetically pleasing, is more interactive, AODA compliant and is easier to navigate. We are excited of the new experience, but we know there's still work to do. In the coming months, we hope to continue improving the site that it best serves how we communicate with you.

CHUCKLES FROM THE PEWS

Signs Worth A Second Look

On an Electrician's truck:
"Let us remove your shorts."

In a non-smoking area:
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action."

On a maternity room door:
"Push. Push. Push."

At a car dealership:
"The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment."

ONGOING DIRECTIVES

1. The **parish office is closed to the public**. Please