

**Rebecca Ruiz** – Loyola Press, [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

What comes to mind when you think of the word *saint*?

For me, this word brings to mind people who lived a long time ago, wore long robes, and walked around with their eyes raised toward the heavens and their hands clasped in prayer. They never sinned or lost their tempers. Oh, and there's a good chance they left this life without their heads.

I also think of more modern saints like **Teresa of Calcutta** and **Pope John Paul II**—who also wore long robes—and seemed completely perfect and perfectly holy.

Pope Francis wants to challenge these notions and include a couple more people in the saintly mix—you and me!

It's hard to fathom myself a saint. Yet, after reading Pope Francis's new apostolic exhortation, ***Gaudete et Exultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)***, sainthood and holiness don't seem so far out of reach. In an encouraging and optimistic tone, the Pope sets forth an approach to holiness that demands persistence but not perfection. This approach is unmistakably rooted in the Ignatian tradition.

Finding God in all things, he illuminates day-to-day triumphs in holiness:

*I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness." (GE 7)*

And he challenges misconceptions that keep us from progressing in holiness:

*To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest, or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. (GE 14)*

In a most eloquent manner, Pope Francis reminds us that God wants each of us to be saints and stresses just how important each one of us is to God: "Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father, to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel." (GE 19) To reinforce the gravity of his message, he continues, "May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission." (GE 24) How beautiful and how meaningful our lives are when we view them in this way.

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## ST. MONICA PARISH

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July 1, 2018

### 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Today's Gospel reports two stories of healing. One story tells us about a father's great love for his dying daughter. The other story tells us about a desperate woman who risks much as she seeks healing from Jesus. In each story, the request for healing is itself a courageous act of faith, and yet very different circumstances are represented by the lives of each suffering person. Jesus wants us to be healed as well – let us approach him with great confidence and faith.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The reading from the Book of Wisdom affirms that God does not delight in death, but rather loves creation, and made us in his image. St Paul makes clear that we glorify God through our generosity. The contrasts between Jarius and the woman with the hemorrhage are stark and revealing. Yet in each case, faith leads them to seek out Jesus in their time of need.

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#### Today's Readings:

1st: Wisdom 1.13-15; 2.23-24

Psalm: 30

2nd: 2 Corinthians 8.7, 9, 13-15

Gospel: Mark 5.21-43

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

#### MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

#### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

#### NOVENA TO

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENECTION

#### BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

#### BAPTISMS

4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

#### HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

## PARISH UPDATES

**HAPPY CANADA DAY** – We give thanks to “God, keep our land, strong and free” when we realize many countries, people and land are still at war, displaced and famine.

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**Summer Recess** – Our next bulletin publication will be in September. Do not hesitate to contact the parish office if you have a special announcement to the parish.

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**New Window Blinds** – We have replaced all the window blinds in the church hall and in the upper room. Please be gentle with the new blinds. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Save A Date** – On September 30, Sunday is when we celebrate our parish 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the blessing of the art glass windows of the church. On September 22 and 23, there is our Parish Ministries Fair.

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**Our 2018 Property Tax Update** – The BC Assessment Office has been contacted and will follow up with our request for a review of the huge discrepancies in their assessments between 2014 and 2018.

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**PROJECT ADVANCE 2018** – “Support the Faith - Continue the Legacy” is the theme for this year’s Appeal. THANK YOU for all our pledgers. Many have given your pledge on online. God Bless YOU!

Others may make your pledge online at [www.projectadvance.ca](http://www.projectadvance.ca) anytime.

Happy Summer Break!



**B.C. Sacred Music Symposium** - Sts. Joachim & Ann Parish will host the inaugural B.C. Sacred Music Symposium, **July 20-22**. This symposium aims to bring together musicians of all skill levels, and all people of good will with a general interest in sacred music, for a weekend of instruction, collaboration and fellowship. There will be an opportunity to attend practical workshops (beginner, intermediate and master-class) and to experience the riches of the Church’s musical tradition in the celebrations of Mass (in both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms) and the Divine Office. Keynote speaker and celebrant of the symposium’s principal Mass will be Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. For more info and registration, visit <http://rcav.org/event/bc-sacred-music-symposium>

**Mass for Chinese Martyrs**—Join us for a special Mass for Chinese martyrs on **Monday, July 9, at 6 p.m. at Precious Blood Church, Surrey.**

**Vocation Live-In**—On the weekend of **July 6 – 8**, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. Cost: \$25. For more information, call 604-826-8715.

**Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Namacpacan in Vancouver**—The eight-foot image of Our Lady of Namacpacan from Luna, La Union, Philippines, one of the canonically crowned images of St. Mary’s patron saint, will be staying inside St. Mary’s Parish, Vancouver, from **June 29 to Aug. 30**. Activities during the pilgrimage include a welcoming Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Miller, and dinner, novena, and a Thanksgiving Mass and Banquet. For more details, visit: [rcav.org/event/pilgrimage-of-our-lady-of-namacpacan-in-vancouver](http://rcav.org/event/pilgrimage-of-our-lady-of-namacpacan-in-vancouver).

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What comes to mind when you think of the word *saint*?

Pope Francis stresses also the importance of **discernment** and reminds us that we are not on solitary missions, but rather, each is an integral part of the Body of Christ. As parts of the Body, we must strive daily to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth:

*Just as you cannot understand Christ apart from the kingdom he came to bring, so too your personal mission is inseparable from the building of that kingdom: “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Mt 6:33). Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. Christ himself wants to experience this with you, in all the efforts and sacrifices that it entails, but also in all the joy and enrichment it brings. You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavour. (GE 25)*

*Gaudete et Exsultate* is a practical guide to holiness for the modern-day Christian. With pearls of wisdom from the Ignatian spiritual tradition, it is both familiar and accessible. And, if we consistently heed Pope Francis’s wise counsel, we might just get our own holy cards one day.

**CANADA DAY**—The Office will be closed on Monday, July 2.

## Stewardship Reflection

Today’s reading from St. Paul explains the “divine economy” of stewardship — “The relief for others should not put pressure on you, but it is a question of fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need.”

See 2 Corinthians 8:13-14

## Mass Intentions

### July 1-7, 2018

Mon, Jul 2—	Cholo Herrera (RIP)
Tue, Jul 3—	Perlita Cuenca (RIP)
Wed, Jul 4 —	9am, Teresa Ho (RIP) 7pm, Diego Lorenzo Salacup (RIP)
Thu, Jul 5—	Helen Wai King Yang (RIP)
Fri, Jul 6—	Alma & Aida (TG)
Sat, Jul 7—	9:30am, Nelia Dazo (TG) 5pm, Diego Lorenzo Salacup (RIP)