

Gratitude Leads to Generosity By *Vinita Hampton Wright*

When we develop an outlook of gratitude, we train ourselves to perceive the world in terms of abundance rather than scarcity. I am grateful for the few moments of rest I had today between appointments. I could just as easily be resentful about the rest I could not have because today was a workday, and I had to get out of bed and get busy. Which way will I see my day?

Do I perceive myself with *gratitude*? Do I give thanks for my experiences and the gifts and abilities that have grown because of those experiences? Or do I hunger after the experiences of other people, disappointed at what has *not* happened to me?

Gratitude is a response to my belief that my life is enough. It's not perfect, and it's not finished, but it is good and worthy of my thanksgiving. My life has potential. My life contains all kinds of gifts. What if I don't have the gifts that this other person has? Will I obsess over that? Or will I simply rejoice with her?

It's not difficult to see how gratitude leads to *generosity*. If life is abundance and not scarcity, then I can afford to be generous to others. If there is enough success in the universe for every person to experience a bit of it, then I can be free to help others succeed rather than focus only on my own seeking for success.

If I believe that each person is made in the Divine image, then I can worry less about how much my image matches someone else's. I can enjoy the beauty of others without being envious.

If I believe that God continues to create my life, day by day, and continues to give graces with lavish love, then I can "afford" to accompany other people in the creation of their lives. I can share in their happiness when they receive gifts and graces.

Gratitude and generosity coexist within us. We cannot nurture one without building up the other. Each quality shapes our mindset about and our posture toward being in this world. Resentment and selfishness grow in an environment of fear, unfreedom, and the perception that there is not enough—of anything—for everyone. Gratitude and generosity grow in an environment of faith and *freedom*. These virtues are honest responses to a world that brims over with God's love for us.

(The author serves as managing editor of the trade books department of Loyola Press.)

Virtual Catechists Evening with Archbishop Miller

Come and join the hundreds of catechists in the Archdiocese of Vancouver for this annual event where Archbishop Miller will honour, celebrate, thank, commission and give his annual exhortation to the those involved in the catechetical ministry - PREP, RCIA, Liturgy of the Word with Children (LWC) and CGS (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd). This event takes place on Friday, Nov. 13 from 7:00 pm - 8:30pm. Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events



ST. MONICA PARISH

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2

Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334

Website: stmonicaparish.ca Email: parish.smon@rcav.org

October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

⋈⋈⋈

Fidelity to God's two great commandments sets a good example for others to follow.

The Old Testament lists over 600 laws by which the Israelite people were to live. Jesus, in fulfilling the law, tells us that *the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments*: loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Our actions do speak louder than our words in drawing others to want to know and follow Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord tells the Israelites the laws regarding treatment of aliens, widows and orphans and the lending of money to the poor. Saint Paul compliments the Thessalonians for their faith and for becoming *an example to all the believers, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known*. In the Gospel, a scholar of the law tests Jesus, regarding the greatest *commandment in the law*. Jesus answers with two commandments, concerning love of God and love of neighbor.

⋈⋈⋈

Today's Readings:

1st: Exodus 22.21-27

Psalm: 18

2nd: 1 Thessalonians 1.5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22.34-40

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 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

October, the month of Rosary

You are encouraged to pray the mysteries of the Rosary with your family, fellow parishioners or personally. Our Church windows lay out the different mysteries beautifully and they are a great source for our prayerful contemplation. O Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us.

####

Beatification of Fr. Michael J. McGivney

The beatification of the founder of the Knights of Columbus will be on Saturday, October 31st in Rome. Let us give thanks to God for this special blessing on the Church and the Knights of Columbus. Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney, pray for us.

####

Sunday Missal 2020 - 2021

We have ordered 350 copies of the *Living with Christ*, same as in previous years, anticipating our church will return to the normal schedule before the First Sunday of Advent. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to own a copy of the Missal for your perusal at home. \$5 a copy is a great investment for your faith life all year round. This new missal is available NOW. You can get your copy at the Office or in the church foyer. Thank you for keeping up your spiritual life with the Word of God.

####

Project Advance 2020

Thank you to your support and generous response of our parish commitment to this year's appeal of the Archdiocese. Our share is \$13,000. Our total goal is \$40,000 plus expenses for the refurbished new floorings in the Parish Centre and classrooms. May the Lord bless you always!

Registered households who have not received the pledge card should have received Fr. Robert's letter for PA2020 and a pledge form in the mail to assist you in your participation. PLEASE respond when you are ready.

####

FREE Virtual Archbishop's Dinner

Join Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB for this live online event for the latest news—and to discover what you can do to answer 'The Great Call of the Laity'—during this mission-critical time in our local Church. Among personal testimonials from lay leaders in our Archdiocese, this one-hour, catalytic, and high-energy live event will keep you informed on the fantastic things happening in the Archdiocese and inspire you with personal stories of those who are building up our local Church. Join us on Thursday, Oct. 29 from 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm online. Register to attend for FREE at rcav.org/dinner2020

A Stewardship Moment

There is one command that summarizes this weekend's Gospel: to love. For Jesus there is no distinction between these two commands of loving God and neighbor. One naturally flows from the other. In fact, for Jesus, these commands constitute a way of life for Christian Stewards, a unique approach to life and to their relationship with others. Our neighbors include everyone with whom we come into contact: family members, friends, people we don't like, strangers and particularly those most in need of our love and compassion. Love calls us to open our hearts and do more to help others grow closer to the Lord. How might we follow Christ's love command more fervently?

Resumption of Saturday Morning Mass

Since the beginning of COVID, there was no Saturday morning Mass except on a few occasions. We have now resumed the Saturday 9:30am Mass. You will still need to register for this Mass as usual. You may phone the Office or send us a note by email for your Mass registration. Thank you for your cooperation.

All Souls' Day Mass with Archbishop Miller

Join Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB for All Souls' Day Mass on Monday, Nov. 2 at 6:00 pm live from the Evangelist Chapel at Gardens of Gethsemani. Register to attend in-person or by livestream at rccav.org/events

####

November – All Souls

This month we remember our deceased family, relative and friends. Special All Souls envelopes are available for your Mass offering. You may obtain the envelope at the back inside the church. You can bring it to the parish office or put it in the Sunday collection basket. Thank you!

####

October 31 “All Hallows Eve” (the night before All Saints Day)

In the annual rhythm of the Church's life of prayer and worship, the Solemnity of All Saints (Sunday, November 1) actually begins with Evening Prayer I in the Liturgy of the Hours on Saturday, October 31. We rejoice in those who celebrate the heavenly banquet with Jesus Christ and we recall the Church's rich tradition of faith-filled stewards. Keep “All Hallows Eve” from becoming “hollow” by celebrating the Christian connection to Halloween and the positive messages that stem from the holiday for the benefit of ourselves and the spiritual formation of our children. Celebrate Saturday, October 31, as a Catholic heritage of faith.

Knights of Columbus**59th Annual Charity Appeal**

Tickets only \$3 - WIN \$177,000 in prizes - Limited Tickets!

1st Prize \$100,000

2nd Prize \$50,000

3rd Prize \$10,000

4th Prize \$5,000

5th Prize \$2,000

6th to 15th \$1,000 each

BUY YOUR Tickets ONLINE -

KofCDraw.net/C12861

Prizes will be drawn with the grand prizes and 12 consolation prizes on Saturday January 30, 2021

Mass Intentions

Oct 25-31, 2020

Mon, Oct 26 - 9am, Felix Comilang (+)

Tue, Oct 27 - 9am, George Rangel (+)

Wed, Oct 28 - Mario Guansing (+)

Thu, Oct 29 - 9am, Julian Garcia (+)

Fri, Oct 30 - 9am, Yvonne & Belle Alan (INT)

Sat, Oct 31 - Hortencia Maria Dias (+)