

Cherishing Meeting Participants By *Tim Muldoon, Ph.D.*, is the author of a number of books, including *The Ignatian Workout, Longing to Love, and Living Against the Grain*. He is the Director of Mission Education at Catholic Extension Society.



“Cherish what is simple. Be in awe of what is great.” —Christopher de Vinck in *The Center Will Hold*

I am sitting in the usual spot, participating in the Zoom meeting, listening to each person as they describe the events of the past week. Someone has hosted a socially distant ice-cream party and was happy to see neighbors come by just for the opportunity to reconnect.

Another is working with a veteran teacher who is passionate about developing a school curriculum that helps children to learn the skills of creating and sustaining purposeful friendships. Still another reports on some efforts at fundraising that will help secure more computers for use in the afterschool program.

Everyone gathered at the *Community Renewal* leadership meeting has stories to tell. Their eyes are bright with excitement as they recount the ways that their efforts have fostered connection among neighbors. They have been at this work for years now and remember the way things used to be: people living inside their homes, isolated and, in some places, afraid.

Someone reflects on the way that the people at the meeting—young and old, Black and White—are already living what Jesus talked about when he observed that the kingdom is at hand, right under our noses. We are living in times of deep divisions, he says, and yet here we are, at this meeting, loving each other and loving our neighbors into wholeness.

The people gathered soak in that message. One woman, a lifelong teacher who works with adults returning to school, recalls growing up many decades ago. She recalls the deep, entrenched racism that existed when she was a girl. “It took me seven years to lose that edge,” she says, speaking of working in a multiracial organization that builds friendships and heals communities. “But I am so glad to be part of this work now. It gives me hope.”

The others in the meeting hang on her words. Some reach out with a virtual hug, while others express in words how much they love her and are so happy for the gifts she brings to the work of renewal.

Eventually the meeting steers around again to business. Trainings must be done; after-school programs must happen; virtual tours must continue. Everyone has a job.

Most of the jobs are fairly simple: writing this, sending that, meeting these people, planning that event. At the meetings, the participants cherish each other and the work they are doing. And every now and again, they recall with awe that what they are doing is nothing short of building a kingdom.



ST. MONICA PARISH

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November 22, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Jesus is the mighty King who reigns in our hearts. There are compelling images of Christ on this solemn feast. One is of the shepherd who lovingly and humbly cares for his sheep. The other is of a mighty king, ruler of the universe, and heaven and earth. In this image, he judges on how well we cared for one another, saying, *just as you did it to one of the least of mine, you did it to me.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, the Lord speaks through Ezekiel, telling the people that he is the shepherd caring for his sheep. He provides for all their needs and will judge between the sheep and between rams and goats. Paul writes to the Corinthians, telling them that as *Christ has been raised from the dead, so all will make alive in Christ*. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples of the time when the Son of Man shall come in glory and sit upon his throne, separating *the sheep from the goats*.

Today's Readings:

1st: **Ezekiel 34.11-12, 15-17**

Psalm: 23

2nd: **1 Corinthians 15.20-26, 28**

Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46

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
(temporarily suspended)

BAPTISM COURSE

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

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

WEDDING/HOUSE BLESSING/SICK CALL

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

Sunday Missal 2020 - 2021 - The new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29). 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. 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.

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Project Advance 2020 - Many parishioners have made your donation online via the RCAV.org website. THANK YOU for 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. PA2020 continues until December 31. May the Lord bless you always!

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Into the Deep: De-Mythifying Palliative Care - Palliative care helps people with serious illness to live as well as they can for as long as they can. But most people feel that palliative care is only something that is offered once there is "nothing more to be done" for their disease and means that death is close at hand. This presentation will provide knowledge of what palliative care is, its benefits, and how it can be accessed. Using our polling tool, we will assess your understanding of palliative care and provide factual explanations and answer questions. You never know who you might help! Join us on Friday, Nov. 27 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. Register online for free at beholdvancouver.org/events

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Resisting a Democracy Recession Webinar - Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Jesuit Curia in Rome will talk about the alarming transformation of democracy in the world with the election of authoritarian regimes into office. His presentation will focus on India, with parallels drawn with changes taking place in Latin America, Asia, Africa and North America. There is hope in voices heard through public protest demanding alternative models with transformative changes for a future built on love, equality and justice. This webinar is on Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom. Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events Even if you're not available during this time, you will be sent a recording to view at your own leisure if you register.

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Advent Retreat: Ero Cras - "Tomorrow, I Will Be" - For many of us, it would be easy to say that 2020 has had its unique share of challenges. It has been easy to become discouraged, disconnected, and disengaged. Advent and subsequently, Christmas, however, present for us an opportunity to share in a fresh joy, a true joy, a joy that can conquer any darkness: Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born! Join Father Juan Lucca and Barb Dowding at this year's Advent Retreat: Ero Cras (Tomorrow, I Will Be), where we will explore the rich symbols in Advent and share the intricate details of Christmas liturgy to help prepare us for the coming of Christ at Christmas, where our hope and our joy will be full. This retreat will take place Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on Zoom. Register online at beholdvancouver.org/events

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, Saint Matthew offers a compelling vision of the end-time, when the people of all the nations are brought before the Lord to give an account of their lives and actions. Interestingly, the sheep, the righteous ones, are rewarded for having acted with love and compassion without having recognized the face of Christ in others. Good stewards recognize those in need of their care as gifts from God. They know that they are the instruments of Christ's active, loving presence in the world. How will we treat others this week: our family members, neighbors, customers or strangers? What accounting will we make to the Lord for their care?

People in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light Advent Retreat

Inviting all who desire a retreat to reflect on scripture, poetry, art, and music as we prepare to receive the coming of the Divine Light of Jesus at Christmas. The retreat will be offered in-person and via Zoom on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. The morning includes short inspired talks, guided prayer materials, quiet time for personal prayer in community,

and for those who attend in person, individually-wrapped muffins. There will be a limit of 40 persons in the chapel. Preregistration required by Thursday, Dec. 3. Please indicate if you will be attending in-person or via Zoom when you register. The zoom link will be emailed Friday, Dec. 4. There is a suggested donation of \$35-60 (students \$20). Online payment is available via Eventbrite.

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!

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Throughout the month of November, Catholics also pray for souls in purgatory who may be undergoing a process of purification before entering into the presence of God. Sign up to receive Holy Souls prayers in your inbox for each day of November at rccav.org/november

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One way for you to pray this month is through lighting a candle as a way of showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered. We will place a lit candle on the grave of a loved one during Halloween if they are interred at Gardens of Gethsemani. Order online at rccav.org/store

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

Nov 22-28, 2020

Mon, Nov 23 - 9am, Fr Peter Chiang (+)
Tue, Nov 24 - 9am, Pompeo Cabilan (+)
Wed, Nov 25 - Frederick Kriekenbeck (+)
Thu, Nov 26 - 9am, Richard Tan (+)
Fri, Nov 27 - 9am, Faustino & Pablo Mendoza (+)
Sat, Nov 28 - Angelita Imperio (+)
Epitacio Sison Jr (+)