

JOYFUL JOURNAL



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Prayer: A Disciple's Priority

--Dorothy Burns, Director of Religious Education, CTR Catholic

"Once upon a time there were three frogs sitting on a leaf of a lily outside the palace of a great king. Two of the frogs decided to jump into the pond. How many frogs are left on the lily leaf? Three. Deciding to do something is not the same as doing it." (p. 44)

Matthew Kelly's research shows that 7% of parishioners do 80% of the volunteer hours in the parish and make 80% of the financial contributions. That 7% is what he calls Dynamic Catholics.

Foundational to those in the 7% is their daily habit of prayer. They have the "discipline" of a routine (usually same time, same place) and a routine within the routine; that is they have a structure to their daily prayer. This might include starting with a scripture reading, or reading from a devotional, or praying the rosary, or simply reviewing their day with the Lord.

"The 93% certainly pray, but it tends to be when the mood strikes them or when some crisis emerges. The 7% pray in this way also, but their spontaneous prayer is deeply rooted in their daily discipline and commitment to a prayer routine." (p. 19)

What it comes down to is this: Are you an admirer of Jesus Christ or an intentional disciple? Or to put it in human terms: are you in a casual dating relationship or a committed relationship with a definite future/marriage? Anyone who has been in a committed



relationship for more than six months knows that communication is important. How long does a relationship last if you only communicate when you feel like it? My experience has been – not forever that's for sure.

Jesus has already made the total commitment to us by laying down his life on the cross. We are known intimately by God, "O Lord, you searched me and know me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away... you are acquainted with all my ways ... Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely..." (Psalm 139). He patiently waits for us to respond in kind.

We get to know someone by spending time with them. When you first got to know your significant other it probably happened in the context of a group setting and that was fine. But as the relationship grew you wanted more one

on one time. It wasn't enough to see each other at a party or at the gym or ... (fill in the blank). Think about the important people in your life. Do you consider time with them a luxury or a necessity? If on your wedding day you had said to your spouse: "and by the way, I am busy every day except for Sunday when we can spend some time together at dinner with my family," would they have been satisfied with that "commitment"?

Many of us have had the experience of going to the house

of someone we don't know very well. There is a certain level of awkwardness. We don't know the "house rules"; we don't know where things are; maybe it's hard to make conversation. The silence can be excruciating. But as we get to know the person better we get more comfortable with them and eventually we can even sit in companionable silence without it feeling awkward. We feel at home. That is what our transition to eternity is meant to be: "a coming home". But how will we feel at home if we are a stranger to the one who "owns" the house?

See how 15 minutes a day could transform your life.

The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Matthew Kelly, Chapter 2. Are you spiritually healthy?

The Joy of the Gospel

(wise words from Pope Francis)

“Throughout her life, Mary did everything that the Church is asked to do in perennial memory of Christ,” ...

... Mary can help teach us what it means to be a disciple of Christ, because while she was “eternally chosen to be his Mother,” she also learned how to be his disciple.

With her faith, “we learn to open our hearts to obey God; in her self-denial, we see the importance of tending to the needs of others; in her tears, we find the strength to console those experiencing pain.” ... the rosary in many ways is a “synthesis of the history of God’s mercy, which becomes a history of salvation for all who let themselves be shaped by grace.”

In each of these moments, Mary “expresses the wealth of divine mercy that reaches out to all in their daily need.”

Mary guides us toward the path we are called to take “in order to be true disciples of Jesus,” in praying the rosary, we feel her closeness in each mystery and contemplate her role as “the first disciple of her Son, for she does the Father’s will.

Pope Francis, October 8, 2016 – Rome (source – Catholic News Agency)

NET News

The New Evangelization Team has arrived in CTR schools!



The NET team arrived on October 5th. Since arriving they have received an orientation to our schools and attended CTR’s annual Priests and Principals meeting.

Their schedule for this month includes three days of Encounter retreats for St. John Paul II Collegiate’s Grade 7s, Thursdays and Fridays at Clear Water Academy and class presentations at Holy Trinity Academy and Notre Dame Collegiate. October 28 – November 4th they will be at Christ The King Academy in Brooks.

To learn more about this year’s team members you can access their video visit <http://www.redeemer.ab.ca/Three-Year%20Faith%20Plan.php>

DISCIPLE - LIFELONG LEARNER IN FAITH

Our Evangelical Neighbours

*By Dorothy Burns
Our Evangelical Neighbours: A Catholic Reflection on Evangelical Christianity, a Resource published by The Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*



We meet them all the time. They are in our classrooms, perhaps married into our families, and involved in many of the same causes that we are as Catholics. You might even have been asked by one, “Have you been saved?” They love the Lord and love to talk about their personal relationship with Jesus and usually are much more familiar with Scripture than the average Catholic. I am personally indebted to my Evangelical brothers and sisters

because if it weren’t for meeting them when I was at university I would probably not have the love of Scripture that I do today. My ignorance in light of their enthusiasm for Scripture set me on

a lifelong journey of learning and study.

“As society becomes increasingly secular, Catholics and Evangelicals can see more clearly that what separates them is less significant than what unites them” (page 9). This resource hot off the press from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is an excellent starting point for Catholics to come to a better understanding of our “Evangelical Neighbours.” It is a concise yet thorough overview of this topic. After a brief introduction there are five sections:

- A Brief History of Evangelicalism
- Defining Characteristics
- What do Catholics Think About Evangelicals?
- What Do Evangelicals Think About Catholics?
- Prospects for Future Dialogue

“Our differences, however significant, only make sense against a background of our common faith. Both Catholics and Evangelicals can say the Nicene Creed without crossing their fingers” (p. 4).

As we move forward on our “Joyful Journey” it is important that we recognize our Evangelical brothers and sisters as companions on that same journey.

A complete version of the 12 page resource is available at: http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/CCCB_Our_Neighbours_e-web.pdf

You Shall Be My Witnesses

St. Anthony

By Lindsay Fagan, *Our Lady of the Snows*

St. Anthony is one of my favourite saints of the Catholic Church. Undoubtedly, we all have our favourite story regarding the saint's help in recovering our lost things, I could tell you several of my own. In our family, we lost count years ago of how often he has assisted us. Most often it was a lost object, something that was of precious value or necessary to function. Strangely these items often turned up quickly, sometimes in the most unexpected, even seemingly miraculous ways.

History has shown that in times of need, we often go to our friends to share in our struggles. St. Anthony has proven to be a trustworthy companion and guide over the ages which is why so many turn to him. It is a friendship that when cultivated, leads profoundly towards the same God who said that the Father willed that nothing given to Him should be lost. In the end, the greatest loss would be the loss of the

faith—a sentiment that I had to remind myself of just recently after a frantic search for something I'd lost...and found! (Thank you, St. Anthony!)

A friend once questioned me: "Why would a great saint and a Doctor of the Church go into a petty task like seeking for a lost article?" Without a doubt, St. Anthony shows us his humility and enthusiasm in winning souls for God. In helping others and leading them to Christ, we should learn from the saint that nothing is too small or too trivial. We should gladly welcome every opportunity - no matter how little - to show that we are truly God's children.

Remember: If you find yourself lost, God will find you.— Luke 19:10



Close Encounters of the Christ kind

(in word, sacraments, and others)

By Krissie Eberhart, *St. Francis of Assisi Academy*

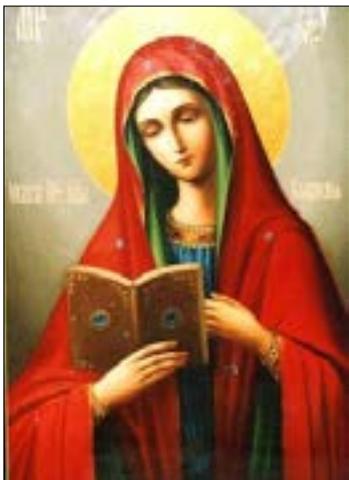
During the Saint Francis of Assisi Academy Terry Fox Run the love of Christ filled my entire being. I was running with a student in my grade one class and I asked her what she was doing this weekend. I expected a response such as, "playing with my friends, watching a movie, having pizza," or most likely, "I don't know." Though, the words that she shared with me were nothing of the sort. In the most gentle, loving voice my student responded with a glowing smile, "I am getting adopted." I knew that she had been in foster care with a loving

family and that they were in the process of making this happen, however witnessing the joy of this child share her news with me, gave me a whole other insight to her story. It took me a moment to respond to her, in the midst of holding back tears and trying to think of what the right thing to say would be. I decided to ask her, "Are you going to celebrate?" and she replied, "Yes! We are getting a big chocolate cake!" Her smile got even bigger!

My heart continued to feel so many things in this moment. I felt how she is going to be such a blessing to her new family, and how

they are going to be such a blessing to her. I felt how powerful love is, and how truly this is the greatest gift of all. I felt how amazing it is that God has plans for each of us – and how most often we have no idea what they are. I felt how beautiful it is that one chocolate cake can make us happy. I felt how each of us is given different challenges, and how important it is to be compassionate. Above all, I was reminded that we will never know the story behind many of the people that we meet, and that every individual is unquestionably worthy of love.

Mary: Model of Discipleship



By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity. Thus she is a "preeminent and... wholly unique member of the Church"; indeed, she is the "exemplary realization" (typus) of the church.

Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. "In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace." [LG 61]

"This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfilment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation.... Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix." [LG 62]

Catechism of the Catholic Church (# 967 – 969) LG – Lumen Gentium, document from the Second Vatican Council

Joyful Moments

Please share with us your "Joyful" moments through your own school's faith journey.

Send your stories and pictures to joyfuljourney@redeemer.ab.ca

Cluny Pilgrimage

Twelve Grade 11 students from St. Anthony's School attended a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Holy Trinity Church on the Siksika Nation on September 28th. This pilgrimage was part of the diocesan commitment to Truth and Reconciliation:

"Continue... to tell the history of Canada that is truthful, ensuring proper treatment of the history and experience of Indigenous Peoples..." (The Carillon, May 2016) Students heard from three people who attended residential school on Siksika Nation. With candid frankness, they spoke about the continued effect their experiences have on them today. Students also visited the Blackfoot Crossing Interpretive Centre to enjoy an authentic Blackfoot experience in their state of the art facility. "I really appreciated hearing the stories from the people who actually experienced the residential schools." (Carmanah Olbrich, Grade 11, St. Anthony's School).

