

August 12 2018

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." John 6: 41-51

Don't expect a thank-you card just yet . . .

In her new book Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving, Diane Butler Bass recalls her first college teaching job. It was not a happy experience. Her credentials were strong but the college - a small, Christian School in California - turned out to be a poor match of her talents with the school's expectations. After four years at the school, she was let go. The president of the school told her, "Your work is wonderful. You are an excellent teacher. But you just don't fit in here." He looked at her and added, "One day you will thank me for this."

"Thank him?" Bass writes. "I wanted to throttle him. In less than two months, I would be without a job and a paycheck, with few prospects for the work in a weak academic job market. Being grateful to the person who put me in this position was the last thing on my mind."

A week later, Bass was telling a friend of the exchange at that final meeting: "Can you imagine the nerve of him? That one day I will thank him? What kind of nonsense is that?"

She expected her friend to rush to her defense. Instead, he leaned back in his chair and said, "You know, he's right." What?

"Years ago," he continued, "I lost a job. It was painful, and I was angry. It didn't seem a favor.

But, eventually, it was the event that made me understand that I was an alcoholic. And that led me to get sober. Eventually, I understood that it was what I needed for my life to change. Not that it was easy." But "I'm not an alcoholic," Bass shot back. "That's not the problem here."

"I get that," he said. "But we all need to look at ourselves more honestly. To figure out who we are and where we are really heading. To correct course. Sometimes that only happens in circumstances like this. One day, I bet you will thank him."

"Did you? Thank the guy that fired you?"

"Yes," he replied. "I did. But not at first. Mostly I wanted to throw him off a cliff. And yes. I did thank him. Years later. After I learned gratitude."

The challenge facing Prof. Bass, as well as Jesus' listeners in today's Gospel, is to move beyond "murmuring" about the rejections and disasters that have struck us in order to stop to listen and see the presence of God in what has happened. Eventually, it leads us from the "murmuring" of anger and despair to the "manna" of awareness and gratitude for the joy and meaning of life in God. The late Maya Angelou said: "If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present . . . gratefully."

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745
Email: st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca
Web: www.ststephensparish.com



BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)

Associate: Rev. Vitus Echedo

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Debbie Keough 643-6681

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Carolyn O'Quinn

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Bob Miller **4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Irving Campbell
St. Anne's Guild - President Laura Rouzes

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Sunday Morning -10:30 A.M.

ROSARY

Saturdays from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm.
RECONCILIATION
Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request

MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday - 4:30 P.M.
Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 A.M.
Thursday Adoration 10 A.M. - 12 NOON
1st Friday - Acadian Village - 2:00 P.M.
3rd Friday - Silverwood Manor - 2:30 P.M.

MARRIAGES. Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Next Session - *September 24th, 2018 - Please call to register*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. The 3rd Sunday of the month beginning at 2:00 P.M. and ending with benediction at 4:00 P.M

PRAYER MEETINGS.

St. Stephen's Prayer Group — Wednesday at 7:45 P.M. in the Parish Meeting Room.
Word & Spirit Prayer Group — Tuesday at 8:00 P.M. in St. Anne's Hall.

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 am - 4:30 pm,
FRIDAY - 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM **CLOSED DAILY 12:00 - 1:00 PM**

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Aug 4 & 5:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3184.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 20.00
Shepherds Fund	\$ 3070.00

CONDOLENCES: To the Families of Rose Cormier, Alva Noseworthy, Maurice Woodfine and Kim Young whose funeral's we celebrated this week.

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In memory of Doris Gaudet as requested by Henry Gaudet and family.

CANCELATION OF MASS: Mass at St. Stephen's Parish will be cancelled on **Wed August 15, 2018**. Our Lady of Mercy Church, will be celebrating the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wed, Aug 15th at 6pm with His Excellency Bishop Hundt officiating. There will be a special collection following communion in aid of Our Lady of Mercy Church Restoration..

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF GOD'S KIDS

- A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

- A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said. The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

- A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"
The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said.
The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said: He said, 'Tah-dah!'"

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:

"This is enough, O Lord! Take my life." Talk about a bad day! Haven't we all been through this at some point in our stewardship journey, whether in the parish ministry work we are trying to do, at home with our family or in our profession — we get worn out and worn down.

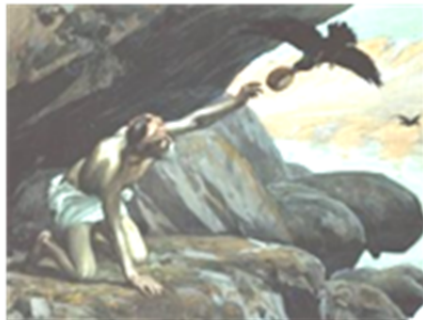
Elijah's plea — melodramatic to be sure — is a form of the stewardship pillar of prayer, for prayer is simply lifting mind and heart to God. And God responds, sending restorative food and drink. Rejuvenated, Elijah is able to walk for 40 days until he arrives at the destination God had in mind for him all along!

Contrast this with the Gospel reading. The people, hearing Jesus' message, do not understand. But rather than take their complaint to Him as Elijah did, they begin to complain amongst themselves about him — that's murmuring, and it is counterproductive.

Feeling worn down at times is actually part of the stewardship journey. It means we are giving our all to the life God is calling us to live. But it is also a sign to us that we need to find new strength.

How? Ask the Lord! He will meet your physical needs. Even more, He will send you His own Son, the Bread from Heaven, to strengthen you with the Eucharist and the living Word of the Scriptures.

A stewardship way of life takes all the strength we have to give. The beauty of this way of life is that we have a God who delights in giving us every bit of strength we need to live it!



POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

Universal:

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

Reflection

People can authentically speak to the experience of growth in a family. In small yet steady increments over the years, we grow with our brothers and sisters, as parents we are drawn out of ourselves and into the paradigm that is caring for our children. It offers us opportunities to grow deeper in our humanity, stronger in hope, and more richly in love than we can ever imagine.

Family is not a defined ideal but rather a mosaic made up of many different realities. Families often feel abandoned due to a lack of interest on the behalf of the State. This failure to support is often expressed in a tentativeness to welcome new life, in a tendency to see older persons as a burden, the poverty of loneliness and in an increase of extreme

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Through the sacrament of marriage, your Church sees in human love a sign of your presence. The fruitful love of spouses is an example of what each of us is "called to" as your children: to generate life.

The family is a place of life, hope, the future and communion.

For this reason, I pray to you this month, in union with Pope Francis and the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, for all families, so that they may receive political and economic support to fulfil their mission.

I pray in particular for those who live with greater difficulties, that your Spirit may be their strength and consolation.

Our Father...
Hail Mary
Glory be

SCENT-FREE : Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

WEST ST. CEMETERY COMMITTEE: The West Street Cemetery Committee have opened an account at the Recycling Depot on the Hansen Highway. If anyone would like to donate their recyclables please let a staff member know at the time of drop-off. If you are unable to bring your recyclables to the Depot and wish to donate them, please call 643-5910 to arrange for pickup.

CHASE THE ACE: Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 8th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event is held on Sunday with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4 pm.

TOWN OF STEPHENVILLE & REGIONAL

AQUATIC CENTRE: Will be hosting a FREE swim in aid of Canadian Mental Health Association, on August 18th from 4:00pm to 4:55pm. There will be a reception to follow. Space is limited, registration is required. Please call CMHA at 643-5553 by Wednesday August 15th to register.

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH AND

MUSEUM: Now open daily Monday-Sunday 10 am to 5 pm until mid August. After your tour, stop by our Tea Room for tea/coffee and sample our homemade baked goods and preserves. We look forward to your visit!

