

August 16, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Somos personas”

In the July/August issue of **Spirituality and Health**, money writer Paul Sutherland writes of traveling to a beach in Nicaragua with his family. During the long drive in their van, they came to a narrow street in the village of Santa Teresa. THUD! Sutherland’s front tire lodged in an uncovered drainage hole. Some men from the village saw their plight and came over to push the van, but it wouldn’t budge.

As Sutherland tried to figure out what to do next, a farmer drove by on his tractor. He pulled ahead of the van and stopped in the middle of the narrow street and looked under the van. Without saying a word, he ran to a little nearby shop and came back with a length of blue rope. He secured the van’s chassis with the rope and attached it to a chain he had with tractor. In a *minuto corto*, he pulled the van out.

Sutherland was overcome with gratitude. “Gracias. Thank you. Gracias,” Sutherland said as he tried to hand the farmer some money. But the farmer refused, saying “Somos personas.” “For your family,” Sutherland said, but he still refused to take the money. “Somos personas,” the farmer repeated.

When Paul and his family got back in the van and started on their way, his daughter Akasha asked, “Dad, do you know what he was saying?” No, Dad said.

“Dad, he was saying ‘We are people.’ Dad, he was saying we are the same, we are all people. We are here to help one another. We are people. Somos personas.”

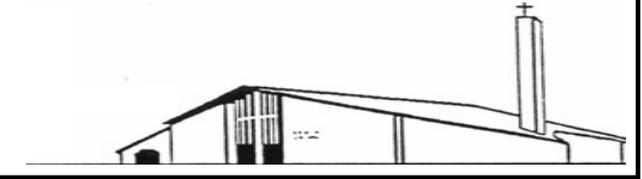
In today’s Gospel, it is the Canaanite woman pleading for her daughter who reflects God’s vision of our shared humanity. Despite the ridicule and abuse she endures, she believes in the idea of *Somos personas*, that “we are people” all held in the hand and heart of God. In honoring the goodness and love of the Canaanite mother for her sick child — who, as a Canaanite, represents one of Israel’s most despised enemies — Christ opens our eyes and hearts to see one another as God sees us. Paul Sutherland comes to that realization in the generosity of a poor Nicaraguan farmer. The call to discipleship demands that we look beyond labels and stereotypes to realize that every one of us is a child of God, brothers and sisters all.

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St. Stephen’s Parish

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4th Degree Assembly - Faithful Navigator Bob Miller

St. Anne’s Guild - President Millicent Penton

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

ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE

<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M.</p>	<p>PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER FOR MASSES IN ADVANCE ST. STEPHENS - Thurs/Fri: 9am-4pm 643-2523 MARIA REGINA - Thurs/Fri: 10-12/2-4 648-2533</p>
<p>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</p> <p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES Online Daily Due to COVID-19 ROSARY Saturdays at 11:00 am RECONCILIATION By Appointment</p>

BAPTISM PREPARATION- *Please call to register.*

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**

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

St. Anne's Oil

Our parish has available small bottles of St. Anne's oil. This oil is often used to bless people who are seeking protection from harm or are looking for relief from sickness or injury. Bottles cost \$5.

MASS INTENTIONS, August 17-August 21

MONDAY August 17, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Michael Keough
For the late Nellie Brake

TUESDAY August 18, 10:00 A.M.

For the late Margaret White
For the intentions of Corliss O'Neil

WEDNESDAY August 19, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Patrick and Madeline Marche

THURSDAY August 20, 9:30 A.M.

For the late Mary Cormier
For the intentions of Trent O'Neil

FRIDAY August 21, 9:30A.M.

For the late Bruce Pellerin

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank You! We wish to thank those who have continued to make their donations to the parish, via drop off, Interact transfers. It is greatly appreciated!

MASS REGISTRATION

If you are looking to register to attend a

weekend Mass, please call one of the following numbers:

Stephenville Mass: 643-2523 Thursdays and Fridays 9-12am and 1-4pm (St. Stephen's Parish Office) or **Port Au Port Mass: 643-2533** Thursdays and Fridays 10-12am and 2-4pm (Maria Regina Parish Office).

EXTRA MASSES

We can offer extra Masses if necessary. If enough people wish to attend the Sunday Masses of obligation, we can add an extra Mass. This need will be gauged based on how many people phone in to register.

EMAIL MONEY TRANSFERS

Our parish still welcomes your financial support. Many people have dropped off their envelopes in the mailbox and we appreciate that. Now you also have the option to make donations via email money transfer. The email address for e-transfers only is stephensparish@gmail.com, also include your envelope # in the comments section if you have one. If not please include an address where a tax receipt may be sent. Thank you.

VOUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We need volunteers for ushering/check in duties and sanitizing the church and after every Mass from Saturday evening to Sunday morning and evening. As a faith community we will need to abide by the procedures stated by Western Health Authority to keep our church and safe and clean so we can continue to have Mass offered to the public. You can call 643-2523. if you are available to help.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive

You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Unable to receive the visible Eucharist, the faithful can still receive God's grace through spiritual Communion. You may make an Act of spiritual Communion anywhere, anytime, and as many times as desired in a day, each with a partial indulgence available.

Indulgences reduce punishment for sin, either on Earth or in purgatory. To seek a partial indulgence, while free of mortal sin, state your desire to receive the indulgence. Then pray an Act of Spiritual Communion. At Mass on March 20, as the worldwide coronavirus pandemic spread, Pope Francis said that Catholics unable to confess a mortal sin to a priest should confess directly to God.

Acknowledge what you have done, ask for forgiveness now "with all your heart," pray an Act of Contrition, and promise to go to Confession as soon as possible.

MARIAN PRAYER FOR GREATER FAITH:

Blessed Virgin and gentle Mother, Who bring comfort in times of pain, Together with me, please ask Jesus For help in His love unrestrained. Holy Mary, chosen by God, Having known joy, wonder, and sorrow, Thank you for the faith you have shown, Giving hope of better tomorrows. Heaven's Queen, crowned with hu-

mility, Alongside Lord Jesus enthroned, In my need, I pray for faith and grace To bear more than I could alone. Amen. The Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Aug. 22.

August: The Month of the Immaculate Heart

By an old tradition, August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Just as the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is commemorated all June, burns with love for all humanity, the Immaculate Heart of Mary represents the desire of our Mother to bring all humanity to her Son. On October 13th, AD 2013, Pope Francis dedicated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart. This heritage of Faith and culture still thrives and lives, but only if we pass it on. Have you considered the daily prayer of consecration? Perhaps this August, it's a prayer you can say daily.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and tender Mother of all people, I consecrate myself to your Immaculate Heart, and recommend to you my family, my country, and the whole human race. Please accept my consecration, dearest Mother, and use me as you wish, to accomplish your designs upon the world. O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and earth, rule over me, and teach me how to allow the Heart of Jesus to rule and triumph in me and around me, as It has ruled and triumphed in you. Amen.