

September 30, 2018

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

It's downhill from first grade, kid . . .

In a recent episode of the daily comic strip For Better or For Worse by Lynn Johnston [October 14, 2017], six-year-old Lizzy has had a bad day at school and she confides to her father:

"Daddy - why don't some kids get along with other kids? Sometimes, when you think someone's your friend, they're really not. Some kids do mean things for no reason. Kids fight over dumb stuff. They pick on each other. They don't share - an' they say things about other kids that aren't true.

"I can't wait till I'm grown up . . . grown-ups don't do things like that to each other."

Lizzy turns to walk away, leaving her dad with a stunned, sad expression on his face that says, Oh, Lizzy, if you only knew . . . Jesus challenges all of us adults to consider the values and faith we are modeling for our "little ones": what our public policies, our social and cultural institutions, our political and religious rhetoric reveal about the world we are building that we are handing on to them. The great responsibility of our baptisms is to show our children the purpose that our faith gives to our lives, to help those alienated from God re-connect with their sacred, to reveal the love and mercy of God to those who do not know God. To teach with conviction without judgment, to guide by example rather than by dogma, to inspire by generosity instead of sermons is to transform our world one generation at a time, to establish the reign of God one stone upon another.

Lesson plans

Her father was a professor of organic chemistry. She remembers the summers when she would accompany him to class where he taught graduate research students. She watched how he coached his students:

"He reviewed the results of experiments with them, then leaned back, folded his hands behind his head, and asked them what they thought. They tentatively offered a possible step, and he encouraged them to try their ideas. I didn't know yet that I was absorbing his teaching style, a unique mix of structure and freedom that taught students to think for themselves." She pursued a career in music, and, like her dad, she found her joy in teaching: the more her students lit up mastering a passage of Mozart, the more she'd light up, too.

She began teaching at a local college. Barely older than most of her students, she was unprepared for lecturing to large classes on music theory and history. Intimidated, she tried to play the part of the scholarly professor - even pulling her hair into a bun, wearing glasses with severe black frames, and a carrying a sleek black satchel. But it wasn't working. Her students were bored. The more she pushed, asserted rules and expressed her impatience, the more they lagged. They arrived late and started fidgeting well before her lectures ended.

Finally, she went to her dad for help. He told her that she needed to find her own way. But then she thought back to his summer research students - and that led her to change her style. Out were the lectures and the professorial demeanor; instead, she writes, "I began to assign group projects. Instead of lecturing, I rotated between clusters of students. I offered questions and then got out of their way. Slowly, my lecture hall began to fill with laughter and discussion. Students arrived on time and stayed late. For the next decade, I continued to refine my application of Dad's philosophy . . . I'm beginning to understand his lesson: acquire deep knowledge in your field, then create a structure that allows students to discover it for themselves.

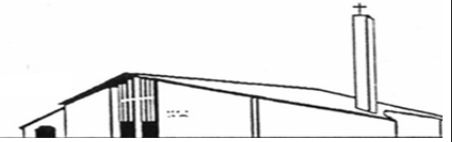
To succeed in realizing something good often requires us to "cut off" our need to be in control, "to pluck out" our ego and demand for recognition, of insisting that our way is the only way. This teacher learns that from her father: that to follow Christ begins with seeking the good of others before our own need for success and satisfaction. That, Jesus says, will come. Despite his rather harsh images of "cutting off" and "plucking out," Jesus calls us to realize that discipleship means letting nothing - nothing! - detach or derail us in our search for the things of God, not allowing the pursuit of wealth, security, or status to distract from realizing the "mighty" things we can do if prompted by the spirit of God.
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Parish

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

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) **Associate:** Rev. Vitus Echedo

Email: fatherchristsp78@gmail.com

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 Clifford Osmond
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 1:30 am until 2:30 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 Sept 22 & 23:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3304.45
Capital Repairs	\$ 60.00
Sheperads fund	\$ 70.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the intentions of Marcus Benoit as requested by Theresa Gould.

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

NOMINATIONS-PARISH COUNCIL: Each year we elect four members to our Parish Council for a three-year term. We will be accepting nominations during the month of September. If you wish to nominate someone, please make sure you have that person's consent, fill out the form provided at the back of the Church and drop it off at the parish office.

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN CANADA:

A special collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada is being taken up in all parishes across Canada on the weekend of September 29-30. Each diocese in Canada participates in financing one of the four regional assemblies (Atlantic, Ontario, Quebec and the West) as well as the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops by a contribution based on its Catholic population. The annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada invites all the faithful to participate in this financing by helping their diocese meet its financial obligations to the regional assemblies and to the national Conference. Any additional revenues raised help the diocese support its own diocesan pastoral programs and other activities.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Meetings take place at St. Anne's Hall the first Wed of each month, at 7:30 p.m. call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2018

Yr 1 (Group A) Monday, **October 1** at 6:00 pm
Yr 1 (Group B) Tuesday, **October 2** at 6:00 pm
Kindergarten Thursday **October 4** at 6:00 pm

Yr 2 (Group A) Monday, **October 22** at 6:00 pm
Yr 2 (Group B) Tuesday, **October 23** at 6:00 pm
Yr 4 Thursday **October 18** at 6:00 pm

Yr 3 (Group A) Monday, **October 29** at 6:00 pm
Yr 5 & 6 Thursday **October 25** at 6:00 pm

**FAMILY MASS ON OCTOBER
30TH, 2018 AT 10:30 AM.**

SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL THE CHIRLDREN:

Dear parents and children.

Welcome back!

I hope that each of you had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed special time with friends and family. It is truly a privilege and blessing for me to serve as your Pastor. I am delighted to see all your faces returning for another year of our religious education.

I want to thank you the parents who share the Catholic faith with your children and give them the opportunity not only to learn about Jesus, but to experience him by talking with one another about their own journeys of faith, asking questions about what it means when we talk about the Real Presence of Jesus Christ when they receive Holy Communion, and by taking time for prayer. It's the children in our world who help us come back to the center of what's most important: God, family, community and caring for one another. May God be your constant guide and inspiration in your family's continued faith development.

Blessings !

Father Chris

THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS AND PETS:

In the last number of years, we have celebrated a liturgy for the blessing of pets to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This service will take place, Sunday October 7th at 2 pm.

THE ROSARY:

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best-known and most popular forms of prayer that we have as Catholics. The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. There are four sets of "Mysteries of the Rosary" (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious), therefore containing a total of twenty mysteries. Each set of mysteries are said on specific days of the week. As we recite the Rosary, we are meant to meditate upon these mysteries. Over the centuries, the Rosary has grown into a timeless family prayer, one that has been prayed by billions of souls in countless languages around the world. At literally every moment of the day, in almost every corner of the earth, Catholic faithful pray the rosary. If you aren't sure of how to say the Rosary, you can visit the web site *Come, Pray the Rosary*, an online video Rosary for participation in worldwide or individual prayer.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi and marks the end of the five-week period known as the Time for Creation. St. Francis of Assisi was born into a wealthy family and, as a young man, enjoyed a life of luxury and good times. He served as a soldier for Assisi but was captured by his opponents and held for ransom as a prisoner of war for more than a year. After his return to Assisi, he heard God's call and went on to live a devout life which made of him one of Catholicism's most venerated saints. In his final years, after spending most of his adult life in poverty, he experienced blindness and much suffering. It was during this time that he wrote his beautiful Canticle of the Sun. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders and is the patron saint of ecologists and merchants. Pope Francis I chose his papal name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

STEPHENVILLE FOOD BANK: You might like to clean out your freezer. We would gladly accept moose meat or any other meat. Food bank at the Anglican Church Hall on Fri. morning from 9-12:45.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

ACCOUNTING CLERK JOB POSITION:

The Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador currently requires an Accounting Clerk. This part-time position is located in Corner Brook and reports directly to the Financial Administrator. For more information please go to the Diocesan website at <http://rcchurch.com/>

CHASE THE ACE: Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: October being the month of the Holy rosary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus will be reciting the Holy Rosary each Sunday evening at 7:00p.m. for the month of October. All Brother Knights and Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

AL-ANON: If anyone is interested in Al-Anon (family and friends of problems drinkers) you may call 646-5503 or 643-3059 for time and place of meetings. Please phone before meeting during winter months to confirm during winter months due to possible weather.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus will be having their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 4 2018. The meeting will take place at 8:00 pm at our Council home on west street. All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend. If a Brother Knight is interested in getting involved with our Council this year (IE Programs), please feel free to drop me a line at bobmiller49@hotmail.com or give me a call at 643 2632. I am looking for 2 directors. There will be a guest speaker at this meeting from Public Health.