



SACRED HEART CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

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APINIYAWEWPISIM (EGG LAYING MOON) MONTH OF MAY

REFLECTION

In our Gospel today, we hear Jesus describing himself as the Good Shepherd. He invites us to follow him, promising eternal life. As we begin this new week, let us turn our hearts and minds to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

WEEKLY SUNDAY COLLECTION

From Sunday April 17th to April 23rd **\$3542.06**, Church Building Fund **\$2237.60**, donations for the food **\$220.00**, and recyclable cans and bottles **\$97.00**

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Susai Jesu, OMI
 Fr. Mark Blom, OMI
 Deacon Paul Tam
 Seminarian Jake Mullin

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Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—C

God Is Not A Drug—Good Shepherd Sunday

(Acts 13:14, 43-54; Psalm 100; Rev 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30)

Fr. Bob managed to get back home to visit some members of his family on Easter Monday. The conversation over supper landed on the topic of drugs. They had an open and frank discussion about which of his siblings and nephews had tried drugs. He was shocked to learn that many of their friends actually worked and lived only to support their drug habit. They are hooked on the need to induce an artificial high feeling everyday of their lives.

Suddenly, the words of the first reading today came to his mind and took on new meaning: "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."



Here was a whole generation of Gentiles, of young and not so young people, hooked on chemical drugs to help them make it through the drudgery of their days. He realized anew that in the light of a whole generation lost in a false quest for artificial highs, we are to point the way to the real natural high of eternal life.

It came home to him with deeper conviction than ever that faith in God as Father, Risen Lord and Holy Spirit is the way to freedom and new life.

The readings for this Sunday go on to describe salvation as eternal life, as the greatest gift of all. The Gospel speaks of eternal life as a life-giving,

joyful intimate relationship with God as Father, Risen Lord and their Holy Spirit.

In this Gospel, Jesus calls to be like sheep who know their shepherd and who trust that shepherd implicitly with their very lives. We are to be one with Christ, the Risen Lord. And because Christ is one with the Father, we also enter into an intimate relationship with the Father and with the Spirit of Jesus. That powerful relationship will also fill us with joy and with the Holy Spirit, a natural high. That was the experience of Paul and Barnabas in the first reading as they witnessed to the Jewish people of their day who rejected their message.

This natural high, this experience of eternal life, comes to us who hear and believe the Word of the Risen Lord - who dedicate ourselves to Him and to loving as he has loved us. The proud and powerful who trust only in themselves will find themselves resisting this Word, as they resisted the apostles in the first reading. They missed out on the reality of eternal life.

The vision of St. John in the Book of Revelation that is the second reading is meant to strengthen the faith of the early followers of Jesus who were experiencing persecution because of their faith. Some of them were even being martyred. They are the ones who are now in glory in heaven, totally cared for by the Lamb, as they were while on earth through their faith.

God is not a drug, nor an artificial high. God is for real, and experienced by us through faith in Jesus, the Risen Lord, who invites us into an intimate communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Like the early followers of Jesus who believed in Him to the extent of even giving their lives for him, we are to be a light to the nations, pointing the way to this new life in Christ.

This faith is real and can make all the difference in especially the difficult times of our lives. John O'Donnell, in his commentary in the *Living With*

Christ some time back, tells of his experience helping a family who lost a son and brother on Swissair flight 111. While he was wondering what to say, one of the teenagers said, "We should pray." O'Donnell found words in his bible that seemed to fit and could only come from the mouth of God. He then offered a prayer for the victim, the family and other victims and their families. Other family members added prayers of their own. Finally, the mother reached into her purse and handed out copies of a favorite hymn - they sang all five verses.



Though they were holding up other families waiting to come down to the secured area, it was okay because he realized that everyone - firefighters, police, the Red Cross volunteers, other family members and chaplains - everyone was transfixed by the singing family. Many were openly crying at the sight of such grace in the midst of deep sorrow. Indeed, all had been cleansed by the words which God had spoken to them through the Christian witness of this grieving, singing family.

The Eucharist is an act of faith in Jesus who gave his life for us out of his total trust in the Father's love for him.

So remember, Jesus is not a drug nor is he an artificial high. He is the Way to the Father and to the fullness of life and freedom lived in union with their Holy Spirit. May our celebration today deepen our faith in Him and our experience of the peace and joy that He alone can give.

Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI



Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation Class will be on **Wednesday May 11, 2022** at 6 pm in the Parish Boardroom. Please register by calling the office at 780-422-3052.

BAPTISM

Letina Amanuel
Henos Tsagai

Mass Schedule

Daily Masses from Monday to Saturday at **9 am** (Live Stream)

All Sundays at **10:00 am**,

11:30 am (Indigenous Mass)

4:00 pm (Eritrean Mass) and

7:00 pm at **Santa Maria Goretti Catholic Church** and

Holy Rosary and Adoration on Fridays at **7 pm** (Live Streaming from our Facebook)

HANDLING RESENTMENT IN OUR LIVES

Anthropologist Rene Girard and his student, Gil Bailie have provided us with insight into how we try to handle resentment in our lives.

Resentment is present inside of virtually every human community and family because, as Girard puts it, we're "mimetic", which means, among other things, that we always want what others have. This inevitably creates tension, resentment, jealousy, and conflict. It's no accident that two of the Ten Commandments have to do with jealousy.

So how do we get rid of jealousy and resentment? Anthropologists tell us that we try to rid ourselves of tension by scapegoating. How does scapegoating work and how does it get rid of tension?

It works this way: We get up some morning and, for a myriad of reasons, feel out sorts, weighed down by a mixture of free-floating frustration, anxiety, and anger. So, what do we do? We find someone to blame. Invariably we will soon pick someone (in our family, at our place of work, or a politician, or a religious figure) on whom to place that tension. Someone whom we consider difficult, or ignorant, or politically wrong, or morally corrupt, or religiously bad will soon bear the weight of our tension and resentment.

That's the normal human machine to rid ourselves of resentment inside our communities and inside ourselves. Jesus was crucified precisely because a community did this to him.

The ultimate victim of scapegoating, Jesus, invites us to something higher, and he models that for us in the way he died. Jesus took away tension by transforming it rather than by transmitting it.

What Jesus does for us is comparable to what a water-purifier does. A water-purifier takes in water containing dirt, toxins, and poisons. It holds the impurities inside of itself and gives back only pure water.

Jesus, as the Lamb of God, took away our sins and purified us in his blood not by some divine magic but, precisely, by absorbing and transforming our sin. Like a water-purifier, he took in hatred, held it, transformed it, and gave back love; he took in jealousy, held it, transformed it, and gave back affirmation; he took in resentment, held it, transformed it, and gave back compassion; and ultimately, he took in murder, held it, transformed it, and gave back forgiveness.

That's the Christian design for taking tension and resentment out of our lives.

Ron Rolheiser, San Antonio, Texas



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27

Each year, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It is a time for us to reflect on our particular vocation within the larger vocation of being disciples of Jesus.

While the passage from John’s Gospel gives us an encouraging word, we recognize that there is a demanding element to being a disciple. Jesus gave his life in faithfulness, even though he did not know where it would ultimately lead. Even as he suffered his passion and hung dying on the cross, he continued to bear witness to the love of God which would never abandon him.

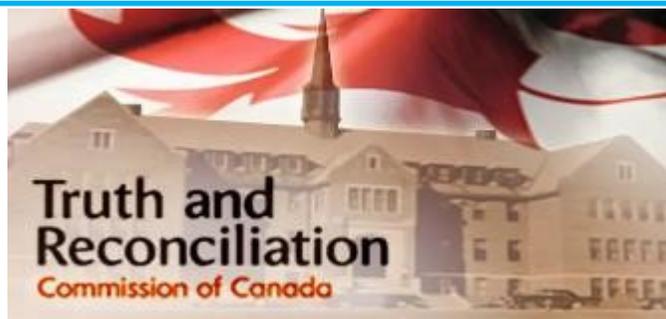
The passage from The Acts of the Apostles details the trials and tribulations of Paul and Barnabas in Antioch. While there was a favourable response to the Good News proclaimed by Paul and Barnabas, there was also opposition from the Jewish officials who then stirred up the cities leaders to drive Paul and Barnabas from the city. It was not the only trial suffered by Paul, but he trusted that his Lord who had called him to be an apostle would fill him with the gifts he needed to persevere and to find life in his vocation.

The Book of Revelation speaks of those “who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Again, we hear the promise that those who persevere in their faith and vocation will be guided by their shepherd and all tears will be wiped away from their eyes.



As I reflect on my own vocation as an Oblate, I remember the good times as well as the difficulties on the journey. At times it seemed that the difficulties outweighed the blessings, but in hindsight I recognize that the blessing far outweighed any difficulties. The difficulties seemed huge at times when they occurred, but they were never the end of the experience. The challenge for us is this: if we follow Christ, our Good Shepherd, we follow him where he goes: into the heart of conflict and suffering. But we follow remembering that the love of God will never abandon us.

Richard Beaudette, OMI, Vocation Team



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Call to Action n° 37: ““We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.”

- **We pray for the authorities with the responsibility of the care of the children, so that they offer a fair treatment, from the cultural roots of the children, and in equality .**



MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS REPORT

Call for Justice n° 2.1: “We call upon all governments ... to immediately implement and fully comply with all relevant rights instruments...”

ii American Convention on Human Rights: specifically, that Canada ratify the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

- **We pray for the immediate implementation and full compliance with the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.**



Creator God, we pray for Respect. May the families who share their pain and perspectives with the inquiry be treated with respect—may the inquiry be centered on their needs.

Creator God, we pray for Truth. These stories are far from simple and clear-cut. May the truth of the impacts that Indigenous women bear become clear.

Creator God, we pray for Courage. For families and community members testifying. For inquiry commissioners crafting recommendations. For civil society organizations holding the inquiry to its mandate. For Canadians, as we prepare to listen to these stories and to advocate for action on its recommendations. For our political leaders, as they prepare to respond to the recommendations.

READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 13.14, 43-52)

Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jewish officials saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul.

Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.

Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region. But the officials incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region. So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 100)

Response: We are his people; the sheep of his pasture..

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. R.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. R.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. .

SECOND READING

A reading from the Revelation to John (Revelation 7.9, 14B-17)

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. And one of the elders then said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and my own know me.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel according to John (John 10.27-30)

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

Please make **cheques** payable to:

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples (Rebuild)
10821 96 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 2J8

To **e-Transfer** to Sacred Heart please send email to
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To donate with a **credit card** use this link from the *CanadaHelps*
non-profit charity: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/64181>

Receipts for income tax will be issued by Sacred Heart Church of
the First Peoples in the first week of February for donations made
by cheque and e-Transfer. For credit card donations, receipts will
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**Thank you for supporting the Rebuild of
Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples**

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