

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Fifteen centuries ago, St. Augustine, one of the great thinkers of our tradition, was grappling with the mystery of the Trinity. Augustine was trying to discover an idea or an image that would explain how there could be three persons in one God. As he strained to do this, he decided to take a break and walk along the beach of the city of Hippo where he was bishop. As he felt the warm sun and the cool ocean breeze, he noticed a young boy running back and forth on the beach. The boy had a small bucket and was filling the bucket from the ocean and running over and pouring it into a small hole which he had dug in the sand.

“What are you doing?” Augustine asked. The boy stated proudly, “I’m taking all the water from the ocean and pouring it into this little hole.” “That’s impossible,” said Augustine. The boy shrugged and continued on with his play. Then Augustine realized that he was that boy. He was trying to do the impossible. He was trying to take the infinite vastness of God and pour it into the small hole of his finite mind.

It is impossible for us to come up with an adequate image of who God is. Every attempt to do so will be inadequate. Everything we say is but a glimpse of God’s real being. On the feast of the Trinity, I would like to explain to you how there can be one God in three divine persons, but I can’t. I would like to present you with a picture of what God looks like, but that is impossible. I would like to tell you who God is, but every effort I would make would be inadequate. So, since I cannot do the impossible, I would like to offer you something else. Since I cannot explain to you what God is, I would like to reflect on what God is not.

We call God, Father. But if we think of God as a demanding father whom we cannot please, we are wrong. God is not like that. Or if we think of God as an indulgent father who places no responsibility on us, who never asks us to grow or change or serve, again we are wrong. God is not like that. We call God, Son. But if we think that by calling God, Son, we are discovering a maleness within the Trinity, then we are wrong. Because God, Father, Son and Spirit, is beyond any sexual differentiation or gender. God is not like that. We call God Spirit. But if we think that by calling God Spirit discover that God is illusive or unable to touch us in our lives, then we are wrong. God has the power to move our souls in their concreteness, to move us with the beauty of a sunrise or the depths of human love. Although God is spirit, God is able to touch us concretely. God is not illusive or aloof. God is not like that.

We call God, Creator. But if we think that by being creator God is so preoccupied with the running of the cosmos that God has no time for us, we are wrong. God is not too busy for us. God is not like that. We say that God is all good, all holy. But if we see God’s holiness as a means to keep us distant from God, we are wrong. Despite God’s supreme perfection, God, nevertheless, embraces us and calls us into union even with our flaws and sins.

So, every image of God which keeps us from coming to God is wrong. It is an illusion, an error resulting from our inability to see God as God really is. When we take away all those obstacles and all of those errors, all that’s left is an invitation: Come to God. Come and share in the life of the Trinity. Come to a God who is beyond our ability to comprehend. Come to a love that is deeper than the ocean, a love beyond our ability to imagine.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. June 5th - ST. BONIFACE, memorial

Tobit 1:1ad, 2a, 3, 17;l 2:1-8; Mark 12:1-12

Tue. June 6th - Tobit 2:9-14, 3:1; Mark 12:13-17

Wed. June 7th -Tobit 3:1-6a,7-10a,11-13,15b-17a; Mark 12:18-27

Thurs. June 8th - Tobit 4:20,5:4,6:10-11,7:1,9-16,8:1;Mark 12:28-34

Fri. June 9th - Tobit 11:5-15; Mark 12:35-37

Sat. June 10th - Tobit 12:1-20; Mark 12:38-44

Sun. June 11st - CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

Deut. 8:2-3, 14-16; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; John 6:51-59

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Wed. June 7th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. June 10th - 5 PM - J.Tuguinay, C.& C Tang.

Sun. June 11th - 9AM - Isaiah, Jonah & Norah Chao, S.Cheung.. **11 AM** - Elisa, Klyde & Kyle Tan, A & A Babas, J.Cayabyab. **5 PM** - J.Plata, L.Villawarayan, J & M Cabuhayan, J.Paja.

Please Note: On June 24th Fr. Jun is inviting all altar servers to a year-end appreciation event at Grandview Lanes. Consent forms are being sent home or can be picked up from the sacristy.



A 2nd Collection will be taken up this weekend, at all the Masses for Catholic Missions in Canada

This weekend's 2nd collection supports the work of missionaries in communities throughout the country that are in need.

C.W.L. NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Please join us this Sunday after the 9 and 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

- **Installation of New Executive:** On Thursday, June 8th at 7 pm, we will have a special Mass for the Installation of the New Executive Officers. All members are asked to attend.



PROJECT ADVANCE NEWS

The theme of Project Advance this year is **"Empowering our Parish Vision"**

Next weekend, we will be launching Project Advance in our parish. Your gift, this year, will support primarily our parish's many needs, such as: replacement of the church roof, a new sound system for our church as well as repairs to our parking lot. It will also provide the necessary funds for the initiatives of the Archdiocese. Volunteers will be available after all the Masses to assist you. Please consider prayerfully donating to this year's appeal. We are counting on your support! Every gift is important. Donations can also be made online at www.projectadvance.ca.

SCHOOL NEWS



- **Spring Concert** Parents are invited to attend our Spring Music Concert on June 13. We will have an afternoon show at 1pm and an evening show at 6:30pm. Admission is by donation. All funds will go to purchasing instruments for the music department.

- **PATRIOTS SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** Patriots Summer Camp will run at St. Jude School from **July 3-7th, 9AM-3PM**. This camp is run by Mr. C and Ms. Corea and is aimed at children aged 7-13. The activities will include fun games, sports, and team-building activities. Cost for the week is \$175.00 per child with discounts available for siblings and referrals. For further information and registration please email acampanile@stjude.ca.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."

John 3:16

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love and forgiveness? Are you generous with your time, skills, money and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you "fit it in" when it's convenient for you? God desires a personal relationship with us so much that He gave us His Son, unconditionally! Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

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Ordinandi Dinner of Deacons Patrick Le and Medard Kamanzi. You are cordially invited to the Fifth Ordinandi Dinner featuring Deacon Patrick Le and Deacon Medard Kamanzi. The Ordinandi Dinner shines a spotlight on the men who are to be ordained as priests within the Archdiocese. Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful on Wed, June 21, at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$55/person. Seating is limited. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Taizé Adoration Night for Young Adults

Come and join us for a Taizé Holy Hour, a form of Christian meditative music and prayer that draws us into awareness of God's presence in and around us. Inviting all to join in song and Adoration. On Sunday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish in New Westminster. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

"I said her name out loud for the very first time. I have not been to Confession in ten years, and I thought I was fine. What a gift I have been given going to Confession now. I am so happy now. I am at peace and more importantly, now I know my child is at peace. I am empty of all pain. Now I can begin to forgive myself." - Testimonial from retreat

Do you know what it would feel like to feel peace again? Your Rachel's Vineyard™ team understands that yearning and invites you to join them on the next retreat. Friday, June 9, to 11. For confidential information, please call [604-525-0999](tel:604-525-0999) or email info@pacscanada.org

Upper Room Conference 2023

The Holy Spirit is moving in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! We're excited to announce that this year's Upper Room conference will take place on Saturday, September 23. Save the date and get updates by following @weareproclaim on social media or subscribing to email updates at: weareproclaim.com