

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Some years ago, a Christian minister and a group of students from Canada went to Kenya for a summer field study program. They had a jeep to enable them to travel deep into the rugged hinterland. On one of their travels, the vehicle broke down and they had to employ the services of the village mechanic. The mechanic saw the problem, travelled to the city and bought spare parts, came back and fixed the car. He spent three full days working on the car. The clergyman, who told this story himself, said that he was afraid that the mechanic's service charges would be too high. To force the mechanic to settle for less, he went into the washroom, removed much of the money from his wallet and hid it in his socks. The idea was that when the mechanic tells him the cost, he would open his wallet and say "Look, this is all I have." So, he comes out of the washroom, and they are ready to leave. He says to the mechanic, "So now, what do you charge for your workmanship?" The mechanic looks at him and says, "You are a man of God. I do it for God. God will pay me. For you it is free of charge." The clergyman concluded his story with the observation that the mechanic, through his faith in God, has overcome the fear of poverty and attachment to money, which he, in his relative affluence, was not able to do.

Today's gospel is a continuation of the instructions that Jesus gave to the twelve apostles as he sent them out to go and proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. The values of the Kingdom are different from the values of the world, so much so that people tend to reject the message and turn against the messengers. Tradition has it that all the apostles died the violent death of martyrdom. It was natural, therefore, for the apostles to fear as Jesus sends them out to evangelize a hostile world. Yielding to this fear would make them abandon the dangerous mission to save their skin. So, Jesus instructs them in today's gospel on how to overcome this crippling fear. The key is to look unto Jesus as their hero and model. As Jesus said earlier in this discourse "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master."



The gospel identifies two fears that the apostles had: fear of false accusation and conviction, and fear of bodily harm and death. In either case, Jesus teaches them that the way to overcome the fear is by keeping one's mind focused, not on the here-and-now but, on the coming kingdom of God. "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known."

The authorities that persecuted Jesus and his followers had their strategies for covering up the truth. They knew how to tamper with evidence, produce false witnesses and convict the innocent. They cover up the truth and celebrate a lie. Many of the apostles, like their master Jesus, were falsely accused and unjustly condemned to shameful treatment and death.

The way to overcoming this fear is to look up to Jesus who has demonstrated by his rising from the dead that in the end every lie will be exposed, the truth will become known, and justice will again be just. "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." By looking to Jesus, we see that the trials and sufferings of this life, especially those that we face as we try to live out and share our faith with others, are short-lived. We should, therefore, not give in to fear of contradiction, knowing that in the end truth will triumph over untruth, justice over injustice, and eternal life over death, as we see already in the life, death and resurrection of our Master, Jesus Christ.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. June 26th - Genesis 12:1-9; Mat. 7:1-5

Tue. June 27th - Genesis 13:2,5-18; Mat. 7:6, 12-14

Wed. June 28th - ST. IRENAEUS, memorial
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Mat. 7:15-20

Thurs. June 29th - Sts. PETER & PAUL, solemnity
Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18; Mat. 16:13-19

Fri. June 30th - Genesis 17:1,5,9-10, 15-22; Mat. 8:1-4

Sat. July 1st - Genesis 18:1-15; Mat. 8:5-17

Sun. July 2nd - 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2 Kings 4:8-12a, 14-16; Rom. 6:3-4, 8-11; Mat. 10:37-42

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Thank you so much for all your help throughout the year.

As there will not be a summer schedule for Altar Servers, we ask that all servers volunteer their time at the Mass they attend.

**CANADA DAY - July 1st**

is celebrated as Canada's birthday. Canadians should seek to be witnesses to Christ and the world, and to continue working to influence those in government to act from Christian principles and attitudes. Please Note: Our office will be closed Monday, July 3rd for the statutory holiday.

PROJECT ADVANCE

The theme of Project Advance this year is
“Empowering our Parish Vision”

Our Project Advance campaign continues this weekend, volunteers will be available after all the Masses to assist you. Thank you to all those who have generously responded to our appeal. 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 and repairs to our parking lot. It will also provide the necessary funds for the initiatives of the Archdiocese. Please consider prayerfully donating to this year’s campaign. We are counting on your support! Every gift is important. Donations can also be made online at www.projectadvance.ca.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** This Wed. at 9 am. Please Join us!

- **Last Day of School: June 28th.** All students will be dismissed at 12 noon.

As summer has arrived, we take this opportunity to wish a safe and enjoyable summer to all our St. Jude’s school students, especially our gr. 7’s who will be going on to high school in September, as well as to those parents who will be leaving us this year. Our prayers are with you. To our staff, led by our principal, Mr. Chris van der Pauw, a great big thank you for their hard work and dedication.



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

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” Matthew 10:32

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be! - Copyright © 2023 Archdiocese of St. Louis

Priestly Ordination of Deacons Patrick Le and Medard Kamanzi.

With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, we are pleased to announce the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Patrick Le and Deacon Medard Kamanzi through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB. Please join us in prayer and in the joyous celebration of Patrick’s and Medard’s next Saturday, July 1, at 12 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events



Seminary of Christ the King -Vocation Live-In

There will be a Vocation Live-In on the weekend of July 8 - 9, 2023 at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more information phone 604-826-8975 or email rector.minors@sck.ca

Street Missionary Weekend for Young Adults

Spend a weekend with other young adults in reaching out to our less privileged brothers and sisters on the streets of Vancouver! Organized by Catholic Street Missionaries, participants will live a communal life, pray, learn, enjoy recreational activities together, and reach out to our homeless friends on the streets. Participants will stay overnight at St. Mary’s Parish in Vancouver. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. From Thursday, July 13, to Monday, July 17. **Registration deadline: Saturday, July 1.** More at beholdvancouver.org/events

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

