

Disciples of this age or the next?

by Alice Camille

How many of you power-watch serials like *House of Cards*, *Downton Abbey*, *30 Rock*, or *Malcolm in the Middle*? How many sneak snacks you know you shouldn't eat but do anyway? How many folks here have bought clothes they didn't need or maybe even want because they were on sale and the price was too good to pass up? Who has too much stuff in the house or the garage; spends too much time on the internet or checking their smart phones; has thrown hours down the drain playing Solitaire or Candy Crush or video games of mass destruction? How many of you have spent time wishing you were better people: more generous and less selfish, kinder and gentler, more patient, less irritable?

If you found yourself guilty on several of those counts, welcome to the human race. Welcome to the 21st century. That is what people do in this culture in this particular generation. We entertain ourselves to death, wearily and often obsessively. We eat too much, buy too much, hoard too much, and multitask too much. We suffer from a condition called FOMO: Fear of Missing Out. So we constantly check the news, weather reports, email, the cell phone, Twitter to make sure we're still in the loop on vital breaking events in the world and in our backyard!

In this cultural environment it's easy to become part of the Borg Collective, and hard to retain your free will (for non-Trekkies, the Borg is a cold and mechanistic one-mind operation presided over by the Borg Queen. If you're part of the Collective, you don't get to think or act for yourself). There's an old science fiction novel by Ray Bradbury, also made into a movie, that applies here: *Fahrenheit 451*. According to the story, in the future life will be very easy. People will not be obliged to think or discern, everyone will cheerfully do as they're told, and the burden of the individual soul will vanish. A happy ending? Like most science fiction plots of a half-century ago, we find that the imagined future is perilously close to now.

The danger of losing your beautiful, unique, priceless soul to the Oversoul of culture is real and imminent. But there's a cure for the 21st century, and it's simple and absolutely affordable no matter what the limits of your health insurance are. Just unplug. For an hour, then a day, then a week as you grow accustomed to the perilous territory of personal freedom. Unplugging means turning things off: television, computer, smart devices that hound you with cues to join the collective obsession. It also means detaching from the ads: catalogues that arrive unbidden, billboards and commercials constantly alerting you that there are things you don't have that you really need to possess. Clear a space in your life where you are genuinely free. Do the New Hampshire state motto one better: Live free *and* die free!

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION **REGISTER SOON * SPACE IS LIMITED**

Register soon for Faith First. Classes begin end of September. All new and returning students must register **as soon as possible to guarantee a spot**. Cost of the program is **(\$80)** for one child, \$100 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more. Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further information, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) If you desire to renew your faith, complete your Sacramental Initiation, enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, or to know more about our faith, please contact Glenda Cadogan through the parish office for information about our program. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory, beginning September 24, 2014

MASS INTENTIONS AUG. 30 TO SEPT. 7, 2014

Saturday, August 30: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Roger Picard & Antonio Gammad By Ester Pelayo
Anthony Nico By his mother Mariana Silvestre

Sunday, August 31: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Italo Falcone, Italo & Anna Mariani,
Aline Liautaud, Bill Agnew, Deceased members of the
Michetti Family, Deceased members of the Paliotti Family.
11:00 Babby Anthony Aiello By his father Carmelo Aiello
Anna Maria Fiori By husband Livio & Family
Drusolina Palermo By the Family

Monday, September 1: Weekday Mass (Labour Day)

8:00 Luigi Campanelli By Franca D'Addio

Tuesday, September 2: Weekday Mass

8:00 Angela Massaroti By the Children
Maria Mastropaolo By Giovanni Masella & Family
Masella

Wednesday, September 3: St. Gregory the Great

8:00 Pasquale & Rosa By Vincenzina & Michele
Ferrara Ferrara

Thursday, September 4: Weekday Mass

8:00 Felicia DiLizzaro Battigalli By Patricia Patwell
Michael McGarr By the Family

Friday, September 5: Weekday Mass

8:00 Cruciano Nardinocchi By his mother Edda

Saturday, September 6: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Robert Ng Yuan Wing By Pauline & George Wong

Sunday, September 7: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Antonietta & Vincenzo La Posta By Concetta La Posta
Emma & Colombo Salvati By Salvati Family
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Joseph Onesi, Luigi & Rosa
Mammone, Giuseppe & Vittoria Caucci, Domenico
Abbate, Deceased members of the Cullen Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of August 23/24 totalled \$2,848.70.

HARVEST



FOR THE NEEDY!

If you have a vegetable garden which has produced more vegetables than you know what to do with, please consider donating your surplus to our food pantry. Our next service days are September 16 and 23, so donations can be dropped off 2 or 3 days in advance of either date.



MESSAGE FROM ST. MONICA'S FOOD PANTRY

If you have a vegetable garden which has produced more vegetables than you know what to do with, please consider donating your surplus to our food pantry. Our next service days are September 16 and 23, so donations can be dropped off 2 or 3 days in advance of either date.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND
AUGUST 30/31
FOR THE "FEAST OF ST. MONICA"**

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming events

St. Monica's Contemplative Prayer Group

St. Monica's Contemplative Prayer Group meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM in the parish rectory. After listening to a talk on the spiritual journey, we meditate together for up to half an hour. Please join us! For information, please contact Audrey Booth or Pat Brabant through the parish office.

From Death to New Life

This series of workshops is for persons dealing with a significant loss, such as the death of a loved one, divorce or other difficult change. Practical tools will be presented in talks, reflections and discussions led by Deacon Richard Boileau who has more than 20 years experience in helping people through bereavement.

Fridays, September 19 to November 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The cost for the series is \$90.

For Information and registration:

email rlboileau@gmail.com

or call (514) 697-9813.

Registration to Join A Faith Sharing Group

Registration to join one of our Faith Sharing groups will take place after each Mass on **September 20 and 21**. This year, our reflections are inspired by excerpts from the book **Prism of Love: God's Colours in Everyday Life**. Groups meet for 14 sessions throughout the year at convenient weekday or weekend times and locations. For information and to register by October 5, please contact Anna through the parish office or at anna.diodati@stmonica.ca

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information.