

26h Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) St. Monica's Parish September 26/27, 2015
STEWARDS OF GOD'S MANIFOLD GIFTS – PART 2: OUR TIME

As I sit writing this reflection, Pope Francis is on the lawn of the White House in Washington D.C., addressing President Obama and the American people on some of the major challenges facing North American society. He invites us to be good stewards of the earth, “our common home”; to defend and promote authentic religious liberty; and to cultivate solidarity and integral human development, so that the freedom and dignity of all God's children may be honoured and respected.

Pope Francis exemplifies the spirituality of Christian stewardship. He reminds us of our responsibility to care for creation, to care for one another, to care for the kind of world we are leaving to our children and grandchildren. Because of his spirit of joy and gratitude, he sees all as God's gift, and therefore to be shared generously for the sake of all. He lives in a space of deep spiritual freedom, enabling him to be himself and to give himself generously and totally. Nothing is held back, for all belongs to God. Now we can't all be Pope Francis! Nor are we expected to be. My vocation is not to become someone else, but to become more fully myself. But what freedom comes when I realize that all that I am, all that I have, is ultimately a gift of God. What I do with that, the person I become – this is my gift to God! God who is generous calls us to generosity.

Consider the gift of time. Sixty minutes in every hour. Twenty-four hours a day. Seven days a week. Twelve months in a year. How many years in a lifetime?! Time also belongs to God. We can be tempted, as Christians, to see time given to God in some little compartment called “Sunday Mass”, or “church”, or even “private devotions.” These are all good things, and we need to carve out those special moments each day, that hour every Sunday, for praise and worship, for connecting with the Lord. Where a problem arises is when we see this time as somehow “in competition with” or “taken from” the time dedicated to duties, tasks, relationships, and escape valves that fill our days. It's a particular temptation in the hectic pace of modern family life, where because of the many pressures of work, school, family, and activities, the time we need to nourish our spirits and deepen our faith is often relegated to the bottom of the priority list.

Maybe this week, we could prayerfully reflect on the use we make of our time, and ask for the grace to become more aware of how **each** part of our day, **every** moment, is filled with the presence and glory of God – and then, strive to consciously live out of that awareness. Let us experience each day, each hour, each moment **as gift**. I guess that's why it's called ... **“the present”!**

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT – UPCOMING EVENTS

“IN THE HEART OF THE WORLD”

This is an invitation in the midst of our busy lives to reflect on our vocation as Christian women and men to be Church on mission in our milieu. Over five weekly sessions, **Sr. Marie Azzarello, CND**, will be our guide as we take time to ponder how, like Jesus, we are called to be bearers of mercy, a healing presence for all whom we encounter, for all creation. Join us on **Tuesday afternoons, Sept. 29 to Oct. 27 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** in the Parish Rectory. A fee of \$15 is requested in order to purchase the printed booklet. **Please call Anna at the office to register before this Tuesday.**

REGISTRATION TO JOIN ONE OF OUR FAITH SHARING GROUPS

If you would like to join one of our Faith Sharing groups, registration forms are available at the main entrance of the church for you to fill out. If you have questions concerning our program, a member of our team will be available to assist you after each Mass next weekend, **October 3 and 4**. For information and to register by phone, please contact Anna at the office.

CATHOLICISM: THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

The Catholic Faith is about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It's an encounter with Jesus Christ! Join Fr. Raymond for three Sunday afternoon sessions, **Oct. 18 to Nov. 1 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** in the parish hall for an opportunity to explore the Church's mission and the challenges of contemporary culture. We will learn what the New Evangelization is, and then witness to examples of new ardor, new expressions and new methods of evangelization in action. A light lunch will be provided. Please register by **October 16**.

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.

MASS INTENTIONS SEPT. 26 TO OCT. 4, 2015

Saturday, Sept. 26: St. John de Brebeur & St. Isaac Jogues & Companions

4:00 Elena & Alesandro Deciccio By their Brother
Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family

Sunday, September 27: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 In Loving Memory: Deceased members of the Cullen Family

11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family
David Chauvin By the Family

Monday, September 28: St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

8:00 Ignazio Ciampini By Ernesta Ciampini

Tuesday, September 29: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael

8:00 Leonardo Ricciardo By Giovanni Ricciardi
Michael Saldanha By Kenneth, Sheila & Nicholas Saldanha

Wednesday, September 30: St. Jerome

8:00 Maria Cardilli By Giuseppina Pendenza & Family

Thursday, October 1: St. Therese of the Child Jesus

8:00 Tito Forlini By Ignazio Mattei

Friday, October 2: The Holy Guardian Angels

8:00 Marguerite Francis By Bob & Dolores Parsons

Saturday, October 3: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Aniello D'Addio By Franca D'Addio & Family
Giacomo Fiori By wife Berardina & Family

Sunday, October 4: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family
Angelo & Anna Massotti By Dominico Massotti & Family

11:00 In Loving Memory: Deceased members of the Cullen Family,
Emile Rassenti by Thelma Murphy & Family

Your Generosity

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of September 19/20 totalled \$2,812.50.

THE COOL (CHILDREN OF OUR LORD) YOUTH GROUP



**Join the
Youth Group**

The group will start up again on Friday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. We will have a pot luck dinner, so bring something to share. Open to youth grades 7-9. We are always looking for more youth leaders and adult leaders. Is God calling you to that? RSVP or for more information contact Claire at stmonicasyouth@gmail.com or 514-482-7493 (evenings).

POPE FRANCIS – SYRIAN REFUGEES

Pope Francis has called upon all churches in Europe to come to the aid of Syrian refugees whereby each church would sponsor one family. In response to Pope Francis's plea, the Faith and Justice Committee has prepared a letter stating our concern and asking Prime Minister Harper to take immediate action in the resettlement of 10,000 Syrian refugees in Canada. The letter will also be sent to Chris Alexander, Tom Mulcair and Justin Trudeau. If you are concerned about this problem, please take a letter for each MP, sign them, put them in the addressed envelopes and drop them in the mail, no stamp is required.

The letters are on a table at the entrance of the church along with a letter sent out on this subject by the Archdiocese of Montreal.

ST. MONICA FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for St. Monica Parish Food Pantry begins this weekend, September 26 and 27 at all the Masses and runs until the weekend Masses of October 3 and 4. We would be very grateful for your donations of non-perishable food items to help the Food Pantry restock its shelves. Baskets to place your food donations are available in the church during these weekends Masses. You may even consider assisting our Food Pantry by holding a Food Drive on our behalf at your work or school. The Food Pantry is currently serving over 200 low income individuals and families so our shelves empty pretty quickly.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

Cereal, can tuna fish or salmon,



pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, chick peas, soup, canned or packaged black beans or lentils, powdered milk, peanut butter or jam, instant coffee, tea, etc.

Significant info: According to statistics from the city of Montreal, 37% of the people residing in households within our parish boundaries are living on incomes at or below the poverty line for the city of Montreal. Our Food Pantry helps to assist many of these people with emergency food assistance.

THANK YOU