

IN OUR PARISH

Share Lent Pilgrimage - Working to end inequality in Paraguay

This week our pilgrimage travels to Paraguay where we meet Liz Benitez. Her country is one where 1% of the landowners hold 77% of arable land. Liz's family are part of a peasant movement supported by Development and Peace who work to gain access to land for the poorest farmers in the country, the campesinos. They have been threatened by the state and police because of their work. "I just want to live peacefully with my family," she says.

This year consider stretching your Share Lent donation across the whole year with our Share Year-Round monthly giving program. Brochures are available at the back of the church.

Meals on Wheels

We are currently seeking Volunteers to help deliver, drive or cook meals in the Westmount/downtown area on Friday mornings from September – June. The meals are prepared at the Greene Ave center and the time commitment is 2 hours. Volunteers are scheduled once or twice a month depending on their availability. For more information please contact Frances de Verteuil 54-937-3317 or fdev@primus.ca

Flowers for Easter

You are invited to make a donation in the name of loved ones toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the church and altar for the Easter season. Donations envelopes are available at the back of the church and should be received by March 21st in order to allow us time to organize the decor of our beautiful church during this most holy and joyous season.

2015 Tax Receipts

Your income tax receipts for 2015 donations are ready. You can pick them up at the back of the church, arranged in alphabetical order. Thank you.

2016 Donation Envelopes

If you have not already done so, please remember to pick up your box with your donation envelopes for this year.

You are not forgotten

If you, or a loved one, are not able to come to church, we would be happy to come to you, have a little chat and bring you the Lord in Holy Communion. Let us know by calling the parish office (932-3131) and we will get to you ASAP.

REFLECTION

I've been looking for comfort during Lent. To be more precise, I've been asking our Lord to comfort me. It is quite a change from gearing up to make some great sacrifice or to overcome some great fault or bad habit. I have those, but in this Year of Mercy, I need to be comforted, and I suspect many of us do.

I imagine that each of us is experiencing something that is difficult, at some level, perhaps on several levels. That can result in a kind of tiredness, even a spiritual tiredness. Even our lack of progress or the large number of good things we "fail to do," can discourage us. Comfort, in the form of an assurance of the Lord's love for me, is what I need now. My wounded, worn, fragile, sometimes grieving or disappointed, stretched and not very outstanding self, needs comforting from one who understands and has been accompanying me all along the way. There is nothing more comforting than being known and loved as we are. Of course, I have to grow, and Lent is a time for growth, but it is growth in intimacy with Our Lord Jesus that we need most. The beginning of the renewal of my relationship with the Lord needs - at least this year - to begin with remembering how much he loves me. My gratitude can then become a fire that draws me to pray, "Make my heart like yours."

The Transfiguration is one of those moments of comfort, which Jesus offered to his disciples, to prepare them for what is ahead. The Preface (the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer) for the Feast day of the Transfiguration (August 6th) says, "He revealed his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses ... that the scandal of the Cross might be removed from the hearts of his disciples and that he might show how in the Body of the whole Church is to be fulfilled what so wonderfully shone forth first in its Head." The Preface for this Sunday says, "For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection."

I need that kind of comforting in Lent. Maybe we all do. If I am renewed in a sense of Jesus' love for me and even a glimpse into the whole story, I'll be closer to being renewed than by anything I might do by my own efforts. The "whole story" is what tends to fall into the background, too often. In the midst of some messy set of things that pile up, from time to time, the powerful reality of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection seems far away. When I'm comforted to remember that, all is well. I am loved. I am forgiven. I am not alone. I will live for all eternity in that love. With that deep renewal, I'll be better at being freer to love, to forgive, to reach out in mercy, to accompany and comfort others.

Andy Alexander, S.J., <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu>



IN THE DIOCESE

Diocesan-Wide Lenten Mission

Don't just think about what to do for Lent... Attend the diocesan-wide Lenten Mission and bring a friend or two. The theme of the mission, which will be held **March 1st, 2nd and 3rd**, is Mercy led by Bishop Thomas Dowd, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal. All evenings begin at 7pm at St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish (105 Beaconsfield Blvd., Beaconsfield). Visit www.lent2016.com or contact Fr. Gerry Martineau 514-366-0131 x2 or gerard.m@johnbrebeuf.ca.

St. Monica's Parish: Video Divina

Join Fr. Raymond for **The Long Walk Home**, the fifth film of this year's "Movies with a Mission" series, on **Friday, February 26** at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory (6405 de Terrebonne St., Mtl.). Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! For information, contact Fr. Raymond Lafontaine at (514)481-0267 ext. 23 or fr.raymond@videotron.ca.

Ignatian Spirituality Centre: Walking in the Desert

New and experienced 'pray-ers' may feel their prayer life is flat or "boring" at times. The saints often called this the "desert". This feeling of God's absence can be reflected in our workplace or through the crises in our Church and parishes or in family transitions. What do the mystics, both modern and traditional, have to tell us? This workshop, facilitated by John Carey, will tap into the traditional spiritual wisdom of the desert mothers and fathers, including John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila, as well as the experience of more contemporary writers such as Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen. Join us on Saturday, **February 27** from 9:30am-3pm (4567 West Broadway, Montreal). Cost is \$60; coffee & cookies included. Please bring a lunch. To register contact the Ignatian Spirituality Centre at 514-481-1064 or centre@ignatiancentremtl.ca.

Pilgrimage to Italy in Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

This year, from October 4-14, 2016, Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, Pastor of St. Monica's Parish, will be leading a Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome and the Shrines of Italy. This pilgrimage will include a papal audience in St. Peter's Square, guided tours of Rome's four major basilicas and the Vatican Museums, and destinations including Assisi, Florence, Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Pompeii, and Monte Cassino. If you want to learn more about this unique opportunity, please join us for a special travel presentation to be held at St. Monica's Parish Hall (6405 Terrebonne) **Tuesday, March 1st** at 7:00 p.m. For more information, or to register for the presentation, contact Antoinette Mercurio from Caleche Travel: (514) 266-3134 or nan@caleche.net, or contact the parish, (514) 481-0276, ext. 23

Montreal Challenge Weekend Retreat for Young Adults: March 4-6, 2016

Whether you're a practicing believer or seldom go to church, Challenge will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about Christ and yourself. Challenge is open to all young adults aged 18-30. The retreat consists of worship music, prayer, witness, discussions, and games. The next retreat is **March 4-6th** (Friday 7PM to Sunday 5PM). Location to be determined. Cost is \$60. To apply, visit: www.montrealchallenge.ca or contact outreach@montrealchallenge.ca

MASSES

Saturday, February 20th 2016

(Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48)
5:00 Intentions of Maureen and Ron Blizchuk

Sunday, February 21st 2016

Second Sunday of Lent
(Genesis 15:5-12,17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1;
Luke 9:28-36)
10:30 Joan Hollingsworth,
1st Anniversary of Death, by the Parish

Monday, February 22nd 2016

Chair of St. Peter, Apostle
(1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19)
9:00 Art O'Connell by the Estate

Tuesday, February 23rd 2016

St. Polycarp
(Isaiah 1:10, 16-20,27-28,31; Matthew 23:1-12)
9:00 Fr. Thomas McEntee
by Brian & Effie Cordeiro

Wednesday, February 24th 2016

(Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28)
9:00 Edward Neville,
1st Anniversary of Death, by the Parish

Thursday, February 25th 2016 No Mass

(Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31)

Friday, February 26th 2016

(Gen37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Matt21:33-43,45-46)
9:00 Blessings for Gary O'Dwyer & Family
by L. Hull

Saturday, February 27th 2016

(Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)
5:00 John Pozza by Gloria Pozza



*This week the Sanctuary lamp will
burn in memory of
John Alexander Lengyel
by Anna Lengyel*

ACTIVITIES

MONDAY 6:00 PM
Christian Meditation Choir room.
For information call 514-931-5536

THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Choir Practice Choir Room

SATURDAY 10:30AM
Celebration of First Reconciliation
Church

Parish Donations

Parish donations can be made ONLINE through CanadaHelps. Donations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, PayPal or Interact. You receive your Tax e-receipt immediately. Go to the parish website (www.ascensionofourlord.ca) and click on the main page button "EVERY DOLLAR HELPS" for instructions. Thank you for your generosity