

Sunday, August 9	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10am: +Felipe Gobenciong
Monday, August 10	Feast: St. Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr No Mass
Tuesday, August 11	Memorial: St. Clare, Virgin 8:50am: Morning Prayer 9:15am: +Frank Coffey 1:30pm: Portsmouth Residence Mass
Wednesday, August 12	Weekday Ferial 8:50am: Rosary 9:15am: +Lois Francis 10am: Serra Club Meeting
Thursday, August 13	Weekday Ferial 8:50am: Morning Prayer 9:15am: +Rosina Mandarino
Friday, August 14	Memorial: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr 8:50am: Rosary 9:15am: In thanksgiving
Saturday, August 15	Solemnity: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:15am: +Peter Clarke Vigil: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5pm: Missa Pro Populo
Sunday, August 16	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10am: +Helen Luy

Winnipeg Harvest: Children and Poverty

- Winnipeg Harvest spends **\$200,000** on baby food and formula– the only food purchase the organization incurs.
 - Three out of ten children living in the province of Manitoba in 2012 were living in poverty.
- The need for nutritious, non-perishable food and **iron fortified baby formula** does not take a summer holiday. Top ten most-needed list at main church entrance.



Tools for School: For low income families, preparing for back-to-school is a budgeting nightmare; especially for those struggling to feed their children. The school supply allowance on public assistance does not cover costs. You can help by purchasing needed school supplies.

Knights of Columbus #1107:

Your purchase of Sobeys Gift Cards can help feed the hungry in our city. Our Knights are selling cards in \$25, \$50 or \$100 denominations following weekend Masses. To donate your gift card to Winnipeg Harvest, indicate this at the time of your purchase and a tax receipt will be issued. **Each dollar donated allows Harvest to leverage \$20 worth of food.** 2015 total to date: **\$5730**



Rest in Peace:

+Jim Coughlin
+Teresa Egan



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Open to Otherwise- 1 Kings 19:24-8, Psalm 34, Eph 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51

In today's Gospel, Jesus' statement "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" and his references to "my Father" drew the contempt of the crowd. They thought Jesus was overreaching in calling God "my Father." They knew his parents and knew that he had come from Nazareth, not heaven! They were unwilling to open themselves to what Walter Brueggemann has called otherwise" (Testimony of Otherwise, Chalice Press, St. Louis: 2001). Because of the human need "to control ourselves and our world, we try to establish a fixed, visible, settled 'given' that is beyond criticism or reexamination, a 'given' that variously partakes of intellectual, socioeconomic, political and believing components." Once it is established, we protect this "given" by refusing any alternative. But Jesus, like the prophets before him, understood that despite any "given," God always offers the possibility of "otherwise."

For example, when Elijah (first reading) prophesied drought, and famine ensued, he was able, by God's power, to provide an endless supply of food for a widow and her son. When that son died, Elijah, by God's power, revived him, offering life as an alternative to death. When his contemporaries were tempted to worship the ba'als, he exposed those false gods as helpless frauds, offering the "otherwise" of the one, true God. When all turned a blind eye to King Ahab's dishonest and immoral dealings, Elijah confronted the king with his sins. He offered the "otherwise" of truth in the face of deception.

"When the early church pondered Jesus," writes Brueggemann, "cadences of Elijah rang in their ears because they sensed that Jesus was an enactment of a dangerous, healing, liberating otherwise that could not be stopped" (op. cit.). For these reasons, Jesus' contemporaries had questioned his origins and his teachings. He was perceived as a threat to their traditional "given" of law and liturgy and purity, and in the end, they killed him instead of listening and learning.

But there were some who did heed him and who allowed themselves to be taught. These were the tenders and keepers of otherwise, our ancestors in the faith. Even in more recent years, some among us have kept otherwise before our eyes and imaginations. Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was martyred for his faith in El Salvador, daily confronted an unjust military government with their crimes, all the while calling for peace and justice; Mother Teresa confronted poverty and disease with love and compassion; Dorothy Day did not fear to speak out on behalf of the disenfranchised and neglected; Nelson Mandela could have been angry and embittered by his 27 years of unjust imprisonment, but chose to forgive; Mohandas Gandhi chose the path of peace and nonresistance rather than violence and war; Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream of equality and justice while others clung to hatred, slavery and segregation.

This theme of choosing a holy alternative is reflected in today's second reading, as well. There, the Deutero-Pauline author asks readers to choose the way of love, as Christ did. Eschewing bitterness, fury, anger, shouting and all malice, Jesus chose instead the "otherwise" of love, compassion and forgiveness. If we are his disciples, then we witness to that belonging in all we are, in all we do, in all we think, in all we choose. This means going beyond the status quo and thinking outside the expected and acceptable. This means daring to be the unpopular one who listens not to popular opinion or even to the biggest majority but to God, to Jesus, to the Gospel. For his efforts at otherwise, Elijah found himself hiding in the desert and praying for death. The early believers in Jesus were ousted from the synagogue by the Jews who thought them to be heretics. They were also persecuted for their faith by the Romans. Jesus lost many disciples that day when he proclaimed, "I am the Bread of Life." They found his words "hard to endure" (John 6:60). How will you choose? Robert Frost's words come to mind here: "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference" (Mountain Interval, 1920).

~Patricia Datchuck Sánchez (used with permission)



SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Taking desert time

The word *desert* often evokes images of a vast, hostile environment devoid of life. Yet the desert is a common symbol used in scripture to give context to an experience of God. It can, for example, be a symbol of quieting ourselves and finding our grounding in God, even in the busyness of everyday life. How do you enter into the desert? While we may not have a vast wilderness to retreat into, we can find small ways: plugging into our favorite reflective song, breathing in fresh air, closing our eyes and opening our heart to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51 (116)*. "Elijah went a day's journey into the desert."

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 FEAST OF SAINT LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

Know where your treasure lies

When Saint Lawrence, a third-century deacon, was ordered by the prefect of Rome to hand over whatever wealth the early church had, Lawrence rounded up the poor and sick, presented them to the prefect, and announced, "These are the treasures of the church!" The poor and sick continue to be the church's greatest treasure. "In the poor and outcast," says Pope Francis, "we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ." In your service to those in material need you will find your life's greatest riches.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618)*. "Where I am, there also will my servant be."

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 FEAST OF CLARE, VIRGIN

Support your soul companions

Clare of Assisi was born into a well-to-do family in 1194. By custom, she was expected to marry into a family of similar social status. After hearing Francis preach, Clare chose a very different path. Like Francis, Clare desired to follow closely the model of Jesus. Her wish for a life of prayer, simplicity, and evangelical poverty was realized in 1212 when she and Francis founded the second Franciscan order, later known as the Order of Saint Clare. The two encouraged and supported each other for the rest of their lives. Today, say special prayers for your companions on the spiritual journey!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414)*. "It is the Lord, your God, who marches with you; he will never fail you or forsake you."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Let the children lead

Today is International Youth Day, a good day to acknowledge that the future is present and walking among us. A day to ponder your own legacy—what can you offer the youth of today? What have you learned that you can teach? Where have you found good in the world that you can point out to those whose eyes are fresher? How has your faith helped in hard times and what lessons can you pass on?

And what can you learn in turn from those who are more innocent and spontaneous?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20 (415)*.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Healthy hearts forgive

The Mayo Clinic specializes in wellness—not just physical health but also emotional wellness. Their list of the benefits of forgiving someone include: healthier relationships; greater spiritual and psychological well-being; less anxiety, stress, and hostility; lower blood pressure; fewer symptoms of depression; a stronger immune system; improved heart health; higher self-esteem. Pretty healthy stuff, this forgiveness. Take two forgiveness pills and call an estranged loved one in the morning!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1 (416)*. "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 FEAST OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

Love like this saves the world

The old Burt Bacharach song said, "What the world needs now, is love, sweet love," and Franciscan Maximilian Kolbe showed that it is possible to give the world what it needs in Jesus' name. Kolbe summed up a life of love and service in a simple but dramatic act. Hearing a fellow prisoner at Auschwitz cry out, "My wife! My children!" as his name was called out for execution, Kolbe volunteered to take his place. There were likely thousands of similar heroic acts of compassion in the years of the death camps—flickers of love and light—now forgotten. But Kolbe's story has been remembered and retold just to remind you that while your act of love today probably will not cost you your life, it will go far to bring Christ's sweet love alive.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12 (417)*. "No greater love than to lay down life for a friend."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Say yes to God

The young woman who traveled the hill country to visit her cousin on that long ago day did not know what the future held. Pregnant, and with more questions than answers, she nonetheless had given her assent to God's will. It was the first yes in an earthly life of total surrender. That young woman on the road to Judah would have been as stunned as anyone to know she would share in her Son's Resurrection. She alone among humanity would one day be taken, body and soul, into heavenly glory. Ask for the grace to surrender the worries of this day to Mary's Son.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28 (621); Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622)*. "Blessed are you who believed."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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