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2016 Parish Campaign

Next Sunday, April 17

is the second ShareLife Collection



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FIRST COMMUNIONS



Last Supper by Del Parson

Congratulations to the children who celebrated their First Communion last weekend at the 5 pm. Saturday and the 11 am. Sunday Masses. I am sure their parents are proud of this landmark moment in their children’s lives when by the great goodness of Jesus, He gave them Himself in this most holy and mysterious closeness. Now, they are eligible to be regular, every-Sunday partakers of the Lord’s blessing and goodness for their lives that He loves them and all of us so much that He would actually feed us in giving us His very self. How incredible and how special for these young children to be admitted into the company of all those generations who were sustained in their faith by the Bread of Angels, the Bread of Life – Jesus!

(Fr. Charles)

MY LATE AUNT LORRAINE

Last Saturday in Campbellford, Ontario, I presided at the funeral of my late Aunt Lorraine Mahoney who was 81 years old and with her husband, my uncle Pat, had raised 12 children. The funeral was held in their home church of St. Mary of the Visitation. My late aunt was a force to be reckoned with and yet was always smiling and joyful and armed with jokes. She and her husband had also known the



cross in their lives when years ago one of their sons, Geoffrey, had died and over the years as well had two son in laws, David and Dennis, who had also had early passings.

In the words of condolences sent to the funeral home via website and the animated conversations at the reception following the funeral everyone was really saying the same thing about her – she was always so full of life and genuinely loved people. My aunt was also quite short in height and used to make jokes about

herself, particularly when all her children seemed to tower over her. She once had a shoe store in Campbellford and on a few occasions, when visiting and hanging around her store, if the phone would ring she would give us permission to answer it. One of my siblings (I don’t remember which one) once answered saying, “Shorty’s Shoes.” My aunt just laughed.

At my father’s funeral here at St. Leo the Great in July 2014, we were gathered in the parish hall for the reception and my aunt and others were standing around my mother’s wheelchair. My aunt, who always had fine wrinkles on her face and who described her own appearance to me once as looking like an unmade bed, said to everyone as she was looking at my mother; “Look at your mother’s face and skin. Not a wrinkle on her. That’s what ticks me off!” I think even my mother laughed at that, so infectious was my Aunt Lorraine’s laugh and jovial way.

Looking back she was a giant in so many ways and left a big footprint on the hearts of all who knew and remembered her.

Aunt Lorraine used to be a lector at St. Mary of the Visitation church, which was also the home church of my mother whose family lived on a farm just outside of Campbellford, close to Myersburg where they went to school. Because of her stature she used to have a stool she would place just behind the lectern when it was her time to read. Even with the step stool you could only see my Aunt’s face above the book. In memory of this, one of the lectors at her funeral used my aunt’s stool to proclaim her reading, (but I also observed that she needed it too).

The late St. John XXIII once said that “Every day is a good day to live and every day is a good day to die”. That truth especially rings true when one has a living, every-day relationship with Jesus. It’s not about appearing religious but in the way one lives their life. My Aunt, as was often said of her, would help anybody but if she had a beef with you she’d bring it to you square on. In that was found an honesty that said ‘what you see is what you get’. My aunt would have been the first to admit and tell you that “she was no saint”, and in such a beautiful way the Catholic Funeral liturgy addressed that reality as well when it refers repeatedly throughout the prayers, to asking God’s mercy upon the soul and God’s forgiveness of any sins she may have had. Saint, though she wouldn’t have called herself, she still ranks up fairly high in my books when I think of the joy and laughter she spread wherever she went and in all circumstances whether it be an anniversary party or a funeral. She was one of those individuals who, when you entered a room full of people and spotted her face, you would naturally gravitate toward and be joyfully greeted with a big hug, a kiss and a jibe about something. My aunt had joy. I once wrote out a line that strangely came to me in a dream I had (of all places) which says, “Laughter is a fresh piece of joy when you’re all out of gum”. I know it sounds silly in its lack of profundity but it’s also so true. The laughter of my Aunt was a reflection of an inner joy she had, one that sustained her through difficult times and in the everyday trials and challenges of life. We gave her the highest “send-off” we could in the celebration of her funeral Mass, commending her soul to the highest hope we humans have and has been promised to those who believe – joy with Christ forever! This is the Easter mystery and reality for our living.... and hers. *(Fr. Charles)*

MASS INTENTIONS – April 12 – 17, 2016

Tues. Apr.12 – 8:30 am – St. Leo School Mass
Wed. Apr.13 – 7:00 pm- Deceased Members of the
Micallef Family req. J. Boland
Thurs.Apr.14–8:30 am – Deceased Members of the
Dermarkar Family req. J. Boland
Fri.Apr.15 – 8:30 am – Ints. of Josephine Boland
req. J. Boland
Sat.Apr.16 – 5:00 pm – Giuseppina Minicucci+ req
V & T. Corvinelli
Sun.Apr.17 – 9:00 am – John O’Neill req. A & B Frank
11:00 am – Valerie Hotner+ req. Cavallari Family

Daily Masses the week of Tuesday April 19 – Friday 22 will be cancelled as Fr. Charles is attending an Archdiocese of Toronto Good Shepherds Program Course.

Third Sunday of Easter

How am I being called to feed the lambs of Jesus? Could it be as an ordained or consecrated person? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, 416-968-0997.

Working wonders in our neighbourhoods

Over 39,000 individuals received help in getting their lives back on track through ShareLife-supported family services programs. Next Sunday, April 17 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously. You can work wonders!

CWL Upcoming Events: Please mark these dates.

Coffee Sunday – April 24 after 9 & 11 am masses.
Bundle Up – St. Vincent de Paul Society: Donations will be collected at the church parking lot next weekend April 16/17.
Spring Fashion Show, Fashions from Ava Gray New York, will take place in the parish hall on Sunday May 1 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.
Mother’s Day Basket Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3/\$5. The Draw will be on May 8.
Tickets for both these events can be purchased after all the masses.

Recycle Your Electronics–April 23

Do you have electronics that you would like to recycle? **St. Leo Catholic School** will be hosting an electronics **Recycling Day on Saturday, April 23**. Simply drop off any unwanted electronics to the school between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. At St. Leo Catholic School, we are proud to be Stewards of Creation! Accepted items: Portable Computers, Display Devices, monitors & TV’s Desktop computers, Telephones & Answering machines, cellular devices, audio and video devices, etc.

March for Life – Ottawa Thursday May 12

Buses are departing from Whitby, at Holy Family Parish, parking lot. Time to be advised – Reserved seating \$25.00 per person. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 905-668-3218 or 905-668-7292.

Holy Door Pilgrimages

Pope Francis has announced an opportunity for Catholics to obtain a plenary indulgence by passing through a designated Holy Door during the Year of Mercy. Cardinal Thomas Collins has selected churches of special significance throughout our geographical vast Archdiocese. One of the Holy Door locations is The Martyr’s Shrine in Midland, Ontario. The Legion of Mary, our Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium, will be doing a pilgrimage to the The Martyr’s Shrine on Saturday May 14, 2016. If you are interested to join us, please let us know by April 24. Please contact Nancy at 289-388-7240 as soon as possible so that we will be able to determine how many buses we need to charter and the cost per person.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 903 Giffard St, Whitby

Please join with spiritual leaders and representatives from various community faith groups in prayer and reflection on the theme of PEACE. It will include readings from holy books and meditative music provided by a harpist and cantor. Refreshments and fellowship with participants will follow in the parish centre. Phone 905-668-4676.

Concert of Sacred Music – Port Perry

Cantorei sine Nomine at Immaculate Conception Parish, 1710 Scugog St, Port Perry, on Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 pm. A suggested offering of \$10.

Project Rachel Retreat – May 13-15, 2016

Project Rachel is a ministry of healing for adults who are suffering from an abortion experience in their past. Do not be far off and alone any longer. Come near. We can help. Please call 416-629-8264 or email Project Rachel@StMarysRefuge.org. A weekend retreat for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion will be held on May 13-15, 2016. Project Rachel private and confidential. “The Lord is near to all who call on him” Psalm 125.


Retreat for Catholic Parents of Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons on Saturday, June 4 at Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre in Pickering, from 9:00 – 5:00 pm, \$40 (includes lunch). Please call John Montague 416-523-6449.




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