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loving
concern for
each and
every person.



"(The common good...) It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about." Pope Francis

2015 Parish Campaign
Sunday, April 12
is the second ShareLife Collection

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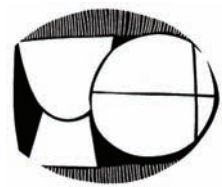
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**TOTUS TUUS IS RETURNING TO ST. LEO
SAVE THE DATES!**

**August 9-13 for students entering grades 7-12
August 10-14 for students entering grades 1-6**

For the fifth year in a row our parish has been privileged to host the annual Totus Tuus week-long youth camp. Totus Tuus is a unique and fun-filled program featuring a team of 4 college-age students who will engage our youth with a week-long program focusing on the Catholic faith. The week is packed with skits, songs, Daily Mass and inspiring teaching. Registration information will be issued in April so save the dates now and prepare for your child to attend.



**St. Leo the Great Parish
Congratulates the
First Communion
Recipients**

On behalf of all our parishioners we pray God's blessing on the children who this weekend will have received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. With their parents they have covered the beautiful materials in the *Jesus Brings Us Life* book which helped to prepare them with catechesis for their First Reconciliation (last December) and their First Communion now. They have been nourished these many past months with the Word of God in the midst of this Catholic community as they attended Sunday Mass. We thank God for His gift of His Son, Jesus, who feeds them with His Body and Blood, our spiritual food for the journey of life. God bless them and their families.

**The Curious Unseriousness
of All Our Moral Debates**



I've come to believe that there is something fundamentally unserious these days about moral discussions.

Imagine two farmers, brothers working the same five hundred acres, arguing about whether to take a big chance on the next harvest, by sowing a lucrative crop in fields that are already worn thin in nutrients. Jim wants to do it, thinking that they may as well, since they're in debt and the only way to clear it will be to win big. John thinks that the risk isn't worth it, and that if they sow the usual crops while letting half of their fields lie fallow, they'll go deeper in debt for the coming year, but they'll stand a decent chance to clear things up the year after.

Nobody will say, "John, you must be gentle in addressing the gamblers," or, "Jim, you are unwelcoming to the cautious." We would all understand that the tone of the argument is not to the point. The stakes are high. A mistake could mean losing everything.

Or imagine your daughter is being pursued by two young men who want to marry her. One of them is good looking, well spoken, full of life, wealthy, and shiftless. He is unemployed. The other is ordinary looking, slow of speech, solid, of modest means, and absolutely trustworthy. He has not been unemployed since he was sixteen. She has had her head turned by the shiftless man, and you see her as in a car speeding along a mountain road with hairpin turns. Some people may advise you to be chary of your criticism, because if you push too hard, you may push her right into the arms of the bad man. But not even they would tell you not to take the matter seriously. The stakes are high. Misery threatens on the horizon.

So why do we not view with the same sobriety such questions as now beset what remains of our culture? We wouldn't say to a child, "Each of us has his own opinion regarding whether it's good to eat the strange fruit on that tree, so go ahead and eat it if you like." We wouldn't say to someone about to drive a car recently repaired, "Each of us has his own opinion about the steering differential, and whether it will disengage at a high speed, but go ahead and try it out if you like." That's because we take poison seriously, and cars careening over a guard rail. No one calls the cautious man a toxophobe (*fear of being poisoned*). No one accuses him of prejudice against unknown berries, or alternative gear styles.

Now, when a Christian or even a sensible pagan calls an action gravely evil, he is *in addition* making the same kind of claim as does someone who says, "That fruit is poisonous," or "That gear will slip." Granted, it cannot be "proved" by detached chemical or physical analysis. We must rely upon history, common sense, experience, and moral insight into the inner connections among the evil we now admit and the evil we will be led to admit to boot. The point is that to take that claim seriously is to admit the possibility that a mistake would be calamitous. The burden of proof is heavy, and lies upon those who argue for permissibility – you may eat the fruit, you may drive that car.

But far from shouldering that burden, those among us who argue for permissibility shrug it away. Among Christians this is inexplicable. Scripture continually warns us *against* judging in our own case; against taking the path that *seems* good to us. For the heart of man is deceitful from his youth – who can fathom it? Has not the last century given us proof of the depths to which man can deceive himself, and bring down upon the world the vengeance of heaven? The Christian must always be wary of errors in permissibility. The broad way leads to destruction. Evil is what it is regardless of what anyone

says about it. It will destroy. If the secular man will not believe Jesus, that he who sins is a slave to sin, or John, that the wages of sin is death, let him turn to Plato or Thucydides or Cicero or Tacitus or Epictetus, and hear much the same thing in different words.

What explains this nonchalance? Someone says that sodomy is all right, and that people who disagree are simply hateful. Well, the person who says, "That fruit is poisonous" may or may not be hateful; he may be filled with such love that he risks mockery or contempt. It is not to the point. Someone says that snuffing out the life you have conceived is all right, and that people who disagree simply want to bind the lives of women. Well, the person who says, "That gear will slip" may or may not hate the mechanic who put it there, may or may not want to make sure that you stay put; or he may be filled with such love that he risks hurting your feelings and losing your friendship. It is not to the point.

Why do people not see that? I'll suggest two reasons. Many more are possible.

One is that academics, whose voices are the loudest in these matters, are insulated from the results of their folly. It is "academic" to them. *They* need not see the child hardened in resentment as he is shipped from one parent to another. *They* do not visit slums, police precincts, prisons, and morgues.

Another is that no one knows any history. We are taught to scorn the hard-won achievements of our ancestors, and to shrug away the terrible lessons of moral degeneracy.

But the fruit on that bush will not oblige us for approving it. Evil is what it is, and does what it does. That is so even in this life, let alone the life to come.

Ontario Health & Physical Education Curriculum: What I Found Missing

Since the announcement and more recent release of the new (2010) Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum (Sex-Ed curriculum) to be implemented this coming September 2015 in all schools, public and Catholic, it has received both outrage and lax passivity from Ontarians. I did a scan of the 240 page online document, which can be viewed on the Ontario Government website, and found that what was obviously missing in any of the documents' discussion about relationships and sexuality were three key words. The three words are: LOVE, RESPONSIBILITY AND MARRIAGE. If anyone should think that we haven't fallen so low in the presentation of this document by the Ontario Government then how explain how any talk (teaching/indoctrination) of sexuality wouldn't even once mention the word 'Marriage'? Does it no longer exist in the mind of the Ontario Liberal Government? Oh sure, the words *Love* and *Responsibility* can be found but never in any of the documents teaching on sexuality, but rather in the context that children

"love" to learn....". The word "responsibility" only pertains to the areas of academics and ones own personal responsibility to apply themselves to learning and getting a solid education. Say what you want about this new curriculum, but this is the same curriculum that will be 'taught' to all our Ontario children in both Catholic and Public schools as if there was no difference between the two. Only time will tell what approach our Catholic schools will take in maintaining Catholic teaching, morals and values come September when the new H&E curriculum is implemented and enforced. But consider this: could you imagine saying to any Catholic teacher that when they are teaching anything about human sexuality that they weren't to use the words love, marriage or responsibility? Aren't a large percentage of Ontarians married? The absence of these words, to me, suggests the spirit of this document. (Fr. Charles)

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES RETREAT

The NET Team will be here to facilitate the Confirmation Retreat which will be held on **Wednesday April 15 from 9:00 to 2:30 pm** in the parish hall. Also the usual Confirmation Session at 7:00 pm in the evening. Please bring your Passport.

Bundle Up for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who will be collecting donations here at the parish on the weekend of **April 25 & 26**. Please no appliances, baby furniture, books or mattresses. Thank you.

Please come and join us for a **Parish Family Fun Night & PIZZA** on **Saturday April 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm** in the parish hall, please enter by Carson Street. There will be lots of trivia games, guessing games, family challenges and many prizes to be won. Of course, it wouldn't be a fun night without Pizza, juice and desserts all for only \$5.00 per family. **We need families to register because we need to order the pizza. So please call 905-620-0724 ASAP to register.**

Mass Intentions – April 14-19

Tues. 8:30 am – Rose McNulty+ req. Lynn McPeak
Wed. 7:00 pm – Doris Kathleen Brick+ req. Farquharson Family
Thurs. 8:30 am – Rose McNulty+ req. Claire Ironside
Fri. 8:30 am – Robert St. Denis+ req. Madge St. Denis
Sat. 5:00 pm – Int. Tom & Mary Tracey req. Angela Meagher
Sunday 9:00 am – Annette A Vesters+ req. Vesters Family
Sunday 11:00 am – Giovanna Alimondi+ req Mastropietro Family

Cherubs Cupboard will be here next weekend with their wonderful display of religious articles for purchase.

Ecumenical & Interfaith Prayer for Peace will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church on Giffard St, Whitby on Saturday April 18 at 2:00 pm with reception to follow at 3:00 pm. For more info please call Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor at 905-668-3676.

New Lighthouse Catholic Media CD's in Display in the Vestibule


Becoming The Best Version of Yourself – Matthew Kelly
The Eucharist: Our Very Life – Deacon Dr. Bob McDonald
St. Philomena: A Saint for Our Time – Dr. Mark Miravalle
These are all great, so please check them out for yourselves.




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