

# Living the Gospel



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## SHARE YOUR GLORY STORIES

One of the best ways to give glory to God in recognition of the ways in which he may have touched you during our parish's 3-Day Lenten Mission with Mark Mallett is to share with fellow parishioners (using an acronym if you wish) how the Lord touched you during the three evenings through the music, testimony or Mark's talks. If you would like to submit your comments or remarks please send them to the parish email address listed on the front cover of this bulletin. Doing so gives due glory to the Lord for his great goodness.

Here is a *Glory Story* submitted this week which shows the power of prayer and the closeness of Our Blessed Lord and His Blessed Mother:

**F**or weeks and months, I have been struggling with the discernment of my vocation. Though I have asked God to use me wherever He pleases, I have struggled to hear where he is calling me to. Last week was a particularly confusing time for me. I was pretty sure that I was being called to the health care field, but my mind was running in circles, considering every possible pathway that might suit my skills.

Amidst this confusion, I attended the parish Lenten mission with my mom and her friend. On Monday night, we approached Mark to say thank you and my mom asked if he would pray over us. As Mark was invoking the Holy Spirit, his hands predominantly over my mom, he suddenly shifted his body towards me and placed his hands over my head. At this moment, my mom's friend smelled roses. He told me that Our Holy Mother was granting me a special grace, and then asked me if I am discerning my vocation. When I replied yes in complete and utter amazement, he told me that Our Lady wanted me to consecrate myself to her. Incidentally, I have been completing my 33-day preparation period for consecration on the Feast of the Annunciation! Mark gave me a great big hug on her behalf.

Just one day later, on the final day of the Lenten mission, I was studying in a coffee shop when a barista asked if I would like a sample of rose tea. Minutes later, I was greeted by an interview invitation e-mail to the medical program I had been hoping to get into! (Reader: Please pray for the success of my interview!) Praise be to God, and thanks be to Him for Our Holy Mother, the dispenser of graces. Finally, thank you for your ministry, Mark!"

## CHRIST CRUCIFIED



In our time we are literally bombarded with so many images of Christ; some respectful, others not so much. We have the smiling Jesus pictures or the mod Jesus giving the viewer two thumbs up. We have the older images which so often presented Jesus as milky white and rather effeminate. There are the pics we've seen of Jesus walking with his disciples or scenes from the various miracles of

Jesus as well as the time-honoured painting of Jesus which appeared as truly beautiful. Yet the one image that many still find hard to fathom or even accept is Christ on the Cross, or as St. Paul referred to it, Christ crucified: *"And I, when I came to you, brothers, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* (1 Cor. 2:1) How could St. Paul possibly hold this to be true when he would have surely heard of what a scandal it was to Jesus' own disciples who fled at seeing Jesus nailed to a cross and die? After all, three days later Jesus in fact came back to life in what we know as the Resurrection. Shouldn't that be the focus since it is clearly the great victory of Jesus defeating death? St. Paul himself preached Christ and his Resurrection when in Athens, though he only made a handful of converts who said that they would "hear him again on this". But he had time to reflect on what he had said on the road back to Corinth. And it was on his return that he wrote his letter to them with the preceding words of needing to know nothing among them except Christ and him crucified. The Resurrection is the fulfillment of the Cross and yet the Cross itself with Christ on it has the power to remind us how the price for each of our lives was paid. The image which seems such a defeat – Christ hanging dead on the Roman's most feared form of torture and death – is the one that people are most familiar with in churches, in art, on rosaries and most any place.

Each year on Good Friday in our parish we venerate with a bow, a kiss or a genuflection the Cross of Jesus. Yet in some places it is the crucifix itself that is shown honour and great reverence. The real symbol of Good Friday is not just the cross by itself but Jesus hanging dead on it. Since Jesus replaced our punishment with his own we owe him everything for it purchased us heaven if we would but endure in this life as a faithful follower.

To our own human share of suffering, be it physical, emotional or spiritual, the thought of Christ crucified brings us a strange comfort as we know that God-Man suffered too and entered into every one of our human pains and won victory over them, the last one being death itself. Ven. Fulton J. Sheen often wrote and spoke so beautifully on the crucifix, reminding us that when we study it and



look closely at it, it is our own autobiography. He also spoke in the 70's about how (with the films *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*) Jesus was not a superstar, but a super-scar. He said, "Jesus is not a superstar but a superscar. He was driven out of a city, out to a garbage heap, and there crucified, and not between two holy candles."

While the image for our annual Lenten journey is symbolically the Cross of Jesus it is Christ on the Cross that speaks most to our innermost thoughts and imaginings of such a great and tremendous love that goes to death, not for another, but for all who would come and kneel before the One hanging upon it who redeemed the world, defeated Satan and won for us our lives.... forever! (*Fr. Charles*)

MASS INTENTIONS

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. † Lorne Brown

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. † Catherine McAvoy

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. † Mary Mulcahy

**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

4:30 p.m. † Paul Ponce de Leon

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. † Fernando Zenarosa III

11:00 a.m. All Souls in Purgatory

**TOTUS TUUS IS COMING BACK!**

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us once again for *Totus Tuus (Latin for Totally Yours)* this summer from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and college/university students travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechetical instruction, mass, confession, adoration songs and games. This years theme is the Apostles Creed. The program will also be focusing on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. More information is available at [www.totustuustoronto.ca](http://www.totustuustoronto.ca)

**Children entering grades 1 thru 6,**

**Cost is \$80 per person for the entire week**

**Runs Monday - Friday from 9am - 2:30pm**

**For Intermediate/High School grades 7 thru 12**

**Cost of \$20 for all five nights**

**Runs Sunday - Thursday evenings from 7 – 9 pm**

More news and information on how to register will be announced in the coming weeks! Also if there are any adults interested in helping out as missionary assistants for the week please contact me personally at the church (905) 655-3286 ext. 109 or by email [youth@stleothegreat.ca](mailto:youth@stleothegreat.ca). Thank you for your continued prayers and support, (Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

Holy Family Parish (91 Ribblesdale Dr Whitby ON) will be having Marriage Preparation Course from April 19 to May 31 from 7pm - 9pm (6 Thursday except May 10). For more information and details, please call the office at 905-6656470.

**Living the Gospel by supporting ShareLife**

How do we "Live the Gospel" toward others when our daily lives are so busy? For some it's volunteering at a soup kitchen, or it may be caring for an elderly relative. If we do not have the time to actively participate, we can support the many ShareLife-funded agencies within our community that bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Over the next week, reflect on your ability to help "Live the Gospel" through Catholic agencies, and make a decision to support our ShareLife parish campaign.

**Next Sunday, March 18 is ShareLife Sunday.**

**Please give generously.**

**Steubenville Toronto is coming to the UOIT Campus, Oshawa this summer July13-15th**

Steubenville is more than the name of a conference, it's a city in Ohio that is home to the Franciscan University of Steubenville, a vibrant Catholic College rooted in the Franciscan tradition and dedicated to proclaiming Jesus Christ as "the Way, the Truth, the Life." For the past 40 years, high school youth from across North America have had their faith awakened and their hearts set on fire through a personal encounter with Jesus at Steubenville Conferences. Once again St. Leo the Great will be taking a group of excited teens and chaperones to participate in Steubenville Toronto. This amazing conference is the highlight of the year for our high school youth. Fun is an understatement, youth will not only enjoy the food, fellowship and music, they will experience praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration and Mass fully, along with over 1,200 other teens. Talented recording artists, clergy and guest speakers are just part of what makes this event so special. Now in it's fifth year, Steubenville Toronto continues to grow and is Canada's largest Catholic youth conference. Who is eligible to go? Steubenville is open to all grades 9 thru 12, including any Grade 8's who are graduating this year and any students graduating from grade 12 this year.

**Cost is \$275 per person for all 3 days. This price includes meals and accommodation at UOIT (please note: transportation to and from the venue is not included). Registration will begin April 1<sup>st</sup> and close June 7th.**

We will arrive Friday afternoon and check out in the early afternoon Sunday. Words cannot express how great these conferences are, in fact life changing. Teens who attended last years event truly fell in love with their faith even more. News and information on how to register will be announced in the coming weeks! Please feel free to contact me personally at the church to answer any of your questions. (905) 655-3286 ext. 109 or by email [youth@stleothegreat.ca](mailto:youth@stleothegreat.ca). Thank you for your continued prayers and support, (Dennis Wardle, Youth Director)

**DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

**The Masses Lawyer: Meet Felix Morka of Nigeria. Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre.** Development and Peace, a ShareLife Agency, invites you to hear how the Solidarity of Canadians is empowering the poor in the Slums of Lagos, Nigeria, who daily, face the threat of eviction and destruction of their homes. Felix is a Harvard trained lawyer and the executive director of SERAC, a Nigerian organization and partner of Development and Peace/Caritas.

**\$25 LOBLAW CARDS**

If you have completed the application for the Loblaws (Superstore, No Frills) \$25 gift certificate rebate and plan to donate the certificate to a charity please consider donating it to the Parish's Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Your donation will help feed the Neighbours In Need in our parish and community. If you decide to donate your gift card please drop it in the poor box at the end of mass. Thank You!




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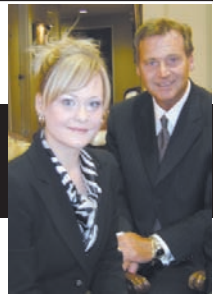
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