

# Living the Gospel



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## HOW DO I KNOW?

Often when I or one of my siblings would question some fact or truth my mother had told us we would ask her, "How do you know?", to which my mother would reply respond, "How do you know anything?" It reminds me of the man who asked an Irishman, "Is it true that if you ask an Irishman a question, he'll answer you with a question?", and the Irishman responded, "Who told you that?"



As I am once again trying to fill space in the parish bulletin and have long since run out of things to write about I scramble for some new idea or topic to address, but it occurred to me that there are just some things you can't give to other people and you're pretty powerless to do anything about it. In the realm of the spiritual there are just some things I've come to know due to the fact that there has been a development in me over time in what I once simply believed and now I say I know.

Take the hope of heaven, for example. Just to set the record straight, I've never been there, have no idea what it looks like nor do I have a copy of the guest list of who is in residence. Yet, in hearing the Word of God each Sunday and in the readings of the Divine Office and in the reading I chance to do when I have time and the inkling, I've moved from belief to knowledge in that I know Jesus is true and faithful to his promises – all of them. How do I know? Because everything I have trusted the Lord for has either been happily fulfilled and satisfied or when it hasn't has revealed some hidden and even greater truth I wouldn't have known had I received what consolation I was looking for in the lesser thing. And beyond the scriptures but consistent with them are the revealed truths manifest in the appearances of the Blessed Mother over the centuries but in particular over the past two hundred years. Our Blessed Mother doesn't ever point to herself but to her Son, Jesus, which is perfectly in line with the scriptures. The one who echoed 2000 years ago the words that she was the "handmaid of the Lord" professes to be the same in her appearances now. Mary is a mirror that reflects the glory and Godhead of Jesus and she even calls him her Saviour, though she didn't need to be saved from sin for she was conceived without sin. She was saved in the sense that God enabled her by his own power who made his own Mother, to be kept safe from sin.



One of the reasons I can say "I know" is evident in the non-radical shifts, but shifts just the same, in my own life when my viewpoint or worldview changed and did so because of Jesus himself. I think when I was first ordained and was influenced by people who were more liberal in their attitude toward the things of God, the Sacraments and liturgical practice, I tended toward a more minimalist idea of Church, not because I was necessarily convinced in these things but because I got swept along with them. I thought that bells during the consecration were a hold-over by a

worn out practice only fueled all the more by some lay people who told me they believed that when the bells were rung an angel got its wings. Huh? Yet slowly, imperceptibly over time I think I was converted to a thinking much more on the conservative side because I had been kicked square in the teeth by reality. I've known some priests who thought we shouldn't have crucifixes in our churches because they sent the 'wrong message' and we've grown beyond that in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. And

then I'd hear St. Paul say repeatedly and beautifully of the Cross of Jesus, "there is no other sign under heaven by which we can be saved" and "I am resolved from now on to preach Christ and him crucified". When we fall deeper into love with Christ then the Eucharist, the Mass, Holy Hour, silent prayer, liturgy all come alive in a new way and shapes us into vessels of clay that receive such splendid treasure as Jesus Himself!

One of the challenges I have known in coming "to know" some things about God is that it is not easily transmitted to others. When you come to know some truth because of the way you personally have experienced it, others who have not had your experience might find it nonsensical, unbelievable, or just your own opinion. The martyrs of the Church have experienced this reality in their very deaths because of those who thought they were crazy, out of touch with reality or a threat. And Our Saviour Himself experienced this as time and again when he revealed the truths of the Kingdom, he was disbelieved, labelled a sinner or a mere man, accused of being a blasphemer or the devil himself. Jesus' great humiliation was his being the God of all creation and yet submitting to the whims, stupidity, ignorance and foolishness of the ones he had lovingly created. Others would simply walk away from him as when he revealed the Eucharist to them as he himself was the Bread of Life. Yet, they understood him perfectly for he had said, "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you", and still they walked with him no longer.



Faith leads to knowledge. Choosing to believe that which we cannot see in time and through relationship and experience can lead us to say that we know. Beyond the first perceived arrogance of one daring to say "I know" is the truth that we *can* come to know. After Jesus lost the crowds, the masses of people who had been following him because they had witnessed or had heard about the miracle of the loaves and fish in the great multiplication, he seemed so disappointed in their lack of faith in him. He then turns to all of his twelve apostles and asks them if they too will leave him. It was like he was saying, "There's the road that leaves me: are you going to take it as have all these others?" But it's not the twelve who answer him for in fact, they said nothing at all. It is only Peter, our first pope, who answers Jesus' question and speaks on behalf of the others, not with a statement of understanding but of what is self-evident: "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". And then comes the great revelation – "We have faith and **we know** that you are the Messiah." Beautiful! Faith leads to knowledge. Faith is a gift from God and not a self-motivated choosing to believe something we perceive as unbelievable. It comes from experience, relationship, testing, wrestling, trusting and response to Truth itself, which is Jesus himself. Job said, "I know that my redeemer lives and at the last I will rise again. In my body I shall look on God my Saviour".

In all that I have come to say I know about Jesus, I know he loves me, calls me, blesses me and wants me.... forever! (*Fr. Charles*)

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Intentions of M.J. Buenafe  
Intentions of Anne Vince  
Special Intention

### Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

4:30 p.m. † Ken & Sheila Morris

### Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. † Deacon Vern Bechard  
11:00 a.m. † Alessandro Porretta



If you like to sing and have thought about joining the 11:00 choir on Sunday mornings, now is a great time.

This fun choir is always looking

for new members to help enhance the liturgy. All ages and ability levels are welcome. Practices are on Thursday nights for one and a half hours. If interested please see the director, Ted Schuck after the 11:00 mass or just show up to practice any Thursday at 7:30 pm. Thank you. Email: tedschuck@rogers.com

## PAINTING & PONDERINGS

St. Leo's Mothers Group and CWL invites you to a wonderful morning of Painting & Ponderings Saturday, June 9 from 10 am – 12 pm with guest speaker & painter Elizabeth Tan - artist, homeschooler, mom of nine. The theme we will be exploring is that of Relationships. Contact [annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com](mailto:annalisa@catholicmomsgroup.com) for more information.

## And the winner is...

CWL Mother's Day Basket was won by Linh Ngo. CONGRATULATIONS, Linh!



## Living the Gospel by maximizing the impact of your donation

Administered by St. Elizabeth Health Care, the Shared Services Initiative is supporting other ShareLife-funded agencies in the areas of human resources, financial services and information technology. Participating agencies report they are able to improve the quality, competency and accuracy of their work. Through this initiative, ShareLife-funded agencies are ensuring the maximum amount received is directed to the front-line service they provide.

**Next Sunday, May 27, is ShareLife Sunday.**

**Please give generously.**

## 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 year's theme is the Apostles Creed. The program will also be focusing on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. More information is available at [www.totustuutoronto.ca](http://www.totustuutoronto.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**

**Registration Weekend - May 26/27**

## VOCATION SEEDS

The confused and fear-filled apostles were totally changed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they became powerful and dynamic proclaimers of their faith in Jesus Christ. In today's Church God calls priests, religious and deacons to serve Him and to serve others especially by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If you feel God may be calling you to this ministry, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

## St. Gertrude's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament At Harmony Creek Golf Course

Have FUN with us on THURSDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> for an afternoon of Golf followed by Dinner.

**Earlybird Registration until May 25th**

Forms available following mass, at the parish office through the week or on the parish website.

**EARLY BIRD rates:**

Golf & dinner \$80/pp; Dinner only \$45/pp.

Cart fees of \$35. are extra and must be ordered at time of registration. Payment due with registration; Cash or cheque payable to St. Gertrude's Parish.

After May 25<sup>th</sup> all fees increase by \$5.00

For more information contact St. Gertrude's Parish office 905-433-0828






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