

MEDITATION

EVANGELICAL POVERTY — A MEDITATION FOR DIVINE INTIMACY

By Dan Burke

One day a scribe approached Jesus and said to Him, ‘Master, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus answered him, ‘The foxes have their holes, and the birds of the air have their nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’

Matthew 8:19-20



To one who is willing to follow Him, Jesus immediately presents a picture of His life, a life that is extremely poor and without the smallest comfort. Anyone who has not the courage to share, at least to a certain degree, His earthly poverty will have no part in His eternal wealth. No one can serve two masters at the same time: God and riches. “You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). If you are attached to wealth, ease and material comfort, in vain will you try to give your whole heart to God; it will always be the slave of worldly goods. That is why the rich young man, after asking what he should do to obtain eternal life, went away sadly when Jesus answered, “Go, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor,” for “he had great possessions.” He was a good young man; from his youth he had kept the commandments and he sincerely longed for eternal life, so much so that, “Jesus looking on him, loved him” (Mark 10:21-22).

And yet, attachment to his possessions kept him from following Jesus. This is the story of many souls who, after having accomplished much in the service of God, stop and turn back because they lack the courage to detach themselves from the goods of earth. In commenting on this fact and speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, “How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:24-25). Reflect that in these words Jesus was speaking not only of the man who is “rich” because he has great possessions but more especially of the one who is “rich” because he is attached to what he possesses.

“How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!”

COLLOQUY

“O gentle Lord Jesus Christ, most rich in love, experience has taught me that there is nothing in life more wearisome than to burn with earthly desires, for the love of riches is an insatiable hunger which so tortures the soul by the ardor of desire that it does not find solace even when it obtains what it covets. *The acquisition of wealth causes great fatigue; the possession of it brings great fear; its loss occasions great sorrow.* “One who loves riches cannot love You, O Lord, but perishes with the things that are perishable, and he who relies on them with affection, vanishes with them in sadness. He who finds them, loses his peace; when he lies awake at night, he tries to think of ways to add to them; if he sleeps, he dreams of thieves; during the day he is anxious and troubled; at night his fears increase, and thus he is always miserable” (Ven. Raymond Jourdain [14th century abbot of Celles]).

How unfortunate I should be, O Lord, if the love of worldly things prevented me from following you closely! Oh! how little does my life resemble Yours! What a difference in our tastes and desires! You, the King of heaven and earth, could have surrounded Yourself with grandeur, since all riches were created by You. You could have had many servants to carry out Your orders, yet You wanted none of these; instead You chose, for the first place of Your stay on earth, a stable, and for the last, a hard cross. And I, who am but dust and ashes, with no right to possess anything, because I have nothing of myself and receive everything from Your generosity, would I claim a life of comfort, filled with so many desires for material well-being?

O Lord, do not permit the love of temporal goods to be an obstacle, to become a wall between You and me. Union of love demands resemblance; love either finds two beings similar or makes them so. I love You, O Lord, but my love is still weak; strengthen it, so that it may be able to destroy every attachment which hinders me from following You closely and becoming like You.

Courtesy of Baronius Press
www.SpiritualDirection.com

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MASSES & SERVICES
Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm
STAFF
Pastor
Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.
Associate Pastor
Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.
Office Manager
Virginia Fong
Pastoral Coordinator
Bertilla Watanabe
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Theresa Barao

OLPH School Principal
Lora Clarke

IN RESIDENCE.
William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

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 olphchurchvancouver



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

February 26, 2017

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Look Forward to Spiritual Enrichment at Lent

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach Lent, you will notice our parish calendar getting busy again. We have the Lenten talks on *Amoris Latetia* which will feature several notable speakers from our parish. They begin from the first Friday of Lent and continue for six sessions. These will be held after the Way of Cross which begins at 7 and usually lasts about 25 minutes.

Next week we will welcome Redemptorist Fr. Jon Hansen, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish also known as “the Igloo Church” in Inuvik of Northwestern Territories who will be the homilist at all our Masses. Fr Hansen is a wonderful chronicler of life in the chilly, chilly north. From the parish in Inuvik the Redemptorists serve 3 other missions; Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk. Next week after the 9am Mass, he will present a slide show in the Madonna Room. I hope you take the time to find out more about the work of the Redemptorists up north.

For those of you who would like to become Redemptorist Associates, the official mandating ceremony will be held on Tuesday March 7 at 6:30pm. Associates meet regularly for faith-sharing and ongoing formation in areas of Redemptorist charism and spirituality, and may share in some aspect of the Redemptorist Mission. Our Provincial Superior Fr. Mark Miller will be here for that occasion.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R



For God alone my soul waits in silence. – Psalm 62

NEWS & NOTICES

2016 Tax Receipts: Your 2016 tax receipts will be available for pick-up from Tuesday Feb 28 at the Parish Office. Our hours are Mon-Fri 9am-4pm.

Ash Wednesday Masses: Lent begins on March 1. Ash Wednesday Masses are at 8am, 9am (School Mass) and 7pm.

Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service: Each Wednesday during Lent at 12 noon, the Point Grey Ministerial is sponsoring a half hour service in various Churches in the Point Grey Area. The first in this Lenten Prayer Series will be held here at OLPH Church on Ash Wednesday March 1 at noon with Fr. Bill Comerford presiding.

Follow-up Lenten Vigils: March 8 – St. Anselm’s Anglican Church, 5210 University Blvd.
March 15th – West Point Grey United Church, 4595 W. 8th Ave.
March 22 – St. Helen’s Anglican Church, 4405 W.8th Ave.
March 29 – Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship, 4000 W. 11th Ave.
April 5th - West Point Grey Baptism Church, 4509 W. 11th Ave.

Redemptorist Associates Mandating: If you are interested in becoming a Redemptorist Associate and would like to commit some time to being a supporter of the work of the Redemptorists, we invite you to become a Redemptorist Associate. Provincial Superior Fr. Mark Miller will be here for the mandating on Tuesday March 7 at 6:30pm.

Children’s Liturgy: There will be no Children’s Liturgy this weekend at the Sunday 11am Mass. Children’s Liturgy will resume on Sunday March 12.

Food Bank: There will be a Food Bank drive on the weekend of March 4 & 5. The focus is on baby food.

Children’s Mass: The next Children’s mass is on Sunday March 5 at 9am. If you can help with providing refreshments, please email Heather Sage. Email: hleachsage@gmail.com

PREP Mass: Children in the PREP program will be collecting candy, packaged cookies and cash donations at all Masses next weekend, March 4/5, to be donated to the Door Is Open and Missionaries of Charity. Your support would be very much appreciated.

Estate Basics and Memorial Planning Presentation: These presentations by Archdiocese of Vancouver Catholic Cemeteries deal with matters you may not have thought about but will help you gather your thoughts before you write your first will or prepare to update your will.

- Monday, March 13 at 7pm at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Vancouver. To register, visit rcav.org/events/94
- Thursday, March 16 at 7pm at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Vancouver. To register, visit rcav.org/events/96

Pro-life Mass & Vigil: A peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents will be held on Saturday, March 4, at 9 a.m. for Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Mission, followed by Rosary at Mission Hospital. For more info., visit rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil.

JANUARY COLLECTIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!	
	JANUARY
Regular Envelopes for the entire month	\$37,547.30
Collection for the Needy	\$1,841.75
Solemnity of Mary	\$2,080.00
Initial Offering	\$2,217.00
Icon of Love Scholarship	\$400.00
Jubilee Grotto Collection	\$400.00
Food Bank	\$637.25

Stewardship Reflection

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (material wealth).” --Matthew 6:24

For many people, God and money run “neck and neck” as their first priority. Making money and spending money becomes the center of their life and they actually become a slave to money. The solution – become more generous. Giving money to Church and charity frees us from slavery to money and from making money a “god” before God.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

MARCH

LENTEN TALKS

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love).
Lenten Talks Friday 7:30pm- 8pm after the 7pm Way of the Cross.
Mar 3: The Experiences & Challenges of Families
Mar 10: Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family
Mar 17: Love in Marriage
Mar 24: Towards A Better Education of Children
Mar 31: The Spirituality of Marriage & the Family
Apr 7: Pastoral Perspectives

APRIL

PARISH MISSION April 2 – 5

RECEIVE, GIVE THANKS, BREAK AND SHARE: THE EUCHARIST UNFOLDING THE MERCY OF GOD
Presented by the Mission Team: Deacon Bob Williston and Joan Williston

Sunday Evening: "Receive the Mercy of God".
Like the Father in the Prodigal Son story, the mercy of God is ever-present, and waiting for our return home. The mercy is freely given, with no strings attached. God's mercy is best seen in the encounters between Jesus and those most in need of His mercy!

Monday Evening: "Give Thanks for God's Mercy".
Our response to this invitation of mercy is molded deep in our hearts by the Eucharist we celebrate regularly. The Greek word "Eucharistia" means to give thanks! We can fashion a heart of gratitude both in our prayer life and in our relationships with people.

Tuesday Evening: "Our Brokenness Needs the Merciful Touch of Jesus"
The healing touch of Christ from the cross reaches out to any wounded heart. His gentleness and compassion can transform and heal us when we find it difficult to love or be loved. "By his wounds we are healed."

Wednesday Evening: "Sharing the Mercy of God with a World in Need"
The Eucharist is meant to transform us into a people of compassion and care. We live in a world so desperately in need of our healing and merciful presence. The mercy we have received is meant to be shared with others.

Rite of Election for RCIA Catechumens

The weeks have flown by. The RCIA group which has been preparing since last Fall to enter the Catholic faith are now approaching the Rite of Election. We have 19 catechumens who will receive all three sacraments and one who will receive Confirmation. Next week this group will take part in the Rite of Election ceremony.

At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its "election" of these catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Rite of Election closes the Period of the Catechumenate. This rite normally coincides with the first Sunday of Lent.

Next Sunday at Holy Rosary Cathedral, in the presence of Archbishop Michael Miller, they will inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect as a pledge of their fidelity to the faith. After that, the catechumens will be called "the elect" or "the illuminandi" ("those who will be enlightened").

They then begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. On the next five Sundays of Lent, three scrutinies (rites for self-searching and repentance) and the presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer will take place.

Please join us in prayer to prepare this group for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday April 15.

- BAIDAN ADELE CAO
- ADRIENNE PUI FUN CHENG
- KRISTEN WEI-QING GUAN
- NATHAN HAN-WEI GUAN
- JESSICA XIAOLI HOU
- FLAVIA L. HOOVER
- ROWAN ARIEL HOOVER
- GRIER BENNETT HOOVER
- YUAN OLIVIA LI
- TYLER MORTON
- MELISSA COLLEEN NEMETH
- KIMBERLEY RAE PALMER
- YVAN ANDRE PAUL SACHÉ
- CHIA-FEN FRANCES TSAI
- HANJUNG HOSA WANG
- CHUNG WAH WONG
- CHLOE WONG
- CLAIRE WONG
- KEVIN XIN
- ANGELINE CHANDRA

YOUTH MINISTRY



OLPH Youth Go Snow Tubing at Mt. Seymour

OLPH Youth had a great time last Saturday at Mt. Seymour where they were snow tubing. It was a beautiful snowy day in Mt Seymour. Fr Babu and Fr Bill drove the young people.

For Youth Ministry Coordinator Theresa Barao, it was the first time she had gone snow tubing. She said: “I was petrified, I didn’t know you had to go head down! It took a while for me to gather the courage to hurl myself down the slope. After that initial one, it was lots of fun. It was a great time to bond with the youth. Just the car ride gave us so much opportunity to chat and laugh and find out more about each other! The youth had a blast! For some of them it was their first time too! I am hoping that with a mix of fun activities, more youth from our parish will come and join us. Faith sharing can be done in so many ways!

Sylvie Son who is a regular member of the Youth Ministry said: “At first I was scared to go head first but it was a lot of fun. I wish my friend could have joined us but she was not able to come because she had classes to attend.”

OLPH Youth Ministry will be hosting more fun and faith-inspiring events. A Lenten outreach event is in the works. If you’re a teen or if you have children in their teens, please encourage them to come to the weekly Sunday 5pm Mass which is led by the youth of the parish. Teens are welcome to help with reading and ushering. If you like contemporary hymns and have an ear for music or play an instrument, join us! Young adults are also welcome to help in leadership roles.

