



## “Nothing but You, Lord”

By Constance T. Hull

Centuries before the Angelic Doctor wrote the *Summa Theologiae*, St. Augustine of Hippo proclaimed in his Confessions: “... *cor nostrum inquietum est donec requiescat in Te* (our hearts are restless until they rest in You).” St. Augustine, who had spent his youth and early adulthood lost and restless in the goods of this world, came to understand that we are made for God and only in Him can we find our ultimate home, rest, peace, and happiness. St. Thomas Aquinas avoided the temptations of the flesh and donned the Dominican habit early on. St. Thomas — continuing in Augustine’s footsteps—brought the world of Greek philosophy and Christian thought to new depths. He spent his life meditating on the mystery of God. These two very different men — who are both Doctors of the Church and holy saints — came to the same conclusion. It is the conclusion that all saints come to.

After writing on the Eucharist, St. Thomas entered into a great ecstasy. He then heard a voice from the crucifix on the altar say: “Thou hast written well of me, Thomas; what reward wilt thou have?” St. Thomas’ reply was: “*Non nisi Te, Domine. Non nisi te.* (Nothing but you, Lord. Nothing but you).” In the end, none of the goods of this life, even profound intellectual genius, wealth, talents, power, and all other manner of things can bring us our ultimate fulfillment. These are goods that reflect the goodness of God, but they are not God. It is God who we long for. It is God who made us for happiness. And it is God who will ask us at the end of our lives the reward we desire. The hope is that we will answer: “Nothing but you, Lord.” St. Thomas’ answer is the answer of a saint. God is our ultimate reward.

Can most of us honestly say that in our daily lives we live as if we long for nothing but God? Can we see clearly the restlessness within us and know that the solution is God? I think the vast majority of us — those who are not yet saints, such as myself — can see that there are areas of our lives where we do not live with God constantly in mind. There are goods in our lives that we have allowed to become inverted and they take the place of God, rather than being a good that draws us closer to Him. In order to find out these false gods, replacements, or distortions in our own hearts — and they are there — we have to ask ourselves some rather painful and honest questions. The primary being: Do I love [name the sin] more than God?

This exercise, by the light of the Holy Spirit, will reveal to us the areas where we are not placing God first in our daily lives. These are the areas that need serious work, prayer, fasting, frequent Confession, and perseverance. All of us have our pet sins. We all have vices that we struggle with and we can easily convince ourselves that they don’t matter. But they do matter.

They matter because they are a hindrance to growing in greater love of God and deeper communion with the Blessed Trinity. The Christian life is a constant pruning away of dead shoots, leaves and flowers that are no longer productive and that rob us of energy. These are the areas where we are called, albeit slowly, to improve. In pruning away at these areas within ourselves, we will become better equipped to love God and give our whole selves over to Him and to desire Him fully.

We live in a restless age. Everyone is constantly on the move. One of the false idols of our time is busyness. We mistakenly believe that in being busy we are accomplishing something, anything. In reality, this busyness can keep us from pursuing the true meaning for our lives, which is to love and serve God through holy lives and in so doing find the happiness God created us to experience. The happiness we long for can only be found in Him. The goods of this life, while they are meant to be enjoyed, are temporary and they are not meant to replace God. When we use money, power, food, drink, sex, or technology to attempt to lessen the restlessness we feel in our hearts at times, we mistake the goods of this life for the ultimate Good. There is not a single job, man or woman, sexual encounter, trip, car, paycheck, or television show in this universe that can squelch this restlessness.

St. Augustine tried to calm his own restless heart through the lusts of the flesh, but found himself miserable. It was only in realizing that happiness dwells in God that he was able to find true peace and joy. St. Thomas Aquinas spent his life contemplating the face of God through Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, and the Greek Philosophers. St. Thomas and St. Augustine walked very different paths, but both came to understand through conversion of heart, prayer, virtuous living, the Sacraments and study that happiness can only be found in God. We are made for God and by God. Our answer to God each day is meant to be: I want nothing but you, Lord. Like these two great saints, we have our own paths to walk as we come to enter into deeper love of God. In giving ourselves to Him and accepting His immense love, we will find that day-by-day our own hearts become less restless and our desire for God alone grows greater. We will find ourselves a little bit closer to our goal of becoming a saint.

[www.catholicexchange.com](http://www.catholicexchange.com)

## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Council**  
Crystal Lynch  
crystallynch2000@gmail.com

**Finance Council**  
Lauri Ann Fenlon  
lauri.ann.fenlon@gmail.com

**Parish Education Committee**  
Renee Stafford  
pec@olphbc.ca

**COORDINATORS**

**Altar Guild**  
Bridget Bird 604-228-9180

**Altar Servers**  
Kate Carr 604-730-5640

**Catholic Women’s League**  
Lynn Macdonald  
bob.lynn.macdonald@gmail.com

**Children’s Liturgy**  
Kathy Mok  
communications.olph@rcav.org

**Craft Group**  
Doris Rankin 604-224-0876

**Development & Peace**  
William Wingson 778-866-8504

**Eucharistic Ministry**  
Pamela Brammall 604-228-9206

**Food Bank**  
Robyn Sirmul robysirmul@shaw.ca

**Hospitality Ministry**  
Gerry Macken 604-222-1369

**Knights of Columbus**  
Peter Dodge 604-222-0791

**Library**  
Katherine Hill  
kathswim2012@gmail.com

**Liturgy of the Hours**  
Bridget Clark 604-228-8773

**Madonna Group**  
Monica Cheung 604-739-8837

**Ministry of the Word**  
Roger Poirier 604-224-0426

**Music Ministry**  
Catherine Walsh  
catherine.organist@gmail.com

**Pastoral Care**  
Mary Thompson 604-263-6008

**PREP**  
Elizabeth Towers 604-440-8809

**Project Advance**  
Bertilla Watanabe 604-224-4344

**RCIA**  
Bertilla Watanabe  
bwatanabe@rcav.org

**Social Justice/St. Vincent de Paul**  
Mark Thompson 778-891-6275

**Volunteers Coordinator**  
Lara Garcia Carton  
olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com

**Weddings**  
Fr. Babu Mathew  
604-224-4344



### 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)  
Children’s Mass: 9am 1st  
Sunday of the month Oct-June  
Children’s Liturgy: 11am All  
Sundays except the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
from Sept- June  
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.

### CONTACT

Email: parish.olph@rcav.org  
Website: www.olphchurch.ca  
Parish Office: 604-224-4344  
OLPH School: 604-228-8811  
Jr. Kindergarten:  
jrkindergarten@olphbc.ca

olphchurchvancouver

OLPH Church, 2465 Crown Street, Vancouver BC V6R3V9



February 4, 2018

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## What is the Meaning of a ‘Mission’?

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

A few people have asked me what a ‘mission’ is all about and why we do it every year. Let me explain. The goal of a ‘mission’, as we Redemptorists use it, is to provide all who attend with a positive experience of God, leading to personal and ongoing conversion for the community. The must-have elements of a Redemptorist mission are preaching, reconciliation, fellowship, prayer, sacred and sacramental ritual, Scripture, and healing of relationships. Redemptorists talk about redemption often, about what Christ has done to set us free from sin so that we may live our lives more joyfully. It is all about a God who loves to forgive, and goes so far as to be willing to die to forgive.

Redemptorists, having inherited a rich legacy of preaching redemption from their spiritual father, St. Alphonsus, see a mission as an opportunity for healing, renewal, and reconciliation. Although some missions concentrate on teaching, Scripture study and a variety of devotions, Redemptorists preach a Gospel of unconditional love in order to move hearts and change lives. Preaching continual conversion means that the mission is not merely a temporary spiritual boost but rather the beginning of a renewed relationship with the Holy Redeemer. The emphasis is on love and mercy, coupled with the availability for reconciliation and down-to-earth preaching. Please don’t miss this opportunity to fill your lives, your families and your relationships with an abundance of graces. The dates are on the poster below. May our Blessed Mother help us to order our priorities so that we may be bearers of blessings for all.

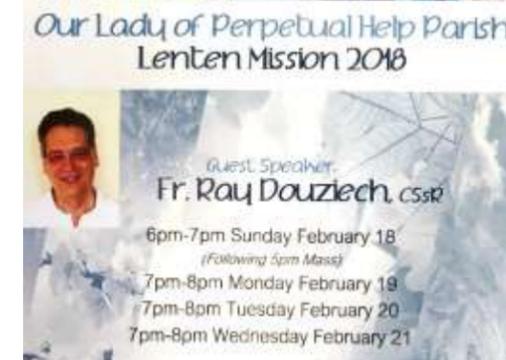
Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R

### Mission Prayer

Glory to you, O God for all seasons!  
Your love calls us to be your people.  
By sharing our many and diverse gifts  
we share in your mission.

We ask you, Lord, to shape us into a  
community of mercy. Nourish us by your  
Word and Sacraments, that we may grow  
in the image of Jesus.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and the blessings of our Parish Mission,  
heal us that we, in turn, may heal the  
wounded. Form us to be instruments of  
mercy, justice and peace in our world.  
Give us the courage to take up our crosses  
and follow your son, Jesus,  
and then send us out to proclaim your  
merciful love.  
Amen.



Sing praises to the Lord who heals the broken hearted. – Psalm 147

## NEWS & NOTICES

**Madonna Group:** The group is meeting next Wednesday Feb. 7 at Noon in the Church hall.

**Food Bank Appeal:** There will be a Food Bank Appeal next weekend. Proceeds will go to the Hong family. PREP students will be helping out.

**Parish Hall in Use:** School is closed on Thursday and Friday Feb 8 & 9 for the Catholic Educators Conference. After school care children and staff will be in the Parish hall from 9am-6pm on these two days.

**Family Day:** School is closed on Monday Feb 12 for BC Family Day.

**Join the Choir:** Scripture often tells us to sing to the Lord in gladness. There is also that oft-quoted line of St. Augustine "He who sings, prays twice." So, if you like to sing and can carry a tune, come and be part of a fulfilling experience with the OLPH choir. Rehearsals are on Mondays 7-8pm in the church. Please contact Catherine Walsh: catherine.organist@gmail.com for more information.

**Youth Safety Awareness Workshop:** Learn martial arts and physical safety that combines combative arts and psychology developed by instructor Robert Lynds of Dojang. It is a discipline which enhances your body, mind and soul. All teenagers welcome. This is a Youth Ministry sponsored event for OLPH church and school youth. No charge for attendees. Dates for this two-session workshop are Sat Feb 17 and Sat Feb 24. Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Workshop is at Dojang at West 4th and Blenheim. For more details email Theresa: olphyouthmin@gmail.com.

**Cardinal Tagle in Vancouver:** Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Archbishop of Manila, will be giving a public address at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, on Monday March 19 at 6 p.m. Highlighting one of our Archdiocesan Priorities and Goals: Strengthening Marriages and Families, Cardinal Tagle will address the challenges of living the faith within family life. Family time, among today's many distractions, continues to be an almost lost reality for many. Join us for his talk on *Keeping Families in Faith: The Domestic Church in a Global Village*. Tickets are not on sale yet. More details to come at: <http://rcav.org/event/cardinal-tagle>

**St Mark's College Lenten Liturgy and Lunch Series:** Back by popular demand, St. Mark's College at UBC will again be offering our weekly Lenten lecture series "Fill Your Bowl with Joy" every Wednesday of Lent starting Ash Wednesday Feb 14, 2018. We start with Mass at 12:10pm in St Mark's Chapel followed by a talk and discussion at 12:45 in Plato's Cave (St. Mark's College).

**Development & Peace Free Workshop:** Development & Peace – Caritas Canada invites you to a free workshop (everyone welcome), Together for Peace, on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's church in Vancouver. To register, contact pinky.devpeace@gmail.com or call 604-612-9677.

**EnCourage Group Meeting:** EnCourage is a support group dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and relatives and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Join us for our next meeting Sunday Feb. 18 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Helen's Church, Burnaby. If you would like to join EnCourage, please contact Deacon Bruce Fraser at [encourage@rcav.org](mailto:encourage@rcav.org).

**Third Annual Ordinandi Dinner:** Join Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, Bishop Stephen Jensen of Prince George, and members of the Catholic faithful as we gather together in support of the men who are soon to be ordained ("ordinandi") to the priesthood. Meet your future priests: Deacon Guy Zidago, who will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and Deacon Ken Anderson, who will be ordained for the Diocese of Prince George. Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$50 (Student rate: \$25). You can also sponsor a priest or seminarian. To register or for more info on how to sponsor a priest or seminarian, visit [vocationsvancouver.ca](http://vocationsvancouver.ca).

## Stewardship Reflection

*"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed... He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" - Mark 1:35, 38*

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

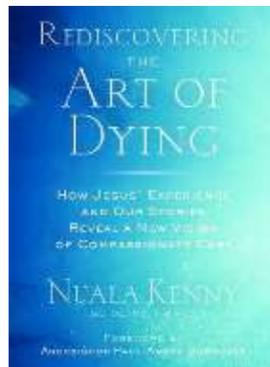
#### One Conference

**Mercy & Beyond: Sharing our Joy**  
The annual ONE Conference brings together 1,000 parish and ministry leaders from across Catholic Vancouver to connect, learn, and inspire each other. Speakers: Fr. James Mallon, Dr. Josephine Lombardi. Other speakers: Jake Khym, Dr. Deborah MacNamara, Abbott John Braganza, OSB, and Brett Powell. Saturday 10 Feb from 9-5:30 p.m. at Chandos Pattison Auditorium at Pacific Academy in Surrey. Tickets are \$45 and include a box lunch. Register today at [onecatholic.ca](http://onecatholic.ca).

#### Healing Mass & Anointing

The annual Healing Mass & Anointing organized by the CWL is on Tuesday February 13 at 4pm. Mass will be followed by a potluck supper. If you are attending, please put your name down on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. Please indicate what item you will be bringing for the potluck supper.

#### Lenten Talks



Our annual Lenten Talks will begin on the second Friday of Lent after the 7pm Stations of the Cross. Books are available for \$15.16 from Novalis <https://en.novalis.ca>. You can buy a book or simply attend the talk prepared by our speakers for each session.  
Friday Feb 23: Should Suffering Be Avoided?  
Friday Mar 2: The Loss of Dignity & Identity  
Friday Mar 9: The Dimensions of Suffering & Care  
Friday Mar 16: The Art of Dying: Learning from the Master  
Friday Mar 23: Consolation & Resurrection

## Pope Francis Message: World Day of the Sick 2018

*To pray for the sick, on Tuesday Feb 13 at 4pm a special Healing & Anointing Mass will be held at our Parish, followed by a potluck supper. Feel free to invite someone who is ill or elderly to join us.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme for this year's Day of the Sick is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother, and to John: "Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:26-27).

1. The Lord's words brilliantly illuminate the mystery of the Cross, which does not represent a hopeless tragedy, but rather the place where Jesus manifests his glory and shows his love to the end. That love in turn was to become the basis and rule for the Christian community and the life of each disciple. Before all else, Jesus' words are the source of Mary's maternal vocation for all humanity. Mary was to be, in particular, the Mother of her Son's disciples, caring for them and their journey through life. As we know, a mother's care for her son or daughter includes both the material and spiritual dimensions of their upbringing.

The unspeakable pain of the Cross pierces Mary's soul (cf. Lk 2:35), but does not paralyze her. Quite the opposite. As the Lord's Mother, a new path of self-giving opens up before her. On the Cross, Jesus showed his concern for the Church and all humanity, and Mary is called to share in that same concern. In describing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles show that Mary began to carry out this role in the earliest community of the Church. A role that never ceases.

2. John, the beloved disciple, is a figure of the Church, the messianic people. He must acknowledge Mary as his Mother. In doing so, he is called to take her into his home, to see in her the model of all discipleship, and to contemplate the maternal vocation that Jesus entrusted to her, with all that it entails: a loving Mother who gives birth to children capable of loving as Jesus commands. That is why Mary's maternal vocation to care for her children is entrusted to John and to the Church as a whole. The entire community of disciples is included in Mary's maternal vocation.

3. John, as a disciple who shared everything with Jesus, knows that the Master wants to lead all people to an encounter with the Father. He can testify to the fact that Jesus met many people suffering from spiritual sickness due to pride and from physical ailments. He bestowed mercy and forgiveness upon all, and healed the sick as a sign of the abundant life of the Kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away. Like Mary, the disciples are called to care for one another, but not only that. They know that Jesus' heart is open to all and excludes no one.

The Gospel of the Kingdom must be proclaimed to all, and the charity of Christians must be directed to all, simply because they are persons, children of God.

4. The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. It continues to the present day throughout the world. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the centre of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease. Everywhere she tries to provide care, even when she is not in a position to offer a cure. The image of the Church as a "field hospital" that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.

5. The memory of this long history of service to the sick is cause for rejoicing on the part of the Christian community, and especially those presently engaged in this ministry. Yet we must look to the past above all to let it enrich us. We should learn the lesson it teaches us about the self-sacrificing generosity of many founders of institutes in the service of the infirm, the creativity, prompted by charity, of many initiatives undertaken over the centuries, and the commitment to scientific research as a means of offering innovative and reliable treatments to the sick. This legacy of the past helps us to build a better future, for example, by shielding Catholic hospitals from the business mentality that is seeking worldwide to turn health care into a profit-making enterprise, which ends up discarding the poor. Wise organization and charity demand that the sick person be respected in his or her dignity, and constantly kept at the centre of the therapeutic process. This should likewise be the approach of Christians who work in public structures; through their service, they too are called to

## PRAYING FOR THE SICK



bear convincing witness to the Gospel, supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.

6. Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power: "These signs will accompany those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mk 16:17-18). In the Acts of the Apostles, we read accounts of the healings worked by Peter (cf. Acts 3:4-8) and Paul (cf. Acts 14:8-11). The Church's mission is a response to Jesus' gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord's own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the largest healthcare institutions. We cannot forget the tender love and perseverance of many families in caring for their chronically sick or severely disabled children, parents and relatives. The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.

7. To Mary, Mother of tender love, we wish to entrust all those who are ill in body and soul, that she may sustain them in hope. We ask her also to help us to be welcoming to our sick brothers and sisters. The Church knows that she requires a special grace to live up to her evangelical task of serving the sick. May our prayers to the Mother of God see us united in an incessant plea that every member of the Church may live with love the vocation to serve life and health. May the Virgin Mary intercede for this Twenty-sixth World Day of the Sick; may she help the sick to experience their suffering in communion with the Lord Jesus; and may she support all those who care for them. To all, the sick, to healthcare workers and to volunteers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

<https://w2.vatican.va>