

REMEMBRANCE DAY

What can veterans teach us about the Christian life?

By Constance T Hull



There is a section in the Gospel of Matthew that all Catholics should recognize. In fact, it is such a testament to the power of faith, that it is recited by each and every one of us at Mass in the Liturgy of the Eucharist:
When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.”

The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed... And at that very hour [his] servant was healed.”

On Remembrance Day weekend it is fitting for us to examine this passage from the viewpoint of the centurion, a man of war. He demonstrates an understanding of who Christ is and where His authority comes from that is seldom seen in the Gospels. This centurion is not the only soldier in Scripture to witness to Christ, but he is an excellent starting point. What are some traits that are evident in this centurion in the face of Christ?

Obedience
Boot camp is an enculturation into a system that operates on authority. It is hierarchical and requires obedience for one main reason: People die if orders are not followed. As a soldier, sailor, Marine, or airman on the ground, they do not have a complete picture of what is happening. They rely on information from a higher authority who has been given the complete picture. If they do not listen, there is a good chance that people will die. This is especially true in real-time combat missions.

The centurion understands that there is a complete picture in Christ that he does not fully grasp. He recognizes something of authority and power outside of the natural order. He is able to rely on this higher authority when he asks Jesus to heal his servant. His obedience is not misplaced and because of what he cannot fully comprehend, Jesus heals his servant.

Humility
The centurion is aware that he is in the presence of a power outside of his understanding. He knows that he cannot heal his servant and that he must rely on Christ to do the healing for him. It is easy to see that humility and obedience go together.

In recognizing Jesus’ authority, the centurion is able to grasp his own limitations. He sees his own smallness in the face of the Power of God. He cannot heal his servant himself. Even though he commands soldiers and armies and maintains a certain amount of earthly power, he recognizes his own weakness.

It is truly remarkable for a Roman centurion to go to Jesus, a Jew, and seek healing for his servant. It is completely outside of his understanding as a Roman, given that Caesar was supposed to be a god. Even this pagan soldier was able to see the true authority of the One God and submit to Him in humility.

Courage
When people think of the military, courage is one of the words that often comes to mind. This is for good reason because going into combat requires a tremendous amount of courage. There is a deep sense of courage and honor in all people who volunteer for military service and who desire to defend freedom for others.

In this passage from Matthew a different kind of courage is at play. The centurion demonstrates great courage in going to Christ to seek His help. How many of us struggle to ask God for help when we are in truly dire straits? The centurion ignores any doubts he may have, or even reasoned arguments, to seek the help of Christ. He chose faith, which requires courage. It takes courage to step out of the boat, tug at the hem, or to see the Resurrection after the Crucifixion in moments of intense suffering and grief. The Christian life requires a lot of courage daily. This centurion shares with us a trait that is common in service members and reminds us to be courageous in our discipleship.

Charity
Given that it was a servant who was ill, it would have been very easy for the centurion to leave him to die and find another one. Instead he sought out Jesus and asked Him to heal his servant. He chose charity for someone who would have been seen as beneath him and expendable. When looking at service members there are times people forget that they are not just war machines. They are human beings looking to bring about good. That is the reason for the mission.

Individuals serving in the military fight for freedom which is a good. Yes, this freedom can be disordered, but the majority of our Veterans truly desire to liberate those who are oppressed. The centurion saw that his servant was afflicted and oppressed by illness and so he found healing for him in Jesus.

The centurion’s actions in the Gospel of Matthew are reminiscent of how our own service members view their mission and task. Our Catholic service members desire to follow and seek out Christ in order to do good for others and for the person standing next to them. To be a member of our military is to sacrifice for others constantly. It is to work long hours, time zones away from family, in the hope of liberating others from the oppression of evil. What can we do for our veterans and active duty members? Pray and offer sacrifices for them.

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MASSES & SERVICES
- Saturday Anticipated Mass: 5pm
- Sunday Masses: 9am, 11am & 5pm
- Monday – Wednesday Masses: 8am
- Thursday Mass & Novena: 8am & 7pm
- 1st Thursdays: 8am Mass/ Novena & 12pm Mass/Novena/Healing Prayer
- Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am Mass
- Fridays in July & August: 8am
- Children’s Mass: 9am 1st Sunday of the month Oct-June
- Children’s Liturgy: 11am All Sundays except the 1st Sunday from Sept- June
- Reconciliation
Saturday: 4pm - 4:45pm
- Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm
STAFF
Pastor
Babu Mathew, CSsR
Associate Pastor
Joseph Horo, CSsR

Office Manager
Virginia Fong
Pastoral Coordinator
Bertilla Watanabe
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Theresa Barao
OLPH School Principal
Lora Clarke
Jr. Kindergarten Director
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November 10, 2019 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fighting the New Frontiers of Battle Today

Dear Parishioners,

Remembrance Day always brings a mix of emotions for us all. Some of us have memories of parents and grandparents who fought in the war. Others have friends and relatives. The media too gives it the coverage it deserves by the telling and retelling of, some sad, some uplifting, stories of men and women who have sacrificed so much for the well-being of the rest of us. It is so important for us to share these stories with our families and especially, children. The framed commemorative plaque in the sanctuary this weekend is aimed at doing the same, to help us remember that there are some from our own parish who have died to save the lives of others.

The recent Amazon Synod reminds us that there are new battles to be fought. The Amazon Synod was inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* in which he raised the awareness of our Christian responsibility to care for the environment. Close allies of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada such as Cardinal Pedro Barreto (Peru), theological consultant, Sr. Mary John Mananzan (Philippines), special secretary, Bishop David Martinez (Peru) and member elected by the Union of Superiors General, Fr. Dario Bossi (Brazil) were important contributors to the work of the Synod. That’s why you will see an advance notice of the work this organization is doing in this week’s bulletin.

Next week, volunteers will be holding a campaign to bring greater awareness of how we can support the peoples of the Amazon with all the bigger implications this action signifies. I hope you will take an active interest in this good work. Lest we forget, it is our children who will be reminding us.



Prayer for Those Who Have Fallen in Battle

All Powerful God, we honor today those men and women, our sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers who have laid down their life for their country. Whether weary or emboldened, quiet or defiant, vulnerable or ready when You called them home, their sacrifice is too humbling for words except these uttered in prayer.

Loving Lord, bless them forever in Your eternal peace. Let the sounds of strife, the cries of battle, the wounds of war be calmed for all eternity in Your loving and endless grace. Let these great warriors find rest at last, ever reminded that we who are left behind cherish their spirit, honor their commitment, send them our love, and will never forget the service that they gave.

www.passionist.org

I shall be satisfied, Lord, when I awake and behold your likeness. - Psalm 17



Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, CSsR

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Nov 2 & 3: \$5,826.65. Peter's Pence: \$1,064.30. Offering for the Needy: \$210. OLPH Youth Pie Sale: \$15. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

RCIA Sponsors: We are looking for sponsors to support this year's catechumens in RCIA. A sponsor's role is to accompany the catechumen in their spiritual journey through prayer and faith-inspired friendship. If you can speak Mandarin or Cantonese, it would be helpful as well. You will not be expected to attend RCIA sessions except on some important dates. Just make some time for sharing the faith! Please email Bertilla if you have questions or if you'd like to help: bwatanabe@rcav.org.

Vancouver College Open House: Vancouver College, British Columbia's only K-12 Catholic, independent school for boys is holding its annual Open House for prospective students and their families on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Please visit vc.bc.ca/apply for further details.

Remembrance Day Mass & Procession to the Cenotaph: We celebrate and honor the men and women who gave their lives so that we may have freedom. Our Mass will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11, at Gardens of Gethsemani in South Surrey. This will be followed by a procession led by a bagpiper and Knights of Columbus Honour Guard to the Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths. All are welcome.

Fiat - Women's Discernment Group: Join the women's discernment group on Sat Nov 16 for an evening of recreation from 5:00 pm until 8:30 p.m. at the convent of the Salesian Sisters at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Surrey. The evening includes dinner, games, Night Prayer, and a chance to meet sisters and other young women in a fun and informal setting. This event is open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35. Check Vocations Vancouver on Facebook or contact the Vocations Office at 604-443-3254 or by email at womensvocations@rcav.org to RSVP or for more information.

Into the Deep - The Art of Community in Mental Health: How do we find hope and healing in relationship? Discover the vital role of community in mental health through Lisa Rumpel's journey to wellness and Stephen Ching's experience as a counsellor. With both personal and professional reflections on how community is an art to creatively foster the gifts of presence, love and kindness. For we are hardwired for connection and are not meant to live alone. This free event takes place on Friday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. "Into the Deep" is a free bi-monthly series of talks, lectures and experiences for seeking disciples.

Advent Retreat for Ministry Leaders with Fr. Nick Meisl: All ministry leaders are invited to join us on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver as we explore how Jesus is "God with us." While generously committing ourselves to the joys and challenges of ministry, we can sometimes feel disconnected from Jesus' presence even though he is always with us. In preparation for Christmas, we will contemplate the different ways we encounter Jesus in our lives in order to be strengthened and affirmed in our ministries. Register online at rcav.org/event/advent-retreat-2019

Marriage Mentorship Workshop: Come to this one-day workshop to find out how you can begin a marriage mentorship program for couples in your parish who are preparing for marriage or are newly married. Ryan and Mary Rose Verret, founders of the Witness to Love program, will be here to share how and why this program was developed and to present the resources available and how to start and effectively use the program at your parish. This one-day workshop is being offered twice – on both Friday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Nov. 30. For more information visit rcav.org/event/marriage-mentorship

PROJECT ADVANCE Live gratefully, give generously.

You can make a donation to Project Advance by filling out the pledge form you received in the mail or using the detachable envelope on the leaflet. You can also go to www.rcav.org. Just indicate that your parish is OLPH.



Stewardship Reflection

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word." (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

There are two important lessons here. First, we are called to be generous with our encouragement and hope. As God shows us mercy, we must be merciful to others. Second, joy is contagious! The joy we receive from doing good works not only strengthens us, it encourages others as well. Share the joy of living your faith whenever you can.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

OLPH Christmas Fair



The annual OLPH Christmas Fair is scheduled for Saturday November 23, 2019 and will run from 11am until 3pm. There may be some goods on sale on Sunday after the Masses. As always, we are encouraging all parishioners and school families to join us. We will be selling crafts and home-made baked goodies. You can also enjoy a delicious assortment of sandwiches and sweets in our Tea Room. This year's fair will feature a larger tea area and the same beloved crafts and baked goods. Please sign up to donate sandwiches and baked goods at the back of the church. Bring the family for a guest appearance by Santa and enter to win one of many raffle prizes! Questions? Contact lyse.rowledge@gmail.com.

Raffle Ticket Sale

The Knights of Columbus will be selling raffle tickets after mass in support of the Kits Shower program and Mary's Place. Tickets are \$2 or a book of 10 tickets for \$20. If you fill in the top ticket in a book of 10, the Knights will fill in the rest for you. Thank you for giving generously to support Kits Shower program which brings comfort to our local unhoused people and Mary's Place which supports women at risk.

Advent Concert & Light-Up

This year's Advent Concert and Light-Up of the Church and Garden happens on Sat. Nov 30 at 7pm. A beautiful selection of Advent music and poetry is being planned by the OLPH Choir, Youth Ministry and children of the parish. Hot chocolate and treats to be served at the reception after. Concert donations will go toward the Icon of Love Scholarship Fund to promote the skills of members of the Music Ministry. Volunteers are needed for this event. If you can help, please contact Lara olphchurchvolunteers@gmail.com

Youth Pie Sale

Thank you parishioners and friends for your support of our pie sale. Frozen pies are still available at \$10 each. If you missed the sale or would like to make sure you have some pies stocked up in your home freezer for your next family gathering, please email Theresa at olphyouthmin@gmail.com

Synod: Support for Married Priests in the Amazon, More Roles for Women, Care for Environment

VATICAN CITY – While highlighting the gift of celibacy and the need for celibate priests in the Amazon region, the final document of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon has urged Pope Francis to allow the priestly ordination of married deacons to serve in remote areas. Permitting married permanent deacons to be ordained as priests would help “sustain the life of the Christian community” in areas which are seldom if ever visited by a priest, the bishops proposed. These would be men already ordained into the diaconate and who have “having a legitimately constituted and stable family.”

Although the paragraph regarding the proposal for ordaining married priests was approved, it received the least amount of support among those who voted, with 128 in favour and 41 opposed. Each paragraph needed 120 votes to pass.

To increase the Church's presence in remote areas, the document proposed that bishops entrust "the exercise of the pastoral care of the communities to a person not invested" with the priesthood for "a specific period of time." However, "the priest, with the power and faculty of the parish priest, is always responsible for the community," the document said. Whether or not any proposals contained in the report are implemented is up to the Pope. He indicated that he would issue a response to the synod document, perhaps later this year.

The final document also asked that women be given leadership roles in the Catholic Church, although the synod members stopped short of calling for women deacons. In the Amazon, like in the rest of the world, the essential roles women play within the family, the community and the Church should be valued and recognized officially, members of the synod said in the document.

The document, which synod members voted on Oct. 26, included a call for the creation of "the instituted ministry of 'woman community leader,'" something they said would help meet "the changing demands of evangelization and community care." Speaking after the vote on the document, Pope Francis said the synod's discussion on women "falls short" of explaining who women are in the Church, particularly "in the transmission of faith, in the preservation of culture. I would just like to underline this: that we have not yet realized what women mean in the Church," but instead "we focus on the functional aspect, which is important," but is not everything. "I am going to take up the challenge ... that you have put forward, that women be heard," the pontiff said.

The final document looked at several ways the Church can increase its ministry in the Amazon region. In addition to the proposal for married priests, at the heart of the document was the need to bring the good news to the Amazon, a mission that includes safeguarding the Indigenous people, cultures and land that are under constant threat of annihilation. "The Amazon rainforest is a 'biological heart' for the increasingly threatened Earth," said the final document, released Oct. 26.

The Amazon, members said, is on "a rampant race to death. It is scientifically proven that the disappearance of the Amazon biome will have a catastrophic impact on the planet as a whole!" The synod brought together 185 voting members — cardinals, bishops, 20 priests and one religious brother — and 80 experts and observers. All 120 paragraphs in the final document garnered the necessary two-thirds approval needed for passage. The Vatican said 181 synod members were present.

The focus of the synod's final document was the call for the Church to further its mission in proclaiming the Good News by uniting itself more to the people of the Amazon who, for decades, have suffered the consequences of humankind's greed. The document underscores the crucial role of Amazonian ecosystems in regulating the global climate and as an important source of fresh water that "connects ecosystems, cultures and the development of the territory."

The Amazon faces environmental threats that make it "a wounded and deformed beauty, a place of suffering and violence," the bishops wrote. Violence against nature, in the form of rampant extraction of resources, unsustainable development and climate change, also have "serious social consequences." To bring greater awareness and responsibility to the universal Church, the synod document proposed that ecological sin be defined as an act of commission or omission against God, against one's neighbour, the community and the environment. The document also proposed the creation of "special ministries for the care of our 'common home'" that would promote ways of caring for the environment at the parish level. The synod called on all Christians to show their awareness of the value of God's creation by countering the current "culture of excessive consumption" through recycling, reducing their use of fossil fuels and plastic, as well as by reducing their consumption of meat and fish.

www.catholicregister.org

AMAZON SYNOD



D & P Campaign: Focus on the Amazon and Our Common

D & P's Fall campaign operates under the theme, A Future for the Amazon. It urges Canadians to act to protect the Amazon through solidarity, advocacy and personal commitment. By showing solidarity with and advocating for Amazonian communities facing the impacts of deforestation and wanton resource exploitation, we support their defense of their land, which in turn protects the Amazon and can avert climate catastrophe. By making sustainable choices like reducing consumption and using public transport, we address the root causes of climate change.

Solidarity Letters: We invite Canadians to support two Brazilian communities — the seringueiros of Machadinho d'Oeste and the Mura people of Manaus — by signing or writing a letter of solidarity. This will shine a spotlight on these communities' struggles against dispossession and destitution, their courage in defending their land and the root causes of their plight. The more individuals, communities, schools and parishes that sign the Solidarity Letter, the more attention these communities will receive. These letters, which will be brought to the communities, will show them that they are not alone, and that we stand with them in defending their land and our whole planet.

Advocacy Letters: We will use the signed letters to apply pressure on the new Canadian government, Canadian embassies, local and national governments in Brazil, and implicated companies. Citing the numbers of Canadians concerned about the situation of the Amazon's defenders, we will write and publicize forceful advocacy letters. These letters will include specific demands to protect the defenders and will emphasize Canadians' awareness of and solidarity with their struggles.

MP Engagement: We will encourage our members to meet their federal Members of Parliament to share the urgency of acting to protect the Amazon and its defenders. The post-election period will be an opportune time to meet new and re-elected MPs

Intergenerational Pledge: Canadians are challenged to take our Intergenerational pledge for our common home at devp.org/pledge. The pledge invites people of all ages to commit to at least one lifestyle change for the sake of the environment. Examples including reducing meat consumption and using public transport. Pledge-takers can also upload a selfie for a mosaic of engaged citizens. We thank you for your commitment to this important campaign!

www.devp.org