

## WHY I AM A CATHOLIC

*(Part III of a brief series I am writing on Why I am a Catholic will continue in a few weeks.)*

## LENT and YOU!

Whoever said that the 'me generation' was a thing of the past? Perhaps in many ways our social awareness has sharpened our overall sense that we ought to at least respect others, their property, their rights, their privacy, etc., even the environment. However, awareness, unless it is acted upon, doesn't necessarily change things. If one is aware that they ought to do more for others; go outside of oneself more with less focus on themselves, but does not act on that knowledge, then it makes little difference what they know and what they do.

There are people who would be considered purely by outward appearance to be good, upstanding, Christian people, who may never actually have done anything for anyone else outside of themselves that cost them anything. You could call that selfishness, or being 'me-centered' or self-centered, whatever, but it is a condition that needs to be looked at in all our lives in order that we can actually live up to the standard of Christ - to love God, neighbour and self.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with loving yourself, in fact, it is not only healthy but is essential to a balanced life. If a person has a poor opinion of themselves, perhaps even due to a lack of support or love they felt in their growing up years, or from their experience in the present with peers, their spouse, employers, colleagues or siblings, they will likely find it difficult to love others when they can't even see themselves as lovable. Christ desires to say to each of us through the story of salvation won by his Passion, Death and Resurrection, that each and every one of us counts: the unborn child, the aborted child, the healthy and the gifted child, the slow learner, the genius, the beautiful, the plain looking, the deformed, the brilliant and the simple person - all of us, young or old, rich or poor, no matter what our colour, race or creed, are not only lovable but are in fact LOVED by God. Lent is telling us that God can't be and isn't wrong in His judgment of us. Yes, He knows we are sinners but He also knows that we are redeemable - that's why He gave us a Redeemer!

Lent will serve to remind us through the Sunday readings, the homilies, reconciliation service, Stations of the Cross, and its overall theme of turning away from sin and returning to Christ and his ways, that while we are sinners, we are redeemed sinners loved by the Father, but also that it is not just the "we" who are sinners but "me", the sinner who is redeemed. Even as

we begin each Sunday and weekday Mass, we admit our sin that is personal in "me", for even though we are gathered as a community that says "we", we still say in the communal collective "I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through **my own fault....**".

When we used to have the little fights and squabbles that are commonplace in families, particularly large families like the one I grew up in, my mother used to have to settle things and serve as judge on who did what to whom, which was certainly not an easy position for her to be in especially when there were so many other things to do. I remember the frustration of sometimes not being understood, especially if I had been wronged by someone else but it didn't look likely to become apparent to "the judge". When I would attempt to make my case and show my mother what someone else did, my mother used to sometimes say, "Charles, when you die and go to heaven, God isn't going to ask you what Mark (my brother) did; He's going to ask you what YOU did." I admit that those words and the truth beneath their surface didn't always give me a sense of satisfaction, but they did make a great deal of sense to me and they still do. God isn't going to ask of an account from me on the wrongdoing I saw in others, but in me.

At the beginning of Advent I said that the Advent we experience will determine the Christmas we celebrate, and I would say the same applies to Lent in reference to Easter. This season of forty days (which do not include the Sundays) are for us, our fresh opportunity to take stock of our lives, our sin, our blessings and truly enter into the mystery of what God has done and continues to do in us... and in me. Seize the opportunity to get rid of your sins, particularly if you have fears over the idea of going to confession. Trust me, it won't hurt, it will only heal and help you and will leave you sin free, set free and wondering why you put it off so long. *(Fr. Charles)*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Every Friday evening in Lent at 6:30 p.m.  
followed by Mass**

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

**Every Saturday afternoon  
from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
or by appointment**

## PREPARING FOR CONFESSION

### PAMPHLETS

There are two pamphlets always available in the vestibule at the Welcome Table:

- *Making A Good Confession - Preparation*
- *Making A Good Confession - Celebration*

These will aid you in both the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

*Confirmation for St. Bridget Catholic School Candidates – March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and for St. Leo Catholic School Candidates – March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Next Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Breakfast hosted by the Social Committee after the 9 and 11 am Masses.*

*Next Sunday ShareLife – First Pre-Collection will be taken.*

### MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 8 - 8:30 a.m. -

Wednesday, Mar. 9 –12:00 NOON – ASH WEDNESDAY  
7:00 p.m. – ASH WEDNESDAY

Thursday, Mar. 10 – 8:30 a.m. –

Friday, Mar. 11 – 6:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross  
- Mass

Saturday, Mar. 12 - 5:00 p.m. – Thomas O’Rahilly+

Sunday, Mar. 13 - 9:00 a.m. – For the intentions of our  
Parish Community  
-11:00 a.m. – Alan Vincent Kent Horton+

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE is planning a Spring Dinner, Dance and Auction for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in the Parish hall. Cocktails at 6 pm followed by Dinner at 7 pm and an evening of Dancing and Auction. Tickets at \$40 each are available in the church vestibule or by calling Karen (905) 655-4945 or Joan at (905) 655-2062. Please note: tickets will NOT be sold in the vestibule Palm Sunday weekend or Easter weekend.

The Committee also requests your assistance in obtaining auction items. If you would like to donate an item valued at \$40,000 or more please call Barbara at (905) 404-2694 or Pat at the church office (905) 655-3286 ext. 101. We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable evening.

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS OF THE C.W.L.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2011 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES IN THE PARISH HALL THIS WEEKEND.

ST. LEO’S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are hosting a ST. PATRICK’S DAY DANCE on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Cocktails 6 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm. Dancing till Midnight. St. Leo’s Parish Hall. Live Celtic Entertainment with Cape Ceol - Dancing and Prizes. Tickets \$20 and Cash Bar. Tickets are available by calling Allen Frank (905) 655-4212 or David Czuczman (905) 655-5503. Bring a roll of loonies for our great raffle draws!

The Durham Region Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, with the support of our community of churches and Barnes Memorial Funeral Home Brooklin, are pleased to invite you to participate in the 2011 Daffodil Days fundraising campaign by pre-ordering bunches of fresh daffodils. Please stop by the table in the church vestibule to place your orders with Jeananne Ralph and her team. The campaign will run until Sunday, March 13, 2011. Daffodils cost \$7 per bunch for 10 blooms or \$12 for 20 blooms. Your order will be ready for you to pick up on Thursday, March 31, 2011 in the church parking lot from 6 to 6:30 p.m. or on Sunday, April 3, 2011 before or after the masses.

### SCARBORO MISSIONS

Ever thought of serving Christ as a missionary priest or a lay missionary? Like to learn more about the vocation to global mission? Join us for our ‘Call to Mission’ – Discernment Retreat on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (6:45 p.m.) – Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (noon) at Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, ON. Come, Pray and Reflect with us on the Missionary vocation of our world today. Meet Scarboro priests and lay missionaries. Hear their stories. It’s a weekend that may change your life forever! To register please contact us at: 416-261-7135 ext. 265 or email [imo@scarboromissions.ca](mailto:imo@scarboromissions.ca) Cost \$100 – upon arrival. Subsidized costs available.

ALL ARE WELCOME: The Office of Formation for Discipleship of the Archdiocese of Toronto will offer the series *Knowing God Better* during Lent. The sessions will run on Thursday evenings for 6 weeks from March 10 to April 14 at the Parish Centre, St. John the Evangelist Parish, 903 Giffard Street, Whitby from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. This is an engaging series designed to help Catholics get more out of their faith especially in their day-to-day lives. Each session can stand alone, so people are welcome for one session or for all, as their time allows.

We are gathering together for a Day of Reflection hosted by DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA, Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for \$15.00, at St. Bernadette’s Parish in Ajax. A Hot lunch will be provided and as well as tea and coffee all day. The program "My Story, Your Story, Jesus' Story", is being presented by Rev. Fr. Terry Gallagher of Scarboro Missions. For tickets please call Barbara at 905-404 2694. See you there.