

## The Parish Bulletin

As I gather my thoughts once again and put them to print for our parish bulletin and our parishioners to read, I must admit that I sometimes wonder if anyone, save perhaps a few, is actually reading what I write. The reason I write each week came to me years ago when, at a parish liturgy meeting, there was a discussion about when to hand out the parish bulletin - before Mass, as people enter; following Mass as handed out by ushers while people exited the church; to refrain from making the bulletins available at all either before or during the Mass so that people would not be tempted to read them whilst the homily was being given. I remember my reply to the latter idea was that if parishioners were reading the parish bulletin while the priest was delivering his homily, then the priest was likely not doing his job well enough to hold their interest. Personally, I would prefer that someone read the bulletin if what is found there is more life-giving and inspiring than the homily and, therefore, I would take no offense at it. But the idea itself of writing a weekly bulletin article came from that same liturgy meeting but for different reasons than giving people something else to read during the homily. It was generally agreed that many people in the parish didn't read their parish bulletin, even if they were given one or took one on exit from the church. The reason? Because most people found that the largest portion of bulletin announcements had little to do with the average parishioner and a lot to do with certain groups of people in the parish, eg. women's groups and men's groups, prayer groups and information that was targeted at just a few. The parish bulletin, in this sense, seemed to be a more private weekly publication aimed at special interest groups in the parish, hence, why read them?

While I had always had a sense of frustration that homilies, while limiting their time of delivery to about 8-10 minutes, were constrained to an allotted amount of time, my real concern was that the people of God might only hear a reflection on the Word of God for that amount of time and only once a week, unless they were reading the scriptures or delving into theological reflections and writings on their own. So I thought that perhaps I could expand on the teaching ministry of priesthood to include a weekly bulletin article on either specific scriptural texts or to a broader sense through reflections, opinions, observations or general theological instruction about the liturgical season, Church teaching and many other subjects that the homily didn't have time for.

That was well over 10 years ago now and I have been writing a weekly bulletin article ever since. I'd have to admit that at times having my bulletin article ready by the Wednesday noon deadline for our publisher feels a bit like another due assignment, a deadline to be met each week as I scramble to think about what I can possibly write about next. Yet I fully realize that it is a deadline I have imposed upon myself with the hope that in some small way it will teach and touch the souls who read it beyond the church doors ..... or during the homily, if I'm not doing my job well.

*Peace, Fr. Charles*

## Entering Passiontide

Passiontide is the time between Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) and Holy Saturday when our immediate attention through liturgy and the Word of God leads us to reflect on the passion and death of Christ and the confrontations between Jesus and the secular and religious authorities that preceded Christ's suffering and death on the cross. Our liturgy this weekend reveals this time in subtle ways with the elimination of the Penitential Rite and the priest simply praying the Opening Prayer of the Mass without an invitation to the people to "Let us pray", because the

liturgy to that point will so powerfully put us in a frame of mind to be prayerful as we ponder the meaning of what truly Jesus has done for us. The reading of the Passion, this year from Matthew's Gospel, will be read with a Narrator and the priest proclaiming the words of Jesus to slowly bring our Lent to a close by Holy Thursday with our minds fixed on the reason Christ came into the world - to save us, to take our place, to forgive sins and to put an end to the death that, living with sin, would have awaited us all.

The red of the vestments of the priest signify Christ's blood shed on the cross, but not exclusively. All of us, the baptized, are to be willing to lay down our lives and shed our blood for Christ as his followers. Most, if not all of us, will not face a martyr's death out of love and allegiance for Jesus, but we are nonetheless asked to lay down our lives before Jesus everyday, to die to self, to stand up for the truth and what is right, and to live in obedience to everything that Jesus taught us to do and the example he gave us as to how to live. Ours is an un-bloody sacrifice of ourselves to Jesus every day, at every moment and especially at every Mass.

This Palm Sunday has more to do with Jesus' passion and death than it does with mere palms. The significance of the palms is that they were symbols of the praise and worship due to Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, as he entered Jerusalem. His entry was one of humility for normally any conqueror or great leader would enter into a city in majesty, lavishly dressed and mounted on a white and noble horse. Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, this beast of burden, which would make him look oversized and awkward as he rode, his feet just barely inches from the ground. His acclaim, shouted out in Hosanna's, would quickly change in the coming week to shouts of "Crucify Him!"

## The Donkey

By [G.K. Chesterton](#)

**"When forests walked and fishes flew  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood,  
Then, surely, I was born.**

**With monstrous head and sickening bray  
And ears like errant wings—  
The devil's walking parody  
Of all four-footed things:**

**The battered outlaw of the earth  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Scourge, beat, deride me—I am dumb—  
I keep my secret still.**

**Fools! For I also had my hour—  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout around my head  
And palms about my feet."**

Praise of God that has no real intent or sincerity is the attempt to merely 'appease' God, and can so quickly lead from words of feigned praise to angry words of condemnation, as it did in the case of those who called for the death of our Lord. Those who seek after or have gained popularity in the media and the mainstream of our awareness never seem to be able to hold on to or maintain that status very long until their lives come crashing down before all to see as the reality of their lives is found to be less than perfect. History shows that the greatest memories held by humanity are of those who have done truly good and long-standing things, have contributed to society and its authentic betterment, or to those who have done the most barbarous

and atrocious evil, ever-remembered as pitiless and are looked upon with the same emotion. We remember Christ, not as those whose names are marked on cenotaphs and monuments and are gone, but as God-In-The-Flesh who died for us --- and Lives!!!

*(Fr. Charles)*

### IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

- *Spring Dinner, Dance and Auction on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>*

### MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr. 19 – 8:30 a.m. – Mrs. Corrie van Vroenhoven+

Wednesday, Apr. 20 – 7:00 p.m. – For the Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, Apr. 21 – 7:00 p.m. - HOLY THURSDAY

Friday, Apr. 22 – 3:00 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

6:30 p.m. – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, Apr. 23 -8:30 p.m. – EASTER VIGIL

Sunday, Apr. 24 - 9:00 a.m. – For the children being baptized on  
May 15, 2011

- 11:00 a.m. – Peggy McAlester+

**The Living Rosary – Saturday, May 7 at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**  
in the parish hall. Fifty-nine participants needed. Audio-visual presentation of the rosary with Martha Hamilton of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby. All parishioners are invited to attend. See sign-up sheet by the Welcome Table.

### SHARELIFE...

“The services provided by ShareLife agencies are critical to those who rely on them – they are lifesaving and life-restoring. Families are working through crises and are healing. Refugees and new Canadians are guided toward a stable, productive livelihood in their newfound home. Seniors are living independently, with access to the care and services they need. People with developmental challenges are supported as they experience a sense of self-worth and fulfillment in their daily activities. Sometimes the results are obvious and sometimes they’re invisible but always, they’re tangible.” *Most Rev. Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto*

**2<sup>nd</sup> ShareLife Collection – May 1, 2011**

**Please give generously. You can work WONDERS!**

### W.C. Town Funeral Chapel hosts Eight-Week Bereavement Support Group in Whitby

2011 Spring Group - Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

**St. Mary of the People Catholic Women’s League**  
will hold their annual “Spring Fling” Card Party on Monday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 532 Stevenson Rd., No.,

**Oshawa. Tickets are \$6.00 per person and may be reserved by calling (905) 728-1874. Progressive Euchre is optional. A light Lunch will be served.**

**WOMEN’S “ACTS” RETREAT – May 5 -8, 2011** at Queen of Apostles, Mississauga. A new and exciting retreat experience helping us to grow in personal relationship with God. “ACTS” Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. Call (905) 278-5229 for further information or reservation.

### March For Life Bus Trip – May 12, 2011

Dan Pigeau is a teacher at Msgr. Paul Dwyer and is organizing a bus trip to Ottawa for March For Life. Please see the parish bulletin board for detailed information.



**Next C.W.L. Meeting on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in the parish hall (speaker from Durham Family Services).

**Mother/Daughter Fashion Show on May 13 at 7:00 p.m.** in St. Leo’s parish hall. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for detailed information.

### Day of Reflection for Women

Saturday, May 28 in St. Leo’s parish hall. Tickets are available by calling the following two numbers – (905) 620-0724 or (905) 620-1413. Please see poster on the bulletin board for details.

### The Living Rosary

Saturday, May 7 at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Fifty-nine participants needed. Audio-visual presentation of the Rosary with Martha Hamilton of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby. All parishioners are invited to attend. See sign-up sheet by the Welcome table.