

## PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

My dear parishioners, our parish is in a dire and serious financial situation which can only be remedied by your weekly parish offertory commitments. The following information will be posted in the bulletin each week until such time as we begin to meet our weekly financial commitments to keep everyone apprised of our overall financial situation. *Thank you. Fr. Charles*

■ WEEKLY COST OF RUNNING OUR PARISH - \$6,243.

### LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$3,660.50 .
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1,517. (November)

➔ TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: **\$5,177.50.**

**Deficit in last week's collection: \$1,065.50.**

## MISPLACED INFINITE: Thoughts

While driving my car the other day and listening to CBC Radio One, I heard the announcer say the following..... that "According to the National Retail Federation, Americans will spend an estimated \$6.9 billion for Halloween in 2011, with \$2.5 billion for costumes. Of this total, nearly \$300 million will go towards costumes for pets."

Please stop the spinning of the earth on its axis because this must be my stop! Come on. Three Hundred Million dollars just for U.S. Pet costumes for Halloween. That amount would pay off the \$4 million dollar debt on our parish 75 times! And all this for a one-evening event that, frankly, glorifies death, gore and focuses on the dark side of the spiritual world and reality. It has no real meaning at all.

Don't get me wrong. I grew up looking forward to Halloween, talking for hours with school friends or brothers and sisters about where we were going to go to get the best loot, the kinds of candy we liked and didn't and the whole strange idea of going out as a kid at night to visit neighbourhood houses dressed in all manner of weird outfits. Some costumes were store-bought and others put together, particularly as you were getting older. I can remember putting such emphasis on what I was going to go out as only to have my costume take a big back seat when it came to actually going from house to house to get free candy. One year I was dressed up as the Devil (Imagine!) with a red devil costume (and tail) and a sweaty, plastic devil face mask held onto my head with a white elastic. I suppose I didn't give it much thought back then nor did my parents. As it says in the Gospel of John: *"When I was a child, I thought like a child,... but now I am a man and have set aside childish things"*.

However, I've got to admit that living in the realization that this is truly a spiritual world, I don't take it lightly that people would have plastic tombs on their lawns, or crosses scattered here and there, nor do I suppose any of us should who know the truth and meaning and cost of that symbol. The cross depicted is, for Christian believers, the sign of victory over sin and darkness and death. It is macabre purely because of the One who was nailed to it, who died a horrific death in our place out of great love. That's why we love the cross and all it stands for and would reject any abuse or dark portrayal of it as if it were just about death and unbelief, stripped of any real meaning - a prop. The

cross and its meaning becomes personal, like a picture of a loved one, and more.

The title of this article *Misplaced Infinite* is a phrase Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen created to describe the imbalance in life that occurs when we forget what we are really made of and made "for", (our destination being heaven). When we lose sight of that infinite goal we focus only on that which surrounds us; our pets, our kids, our job, our desire to have things and this life only.

Look at the Gospel from Matthew for this Sunday. This is a passage found only in Matthew's Gospel and nowhere else. Jesus is speaking to us, to those who will listen about being ready for when He comes. Flat out, He is speaking about what we would call the "end of the world". It's not about the things of the earth or everyday life or buying Halloween costumes for the dogs, it's about living each day with its every moment in a spirit of readiness. Living right, doing what's right according to the standard Jesus has set - that's the goal and the journey.

My mother used to say to us If we were watching some trashy TV show, "Garbage in, garbage out", as she turned the TV off. It's bad enough what adults watch on TV but it's what they also passively allow their children to watch. It would be utterly foolish to say that what a child watches (or any of us for that matter) doesn't effect our worldview, the way we think, the ways in which we decide what is good and bad, moral and immoral. If Jesus were to come tomorrow and any of us were to do a quick moral inventory about the things we have said, watched, done and omitted to do in the past five days, how would we really see the lives we are living according to the expectation Jesus has for us as His followers? Don't we live with Christ now?

Last weekend Deacon Michael Conlin spoke to us about *Chalice*, the Catholic, non-profit charitable agency that seeks to better the lives of so many children and adults around the world. For just \$33.00 a month we were able to make a difference in a child's life; a child we have never even met and living half way around the world. In listening to his words about children living with so much poverty and suffering in their lives, I kept thinking about Halloween costumes for pets and the \$300 million dollars spent this year on them in the U.S. Alone. It's just misplaced infinite. When there is so much need in the midst of so much greed.

In my own life I know of the many excesses I tend to; you know, the things I really don't need. Perhaps the modern phenomena of hoarders and our keen interest in watching how some people live in the midst of so much accumulated junk is from our own sense of the hoarding that we may do in our own lives, though certainly not to the extent of those who have an illness and appear on TV. Even focusing selfishly on money in bank accounts as a form of economic immortality can be a form of hoarding even when no one sees it. My mother used to also say, "I've never seen a U-Haul behind a hearse".

I've always been fascinated with the lives of monks. Their simple, ordered, prayerful, Christ-centered living looks so attractive, though I don't feel I was called to the monastic life. Even to visit a monastery and spend a week in their community makes present that simplicity and uncluttered life. Your room usually consists of a simple bed, a chair, a small wooden desk and

a single light. When I have gone on such retreats it has always made me aware of just how cluttered my mind and my life is with so many things to attend to, so many things to maintain, so many things to remember to do.

The challenge then is to choose the better way. To look to Christ and from our lives and living see how we can get to Him and live as He lived with His disciples. I'll be honest in saying that this lofty ideal often isn't that appealing to me as I settle into the routine of my life and live with my "stuff". And that's why I, even and especially as a priest, have to be at Mass each Sunday and each day. To hear Jesus speak to my life and living and remind me that this is but a journey and to pack lightly. No Halloween costumes allowed. Come as you are. *(Peace, Fr. Charles)*

**FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION CLASSES  
(MANDATORY)  
(Held in Parish Hall)**

**Class #1 - Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011 – 1 to 3 pm  
Class #2 – Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 – 1 to 3 pm**

**IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:**

- Knights of Columbus selling Right-to-Life Christmas Cards after the weekend masses this weekend.
- CWL Meeting this Sunday Nov. 6 after the 11 am Mass. Guest Speaker – Margaret McIntyre. Topic – Vaccines. Light Lunch Provided.
- Next Sunday is the Social Committee's Pancake Breakfast after the 9 am and 11 am masses.
- Cherub's Cupboard will be here next Sunday with a display of their religious supplies.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Tuesday, Nov. 8 – 10:30 a.m. – St. Bridget School Mass

Wednesday, Nov. 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Imelda Cote

Thursday, Nov. 10 – 12:15 p.m. – Wanita & Julie Gourdiere+  
7:00 p.m. – Feast of St. Leo the Great

Friday, Nov. 11 – 8:30 a.m. – REMEMBRANCE DAY

Saturday, Nov. 12 – 5:00 p.m. – Willard George+

Sunday, Nov. 13 – 9:00 a.m. –

- 11:00 a.m. – Jean Parise+

**STILL A FEW BABY BOTTLES TO BE RETURNED. NEEDED BY ROSE OF DURHAM FOR FUTURE.**

Our parish has a trained and dedicated team of Lay Pastoral Visitors (LPV) who visit the sick and homebound of our parish, bringing them Communion each Sunday, if requested. These Lay Pastoral Visitors assist Fr. Charles in bringing Communion to the many whom are unable either temporarily or more regularly to attend Sunday Mass. These LPV's go directly from the Sunday Mass to the homes of parishioners with Communion. If you or a family member would like to be visited, please call the parish office at 905-655-3286 ext. 101.

**IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE**

The Book of Remembrance, in which parishioners can record the names of their deceased family members, is on the lectern (on the right-side of the altar) in front of the statue of Mary. You may enter the names of those you wish remembered. During the month of November all the Holy Souls will be remembered at all the masses.

**THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST** cares for those who always cared for us – our retired priests. They were with us to joyfully celebrate our marriage, baptize our children and also to support us during times of sadness and grief. Please take a copy of our Annual Newsletter home with you today – and read the personal stories about how priests have greatly influenced the lives of so many of us – including Maria Silva-Alto and Betty Klauke.

The Shepherds' Trust Collection takes place next weekend – November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes are enclosed in this bulletin. Thank you for your generous support!

THE SERRA CLUB OF DURHAM IS HOSTING THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRIEST APPRECIATION DINNER ON NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 P.M. AT ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH HALL (1100 MARY ST. N., OSHAWA). TICKETS ARE \$35. FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL CAROLE OSIER AT (905) 571-4605 OR BY EMAIL AT [SERRADURHAM@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:SERRADURHAM@HOTMAIL.COM) TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS (905) 432-2300.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE SELLING RIGHT-TO-LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS WEEKEND (NOVEMBER 5/6) NOVEMBER 12/13 AND NOVEMBER 19/20 AND CAMPAIGN LIFE CHRISTMAS CAKES – DECEMBER 3/4, DECEMBER 10/11 AND DECEMBER 17/18, 2011 IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE AFTER ALL THE MASSES.

PLEASE SEE THE DURHAM REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY FLU VACCINE CLINICS POSTER ON THE EASEL BOARD IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.

**QUEEN OF APOSTLES RENEWAL CENTRE –  
MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND**

REFRESH AND REKINDLE YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER BY TREATING YOURSELVES TO A MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND AT QUEEN OF APOSTLES RENEWAL CENTRE, OR GIVE A WEEKEND AS A GIFT TO FAMILY OR FRIENDS. THE CENTRE OFFERS COMFORT, EXCELLENT CUISINE AND AN INSPIRING PROGRAM. THE NEXT WEEKEND IS NOV. 25-27. FOR INFORMATION TELEPHONE (905) 278-8879 OR (905) 829-0116. TO REGISTER CALL QUEEN OF APOSTLES (905) 278-5229.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES AT A COST OF \$5 EACH AT THE WELCOME TABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.

ST. MARY OF THE PEOPLE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE WILL BE HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL "TREE LIGHTS BAZAAR" ON SATURDAY, NOV. 12 FROM 9:30 AM TILL 2:30 PM IN THE PARISH HALL AT 532 STEVENSON RD., N., OSHAWA. EVENTS FEATURED WILL BE BAKING, PENNY SALE, FLEA MARKET AND TEA ROOM.