Theme Sharing

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Encompassing Compassion

- (1) Others had said: "do not do to others what you would not have them do to you." That is perhaps the basic law of manners and politeness. Jesus, characteristically, goes beyond this: Do to others.. The Christian ethic is positive. It goes beyond "Thou shalt not.." to "Do..." It is activist. There is the story of the man who appeared at the gate of heaven asking to be let in. St Peter asked him why he thought he should be let in. The man answered: "my hands are clean." "Yes," answered Peter, "but they are empty!'
- (2) The Christian ethic always asks for more. Many people are puzzled and confused because Christian moral guides are sometimes slow to lay down a clear minimum which people must achieve to be justified. But Jesus asks for more. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" What is so special about that? Jesus asks for extra. He told his disciples: "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Yet with those who tried and failed he was full of sympathy and compassion. He will never say "enough," but he will not reject anyone who has failed and comes back to him. (3) Some people see life in terms of dog eating dog. David had his chance to kill his enemy before his enemy killed him, as Saul fully intended to do. But he held back and he would not take Saul's life. The temptation to violence is an easy one. The world is full of wars and violent confrontations. We yield too readily to our instincts of aggression, whether it is the great aggression where nation confronts nation in a balance of terror, or violent confrontations between groups of citizens, or violence in the home. Education in peaceful means of solving interpersonal and intercommunal difficulties is one of the greatest needs of our age. The way is open to Christians to start to learn more about non-violent means of solving conflicts and becomes peacemakers.
- (4) Compassion is the characteristic of God even of the "Old Testament God" whom many commentators, following some early Christian heretics, like to portray as harsh and cruel. Our psalm, which comes from the Old Testament emphasises that

God is not the seeker of vengeance that many people imagine him to be. He is not waiting and anxious to punish each and every fault, but he is concerned only to remove our sins and to make us one with him

(5) God's love and goodness, his desire not to reject or to lose us, is shown most powerfully in what he has done for us in his Son Jesus Christ. He has made us into a new creation. He wishes to join us with him for an eternity of fulfillment and happiness. God's compassion for sinful and unhappy humanity is the model of our compassion. St Matthew had said: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Ch. 5:48.) St John said: "God is love" (1 John 4:7.) St Luke's report of Jesus' words is: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate."

Rejoice in God's Mercy

Catholics celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation because we recognise that sometimes we fail to do as we ought and because we believe in God's mercy and forgiveness. The priest can help you and you can trust the Holy Spirit to guide you. Even if you don't know how you can change your life, showing up makes you open to the grace that the sacrament brings. The Diocese of Calgary invites you to re-discover the meaning of the sacrament of Reconciliation in your life. Action: Speak about the sacrament of Reconciliation with someone this week. Share a positive experience or discuss your reservations with a priest or someone you know who participates in the sacrament.

'Misericordia et Miseria' Apostolic Letter

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter
'Misericordia et Miseria'
Pope Francis: To All Who Read This
Apostolic Letter-Mercy and Peace
An experience of grace lived out by the
Church with great effectiveness in the
Jubilee Year has certainly been the service
of the Missionaries of Mercy. Their pastoral
activity sought to emphasize that God places
no roadblocks in the way of those who seek
him with a contrite heart, because he goes
out to meet everyone like a father. I have
received many testimonies of joy from those

who encountered the Lord once more in the sacrament of Confession. Let us not miss the opportunity to live our faith also as an experience of reconciliation. Today too, the Apostle urges us: "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20), so that all who believe can discover the power of love which makes us "a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). I thank every Missionary of Mercy for this valuable service aimed at rendering effective the grace of forgiveness. This extraordinary ministry does not end with the closing of the Holy Door. I wish it to continue until further notice as a concrete sign that the grace of the Jubilee remains alive and effective the world over. As a direct expression of my concern and proximity to the Missionaries of Mercy in this period, the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization will supervise them and find the most suitable forms for the exercise of this valuable ministry.

To Be Continued

Diocese & Other News

Installation Mass Livestream

A reminder that the Installation Mass of His Excellency the Most Reverend William T McGrattan, eighth Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, will be on February 27th at 7:30 pm. It can be viewed live on Salt & Light TV or livestreamed on our website www.calgarydiocese.ca

34th Annual Outdoor Way of the Cross

Our 34th Annual Outdoor Way of the Cross will be on Good Friday, April 14th, 2017. We need volunteers as readers, cross bearers and help with crowd control, volunteer registration, First Aid and lost persons. We are especially in need of volunteers with First Aid or those interested in helping out with Lost Persons. Volunteers for these positions will need to have a security clearance, which we can help facilitate. If you would like to help, please register at www.wayofthecross.ca. We will need to have a registration completed for each person volunteering. Any questions please contact marilou.legeyt@calgarydiocese.ca or call 403-218-5519.

Saints Quotes

February 20- Monday

Look upon yourself as a tree planted beside the water, which bears its fruit in due season; the more it is shaken by the wind, the deeper it strikes its roots into the ground.-St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

February 21 – Tuesday

Let the serenity of your spirit shine through your face. Let the joy of your mind burst forth. Let words of thanks break from your lips.-St. Peter Damian

February 22- Wednesday

Your deeds may be the only sermon some people hear today. -St. Francis of Assisi February 23– Thursday

Follow the example of the Lord, being firm and unchangeable in the faith.-St. Polycarp February 24– Friday

If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the Chalice. St. John Chrysostom

February 25 – Saturday

He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to him, let go of yourself.-

St. Catherine of Siena

Parish Activities

ASH Wednesday

According to Bishop Henry's instruction, ashes cannot be distributed on the first Sunday of Lent. Our parish will therefore celebrate Ash Wednesday on:
March 1 at 9:00 am Mass (English) and 6:30pm Mass (Chinese)
It is time to get ready for a new Lenten journey. Parishioners are encouraged to join daily mass and Way of the Cross in Lent.

ASh Wednesday and Good Friday Fasting and Abstinence

- Among Catholics, fasting is a reduction in the normal amount of food consumption per day: one regular meal plus two other smaller meals without the provision of snacks during the Holy Days of observation.
- Among Catholics, abstinence is the omission of meat and other meat products, except fish, in the diet during the Holy Days of observation.

3. Abstinence is practiced by a wider age group of Catholic individuals 14 and up as opposed to fasting which is practiced by Catholics aged 18 to 59.

OLPH Way of the Cross in Lent

Starting from March 3

English: every Friday 8:30 a.m.

Cantonese & Mandarin: every Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on March 4

The March's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be led by Parish Pastoral Council on March 4 from 10am to 11am. Fr. Nguyen will listen to Confession. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

2016 Donation Tax Receipts

2016 Tax Receipts will be distributed to parishioners next week (February 26). Parishioners can pick them up at the church main entrance next week. Please contact parish office if you have any concern on your donation record.

Weekly Activities

Mon 20

Family Day Ski Trip

Nakiska

Wed, Fri Feb 22, 24

OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Fri Feb 24

OLPH Scout

Time: 6:30pm.-8:30pm

Place: Upper Hall & Lower Hall

Sat Feb 25

Legion of Mary (meeting)

Time: 9:45a.m.

Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church

Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30p.m. Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Yoga beginner class

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:45p.m. Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

R. C.I.A (Mandarin)

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00p.m. Place: K of C Room Young Adults choir practice Time: 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

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Place: OLPH Lower Hall

Sun Feb 26

R. C.I.A (Cantonese and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Office Building Young Adults visit Masion Senior_

Living

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

Stories Faith Sharing

Children bringing Peace

President Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin gathered in Camp David in 1978 to discuss peace. President Anwar Sadat approved the peace proposal but it was rejected by the Israeli Prime Minister Begin. There was a stalemate. The three, by now tired and emotionally drained, were about to depart without any peace accord. As President Carter and Prime Minister Begin were about to depart they remembered that they had earlier agreed to sign photographs for each other's families. They met on the front porch of Prime Minister Begin's cabin for the signing. President Carter asked for the name of the children to make the signing more personal and Prime Minister Begin reciprocated. Then President Carter decided to show the photographs of his grandchildren describing the personality of each; Prime Minister Begin did likewise. As they looked at the pictures tears filled their eyes. What type of world would their grandchildren grow up in? Prime Minister Begin returned to his cabin and re-emerged after five minutes asking to look at the peace proposal once again.

Let There Be Light

A Unique Look at the Week MONDAY -- WASH DAY God help me wash away my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

TUESDAY -- IRONING DAY God, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

WEDNESDAY -- MENDING DAY God, help me mend my ways so that I will not set a bad example for others. THURSDAY - CLEANING DAY God, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart. FRIDAY -- SHOPPING DAY God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

SATURDAY -- COOKING DAY God, help me to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

SUNDAY -- God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart as my honored guest so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

Read More Know More

The Mass and Holy Communion
How can bread and wine become Christ's
Body and Blood? It does, after all, still taste
like bread and wine.

C.S. Lewis put it well when he wrote, "The command, after all, was "Take, eat': not 'Take, understand.'" Christ's presence in the form of bread and wine, and how it comes to be that way, is part of the mystery of faith we call the Holy Eucharist. The official Catholic teaching is that Christ is really present in the consecrated elements. The explanation known as "transubstantiation" says that the substance of bread and wine is changed into Christ's Body and Blood, leaving only the appearances, taste, and so on of bread and wine. Transubstantiation sheds light on the change that takes place, and goes farther toward expressing the faith of the church than do some other theories about it. But the explanation called transubstantiation is not the basic teaching itself about Real Presence.

A very important point about Real Presence is that it is not limited to the Mass and, at Mass, is not limited to Christ present as bread and wine. Vatican II states:

"...Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, 'the same one now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross,' but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are

read in the church. He is present, finally, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: 'Where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them' (Mt. 18:20)."

For Catholics of Fundamentalists or anyone else to focus on Christ's Presence in the Eucharistic elements to the exclusion of his many other modes of presence in our lives – for example, his presence to us in those who are hungry (see Matthew 25:35, 42) – is to distort faith in the risen Jesus.

主日分享

常年期第七主日

瑪竇福音的山中聖訓,是耶穌在天國來臨的背景上,教導自己門徒的生活指南。因此,所寫的一切並非法律條文,要人咬文嚼字地遵守,不過其中涵容的精神,凡是經驗到天國來臨的信徒,都將由衷願意奉爲理想。今天教會選擇的兩項事件,不但超過梅瑟法律,而且也非現代人所能完全了解與接受的。但是跟隨基督的人,必須認真地反省,付諸實行。

梅瑟法律說:「以眼還眼,以牙還牙」, 這是建立在公平原則上的報復律。但 是耶穌要求門徒,「不要抵抗惡人;而 且,如果有人打你的右頰,你把左頰 也轉給他 1° 究竟根據什麼理由要這樣 做呢?這條後代人稱為「不抵抗主義」 的基督聖訓的基礎是什麼呢?首先, 這不是我們中國俗語說的:好漢不吃 眼前虧,由於柔弱無能而不抵抗。也 非鑒於陰狠的信念,以爲不必自己抵 抗,惡人自會遭到報應。不,這都不 可能出自耶穌的山中聖訓。耶穌在一 個「天主是愛」的新時代中,一方面 祂知道「你爭我奪」、彼此鬥爭搶殺, 永遠解決不了問題。「以眼還眼,以牙 還牙」,看來似乎建立在公平報復的原 則上,其實爲有罪的人類,絕不可能 以此來維持公平,往往藉著討個公平 的名義,爭奪過份而構成更大的不正 義。因此祂說:「不要抵抗惡人」。另 一方面,耶穌肯定人間的各種衝突, 個人的、民族的、國家的,唯一有效 的解決方法,只有彼此接受來自天主 的愛,互相尊敬與尊重。真正的公平 和正義,必須以仁愛為基礎,這是教 宗若望保禄二世根據福音的啓示,在

他「富於仁慈的天主」通諭中表達的 基本思想。基督「不抵抗主義」的基 礎,是天國來臨新時代中的天主之愛。 不過對於福音中的字句,我們有兩點 必要的說明。福音的字句,譬如「打 你的右頰……左頰也轉給他」等等, 都不是法律性的條文,僅是一種指 南,基督信徒面對惡人,不必咬文嚼 字地實行,但「不抵抗」的精神,確 實是耶穌所指出的生活方向;至於具 體怎樣實行,那得臨場分辨了。其次, 事實上,有關人間紛爭、國家衝突, 一般而論,教會並不提出基督的「不 抵抗主義」,有時也容忍爲正義而戰。 但這不是教會罔視福音聖訓,而是在 這尚未完全接受天國來臨的世界中臨 時性的立場。基本上,它服膺基督, 要求大家和平相處。

為此,在今天福音中最後一句話說: 「所以你們應當是成全的,如同你們 的天父是成全的一樣」。「成全」在這 句話中,並非是「十全十美」的意思, 而是在救恩計劃中,天父已在基督內 「完成」、「成全」一切。耶穌宣講天 國來臨,天主作為人類大父的時代已 經「成全」,因此耶穌要求我們效法「成 全」時代的天父,也等於說,按照天 國來臨的信仰經驗而生活與行動。至 於山中聖訓,只是耶穌爲我們的生活 指南舉出的一些實例而已。

反省與行動:

- 1.我待人處事的準則,是「報復律」, 還是「不抵抗主義」?
- 2.耶穌教導我們要「愛仇」, 我該如何 做到?
- 3.耶穌邀請我們按照天國來臨的福音 精神而生活與行動,我們可以如何彼

此鼓勵,勉力而行?

堂區活動

聖灰瞻禮

三月一日星期三是聖灰瞻禮。本堂將於當日九時彌撒(英文)為教友施放聖灰。此外,根據享利主教的指引,在四旬期第一主日不可施放聖灰,阮神父將於聖灰瞻禮當天晚上六時三十分加開中文彌撒,以方便教友領受聖灰,請各位教友能盡量參與。在四旬期內,我們可作特別的努力,每天參與彌撒、每天朝拜聖體或拜苦路。

教友當日要守大小齋

小齋:教會規定凡已足十四歲的教友,在每年的聖灰禮儀及聖週內星期五紀念基督聖死日,應守小齋,即在那兩天放棄取用熱血動物的內類食物。

大齋:教會要求年齡已滿十八至五十 九歲的教友在每年的聖灰禮儀及聖週 內星期五紀念基督聖死日,應守小齋 外,還要守大齋,即在那兩天只可飽 食一餐,其他兩餐只可進食少許食 物,其餘時間可飲流質飲品,但不能 進食其他食物〈藥物除外〉。

四旬期苦路善功

在四旬期內三月三日開始,按教會傳統,將舉行苦路善功,以紀念主基督 為拯救人類,所受的苦難聖死。 請教友盡量抽出時間前來參與。

英語拜苦路:

逢週五早上彌撒前 8 時 30 分。 粵語國語拜苦路:

逄週六下午彌撒前4時30分。

三月顯供聖體

永援聖母堂三月份的顯供聖體由堂區 牧民議會帶領,時間為三月四日上午 十時至十一時。當天除了朝拜聖體 外,阮神父將為教友聽告解。 請各位教友盡量參與!

2016 年退稅收條

2016 年退稅收條將於下主日(二月二十六日) 派發·教友可於下主日在教堂 正門入口處拿取。

如有任何查詢,可與堂區辦事處聯絡。

活動一调

星期一 2月20日

家庭滑雪同樂日

Nakiska 滑雪場

星期三、五 2月22,24日

永援聖母松柏軒

時間:上午9時至正午12時 地點:永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 2月24日

永援聖母堂童軍

時間:晚上6時30分至8時30分 地點:永援聖母堂上禮堂及下禮堂

星期六 2月25日

聖母軍

時間:上午9時45分(開會)

地點:聖堂二樓騎士會室

楊式太極班

時間:上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點:永援聖母堂下禮堂

<u>瑜珈初班</u>

時間上午 11 時 30 分至 12 時 45 分

地點:永援聖母堂上禮堂

成人慕道班(國語)

時間:下午3時至5時

地點:聖堂二樓騎士會室

大專青年團練習聖詩

時間:下午5時至7時

地點:永援聖母堂下禮堂

星期日 2月26日

成人慕道班(粵語及英語)

時間上午 9 時 30 分至 12 時 30 分

地點:永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間:上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點:寫字樓大廈,聖堂騎士會室

大專青年團探訪 Masion Senior

Living

時間:下午2時至3時

心靈小品

主你哭了,我該怎麼安慰你?

主你哭了,因你鑒查人心知道我們知 善卻不行善;

主你哭了,因為太多人追隨那沒有光 的信仰模式;

主你哭了,因為你點亮的燈卻被層層 的灰籠罩著; 主你哭了,因為我們要神蹟要恩賜卻 唯獨不要你;

主你哭了,因為我們求聖神能力醫治 卻不求發光;

主你哭了,因為我們正急切步入法利 塞人的行列;

主你哭了,因為我們帶著世界的法和 義沾沾自喜;

主你哭了,因為我們行在黑暗中自己 卻渾然不覺;

主你哭了,因為她的根基已搖動我們 卻死性不改;

主你哭了,因為人們的重蹈覆轍因為 人們的無知;

主你哭了,因為諾亞和索多瑪的世代 再次的重現;

主你哭了,因為我們在你面前獻著口 是心非的祭獻;

主你哭了,因為我們的心裡有太多傷你聖心的偶像;

主你哭了,因為我們不明白也不願去 明白你的心意;

主你哭了因為我們對你的愛滿了己意那麼不完全;

主你哭了,因為暗夜裡的發光者竟是 那麼的稀少;

主你哭了,因你憐惜我們,甚至不願 向我們發怒;

主你哭了,那樣的哭聲伴著那樣的嘆 息聲傳來。

主你哭了,如今你的哭聲我聽見了,

聲聲刺耳; 這樣的哭聲撕裂著我的心

一片一片;

主你哭了,於是我也想哭,爲自己也 爲所有的人。

主你哭了,哭聲提醒著我們快預備必 須警醒了;哭聲裡含著你對我們的期 盼和等待;我們該如何平息你那哭 聲?安慰你憂傷的心?

靈修小故事

天主最欣賞的

中世紀時代流行一個傳說:有一個年 青的女人死後想進入天堂,但遭到拒絕,因為她生前是個壞女人,做了許 多壞事。不過,守門的天使給了她一個最後的機會,就是如果她能從地球 上帶回一份令天主最欣賞的禮物,就 可讓她進入天國。於是,那女人馬上 回到地球上去。

一次,她看見一個年青人為愛天主而喪命,她想這一定是天主最欣賞的禮物了,連忙取了年青人的一滴血返回天堂。天使對她說;"這的確是一份很貴重的禮物,但還不算是天主最欣賞的,你再回去尋找吧!"

又一次,她看見一個老傳教士正為窮人傳福音,她想這一定是天主最欣賞的禮物了。於是,她立即取了傳教士額上的一滴汗水帶上天堂。天使又對她說:"這也不算是天主最欣賞的禮物。"就是這樣,她往返多次,但都未能找到被認為是天主最欣賞的禮物。

那女人立即把他的一滴眼淚帶上天堂的門前,那時,無數的天使和聖人喜樂地對她說:"悔改的罪人的眼淚,才是天主最欣賞的禮物。"

福音中,耶穌很欣賞那位稅吏的祈禱:他遠遠地站著,連舉目望天都不敢,祇是捶著自己的胸膛說:"天主,可憐我這個罪人吧!"他懇切地祈禱,不但令人看到他因做錯事而難過,更令人看到他的確真心的悔改,並因此得到更新,這才是天主最欣賞的禮物啊!因為耶穌說過:"對一個罪人的悔改,在天上的歡樂,勝過那九十九個無需悔改的義人"。

知多一點點

感恩(聖體)聖事 <u>領受聖體聖血有什麼意義?</u> 這是領受者和主耶穌基督的個人交 往,關係到祈禱和整個人的靈性生活。 從基督來說,這是祂為愛我們所作的 犧牲,為體現祂在十字架上承行天父 旨意所作的救世祭獻。

從領受者來說,領受基督聖體,是接受基督進入我們內生活,使我們住在祂內,成為生活的祭獻(若6:56-57;格前5:6-8;哥1:24;羅12:1-2;希10:4-10),與祂共赴生死(瑪20:22-23;谷10:38-40;瑪26:39-42;谷14:36;路22:42;若18:11);領受基督聖血,是在基督內結盟合一,預嘗末世的婚宴,邁向天國的共融。(格前10:16-21;12:27-30;路14:15;默19:6-9)

總括來說:領受(聖體(聖血))共融 聖事,是與基督結合為一;也因而離 開罪惡;同時也是與基督的肢體結盟 合一;並且是活於基督,承行天父旨 意的生活奉獻(包括獻身愛人、關心 窮人,為生者、死者祈禱等);更是 邁向天國盛宴的保證。

綜合來說,吃喝「主的餐」(彌撒),就是參與默西亞的筵席(比對岳 4:18 「新酒」;依 25:6-9「末世盛宴」)。 我們要怎樣參加彌撒聖祭和領受主的 體血呢?

我們要懷有歸依和受教的心,在祈禱中聆聽聖經,接受主的教導,更要懷著信德,聯同救主耶穌一起,把自己奉獻給天主聖父,爲承行祂的旨意,並且通過領受主的體血,接受主生活在自己內,且在主內結盟,以愛德生活,延續基督的救世工程,同時,懷著望德,期待在天國永遠共融。

<u></u><u>以病在床的信友也能領略聖體(聖血)</u> 的意義嗎?

主耶穌愛所有的人。每人處境不一,在領聖體(聖血)時,主耶穌按人的處境,也以不同的方式,與不同的人同在。臥病在床的人,也能領悟主基督的愛和平安,聯合基督的犧牲、奉獻自己,爲衆人的得救,立好榜樣,以忍耐、信德、愛德和望德,期待天國的恩許,爲主作證。

Revised: 23-12-2005