

## On the World Day of the Sick

*The nineteenth World Day of the Sick, is celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in February. This year's theme is "By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pt 2:24).*

In his Message for this occasion Pope Benedict XVI underscores the significance of **compassion** for human life *"The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer. This holds true both for the individual and for society. A society unable to accept it's suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through "com-**passion**" is a cruel and inhuman society."* (Quote from Spe Salvi,38). Later in the message he called particularly the young people to learn the value of compassion, to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, to recognize him and serve him in the sick and weak, and to create bridges of love and solidarity so that nobody would feel lonely. *"Because it has now become a shared suffering, though, in which another person is present, this suffering is penetrated by the light of love. The Latin word con-solatio, "**consolation**", expresses this beautifully. It suggests being with the other in his solitude, so that it ceases to be solitude."* (Ibid)

The Holy Father then recalled his visit to the Shroud of Turin earlier this year and offers his reflection on the sufferings of Jesus Christ which invites us to realize that *"By his wounds you have been healed"* (1 Pt 2:24). The apparent failure of Jesus becomes the victory of love in the Resurrection as *"Only a God who loves us to the extent of taking upon himself our wounds and our pain, especially innocent suffering, is worthy of faith."* (See also Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2007).

Jesus Christ reveals the *compassion* (suffering with) of God toward all people. In the words St Bernard of Clairvaux **"God cannot suffer, but he can suffer with, we are worth so much to God that he himself became one of us in order to suffer with us in an utterly real way—in flesh and blood—as is revealed to us in the account of Jesus's Passion. Hence in all human suffering we are joined by one who experiences and carries that suffering with us; hence con-solatio is present in all suffering, the consolation of God's compassionate love—and so the star of hope rises." (See also Spe Salvi, 39)**

Contemplating the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Father referred to the prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola *"Water from Christ's side, wash me, Passion of Christ, strengthen me, O good Jesus, hear me, within Thy wounds hide me"*.

He ends the Message by invoking the help of the Virgin Mary, whose compassion with her Son became compassion for all of us in our daily sufferings. At the same time the Holy Father calls the authorities to invest more in health care and in the support of the suffering, above all, the most needy and poor. Read the entire text of the Message for the nineteenth World Day of the Sick at:

<http://www.zenit.org/article-31286?l=english>



## Mark your Calendar...

Mass celebrating the  
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes  
Tuesday February 8  
7:30 pm

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick  
will be offered at this mass  
for those who are sick  
INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Reminde:



## Confirmation Kickoff Featuring Blue Veil Ministry

For ALL parents, sponsors & candidates  
Wednesday January 26  
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
in the parish hall

## Taking it to Prayer...

Join Us in the Cenacle to pray  
for our Capital Fund Drive

For 9 consecutive  
Thursdays:  
January 27<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am-10:00 am  
in the chapel

Entrusting our prayer to Mary Help of Christians

If you cannot attend these scheduled prayer  
times, you can still participate:

At a time and place of your choice pray:

- Rosary (five decades)
- Prayers for our holy father
- Prayer to St. Michael
- Consecration Prayer to Mary (any consecration prayer you know), or:

St. John Bosco's Prayer to Mary Help of Christians

O Mary, powerful Virgin, You are the mighty and glorious protector of the Church; You are the marvelous help of Christians; You are strong as an army in battle array; You have helped to destroy every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our anguish, our struggles and our distress defend us from the power of the enemy, and at the hour of our death receive our souls in paradise. Amen.

On **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>** the Church celebrates the **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**. The purpose of this day is *“to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels”* as well as *“to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord”* – Pope John Paul 11, 1997 message.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto we are blessed to have living and serving among us more than 1,100 religious men and women of over 100 different religious congregations. This World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank God for the gifts of these religious sisters, brothers and priests and to pray for God's blessing upon them in their efforts to faithfully live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

There will be a special Mass next **SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 3:00 P.M.** at **ST. PAUL'S BASILICA** in celebration of the vocation and witness of these special men and women religious who are such a vital and important part of the life and ministry of the Church in our Archdiocese. All are welcome to attend.

The **Men's Spirituality Group** will meet in the Savio Room after the evening Mass on Tuesday, January 25. All men are invited for a period of prayer and reflection on how the Lord's message can be applied in our lives as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, big brothers... in this world today. We can change the world by bringing change to the family one step at a time. New members are always welcome. We hope to see you there.

MICHAEL POWER/ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, 105 Eringate Dr., Etobicoke invites you to their **ST. VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER/DANCE** on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2011** at 6:30 pm hosted by CSAC. Tickets \$45.00 per person. Raffle and 50/50 Draw. Proceeds will help fund our scholarships and bursaries. Thank you for your support. Please contact Cher Bautista 416-749-2068 for more information and Marcella DeAngelis for tickets 416-621-9965.

**Young Adult Ministry of St. Benedict Parish  
welcomes you to  
*Witness***

**A Catholic faith-based group for young adults  
(ages 19-39)**

*Witness* serves to nurture the commitment of Catholic young adults to be witnesses of God's love through prayer, fellowship, and action.

Information session: **Sunday January 30  
Parish Hall 5:00 - 6:00pm**

Contact: Sabrina Marcelli [witness@stbenedictyouth.ca](mailto:witness@stbenedictyouth.ca)

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION**

**SUNDAY OFFERING** **\$8,098**  
Average Env. Donation \$13.45

**CAPITAL FUND TARGET:**

**\$760,000.00**  
Second Collection \$ 710.50  
as of January 10<sup>th</sup> \$206,342.21

**Thank you for your ongoing generous support!**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, January 24**

8:00am Filomena's healing of family tree, by Filomena  
7:30pm Memorial Mass – Annina Cappellano

**Tuesday, January 25**

7:30pm Tony Freitas, by Maria Freitas

**Wednesday, January 26**

8:00am Ricardo Rivera, by Balderosa family

**Thursday, January 27**

8:00am Filomena's healing of family tree, by Filomena

**Friday, January 28**

8:00am Filomena's healing of family tree, by Filomena

**Saturday, January 29**

8:00am Deceased members of the Sala family  
by Carlo & Adelaide  
5:00pm Olga Roberts, by Gwen Tarsay

**Sunday, January 30**

8:00am Rita Brown, by Helen Liscio  
9:30am Giovanni Romeo, by Maria Galluzzi  
9:30am For the People  
11:00am Michele Micco, by Anna Micco & family  
12:45am Leonila Balderosa, by Balderosa family

**DONATION RECEIPTS - YEAR 2010**

Receipts are now available and **may be obtained by dropping a stamped self-addressed envelope in the collection basket** or by **stopping in at the parish office during office hours.**

**Come & See Weekend  
February 4 – 6, 2011,  
St. Augustine's Seminary**

“The Love of Christ urges us on” to radically respond to His call to follow Him whole-heartily. Jesus is inviting you to spend time with Him so that you may discover His call. There will be an opportunity for young men of 18 years or older to spend a weekend for time of prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples through the Catholic priesthood. Call Office of Vocations at 416-968-0997.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
GENERAL MEETING**

Monday January 24<sup>th</sup> in the St. Benedict School Gym  
Rosary or Mass 7:00pm followed by Meeting at 7:30pm

**TREAT YOUR SWEETHEART**

Join the **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** as they will be hosting their Third Annual VALENTINE DAY Dinner Dance, Saturday, February 12 in the Church Hall. Doors open at 6:15pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Menu includes: Chicken Gordon Bleu, Manicotti, Veal, Potatoes, Vegetables, Salad, Buns, Coffee, Tea & Dessert and a cash bar. Cost \$30.00. Tickets will be on sale after each of the masses on the weekends of JANUARY 29/30 and FEBRUARY 5/6 or by calling Wolf Hartmann at 416-745-7983 or Ray Gallant at 416-748-3344.