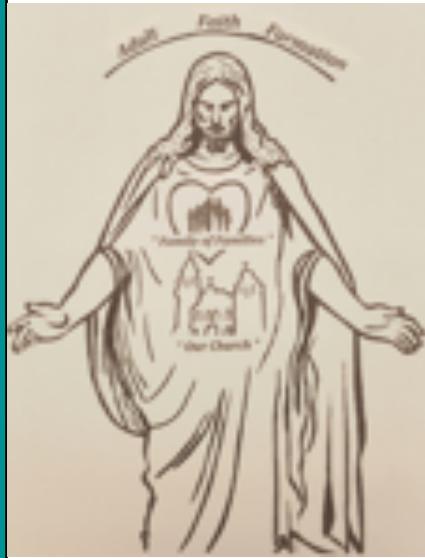


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Model Families: Do you know a family or families that are exemplary in their faith and charity in your parish or community? It is time for you to nominate them as Model Families of 2019! The Adult Faith Formation Commission is looking for nominations of model families. Write a short biography of the family and tell us why the family is a model of faith and charity. Please indicate the parish or town of the family. Ask the permission of the family you are nominating. When you have obtained the consent of the family, submit a copy of the short biography to adultfaith@padiocese.ca

A committee will choose 6 families as “Model Families of 2019,” and they will be recognized at the **Family Conference in 2019**. Rewards will be given to the families as well as to the ones who nominated them.

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Miracle of Saint Thérèse* (DVD) by Ignatius Press;
- (2) *Paul VI: The Pope in the Tempest* (DVD) by Ignatius Press;
- (3) *Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed* (DVD) by Ascension;
- (4) *Defeating the Devil: Exorcists Tell Their Story* (DVD) by Ignatius Press.

For more resources: padiocese.sk.ca or bmjsajonas.com

Some Saints of October: 1 Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus - Virgin, Doctor; 2 The Holy Guardian Angels; 4 St. Francis of Assisi; 6 St. Bruno- Priest, Blessed Mari-Rose Durocher; 9 St. Denis - Bishop & Companions - Marytrs, St. John Leonardi - Priest; 11 St. John XXIII - Pope; 15 St. Teresa of Avila - Virgin, Doctor; 16 St. Marguerite d'Youville; 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch - Bishop, Martyr; 18 St. Juke - Evangelist; 19 St. Paul of the Cross - Priest; 20 St. Hedwig - Religious, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque - Virgin; 22 St. John Paul II - Pope; 23 St. John Capistrano - Priest; 24 St. Antony Mary Claret - Bishop

Next issue's contents:

Are you the King of the Jews? A Reflection on John 18:33-37; Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

Editors:

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada),
Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Very Rev. Maurice Fiolleau.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS October 2018

Matthew 5:1-12: The Beatitudes

By Fr. Millan Sajonas

On seeing the crowd, Jesus is struck and he begins to teach them what it really means to be blessed. Gazing on them, his love-filled concern, prompts him to reveal heaven’s standard of being happy. Sometimes, the earthly standard of being blessed is different from that of heaven. Jesus affirms the challenges and sacrifices of the journey to heaven. There is no sugar coating on being a disciple. It is a hard-trodden path. Could one be really happy by being vulnerable, meek, humble, and powerless? Often, such attitudes lead to being abused, used, and ridiculed. The powerful and assertive subdue the weak and unassuming. One could end up miserable and sad.

Then what is the purpose of the beatitudes on earth? On the surface, they offer acceptance of one’s situation, of a specific reality. In 2 Corinthians 12:10-12, St. Paul states “I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ.” For him, accepting these things, which mark weakness, in turn make him strong. Yet, being defenseless and helpless are not just for the sake of being docile. It is for Christ. The Lord is the reason for enduring persecutions, for making sacrifices. Remember it is God who first extends his grace to us. We must acknowledge it is God who redeems us through his Son. From this point of view, one can be thankful and find the strength to endure maltreatments and tribulations.

At a deeper level, the beatitudes offer hope. Beyond this earthly journey, despite oppressions and sufferings, there is hope for eternal bliss and comfort. The rewards of the beatitudes will be fulfilled in heaven. Having hope can give strength to endure the present. Having hope can provide a reason to strive for the ideals of God’s kingdom.

Now, is it possible to be thankful when facing suffering? Can one still thank the Lord for one’s problems and hardships? In the Book of Job 1:21, the protagonist says, “The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.” Yet, Job lost everything, suffered agonizing sickness, and was wrongfully accused of offending God. Perhaps, Job’s attitude towards God remained unchanged because he knew that he was innocent. His words, “Naked I came forth from my mother’s womb, naked I shall return,” may provide help to understand his approach to life’s difficulties. Out of nothing, God has given everything to every man and woman who exists on earth. Thus, one’s life is a gift from God. At the end of life, one carries nothing to the grave. Only God’s grace and one’s charity persist after earthly life. (Continued in Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Indeed, being thankful amidst the pains of life and adversities can prove difficult. The beatitudes serve as guidelines for Christian living. The Lord wants us to be redeemed and so he gives not only the means of salvation through grace, but he instructs us with concrete teachings on being poor in spirit, being mournful, being meek, being hungry and thirsty for righteousness, being merciful, being pure of heart, and being peacemakers. He encourages us to accept persecutions for righteousness' sake and for his name. The prophets have endured these trials and so have the saints. Most importantly, the Lord himself suffered, was persecuted, and killed. Jesus gives us his own example and he encourages us to follow in his footsteps.

Questions For Reflection:

1. Which beatitude do you believe that you exhibit? Why do you think so?
2. Is there a beatitude that you would like to develop? Which one? How are you going to cultivate this beatitude?
3. Does it help you to know that there is heaven? How does it help you?
4. Do you have a form of persecution or suffering that you are experiencing? What is it? Can any of the beatitudes give you acceptance or support for it?
5. Can you remain thankful to God despite problems and difficulties? How do you justify your challenging situation with your faith in God?

Getting to know...St Therese of the Infant Jesus. Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin was born in Alençon, in France, on 2 January 1873. She became a nun at the Carmelite convent there at the age of 15.

When Thérèse was 17, she confided to a visiting Jesuit her hope of becoming a great saint and to love God as much as the Carmelite Saint Teresa of Ávila. In 1895 Mother Agnès of Jesus, the prioress, had asked Thérèse to write her memoirs. What makes St Thérèse so special? Thérèse's "Little Way" means taking God at his word and letting his love for us wash away our sins and imperfections. We can't all hug lepers or go off and become missionaries and martyrs. But we all do have daily opportunities of grace. Some of them may be too small to see, but the more we love God, the more we will see them. If we can't advance to Heaven in giant strides, we can do it in tiny little steps. Our weakness is no excuse for mediocrity.

She died of tuberculosis at the age of 24 on September 30, 1897. The beatification process opened thirteen years after Thérèse's death. She was canonized on May 17, 1925, the Pope having suspended the rule that forbids canonization less than 50 years after someone's death. 100 years after Thérèse's death, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church, joining St Catherine of Siena and St Teresa of Ávila (Source: Universalis Publishing Ltd, 1996-2011).

Her feast day is on October 1. She is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Church of Leoville, Saskatchewan that bears her name. The Diocese of Prince Albert has also a national shrine dedicated to St. Thérèse in Wakaw, Saskatchewan.

The Diocesan Family Gospel Jamborees in Prince Albert and North Battleford

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Prince Albert and St. Joseph Calasanctius in North Battleford held the Diocesan Family Gospel Jamborees on October 12 and October 13, respectively. The Adult Faith Formation Commission of the Diocese of Prince Albert organized them. Prince Albert had 210 participants while North Battleford had 90 people. Our bishop, His Excellency Albert Thevenot, M. Afr. attended both occasions.

Our entertainers were the Sundrops Band from Swift Current and Stephanie Rose from Big River. The Sundrops Band is composed of four siblings who are gifted in playing different musical instruments. Stephanie Rose is a young lady who sings and plays the guitar. In both events, all the people present enjoyed the musical entertainment.

Ken Yasinski was our guest speaker. He spoke on two topics: "The Catholic Family and Christian Faith," and "The Challenges of the Family Today." Ken, being a husband and a father of five children, gave his insights on the importance of the Catholic faith, the importance of teaching the children about faith, and how to navigate in the different challenges facing Christian families. He gave advice on how to strengthen family life.

In both places, the Knights of Columbus helped in providing/selling excellent food. The people enjoyed the meals that they served. The events offered childcare so that parents could listen and visit while confident that their children were being taken care of. The Adult Faith Formation Commission members helped in organizing the events, as well as volunteering for the various needs of the program. The bishop ended the events with a prayer and blessing.



Stephanie Rose



Sundrops Band



Ken Yasinski