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### Family Circles - Faith, Prayer, Life & Charity

The Adult & Family Faith Formation Commission has organized a diocesan-wide advancement of family faith formation. Family Circles Program is a Roman Catholic-based faith catechesis exploring the fundamentals of Catholicism and the promotion of devotions. It aims to connect families through prayers and family-time activities. It also endeavors to unite families to concretize belief through charitable outreach.

Families interested in joining or knowing more about this initiative may contact the Adult Faith Formation Commission or email [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com) or call 306-763-5677. In Prince Albert, we have started again an hour of Adoration every Thursday night from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at our Lady of Czestochowa Parish.

#### Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Beyond Belief: Following Christ Today* (Audio) by Fr. Michael Schmitz;
- (2) *Mary: Handmaid of the Lord* (Audio) by St. Teresa of Calcutta;
- (3) *Voice of the Voiceless: The Four Pastoral Letters and Other Statements* (Book) by St. Oscar Romero;
- (4) *Mystery and Sacrament of Love: A Theology of Marriage and the Family for the New Evangelization* (Book) by Marc Cardinal Quillet.

For more resources: [padiocese.ca](http://padiocese.ca) or [bmjsajonas.com](http://bmjsajonas.com)

**Pilgrimages:** If you are interested in joining a pilgrimage in the near future, you can email Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas to inquire about it for information. You can also check the upcoming activities of Fr. Millan at <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities>. Let us continue to pray for one another! God bless you!

**Adult and Family Faith Formation:** For online resources, please visit <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/adult-faith-formation>

#### Next issue's contents:

Matthew 13:44-46: The parable of the hidden treasure; getting to know a parish in the 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 Fr. Maurice Fiolleau. (SK, Canada).

## ADULT & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

### Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS July 2020

### Mark 4:26-29: The Parable of Growing Seed

By Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

The Kingdom of God is a free gift. One can either accept or reject it. Participation is asked from the recipient. Free will is required. Thus, it is comparable to one's scattering of seed on the land. Planting the seed of God's Kingdom is needed. Though it involves a human contribution, the growth of the Kingdom of God is independent from one's actions and merits. God's grace enables it to develop in the human person. Accepting the message and demands of God's Kingdom do not rely on one's labors and qualities, but for these to grow, one still needs to trust in God. It is not through one's effort that it will develop or bear fruit, because it is only accomplished by God's gracious will.

Receiving the grace of knowing and experiencing the Kingdom of God is a gift and a privilege. It is also a great responsibility. Through God's grace, it will flourish. One has to contribute to it so as to continue to mature. In time, it will produce fruits for the harvest. These actions need not be prodigious, but simple acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and work done diligently. The primary beneficiary is one's own self, because one becomes able to work efficiently, and use God's grace to grow spiritually, in holiness. Yet the greatest reward is to be able to work for the Kingdom of God. This is evident when the fruits of one's labor facilitate God's goodness, so that it might be known to others. One becomes an instrument for the Kingdom of God, to be known through words and deeds. Christianity is manifested through the witness of Christ's disciples.

When others receive the message and demands of God's Kingdom through one's efforts, one has truly taken on accountability for the gift obtained from God. The goal is to continue to build the Kingdom, inaugurated and established with the Lord's coming. Hopefully, more seeds will be planted and fruits of the Kingdom of God will multiply in the lives of people. It is truly making a haven of peace and love here on earth.

#### Reflection Questions

1. Has the Kingdom of God come into your heart? How?
2. What do you do to nurture God's gift to you?
3. Do you see the fruits of receiving God's Kingdom in your life? What are these fruits?
4. Do you find joy and satisfaction in the fruits of God's Kingdom in your life? How?
5. Do these fruits influence and inspire others to do good and to praise God? How?

### **Our Lady of the Lake, Chitek Lake**

Chitek Lake has had a permanent settlement since 1929. In the early years, Fr. Grimard would visit Chitek Lake a couple of times a year, celebrate Mass, and administer the sacraments to the residents.

By 1948, a hamlet had sprung up at Chitek Lake, and the Catholic people started having serious discussions about finding a location on which to build a church. Mrs. Rose-Anna Wollenkaupt sold a portion of her property to Fr. Grimard for one hundred dollars. Funds were raised in Leoville, and Albert Sullivan, a young teacher from Chitek Lake, lent a thousand dollars. With this money, the erection of a church was started in the summer of 1949. Most of the lumber was donated and hauled to Chitek Lake by Emile Lair. Joe Fournier was the carpenter. By the end of the summer, a church and a rectory had been constructed.

The official opening and dedication of the new church to Mary was held on Sunday, August 14, 1949. The church was called "Our Lady of the Lake."

For years, the Chitek mission operated during the summer months only, with an occasional Mass being said in the winter.

The Daughters of Providence from Leoville took a deep interest in the welfare of the mission in Chitek. For thirty-five years, they were generous in their efforts to help the people and their children, and would assist the missionaries in preparing beautiful celebrations at Our Lady of the Lake.

After Fr. Giguere became pastor of Leoville, he would come every Sunday to Chitek Lake, even in the winter months. The church was in need of so much repair that Mass was celebrated in the rectory, the hall, the curling rink, or the village conference room. When Fr. Pouliot arrived, he made a few adjustments.

Additions to the church and rectory were constructed. A large front room was added to the rectory, and a large covered area was added at the back of the altar in the church. This more than doubled the size of the church during the summer months. Fr. Pouliot himself, with the help of Albert Crossland, Giles Francoeur and Robert Chalifour, did the work.

In 1983, more work was done on the church. To raise money for this project, a big beef barbecue was held. Three thousand dollars was raised on that day. Albert Sullivan, Alphonse Trepanier, and Leo Trepanier changed all the windows and doors and supervised the installation of electric heaters and lights. A new electric cookstove was installed in the rectory, as well as electric lights. The Leoville Hospital donated its chapel altar and pews to Chitek Lake. A new Yamaha electric organ was also installed in the church, in 1984. Also in 1984, Paul Loiselle headed a group of workers who put new siding on the church, as well as insulation throughout. Repairs were also done on the bell tower, where a new cross was installed. Some of the summer people helped Paul Loiselle with the work.

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In 1983, "La Mission Chitek" came of age. It was recognized as Our Lady of the Lake Parish. Priests from Leoville still look after the needs of the parishioners of Chitek, as they have since its very beginning.

The church of Our Lady of the Lake has been maintained mainly by collections. Over the years, however, people have enjoyed bean suppers, corn roasts, barbecues, and bingos. All the receipts go for the support of the church. The entire village, Catholics, and non-Catholics alike, have supported the raising of funds. In turn, the church is open to any group for religious services of any denomination. (**Source:** Lavigne, S. *Kaleidoscope: Many Cultures - One Faith*, St. Peter's Press, Muenster, Saskatchewan, 1990, p. 343-344)

### ***Christian Education***

Since all Christians have become by rebirth of water and the Holy Spirit a new creature (8) so that they should be called and should be children of God, they have a right to a Christian education. A Christian education does not merely strive for the maturing of a human person as just now described, but has as its principal purpose this goal: that the baptized, while they are gradually introduced to the knowledge of the mystery of salvation, become ever-more aware of the gift of Faith they have received, and that they learn in addition how to worship God the Father in spirit and truth (cf. John 4:23) especially in liturgical action, and be conformed in their personal lives according to the new man created in justice and holiness of truth (Eph. 4:22-24); also that they develop into perfect manhood, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ (cf. Eph. 4:13) and strive for the growth of the Mystical Body; moreover, that aware of their calling, they learn not only how to bear witness to the hope that is in them (cf. Peter 3:15) but also how to help in the Christian formation of the world that takes place when natural powers viewed in the full consideration of man redeemed by Christ contribute to the good of the whole society. (9) Wherefore this sacred synod recalls to pastors of souls their most serious obligation to see to it that all the faithful, but especially the youth who are the hope of the Church, enjoy this Christian education. (10)

(**Excerpt** from Pope Paul VI, Declaration on Christian Education *Gravissimum Educationis*, sec. 2, Oct. 28, 1965)