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

The Adult Faith Formation Commission is organizing 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 this initiative may contact the Adult Faith Formation Commission or email [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com) or call 306-763-5677.

#### Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer* (DVD set) by Fr. Mark Toups;
- (2) *Cause of our Joy* (book) by Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.;
- (3) *Inseparable: Five Perspectives on Sex, Life, and Love in Defense of Humanae Vitae* (book) by Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke;
- (4) *Rebuking the Devil* (book) by Pope Francis.

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

### Scripture Meditation

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 10:25-37 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 10:38-42 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 11:1-13 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

#### Next issue's contents:

Luke 13:6-9 The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree; 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 Reverend Maurice Fiolleau (Vicar General).



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

DIOCESE OF PRINCE ALBERT IMDVS June 2019

### Matthew 13:24-30 The Parable of the Wheat and Darnel

By Fr. Millan Sajonas

The gospel tells us that the Lord only sows good seeds (the wheat). But the enemy, who is the devil, sows bad seeds (the darnel). In the parable, the soil seems to represent the hearts of men, which can generate good or evil deeds. The merciful Lord allows these deeds to endure awhile, but there will be arbitration based on the yield of the heart.

It is true that it is difficult to differentiate the wheat from the darnel; while both are in the process of growing. God, allowing both to grow, does not mean to condone the evil acts, but instead demonstrates His mercy and patience with humanity. God is holy and good. However, we are capable of both good and evil actions. We could make mistakes, errors, and sin against God and neighbors. The Lord gives a lot of opportunities to change and to repent for these failures. The challenge of life is our need for continuous conversion. The lesson of the parable is to be able to conquer the darnels of our lives, and concentrate on how to yield a rich harvest of wheat.

The past or the present does not define a human person. There is always the possibility to change. God's grace affords this transformation. At times, we can have pre-conceptions of people (even ourselves) based on the past or what they are in the present. Such pre-conceptions become the basis of judgment of what they are as human beings, or determining their future. This kind of attitude never helps any person to develop or to change but it may cause them to be inactive and fail to see the goodness in themselves. Like the Lord of the harvest, we have to become people giving chances, looking for possibilities, searching for the gifts and talents in others, and helping them to realize their potentials.

Sometimes, the reading of the gospel may be interpreted as an account for predestination, where God has already determined the saved and the lost. This may be the case if the reader focuses on the seeds that are sown and not on the soil that has taken in the seeds. It is true that the harvest of wheat is to be gathered in the barn and the collected darnel is to be burned. People come out as good or evil. However, this is not the case. We are God's creation and so we are created good. God has created the human heart, which is symbolized by the soil, good. It is the reason that it is capable of doing good and loving. Predestination could be interpreted as God knowing all the possibilities of all created things and realities. Yet, the human heart has always the choice. God has gifted us with free will. We have the choice to let the bad seeds grow into a harvest of darnel that chokes the goodness that God has planted, or to let these good seeds, which God has lavishly sown, to flourish into a rich harvest of wheat. (Continued in page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **Reflection Questions**

1. What are the qualities that you consider to be gifts that you need to nurture?
2. What are your defects that you need to change?
3. How can you help others realize and develop their talents and potentials?
4. What is the Church's teaching on human free will?
5. How do you thank God for your blessings and gifts?

### **Getting to know...St. Boniface.**

St. Boniface was known as Wynfrith. He was born in Devon and educated at the monastery at Exeter. He joined the Benedictine abbey at Nursling, near Southampton. Wynfrith was a teacher and preacher. However, he desired to preach the gospel in a foreign land. In 718, Pope Gregory II commissioned him to do so. At the same time, Wynfrith changed his name to Boniface.

He left England, never to return, and brought the gospel to the tribes of Germany, where he had great success. He became the bishop of Mainz. He also founded or restored dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia. In his later years, St. Boniface worked with King Pepin the Short to reform the Frankish church. He set out to evangelize Friesland too, where he was murdered on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 754. He was buried at Fulda, near Frankfurt in the monastery that he founded (Adapted from Universalis Publishing Ltd 1996-2011).

His feast day is on June 5, the day of his death. St. Boniface is the principal patron saint of Germany and the Netherlands. He is also the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Church in Goodsoil. Let us pray through the intercession of St. Boniface that the preaching of the gospel may bring conversion of lives and growth in the path of holiness.

### **Are you interested to join a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?**

There is a pilgrimage going to the Holy Land from November 4 to 17, 2019. It is organized by Fr. Millan Sajonas and Biyaheng Kapamilya sa Holy Land. The theme is **"A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: This is Holy Ground."**

For further details, visit [www.kapamilyaholyland.com](http://www.kapamilyaholyland.com) or <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> or call Fr. Millan at 306-763-5677/ email: [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com)

### **A Short Background and History of the World Meeting of Families**

1994 was declared an "International Year of the Family" by the United Nations. Pope John Paul II wanted the Church to also celebrate this Year of the Family, and so the 1st World Meeting of Families was held. It took place in Rome on 8 and 9 October 1994 under the guidance of the Pontifical Council for the Family, who went on to organize all subsequent WMFs.

Since then, every three years, in different places around the world, a World Meeting of Families has been held, together with an International Pastoral-Theological Congress. It concludes with a Festival of Families in the presence of the Pope and a great final Eucharistic Celebration.

1. St. John Paul II - 1<sup>st</sup> World Meeting: **1994** (8-9 October) **Rome**(Italy). In the context of the Year of the Family *"The Family, the Heart of the Civilization of Love."*
2. St. John Paul II - 2<sup>nd</sup> World Meeting: **1997** (4-5 October) **Rio de Janeiro** (Brazil). *"The Family: Gift and Commitment, the hope of humanity."*
3. St. John Paul II - 3<sup>rd</sup> World Meeting: **2000** (14-15 October) **Rome**(Italy). In the context of the Great Jubilee of 2000, *"Children: Springtime of the Family and of the Church."*
4. St. John Paul II - 4<sup>th</sup> World Meeting: **2003** (25-26 January) **Manila**(Philippines). *"The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium."*\*\*\* St. John Paul II (via TV link)
5. Benedict XVI - 5<sup>th</sup> World Meeting: **2006** (8-9 July) **Valencia** (Spain). *"Handing on the Faith in the Family."*
6. Benedict XVI - 6<sup>th</sup> World Meeting: **2009** (17-18 January) **Mexico City** (Mexico). *"The Family: Teacher of Human and Christian Values"*\*\*\* Benedict XVI (via TV link)
7. Benedict XVI - 7<sup>th</sup> World Meeting: **2012** (2-3 June) **Milan** (Italy) *"Family, Work & Celebration."*
8. Pope Francis - 8<sup>th</sup> World Meeting: **2015** (September 26-27) **Philadelphia** (USA) *"Love is our mission: The family fully alive."*
9. The 9<sup>th</sup> World Meeting was held in Dublin (Ireland), from 22 to 26 August **2018**, on the theme chosen by the Pope: "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World," framed in the context of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* and coordinated by the new Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, presided by Cardinal K. Farrell.
10. The 10<sup>th</sup> World Meeting will be held in Rome in 2021.

(Source: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/sezione-famiglia/incontro-mondiale-delle-famiglie.html>)