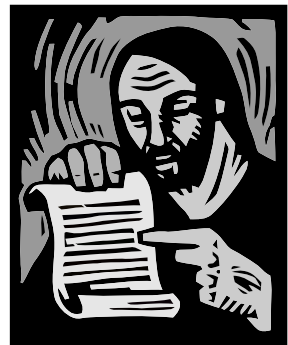


The New Testament contains many accounts describing for us the experience of the original disciples of Jesus as they found faith through their encounter with their Risen Lord. The writers of the gospels are so certain of the meetings that laid the foundations of Christian faith that they do not attempt to harmonise the details of the stories they are handing on. They pass on these stories in order to share the wonder of finding faith and new purpose through an encounter with the Lord's triumph – a wonder that can hardly be captured by a single account.

As our Easter liturgies recall these stories we are like a family group listening to one another sharing personal recollections of a past even that meant a great deal to the whole family. Given from different points of view, these recollections bring a far fuller appreciation of what took place. Last Sunday we heard the story as it was recalled in the community of John's gospel. Today, we hear Luke's account of the disciples' meeting with the Risen Saviour. From all these accounts a coherent story emerges that invites the Church of every age to share in the original moment of Resurrection faith: the disciples are confused and frightened; when Jesus comes into their midst, finding faith in him is not easy and immediate; his greeting, however, and his loving acceptance of them into his abiding friendship brings them a great joy, and they find full faith in him; he instructs them – all that has taken place is according to the designs of God set forth in the Scriptures; he charges them with the mission of bringing to the whole world the good news of their Resurrection faith and the 'forgiveness of sins' it brings; he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Resurrection faith brings healing to the whole world

All three readings make reference to 'sin' and the need for conversion. Our immediate reaction may well be to think those are themes for Lent, why stress them in the midst of our Easter celebration? But can we understand what has been achieved in the Lord's Paschal Mystery without taking account of the reality of sin. It is the abuse of human freedom that has made the destructive world from which we need to be saved and set free. The words of Peter in the first reading suggest a line of thought which has relevance for the world in which we live. Quite rightly, our discussion of 'sin' usually stresses what is done with full and wilful responsibility. Peter points to another form of 'sin' when he acknowledges that the perpetrators of the terrible miscarriage of justice that has 'killed the prince of life' did not fully understand what they were doing. In today's world of confused moral values, who is to judge the moral guilt of many things that are done? But if what is done is a turning away from the light to darkness, from what leads to life to what leads to death, it is sinful in the sense that it is an aberration that has destructive consequences from which only God can save us.

Our mission – as those who have found Resurrection faith and the hope it brings – is to bring liberation from sinfulness in all its forms, by sharing the light and life of the Risen Lord with our struggling world.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

What could convince someone to turn to God?
The story that God became human? The story that Jesus cured the sick?
The story that Jesus forgave sin? The story that Jesus rose from the dead?
Or, perhaps, the story of the witness of your own life

If you have the continuing inclination that God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto.
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca



Readings ~ Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 ~ 1 John 2:1-5 ~ Luke 24:35-48

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – April 20 to 26

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

Table with 3 columns: Day/Time, Intention(s), Offered by. Includes entries for Monday through Sunday with various names like Jack Drohan, Grant & Judy Fletcher, David Kenny, etc.

Rosary Group – stay and pray daily, after 9am Mass + Fridays, 2pm

Five decades daily, fifteen decades on Fridays followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary: either they will give up sin or they will give up the Rosary"

–Bishop Hugh Doyle

Rest In Peace, Fr. Charlie (March 25, 1927, April 13, 2015)

Fr. Charles H. Vanitem (or, as we knew him, 'Fr. Charlie') went to his eternal reward on Monday morning. Formerly the pastor at St. Timothy Parish in Orangeville, Fr. Charlie arrived at Our Lady of Sorrows with Fr. Nino in 2005 and remained active in the parish until leaving the rectory to live with a generous parish family, some years later. Fr. Charlie died peacefully and a Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, April 17 at St. Clement's Parish.

'Final Fridays' Fellowship – Last Friday of each month, after the 9am Mass

Everyone is invited to the parish hall for coffee, tea and breakfast rolls. Take advantage of this special opportunity to get to know your neighbour. All are welcome... bring a friend!

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 9–17, 2015

This once-in-a-lifetime journey, now under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Nino, marks the 75th Anniversary of our parish. Cost is \$2,490 pp. Contact Halina at 905-886-0232, ext. 315.

Working wonders in livelihoods...

"My worst day clean is better than my best day using," exclaims Suzanne, as she shares the details of her past use of drugs and other substance abuse. "I was on medication constantly to deal with the side effects and was a chronic pain patient for 35 years. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. With the support of Catholic Family Services, I was able to finally kick the habit." The Closed Trauma and Sister mentoring program were crucial to helping Suzanne get her life back on track. The positive influence of CFS program supervisor Valerie Anderson and encouragement from other professional staff gave Suzanne the courage to try again. She sheds 'tears of joy' as she now speaks on behalf of CFS, sharing the detailed differences Catholic Family Services has made in her life. Over 79,000 individuals received help in getting their lives back on track through ShareLife-supported family services program.



ShareLife's campaign continues. Please give generously. You can work wonders!

"And He departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here." –St. Augustine

Fourth Annual Regis College Used Book Sale – April 21, 10am–7pm

A reader's paradise! More than 20,000 gently used (many as good as new) fiction & non-fiction books on a range of subjects including theology, spirituality, art, history, travel, biographies, cooking, hobbies, business, children's books and more! Admission is free except on day one, with a \$5 entry fee until 2pm. Takes place at 100 Wellesley St. W. For more information, visit www.RegisCollege.ca/BookSale or call 416-922-5474, ext. 244. Proceeds support Regis College, the Jesuit School of Theology at the University of Toronto.

Culture Changers to Build a Civilization of Life & Love – April 21, 7pm

Right to Life Association (Mississauga) is hosting a special talk by Amanda Achtman (an activist who creates opportunities for young communicators to explore the ideas of freedom and responsibility). Amanda will discuss the 10 reasons we need to participate actively in promoting a culture of life. St. Francis Xavier Parish, 5650 Mavis Rd., Mississauga. Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information, call Genevieve at 416-888-0251.

Evening at the Oratory Wednesday, April 22, 8pm

Enjoy music (including works by Bach, des Prez and Charpentier), talk and Compline (also referred to as 'Night Prayer' or 'Prayers at the End of the Day' – traditionally, a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace). Takes place at Holy Family Church, 1372 King St. West (1 block east of Jameson, 1/2 km west of Dufferin).

From the Heart: A Spirituality of Caregiving – April 23, 12:30pm

This is a live call-in seminar, accessible by phone or on the Internet. Hosted by the Henri Nouwen Society & The Upper Room with Gordon Peerman and Marjorie Thompson. Visit www.bit.ly/CareSeminar for more information and to register. For info, contact Maureen Wright, Nouwen Legacy Manager, at mwright@henrinouwen.org or 416-925-3745.

Meagan's Walk: Creating a Circle of Hope – Saturday, May 9

Founded by Denise Bebenek in 2001, the year she lost her cherished five-year-old daughter Meagan (a student at OLS School) to a cancerous brain tumour, the 14th annual Meagan's Walk celebrates courage, spirit and hope & has raised more than \$3.1 million for Sick Kids' Hospital. For more info, visit www.meaganswalk.com today!



"On Marriage and Annulment" – Monday, May 11, 7pm

Catholic Family Services of Toronto and New Beginnings invite you to this talk by Fr. Brian Clough, Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Toronto. He will provide us with an understanding of the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage and annulment. Catholic Pastoral Centre, 1155 Yonge St., 4th Floor. Free underground parking available & adjacent to Summerhill Subway Station. For inquiries, call Mary at 416-921-1163 x. 2235 or email mbenincasa@cfstoronto.com

"Invitation to Joy" A weekend of prayer & contemplation – May 29–31

Single women are invited to a retreat weekend in Orillia, on Lake Simcoe, offered by a team of Sisters of St. Joseph. Cost is \$150 (subsidies available). For information and to register (before May 15, please) contact Sister Rosemary Fry, CSJ at rfry@csj-to.ca or 416-285-4166.



Ernescliff College – summer activities for young men (13–18)

Activities at this UofT Catholic student residence include leadership seminars, service projects, white-water rafting & faith enrichment workshops. Applications are now being accepted. For a fun and worthwhile summer, contact Riley McGuire at rjmcguire@ernescliff.ca & visit www.ernescliff.ca today.