

The days in which the Risen Lord has shown himself to his disciples, leading them to full faith in him, are coming to an end – 'I am going away, and shall return'. The disciples have come to recognise, that faith in what God has done for the world in Christ brings a daunting task: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'; 'By this love you have for one another everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

That same task has been passed on to the Church of every age; but today's gospel reading brings encouragement. The first disciples became aware of the extraordinary resources that had been given to them, as they took up their task..

'Keeping the word' of the Saviour had a practical meaning for them: putting into practice what the teaching and example of Jesus asked of them. But, whatever age they live in, the disciples of the Risen Lord do not take up this task alone. The Father and the Son 'make their home' in them.

Have we really taken to heart all that these words we have heard so often really mean? We are invited to share the humble stories of our lives with these almighty, constant and merciful companions. As they took up their mission, the first disciples experienced the power of the Word of God. If we become familiar with the great story of the Scriptures, we shall find them a constant source of inspiration and strength – nourishment for our faith in every circumstance. But the greatest gift of all is the Holy Spirit, the full expression of the love and joy that unites the Father and Son dwelling in us. The Spirit of Christ living in us will 'teach' us the ways of God, 'reminding' us of all that the Saviour has given to the world. No matter how unworthy we may feel, we are invited to enter into the love of the Father, Son and Spirit 'poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us' (Rom 5), inviting us to journey confidently towards the final Kingdom, where they will be our eternal joy.

Last week, our reading from Revelation spoke of the first Christians' vision of the Church brought into existence by the Saviour's Paschal Mystery, 'the new Jerusalem, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband'. Today's reading, a continuation of the same chapter, reminds us that the Church is the fulfilment of all the hopes of Israel – something we have tended to neglect in our Catholic awareness: twelve tribes, twelve gates, twelve apostles; filled with 'the radiant glory of God and the Lamb'.

But today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles also reminds us that, with all its blessings and resources, the Church will still face practical problems in the carrying out of its mission – problems that must be patiently resolved, in a fraternal spirit open to the guidance that is promised from on high.



We will come to him and make our home with him

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

**How will I respond to God's love?
Am I being called to the priesthood or religious life?**
If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director
416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 ~ Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 ~ John 14:23-29

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – May 2–8

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

	Intention(s):	Offered by:
Monday, 9am	✠ Jose Caceres	Delia Urosevic
Tuesday, 9am	✠ Frank Buckley	Carl & Sue Kohn
Wednesday, 9am	... of Fr. Stan Wolinski	Mary Lynne Bratti
Thursday, 9am	... Joseph Cheng and family	Paul
Friday, 9am	✠ members of the Goseco, Valencia & Feliciano families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Teresa Zicarelli ✠ Giuseppina Barrone	Pina Valle
5:15pm	✠ Mary & Frank Ferkul	Anne Pohole
Sunday, 8am	✠ Delia Montoya	Delia Urosevic
9:30am	... of Maureen Flannigan Pool & John Pool	
11am	✠ Olga & Wally Kalisz	Diana Kalisz
12:30pm	✠ For the needs of our parish and faithful parishioners ✠	

19th Annual National March for Life™

More than 100,000 preborn children are killed via abortion in Canada every year, costing our healthcare system in excess of \$100 million. 25,000+ concerned citizens – young and old – will join political & religious leaders on Parliament Hill on a police-led procession through the streets of Ottawa to demand justice & human rights for preborn children & to express concerns about a new law for euthanasia and assisted suicide – death by lethal injection. You can join a coach departing from OLS at 6:30am on Thursday, May 12 and returning later that evening. The cost is \$50. To reserve your spot, email phil.passarelli@rogers.com or call 416-219-1814. For more information visit www.marchforlife.ca today!



#endthekilling

Commemorative Book – Call for photos! Can you help?

The volunteer committee is looking for photos from any of the 75th Anniversary events, especially the Blue Diamond Dinner Dance, Anniversary Concert and the Blessing of the Doors. Please email photos@sorrows.ca or contact us to arrange to have them scanned.

Working wonders for the elderly...

Elva is a client in her late 70s who spent her life overcoming the challenges of spina bifida. Despite her physical challenges, Elva travelled the world as a music teacher and pianist for the National Ballet of Canada. Wheelchair-bound for the last 25 years, Elva gradually found herself less able to continue playing piano and doing the things she enjoyed. Last year, the Society of Sharing matched Elva with a friendly visitor named Adam, a young university student, with whom she can converse as though there were no age difference. Adam is seen as an encouraging and familiar friend and someone to share ideas with as well as assist her with her cell phone, computer and printer. With his help, Elva is able to go to out to the movies or see local sights. Because of Adam, Elva's world has opened up and she is now reconnected to her community and able to share her incredible gifts of wit, intelligence, and positive attitude, giving her a renewed sense of meaning and purpose. This year, our support for ShareLife will help to expand this volunteer support model into Peel Region. **Last year ShareLife-supported agencies provided outreach programs that met the needs of over 2,200 seniors. This year, with your support, we can do more to help the elderly within our archdiocese.**

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



"The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone for ever, it is to pour out the balm of God's mercy." – Pope Francis

COMMUNITY

Spring is Here! Monthly Masses Resume – Saturday, May 7, 9:30am

Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery (7300 Highway 27, Woodbridge) is resuming their monthly Masses, held in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. At the conclusion of this first Mass of the season, we will follow in procession to crown the statue of our Blessed Mother. For further information contact the cemetery at 905-851-5822.



Project Rachel Retreat – Private & Confidential – May 13–15

Let God show you his love. Are you still hurting from an abortion experience? We can help. This weekend retreat is for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion. Call 416-629-8264 or email projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org



Mary, Mother of God School – Annual Fund-Raising Gala – May 14, 7pm

Come out for a fun-filled evening to support a worthy cause! Join us for a 5-course Italian meal, silent auction, balloon surprises and lively entertainment! Takes place at the Lithuanian Banquet Hall (Keele & Bloor Sts.) Tickets: \$100 each. Call Stephanie for more info: 416-531-7897.

Jean Vanier: Bridge of Compassionate Understanding – May 16, 7–9pm

Novalis Publishing is pleased to present Dr. Michael W. Higgins, author of "Jean Vanier: Logician of the Heart" for an evening reception and presentation on the life and work of Jean Vanier. Vanier is the Canadian figure who can straddle the secular-religious divide, find credibility in circles otherwise hostile or indifferent to religious faith of any iteration, and remind believers that the call of their faith is to lead them outside their comfort zone, to propel them to service, to the creation of genuine human community. Takes place at the University of St. Michael's College, Charbonnel Lounge (Located on St. Mary St. just west of Bay St.) For more information, contact Don Beyers at 416-363-3303, ext. 239.



Manresa Retreat For Men and Women – June 3, 8:30pm–June 5, 1pm

You are cordially invited to spend a weekend with God "not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the sound of silence" at Manresa, a holy ground (the Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering) with the retreat theme: "my spiritual bucket list." For more information and reservation, please phone Tony Salvosa at (416) 494-0560 or email aaasalv@yahoo.ca



A Day of Reflection for Women – Saturday, June 4, 10am–4pm

St. Augustine's Institute of Theology would like you to spend the day "Knowing God's Perfect Love Is Knowing God's Mercy" in a retreat lead by Dr. Josephine Lombardi. You will explore obstacles to loving God, oneself and others. There will be time for private reflection and small group sharing, lunch and Mass. Questions? Please contact us at ioft@sastoronto.org or call 416-261-7207, ext. 235. You can pay and register at www.bit.ly/1SnxxPD

Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – It's Time To Act!

On April 14, the federal government introduced Bill C-14 – legislation that, if passed, will amend the criminal code to make euthanasia/assisted suicide legal in Canada. Thousands of Canadians have contacted their elected officials, respectfully expressing their concerns. We still need your help. Visit www.CanadiansforConscience.ca to urge elected representatives to protect health care workers and institutions from having to provide or refer for euthanasia/assisted suicide. We are also asking Members of Parliament to expand palliative care & support for the vulnerable. **Thank you for your ongoing support!**