

## TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**It is truly amazing grace: I asked and I received.** One of my brother priests, in a succinct way, verbalized in a very personal reflection what has been on my mind for the last few weeks, particularly during my priestly retreat last month:

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Do I truly love Jesus? For many years, my love for Christ was pure, naïve, simple, passionate and wholehearted. I was in grade school when I sensed a call from God to give my life to ministry. I didn't fully understand all that I was signing up for, but I couldn't imagine giving my life to anything else. And for the last 25 years I have tried to live out that call. Like any other relationship, my walk with Jesus has had a lot of ups and downs. My love hasn't always been pure. At times, I have been driven by some motives that were more about me than Jesus. My love for Christ certainly isn't naïve anymore. Those years down in the trenches often shattered my rose-colored glasses. My ministry can complicate my love for Jesus, for what started out as simple love for Jesus often morphed into love for my ministry. It was years before I realized that loving ministry and loving Jesus are not necessarily one and the same thing. As far as my love for Christ being passionate and wholehearted, there have certainly been seasons when those words would accurately describe my love for Christ. But the truth is, there have been other seasons where my spiritual life has been stale, stuck and disconnected. There have also been seasons where my loyalty and love have been divided. Sometimes my people pleasing, ambition to succeed, fear of man, lack of faith, insecurity about finances, and compulsive busyness have chipped away at my wholehearted devotion.

Now I have come to realize that there is nothing worse than trying to inspire people to be passionate about God when you have little or no passion yourself...trying to connect people to God when you feel disconnected from God. To me, it's like going to church when you and your spouse have had a fight. You put up the facade and pretend everything is ok, but you walk away from church knowing that everything isn't ok. What you portrayed publically isn't what you're experiencing privately. So I think at this point in life I have a more realistic, seasoned-by-life view of loving Jesus, because serving Jesus isn't always filled with kumbaya moments, Holy Ghost goosebumps or beautiful prayers on a moonlit night. I can relate to Henri Nouwen's words as he speaks of his own spiritual struggles after years of ministry: *"I began to experience a deep inner threat. As I entered my fifties and was able to realize the unlikelihood of doubling my years, I came face to face with the simple question: 'Did becoming older bring me closer to Jesus?' After twenty-five years of priesthood, I found myself praying poorly, living somewhat isolated from other people, and very much pre-occupied with burning issues. Everyone was saying that I was doing really well, but something inside was telling me that my success was putting my own soul in danger."*

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**P.S.** His reflection reminds me of this perennial truth that to fall in love with God is not the same as to stay in love with the Lord. The former can be just a pure fleeting feeling; the latter is always a daily commitment to remain faithful to God in our thoughts, words and deeds. It is true in my priesthood and it is true in your marriage, or single life too, because our sanctification is still a work in progress. To deny this fact would simply be Hell on earth, in a sense. So I praise God who saves me from myself!

*Fr. Slawek*

# JUNE 9, 2024



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## BUNDLE SUNDAY—JUNE 15-16

Thank you for participating in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's collection for our neighbours in need. Donations received through the Bundle Up Collection provide the following:

- Merchandise for our retail outlets for voucher customers and the general public.
- Clothing and footwear for persons in our Special Works.
- Surplus materials to sell to wholesalers to assist in this operation and to support our Special Works.

We are focusing on the collection of textiles, shoes, clothing, bedding, draperies, and small household goods

Please drop off item only on the weekend of June 15-16 before Mass begins.

Thank you

### WE ONLY ACCEPT

**All Clothing**—(Any Condition)

**All Footwear**—(Any Condition)

**Bedding**—(Any Condition)

**Drapery/Towels**

**Toys (New Only)**

### **ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH**

**Pre-Authorized Giving Plan**—Pre-Authorized Giving is a very simple procedure. When you participate in Pre-Authorized Giving, your offering will be withdrawn from your account on or about the 20th of the month. This amount will then be deposited to the Parish's account.

This amount will be receipted at the end of the year for tax purposes.

Application forms are on the table at the back of the church.

### **FIVE – DAY INDIVIDUAL RETREAT (WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION)**

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre—2325 Liverpool Rd. Pickering, ON L1X 1V4  
General Inquires: 905-839-2864

June 24 @ 4:00 pm – June 28 @ 1:00 pm

\$600.00 Suggested Offering

**MEN & WOMEN** – An individually directed retreat provides participants with a silent and peaceful environment for five days. You will benefit from all the usual Manresa amenities: silence, a private room, all meals, daily celebration of the Eucharist, and access to the grounds at their summer best.

A directed retreat offers you a daily meeting with an experienced spiritual director. That person serves as a guide, helping you and God to engage with each other. Otherwise, there are no group activities.

Space is very limited, so you would be wise to sign up early.

This retreat begins on Monday with dinner served at 5:30 pm and ends with a lunch on Friday.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Tuesday, June 11

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of David Emer req. by the Emer family.

### Wednesday, June 12

9 a.m. Intentions of Philomena D'Souza req. by Lucy Hugh-Chin.

### Thursday, June 13

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Michael & Aurita Fernandes req. by Anthony Fernandes.

### Friday, June 14

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

### Saturday, June 15

4:30 p.m. Intentions for Mr. & Mrs. Emers on their 58 Wedding Anniversary.

### Sunday, June 16

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Noel Valerio req. by Maria Valerio.

11 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.



## COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL

The Social will resume  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
After the 9 a.m. Mass  
in the Parish Basement



## ARE YOU MOVING? OR HAVE YOU MOVED ALREADY?

Please contact the parish office so your records can be updated.

Thank you.

**Faith**  
**Virtue**  
**Discernment**  
**Self-control**  
**Piety**  
**Caring**  
**Perfect Love**

*The 7 steps to heaven*