



THE GRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 87

Trinity Sunday

June 7, 2009

PRAYER FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

Gracious and loving God,
 We praise you for the gift of your love made manifest in Your Son,
 and for the gift of Your Holy Spirit,
 Give us the wisdom to be good stewards of our faith, our church and of all those in need of your loving care.
 Teach us how to respond generously, with courage, prudence and hope.
 And guide us on our pilgrim journey
 With Your Son who lives and reigns with You in the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
 Amen

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following children through the sacrament of baptism:

Trent Charlie
 Ethan Abraham
 Haylea Abraham
 Kayleigh Patrick

TRINITY SUNDAY

"Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own," says the Responsorial Psalm, and who, we might add, experience God in a deep and personal way in their lives, as today's Scriptures attest.

It was through the experience of God acting on their behalf, before their very eyes at the time of the Exodus, that God's People came to know who God was. At the same time, they also came to know who they were in relation to God and what God was asking of them in covenant relationship. As we hear in today's First Reading, Moses was "awed" by the experience of God as Liberator and Redeemer, as Israel's God. Equally as "awesome" was the experience of the people who journeyed together as the people who belong to God.

In the Second Reading, Paul, writing earlier than the Gospel accounts, reflects on his experience of God in and through Christ and the Spirit. God is "Abba", the very word Jesus used in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. The word bears witness to a loving and intimate relationship with God, like that between a parent and child. It also calls attention to the fact that the believer is therefore brother or sister to the Lord Jesus.

The Gospel describes another post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus to the disciples. It takes place in Galilee, a place inhabited mainly by Gentiles. The disciples' outreach is to be universal, to all nations, not just to their own (Jewish) people. They are to teach and to baptize all people, because all people are the people God has chosen to be his own. We are challenged to reflect on God's love for us and for all, and to be instruments of that love for others.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In today's Gospel and reading from the letter of St. Paul we hear of the gift of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In our devotional life we make the sign of the cross and recite the "Glory Be" as an expression of our faith as a Trinitarian people. But what does it mean for Christian stewards to accept in a practical way the experience of God in this three-fold gift? Is it a call to share our own life in community, with compassion and love, and to work for healing, justice, peace and unity? Is it an invitation to invite others into fellowship with us in the unity of the Father, Son and Spirit?

CAR FREE SUNDAYS

Now that it is Spring we will begin again with the 3rd Sunday of the month being car free Sunday. June 20/21 plan to walk, bike, skateboard, take the bus or car-pool. Let's work together to find creative ways to decrease our carbon output.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The trip to Fort Ware went well. During the summer months, I usually drive up rather than fly (flying costs almost \$300 each way). The drive takes about eight and a half hours, the last six and a half on logging roads up the west side of Williston Lake. Spectacular scenery, but a long and lonely road for sure. Coming home Friday, I did not meet another vehicle for the first five hours of the trip! After that it got a bit busy with ore trucks, some campers and maintenance vehicles going into the cutblocks.

With June well underway, I am aware of all that needs to be done to finish up the year, get everything ready for the Annual Appeal and generally keep caught up on everything. I plan to be here the whole summer, except for a week in Alberta, visiting my family and taking in a bit of the Calgary Stampede.

Jude: I will be going away for a few weeks to meetings in Adrian, and to help my sister celebrate her golden Jubilee and a Scripture course which I'll be anxious to share when I return.

Roger: Roger is still in Kitimat, replacing Fr. Kenneth, who is in Edmonton taking the Inculturation program there.

JESUS' WAY—THE STEWARD'S REWARD

By their worthy deeds in this life, people also make a limited but real human contribution to building up the kingdom. They do so with an eye to present happiness and also to the fulfillment, which the kingdom - and themselves as part of it - will enjoy in the life to come.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

Peter was moved to say to Him "We have put aside everything to follow you!" Jesus answered, "I give you my word, there is no one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children or property, for me and for the gospel who will not receive in this present age a hundred times as many homes, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property - and persecution besides - and in the age to come, everlasting life."

(Mark 10:28-30)

I am constantly in awe of the seeming paradoxes that run through Christ's message. I think that is why it rings so true - who would preach a message so contrary to the ways of this world but God himself?

The more we give up for God (to the church and community, of time and treasure), the more we receive from God! And not just in the next life, but in this life too.

I've found my friends who practice Stewardship as a way of life say they have found the meaning and purpose of life: serving others and giving of themselves. They are the happiest and most fulfilled people I know, certainly more so than those who've focused on getting as many material goods and "toys" as they can.

Thank God our time is now! Stewardship is an enterprise that invites us into an exploration of a new world - an exploration into God. Which one of us can dare resist this incredible invitation from a loving and gracious God?

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy

Compiled, edited and written by Scott Bader, Director of Parish Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Questions:

- Why should we do good here in this life?
- What should you do best in God's kingdom on earth to prepare yourself for God's kingdom in heaven?

PLANT SALE FOLLOWUP

The plant sale depleted our stocks of pots and plant paks, and while this may seem a strange time to be thinking about next winter/spring, it is the perfect time to ask for 2", 4" pots and plant paks, as people are getting them when they purchase plants. Remember us and drop of the above in the box at the church entrance.



HOSPITALITY AND THE STEWARDSHIP PARISH

There is much talk in stewardship circles about how the practice of hospitality is part of the nature of being a stewardship parish. Hospitality does not simply mean providing coffee and donuts or a pancake breakfast after Mass although welcoming strangers and fellow worshippers in this manner is an ideal way to exercise hospitality.

A foundational aspect of hospitality includes greeting and treating all who enter the door of the church, rectory, parish office, classroom, or who call on the phone, with a genuine spirit of compassion and love; to receive others as Christ would receive them. It should not matter if the visitor or caller is the bishop or a beggar. Those who come to the parish door or call the parish should be able to see the love of God in those who represent the parish; through their words, actions and, indeed, their very presence.

Hospitality is not just the job of the ministers of hospitality or ushers. It is the obligation of every one associated with the parish, from the pastor to the groundskeeper to the parishioners who worship and give of their time at the parish. It is important for a parish community that considers itself a stewardship parish to reflect periodically on what it means to welcome each parishioner and visitor, be they strangers or not, as Christ would welcome them.

Adapted and excerpted from an article by Jim Lamm, Director of Stewardship & Development, St. Louis King of France Church, Austin, Texas

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

Last time we talked about the very little children and today let's look at the children approaching school age. Just as we help them get used to the idea of school and how exciting it can be to learn to read and write; we also want to help them look forward to learning more about God. We can do this by teaching some things that are sure to come up early in their Religion classes...such as the profound but very simple prayer we call the Sign of the Cross. This prayer honours God by saying that everything we do is done in His name...that we are really helping God with his work. It also names God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this age (4-6) children can really benefit from participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLoW). When they go out and join other children and an experienced Leader they can hear and talk about God's word on their own level. When they act out the Gospel story or engage in another activity to help them understand the Gospel they will be more likely to remember it and also to look forward to coming to Church.

Once they have been introduced to the Bible as God's living word and His gift to us we can use the Bible to tell them stories Jesus heard when He was their age. It is a good idea to tell the story in your own words but use the Bible so they know it comes from there. After telling a Bible Story, or any story for that matter, let the children tell it back to you.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our children were as familiar with Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, David and Goliath, Joseph and his Brothers, and Moses' Baby story, as they are with Shrek, Babe, the Little Mermaid and The Ice Age.

Children this age also like to sing along and there are some fine children's songs in the Hi God Series as well as peace songs that help teach respect for others as we are all God's children.

FAREWELL TO GISELLE

After the celebrations the weekend of May 16/17, we bid farewell to Giselle Jakobs, who has ministered at St. Mary's for the past five years. Giselle has moved to Calgary to work full time with Returning to Spirit, a program of healing and personal growth. We wish her God's abundant blessings in her new ministry and are saddened at her departure. Pictured here is Giselle with her farewell gift from our parish.



CO-WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Have you ever found that there are times when the readings in scripture just don't say enough? They leave you hanging and wanting more! Who were these people? What's their story? What's happening!??



Two such people are the women Euodia and Syntyche. We hear about them in Paul's letter to the Philippians (4:2-3). A few brief lines is all we get, but it's enough to whet our appetite for more.

Paul urges the two of them to "be of the same mind in the Lord". From this we can gather that they were at odds over something. Exactly what, we don't know. It is clear from the context of the passage that these two women were leaders in the Philippian church.

Perhaps they disagreed over liturgy? Perhaps they disagreed over who should do what in the church? Suffice to say... they were not of one mind!

Paul urges his "yokemate" or "loyal companion" to support the women, for "they have struggled beside me in the work of the Gospel". Wow! These two women struggled "beside" Paul... not beneath him or after him. They struggled beside him in spreading the Gospel. They are his "coworkers". Yet again, we see more evidence of Paul's partnership with women in spreading the Good News of Jesus. And... he gives credit where credit is due. We don't know who the "yokemate" is that he addresses in this passage. It could be anyone... could be Luke or Mark or whoever is delivering this letter to the Philippians.

When we look at our parishes today, we see a lot of people involved in ministering and leading the community. Sometimes... let's be perfectly honest here... people don't see eye-to-eye on what should be done. Pastors don't always see things the way the Parish Council does. The Catholic Women's League doesn't always see things the same way as the Knights of Columbus. Conservatives don't always see things the same way as Liberals.

Diversity is OK... diversity is healthy! But it should always be unity through diversity! Paul doesn't tell Euodia and Syntyche what to do. He doesn't take sides. He just asks them to be of the same mind in the Lord. Words of wisdom for us today. We don't always have to see things the same way... but we are urged to be of the same mind in the Lord. Loving one another. Discussing things in mutual respect. Seeing a way forward in spite of the differences, a way that celebrates our unity while respecting our diversity!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Below is the synopsis of the May financial statement.

Bank Balance:	20.73
DDF Balance:	149445.36
Accts Receivable:	<u>1691.28</u>
Total Assets	151157.37

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	15214.77	Administration	10412.50
Fees	300.00	Programs	485.78
Programs	0	Operation/Maint.	4243.76
Other	174.95		
Rentals	<u>3715.00</u>	Rental Operation	<u>3643.40</u>
Total Income	19404.72	Total Expense	18785.44
		Net Income	619.28

Once again we see a drop in income, partly due to the fact that Returning to Spirit is no longer compensating the parish for Giselle's time; but our collections have also been down somewhat. Our regular expenses for this past month also were reduced, in part because we did not get billed for all of our payroll for May. When our obligations to Giselle are completed at the end of June, our total expenses will be reduced again.

We have begun some of the repairs and maintenance needed in the apartments, as well as regular ground maintenance, so that part of the budget has increased somewhat. We are close to being on target for our budget so far this year, and that is always good news. At the end of June there will also be another Appeal rebate.

Once again, thank you to all for your generous contributions.