

Saint Patrick Basilica Parish – Notes for Sunday, May 2nd 2021

Rector's Message

Noting that our first response to any need is prayer, Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the Marian month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Acts of the Apostles (12:5). The Holy Father will open the Marian month of prayer on May 1st with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the initiative on May 31st with another specially-broadcast Rosary. (Source: Vatican News)

Our Parish Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is supporting the initiative of the Ottawa Central Council, again this year, with respect to the "North of 60" project assisting the food bank of Rankin Inlet. Parishioners will recall that the Ottawa Central Council organizes sea containers of food goods which are shipped to the north during the summer months. In the past, our parishioners have generously supported this initiative. Unfortunately, with the current lockdown, it is difficult for our Parish Conference to organize a fundraiser. Therefore, we will give \$2,000 from our Poor Fund to our Parish Conference so that they can send funds to the Central Council. I am grateful for your consistent and generous support of our Poor Fund, as well as the donation of dry goods and canned food which you faithfully put in our blue bins for the Centertown Emergency Food Centre.

Continuing the celebrations of our Canadian Saints and Blesseds during the spring, I note that next Thursday – May 6 – is the Memorial of Saint François de Laval, Patron of the Bishops of Canada. Bishop Laval was a member of the Montmorency family and was one of the most influential men of his day. He was a candidate for canonization by the Catholic Church after his death and was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II. On April 3rd 2014, Pope Francis made him a saint by equipollent canonization. The saint's nomination as a bishop for New France was the result of increasing tensions regarding the ecclesiastical state of the colony. New France had been left without a bishop for the first 50 years of its settlement. As bishop, Laval was arguably one of the ultimate sources of authority in New France. However, his dream was not only to expand the Catholic Church in New France, but also to train and teach its future leaders. On March 26th 1663, the Grand Séminaire was opened in Quebec, and thus the Séminaire de Quebec was born and continues its work of priestly formation to our own day. His view of the Grand Séminaire was greater than a mere teaching academy. He hoped that it would become a home for all parochial priests. Laval encouraged them to see it as their true home and as a place to which they may turn to in sickness or old age. St. François also took interest in practical education for craftsmen and farmers, founding a school of arts and crafts. He helped the poor with his presence and his gifts of charity. He died on May 6th 1708. His body is interred, for private veneration, in a side chapel of the Cathedral in Quebec City. Université Laval, founded in 1852, was named in his honor. The city of Laval, north of Montreal, is also named after him. (Source: Wikipedia)

For those who have been to, or by, the church in recent days, you will have noticed that we have scaffolding near the Nepean Street entrance. The scaffolding is to give access to roofers who have a contract to replace and, in some parts, repair the first two levels of the copper roof and capping for one of the buttresses. It is a reminder of how the Canadian winter – in this case, snow and ice falling from the upper roof – is extremely hard on our buildings. This particular project will cost the parish \$35,127 plus HST. We have also given a contract for the first phase of the renewal of the HVAC systems in the Scavi. Your faithful support of our Restoration Fund enables us to carry out timely projects for the renewal of our building and operating equipment.

Father Kevin

Meditations on Holy Mass

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

2 May 2021

First reading: Acts 9.26-31

Barnabas described for them how on the road Saul had seen the Lord.

Second reading 1 John 3.18-24 CCC 2845; 2778; 2631

This is his commandment: we should believe in Jesus and love one another.

Gospel: John 15.1-8 CCC 755; 1988; 787; 737

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit.

In the *first reading*, St. Luke recounts the beginning of St. Paul's mission. Paul suffered, like Jesus himself, for his mission, enduring rejection and hostility. For his own sake and for that of the community at Jerusalem, Paul was sent to his birthplace, Tarsus. In the *Gospel*, Christ reminds his disciples, and all who would follow him, that he is the source of our life in God: "because", Christ says, "apart from me you can do nothing." The vine of Christ, to which his disciples belong, will always require pruning. Pruning is a form of suffering, but it allows a vine to bear fruit. Love that is fruitful is sacrificial love, intent on the good of the beloved, rather than on benefit to the lover. In the *second reading*, St. John discloses the core of Christian love: confidence in Christ and obedience to his commandments.

Before Mass: *I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. Alleluia. (First Vespers)*

After Mass: *Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, says the Lord. Alleluia. (Lauds)*

Later in the day: *It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples. Alleluia. (Second Vespers)*

Stewardship Report

Offering summary for week ending:			April 25, 2021	
	Operations	Restoration	Poor	
Week	\$ 24,407	\$ 9,747	\$	1,184
Budget*	14,210	4,578		858
To date	210,792	26,014		13,878
Budget*	233,447	75,204		14,101