

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THOUGHTS FOR SOWING

THE GOSPEL OF ORDINARY LIVING

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

When I hear Jesus' command, three phrases stand out for me: whole world... proclaim... every creature. The phrase *whole world* is not restricted to faraway places like Timbuktu, huge cities like Seoul or exotic island sites like Fiji. Whole world also includes our parish, neighbourhood, local grocery store and kitchen. And *proclaim* means more than to shout on street corners deliver a sermon or write a theological treatise. We can proclaim the gospel by listening attentively to someone, by offering a helping hand, by sending a card or an email, and by praying for someone in need. And *every creature* is not limited to so-called pagans or people in remote areas. It can include a discouraged spouse, a fearful child, a needy friend, an exhausted check out clerk.

Some are called to faraway places to proclaim the gospel through heroic deeds. Others are called to places closer to home to incarnate the gospel in their ordinary lives.

Sr. Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.
From: Living Faith

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON PANDEMIC RESTRICTION

Due to the Enhanced "Stay At Home Order" restrictions, announced by the Ontario Government, we offer the following information:

- As of **Monday, April 19th**, there will be **NO PUBLIC MASSES** celebrated, at St. Margaret's or St. Eugene's, and both churches, will not be open to the public, until further notice.
- Please know that the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions should be strongly encouraged to remain home. Livestreaming of services should continue where this practice is underway and the dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist remains. A full list of livestream services can be accessed at: www.archtoronto.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. Apr. 25 **4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sat. May 1 **FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER**

Sun. May 2 **5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Beginning of Catholic Education Week

- (May 2-7) Theme: "Nurturing Hope"

Sat. May 8 **ANNUAL "SOCK IT 2 ME DRIVE"**

- Drop donations in hall 8:00am – 3:00pm

Sun. May 9 **6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- ANNUAL "SOCK IT 2 ME DRIVE"** Drop donations in hall 8:00am – 3:00pm
- HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

Wed. May 12 **3rd Anniversary** of our Associate Pastor, Fr. Alexander MacDonald's Ordination to the Priesthood

Sun. May 16 **FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

- Congratulations today, Fr. Michael Lehman, CSB on your **34th Anniversary** of your Ordination to the Priesthood

Sun. May 23 **FEAST OF PENTECOST**

Mon. May 24 **VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY**

- Parish Office Closed for holiday

ANNUAL SOCK IT ME DRIVE

St. Margaret's is once again holding a drive in support of the Good Shepherd's ministry to Toronto's homeless men. This year most desperately needed items are **socks (white jogging socks) and underwear (size M-L)**. We are asking parishioners to bring donations of **NEW** socks and underwear on **Sat. May 8th & Sun. May 9th between 8:00am – 3:00pm** and just leave them in the parish hall.

The poor will be with us always but there's no reason they can't be with us with warm feet and clean undies!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH

Our Parish is where we are married and bring our children to be baptized. It is where we come to be fed in the Holy Eucharist, be reconciled with God and the world, and hope to leave this world on our final journey to meet the God that we love.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 18, 2021

Offertory	\$2,504	PAG	\$835
Budget	\$8,300		(\$4,961)

SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN 2021

Last Sunday was our first ShareLife collection.

Thank you very much for supporting the campaign. Thus far we have raised **\$5,865** toward our goal of **\$150,000**.

ShareLife supports vocations. Your gift to ShareLife is investing in our Church's future by supporting 54 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in the current

academic year.

Today is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. With your generous support of ShareLife, we can continue to invest in the education of our future clergy.

Please give generously.

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family, You created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war. May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that You have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects and shared dreams. Amen.

Pope Francis
Fratelli Tutti

A Prayer for Renewed Hope

Lord, our world seems broken. I know that sometimes I'm even part of the problem. Yet I believe that the despair I may feel is a sign that I still love the world and people You made. You planted that love within me. Help me to nurture, protect and act on it, trusting that you who vanquished death will breathe life into this fallen world again. Amen

Karla Manternach

Prayer for the Easter Season

Lord Jesus, we rejoice with you during this Easter season these fifty glorious days following your rising from the grave. We are forever proud to call You our Saviour, Redeemer and our divine brother who conquered sin and death. We thank You, Lord, during this great paschal season of grace and glory, to joyfully celebrate Your lasting victory and precious pledge for eternal life. Amen.

From: **LIVING FAITH**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER FROM STEWARDSHIP

1st Reading: Acts 4.7-12

2nd Reading: 1 John 3.1-2

Gospel: John 10.11-18 – *Jesus the Good Shepherd*

Sheep and Shepherds

This Sunday we are invited to reflect on the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Jesus shepherds us, His flock, by protecting us from any ravaging dangers, helping us stay in the fold and seeking us when we're lost. We as sheep must listen to and obey His voice. There is a familiarity and closeness between a shepherd and his sheep, and so too, there is an intimacy between Jesus and us.

As stewards, we are called to imitate Jesus in all ways, including His role as shepherd. We all have people in our lives we are called to look out for, whether it be our families,

friends or fellow parishioners. The most important step in effectively shepherding others is to first become a holy sheep in Jesus' flock. We must seek to grow in prayer and virtue, and through that flows the grace to journey with others heavenward.

Within this call for all of us to be shepherds, God gives a special grace to particular men to more closely imitate the Good Shepherd through the vocation of priesthood. In regards to vocations, Jesus gives us only one instruction: "to pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He may send more labourers" (Matthew 9:38). Therefore, all of us have a role to play in fostering vocations. God continues to call priests, and through our prayers we can help young men answer the call. One great practice we can adopt is praying one Hail Mary every day for an increase in vocations.

Summary

As stewards, we are called to imitate Jesus in all ways, including His role as the Good Shepherd. The most important step in effectively shepherding others is to first become a holy sheep in Jesus' flock. God also calls many people to more closely shepherd His people in the priesthood and through our prayers, we can help young men answer the call

BECAUSE THEY CARE

"Lord, why can I not follow you right now? I will lay down my life for you." John 13:37

"Call me whenever you need me." It's a reassuring promise from a friend. But when the bottom falls out, your call goes directly to voice mail.

Let's call them what they really are: WIC friends – when it's convenient. If they do show up, they tend to downplay your problem by shrugging it off our spouting our clichés: "Just let it go." This too shall pass." Or, one of their favourites – "Don't cry over spilled milk."

This isn't what you need to hear when you're hurting. Luckily, we have a handful of BTC friend – because they care. These are ones who sense you're not acting like yourself or notice your absence from social gathering. BTC friends don't ignore these signs. They show up at your door without being called and ask, "What's going on? Are you okay? Do you need to talk?" They're there for you, offering their help.

BTC friends drop everything and make your needs a priority. We are so blessed to have them in our lives to be there when life takes an unexpected turn. You don't have to wonder, "Does anybody care?" because they show up and prove they do!

Homework: Are you struggling with something right now? Have a BTC friend on speed dial and invite them into the situation. Let them be your safe haven of comfort as they walk with you through your hurt-ache.

BY: **JOSEPH F. SICA**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in May 2021 & supports the bulletin service. Call Liturgical Publications at 905-64-4422

ONGOING DIRECTIVES

1. The **parish office is closed to the public**. Please contact us by phone only on: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00am – 12noon, 1:00pm – 4:00pm or any day by e-mail at st.marg@sympatico.ca
2. **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**
Obviously due to the present restrictions, it becomes even more important to have the e-mail addresses of as many parishioners as possible. If you or you know anyone who may not have already informed the parish office of your e-mail address, we strongly encourage you to contact the parish office during the above scheduled times!
3. **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) by appointment only**
4. **The Church dispensation** from attending Sunday Eucharist, for all the faithful, who are unable to attend Sunday Mass, continues throughout the covid-19 pandemic.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves, via our website and parish blast. We pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. May God continue to bless you now and always!

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO'S ONLINE SESSIONS

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is now offering online quick access single sessions. The single-session consultation is a quick and effective way for individuals, couples or families to address a mental health or relationship concern. To arrange for a session, please contact: info@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 or 416-222-0048. Leave us a message with your name, email and phone number, and a staff person will contact you. Clients who are interested in pursuing other or additional services in the agency have the option to access our ongoing counselling, wellness or group programs. Counselling fees are charged according to a client's income level. No one is denied service because of his/her inability to pay fees.

REQUEST FOR MASS INTENTIONS

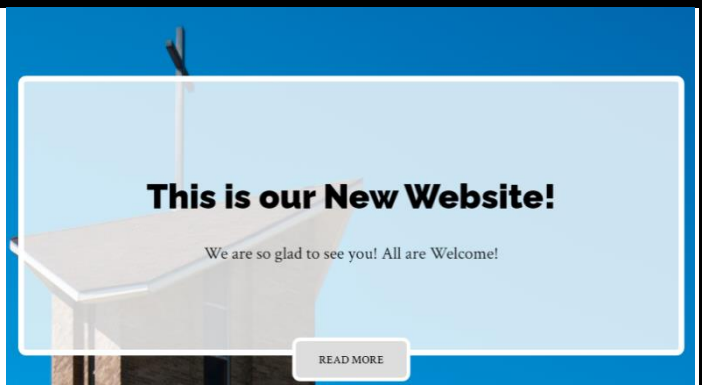
When requesting Mass Intentions at the parish office, there are two types:

Announced Mass – a date is chosen due to availability and the name of the individual for whom the Mass is being said, along with the name of the person/family requesting the Mass is posted in the bulletin during the week of requested Mass. (Donation \$20)

Unannounced Mass – there is no specific date given for when this Mass would be celebrated and the intention does not appear in the bulletin. (Donation \$10)

It is important to note that when requesting any **Announced Mass**, it is recommended that you contact the parish office as early as possible, as sometimes we have Masses scheduled two months in advance. For both kinds of requests, Mass cards are provided at the office for those making arrangements for these special Masses.

IT'S HERE – OUR NEW WEBSITE



Take a peek! We encourage you to visit and explore our new website.

Our new website, aside from being aesthetically pleasing, is more interactive, AODA compliant and is easier to navigate. We are excited of the new experience, but we know there's still work to do. In the coming months, we hope to continue improving the site that it best serves how we communicate with you.

CARDINAL'S LETTER - SHARELIFE



March 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, he told his disciples: "Remain here, and stay awake with me." This simple command, recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, captures so much of what it means to be a disciple. It also

illustrates **how you and I are called to respond to the suffering around us**, which has felt so overwhelming since the pandemic began.

When a person in distress calls any one of the 40+ agencies funded by your gift to ShareLife, the first thing they want to know is, **"Does this person care about me?"** Apart from the specific help they are seeking, they want to know they aren't alone – that they matter.

Sharon Mayne Devine, the director of Catholic Family Services PeelDufferin, says Jesus' words in the garden inspire her agency's work. The circumstances of her clients, such as victims of domestic violence, are difficult to bear. But she is committed to "staying awake" in that moment. "When people feel witnessed and seen," she says, **"their hope goes up.** They believe they can go on."

Will you, too, stay awake? As the pandemic continues, we may grow tired of thinking about those in need. But our community agencies on the front lines cannot continue their vital work without you. Your support enables:

- an elderly woman, living alone and afraid of Covid-19, to receive **regular check-ins and weekly grocery hampers**;
- a Deaf child, living with family members who do not speak sign language, to connect with other Deaf peers and **not feel so isolated**;
- a young man struggling with addiction, worsened by the pandemic, to access a drug rehabilitation program that will **save his life**.

These are but a few examples of how your support is tangibly improving thousands of lives. As poor and marginalized people continue to be hit hardest by the pandemic, **their needs are greater now than ever**.

Vulnerable members of our community are **relying on you and me** to ensure ongoing access to the care they so desperately need. This is why it's crucial we meet our parish campaign goal of \$13.8 million. Our goal can be met, but only if we each do our part.

As disciples of Our Lord, we "remain here, and stay awake" with Him when we bear witness to those in need around us, in whom He is present. **Please join me in saying yes** to His call by giving to the ShareLife Campaign to the best of your ability.

Sincerely,

+ Thomas Card. Collins

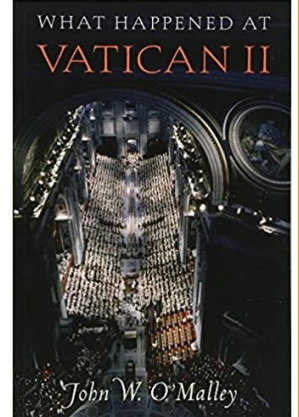
Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

PS Pope Francis says, "To live charitably means not looking out for our own interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest among us." **Thank you** for your compassionate concern for those in need

"WHAT HAPPENED AT VATICAN II?"

BY MELANNIE SVOBODA SND

I recently plowed through Fr. John O'Malley's large book *What Happened at Vatican II?* The word plowed is the operative word. The 380 page tome is a serious, scholarly, systematic overview of the Council, "the biggest meeting in the history of the world." It took me three months of "off-and-on-again reading" to finish the book. Why did I persevere? Because the book was not only highly readable, it was also very, very interesting! Let me share a few facts/quotes from this book.



1. When the Council was convoked by Pope John XXIII, some bishops hoped it would be a one-session conclave of several weeks. Instead, the Council, including the preliminary and follow-up work, extended over four years! The actual four sessions began on October 11, 1962 and ended on December 8, 1965. An average of 2,860 bishops attended part or all of the four sessions. Vatican I, in contrast, had 750 bishops. In addition, there were periti (theology experts), secretaries, journalists, and between 50-100 "observers and guests." The meetings were held in the nave of St. Peter's Basilica. Despite its huge size (over 26,000 square feet), "it was barely sufficient to hold all the attendees." (p. 23)

2. The Council consisted essentially of clerics, although a few laymen were invited as "auditors." By the third session, 21 laymen were present and three of them actually addressed the Council. At this session, the first women were also invited as auditors, 7 laywomen and 8 women from different religious congregations. But no woman ever spoke at the Council.

3. O'Malley vividly describes the heated discussions and disagreements among the Council fathers in areas such as the Church's attitude toward the world, the Church's place in the world, the relationship of scripture and tradition, ecumenism, religious liberty, papal authority, collegiality of bishops, the style and tone of the documents, to name a few. It was fascinating to hear both (or more!) sides to certain "hot button" issues. And it was amazing that consensus was eventually reached on so many of these issues. But not all, of course. For example, in the middle of the Council, Pope Paul VI took four topics off the table: birth control, celibacy, the reform of the Curia, and the mechanism to implement collegiality of the bishops.

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4. Throughout the book, O'Malley shuns away from speaking of "liberals" and "conservatives." Instead he uses the terms "majority" and "minority." He says the so-called liberals "argued that their positions were more conservative than those of the conservatives because they were retrievals of traditions fundamental and ancient." (p. 292)

5. The Council made clear that the Church "is in the modern world—not above it, not below it, not for it, not against it.

Therefore, like everybody else in the world, the Church must assume its share of responsibility for the well-being of the world, not simply denounce what it finds wrong." (p. 297)



Pope Paul VI hands Orthodox Metropolitan Melliton of Heliopolis a decree during the December 1965 session of the Roman Catholic Ecumenical Council in Vatican City. The decree cancels excommunications that led to the break between the Roman and Orthodox churches nine centuries before.

6. O'Malley calls Vatican II "a language event." He shows how the radical change in language from previous councils gave us a new vision of Catholicism. The Church went "from commands to invitations, from laws to ideals, from definition to mystery, from threats to persuasion, from coercion to conscience, from monologue to dialogue, from ruling to serving, from withdrawn to integrated, from vertical to horizontal, from exclusion to inclusion, from hostility to friendship, from rivalry to partnership, from suspicion to trust, from acceptance to active engagement, from fault-finding to appreciation, from prescriptive to principled, from behavior modification to inner appropriation." (p. 307)

7. O'Malley makes some of the key figures of the Council come alive. For example, he contrasts Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, head of the most powerful body in the Roman Curia, with Cardinal Augustin Bea, a German Jesuit who was on "the cutting edge" of the latest scripture scholarship coming from the Protestant churches in Germany. Ottaviani, born into a poor family in Rome, spent most of his career in the Curia. He was "intelligent, shrewd, witty, and of unquestioned moral integrity." Even while a Cardinal, he maintained an active ministry with the young people in Rome. The motto on his coat of arms was Semper Idem, "always the same." O'Malley adds, "he was not used to having his authority challenged." (p. 108)



Pope Paul VI being carried on the *sedes gestatoria* at the closing of the council. In 1978 the chair was replaced by the "popemobile."

In contrast, Bea's experience was much broader. He had served as provincial superior for the Jesuits of Bavaria. He also studied Eastern philology in

Protestant Prussia. In 1924 he began his career teaching at the Biblicum. O'Malley writes, "In his person he radiated an inner serenity that made him approachable and easy to converse with. It also generated respect for his opinions." Bea, more than any other person, shepherded the Council through three of the most difficult and highly contested documents—on the Jews, on Religious Liberty, and on Divine Revelation. (p. 110)

8. "The sixteen final documents of the council... ran to over 300 pages... the documents of the Council of Trent (ran) to about 130 pages, and the documents of those two councils together almost equal the documents of the other 19 councils put together." (p. 25)

I'll conclude with these words by Peter Steinfeld in the New York Times: "Father O'Malley has written one of the best and most needed books about the Second Vatican Council... (it) is a story of bold confrontations, clashing personalities and behind-the-scenes maneuvers, all recounted in colorful detail...with plenty of cliffhangers."

For reflection:

Did anything in this reflection stand out for you? If so, why?

Are you old enough to remember the Catholic Church before Vatican II? If so, what do you remember about it? Is there anything you miss? Anything you're glad was changed?

What impact (if any) have the documents of Vatican II had on your personal spiritual life?

Vatican II had a tremendous impact on liturgy. Here's a song that was obviously written post Vatican II, "[God Has Chosen Me](#)" ([CLICK HERE](#)) by Bernadette Farrell. First it uses only a drum for accompaniment—no organ. Its refrain is "God has chosen ME," thus highlighting each Christian's personal vocation. Each of us (not just the clergy) is called "to give birth to a new Kingdom on earth," by removing oppression...raising our voice "with those who have no power or choice."

👉 Bishop Barron "[Welcome to Basic Training](#)"

CHUCKLES FROM THE PEWS

T-Shirt Wisdom

- ☺ 4 out of 3 people struggle with Math
- ☺ Of course size matter, no one wants a small glass of wine
- ☺ To me "Drink Responsibly" means don't spill it.
- ☺ My wife says I only have 2 faults: I Don't listen and something else...

Stay Safe & God Bless