



ST. PIUS X PARISH

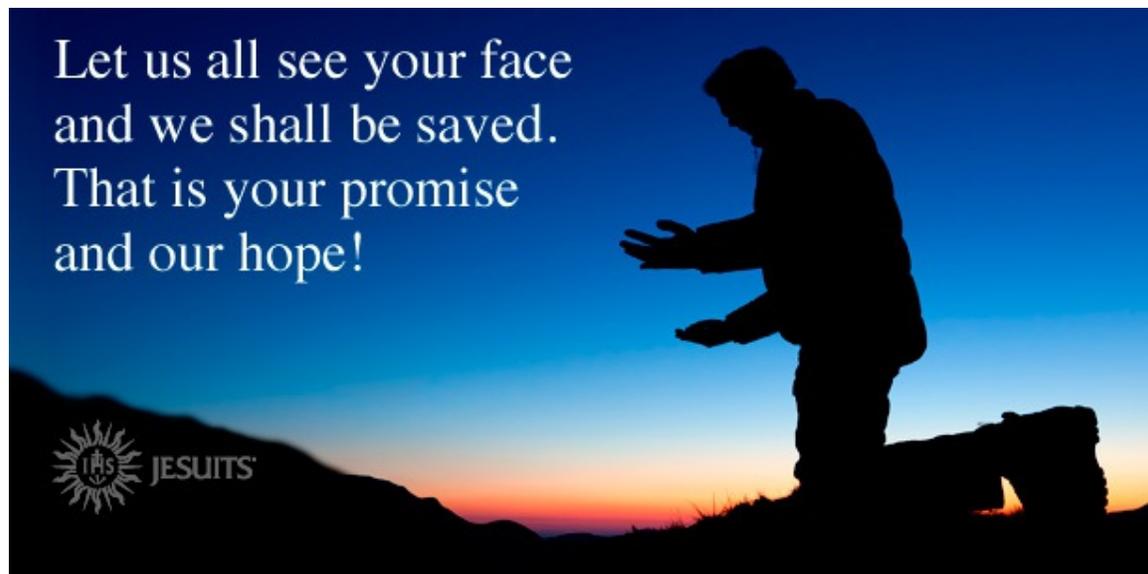
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OUR PIUS UPDATE January 19, 2021





LOVE REDEEMS

Yesterday, **Monday, January 18** was **Martin Luther King Jr Day**. Given the events of recent months, and even recent weeks, it is fitting to look at the words of this great activist to see if they might apply to us today.

The call to love that Dr. King lays out in ***“Loving Your Enemies”*** echoes through all of his speeches. Furthermore, it is the message upon which he built his life—that love is *“creative”*, and that only love is capable of transforming hate into love. Therefore, to change the world, love has to be extended to everyone—even to our enemies. The message mirrored Gandhi’s, who Dr. King looked to as inspiration in the nonviolent justice movement.

The sermon uses the story of Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Stanton as an example of love driving out hate. When Lincoln was running to be president, Stanton did his utmost to ridicule Lincoln. Yet, when Lincoln was elected—despite criticism from his cabinet—he appointed Stanton as Secretary of War. In doing so, Lincoln not only served his people by selecting the best person for the job, but he transformed the hatred Stanton held in his heart towards Lincoln—so much so that when Lincoln was assassinated, it was Stanton who gave one of the most touching speeches.

“Love is a powerful tool, more powerful than hate”, as Dr. King said in his speech:

If Abraham Lincoln had hated Stanton ... Stanton would have gone to his grave hating Lincoln, and Lincoln would have gone to his grave hating Stanton. ... Hate destroys the hater as well as the hated ... Because if you hate your enemies, you have no way to redeem and to transform your enemies. But if you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. ... And by the power of your love they will break down under the load.

Dr. King’s gift was not just his soul-stirring rhetoric, but also his ability to put forward practical solutions. *“Love is a practice”*, he realized, and *“one that requires certain things”*, as he noted in his speech:

Looking at oneself. *“We must face the fact that an individual might dislike us because of something that we’ve done deep down in the past ... That is why I say, begin with yourself.”*

Discerning between like and love. *“Like is a sentimental something, an affectionate something. There are a lot of people that I find it difficult to like. ... [but] love is greater than like. Love is understanding.”*

Helping those we hate. *“When the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy, that is the time which you must not do it. ... When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love...”*

Seeing the good in all. *“Within the best of us, there is some evil, and within the worst of us, there is some good. ... Discover the element of good in your enemy. And as you seek to hate him, find the center of goodness and place your attention there and you will take a new attitude.”*

It is only with this foundation that as a society we can continue to walk towards the equality that Dr. King talked about in his ***“I Have a Dream”*** speech, says Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. She is a senior minister at Middle Collegiate Church in New York, and Executive Director of The Middle Project, an institute that prepares ethical leaders for a more just society. *“It’s a radical love. It is not a love for wimps. It’s saying: ‘I’m going to love you, and engage with you whoever you are,’”* she says. *“That love drives the dream of a world where black lives matter and therefore all lives matter. Asian lives matter, Latino lives matter, Muslim lives matter, gay lives matter, poor lives matter, and old lives matter. It is a world in which we value the woman in a hijab, and the man in a kippa, and the atheist. Where we realize we are a human family and we cannot function without each other.”*

SOURCE: by Helen Avery, www.wanderlust.com



DAILY INSPIRATION

We have recently celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We are now in Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar, but early in 2021, our days seem anything but ordinary. We continue to deal with the pandemic, now nearly a year in. We witness political division and social unrest at levels higher than many of us can remember in our lifetimes. The darkness and chaos in the world around us can feel overwhelming.

Against this backdrop, today's letter to the Hebrews offers us a reminder that we do not face these difficulties alone. Jesus is not "*unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,*" but rather is one who "*in every respect has been tested as we are.*" What a comfort to know that we, both individually and as a society, are so deeply understood by Christ.

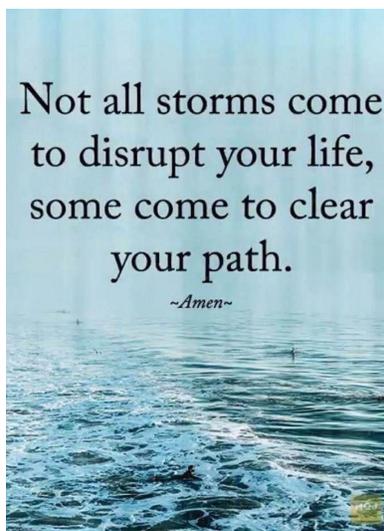
In this new year, which many of us have placed so much hope in, may we deep the practice of bringing to Jesus both the joys and the struggles of our lives, confident that he understands and is united with us in them, whatever they may be.

SOURCE — *The Jesuit Prayer team*

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you know and understand me,
perhaps even better than I know myself.
Remind me to always turn to you,
no matter the situation,
and place it in your compassionate hands.
Be my companion throughout my day.
Amen.

SOURCE — *The Jesuit Prayer team*





A PRAYER FOR THOSE GROWING OLD (AND FEARFUL), THAT'S ME.

Recently, I came across a prayer written in 2002 by a now deceased Canadian Jesuit missionary from Winnipeg who worked in Darjeeling, India. – Father Edgar Burns, SJ. As a retired history teacher who is “*growing older*”, I am fearful of many things from the COVID-19 – the invisible enemy – the dark winter that looms over us with no assurance of a spring vaccine, to life in the “*new normal*”. The world needs the comfort and joy of the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

I have added my own words – “*and fearful*” to the title of the prayer because I think they truly reflect 2020 although Fr. Burns’ faith and humour might also have transcended my fears:

“A PRAYER FOR THOSE GROWING OLD (AND FEARFUL), THAT’S ME.”

Lord, you know I am growing older.
Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea
that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone’s affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail.
Give me wings to get to the point.
Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains.
They are increasing with the years and my love
to speak about them grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.
Make me thoughtful but not nosey, helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all.
But you know that I want a few friends at the end. Amen.

By Richard Grover

Richard Grover is a retired history and religion teacher from St. Paul's High School in Winnipeg.

SOURCE: [the torontostar.com](http://the.torontostar.com)





CALLING OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

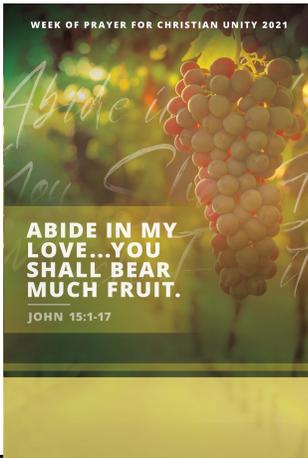
We have begun the process of resuming our sacramental preparation programs. We will begin with our **Reconciliation Preparation program**, with our **First Communion/Confirmation** program following shortly afterwards.

The target date for our **Reconciliation program** is **Wednesday, January 27, 2021**. Due to COVID-19 protocols we will not be having group in-person gatherings as we have had in the past. Families will be contacted to discuss which option works best for them.

If you were registered for our Reconciliation programs or if you are interested in starting the program this year, you are invited to participate in this program. You can contact **Maria Kelsey** at mkelsey@nl.rogers.com.

The First Communion/Confirmation program will begin shortly thereafter. Please check with the bulletin or our parish web page for upcoming news on this.

We will also have a Lenten package for all our families later.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18 - 25, 2021

The **theme** this year is **“Abide in my love ... and you shall bear much fruit”**, as found in the Gospel according to **St. John, Chapter 15, verses 1-17**. The **Week of Prayer** always concludes **January 25**, as we liturgically remember the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle.

