



SMALL GROUP NEWSLETTER
ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH
CAMBRIDGE, (H) ONT.



TWENTY- NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 22, 2017

Introduction to the Word:

So many people think the key to beating feeling overwhelmed is to find balance. What if it isn't? When you look at history, meaningful lives they are rarely characterized by balance. Instead these lives were characterized by something far greater – Passion. It could transform your life too. The question this Lord's Day, we as we seek to remember that ["We Are Better Together"](#), that God's Word is asking us is "are you giving unto God what belongs to God?" Let us move forward on a common pathway with the principles of the past few weeks in mind with one single chant which we must be about as a parish family: **offering every person in our community a life changing encounter with Jesus.**

Warm Up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

- Consider the bottom line – *"Balance doesn't change the world. Passion does"*.
 - What stands out to you about the last few weeks of our message series?
 - What principle do you take with you as we enter this week and continue to move forward?
- Ok - **"What do you think?"**

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL (Matthew 22:15–21)

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as Small Group



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Questions for Reflection and Discussion: (15-20 minutes)

- Of all the time management challenges you face, which is the hardest to solve for you?
- To what extent have you been trying to pursue balance in your life? What has it done (or not done) for you?
- Think about the people in your life. Who has made the greatest impact in your life: balanced people or passionate people?
- What would your life look like if you pursued every you did (God, work, friendship, relationships, your marriage, parenting, rest, leisure etc..) with passion?

Moving Forward in Prayer (15-20 minutes)

(This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. This time also intent to provide moments to connect and “outreach” to the larger community.)

This week, make a mental shift. *Abandon balance as a goal. Embrace passion.* See all of what you do as an advance, not a retreat. As you make the shift, see either it makes a difference in your relationships at home, with friends and with God. And see whether it shifts your attitude toward work.

To get your prepare for where we are going in the next series, make a life of at least three things you wish you had more time for. Write them down and let’s look back at them in the weeks to come as we move forward together.

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- Consider together as a group a social outreach which connects to our parish – our Haiti Mission, doing a Service Saturday activity together, making quilts, helping the Outreach program at St Patrick Parish in Hamilton.
- Consider making a Holy Hour for the intentions of our parish community this week.

Looking for More: Have you heard about [Starting Point?](#) Check out details and consider helping someone who has wandered away from faith or our parish to come back home.

Leader: Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray:
Hail Mary

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