



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



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 29, 2017

Introduction to the Word:

Not only our words are significant, but our example bears witness to Christ. At times, when we least expect it, we are indeed doing the will of God and sharing the life of Christ with others – some refer to it this as the “Duty of the Moment.” What is your “Duty of the Moment?” That is the question this Lord’s Day, we as we seek to remember that [“We Are Better Together.”](#) 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 – *What is your “Duty of the Moment?”*
- 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 22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as Small Group
Reflection:**



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Our Gospel is not just a reading for prayer and reflection, but a call to action. Desires and plans to be more loving to our family and friends, coworkers and neighbours, are not enough. Desires and plans to deepen our walk with the Lord, and spend more time in prayer and study are not enough. Desires and plans to take better care of ourselves are not enough. We must move beyond desires and plans to concrete actions that witness to the fact that we were loved first by God, and that our response to love is love. All three manifestations of our love are so intimately united that it is artificial to separate them. As we grow in one, we grow in the others. As we stall and are hesitant in one, we put the brakes on growth in the others. Our hope and salvation is that we do not make our desires and plans alone, but that the Holy Spirit is with us with abundant grace and power to make our desires and plans a reality. The more we understand God's love, the more we will expect it, experience it, live it, and share it – in fact this becomes our Duty of the Moment.

Questions for Discussion: *(15-20 minutes)*

- What does it mean to me to do something "with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind"?
- Does a particular moment, experience or occasion in my life reflect when I gave my "all" to the Lord?

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.)

Take a few minutes to look back on the exercise from last week – what are at least three things you wish you had more time for? How are you doing at putting them in your life of passion not balance? Are any of them your Duty of the Moment?

Try to be more conscious of your love (1) for God, by prayer, reflection and devotion, (2) for your 'neighbour' by showing patience, compassion, and charity, and (3) for yourself by taking care of your self - physically, spiritually and emotionally. It is all part of living a life of passion!

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- November 12th we will host a "Day of Mercy" in Toronto – how will your group help?
- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.

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

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