



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

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 4th, 2015

Introduction to the Word:

This is the final week of our Message Series: *A Way Forward*. It's all about doing what disciples do and, in the process, finding our way to more successful living

Week One invited us to be “of God”. To know that we belong to Him, that we accomplish what we do with His inspiration and that we must be people who are firmly rooted not solely in our religious tradition, but also our ability to relate to the person of Jesus.

Week Two challenged us to take *the last place*, to be *servants*. The only way we know who we are is by who He is – and that comes through service especially to the least, the last and the lost.

Week Three called forth from us the declaration that our serenity, peace and purpose comes not from outside of us, but rather from within us – a *Way Forward* – rooted in Mercy which comes not from an outwardly found happiness but an inwardly rooted happiness.

Warm-Up: Mention one “take away” message which you have embrace or grown from that has arisen from the past three weeks.

CALL TO PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Leader: As we enter the riches and wisdom of God’s Word, let us recall now the many times we have been forgiven and the great blessings we continue to receive.

From of old, you have loved us,	Lord, have mercy.
From of old you have made us your own,	Christ, have mercy.
From of old you grant us pardon and peace,	Lord have mercy.

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.*

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION TIME (45 minutes)

(Please select one person –not including the leader – to take a turn at reading the scripture passages below.)



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FIRST READING (Genesis 2:7ab, 15, 18–24)

The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING (Hebrews 2:9–11)

We do indeed see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL (Mark 10:14–16)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

People were bringing little children to him in order that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them.

“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them: for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

(Allow a few minutes for quiet and for a brief reflection on a meaningful word or thought)

COMMENTARY:

[At this point please use the video Message for this series – Week # 4](#)

[Your group may wish to listen again to the Audio of the Lord’s Day Message](#)



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The recent visit of Pope Francis to the United States, in part for the World Meeting of Families, has given our Holy Father an opportunity to discuss so many issues, and I must admit that I love the issues he is talking about and how he is talking about them. Pope Francis has a profound commitment to God's word - and a lifestyle that backs it up. He is crating conversation around important issues - poverty, justice, immigration. He call us to be part of a society that is tolerant and inclusive, but has a solid stance on the institution and definition of marriage, family and speaks about restoring hope and building peace – he asks us to treat one another with passion but compassion. In our society of today – this is a challenge and if we are a people of both passion and compassion – well we stand out.

This “standing out” can overwhelms us - overtakes us - over stresses us and we feel lost and as our 2nd Reading today - the presence of Jesus offers a hope - “do not be ashamed”. What stops us at times in our way forward - well is fear of standing out and yet the answers to our problems, including that of fear – is that we must have Confidence in Christ. For we are a child of God, chosen, redeemed, loved, cherished and cared for. We should stand out – for His love calls us to. Part of this call to stand out is rooted in a life of Prayer which leads us to decide and discern to do it Christ's way, not our way forward.

Jesus says - try it my way forward:

- I. Seek righteousness in your heart and there will be beauty in your character
- II. seek beauty in your character and there will be harmony in the home
- III. seek harmony in the home and there will be order in the nations
- IV. seek order in the nations and there will be peace in the world

It all begins by seeking Christ's Way Forward: Being of God. Being rooted in Service to least, last, lost. Being People who Make Every Effort to be rooted in Mercy - people who walk along with Christ standing out (living differently) – and being willing to stand out from the crowd.

Message this week – Do you stand out from the crowd? Would your actions tell others you are a follower of Christ?

*(Allow about 5 – 10 minutes for the participants to react to the **Commentary** to identify a newly discovered insight or idea.)*

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

Prayer helps us be rooted in Christ's way forward – consider discussing way which help you pray (e.g. keeping a journal, a regular hour or time or place)

What do you find challenging or distracting about prayer – how do you move beyond it?



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Tell about a time when someone invited you to do something that you really enjoyed doing. Or tell about a time when you wouldn't have done something unless you had received an invitation, but you appreciated the invite?

If you ever invited someone to church or to your small group, tell about how that invitation went? If not, what prevents you from inviting others?

Closing Prayer (15-20 minutes)

(This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. The intent is to "outreach" to the larger community.)

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- Consider this week an act of Mercy in the name of your prayer partner, not toward them, but toward someone else who may have hurt you - but do it in the name of your prayer partner.
- Continue to consider together as a group a social outreach which connects to our parish – our Haiti Mission, commitment to sponsoring a family at Advent, bringing "Canadian Tire Dollars", making quilts.

Group Action:

- Has your group consider an activity or action for Service Saturday? Maybe the Fall Blanket Brigade or even the 40 Days for Life Campaign?

Looking for More:

Consider the following background and resources as follow ups for your group, or individually

- ***Bible Study: A Biblical Walk Through the Mass:*** Do you understand the meaning behind the parts of the Mass? Dr. Edward Sri will explore the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance in this video-based Bible Study. Dates soon.
- We are currently planning a MARRIED LIFE CAFÉ to take place in Early November. Date to be shared soon. We will be viewing a common movie together and then beginning a series of small studies on it. [Want a preview of the movie?](#)

Have you heard about [Starting Point?](#) Check out details

Let us pray - (together)

With hands and hearts united in gratitude for God's favors on us today, we pray that all those in our influence be moved to be open to your Word and your Spirit, while we pray united as one,



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OUR FATHER...

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