

LIVING FAITH

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus teaches in parables in order to give us glimpses of what God is like. People often think that the Kingdom of Heaven is a place or a state of being that will exist after our earthly life is finished; but this is not the Kingdom that Jesus speaks of so often in His stories. The Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus speaks of, the Kingdom that He worked so hard to bring about, is possible here on earth, if we love one another. In the Kingdom of Heaven, people are like the slave who was good and trustworthy, who carefully tend and nurture all that the master gave him, making it grow and flourish and increase. Does this mean money? Maybe, but probably not! Does this mean nurturing and developing the gifts and talents that God gave us? We might be getting closer, particularly if we add to that list placing our gifts and talents at the service of others!

What if this parable is a call from Jesus to tend and nurture the people around us, our family members, our classmates, our neighbours? What if it is a call from Jesus to be attentive to, to tend and nurture those left behind by others in society?

Jesus tell us to love our neighbours. In loving our neighbours in practical, simple, meaningful ways, we love God. This is how the Kingdom is built.

MERCY IS LOVE IN ACTION THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES...

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 25), and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs. They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.



VISIT THE SICK

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

- Give blood
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.

The archdiocese of St. John's has begun the exciting and challenging process of implementing our renewal plan, "A Promise of New Life . . . Courage to Renew."

For more information please contact Peter Whittle, Renewal Plan Coordinator

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You asked!

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: The Why and the How

The new Rite since Vatican II teaches something very important: sickness and its sufferings are not punishments from God for personal sins. Sickness and sufferings are part of the human condition and come into the life of everyone. Also, the Church teaches that it is part of God's desire that people "fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health, so that we may fulfill our role in the human society and in the Church." This fight also engages the medical professionals who through their skill and talents help the sick seek better health.

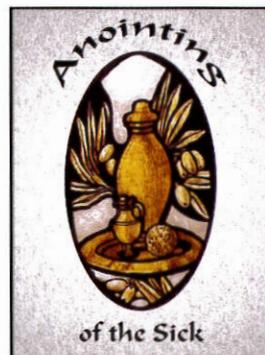
In addition, the Church's pastoral theology teaches that in the face of any sickness the entire Church, not just the priest who anoints, plays a vital role in the ministry of care to the sick. If one person suffers from sickness, then the entire Church shares in that suffering so that the sick are not alone. Those who shows kindness, compassion and care for the sick, from well-intentioned family members and friends to medical experts, are viewed with great honour and share in Christ's healing and comforting ministry.

There are many elements that compose the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: the ordained priest is the minister of anointing; the priest will lay his hands upon the head of the sick person and pray in silence; the oil that is blessed and used in the sacrament is olive oil, or some other oil derived from plants; the oil is blessed by a bishop, or a priest who has the faculty to bless such oil; if at all possible, the sick person is anointed on the forehead and the hands with a special prayer said each time (in some circumstances, the priest may not be able to anoint in these places, thus any suitable part of the body can be anointed).

When a person is actively dying, the celebration of Viaticum (receiving Holy Communion) as spiritual food for the journey, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing are together a special way to care for the dying. Of course, these celebrations depend upon the state of the dying person. It is vital to remember that any pastoral/sacramental intervention that happens in the midst of dying can confer God's grace to the person and that grace always makes up for what might be lacking due to particular circumstances.

- Rev. Tony, Bidgood, CSsR

Note: the above information was drawn from the essay "Anointing of the Sick", by Charles W. Gusmer; as found in *The New Dictionary of Theology*, edited by Joseph Komonchak, Mary Collins & Dermot. A Lane (Delaware: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1988, 2nd printing); and *Pastoral Care of The Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum* (Ottawa: Concacan Inc., 1983).



View Pope Francis' reflection on this sacrament here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2k-tn0Lepw>

Thanks to Fr. Tony Bidgood C.Ss.R for his contribution to this week's Resource.

SAINTS AND BLESSED OF CANADA

Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher



Blessed Marie Rose Durocher is patron of those who are sick. Today, some 1,000 Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary educate children in Canada, the United States, Africa, and South America.

Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, you were the Canadian nun who brought Christian education to the frontier--pray for us!

Eulalie Durocher was born on October 6, 1811, at St. Antoine in Quebec, Canada. She was the youngest of ten children. Marie-Rose thought about becoming a sister, but her health was not good enough. When Marie-Rose was 18 and her mother died, she began to work in her brother's parish in Beloeil, not far from Montreal. For 13 years she was housekeeper, hostess, and parish worker. Her goodness earned her the title the saint of Beloeil.

In 1843, she was invited by Bishop Bourget to found a new congregation of women dedicated to Christian education. Accordingly she founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and took the religious name of Marie Rose. Under her saintly and wise leadership, her community flourished in spite of all kinds of obstacles, including great poverty and unavoidable misunderstandings. She remained unwavering in her concern for the poor.

The six years Marie-Rose lived as a sister were filled with poverty, difficulty, and sickness. She practiced penance and was quite strict with her community. A great love for the crucified Jesus gave her strength. Marie-Rose's order was devoted to religious education for children who were poor.

Worn out by her labours, Marie Rose died on October 6, 1849, at the age of thirty-eight. She was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II on May 23, 1982. Her feast day is October 6.

View a short video about Blessed Marie-Rose here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiV4NC2rqi4>

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