FEBRUARY 6TH, 2022- FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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PASTOR: FR. ADTODIO BAROL

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:
Erica Perk, Victoria Meneses, Rita Lockhart, John Miron,
Augustine Sheppard, and Fr. Peter Conlin.
For those who have died, especially:
Fr. Floro Arcamo, and Roberto Banda

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY: 5:30 PM

THURSDAY: 10:00 AM, FRIDAY: 10:00 AM

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, MILLBROOK

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

For the Eternal rest of Rob O'Connor and Frankie Battaglia.††

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM (Rosary at 8:45AM)

For the eternal rest of Anne Bissell †

ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM — For the people of the parish

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FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE FOR SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 6TH, 2022

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,

Let us use the mass entrance antiphon as our greetings and prayer. "O Come let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God." May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus; the love and mercy of God the Father in the communion of the Holy Spirit be upon us at all times. We give praise and thank the Lord for this wonderful news that most of our health restrictions have been lifted and therefore we are almost going back to our normal way of life, including our Church activities. So far the Church of Canada has not lifted the Sunday obligation exemption and if ever it is lifted let us pray that our sisters and brothers who have not come during this difficult time, will be enthusiastic to come back to celebrate with us the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which is the source and summit of our spiritual life.

Last week we learned that when Jesus started his public ministry in his hometown, he was rejected and so he moved around to another place, for a prophet cannot be silenced by rejection but the zeal to proclaim is deeply rooted and the Word must be proclaimed to where it should be addressed, starting with the lost sheep of Israel. When prophets respond to the call of God, the usual reaction is that of unworthiness because holiness is a mark of a prophet and because humans are weak to resist temptations so the feeling of not worthy of the call creeps in the heart. But because we have a loving and merciful God, He deals each one of us according to what is in our hearts and God can use us and despite our sinfulness and unworthiness, He can change our hearts, we just have to cooperate in his plan.

Prophet Jeremiah last week, tried to say no when called to be a prophet because he was still a young boy and had a speech impediment, but God healed him. This week, Prophet Isaiah also said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." When he was purified by the seraph, who touched his mouth with a live coal, then he responded, "Here am I Lord; send me." During my ordination liturgy, I chose Prophet Jeremiah's call as a reminder that God has called us since the beginning of our life's journey, though at first I ignored it by trying to pick another career but I had that feeling of something not right. I then decided to look for a benefactor, a sponsor because my family cannot support me in the seminary. Each of us is called to be a prophet, to be a witness of our faith, not so much to go and tell people by our words, but more on the life we live. We preach and teach by the way we live our lives and even though we feel unworthy but a single act of love makes a difference in the world of another person's life.

Cont'd.../

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, when she started her mission of sheltering the sick, the homeless and the dying in the streets, she was not giving a sermon to the people, but her works of charity was already a very loud voice proclaiming that the kingdom of God has come, that they are cared for, and given dignity, especially when they were afforded a descent funeral. In the world where poverty is growing we need prophets to denounce the increasing gap between the poor and the rich.

In the second reading today, St. Paul wrote to the Christians of Corinth how the Good News was proclaimed that Jesus after his resurrection first appeared to his chosen apostles, and then to some others and he himself by the grace of God was privileged enough to be chosen as an apostle sent to proclaim the Good News of salvation to the Gentiles. He admitted that he was unfit to be an apostle, due to his former life as a persecutor of Christians until on his way to Damascus on a mission to bind and bring the followers of Christ to Jerusalem. On his journey he was struck by a blinding light and heard the voice, "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?" when he asked who he was, the voice said, "I am Christ whom you are persecuting." Then he was told what to do. It proved to him that whatever we do to other Christians we do it to Christ.

In this time of the Church history, we hear many comments about how the Church is managed and in the Vatican News, Pope Francis' monthly talk to the audience at Paul VI center was interrupted by an unmasked protester shouting, and with a smile Pope Francis prayed for the person. We see tensions in the Church Hierarchy, from without and from within and so we need to pray more for our Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, that he will continue to show love, humility and humor to those who are in doubt of God's plan. Like Prophet Isaiah and Peter, Pope Francis after his election as Pope mentioned also of his unworthiness and when interviewed, "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio", he said I am a sinner, and he chose the name Francis to tell that the Church is not only for the poor but should be poor and after being elected he went back to his hotel to pay for his bill. He tried to live a simple life according to the spirit of St. Francis, so he did not stay in the Pope's palace or mansion but shared a place with other priests, bishops and cardinals because as a Jesuit he is used to living in a community. In the gospel this weekend, we hear Jesus proclaiming the Good News and after the proclamation knowing from the experience of rejection that his life will be ending soon. There is a need that his message will reach to the ends of the world as he came to

save the world. Therefore, he had to call followers to witness to his words and works and that they in turn one day will continue the proclamation of the kingdom. St. Luke told a dramatic way of the call of the first disciples that Jesus borrowed their boat and even though they caught nothing the whole night but when Jesus told them to lower their nets, they obeyed and behold a miraculous catch. Feeling the presence of a holy man, Peter fell on his knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." In reply Jesus assured him not to fear, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." I am sure that the other fishermen, Andrew, Simon's brother, James and John, sons of Zebedee also felt unworthy, but they had started to believe in Jesus and therefore they were willing to leave everything to become followers of the man who made an impact in their lives from listening to his teaching and then by experiencing the miraculous catch of fish. They could have doubted Jesus like the religious leaders in Nazareth especially when he told them to lower their nets. They could have rejected Jesus because he was not a fisherman but a carpenter telling the fishermen how to fish. But no, they were open to possibilities and they even left their comfort zone and followed a person who does not even have a place of his own. They believed that life is full of mystery and less clarity, but they have faith and trust in Jesus and how about us?

Stay safe and healthy. God bless.....Fr. Tony

Quote of the week: "A great means to preserve continual peace and tranquility of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small, and in whatever way it comes." (St. Dorotheus)

Mass Intentions: Saturday February 5 @ 4PM – for the Eternal rest of +Rob O'Connor & Frankie Battaglia. Sunday, February 6 @ 9AM – for the eternal rest of +Anne Bissell and 11AM @ St. Bernadette, Nestleton— for the People of the Parish. Thank you to all those who have responded to our Parish Census with the hope that we can create a profile for our parish family and St. Thomas More Parish was decreed on the 12th of June 1978, meaning we will be 45 years as a parish next year. Let's hope and pray that we can celebrate another milestone of the parish.

This coming Friday, February 11, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes is the World Day of the Sick. Regular mass will be in the rectory at 10 AM but there is a special prayer of the sick on Sunday. If you have somebody in mind to be prayed for, please, write their name(s) on a piece of paper and place in front of the altar so that during the special prayer their names will be included and after that their names will be placed in our new prayer box container.

Please pray for the sick: Erica Perk, Fr. Peter Conlin, Rita Lockhart, Victoriana Meneses, Augustine Sheppard, John Miron. And for those who died: Fr. Floro Arcamo, Roberto Banda.

We need a volunteer to coordinate for the Development and Peace program. Please contact me. Thank you.

Dr. Charlene Rostkowski D.V.M. **Veterinary Services**



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