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TEACH BY EXAMPLE

In one of Aesop’s fables an old Mother Crab says to her son, “Why do you walk sideways like that my son? You ought to walk straight.” The little crab responds by asking, “Show me how, dear Mother, and I’ll follow your example.” Though the Mother Crab tried in vain to walk straight she could only move sideways. She quickly saw how unreasonable was her advice to her son. The moral of the fable is obvious, it is easier to tell than to do, and an example is more authoritative than is a lesson.

Jesus came teaching with authority as we learn in this week’s Gospel Reading. He advanced his ministry by being the Master Teacher. Jesus communicated truth in simple but powerful word pictures, parables, and then reinforced his teachings by using his miraculous power to heal and do good. Intertwined throughout, he lived an exemplary life responding to lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes, and his dearest friends with the same consistent love and righteousness. Jesus’ teaching authority did not come from utilizing the latest teaching techniques, or by practicing recommended communication skills. His authority came from within, from who he was, Emmanuel, God with us, and from the truth he taught—the very Truth of God. He lived and shared truth that transcended mere human wisdom, no matter how insightful our earthly wisdom may be. In a similar way, Moses and the prophets who followed were able to share in this authority when they allowed God’s truth to flow through them unpolluted by human understanding.

Not many of us are called to publicly teach, speaking for God and on his behalf. Perhaps that is fortunate. But like the old Mother Crab mentioned by Aesop in his fable, we spend a lifetime teaching character and values of one kind or another. We do this not primarily by what we say, but most certainly by how we live. Usually our example speaks so loudly, that others cannot hear what we are saying. What an awesome responsibility is then laid at our feet; to communicate Truth by our lives. Jesus is attempting to authoritatively communicate to those around you the truth and love of God, and he has chosen you to be his simple but powerful word picture. You have been chosen to be his living parable, and invited to be a living icon of Jesus Christ. The purpose of an icon, as C. S. Lewis explains, “is not to fix attention upon itself, but to stimulate and liberate certain activities ... in the worshipper.” This is the role of an example; to authoritatively focus people’s attention on the Lord of our life, so that they in turn can be freed to worship him. What an awesome invitation is given us to illustrate his message of grace and love.

Pope Paul VI explains it this way; “... for the Church, the first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life, given over to God in a communion that nothing should destroy and at the same time given to one’s neighbor with limitless zeal. As we said recently to a group of lay people, ‘Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.’ St. Peter expressed this well when he held up the example of a reverent and chaste life that wins over even without a word those who refuse to obey the word. It is therefore primarily by her conduct and by her life that the Church will evangelize the world, in other words, by her living witness to fidelity to the Lord Jesus—the witness of poverty and detachment, of freedom in the face of the powers of this world, in short, the witness of sanctity.” Our lives of chastity, reverence, sanctity and obedience to Jesus empowers and brings authority to the Church’s message of Jesus and his Kingdom.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

<p>Bishop of the Diocese Most Reverend Gerard P.Bergie, D.D.</p> <p>Pastor Father Christopher Gerard Gillen</p> <p>Sunday Masses Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Weekday Masses Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m. Wed @ 6:30 pm</p> <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament First Sunday of the Month 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Reconciliation/Confessions Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request</p> <p>Baptism Catechesis and appointment necessary</p> <p>Marriage Contact the parish office</p> <p>Sacrament of the Sick Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins Please call the office.</p> <p>Secretary Sandy Johnson Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bookkeeper Tracy Piggott</p> <p>St Martin School Phone 905-957-3032</p> <p>Cemetery Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648</p>		<p>Diocese of St. Catharines</p> <p>St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church</p>  <p>166 West Street, P.O. Box 74 Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0 Telephone: 289-956-0221 Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca www.stmartinsparish.com</p>	
<p><u>Ministry Schedule - Feb 3/4</u> <u>Hospitality Ministers</u> 5:00 pm - Tony Mous 9:00 am - Marcel Pouliot 11:00 am - George Yakowenko</p> <p><u>Altar Servers</u> 5:00 pm - Needed 9:00 am - Needed 11:00 am - Needed</p> <p><u>Children's Liturgy</u> No Children's Liturgy Today</p> <p><u>Next Hospitality Sunday</u> February 4th</p>	<p>Jan 28, 2018</p> <p>The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>		<p><u>Lectors</u> 5:00 pm #1 - Tom Shields #2 - Anne Favero 9:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest #2 - Heather Tomascini 11:00 am #1 - Deanne Long #2 - Gemma Bose</p> <p><u>Extra-ordinary Ministers</u> 5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom 9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Bea 11:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa</p> <p><u>Stewardship Counting</u> Lisa Poort & Cathy Cartaginense</p>

January 28, 2018

The 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B



*Lord, may the request of your people
rise before you like a fragrant offering*

Monday	Jan 29	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Beverley Carbin	by Martha Devlin
Tuesday	Jan 30	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls in purgatory	by the Newman family
Wednesday	Jan 31	<i>St. John Bosco</i>		
		6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Mary Kaempf	by Mr & Mrs daSilva
Thursday	Feb 1	9:00 am	In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St Martin's Parish
Assembly of Ontario Bishops Social Affairs Commission/ Father Christopher - Toronto All Day.				
Friday	Feb 2	<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>		
		9:00 am	For the special intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children and grandchildren	by Doug and Maeve Devlin
			For God's blessings upon Joyce Osborne	by Pauline Lewis
Saturday	Feb 3	9:30 am. Share Lent Launch / Mass at St Alfred's St. Catharines.		
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO FIRST SATURDAY MORNING PARISH MASS				
Saturday	Feb 3	<i>The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>		
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Mary Kaempf	by Mr & Mrs DaSilva
			+For the repose of the soul of Gerard Gillen	by Fr. Christopher
Sunday	Feb 4	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Chris & Marina Coxe	by Martha Devlin
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of St Martin's Parish family	

DIOCESAN PARISH DISCERNMENT

The Haldimand Deanery (7 parishes) will begin the Diocesan Parish Discernment Process April 1, 2018. An assessment of needs and future direction of our parish will be done, moving the parish from maintenance to mission. A team of at least eight/ten peoples are required for this process. Saturdays mornings at the Catholic Centre from 9:00am to 12:00 noon, beginning April First and continue until November 2018. A group meeting about one per month at the Catholic Centre. The rest of the meetings and the real work takes place in the parish.

Representatives from CWL, Knights, PEG, Lay Ministries will be helpful at this time. More detailed information coming. We need to begin the dialogue early and get organized. Thank you.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE SYSTEM 2018

Please mark the first few envelopes with your full name and address. Please notify office of a change of address. Those seeking to use the offertory envelope system are kindly asked to call the parish office. Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

9:00am Parish Mass
1:00pm Para-Liturgy at School
6:30pm Parish Mass.

Blessing and distribution of Ashes at all Services.

This year the holy season of **LENT** begins on February 14, 2018 and will end 46 days later on March 31, 2018. Lent is a time of fasting, praying and simple living. The parish and diocesan focus is Development and Peace - Share Lent.

The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of Lent, but not during Easter Triduum. Beginning the First Week of Lent, Friday, February 23, at 6:00pm.

Palm Sunday falls on March 25, 2018 and marks the beginning of Holy Week. April 1, 2018 is Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the most joyous and important liturgical celebration of the year.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2017

Are now available for pickup at main entrance. Thank you for your faithful tithe/stewardship. God Bless.

RETROUVAILLE

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most couples don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille can help. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend **March 16, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017

Enclosed with today's parish bulletin you will find the Parish Financial Report. Thank you for your stewardship/tithing. Extra copies will be available at front foyer for the month of February.

PARISH SURVEY 2018

The Survey was presented last weekend. Extra surveys are made available at front foyer. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We truly value the information you will provide. We will share these results with you the weekend of February 11th. Please place your survey in the collection basket.

ST.MARTIN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **January 30, 2018 at 6:00pm**. All parent(s), guardian(s) are welcome to attend.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: www.wpcprolife.com, and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or contact Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

St. Joseph Parish Grimsby is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Blessed Trinity High School in the Cafeteria.

Date - Tuesday February 13, 2018

Place - Blessed Trinity High School

Times - 3 seating times (4:30, 5:30 & 6:30pm)

Tickets \$5 each (children under 3 eat for free)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP JANUARY 21, 2018

Sunday Offering (79 Env): \$1,710.00
Loose: \$85.95

Late Facility Maintenance Offering (2 Env): \$30.00

Late New Years Offering (1 Env): \$25.00

Late Initial Offering (5 Env): \$40.00

Late Christmas Offering (1 Env): \$25.00

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.*

DIOCESAN WORKSHOP "TOGETHER FOR PEACE"

The Development and Peace team invites you to the launch of our annual "Share Lent" campaign held on Saturday, February 3 at St Alfred Church, St Catharines -- with Bishop Bergie leading us in Mass (9:30 a.m.). If you are interested in attending, please call Sandy Hall (905/357-4607).

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 11 (4:00-7:00 p.m.)

Fr. Michael Wastag, O.Carm., invites you to celebrate your love during a special evening together. The celebration begins at 4:00 p.m. with the Eucharist. Afterwards, guests will gather in the monastery's main dining room for a candlelight "Surf and Turf" buffet supper; desserts and refreshments conclude the evening celebration. The cost is \$55/person; advanced reservations are required by February 5. This is not just for married couples, but for all friends, families, and loved ones. Come, renew and deepen your love in the presence of the Lord!

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Rebecca Joyner – Jan 28

Bob Hignett – Jan 29

Elizabeth Joyner/Peter Wilson – Jan 30

Frank Brajer/Patricia Sloane/Dan Deavu – Feb 3

Linu Alex/Melissa Brajer - Feb 4

Anniversaries:

Justin & Deanne Long – Jan 31

Claudio & Isabel Baccaga – Feb 2

Robert & Maureen Lemmon Feb 2