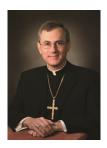


SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY June 7, 2020

We are a Eucharistic faith community, inspired by the Gospel, committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.



Most Rev. Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B. Bishop of London

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St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

Basilica 1885

Finding God in Community

"Someone, I think it was Buckminster Fuller, once said: "God is a verb not a noun." At one level, that statement is dangerously false. At another, however, it affirms something very important and Christian about our relationship to God, namely, that God is not, first of all, a formula, a dogma, a creedal statement, or a metaphysics that demands our assent. God is a flow of living relationships, a trinity, a family of life that we can enter, taste, breathe within, and let flow through us.

"God is love," scripture says, "and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him or her." Too often, we miss what that means because we tend to romanticize love. It might best be rendered this way: "God is community, family, parish, friendship, hospitality and whoever abides in these abides in God and God abides in him or her." God is a trinity, a flow of relationships among persons. If this is true, and scripture assures us that it is, then the realities of dealing with each other in community, at the dinner-table, over a bottle of wine or an argument, not to mention the simple giving and receiving of hospitality are not a pure, secular experiences but the stuff of church, the place where the life of God flows through us.

By definition, God is ineffable, beyond imagination and beyond language, even the best language of theology and church dogma. God can never be understood or captured adequately in any formula. But God can be known, experienced, tasted, related to in love and friendship. God is Someone and Something that we live within and which can flow through our veins. To make God real in our lives, therefore, we needn't sneak off, shamrocks and triangles in hand, to try to somehow picture how three-can-be-one and one-can-be-three. Nor indeed need we read academic books on theology, valuable though these may be. No. God is a flow of relationships to be experienced in community, family, parish, friendship, and hospitality. When we live inside of these relationships, God lives inside of us and we live inside of God. Scripture assures us that we abide in God whenever we stay inside of family, community, parish, friendship, hospitality – and, yes, even when we fall in love.

This has huge consequences for how we should understand religious experience: Among other things, it means that God is more domestic than monastic (monks will be the first to tell you that). It means too, that in coming to know God, the dinner-table is more important than the theology classroom, the practice of grateful hospitality is more important than the practice of right dogma, and meeting with others to pray as a community can give us something that long hours in private meditation (or, indeed, long years spent absent from church-life) cannot. Such a concept also blurs all simple distinctions between "religious" and "purely secular" experience. Finally, importantly, it tells us that, since God is inside of community, we should be there too, if we wish to go to heaven. Simply put, we can't go to hell, if we stick close to family, community, and parish.

The most pernicious heresies that block us from properly knowing God are not those of formal dogma, but those of a culture of individualism that invite us to believe that we are self-sufficient, that we can have community and family on our own terms, and that we can have God without dealing with each other. But God is community – and only in opening our lives in gracious hospitality will we ever understand that."

Excerpt from Fr. Ronald Rolheiser OMI, "Finding God in Community", June 10, 2001

Mobile Giving at St. Peter's Cathedral

Instructions:

- 1. Place your device in camera mode or open the QR Code Reader.
- 2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
- 3. Your camera will scan the OR Code.



Our Parish Office—Closed but not Closed

Though the doors of the parish office have been closed to the public for almost two and a half months, the work of the office has continued uninterrupted throughout this time. In our pre-COVID times, any call or visit to the office doors was greeted by one of our two "front-line workers", our secretarial staff—RoseMary Cleary, Financial Secretary, and Vianca Kmet, Secretary/Receptionist. They continue to "greet" you, but in new and creative ways.

RoseMary has worked at the parish for over twentythree years. Her main areas of responsibilities centre around the financial side of parish life. Rose has been able to create a work-at-home office space to be able to continue to tend to the financial life. Though much of her time is working from home, it is necessary for her to go into the office 2-3 times each week to pick up invoices requiring payment, donation envelopes, do banking as needed, mail out payments, attend to phone messages, post weekly and monthly offertory, month end financial balancing, and other financial matters that come up from week to week. RoseMary is also the secretary to the Finance Committee so is continuing her duties in the monthly meetings that have now moved to a online platform. RoseMary works closely with Brian Galea, our Business Manager, on all financial matters, so their constant communication is of utmost importance. Brian also brings together the Administration Team (RoseMary, Vianca and support staff Peter Greff and Fatima Silva) once a week for a Team Meeting via Conference call to ensure all of the Administration needs are taken care of.

Vianca, is a relatively new face in our parish office, beginning her role as secretary/receptionist in early February. Vianca's transition to working from home has been a bit of a challenge with an active 3 year old underfoot whose daycare has had to close and coordinating her work schedule with her husband who is also working from home. Much of her work is spread throughout the day and wee hours of the



evening. She is able to carry on many of her regular duties from home: managing phone calls/voice messages retrieved from the parish vmail, answering general inquiries electronically, assisting in the production & sending out of the online Sunday Bulletin, coordinating parish communiques, creating content for parish's social media accounts, and updating the parish database. Hands on tasks needing access to physical documents in the office such as sacramental records, checking of the parish mailbox, and calendar bookings requires Vianca to go in to the office 1-2 times a week or as the need arises.

Both RoseMary and Vianca miss very much the face to face human interaction and connection with the parishioners, the familiar faces and strangers that come to the office throughout the day, and comradery of the staff. They look forward to the day when they can once again greet you in person. Thank you, RoseMary and Vianca, for your continued work and service to the parishioners of St. Peter's.

Adult Faith Formation from the Comfort of Your Own Home

The Diocese of London continues to partner with Dayton University to provide all parishioners with affordable, high quality formation opportunities. Parishioners can nourish their faith and continue learning during these times of physical distancing. Many online courses are offered for a reduced price. The next cycle of classes starts July 12. Registration opens May 27 and closes July 8. For a selection of course offerings click *here*.

(The link goes directly to the "Cycle 5" section of the page).

Finding Christian Meditation

Christian meditation has been a monastic practice for centuries. Join us for a brief introduction Tuesday, June 9th at 7 -7:40. We will meet via video conference or phone. Send your email to behall2@gmail.com and you receive a link just before the meeting. All are welcome!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Stores

Many of the stores have now reopened across Ontario. Our two London stores are now open operating with adjusted hours and are able to accept donations. For store hours and donation information click <u>here</u>.



From the Desk of the Rector

Solidarity. In Canada and in our world of people of different ethnic, language, cultural, religious and racial heritage, no one part of that world or country has a right to claim superiority, power or privilege over another. This week, Pope Francis expressed his solidarity and support following days of demonstrations protesting the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life. At the same time, we have to recognize that 'the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost,""

Racism - a temptation and disease. Sr. Joan Chittister reminds us, racism is the temptation white people have yet to overcome... She explains, "No doubt about it. We've done our share of racism while we blame it on the racist generations that went before us. Maybe just apologizing for our own sins against a people would be a start... Finally, we must not let our private, personal selves off the hook. We are killing one fatal virus by each of us wearing masks and practicing social distancing. We can kill the virus of racism if we begin to practice social outreach across racial lines. By doing nothing but talking about it, we are the carriers of the disease of racism. Catholics know that confessing the sin is not enough. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, forgiveness requires our "intention to make reparation," as well or, as we once said, "a firm purpose of amendment." Racism won't go away until each of us, white and black, melt into the human race as one. It won't start with legislation. It will only start when we do."

Responding to Comments. I read this last week, "Be respectful. Do not attack the writer. Take on the idea, not the messenger. Comments containing vulgarities, personalized insults, slanders or accusations shall be deleted." Interestingly enough it came from a Catholic website sharing advice on how to respond to the thoughts of another person. I am finding more responses on social media are becoming confrontational, argumentative, caustic and judgmental. What happened to respectful dialogue when we disagree? What happened to a continuing attitude of listening and learning? "Be still and know that I am God" is an invitation we hear from Psalm 46. Praying, reflecting and thinking before we respond to others may be helpful in promoting

valuable conversations from which we will all learn and grow. Today's Church has the same human tensions that existed in the early Church. We need to work collaboratively in making the message of Jesus a lived reality in our personal lives, the life of our parish and our world. This week we could ask: What divisions in our Church and parish do we observe? Do I pray regularly for healing and renewal?

When will the Cathedral re-open for Mass? That is a question I hear often and one I am asking too. While there is no date set, it will be when we are able to open safely. This is going to take a lot of planning, work and the need for many volunteers to assist with implementation over the months and years to come. As I've mentioned before, the Catholic Bishops of Ontario are working with liturgical leaders, health and government officials to produce guidelines that will assist in our tasks. Once we have those in place, I will inform the entire parish as soon as possible.

How Are You Doing? These stressful days continue for all of us. Are you making sure you're getting enough sleep? Are you exercising regularly? Are you finding time to be quiet, pray and reflect? Are you cutting back on watching/listening to/reading the news? We need to stay informed but we don't need to do it all day. That can be detrimental and be a source of continuing stress. Is there someone you can reach out to regularly in order to chat and share your feelings?

Something to Think About. "Our hurting world is plagued by challenges that can't be overcome unless we bring a big heart and our best selves to confront the world's ills. You didn't ask for that burden and opportunity, but you're here on the playing field at this moment in history, and that's how "calling" often emerges in life. Sometimes you get to choose your moments, causes, and vocation. But, other times, you don't get to choose the opportunity. The moment chooses you: a troubled colleague or student walks into your office; a loved one takes ill; a refugee family is resettled in the neighborhood; a natural disaster befalls your hometown; or politicians float proposals that would unjustly disadvantage the community's poor or marginalized. Righting the world's injustices is a grueling struggle that won't end in our lifetimes. We need a few million more happy warriors. And the world needs you to be one of them." (Chris Lowney, Make Today Matter - from Sacred Space)

Fr. Jim Modler

We remember in prayer all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton, and Martha Lavrin.

We also pray for those who have died, and comfort those who mourn.

We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:

Rev. Joseph Langlois; Diane O'Neil, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Barnabas Kiss, O.F.M.; Deacon Carol Tamas; Deacon Guy Alden; Monika Korzec, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Dariusz Jagodzinski READINGS - SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

First Reading - Deuteronomy 8.2-3, 14-16 God fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know.

Psalm - Ps 147.12-13, 14-15, 19-20 (R.12)

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10.16-17

Because there is one bread,

we, who are many, are one body.

Gospel - John 6.51-59

My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.



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