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OBSTACLES AS OPPORTUNITIES

On May 13, 1981 an assassin's bullet ripped through the stomach of Pope John Paul II and initiated a trial of suffering that lasted several months, required multiple surgeries, was complicated by a viral infection, and required two lengthy hospital stays. Yet through this ordeal Pope John Paul II maintained a positive spirit and demonstrated ongoing concern for others and for the Church. Whereas many would have bemoaned their fate, Pope John Paul II confessed, "One hand fired, and another one guided the bullet." For him there is no doubt about the protection which saved him from death.

How people respond to the difficulties they encounter in life is a theme of this Sunday's Mass readings. We see God's people confronted with difficult situations, situations which most of us would call major problems. For instance, Ezekiel was given the very difficult task of trying to communicate with obstinate and rebellious people. Paul faced a different problem, he experienced a physical malady that some think was an eye disease, which hindered and limited his freedom to serve Christ. These problems, which are like ones we confront, reinforce the reality that a Christian believer is not immune to difficulties. On the contrary, they demonstrate that sometimes a believer's problems are multiplied by virtue of being a believer.

The issues we must face when we encounter problems is whether we view them as obstacles or opportunities, and whether we view ourselves as victims or victors. In honesty we must confess that frequently these situations are viewed primarily as obstacles wherein we do not see the opportunities, but only see ourselves as being victimized by unpleasant circumstances. The perspective which we need, in order to change the way we view difficult circumstances, is faith, faith in the goodness of God and faith in the power of God to help.

We see in this week's Gospel reading that people's obstinate unwillingness to trust in Jesus created a situation where they could not experience Christ's power. They had the unfortunate inclination to view Jesus' power in light of their own limitations. However, for God's children life's problems are really opportunities for us to exercise our faith. As our faith is exercised it is made stronger through the process, and we experience Christ's power in new and unusual ways. Ezekiel couldn't be obedient and at the same time sit around and bemoan his job assignment. He had to believe that God knew what was best and in faith proceed with the assignment given him. Paul utilized his faith to ask for deliverance from his malady, and when God said, "No," Paul used his faith not to simply surrender stoically to his condition, but to glory in it, looking to see how God's grace would be magnified through his life because of his sickness. Their faith in God's love and power enabled them to recognize, as did John Paul II, that in reality, another hand, God's, directed their lives. When we view the difficulties and complications that enter our lives as wonderful opportunities to experience God's love, grace, and power, we will find ourselves at peace, energized to do what we can, and amazed at the miracles God works in us and on our behalf.

For this reason, Jesus did not hesitate to proclaim the blessedness of those who suffer: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. This blessedness can only be understood if one admits that human life is not limited to our time spent on earth but is wholly directed to perfect joy and fullness of life in the hereafter. Earthly suffering, when accepted in love, is like a bitter kernel containing the seed of new life, the treasure of divine glory to be given humanity in eternity. It is this hope that is nourished by Christ's promise.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Rep

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
First Sunday of the Month
Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism
Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage
Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick
Please call the office

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper
Tracy Pigott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

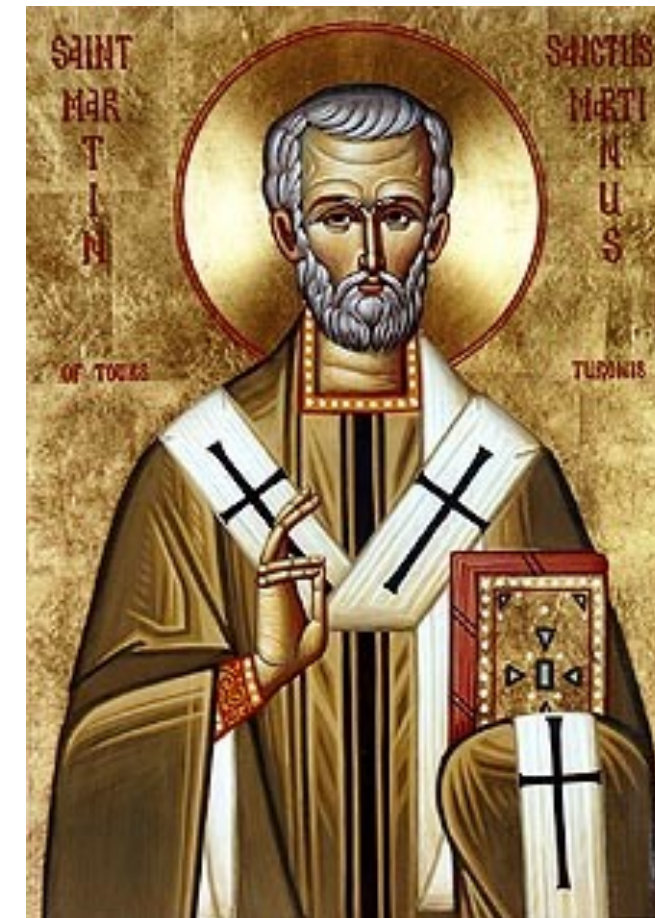
Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

**St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church**



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Ministry Schedule - July 14/15

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Janet & Ron Roscovich
10:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H.

Altar Servers
5:00 pm - Needed
10:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy
No Children's Liturgy until Sept 9th

Next Hospitality Sunday
September 3rd

**July 8, 2018
The 14th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Mitch Pogoda
#2 - Mary Pikula
10:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
#2 - Lisa Poort

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
10:00 am - Paula, Bianca & Victoria

Stewardship Counting
Jennifer Fife & Lisa Poort

July 8, 2018

The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	July 9	9:00 am	A Mass of Thanksgiving of Koshy Alex	by Koshy Alex
Tuesday	July 10	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Wednesday	July 11		****NO MASS TODAY****	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
Thursday	July 12	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Dave Harris	by Helen & Andy Lipiec
Friday	July 13	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the Walsh family	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Saturday	July 14		<i>The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Nora Franko	by Norrie Franko
Sunday	July 15	10:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

SUMMER HOURS

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 10:00 am

No Masses on Wednesday

PARISH MISSION APPEAL

Each year our diocese invites us to welcome a Missionary. We will welcome Father Paul Varuvel, Mission Co-ord-Diocese of Kuzhithurai or his assistant. This Mission Appeal will take place the weekend of August 25,26, 2018. More details to follow.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

PEG would like to thank all the parishioners who attended the Parish Picnic last weekend and all the volunteers who made this event possible from beginning to end. Thank you also to the KOC for the use of their BBQ and the donation of the bread buns.

PARISH BULLETINS

We will be publishing one bulletin per month for the months of July and August. If you would like anything in the August bulletin please have it sent to the office by July 24. Thank you.

GETHSEMANE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

All are invited to join them on Saturday July 14 to celebrate the 3rd Anniversary of the inauguration of the Gethsemane Centre in Wellandport. Please call the centre if you plan on attending. This is a free event.

Event Schedule is as follows:

- 11:00 - Reception
- 11:30 - Mass
- 12:30 - BBQ Lunch
- 2:00 - Praise & Thanksgiving
- 3:00 - Divine Mercy
- 3:30 - Coffee/Tea & Snack

ST. MARTIN'S WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website. You can find the bulletin, the Ministry Schedule and upcoming events there. It is updated every Thursday.

SUNDAY (WEEKEND) MINISTRIES

We kindly remind you to please find a replacement if you cannot server your scheduled ministry. We also require all ministers and altar servers to arrive 15mins prior to Mass. We must begin Mass at the proper scheduled time. Thank you.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

(Apostleship of Prayer)

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

- Jenny Kotuza/Emma Campea - July 8
- Austin Dell – July 8
- Cody Falasca - July 9
- Darren & Matthew O'Keefe – July 9
- Nathaniel Zonruiter – July 10
- Winston Mallia – July 11
- Tiania Malaryk – July 12
- Frank DeFilippis/Linda Mous - July 13
- Cole Riley/Edward Nardini - July 13
- Danielle Severino – July 13
- George Sorbara – July 15

Anniversaries:

- Robert & Cheryl Dell – July 8
- Edward & Danielle Parry – July 8
- Darryl & Rachel Telfore – July 12
- Paul & Michele Altobelli – July 13

PARISH STEWARDSHIP JUNE 30/JULY 1, 2018

Sunday Offering (63 Env):	\$1,660.00
Loose:	\$ 181.50
Facility Maintenance (40 Env):	\$ 550.00
Loose:	\$ 101.05

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

A Summer Blessing

May you walk with God

This summer

In whatever you do

Wherever you go

Walking with God means...

Walking with honesty

And with courage,

Walking with love

And respect

And concern for the feelings of others

May you talk to God

This summer

And every day and

In every situation

Talking with God means...

Praying words of praise

For the beauty of creation

Saying prayers of thanks

For friends and good times,

Asking God's help

In all your decisions

Expressing sorrow

When you have failed

May you talk with God

Every day. Amen.

– Author unknown