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COME AND FOLLOW ME

On October 19, 1984, the Polish state police stopped the car of a priest, beat him to death and then threw his bound body into the River. His crime? Encouraging people to take the side of "good against evil, truth rather than falsehood, and love rather than hatred," thus resisting the evil of the Polish Communist regime.

Jesus also challenges the disciples to choose whether they will be on God's side or not, implying that God's side would entail the suffering, rejection and death of himself, their leader. Can we blame Peter for his response that Jesus should be spared this ordeal? Though our spirit applauds movies like Rocky and Karate Kid, when the hero, beaten and bloodied, arises from the canvas in the final round to overcome the villain's plummeting, we do not desire this kind of victory for ourselves or the ones we love. We, like Peter, would choose for ourselves and others a life free from pain and suffering, believing that our good intentions for them are synonymous with God's intentions for them.

Jesus on the other hand fully recognized that to fulfill God's intentions in a world opposed to his rule, would require a life of sacrifice and a willingness not only to suffer but also to die. Consequently, Jesus spelled out precisely, that suffering, rejection and death lay ahead for many of those who would follow him. He knew that people would have to be willing to not put their comfort and well being ahead of God's mission and will. This was the basis of his call to "come after me."

Knowing people's aversion to pain and suffering and our preoccupation with self-preservation, why did Jesus invite them to follow him while introducing this scenario? Equally mystifying is why the disciples said yes to Jesus' call. This week's Gospel sheds some light on the reasons. First, as we see in Peter's answer to Jesus' question, the disciples had moved from a position of simply viewing Jesus as a great teacher to one of knowing that he was in fact the Christ. When this truth grips a person's heart and mind, as it did the disciples' hearts, then it becomes the most important thing in the world. Once Jesus has become to us, and for us, the Christ, there is no other alternative, and he is to be followed and pursued regardless of the cost.

Second, the promise of suffering, rejection and death included the promise of rising again. Victory was assured regardless of the intensity of the battle. The only way they could lose out in the long run was to choose self-preservation in the short run. The disciples knew that eternity was at stake and were unwilling to settle for the short-term solution of peace now, in exchange for forfeiting the long-term promise of peace for eternity. When our relationship with Christ and a resurrected life with him becomes so important to us that nothing else matters, we will understand and rejoice in Jesus' statement that, "Where I am, there will be my disciples also."

Third, the promise that "whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it" also introduces fulfillment and peace in this life. Throughout history those who have followed Jesus wholeheartedly have discovered joy, peace, contentment, and purpose in the midst of service - a quality of life they would never exchange for the riches, comfort, and security others are striving for and finding unfulfilling. Do you really want a great life, an abundant life? Try following Jesus wholeheartedly. When you look back you will discover that you choose the best.

Christ's call is a call to martyrdom. For most of us it will be a life of martyrdom rather than a death of martyrdom, but we will need to have the same attitude as did Lorenzo Ruiz. This Philippine layman who was martyred in World War II, said, "Even if this body would have a thousand lives, I would let all of them be killed before you would force me to turn my back on Christ."

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 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
 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 12:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper
 Tracy Piggott

St Martin School
 Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
 Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

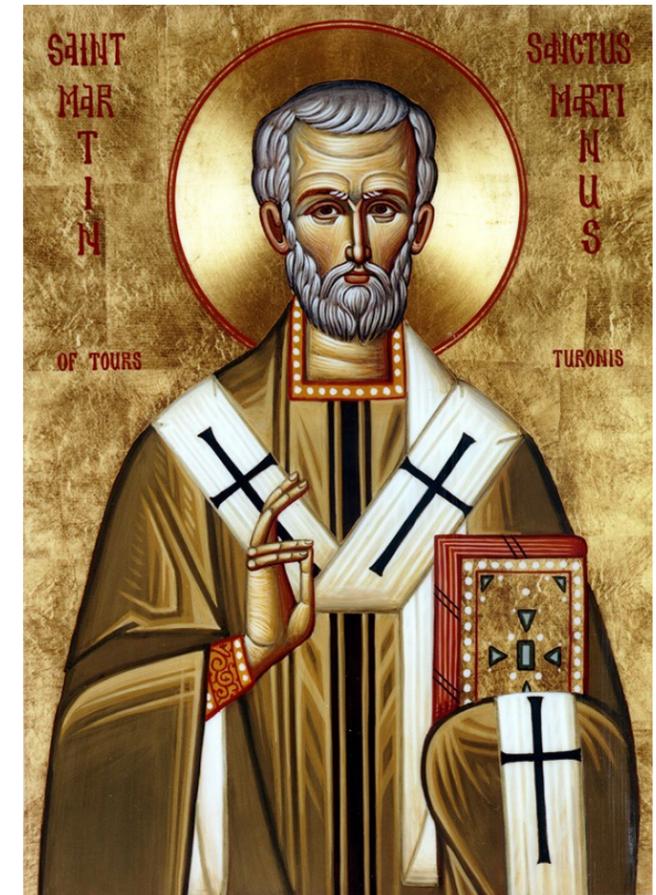
Parish Organizations
 Catholic Women's League
 Knights of Columbus

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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 www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Sept 22/23

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tony Mous
 10:00 am - George Yakowenko

Altar Servers

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

Children's Liturgy

Next Hospitality Sunday

October 7th - Welcome Back &
 Sign Up Sunday

September 16, 2018

**The 24th
 Sunday in
 Ordinary
 Time**

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Tom Shields
 #2 - Kelly Staples
 10:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort
 #2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
 10:00 am - Mike, Mary, Theresa

Stewardship Counting

Halina Grzybek & Antonella Presta

September 16, 2018

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	Sept 17	(NEW) NO MASS MONDAYS Father Christopher's Day Off Diocesan Council for Development & Peace Meeting 7:00pm St. Catharines
Tuesday	Sept 18 9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Stefano Carbonara by Vern & Josie Dell +For the repose of the soul of Shane Riordon by Milton & Christina Taylor
Wednesday	Sept 19 9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Joanne Ferbache by Doug & Maeve Devlin +For the repose of the soul of Geraldine Bell by Sherri deWilde NO 6:30PM MASS THIS WEEK. DO WE NEED A 6:30PM MASS?
Thursday	Sept 20 9:00 am	St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, St. Paul Chong Ha-Sang & Companions +For the repose of the soul of Manuel DaSilva by the Newman family +For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman by family
Friday	Sept 21 9:00 am	St. Matthew +For the repose of the soul of Andy Carbonara by Vern & Josie Dell
Saturday	Sept 22 5:00 pm	The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family
Sunday	Sept 16 10:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Gemma Gillen by Vern & Josie Dell For God's healing grace upon Barb Joyner by Sherri deWilde

Mount Carmel Presents:

"Understanding Grief" Saturday, October 13 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) cost \$65 (includes buffet lunch) Presenter: Anna Racine. Are you experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one, the loss of a marriage, or the breakup of a relationship? Grief is a natural response to loss. Understanding the grief you are feeling is the first step to healing.

Using various methods, we will explore the many facets of grief. **"Everyone grieves in their own way and at their own pace."**

"Life Changes: Who Am I Now?" Saturday, November 10 (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) cost \$65 (includes buffet lunch) Presenters: Anna Racine & Carole Ann Ogilvie. Put more joy and more meaning into your life through self-awareness and self-esteem. For anyone going through or anticipating a major change in their life. Explore how self-image is formed and affected across the lifespan, the components of self-esteem, the strengths which enable us to navigate change, the grieving which may accompany it, and the areas that may need healing in order to live fully who and where I am now.

There will be mini-presentations, personal reflection, and group work. For more info. on these and other happenings, call (905/356-4113) or visit www.carmelniagara.com

Parish Discernment Group V
Next Parish Team Meeting is Saturday
September 29, 2018 - 9:30am to 12 noon.
At Gethsemane Centre Wellandport.
Results of Parish Survey

BISHOP'S CHARTIES DINNER

Saturday October 20th, Club Roma St. Catharines.
Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m.
There will be door prizes, a 50/50 draw and a silent auction with many stellar items. Circle the date: October 20th, and plan on joining us.
Tickets \$50.00 per person.
Please contact the KOC St. Martin of Tours Council 16241. Speak with a Knight following Mass. Thank you.

GRIMSBY LIFE CHAIN

Life Chain will be on **Sunday, September 30** from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Intersection of Main Street and Christie Street. Come Rain, Come Shine!

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

meets at Mount Carmel every second and fourth Monday from 7-9 p.m. Call 905-356-4113 or email: separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS / CAN I DROP BY?

I do spend a considerable amount of time here in the office on weekdays doing a variety of administrative duties, which includes weekday and weekend homily preparation, counselling, and prayer in my private chapel. Quite often I'm out and about performing various aspects of parish ministry. I may be in the Church presiding for a funeral, visiting our school, anointing a Parishioner at the Hospital, house blessing, or at external diocesan meetings. What this means is that I may not always be here if you decide to drop by or try to chat before or after Mass as I'm getting ready for scheduled appointments. Sometimes I'm rushing after Mass to scheduled diocesan appointments out of town.

I always welcome visits and have no problem with people dropping in, but if you do need something that is time sensitive or if you would like to ensure that you have ample time to meet with me, I do encourage that you call ahead to verify. Please note that the set office hours are for Sandy, our parish secretary.

It is very helpful if you identify yourself when you call in, briefly indicate the nature of your request, and offer us a time that might work well for you to come by. We will never pry if it is a personal matter, but a brief explanation allows us to better accommodate you and schedule something that meets your needs.

For example, if you are hoping to have a personal item blessed, such as a rosary, please explain that so that we know your appointment may only take a few moments and we can easily schedule that for you. In contrast, if you wish to have me provide you with a Pastoral Reference or sign a Godparent Sponsor Form, please allow enough time prior to the due date of its submission and we will book enough time so we can ask you a few questions. So even though you are more than welcome to drop by, please don't be disappointed if I'm not able to attend to you at that precise moment. Just give us a quick call if you need us and we will be happy to arrange a meeting either in the office or at Tim Horton's. Thank you for your consideration as we aim to serve you most professionally.

Father Christopher+

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019

Final Call for Young Adults (18+)
interested in participating in
World Youth Day 2019, Panama City

The pilgrimage price has been reduced. The 10 day experience, January 18-28, 2019 is now \$2900, including airfare, accommodations, WYD registration, local travel and some meals. The registration deadline has been extended. Forms and down payment are due on or before Sept. 23, 2018. Visit www.saintcd.com/wyd and email wydpanama2019saintcd@gmail.com your interest & questions.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SEPTEMBER 8/9, 2018

Sunday Offering (65 Env):	\$ 1,621.00
Loose:	\$ 43.50
Late Facility Maintenance (2 Env)	\$ 50.00
Late Summer Mission Appeal (2 Env)	\$ 150.00
Knights of Columbus Donation	\$ 350.00
Memorial Late Anne Glasford	\$ 500.00
Baptismal Offering Church	\$ 20.00
Hall Rental Funeral (Riordon)	\$ 150.00

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

August Mission Appeals- Thank You!

Canadian Missions	\$ 563.30
Summer Mission Appeal for India	\$ 981.10

REGENERATED 2018 CONFIRMED

Are you aware that the gifts you received at Confirmation from the Holy Spirit are to prepare you for battle? You may ask what kind of battle are we talking about? It's called "Spiritual Warfare" ... it's real and it's growing!

On Saturday, November 17th join Branches Catholic Ministries at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls as it host **Regenerated 2018**. Keynote speakers such as Johnnette Benkovic, Thomas Sullivan, Dr. Edward Sri and others will address the misconceptions about this Sacrament and its importance to the stability of the family and ultimately society at large.

Regenerated Youth will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18. If you are interested in purchasing "early-bird" tickets (before Oct 31st) or for more information about these conferences. visit: branchesoftheword.org.

FATAL FLAWS

The St. Catharines Right to Life will present **Fatal Flaws**, a new documentary showing the perils of legalized euthanasia, on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at Harbour Fellowship Church, 51 South Service Rd, St. Catharines, at 7pm. Free admission. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

For more info 905-684-7505 or email: info@chooselife.ca.

GRIMSBY LIFE CENTRE SENIORS STRIDE GROUP

This is a new initiative designed to discuss senior issues and hosted at St. John's church in Grimsby. This discussion group will take place on 7 consecutive Tuesday mornings beginning September 25th. Various topics, including family relations, ageism, well-being, dignity and independence will be discussed. If you would like to sign up, please call 905-309-0944 to register by Sept. 17th .