

Reflection... (by Richard Leonard SJ)



Recently I was shocked by a Catholic woman who told me she didn't care very much for her local Bishop. She enumerated the many faults and failings of her diocese and its leader and then highly praised Pope John Paul II.

It's hard to argue with her admiration of the Pope, but unknowingly, she was falling into the same trap to which the community at Corinth was prey. Unfortunately, my acquaintance thought that her Catholic identity primarily came from her communion with the Bishop of Rome. She felt she could bypass her local bishop, 'because he's too trendy', and 'deal direct' with the Pope. She told me she saw the Pope as her bishop. The problem with her position is that it is not Catholic!

All of us in the Church are called to pray for, support and follow the lead of the Holy Father. But our Catholic identity comes from our communion with our local church, in and through its bishop, who is in turn, in communion with the Bishop of Rome. This is what the five-yearly ad limina visits are all about: a brother bishop sharing with the Pope the graces and challenges in his local Church and reaffirming the Catholic faith that unites all of us as members of the same universal Church.

Soon after Jesus called the apostles, disputes broke out among them. We know from the whole of the New Testament that there were serious disagreements between the earliest leaders in the Church. Their different temperaments and missions led to several misunderstandings. What St Paul found in Corinth, however, was a fractured Church, pleading allegiances to different leaders over and against Jesus. He teaches the Corinthians a critical lesson in being Church: we are all one under Jesus' leadership. Christ is the head of the Church.

Within ancient and clear limits the Church has a wonderful diversity, a plurality of expression, emphasis and culture. It's always been like this. It means the Church is taking seriously its role of finding Christ in every place and every community in the world. The moment we pit one local Church against the other ('I prefer the Pope to my bishop') we lose the Catholic communion in Christ Jesus which holds us together.

(Cont'd P2)

- 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -

(Year A - January 23, 2011.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Truth and beauty surround him, he lives in holiness and glory.

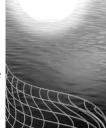
RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.



PARISH PRAYER:

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more. Help the parents to be a good example to the children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy. May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Heavenly Father, help us to respond to and live out our mission in the Church, and in the world. Help all your people to know their vocation in life and assist them to live it well.

For your greater glory and for the service of your people, call many to be priests and religious. Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A1st Reading:Zeph 2:3, 3:12-132nd Reading:1Cor 1:26-31Gospel:Mt 5:1-12

FR MICK'S MATES - RELAY FOR LIFE: I would like to offer a sincere thanks to the dedicated workers who have organized,	UPDATE ON FUNDRA	ISING
catered and worked on these events, and a big thanks to the three Parish	Melbourne Cup Luncheon	1766.00 !
communities who have participated in raising this amount. We have two further activities for this year -	Craft Stalls and Raffle after Mass	3362.00
Boat Trip on the Bay, Fri Feb 25 departing at 7pm with BYO drinks and a plate	Rotary Raffle Tickets	2000.00
to share. Price \$20 per person.	Holy Family Big Cuppa	140.66
Tickets limited to 60, so BOOK EARLY! Phone David Lunn on 0408 378 982.	Sausage Sizzles after Mass	344.20
RELAY FOR LIFE WEEKEND OF MARCH 19/20 AT DEAKIN:	Bunning's Sausage Sizzles	1864.05
Registrations will be taken in February after each of the Masses. For Holy Family see Vicki Resciniti 5278 1363 or Bernadette Kline 5278 9316; Holy	Misc Donations	112.00
Spirit - Amy O'Brien 5229 9911 and Ss Peter & Paul's - Desma Dougherty 5278 2712. (David Lunn)	Total to Date:	<u>9588.85</u>

AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENT DEATHS:	Rosa Valentino	F
ANNIVERSARIES:	Heather Bourke, Ted & Anne Bourke, Allan McFarlane, Alison DaCosta, Assunta Nadile, Mervyn Rupesinghe, Josip Brajkovic, Leonora Tibig, Gerard McGrath, Alois Baum, Troy Guthridge, Kevin Lee, (One month since death - Vytautas Bindokas)) () F a
BAPTISMS:	Sienna Vandenbroucke, Marcus Zajc (P&P)	ľ
PRAY FOR THE SICK:	Damian Taylor, Iolanda Marruso, Wendy Commons, Giuseppa Resciniti, Margaret Donaghy, Patricia McMahon, Margaret Harris, Maria Law, Mary Smith, Joseph Escorse, Peter Farrar, Florence Williams, Pasha Alden, Doris Bole, Jenny Pegg, Heidi Maguire.	H A E

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS: Enrolments for all sacraments, particularly Reconciliation, are invited for children in the Cluster parishes who are attending non-Catholic schools. Enrolments will be taken on Mon Feb 14 and Tues Feb 15, 8.30am-5pm For more information contact Frank Kearney at the Cluster Office on 5278 1343.

MANIFOLD BRANCH OF CWL:

Will hold their first meeting for 2011 in the Holy Spirit Church Hall, 2pm on Tues Feb 1. New or interested members welcome to come along. For transport or information ph Tricia Joyce on 5221 1986 or Jeanette Sheahan on 5278 2063.

(/Cont'd from p1)...

Paul tells us preaching the Cross of Jesus is the mission of the Church. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel that teaching, preaching and healing are the hallmarks of his ministry. And the same should hold for us. No matter how differently any local church might develop, the Bishop of Rome confirms in the faith Bishops who continue to preach Christ crucified, teach in Christ's name, heal the sick and reconcile the estranged.

That's what makes us Catholic and why today we need to listen again and very carefully, to Paul's admonition, 'I beg you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and purpose.'

To the degree to which we live this out in our communion with our local successor to the Apostles, the more chance all members of the Church have to use the energy and gifts given at baptism to do what Christ wants of the Church: to change the world for good and be a beacon of the saving Christ's gifts – faith, hope and charity.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2011.

(5th Sunday of the Month)

HOLY FAMILY

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers

HOLY SPIRIT:

Commentators Lectors Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist

Ss PETER & PAUL'S:

Commentators Readers Special Ministers Welcomers Projectionist 8.00AM R Allum A Vanjek F Chrimes, J Bartolo, I Vanjek, B McFarlane U Guardiano, K McArthur

<u>6.00PM</u>

Sr Sibberas J O'Neill D Boyle, M Abbott, D Torpy V Logan, P Ryan B Stocks

<u>S: 5.00PM</u>

C O'Brian D O'Brian N Neeld, J Jess <u>9.30AM</u> T McMahon C&J Taylor G&P Carmody, D Farrar, R&R Zanardo M&E Hoffman

<u>11.00AM</u>

M Shilling M Currie V Trinder, M Currie A Dickson, D King, I Cleary, C Kelynack L Coles