

Keeping Promises

**Teach me
Your ways,
O Lord...**

Prophets are accepted provided that they come from somewhere else. The people of Nazareth did not believe that God could speak through one of their own. He was just a local carpenter's son who had grown up among them and had no formal education as a rabbi. Jesus was far too ordinary and too close to home to be taken seriously. Their arrogance prevented them from recognising the presence of God in their own community. They felt the Jews were the chosen people and enjoyed special preference in the heart of God. No wonder then, when Jesus reminded them that God hadn't any favourites, a wave of disbelief swept across the synagogue. They were disturbed by his authority, got very upset, responded with fury, hustled him out of the town and tried to throw him over a cliff.

Like the people of Nazareth we may find it difficult to believe God is speaking to us in the ordinary events of our lives. It is in the everyday circumstances of home, workplace and community that we meet God.

A friend is completing teacher's college this year and is applying for positions. She is bright, faithful and energetic so I am surprised to see how nervous she is for her upcoming interviews, as any school board would be blessed to have her. I assured her that God would take care of everything, which she said helped to give her a sense of peace as she prepares.

As I reflected on the reality that God does take care of everything I marveled at how simple our lives could be yet in reality they are not.

We all pray: "Thy will be done," which makes absolute sense as God's will shall be done given God is all powerful and all-knowing and it is God's creation after all but though this argument is completely logical, we still get the butterflies when we faced with a challenge or a test, at least I do and so does my friend.

Individually we know that God's desire for us is simple: To share in the abundant gift of creation whilst growing in relationship with God and neighbour as such relationships allow us to properly enjoy creation and not exploit it. It is the same desire most parents have for their children. So really my friend need not worry. She simply needs to trust that God's will shall be done and if this job is best for her then she will get it but if there is a better job down the road, not getting this job is the best outcome and she need not worry.

A little fear is a good thing though as it motivates us into action, the key is to not base our decisions on it. An old friend illustrates this well as he returned to school in his thirties for yet another degree. My friend loves education and his heart was telling him to keep studying. His mother on the other hand was afraid that none of his degrees were leading to gainful employment so she told him that she doesn't care what letters follow his name after his next degree as long as they spell JOB. As much as I can appreciate his mother's fears, I respect my friend for making his decision based on love rather than fear. It is assuring to know that God never abandons us and continues to invite us onto paths of peace as I am sure God appreciates how long it can take for us to trust a God who is beyond our senses. We need only look to God's patience with Abraham who was 99 before he entered into a covenantal relationship with God and was led to the Promised Land as the Father of Faith. A promise is a promise and it is assuring to know that God always keeps his, regardless of how hard hearted we are. God continues to hold us in the palm of His hands, a safe place to be as the butterflies flutter.

John Humphries



Mass Intentions

Monday	Soul of George Chin
Tuesday	Soul of Rejpat Kawall Soul of Patrick Yu
Wednesday	Intention of Joyce Turk
Thursday	Souls of Deceased members of the Wong & Chan Families
Friday	Soul of John Frederick Jack Wilson

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

On Saturday, February 2nd, the Church celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we are blessed to have living and serving among us more than 900 religious men and women of 100 different religious congregations. This World Day for Consecrated Life is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank God for the gifts of these religious sisters, brothers and priests and to pray for God's blessing upon them in their efforts to faithfully live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will preside at a **special Mass on Sunday, February 3rd at 3:00 p.m.** at **St. Paul's Basilica**, 83 Power St., Toronto in celebration of the vocation and witness of these special men and women religious who are such a vital and important part of the life and ministry of the Church in our Archdiocese. All are welcome to attend.

FRIAR'S STUDENT WRITING AWARD

It is time once again for the Friars' Student Award. Students aged 14-18 are invited to write a 500 word essay on the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated January 18-25, 2019. The theme for 2019 is "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (cf Deuteronomy 16:20). Students should read the Scripture passage and respond to the following statement in the essay:

Christians sometimes commit to prayer and worship but neglect the poor. Sometimes we pray in the church, but act unkindly to others or exploit the environment.

Refer to Deuteronomy 16:18-20 and answer: How can Catholics and Christians of all denominations unite to create a more just society and be examples of Christ's healing grace in a broken world?

1st prize: HP Pavilion X360 laptop

2nd prize: iPad 6th gen. (32 GB)

3rd prize Google Home 2 speaker

Essays will be edited and published in the Catholic Register.

Deadline for entries is February 18, 2019.

E-mail your essay to editor@catholicregister.org or FAX it to 416 934-3409 (please include your full name, e-mail address, phone number and the name of your school on the front of the essay).

For further information please see the bulletin board.

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

MASS WITH CARDINAL COLLINS

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2019

The Archdiocese of Toronto will celebrate Marriage Sunday the weekend of February 9/10, 2019.

On Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. couples from across the archdiocese will gather for "A Celebration of Marriage" with Cardinal Thomas Collins at St. Clare of Assisi Parish (150 St. Francis Avenue, Woodbridge).

A reception will follow Mass. All are welcome!

Couples celebrating special milestone anniversaries during 2019 are asked to register online at:

www.archtoronto.org/marriage to ensure reserved seating.

Call (416) 964-8694 or visit the website above for more information.

OLEG SAMOKHIN PIANO RECITAL

Saturday March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Oleg is holding a recital here in the sanctuary on the above date. You and your friends and relatives will not want to miss his dazzling performance of the wonderful music of Beethoven, Schumann, and Schubert.

Reserved tickets are \$20, \$25, and \$30 and may be purchased by logging on to

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4056351> and using credit or debit to reserve your seat from the seating chart. Your ticket will be emailed or mailed to you or simply have your name put on a list and check in at the door.

If you have questions speak to Greg Benoit after the Sunday masses or by calling him at 647-296-6851 or emailing him at greg.benoit@rogers.com or call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006

Please purchase in advance to avoid a lineup on concert night. Tickets at the door will be \$35

Come join us for a most inspirational evening!

"COME AND SEE WEEKEND

March 15-17, 2019

St. Augustine's Seminary

Inviting single Catholic men 17 years and older to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to better discernment of God's call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ's disciples as a Catholic priest. See the bulletin board for more information.