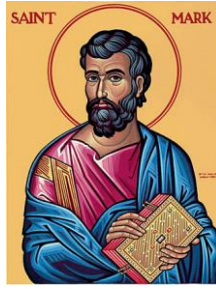


The Gospel of Mark



We have four Gospels: **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. MARK is used in “Liturgical Year B.” It is the earliest written Gospel; understanding it can help us to personally encounter Jesus in a profound way.

What is the Gospel of Mark? This Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ, written in a straightforward, right-to-the-point way. It is so direct that, at one time, some thought it was a collection of notes. It is believed that the disciple Mark, who followed Peter around and took notes on his preaching, wrote it. Several early fathers of the church make references to the man who wrote this Gospel, based on Peter’s preaching. However Mark must have put his own spin on Peter’s words or else this Gospel would have been called the Gospel of Peter rather than Mark! So what we have in this Gospel is the saving message that Peter preached, with Mark’s personal touch. This is a good reminder for us that the apostles preached concrete stories about their relationship with Jesus and what Jesus did.

Who was Mark? The author of the second Gospel is “John Mark.” His mother was named Mary, and she owned the house in Jerusalem where the early Church met (Acts 12:12). When Barnabas and Paul visited Jerusalem, they took John Mark with them to Antioch, but he left the trip early and returned home. The next time Barnabas and Paul went on a journey, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul did not want to take him, because he had abandoned the last trip. Paul and Barnabas disagreed so strongly that they split up in their missionary travels (Acts 15:36-41).

In his first letter, Peter writes that he is in Rome with “Mark,” an abbreviation of “John Mark.” The tradition of Mark in Rome is connected with the long-held belief that Mark took notes on Peter’s preaching and recorded them in what we have today as his Gospel. Eusebius recorded the tradition that Mark went on to bring the faith to Egypt and was the first bishop of Alexandria.

What does the Gospel of Mark tell us? This Gospel deals with the ministry in Galilee, and the events of the last week of Jesus’ life. Mark begins with the Baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River; his concern throughout is more the actions of Jesus than His words. The miracles occupy a quarter of the Gospel.

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says, “There seems to be desire to impress the readers from the outset with Christ’s almighty power...” The first Chapter has 3 miracles; 15 of the 18 miracles occur in the first 8 Chapters. Mark emphasizes Jesus’ human feelings, and the effect of His miracles on the crowd. Mark focuses on the mission and the meaning of Jesus.

How would we use Mark’s Gospel in our daily life? The Gospel of Mark can be used as a powerful tool to draw us closer to Jesus. This of course is the original intent of the Gospel: to bring people to Jesus. Reading Mark’s Gospel is a great help for people who are depressed, feeling helpless or worried about something about which they really can’t do anything. Whenever we are in this state, we should read Mark, especially those first 8 Chapters with all the miracle stories. We can let those miracles, one by one, wash over us. Each miracle reminds us of God’s great power and how Jesus reached out to help those who were powerless.

In Chapter 2, men brought their friend to Jesus for a cure. They could even get near Jesus because of the crowd. They felt as helpless as we would feel if we brought a sick child into a crowded emergency room and the receptionist just told us take a seat and wait; but these men lowered their friend through the roof. Jesus rewarded them, despite their clumsy attempts to get His attention. We remind ourselves that He will notice us too when we are in these situations.

In Chapter 3, Jesus went to the synagogue and saw a man with a shriveled hand. The man did not even ask for a cure. Jesus just cured him. How many times has Jesus helped us before we even think about asking?

In Chapter 5, a possessed man, whom we would call “psychotic” today, rushed at Jesus. We can feel for this man. He was overwhelmed with anxiety. He did not know whether he was coming or going. He could not think straight. He was full of fear. He did not want to be hurting anymore. Does any of that sound familiar? Jesus cured him, even though he could not even ask for a cure. Jesus knew exactly what he needed, and He provided it for him with true compassion and love. These miracle stories in Mark are very consoling.

Mark’s Gospel reminds us that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour, into the world to save us. The way we show our love and thanks is by the way we live our lives. To live according to Mark’s Gospel, we have to trust in God’s love for us. Even when times are tough, we can live in joy and peace.



Parish Week ☩ Sunday, 13 August 2023

Saturday, 12 Aug. / St. Jane Frances de Chantal, *religious*

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)
3.30 pm Finance Council
5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)

SUNDAY, 13 AUG. / 19-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*
■ *2nd Collection: Canadian Missions*

9.00 am Mass: † Domingo Garcia (Emilio Go & family)
10.30 am Mass: † Ana Madrero (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Betty (Deborah Paciej)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday 14 Aug. / St. Maximilian Kolbe, *priest & martyr*

8.00 am Mass: † Cyrilda Alagaratnam (Shirani Hemachandra)
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Maulion family members (Corine)

Tuesday, 15 Aug. / Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.00 am Mass: † Cyril Bastiampillai (family)
6.00 pm Holy Hour
7.00 pm Mass: Feast Day Mass (Pro Populo)

Wednesday, 16 Aug. / St. Stephen of Hungary

■ *7 pm: Annual Mass for the Faithful Departed (At Catholic Cemeteries)*
8.00 am Mass: † Cifaldi, Michele & Teresa (Irma Pisciola)

Thursday, 17 Aug. / St. Lawrence, *deacon & martyr*

8.00 am Mass: Int. 4th Birthday of Christopher Ryan (Shoba)

Friday, 18 Aug.

8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday (Mukesh Kapadia)

Saturday, 19 Aug. St. John Eudes, *priest*

8.00 am Mass: † Fernando Remedios (Jose)
5.00 pm Mass: † Angelina & Domenic Fernandes (Joseph)
6.00 pm Family Fun Night

SUNDAY, 20 AUG. / 20-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

9.00 am Mass: † Luigi DeCicco (Emma)
10.30 am Mass: † Roberto Galicia (Ace & Gie Alvarez)
12.00 pm Mass: † Tseng Yuen Yun Liang (Buyser Family)
1.30 pm Knights of Columbus: *Gen. Mtg. & Installation*
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Catholic Cemetery Masses 7.00 pm, 16 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES in our diocese this year will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 August. The celebrants at the closest cemeteries to us will be:

CHRIST THE KING, *Markham*: **Bishop Vincent Nguyen**
HOLY CROSS, *Thornhill*: **Bishop John A. Boissonneau**

Knights of Columbus 20 August, 1.30 pm

The next KOC General Meeting: 1.30 pm, Sunday, 20 August (N. Classroom). It will be followed by the INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS in the Church at 2.30 pm. We look forward to seeing our honoured guests, Knights **Dennis Wahking & Hamilton Wiltshire**.

Focus on the Word

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 Kings 19.9-13; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.22-33

Almighty and ever living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Amen.

Feast of the Assumption

15 August - Masses at 8 am and 7 pm



Tuesday, 15 August, is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be two Masses: at 8.00 am and 7.00 pm. The evening Mass will be preceded by a Holy Hour at 6.00 pm.

Family Fun Night 19 August, 6-10 pm

Mark your calendars! Our Parish Ministries are holding a FAMILY FUN NIGHT, Saturday, 19 August, 6-10 pm.

This is a fundraiser for our Parish *ShareLife* Appeal.

☐ Karaoke ☐ Bingo ☐ Door Prizes

☐ Line Dancing ☐ 50/50 draw

Tickets are limited, and include a meal.

Pick up yours at the FUN NIGHT ticket table in the Vestibule at any Sunday Mass. For more details, call: **Peter**, 647-679-9649.

Finance Council 12 August, 3.30 pm

The next Finance Council meeting will be held in the Vestibule at 3.30 pm on Saturday, 12 August.

Fr. Sam Samuel Visit to our Parish, 25 August

Our Parish looks forward to welcoming **Fr. Sam Samuel**, VC, the Director of Divine Retreat Centre Toronto. Fr. Sam was last here for the *Mission Co-op* Appeal, 4 August 2019, when he preached for the missionary apostolate of the Vincentian Congregation, founded in Kerala. Fr. Sam will be here on Friday, 25 August, to assist at the Wedding of **Pearl D'Souza** and **Edwin Grisales**.

2nd Collection: 13 August, Canadian Missions

On 13 August, the 2nd collection is for the *Canadian Missions Shared Collection*.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA (CMIC) was established in 1908, to provide support to Catholic missionaries (Priests, sisters, brothers & lay people) who dedicate their lives to proclaim the Gospel throughout the poorest regions in Canada.

CMIC and some selected DIOCESES IN NORTHERN CANADA, help sustain and extend the Catholic faith to hard-to-reach mission areas in Canada. See the website bulletin for more details.

COMING UP

7019o23

25 Aug.

Wedding: Grisales – D'Souza (10:30 am)

26 Aug.

Wedding: Kranz – Lago (2:00 pm)

4 Sep.

Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

The Papal Visit

An Historic Journey

The Bishops of Canada are thankful for the historic visit of **Pope Francis** to our country in **July 2022**. He came to fulfill his promise to manifest by his very presence his closeness to the Indigenous Peoples of this land. This visit is a significant milestone on the path of healing and reconciliation.

In his various public and private addresses, he gave a heartfelt and solemn apology to Indigenous Peoples on behalf of the Catholic Church, spoke of his admiration for Indigenous culture and spirituality, expressed profound sadness at the lasting impact of colonization, acknowledged the catastrophic impact of the residential school system, and sought forgiveness for abuses, including sexual abuses, that were committed by members of the Church.

The Holy Father called on us to continue to assist survivors and families in healing from the traumas they have suffered. We have heard this call and will be reviewing an updated action plan during our National Plenary Assembly this fall. It is our hope that the relationships forged in this planning process, particularly with Indigenous partners at both the national and local levels, will grow well beyond this visit and serve as the foundation for the work that lies ahead. In conversations with our Indigenous sisters and brothers, we have heard:

- ❑ Calls for greater transparency with the preservation and disclosure of residential school records;
- ❑ Asks for support to address the issue of Indigenous artifacts housed at the Vatican Museum;
- ❑ A desire to affirm the inherent rights of Indigenous people and to clarify the historical policies and principles often referred to as the “Doctrine of Discovery”;
- ❑ An invitation to walk with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities in addressing systemic injustices which continue to today; *and*
- ❑ To support initiatives for healing and reconciliation.

This guidance will be instrumental to our next steps as we seek to walk together in a new way.

During our 2021 Plenary Assembly, the Canadian Bishops pledged to promote access to records, educate clergy on Indigenous cultures and spirituality, continue dialogue with Indigenous communities and engagement with the Vatican regarding artifacts, and commit \$30 million for what would eventually become an Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. We are grateful to the Indigenous partners, governments and faithful Catholics who have helped us make meaningful progress on these commitments, while recognizing that significant work lies ahead.



Reconciliation is a journey that involves all of us, and the Holy Father’s presence has been a source of hope and inspiration for Canadians across the country. We would like to sincerely thank the Survivors for their bravery and openness to be a part of these encounters with the Holy Father and to the Indigenous partners for their assistance in the planning process. We are blessed to have been part of this penitential pilgrimage and conclude this week with renewed hope for walking together towards a better future.

Pope Francis in Sri Lanka and Philippines

13 – 19 January 2015

Pope Francis gave **Sri Lanka** its first saint on 14 January 2015, and also drew a crowd so large and interfaith in the minority Christian nation that it stunned even the Vatican.

Christians make up just 7 % of the population in Sri Lanka, where around 70 % are Buddhist, and 13 % are Hindu.

Among the hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans lined up in Colombo to greet the Pope were many from non-Christian denominations who welcomed his visit warmly. “Even Buddhists were waving their flags joyfully from the steps of a Buddhist temple when he arrived,” said Amal Nanayak Kata, a 56-year-old Buddhist. “We are delighted he came to bless our beautiful island.” Shyamala Rasaratnam, a 55-year-old Hindu, said he was impressed by the Pope’s Mass and by his demeanor. “He exuded peace and calm and an abundance of kindness and empathy. He stressed that, in the end, all religions should live in peaceful existence.”

While Pope Francis is no stranger to warm welcomes, Sri Lanka's all-inclusive display of affection took even the Vatican by surprise. “There were so many people on the way from the airport, it was very impressive,” said Father Federico Lombardi, the Pope’s spokesman. “We did not expect this warm of a welcome in a country in which Catholics are not the majority.”

While interfaith dialogue has ranked high on the Pope Francis’ agenda since his 2013 election, his call for reconciliation has hit a nerve in Sri Lanka, a country where religious tensions have run deep. The Pope told Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim leaders in Sri Lanka that he hopes his visit will “encourage and deepen the various forms of inter-religious cooperation” undertaken in recent years.

That message appealed to Gazalli Mohideen, a 53-year-old Muslim, who cited the Pope's universal appeal. He said, “It’s a fantastic opportunity, especially thanks to this Pope, who works towards multi-religious harmony. When it comes to Sri Lanka, multi-religious harmony is the need of the hour.”

To prove that he practices what he preaches, the Pope on Wednesday traveled to Madhu, a northern region which was at the crossroad of Sri Lanka's bloody 25-year civil war.

“There are families here today which suffered greatly in the long conflict which tore open the heart of Sri Lanka,” the Pope told a gathering, urging reconciliation for “all the evil which this land has known.”

“Only when we come to understand, in the light of the Cross, the evil of which we are capable, and of which we have even been a part, can we experience true remorse and true repentance,” he said after releasing a dove. “Only then can we receive the grace to approach one another in true contrition, offering and seeking true forgiveness.”



[Above: Pope Francis in Sri Lanka; below, in the Philippines.]



Pope Francis then made a pastoral and state visit to the **Philippines** from January 15 to 19, 2015. He was the third pontiff to visit the Philippines after Paul VI in 1970 and St. John Paul II in 1981 & 1995.

Besides Manila, Pope Francis visited Tacloban and Palo, Leyte, to encourage the victims of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) and Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby). Around 7 million attended his final Mass at Luneta, surpassing the crowd at World Youth Day 1995 in the same venue, and making it the largest papal crowd in history. The theme of his 2015 visit was *Mercy and Compassion* (Habag at Malasakit).

Catholic Church in USA recognizes three women with highest pro-life distinction

The award recognizes Catholics who dedicate their lives to pro-life activities and promote respect for the dignity of the human person.

(ZENIT News / Washington, 07.31.2023)

Three champions of the pro-life cause were honored on July 17 at the 2023 *People of Life* awards during the annual Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference in Toledo, Ohio. This year's honorees are Margaret H. (Peggy) Hartshorn, Ph.D., Aurora Tinajero, and Dr. Kathryn Moseley.

Approximately 80 Catholic pro-life leaders and guests attended the awards dinner, including Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Also in attendance was Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus.

The *People of Life* award recognizes Catholics who have answered the call outlined by St. John Paul II in *The Gospel of Life* (Evangelium Vitae, 1995) by dedicating themselves to pro-life activities and promoting respect for the dignity of the human person. It is bestowed in honor of their significant and longtime contributions to the culture of life.

Margaret H. (Peggy) Hartshorn, Ph.D.

Dr. Hartshorn is current Chairman of the Board of Heartbeat International, and co-founder of Heartbeat International's Option Line. Since 1973, she and her husband have been dedicated to the pro-life movement, not only working with the educational, political, and legislative arm of the movement, but also began housing pregnant women in their home in 1974, and additionally opened the first pregnancy help center in Columbus, Ohio, in 1981. Peggy is the recipient of many awards for pro-life work, including the President's Volunteer Service Award under President George H.W. Bush, the Defender of Life Award from Students for Life, the Cardinal John J. O'Connor pro-life award from Legatus International, and the Catholic Woman of the Year Award from the Diocese of Columbus.

Aurora Tinajero

Mrs. Tinajero started her pro-life ministry in the Diocese of Dallas in 1984. When the Catholic Pro-Life Committee was founded in 1993, she was invited to join the board to represent the Spanish-speaking community. Beginning in 2003, Aurora also worked as Spanish Ministry Director at the Catholic Pro-life Committee of North Texas (CPLC). In 2008, Aurora organized the first Spanish Congress with pro-life leaders from 14 Spanish-speaking countries and 17 states to train Spanish-speaking clergy and lay leaders to develop parish pro-life initiatives. In 2011, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted invited Aurora to help organize the second Bi-National Hispanic Congress in Phoenix. Aurora has been

invited to help expand parish and diocesan pro-life programs, speaking throughout the United States, Latin America, and Spain. Aurora has also served as the *Respect Life* leader of her parish for 18 years. She is the mother of 5 daughters and grandmother of 24 grandchildren.

Kathryn Moseley, MD, MPH.

Dr. Moseley died at the age of 70 in June 2023. She was honored as a life-long pro-life health care advocate. She was Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Emerita at the University of Michigan and was a board-certified pediatrician and neonatologist. During her career as a medical professional, she addressed disparities in health care based on race, especially concerning African-American unborn babies and their mothers. Dr. Moseley received training in Catholic bioethics at the Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University Medical School and later added secular bioethics training at the University of Chicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Ethics. Dr. Moseley is a past chair of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) of the American Medical Association. She additionally served on the national ethics committees for the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Board of Pediatrics. She was the National Secretary for the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities and was a member of the original taskforce evaluating standards for ethics consultation.

The awardees join 40 other PEOPLE OF LIFE recipients since the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities established the award.

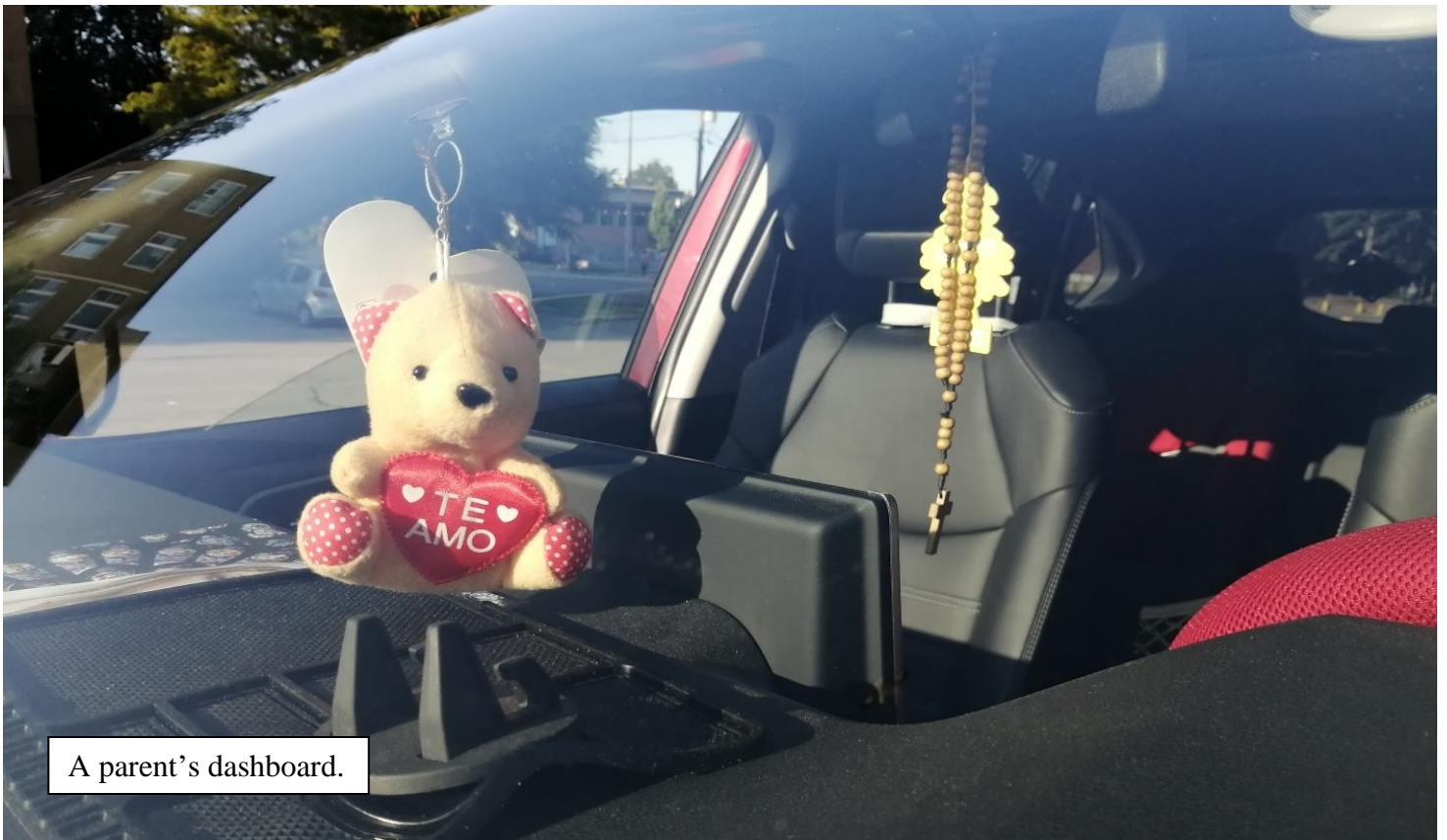
Prayer for the Unborn

Heavenly Father, protect against all wickedness those helpless little ones to whom You have given the gift of life. Touch with pity the hearts of those women pregnant in our world today who are not thinking of motherhood. Help them to see that the child they carry is made in Your image – and is really theirs.

Dispel their fear and selfishness and give them true womanly hearts to love their babies and give them birth and all the needed care that a mother can give.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.





A parent's dashboard.

The Teacher

An old man was sitting on a park bench, when a young man came up to him and said, “Do you remember me?”

The old man said, “No.”

The young man told him that he was his student. The old teacher asked, “What do you do in life?”

The young man answered, “I became a teacher.”

“Ah, good for you. A teacher like me?”

“Yes. I became a teacher because you inspired me.”

The old man was curious, and asked the young man how he chose to be a teacher. The young man said:

“One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came in with a nice new watch, and I decided I wanted it. I stole it out of his pocket. Shortly after, my friend noticed that his watch was missing and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you. Then you told the class, ‘This student’s watch was stolen during class today. Whoever stole it, please return it.’

I didn’t give it back. You closed the door and told us all to stand up and form a circle.

You were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found. However, you told us that you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

We followed your instructions.

You went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone’s pockets, and when you were done you said, ‘Open your eyes. We have the watch.’

You didn’t tell on me and you never mentioned the episode again. You never said who had stolen the watch. That day you saved my dignity forever. It was the most shameful day of my life, but it was also the day I decided not to go down that road. I would not become a thief or a bad person. You never said anything, nor did you even scold me or take me aside to give me a lecture. I received your message clearly. Thanks to you, I understood what a real educator does. Do you remember this episode, Professor?”

The old professor answered, “Yes, I do remember the day of the stolen watch. I remember looking for it in everyone’s pocket. But I didn’t remember you, because I also closed my eyes while I was looking.”

World Day of Prayer, 15 March 2020



25 March 2023 at Presentation Manor



The spiritual wisdom of **Ste. Thérèse of Lisieux**

"**Holiness** consists simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be."

"**Everything is a grace**, everything is the direct effect of our Father's love. Difficulties, contradictions, humiliations, all the soul's misunderstandings, sufferings, everything is a grace."

"**I understand** that every flower created by Him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy. I understand that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its loveliness.

And so it is in the world of souls, where each one has its own mission and is different from the others in its qualities and sanctity."



[Above and Right: Food drive, 31 March 2010.]



Quotes of **St. Gianna Molla**

“Love and sacrifice are closely linked, like the sun and the light. We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love.”

“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.”

“In order to bring true peace to my soul, the only way that exists on the Earth is Confession. Jesus awaits me with His immense heart.”

“Our body is a cenacle, a monstrance: through its window, the world should see God.”