**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

* **Mon 27TH JULY, 2015**

Ex 32:15-24,30-34; Ps 126:1-6;

Mt 13:31-35

* **Tues 28th JULY**,2015

Ex 33:7-11;34:5-9,28; Ps 103:6-13;

Mt 13:36-43

* **Wed 29th JULY, 2015(St. Martha)**

Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7,9;

Jn 11:19-27

* **Thu 30th JULY, 2015**

Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6,8,11;

Mt 13:47-53

* **Fri 31st JULY, 2015(Ignatius of Loyola)**

Lev 23:1,4-11,15-16; Ps 81:3-6,10-11;

Mt 13:18-23

* **Sat 1st AUGUST, 2015(Alphonsus Liguori)**

Lev 25:1,8-17; Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8;

Mt 14:1-12

**2ND AUGUST, 2015**

**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**1stReading: Ex 16:2-4,12-15**

**Resp. Ps : Ps 78:3-4,23-25,54**

**2nd Reading: Eph 4:17,20-24**

**Gospel : Jn 6:24-25**

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**1st Reading:** 2 Kgs 4:43-44.

The prophet Elisha miraculously provides abundant food for a hundred men. This foreshadows our Lord's miracle of the loaves.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:10-11, 15-18**

**YOU OPEN YOUR HAND, LORD, AND SATISFY US.**

**2nd Reading:** Eph 4:1-6.

From prison, St. Paul invites his readers to live a life in keeping with the Gospel, emphasising unity and harmony.

**GOSPEL:** Jn 6:1-15.

Jesus feeds a crowd of five thousand with five barely loaves and a couple of dried fish.

***Reflection***

Five loaves and two fish cannot feed a crowd of five thousand men. It is impossible. And yet, when the Apostles hand over their paltry resources to the Lord, they become more than enough to do the job. The same goes for every Christian. The mission we have received, the mission of being bright torches in this dark world, torches that guide searching souls towards the hope of heaven - this mission is beyond our natural capacities. We only have five loaves and two fish; by ourselves we can do nothing. Only if we put all we have and all we are into Christ's hands, confiding in him and not ourselves, can we hope to fulfill our life mission and make a real difference for the good of the Kingdom - in our hearts and in society at large. What we could never achieve on our own, we can immeasurably surpass with God.

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**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

***JULY 26TH, 2015: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

**THEME FOR THE WEEK**: **THE GOD OF POSSIBILITIES**

Acts 2:14, 36-41. Jesus, who has been rejected, now offers salvation to those who are willing to repent and believe in him. Faith in him as Lord brings with it forgiveness and the gift of the Spirit.

1 Pt 2:20-25. The Christian is called to share in the sufferings of Christ. The pattern of Christians living is to prefer Christ to oneself.

Jn 10:1-10. Jesus is a shepherd leading his followers to salvation. He personally invites them to a life of companionship with him.

Reflection

Jesus wants us to know he is: the Good Shepherd who protects and cares for the people of God just as a shepherd does his sheep. Shepherds always want their sheep to be healthy and happy. They want them to have the best grass, fresh water, and safety, so that they can grow and multiply as much as possible. A sheep has no greater friend than a good shepherd, and we have no greater friend than Christ. He invented life, he gave us life, and he came so that, in him, we might learn to live it “more abundantly”. As Christians, we actually don’t have just a good shepherd, but the perfect shepherd. All we need is to be sensible sheep and listen to the voice of the One we know- the Perfect Shepherd.

Quiz

Ans to last week's : Brazil, it has more than 120 million Catholics.

What city is home to the largest collection of holy relics outside the Vatican?

Ans: Pittsburgh. St. Anthony’s chapel in Pittsburgh is home to a collection of 4000 to 5000 relics, including a tooth of the chapel’s patron, St. Anthony of Padua.

Quote

Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

Albert Eistein

**Vatican releases guidelines on promoting vocations**

In an effort to respond to a “clear and pressing” need for priests, the Vatican has released a set of guidelines to help bishops and Church communities promote, recruit and educate a new generation of men for the priesthood.

The Church needs “suitable” candidates and must avoid men who “show signs of being profoundly fragile personalities”, while helping others heal from any possible “individual deviations” from their vocations, the document said.

“The witness of Christian communities giving account of the faith that is in them becomes even more necessary,” because it’s a community of believers committed to passing on God’s love that “prepares the Lord’s call that invites people to consecration and mission,” it said.

Based on responses to a questionnaire sent to bishops’ conferences and directors of national vocations offices around the world in 2008, the Congregation for Catholic Education sought to address a widespread demand for pastoral guidelines for fostering vocations “based on clear and well-founded theology of vocation and of the identity of the ministerial priesthood”.

Entitled “Pastoral Guidelines for Fostering Vocations to Priestly Ministry”, the 29-page document was released today. It also marked the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the congregation’s Pontifical Work for Priestly Vocations.

The challenge of attracting men to the priesthood is made more difficult by declining birthrates in the developed world and a materialist, secular culture in which people are less likely to make “courageous and demanding Gospel choices” in their lives, the document said.

“In the West, there is a prevailing culture of indifference to the Christian faith, a culture unable to understand the value of vocations to a special consecration,” it said.

Key to turning things around isn’t just setting up new programmes and initiatives, but building a vibrant, active and dedicated community of Catholics, united in prayer and with Christ, it said.

Some reasons men say “no” to or ignore a call to the priesthood, it said, include:

- having parents who are reluctant about their son’s choice because they have different hopes for their child’s future;

- living in a society that marginalises priests and considers them irrelevant;

- misunderstanding the gift of celibacy;

- being disillusioned by the scandal of priests who abused minors;

- and seeing priests who are too overwhelmed by their pastoral duties to the detriment of their spiritual life.

Vocations are fostered when boys and young men have an uplifting and transformative Christian experience, it said. That experience can be found in family life, at school, in the parish, as an altar boy, in Catholic groups and associations or in volunteer work, all of which allow them to “know first-hand the reality of God himself, in communion with their brothers and in Gospel mission”, it said.

During a Vatican news conference presenting the guidelines, Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the education congregation, said that, paradoxically, “experience teaches us that the strongest candidates grow in hostile environments”.

In places where there is open hostility to the Church, he said, vocations are “very healthy, very strong and [priests are] very aware that we have a mission”.

Mgr Vincenzo Zani, undersecretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, said the aftermath of the sex abuse crisis in the US has had some positive results, specifically in Boston, where the seminary is now filled thanks to an aggressive effort, led by the archbishop, to search for serious vocations.

While dioceses and seminaries bear most of the responsibility of determining the suitability of a candidate, vocations offices, too, must be consistent in attracting and forming people who display a healthy “integration and maturing of the affections”, the document said.

Men who “show signs of being profoundly fragile personalities” should not be encouraged to consider a vocation, it said.

The educational setting must support a candidate’s authentic reasons to be a priest and contribute “to healing any possible individual deviations from his vocation”.

Cardinal Grocholewski said determining “a fragile personality” at the early stages of a candidate’s journey is a question of discretion by trained professionals from the diocesan vocations office.

“There are some people whose fragility is easily seen, while others hide themselves, sometimes just because they want to seem like good people,” he said. “It’s a question of fundamental human maturity. We are looking for a person who is responsible, someone who can be trusted, a person who can control himself” and his impulses, he added.

“A more serious, mature judgment should come in the seminary, where in speaking and observing a candidate, his maturity can be better determined,” the cardinal said.

A priest represents Christ the shepherd, the document said, and as such, he must draw his strength from and base his vocation on loving and serving Christ and his church.

All Catholics, including parents, coaches, catechists and group leaders, should help their young charges to see the priestly vocation as a gift.

Boys and young men should be taught the value of prayer and meditation on God’s word, the document said, so that they learn to hear what God is calling them to do with their lives.

The congregation’s guidelines also called for diocesan vocation offices to organise a so-called “invisible monastery” where large numbers of people are dedicated to providing non-stop prayer for priestly vocations.

The Parable of the Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box.

“There are 5 things you need to know,” he told the pencil, “Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.”

One: “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone’s hand.”

Two: “You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you’ll need it to become a better pencil.”

Three: “You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”

Four: “The most important part of you will always be what's inside.”

And Five: “On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.”

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replacing the place of the pencil with you. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

One: “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God’s hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.”

Two: “You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems in life, but you’ll need it to become a stronger person.”

Three: “You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”

Four: “The most important part of you will always be what’s on the inside.”

And Five: “On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.”

Allow this parable on the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfill the purpose to which you were born to accomplish.

Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot make a change.

Motivation

**PASTORAL CARE**

**Sacrament of Confession:** Every Saturday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

**Sacrament of Baptism of Infants:** *First Saturday of every month. Please call at the Church’s office for a baptismal form. Instructions: Thursday preceding the date for baptism @ 5pm*

**Visitation of the Sick and Aged:** *Thursdays at 7.00 am. Contact the office if you have a sick or aged Person(s) to be visited.*

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Arrangements must be made ***at least six months to a year*** with the priests. The couple or one of them must be a registered member of the Church for ***at least 6 months.***

**Consultation of Priests: (STM)** Monday, Tuesday Wednesdays (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm**. (SJF) Wednesdays at 5:00pm.** In case of any emergency call on the Priest.

**Church office hours: STM - Mon. to Thur.: 10am -2pm & 5 pm - 8pm: Sat. 4 pm to 8pm: Sun: 9 am -1.30pm: SJF – Monday &Wednesday 10am – 6pm; Sat 4pm-6pm; Sunday 12pm- 2pm**

SUNDAY MASS: FIRST MASS - 7:00AM AT STM, SECOND MASS - 9:30AM AT SJF

NEXT SUNDAY: EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Singing: First Mass: AKan Kuo

Second Mass: Main Choir

***Offertory and Bidding Prayers:***

First Mass: Friday Borns

Second Mass: Friday Borns

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**Tuesday 6:15am**

**Wednesday 6:15am (STM) & 7:00pm (SJF)**

**Thursday 6:15am**

UPCOMING EVENT

* 4TH OCTOBER 2015: HARVEST.
* 28TH -29TH NOV: 80TH ANNIVERSARY AND DEDICATION.

**SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohwξ!**

**Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher.: Justice and Truth!!**

**Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher : Pray for us!**

**THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US.**

**HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. There is Bible sharing this and every Wednesday at 7:00pm at STM.
2. The new Church cloth is on sale at the following prices. Full piece(12 yards) - GHC 140, Half piece(6 yards) - GHC 70, 4 yards – GHC 48, 2 yards – GHC 24.
3. All singles and widows who wish to take part in the singles day out program should note that today is the last day for registration.
4. There will be Encounter with Jesus to day at STM at 5.30pm
5. Marriage Banns: (**2nd**) Richard Abotsigan and Sharon Barbara Dawlah.

ADVERTISEMENT

1. Get your affordable fan using Hi-Performance rechargeable battery over 10 hrs. Contact 0504243149/0573095425

QUIZ

**Last Week:** who is the Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

**Ans: Anne**

**This Week**: who is the Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Quote

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

CATHOLIC TEACHINGS REGARDING THE BROTHERS OF JESUS

Did Jesus have biological brothers as some non-Catholics claim? Or is this just another attack on the Virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary? Since the early days of the Catholic Church, the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary has been asserted and defended.

First of all, I will explain to you the Biblical meaning of the “brothers of Jesus.” In today’s society, as it was in the days of Jesus, the word “brother” had another meaning other than being a biological brother. The Natives of North America call each other “brothers”, although in most cases, they are not related. When watching television, we notice how the black people call each other “brothers,” although they are not related.

The moslems in Canada often called each other “brothers” although they are not related. Prisoners call each other “bro” or “brothers” although they are not related.

Members of religious groups call each other “brothers.” Even those who are involved in illegal drug activities, they call each other “brothers.” Yet none of these groups are really blood related to each other.

Why do these groups of people call each other “brothers?” It is because the word “brother” in these cases has a totally different meaning. The usage of the word “brother” in these cases has to do with association by culture, peers, race or religion. Some people like to emphasize that they belong to the same race.

Equally, some like to emphasize that they belong to the same culture, a particular peer group or the same Church.

PRAYER INTENTION

1.Parishioners are reminded to pay  their

Harvest Levy of 10 cedis per adult and 5

cedis per Child at the table outside

2. Below is the schedule of materials needed to

complete the first phase of the Rectory

Project. You are kindly requested to study

and contribute accordingly.

Contact the Harvest Information desk for any

clarification.

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| **MATERIAL** | **QUANTITY REQUIRED** | **UNIT PRICE (GH cedis)** |
| Cement | 1500 bags | 30.00 |
| Blocks | 18000 pcs. | 3.50 |
| Wawa(wood) boards | 3000 pcs. | 15.00 |
| Bamboo(props) | 300 pcs. | 3.00 |
| Sand | 8 trips | 1200.00 |
| Stones | 8 trips | 2000.00 |
| Laterite | 10 trips | 800.00 |
| ¼ Iron Rods | 3 tons | 660.00 |
| ½ Iron Rods | 13 tons | 1700.00 |
| 5/8 Iron Rods | 7 tons | 2100.00 |

**FINANCE CORNER**

**Thank You All For Your Generosity. May God Bless You**

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***DETAILS OF LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION***

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**MOTIVATION**

The Choices We Make

Positive Or Negative Thinking

"If you are not happy with your life or whatever happens in it, discipline your disappointments; it is not external but a result of our internal way we view, believe, and do things in the world."

The choices we make determine the quality of our lives, and whatever is happening in our lives, we use it to succeed or to fail, either it is good or bad, and it is mostly determined by our attitude.

Everything is mental; everything is a personal choice and a total responsibility of each one of us. Our attitude is the reason to do the necessary changes or the reason to blame others for our poor performances, for our mistakes or for our ignorance in certain topics.

At the end, the quality of our lives is up to each one of us. The formula is simple and factual: When we choose to focus in negativity it is what we attract, and when we choose to focus in positivity it is what we attract. It is time to be honest with ourselves; nobody can make us miserable or happy, successful of failures but our attitude - the positive or negative way we choose to view the world.

The moment we take responsibility for our life, our life will definitely change. Take action now; there is no such thing as the perfect time or right moment.

Choose to be happy, nothing is more important than feeling good. Life is too short - VERY, VERY SHORT. Don't let the opportunities and blessings of life fly from your hands.

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| FACILITY | PARISHIONERS | OUTSIDERS |
| CHILDREN’S SERVICE HALL(3 HRS MAX) | 100.00 | 200.00 |
| CHURCH GROUNDS  (6 HOURS MAX) | 200.00 | 500.00 |
| CAR PARKING(6 HOURS MAX) | 100.00 | 200.00 |

**KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

All of us, sometime in life, will experience being introduced as a “brother” or “sister” to someone.

It might be because of the friendship between two persons or the manner in which one is introduced to a certain group. At the same time, one knows that truly, he is not the “brother” or “sister” of the other person. It was the same in the Jewish culture.

The Jewish people, not belonging to the gentile nations, made reference to each other as “brothers” and “sisters.” When introduced, this identified them as “one of them,” as a Jewish person.

When something was written about the Jewish people, they were referred to as “brothers” as a means of saying they were Jewish.

To complicate the matter, the Hebrew language did not contain a word that meant “cousin.” Instead, the word “brother” was used for both, the words “brother” and “cousin.” When the Jewish scholars translated the early Church writings from Hebrew to Greek, they literally translated the word “brother” as “brother.” Since they were accustomed to the word that could mean either “brother” or “cousin,” they did not believe that it was necessary to define when it means “brother” or when it means “cousin.” Therefore, in instance where a reference might be made to a cousin of Jesus, the word “brother” was applied. While this person may have been a blood relative, he was not a biological brother.

Now, let us review the claim that James was the brother of Jesus. In Mark 15:40, we read, “There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.” It is clear from this verse that Mary, the mother of James and Joses was not Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Bible makes reference to more than one Mary.

To be Continued………………..