

The parable of the mirror...

The Gospel passage this Sunday reminds me of an experience shared with a group of young people, members of a student committee studying liturgy. To help them understand the story of the Publican and the Pharisee, I asked the group to imagine how mimes would interpret the story. This was interesting since it obliged them to express only what was essential. We began the exercise. The result was so impressive that the group decided to perform their interpretation for the entire assembly and accompany the Gospel proclamation.



Two young mimes were chosen to interpret the parable. The first lay prostrate and prayed with his entire being. He portrayed the Publican. He prayed humbly with his hands turned toward the heavens. The other portrayed the Pharisee. He held a mirror in his hands and gazed at it as he prayed.

Yet the two prayers began with the same words: *My God* Each one called upon God, at least in principle. The Pharisee's prayers were less sincere and often used the pronoun "*I*". His prayer became a long list of his accomplishments: *I fast; I give to charity; I ... I...* His eyes kept looking at the mirror and not at God. As he contemplated his life, he was filled with pride. He already had his reward. He kept on praying with his mirror.

The Publican's prayer was a cry, a request: *My God, take pity of me, a sinner.* He also used the pronoun, "*I*". While the Pharisee's prayer listed his merits and virtues, the Publican simply asked for God's mercy.

In this parable, prayer was used two ways: to flaunt one's achievements and to be open and receptive to God's grace. This simple parable invites us to continue the discussion – to recognize the hidden *Pharisee* in all of us. It invites us to step back, put away our mirrors, and acknowledge God's grace and salvation. They are God's gifts, just like our faith, which the Publican understood.

The Publican was a tax collector and had always observed the laws. He could have paraded like a peacock in the Temple and listed his achievements. Yet, like Zacchaeus, he felt unworthy and discretely asked for God's mercy. As with Zacchaeus, Jesus declared that salvation would enter his house: *I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other...*

In addition to the obvious lessons from this parable, St. Luke provides us with this catechesis. We are reminded of Mary's prayer of thanksgiving, the *Magnificat* (Lk 1: 46-49) : *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER 23, 2016

Please pray for:

Lea Guilbeault & Ferruccio Berardo
Carmela Galardo
Gabrielle Lasalle Quinn
Catherine Khouzam

Requested by:

Family
Family
Kozina Family
Family

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Richard Brisebois will be celebrating his 25th anniversary of his ordination on October 29th. All of Richard's ministry with youth and liturgy have been centered in Holy Family and Camp Caritas. There will be a Mass celebrating this occasion on **Saturday, October 29th at 4 pm at Holy Family.** All are welcome!

Holy Family will be celebrating **Father John Walsh's 50th anniversary of priesthood** on Sunday, October 30th! To continue the celebration, the **Knights of Columbus** will be hosting a breakfast with all proceeds going to Holy Family after mass.

Tickets for the breakfast will be on sale at the back of the church at \$10 per person and \$25 per family.

We look forward to welcoming you to this great fundraiser and social gathering for our parish.

Volunteers needed for the Childcare Centre. Even if you can only help once or twice throughout the year, it would be appreciated. This service enables parents and parishioners to fully enjoy Father Baxter's wonderful liturgies. If you can help, please speak to Maria Kelly.

Jingle bell fair, November 3rd from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Auxiliary of St. Mary's Hospital, in the Auditorium, 3830 Lacombe Ave. Over 20 raffles, jewelry, crafts, purses and more!

Please visit our new and improved web site at: <http://www.holyfamilyparishmtl.com>

Feel free to provide your comments / suggestions / or add to Joe Piazza at jpiazza@live.ca

If you wish to add you email address to Holy Family's address list, please send it to jpiazza@live.ca

The Pillars Trust Fund Board of Directors has incorporated into its bylaws a "Declaration of Principles on the service of Charity as a Catholic organization" as approved by the Archdiocese of Montreal. Pillars Trust, through its Board and Membership, **adopted the declaration as a sign of its desire to be faithfully Catholic in its identity and in its actions.** Since 1972 the Pillars Trust Fund has been fulfilling its Mission to provide: leadership, support and financial assistance to its traditional beneficiaries. We can only do this with your continued financial support! Please be generous. Donate to us today at www.pillarstrust.org.

"Got an idea for a project...maybe Pillars Trust can help support it!" Following an assessment, the Pillars Trust will provide 'seed money' for any new initiatives coming from parishes or the community. Contact us at ptf@catholiccentre.ca. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15)

Did you know that the **Pillars Trust Fund sends out four information "Newsletters" a year?** These letters inform (you) our supporters and interested members of our English-speaking Catholic community about the many services and activities funded by Pillars Trust through your annual support. To ensure that you receive these "Newsletters" by email, kindly ensure that all of your vital mailing information is up to date with Pillars Trust. You can do this by sending an email to ptf@catholiccentre.ca, including your name, home address, postal code and phone number.

For those wishing to have a mass said for loved one or a friend, please see Sharon Murphy after mass.

Last Sunday's collection was \$1655. Thank you!

A man walks into a bar and orders a drink. Then he notices there are pieces of meat nailed to the ceiling of the bar so he asks the barman what they are for. The barman replies, "If you can jump up and pull one of them down you get free beer all night. If you fail, you have to pay the bar \$100. Do you want to have a go?"

The man thinks about it for a minute before saying, "Nah, the steaks are too high!"