

The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter - August 2016



Why Go to Church

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now", he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers and priests are wasting their time by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editors' column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this cincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work.

If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Connected By Love

Well, where do I start? I know that this is going to be my last contribution to the monthly newsletter. I hope that I can impart wonderful words of wisdom that will leave you knowing how good you had it while I was here.

Yeah okay! Maybe instead I will stick with praying that the words I give you are from God.

On the 17th we had a beautiful service of Gina's baptism at St. Paul's in Boyle. It was fantastic that people from Colinton were able to attend as well to support Gina. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and caring of our young people. I pray that the whole parish will continue, and GROW, in their support of our youth. They desperately need our encouragement, love and support in order to prepare them for the world. And we desperately need them for our own love, support and learning of what is going on in the world outside our doors.

At the end of the service we were speaking about my final service and a farewell. I was feeling very frustrated as we discussed that and I apologize if I seemed short tempered.

It is always interesting to me how God helps to shed light on things through prayer. I was praying as I was driving up to Wandering River; asking for forgiveness for my impatience and frustration. I turned on the radio when I was done and Eric had had it on 630 CHED. There was some kind of sports talk going on. I switched it pretty quick because that is not my kind of thing. However, I suddenly realized that the concept of sports is exactly what I pray this parish will understand. When I got home Eric was talking about a baseball game he had been watching and how "dumb" the one team was being. (*his words, not mine*) When I asked him why, he said that it was because they weren't playing together as a team. Once again I realized that this is what I have been trying to get across to this parish.

This parish needs to be a team. If the players on a baseball, hockey, football or other **team** don't play together, they lose the game. It is a very simple reality. Each member must remember that they need each other to play effectively. Everyone must work together to have the "game plays" provide the optimum benefit.

Yes, the individual members are important. When someone scores a goal or hits a home run, it is that person that is recognized for the goal or home run. The announcer says "that is his 23rd career goal" or home run or touchdown. But the goal was made through, and with, the moves of other players. Even I, who hates sports and especially hockey, can see when players are not playing as a team. I have seen it and I can remember one time in particular when I asked "why didn't he pass the puck to that other guy who is standing there with his mouth hanging open?". It was pretty obvious that they weren't playing together. I won't tell you who the team was, but I can tell you that they lost the game. *If you need a hint, they wear orange and blue and are an Alberta team.*

Each member of this parish is important in their own right. As we said in the baptism service "we respect the dignity of every human being and we strive to safeguard the

integrity of God's creation". People are part of that creation. But we make those promises from within a community. And just as there were members at that baptism from other points in the parish, the whole parish bears responsibility to "support and encourage Gina in her life in Christ".

Each point or congregation in this parish is important in its own right. There were reasons why each point was started. It would be wrong for us to ignore or forget the truth that God put it on the hearts of people to build a community church building and congregation.

But the reality is that an attitude of "we have to think for, or of, ourselves first" **OR** "I'm only going to attend and take part in my home congregation" is against God's wishes. And yes, I can and do say that — believing it to be true with every fibre of my being. I only have to read scripture to understand that truth. Not one of us were brought into this world through our own devices. It took at least three and it took God. Even Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs to other communities. Always it is about "more". More than one and reaching out to others.

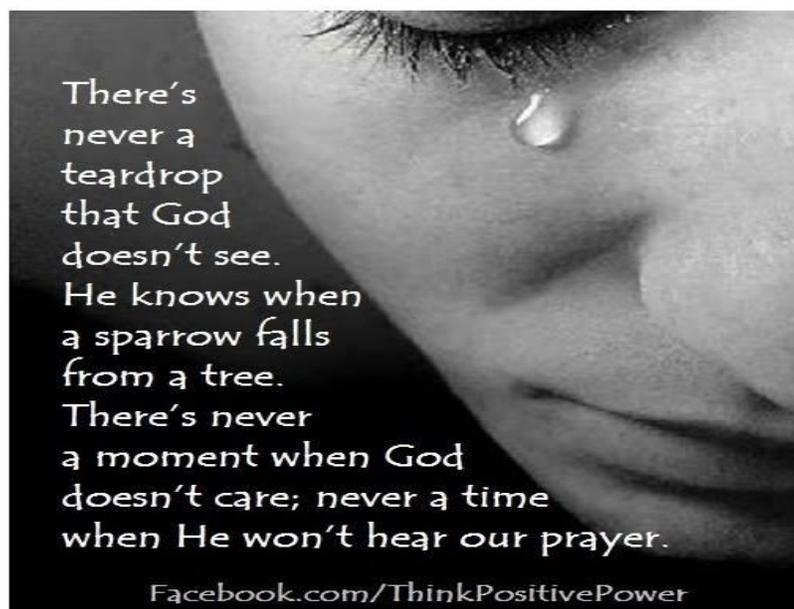
Not one congregation in this parish would survive without the others. You definitely need one another. If you want to grow and thrive, not just "get by" you must pull together and work as a parish to fulfill God's mission. It is only through the parish working together that any individual point will have a chance of growing enough to go it on their own.

My prayer for this parish is that you will grow in God's grace, believing in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide you and trusting in that guidance.

I love each of you dearly and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love of God and the faith you have in Christ Jesus our Lord. Remember that God is Good, All the Time.

Now go . . . play ball.

Lesley+



GOD'S ACCURACY

When GOD solves our problems, we have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve our problems, HE has faith in our abilities.

One may observe God's accuracy in the hatching of eggs. . . .
those of the canary in 14 days;
those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;
eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days;
those of the mallard in 35 days;
the eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.

(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

See God's wisdom in the making of an elephant. . . .
The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made.
God planned that this animal would have a huge body - too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily. The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.

Each orange has an even number of segments.
Each ear of corn has an even number of rows.
Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.

Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing! There's more...

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture, and temperature, he could tell the

time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

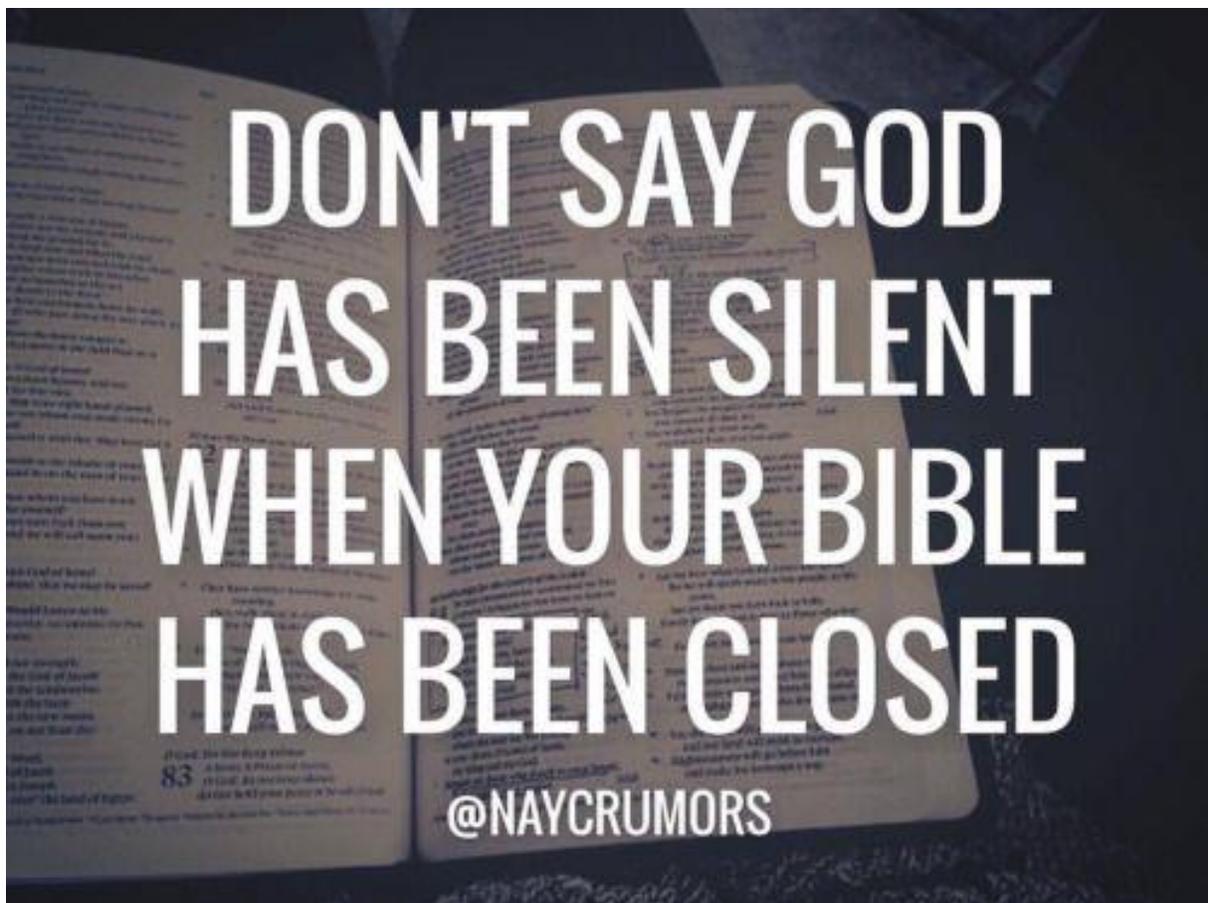
The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our lives. If we try to regulate our own lives, we will have only mess and failure.

Only God, who made our brains and hearts, can successfully guide them to a profitable end.

When you carry the Bible, Satan has a headache; when you open it, he collapses.

When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and when you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.





Saturday, August 20, 2016: Everything Sale & BBQ

at the St Andrew's Zion Church in Colinton from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

There will be no pricing – all purchases by donation only!

Sponsored by St Thomas, Perryvale and St Andrew's Zion Churches

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