

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

A wealthy widow who lived in Ottawa died. She left her entire estate to God. Now, this rather strange bequest gave rise to many legal ramifications, because if the will was to be processed, it had to follow the legal form. So, lawyers drew up a lawsuit in which God was mentioned as one of the parties. There was a summons issued for God to appear in court. The summons was delivered to the sheriff whose job was to serve such documents. After some time, the sheriff sent this message to the court: "After a due and diligent search, it has been determined that God cannot be found in Canada."



Now, political considerations aside, this conclusion is obviously false. God can be found in Canada. God can be found in any place if we know where to look. Looking is an important part of today's first reading from the book of Acts. Jesus ascends into heaven, and the disciples stand looking intently up into the sky. Then two men appear and ask them, "Why are you looking up into the sky?" These men want the disciples to know that if they are looking for Jesus, they will not find him by staring up into the clouds.

So where should we look for God? Should we look in religious places like churches and pilgrimage sites? Yes, God can be found there. Should we look at the beauty of nature? Of course. Which one of us has not been enthralled by a divine sunset? Should we look at the happiest points of our life: when we fall in love, when a new child is born, when we celebrate a friendship that has lasted over decades? For sure. God is visible in all these events. And even if we group all these events together, we have not yet exhausted the range of God's presence. God can be found in any place if we have the right focus.

God is not only found in the religious and perfect places of our lives. God is also found in the mixed and compromised nature of human living. God is found among the garbage and the flowers. God can be found in those challenging aspects of our relationship. If we know where to look, we can see a faithfulness, a desire to bless, a leaning out for love that will lean that way forever. God is there, however perfect or compromised our relationship may be.

It is easy to believe in God's presence when we are young and healthy. But as we age, as our faculties lessen, as our health fails, we can conclude that God has left us. Look again. Can you not see God's presence in the people who love you, in those who drive you to your doctor appointments, in those who call you just to check in? Is there not a holiness on those days without any special reason that we find the strength to continue?

God can be found in any place if we know where to look. So, for sure, we should look in those perfect and ecstatic places where all is right with the world. But we should not stop there. We should also look at the mixed nature of everyday living, in the relationships that are both genuine and compromised, in the situations that are both painful and holy. God can be found among the garbage and the flowers.



FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Our Knights of Columbus will, once again, be selling flowers, this Sunday, after all the Masses, at the entrance of the church.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

Next Saturday, May 18th, after the 5 pm Mass, we will have the Crowning of Mary followed by a procession. Please join us!



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. May 13th - Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33

Tue. May 14th - ST. MATTHIAS, feast

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Wed. May 15th - Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19

Thurs. May 16th - Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; John 17:20-26

Fri. May 17th - Acts 24:27, 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19

Sat. May 18th - Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25

Sun. May 19th - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23



PLEASE NOTE: Our office will be closed this coming Monday, May 13th.

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. May 15th - 7 :30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. May 18th - 5:00 PM - K.Madoginog, C & C Tang, J.Tuguinay, A.Kolobova.

Sun. May 19th - 9AM - E.Garrovillas, A & A Chan, S.Lee. 11 AM - M & T Nguyen, T.Nguyen, A & A Babas, W.Pham, W. Del

Rosario. 5 PM - C.Jaya, A.Velasquez, T.Ta, J.Paja, D.Dang, J.Cayabyab, Z.Bambilla



PROJECT ADVANCE

Next weekend we will be launching our Project Advance campaign.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Volunteers needed !

Do you have a love for children and the Word of God? We are seeking volunteers for the Children's Liturgy, which is held at the Sunday 11am Mass. Volunteers assist on a rotating schedule which is flexible. To find out more or to volunteer, please contact Anita Hua at: 778-838-4559 or anita.s.hua@gmail.com

Next Sunday, May 19th, Pentecost Sunday, we invite you to come dressed in your National Costumes.

First Communion Thanks

Congratulations to all the gr. 2 students from our school, PREP and El Shaddai, who received their First Holy Communion last Sunday. A special thanks to Fr. Jun who led the Mass, to all our teachers for their help and support, the choirs, the altar servers and those who brought goodies, set-up and cleaned-up the gym for our reception. It was a beautiful celebration!

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- **No School:** on Friday, May 17th
- **No School:** on Monday, May 20th for the Victoria Day holiday.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." -1 John 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

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Applications Open: Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary

The Youth Ministry Leadership Bursary recognizes high school students making a difference in their parishes, schools, communities and homes. Two Grade 12 students will be selected to receive an award of \$500 each for their post-secondary schooling. **Application deadline is this Monday, May 13th.** Learn more and apply at rcav.org/youth-ministry

Pregnancy, Infant and Child Loss Memorial Mass

Join us for a special Mass on Saturday, May 18, 5:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Parish in Surrey as we remember our little ones in heaven. There will be candles lit in their honour and we will have light snacks and a chance to connect after Mass.

For more information, please contact Brittany Garisto at b.garisto@outlook.com or visit elizabethministrybc.ca

FIAT Hike

All single women aged 18-35 are invited to spend quality time with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese and enjoy some outdoor activity and fun on Saturday, June 1.

We will start with 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony's Parish in West Vancouver and then drive to Cypress for the hike up Black Mountain. There is no cost to join. **Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 29.** Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events



Ordinations of Permanent Deacons

The Archdiocese of Vancouver will be celebrating the Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Deacons to the Permanent Diaconate through the imposition of the hands by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, on Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver. All are welcome to attend this joyous occasion!

Loving God,

We ask your blessing on all those whom You have entrusted motherhood.

May your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace

abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers!

