



MARTYRS' SHRINE

Weekly Church Bulletin | *September 14th 2019* | 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Facing the Challenges of today through scripture - by Fr. Artur Suski, SJ

We have been reading St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians this week as the first reading at the weekday Masses. Those who have been listening attentively might have realized that the themes addressed by St. Paul in Colossians continue to speak to many contemporary challenges that the faithful face today. This entry is limited in its space, and so I will only touch on a couple of themes in Colossians that may be of help to the contemporary reader.

Colossians has been regarded by many as a Prison Letter, a letter that St. Paul wrote while he was first imprisoned in Rome. It is addressed to a very young Christian community that was mostly made up of converts from Greek pagan religion. We therefore find themes that are relevant for a newly transformed and converted paganism to Christianity. At the same time, St. Paul greatly respected the intellectual tradition of the Greek philosophical schools. His goal was to put those intellectual gifts of the Greek converts at the service of the Christian faith, which he so tirelessly preached to them. We thus encounter three important philosophical terms in Col 1:9-14 as St. Paul begins his letter: epignosis (knowledge), sofia (wisdom), and sunesis (understanding).

Those steeped in Greek philosophy would have immediately spotted these important terms. St. Paul linked them with the Christian faith, and especially the practice of a virtuous life: For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God (Col 1:9-10). St. Paul showed them that the intellectual tradition that they learned growing up was not in vain if it was put at the service of their newly-found Christian faith.

It is not enough to simply have wisdom, understanding and knowledge; the Christian must also act virtuously. In other words, the Christian faith as St. Paul presents it, is the healthiest and most fruitful when the intellectual life is intimately blended with a life of the virtues, so that that what is on the "inside" matches what we do on the "outside." This theme is quite relevant for our times too. There are some that emphasize the intellectual and spiritual life while neglecting the virtues and works of mercy. There are also some that give themselves to a very active life, while never delving into prayer or the teachings of the Church. St. Paul invites his community to do both: to be "Church smart," that is, to know our faith deeply through our intellects, but also to be "doers," to live out what we believe.

The other noteworthy theme that is important for our media-saturated world is found in Col 3:1-3: So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. What do we spend our time contemplating? In a world of Netflix, Amazon Prime and their likes (not to mention the evils of pornography), we can easily be immersed in things that are not healthy for our imagination, which directly enters our spiritual life. Do we "seek" and "set our minds" on the things that are above"? Or, do we devote our time to "the things that are on earth," to base and sinful things that pull us away from God? What are we going to do about it? St. Paul, pray for us!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MARTYRS' SHRINE ASSOCIATION?

Share in 100 Masses every year, and receive the Shrine Message twice annually.
Find out more or join at the Pastoral & Information Office.



LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Bulletin hebdomadaire | 14 septembre, 2019 | 24^e dimanche du temps ordinaire

TIAWENK FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION

Our 6th annual Tiawenk fundraising dinner & auction will be held at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre in Midland, on **Saturday, September 28th** at 5:00 PM. Tickets are available at the Pastoral and Administrative Office or online for \$95.00. The ticket purchaser is eligible for a \$45.00 tax receipt per ticket. This year's Tiawenk proceeds will be directed towards the Fire Suppression System.

Please Join Us:

Saturday, September 28th at 5:00 PM.

Quality Inn & Conference Centre, Midland

Tickets \$95 each, \$45 of which is eligible for a tax receipt.

Tickets available at the Office or online at www.martyrs-shrine.com/tix

TOONIE CHALLENGE

The Church of St. Joseph was not constructed for year-round use. For that reason, the Church was never insulated, and is not heated. A specialized dry-air fire suppression system is required. Our system is in need of an update including replacing its pipes that are at the end of their life. Please support this project through our toonie challenge. If every pilgrim who visited Martyrs' Shrine gave a toonie, we would reach our fundraising goal. Yellow envelopes are available at the rear of the Church for anyone who would like their gift recorded and included on their annual donations receipt for income tax purposes.

NOVENA TO THE CANADIAN MARTYRS & FEAST DAY

The novena to the Canadian Martyrs begins on Friday, September 20th, 2019. The members of the Martyrs' Shrine Association are both remembered and prayed for during nine days of prayers through the intercession of the Canadian Martyrs. Please join us as we celebrate the Feast Day of the Canadian Martyrs at a special Mass at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 28th, 2019 marking the final day of the novena prayers. New members to the Order of Porters will also be recognized and inducted at the Mass.

GIFT SHOP NOW ONLINE!

For a limited time, save 10% on your online order!

Use Code: **LAUNCH** at checkout.

www.martyrs-shrine.com/giftshop

Your feedback is always appreciated!

MASS INTENTIONS †

14-SAT

- 9:00 Michael & Aurita Fernandes +
- 10:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 12:00 Pierre, Justin and Erica
Natividad - Thanksgiving
- 7:30 Rysard Jaworski & Sofia
Parczeswska & Family

15-SUN

- 9:00 Michael & Aurita Fernandes +
- 10:30 Allanic Family - Thanksgiving
- 12:00 Lakshman Family
- 7:30 Borgusia & John Zurakowski -
29th Wedding Anniversary

16-MON

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 12:00 Anil Chopra +
- 7:30 Dobrowoki family

17-TUE

- 9:00 Bernie Gaffney & Family +
- 12:00 Mary Forde Kerrigan +
- 7:30 Mr. & Mrs. Theophile & Phillip
Dorion and Family +

18-WED

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 12:00 Jim Mc Cormack +
- 7:30 Aleli Paguio - Birthday
Thanksgiving

19-THU

- 9:00 Mary and V.A Swampillai +
- 12:00 Rita & Bruce Schneller
(Anniversary)

20-FRI

- 9:00 Jeejamma Thuyilchira - prayer
for breast cancer surgery
- 12:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 7:30 Robert

Visit Our Website: www.martyrs-shrine.com