

FOCUS ON VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD-BY FR. HIEN

Theocentric / Rational-Spiritual Level / Unitative

This purgation was even more profound when they escaped from Vietnam by boat and became a refugee in Indonesia under the protection of the United Nations. John began to walk a new journey in his life of faith.

It was providential that God allowed these experiences to happen to him and his family. The moment John learned to let go was also the same moment when he started to trust God more. He started to discover the meaning of life, its purpose and its end. He experienced the lasting happiness was his God who is "above all health and beauty, above all glory and honour, above all power and dignity, above all knowledge and subtlety, above all riches and arts, above all joy and exultations, above all hope and promise, above all merit and desire, above all gifts and graces..."

During this period of John's life, he started to be transformed and entered into what Lonergan called the *Religious Conversion*. It was a "total and permanent self-surrender without conditions, qualifications, reservations." John *Terminal Value* became God and other values such as: charity, obedience, hope, faith, chastity, etc. became the *Instrumental Values* (means).

John began to look outward to others and upward to God. He desired to do good for others and to choose for the sake of others and God (not because he has to but because he wants to). He started to go to Church not because of his parents' desire but because he personally loves God. He experienced God's mercy and love for him and his family. John started to pray not just as an obligation but because he wanted to. It gave him joy and consolation.

Living this relationship with God in the integration of the *objective* and *subjective* was not easy. There were occasions of temptations to return to his subjectivism. To make a choice out of love toward the Objective pole (God) require the letting go of the actual self or to make the self part of the objective pole. Like Van Thuan Xavier, the Servant of God, who said in his writing, *The Road of Hope*, "the choice is between holiness and sin. In many instances, holiness or sin is the result of victory or defeat in one moment requiring sacrifice. And if you wish to avoid suffering, do not expect to become a saint." To choose God and His will require tremendous sacrifices. It is the choosing of the Cross – the development of *Orthopathy* – where "satisfaction or renunciation, acceptance or refusal, expression or control, when to cope with or confront the potentialities, the needs, the desires and the emotions on one side, but also the meanings, the reasons, the horizons of possibility for these dynamic choices; these become the field of encounter of every personal and free motivation."

T. KEMPIS, *Imitation of Chris*, Transl. M. NAZARENE 2008, 122.

B. LONERGAN, *Method in Theology*, 240.

T. V. NGUYEN, *The Road of Hope*, Boston 2001, 38, n. 172

Continued on last column

Welcome to St. Ann's Parish

Our Vision Statement: to be a Christ-centered community of missionary disciples.

Our Mission Statement: to work and pray to be a welcoming, Eucharistic community that spreads the good news of Christ. We each strive to share our gifts within and beyond the parish for the glory of God.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN'S

MASS will be celebrated at Bevan Village on **Tuesday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m.**

MASS will be celebrated at the Mayfair Seniors' Home on **Thursday, February 8th at 10:00 a.m.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST PRAYER MEETING: **Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** in St. Joachim room.

MASS will be celebrated at Maplewood House on **Friday, February 9th at 4:00 p.m.**

HISPANIC MASS will be celebrated on **Saturday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m.** Reception to follow in St. Joachim room.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be prepared by our Knights of Columbus on **Sunday, February 11th** after the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Masses. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast with family and friends.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AND VESPERS on **Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sacred Space at Abbotsford Regional Hospital Please join us in praying for the Doctors, Nurses, hospital workers, and most especially the patients and their families.

REFUGEE FAMILY ARRIVING THIS WEEK

The family is arriving from Lebanon (originally from Syria) to Vancouver on Thursday. We have the top half of a house rented for them. We will be introducing them to the parish in a week or so after they have settled in. Hopefully all can get a chance to see them and greet them after Mass one day. We still have some fundraising to do and will inform you when we have confirmed these events. It is an exciting time for St. Ann's.

St. Ann's CWL cordially invite all Ladies of the Parish to join them for the "Gifted by His Grace" RETREAT on **Saturday, March 3rd, beginning with Mass at 9am and retreat from 10am to 3pm.** Tickets are \$10 (includes morning coffee and lunch). Available at the Parish Office.

Guest speakers include: **Colleen Roy** who writes for the "Home Front" column in the B.C. Catholic. Topic: "Gifted by His Grace"; **Kathy Ross**, who has a Wholeness Practice (Body, Mind and Spirit) will speak on, "Discovering the peace within us, and the deeper peace that God gives us". **Fr. Ajin**, our Chaplain, will also be speaking to us on the day's retreat topic. Come and fill your hearts with us!

THANK YOU to all who participated in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018**. Because of your generosity we raised \$1994.05 for the Food Bank & Puerto Rican hurricane relief.

St. Ann's Catholic Community welcomes ETHAN LY & KELCIE LY who were received into the Catholic Faith on Sunday, January 28th through the Sacrament of Baptism.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEB. 5TH TO FEB. 11TH, 2018**

Monday	8:00am	Edith Parent, int.
Tuesday	7:00pm	David Battistoni, rip.
Wednesday	8:00am	Ned O'Reilly, rip.
Thursday	8:00am	Rosemary MacMillan, rip.
Friday	8:00am	Bernadette Robinson, rip.
Saturday	9:00am	Gerry Nagy, int.
	5:00pm	Malcolm MacTavish, rip.
Sunday	8:00am	Intentions for the Parish
	10:00am	Nicole Legal, int.
	Noon	Maria Bassani, int.

YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES**Youth Alpha (Gr. 5-7 & Gr. 8-12) – Every Saturday 6-8pm**

Youth Alpha focuses on our personal relationship with God and our faith and is a wonderful program for anyone wishing to develop a deeper connection. The program will run weekly at our normal time on Saturdays from 6-8pm. Alpha (for 18+, Parents, grandparents, etc) will also run at the same time (Contact Jody Garneau regarding the adult program and babysitting). Dinner is provided and there no cost to attend! This would be a wonderful experience for the whole family and I highly encourage you to join us. **We will be dividing the youth into age groups for videos, discussions, games, and more.** Contact Kirsten at youthministry@stannsabbotsford.ca for more information.

Youth Ministry Study Team

We are excited to announce that on **Thursdays from 4-7pm** LifeTeen is starting a homework group. If there is a subject that you are struggling with and you would like some help feel free to come by and join us. Email Kirsten if you would like more information and let us know if you have a subject you would like us to cover.

- if anyone would interested in volunteering to help with this program please contact Kirsten also*

CHILDCARE SUBSTITUTE NEEDED

The Endow women's study group is looking for a substitute childcare helper to fill in occasionally if their regular childcare helpers are away/sick. The group will be meeting every **second Wednesday, from 9:30-11:30 am, from February-May.**

Please return last years Palms – Ash Wednesday, February 14**FEAST DAYS & READINGS FEB. 5TH TO FEB. 11TH, 2018****Monday-St. Agatha**

1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13; Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday-St. Paul Miki & Companions

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday

1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23

Thursday

1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30

Friday

1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Mark 7:31-37

Saturday-St. Scholastica

1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10

Sunday–6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Leviticus 13:1-2,45-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1; Mark 1:40-45

MEN'S SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT.

March 16-18. Total cost is \$230 Canadian. Retreat is Westminster Abbey, Mission, BC. This is a silent retreat designed for spiritual discernment and formation. Everyone will have the opportunity for confession and spiritual direction with the priests of Miles Christi from San Diego, CA.

Email adultfaith@stannsabbotsford.ca for a registration form.

Continuation from 1st column

John learned to be more available and ready (*willingness*). He assimilated the way of humility. He discovered the meaning of submission and "seek not my own will, but the will of Him who sent me" Jn 4:34. With this attitude, he responded to God's call to a life of service, self giving, and of sanctification. He answered the Lord's calling by entering the seminary for his formation.

It was during the time in the seminary that John found the *object* of his desire was the Lord. The *substance* of his life is love. The *mode* of his action was the Grace of Christ in the Spirit. The *condition* of his action was total and *free* for the kingdom. He perceived that "if I love heaven, I love to think of heavenly things. If I love the world I rejoice at the prosperity of the world. If I love the flesh, my imagination is often on the things of the flesh. If I love the spirit, I enjoy thinking of spiritual things. For whatsoever things I love, of the same I love to speak and hear, and carry home with me the images of such." Therefore John increasingly loved God. The bond of his relationship with Him grew stronger and closer. He desired the Lord more and more. He began to thirst for Him and hunger for His truth. He immersed himself in His Words and the sacraments. "[he] had rather be poor for [God] sake, than rich without [Him]. [John] prefer to sojourn upon earth with [God] than to possess heaven without [Him]. It was through this experience of his relationship with the Lord that helped him have the courage to continue to walk in the discernment period and to respond to the call of "come follow me!" Lk 18:22.

I want to include this real life story in this chapter to give us a perspective of how a young person responding to God with all the dimensions integrated together. The story provides us the structure and helps us understand the human dynamic of what we need to do to create and promote a Vocation culture.

St. Ann's Meals for Moms program: If you are an expectant mother please contact: MothersatSt.Ann@gmail.com