

Corpus Christi Parish
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Dear Parishioners;

On Sunday at least, I remembered to announce that the Northern Missions at Telegraph Creek and Dease lake had reached out to us asking if we had a spare crucifix that they could place above their altar. We had a spare one that they are now using in the smaller church. These are the communities that lost their churches in the forest fires a couple of years ago, and whom we were able to help with the extra church furniture that we had once the renovations were completed at Corpus Christi. You'll recall that the timing was perfect and they were able to remove the furniture just as we were wondering what we were going to do with it all. I really felt that it was a God given opportunity for us to be generous and more importantly, for someone else to do the heavy lifting.

Well, we have run out of spare crucifixes that are suitable for a main altar, so I took the initiative and acted on your generosity and announced to them that we would be thrilled to buy them a new crucifix. I grew up in a big family and so I have a healthy respect for "hand-me-downs". They are fine, as long as they fit and haven't gone out of style. And sometimes, like this one, only new and that it belongs to you, will do.

If you have ever tried to buy church supplies, you'll know that everything is sold at a premium. So this will not be a small gesture on our part. But because of your consistent generosity we have no problem with making the purchase, and I am sure that our Northern Sisters and Brothers in the faith will really appreciate our willingness to lend a hand.

Now, this coming weekend is the second Sunday of the month and so it is Mary's Pantry weekend. I want to say how proud I am of our parish, that with all the troubles and interruptions to our lives, we have not forgotten our responsibilities to the least of our sisters and brothers and especially through the very good work of our Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

A report was recently published concerning the impact on meeting the needs of the homeless during this pandemic. As you can imagine, hygiene and social distancing would be hard enough at the best of times. And so trying to keep those who do have housing off the streets is a top priority.

Before the pandemic, Our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has started an initiative called “**InVincible Housing**”, that works to help those who have housing but who are temporarily not able to pull together the funds they need to pay the rent and the utilities. Our people realized that it is a great idea to help people to keep what they have, rather than see them lose their housing and then try and help them get back into housing some where down the road. Some of the monies that you donate to our St. Vincent de Paul Society are being used in this way to help our neighbours to keep living indoors.

The stability that this outreach creates in the lives of our sisters and brothers is often the difference between security and stability, and the unravelling that is sure to come to those who find themselves on the streets for no fault of their own.

Keep in mind that they don't just give your money away. They work with the client to make sure that they have accessed every other source of assistance, including helping them file their tax returns so that they have an official record of their income, before they share what we have given them. Not only is this fiscally sound for an organization with limited funds to disperse, it also engages and educates the clients on how to look out for themselves, now and in the future.

And that sounds exactly what Jesus would do when He would heal someone and would assure them that; “By your faith, they have been made well”, for empowering the believer was always a part of any miracle.

As Jesus promised to people just like us in Luke chapter 6; “Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put into your lap.” If we see Jesus in the very least of our sisters and brothers, we are much more likely to recognize Jesus when He walks with us and when He visits our homes.

May God be gracious to us and bless us, now and forever.

Pat Monette/Pastor