

Sunday August 26, 2018 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

After the multiplication of the loaves and a lively discussion with the disciples, a good number of them left Jesus. It was a pivotal moment. Jesus said to the twelve: *Do you want to leave too?* Peter took the lead and confirmed his faith in Christ: *You have the words of eternal life.*

I find this passage relevant. Many of us, myself included, lived in an era where the Christian tradition and faith were part of the predominant culture, even the air we breathed. No matter the question, Jesus was the answer.

Since those days, our culture has changed, along with our values and social order. Today we live in a pluralistic and highly secularized society that is often hostile to religion. There are also the influences of other religions, sects, and mystical currents of all kinds. It is not uncommon, then, that Christ's words may appear to be shocking, discouraging, and perhaps even obscure.

I hear Jesus ask us: *Do you want to leave, too?* Each one of us has to make that decision.

We reflect and exercise our free will. The choice is always ours. Remember that spirituality is a dimension that will enrich our lives. Like Peter, we must take the lead and live with our decision.

André Beauchamp



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Sunday August 19, 2018 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We need to satisfy our hunger in order to live. We are also hungry for *Life* in the sense that we are always searching for meaning.

The media constantly reminds us that millions of refugees are willing to make incredible sacrifices to reach a safe place to live or even just to survive. On another level, though the media report that religious practice appears to be in free-fall, there is still an identifiable search for spirituality. This quest may follow various pathways but it reflects a need that is deeply inscribed in the heart of our human experience. This spiritual quest is a search for meaning for our lives. We want to live long and worthwhile lives. What happens after we die? Are we thinking about eternal life?

In response, the Gospel comes to us with a reasonable declaration. There is a reference to *Wisdom* in the Book of Proverbs, who offers bread and wine to all with the advice to: *Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.* Jesus makes similar statements. However, this time, it is his flesh that he offers as food; his blood that he gives us to drink.

These shocking and astonishing statements comprise Christ's message. Yet were these the answers expected by people whose needs had not been fulfilled and who were still hungry? Those to whom Jesus spoke did not believe him. Their questions referred not only to his words but the fact that Christ actually spoke them: *How can this man give us his flesh to eat?* The crowd who listened to Jesus could not comprehend how he could make such statements. Yet, as God's Envoy, these words came from God. During their time in the desert, the Jews had accepted God's gift of manna from heaven. Christ's words referred to a new manna: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven.*

The crowd still could not accept Christ's words: *Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* This new nourishment would also come from heaven. *This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.*

Jesus spoke to them about life. *Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.*

Jesus Christ offers us a future and a pathway to eternal life. His words may be difficult to hear because they force us to go far beyond our human limitations and embrace a new spirituality. He speaks of hunger that we must satisfy in order to live, but especially of a hunger for life that Christ alone can provide.

Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

The Week at a Glance

Sun Aug 19 9:00 am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Yvan Potie**
 11:00am Mass in Arborfield **For the people**

Mon Aug 20 *Fr Travis' day off*

Tues Aug 21 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For Personal**
Intention

Wed Aug 22 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For Renee**
Marchildon

Thurs Aug 23 6:00 pm Adoration in Carrot River
 7:00pm Mass in Carrot River **For †Nick**
Panchyshyn

Fri Aug 24 10:00am Mass in Arborfield Care Home
 7:00pm Adoration in Zenon Park
 8:00pm Mass in Zenon Park **For Vincent**
Marchildon

Sat Aug 25 7:00pm Mass in Carrot River **For Steven Whelan**

Sun Aug 26 9:00 am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Madeleine**
Marchildon
 11:00am Mass in Arborfield **For the people**

Mon Aug 27 *Fr Travis' day off*

Tues Aug 28 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Wilf Carpentier**

Wed Aug 29 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Maxine Leblanc**

Thurs Aug 30 6:00 pm Adoration in Carrot River
 7:00pm Mass in Carrot River

Fri Aug 31 10:00am Mass in Arborfield Care Home
 7:00pm Adoration in Zenon Park
 8:00pm Mass in Zenon Park **For †Therese Groat**

Sat Sept 1 7:30pm Mass in Zenon Park **For †Gilles Favreau**

Sun Sept 2 9:00 am Mass in Arborfield **For the people**
 11:00am Mass in Carrot River **For †Dennis**
Panchyshyn

Announcements and Activities

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Aug 19</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>
Commentator	Lisa	Joann
Reader	Jeanne	Pam
Cup	Neil, Beatrice	Guy, Sue
Hospitality	Bronners	Neil, Lorraine
Offerings	Liz, Guy	Brian, Pam
Sacristan	Jeanne	Joann

Mass time for July/August

Sat 7:30pm – Carrot River
 Sun 9:00am – Zenon Park
Sun 11:00am – Arborfield

Mass Change for September/October

Sat 7:30pm – Zenon Park
Sun 9:00am – Arborfield
 Sun 11:00am – Carrot River

Cleaning Schedule

Aug 20 - 26, 2018	Flo & Mary Ann Perrault
Aug 27 - Sep 2, 2018	Dale & Rita & Stacy Mutimer
Sep 3 - 9, 2018	Grant & Beatrice Thesen

Last week's collection total: **\$425.00** Aug 5
\$335.00 Aug 12 **Thank You**

Bring the whole family to Serena Saskatchewan's 7th annual **Run for the Family** on Saturday, September 15/18 at 10 am at Meewasin Park North in Saskatoon. Choose from 1km, 3km, or 5 km (run, walk, strollers welcome). Pledges can be collected in support of Serena; prizes awarded (20% of collection). Register by Aug 25th for early bird rates; family rates available. To register visit www.runningroom.com