THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 14: St. Cyril and St. Methodius (9th century), the apostles to the Slavs, were brothers who through great effort and in spite of tremendous difficulties converted the Slavonic nations. They translated the Bible into Slavonic and devised glagolitic writing, used to the present day in the liturgical services of some Eastern rites. In 867, they came to Rome and met Pope Hadrian where Cyril died at the young age of 42. Methodius returned to Moravia, labored as a missionary among the Hungarians, Bulgarians, Dalmatians, and the inhabitants of Carinthia. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

THE MANIPULATION OF LANGUAGE

Pope John Paul II defined the culture of death as a lethal mentality possessing an unlimited capacity for engulfing a wide range of victims, that employed an inclusive perspective for highlighting “whatever is opposed to life itself,” such as genocide, abortion, euthanasia, suicide, experimental exploitation of human beings, slavery, torture, mutilation rituals, and a host of other infamies. An ominous feature of this increasingly monolithic mindset is “a war of the powerful against the weak: a life which requires greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless, or held to be an intolerable burden, and is therefore rejected in one way or another.” He called this phenomenon “a truly alarming spectacle, if we consider not only how extensively attacks are spreading but also their unheard-of numerical proportion, and the fact that they receive widespread legal approval and the involvement of certain sectors of health-care personnel.”

A prophetic and unusually forthright editorial in the September 1970 issue of California Medicine acknowledged that obtaining widespread acceptance of abortion “will of necessity violate and ultimately destroy” the Judeo-Christian ethic of “intrinsic and equal value for every human life” and will result in supplanting this ethic with a quality-of-life ideology that “places relative rather than absolute values on such things as human lives.” To bring about such a radical change, the editorial sets forth a strategy aptly dubbed “semantic gymnastics”: (1) “Avoidance of the scientific fact, which everyone really knows, that human life begins at conception;” and (2) “Separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing.” Moreover, this level of deceit is considered so extreme that the editorial refers to it as a schizophrenic sort of subterfuge, that is necessary because while a new ethic is being accepted, the old one has not yet been rejected.

Besides the numerous forms of devastation brought about by the death culture, John Paul singled out another casualty—the demise of conscience itself. Through the manipulation of language, the forces of death have proven extraordinarily successful in numbing the moral sensitivities of many to the horrors actually taking place. This process leads to an “extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense” in which conscience is rendered increasingly indifferent, blind, and impotent in the face of the evils being perpetrated.

Like its lethal cousin abortion, euthanasia is dressed up in idyllic images of medical killing as a humane and compassionate process. Geriatric physicians can view lethal injection as “a truly humane” way to end the lives of the “elderly demented” and "borderline functional people." In euthanasia activist circles, smothering the patient with a plastic bag is known as the “bag technique” and is placed under the reassuring classification, "a compassionate deliverance from suffering." The British Medical Journal declared suicide-euthanasia perpetrator Dr. Jack Kevorkian "a hero" for acting "to end what he perceived as suffering." – From an Interview with William Brennan, author of John Paul II: Confronting the Language Empowering the Culture of Death | Ignatius Insight | July 10, 2009
COINS FOR LIFE 2017
Would you put aside your toonies, loonies, quarters, nickels and dimes during Lent to contribute to the struggle to end abortion and to create a Culture of Life in Canada? If so, take a “Coins for Life” box after the Masses on February 25/26. This project helps us to run the National March for Life in Ottawa on May 11, 2017. Your small change can lead to a BIG change in our land and will help to save countless innocent lives now and in the future. Be a voice for those denied life and stand up to this “culture of death” society. Make this a family, school, office project and spread the good news that human life is precious and sanctified from conception to natural death.

For more information call Jenny or Jeff at 416-204-9749. Volunteers are always needed!

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE
Next General meeting is Saturday February 17th in the hall at 9:30 am. Come check us out!

World Day of Prayer: On March 3 Christians in more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in solidarity with the women of the Philippines. Please join us and invite your friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer 2017 at St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church 6945 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle, Mississauga.

MEN’S MERCY CORP
Calling all men over 18 years old to join Mercy Corps, a men's initiative by the Knights of Columbus. Learn about true Humility, Authority and the concept of the Gray Man. Discuss questions you have about our beautiful faith and set self-development goals. The Mission: Become better husbands, fathers, sons & brothers, frequently meeting Christ our Lord, helping each other, and serving our community even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Next meeting: Saturday February 25th starting with 9 am Mass followed by confession and meeting (in the basement).

CALLING ALL GIRLS
A Special Evening For Mothers & Daughters
For High School & University Student Girls & Their Moms
An evening of short high powered talks • Meet new people
• Learn the truth • Talk about it • Have fun • Discover who you are
• Avoid mistakes • Improve your relationships!
Friday March 24, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd, Mississauga.
Register at dynamicwomenfaith.com/calling-all-girls-2017

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP
ONE-DAY LENTEN RETREAT
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
Preacher: Rev. Fr. Damian Ali
Registration after Masses: Saturday, February 25 and March 4 and Sunday, February 26 and March 5
$10 – includes tea, coffee, snacks and lunch
Come and join us – Lunch will be provided.
… The Lord’s invitation is extended TO ALL.
Let us do something life-changing for Lent.
Our need for JESUS is deep. His love for us is DEEPER….

YOUTH SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR
1st Holy Communion:
Last Reconciliation session for children will be on Saturday February 18th at 10 am
Session 2 will be: Tuesday March 7th at 7 pm or Saturday March 25 at 10 am

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
Celebrate your love and take a fresh look at your marriage! Spend a very special weekend together of discovery...a lifetime of love!
This weekend getaway helps married couples rediscover themselves as individuals and as a couple. Couples are helped to communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling. March 17-19 at (Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga). More info and application is at: www.wwme.org or contact: Gerard & Marge McCauley at gerard.marge@rogers.com or (905) 792-1925

DYNAMIC WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE
“Get Inspired, Discover your Mission, Do Something for God”
Saturday, March 19 – 8:30am – 5pm at The John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre (Next to St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish) 4300 Cawthra Rd, Mississauga. Opening Mass celebrated by his Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins at 9:00am SPEAKERS: Dr. Josephine Lombardi ♦ Deacon Robert & Gabrielle Suthers ♦ Tanya Granic Allen ♦ Cheryl Thompson ♦ Dorothy Pilarski TOPICS: The Call to Holiness -Why Minister to Moms? -Finding Your Catholic Voice -Marriage and Sanity? -How Does CatholicMomsGroup.com Work? Contact Dorothy Pilarski at dynamicwomenfaith@yahoo.ca or 905-279-7702.

BAND OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS MEN’S CONFERENCE
Join Fr. Larry Richards and Archbishop of Montreal Christian Lépine on February 18th for Serviam Ministries’ 2nd annual Band of Christian Brothers Men’s Conference at Canada Christian College in Toronto. The theme is “Step Up”. The day will strengthen and challenge men to become the man God created them to be. Mass, Adoration and Confession will take place. Special Father/Son rates available. All info and tickets: https://www.serviamministries.com/events/step-up/, info@ServiamMinistries.com or 1-888-522-2070.

LENTEN RETREAT WITH FR. JACQUES PHILIPPE
Fr. Jacques Philippe’s writings, with over one million copies sold in 24 languages, on themes such as prayer, interior freedom, and peace of heart have become classics of modern Catholic spirituality. Join us Friday March 03, at 6:00 pm. in the Church. Tickets are $10.00 and are now available at St. Joseph’s Workshop at 905-568-8777.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2017
Friday, Feb. 24: 8pm-10pm & Saturday Feb. 25: 10am-5pm; Friday, March 3rd: 8pm-10pm & Saturday, March 4th: 10am-5pm. Couples must attend all four days. $125 per couple includes lunches, snacks.