

Office Hours
Fr. Millan Sajonas
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Faith Formation
Wednesday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 noon
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Are you interested to join a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

There is a pilgrimage going to the Holy Land from January 12 to 20, 2021. It is organized by Fr. Millan Sajonas and Biyaheng Kapamilya sa Holy Land. The theme is “**A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: I rejoiced when I heard them say ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’**”

For further details, visit
www.kapamilyaholyland.com or <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> or call Fr. Millan at 306-763-5677/ email: bmjs1981@gmail.com

Family Circles - Faith, Prayer, Life & Charity

The Adult & Family Faith Formation Commission has organized a diocesan-wide advancement of family faith formation. Family Circles Program is a Roman Catholic-based faith catechesis exploring the fundamentals of Catholicism and the promotion of devotions. It aims to connect families through prayers and family time activities. It also endeavors to unite families to concretize belief through charitable outreach.

Families interested in joining or knowing more about this initiative may contact the Adult and Family Faith Formation Commission or email bmjs1981@gmail.com or call 306-763-5677. In view of the health crisis, our gathering has been temporarily cancelled until further notice.

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of Death and Resurrection of the Body* (Book) by Scott Hahn;
- (2) *Mercy: What Every Catholic Should Know* (Book) by Fr. Daniel Moloney;
- (3) *Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God* (DVD set) by Fr. Mike Schmitz;
- (4) *Signs of New Life: Homilies on the Church's Sacraments* (Book) by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

For more resources: padiocese.ca or bmjsajonas.com

Next issue's contents:

Matthew 9:10-13: The Lesson of the Great Physician; Getting to know a parish in the diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

Editors:

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada), Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Fr. Maurice Fiolleau. (SK, Canada).

ADULT & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION Diocese of Prince Albert

A Blessed Easter Season Everyone!

IMDVS April 2020

Luke 10:25-37: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

By Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asks the lawyer to Jesus. In response, Jesus asks him what is written in the law. The lawyer ended up in answering his own inquiry, saying, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Wanting to justify himself, the lawyer then asks a follow-up question, “Who is my neighbour?”

Many people throughout history have aspired for eternal life. But Jesus tells us that inheriting eternal life is possible only by loving God and our neighbour. The reason why the lawyer wanted to know who his neighbour is. The Lord answered the lawyer’s question with the parable of the Good Samaritan, defining once and for all who is a neighbour. We learn that the identity of our neighbour is not determined by her or his personal beliefs or religion. A neighbor is anyone who is in need. Anyone who acts on doing something to alleviate the suffering, difficulty, or problems of another person truly acts as a neighbour to the other. A neighbour can also be anyone that we know, or a complete stranger. Being a neighbour means not being afraid to encounter another person, despite the knowledge of the probable discomfort or problem that we may incur in extending our helping hands. Moreover, the Samaritan not only helped in the plight of his neighbour, but he did more to help his neighbour. In helping and in providing for the man’s needs, the Samaritan assured this man’s restoration. He acted beyond what was necessary, and provided to ensure for his neighbour’s complete care. Such action could be described as unconditional love for the other. The Samaritan provided for the care and needs of his neighbour, despite not knowing whether the person would return the money gave, or reciprocate the help afforded. Thus, he was truly following the commandment to love his neighbour.

Encountering people in need is one of the ways that God manifests Himself to us. God knocks on the door of our heart to make us aware of the difficulty and problem of other people. Therefore, in helping and loving our neighbour, we can say that we love God. The challenge is put before us: will we be the priest or Levite looking for a way to escape the sight of the pain and suffering of another person? Or are we going to be like the Samaritan who stopped and extended his aid to his neighbour in need? (Continued on Page 2)



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Reflection Questions

1. What is your definition of a neighbour?
2. How can you be a neighbour to others especially in this time of social distancing and isolation?
3. Have you gone out of your way to help others? How did you do that?
4. What was your feeling after helping a neighbour in need?
5. Did you do more than what was necessary to help another person? What was the reaction of the person that you helped?

Our Lady of Consolation – Melfort

The first records of the Catholic Church in Melfort area began in 1898. There exists a certificate for the baptism of Pierre Drian on March 3, 1898, by Fr. Adrien Maisonneuve, O.M.I. In order to attend mass, prior to 1904, the early Catholic settlers had to travel to Flett's Springs, a distance of nearly 30 miles from Star City, where Fr. Maisonneuve had applied for a homestead in 1889. Fr. Maisonneuve served this district as far as Hudson Bay Junction and held services in schools or private homes.

In 1905, it was decided to build a church in Star City with Father Maisonneuve acting as head carpenter and with the help of volunteers building the church. At first, one part of the building was completed and was used as a chapel. It wasn't until 1911 that the interior of the church was completed and an organ was purchased. This church was called St. Adrian and served the area from Tisdale to Flett's Springs. Before the church had been properly built, a residence had been erected for the pastor. This house had sliding doors, which could convert into a chapel for Mass.

By 1923, there were 30 families in the parish. Bishop Prud'homme himself visited Star City in 1924. Although it was August, the roads were almost impassible. The bishop apparently left St. Brieux by 2 p.m. and travelled the 42 miles in some three and a half hours. On his arrival, there was a solemn procession into the church where Bishop Prud'homme dedicated the building to St. Adrian, celebrated Mass, and later confirmed twelve children.

By the 1920s, the economy had improved and motor power was taking over horsepower. The larger town of Melfort had no Catholic church as yet. The priest had been coming from Star City, Tisdale or Nipawin to say Mass once a month, provided that a hall or Catholic home could be found and prepared for the celebration.

The Catholics of Melfort felt that they were ready to erect a church under the direction of Fr. Anciaux of Star City. Work on the building was started in 1925. When seeding was finished that spring, some farmers brought their horses and scrapers and, accompanied by their sons and helpers, dug the foundation for the church as well as a hole for the heating apparatus. Then, with a lot of volunteer help, the building was constructed with minimum of expense. The church was blessed and dedicated by Msgr. Prud'homme in 1928. The parishioners of Melfort finally had a church to call their own. They named it Our Lady of Consolation Roman Catholic Church. At first the parish did not have a resident priest. Mass was still said by priests from Star City, Tisdale or Nipawin.

In 1930, Fr. Anciaux, a priest of the Missionaries of Ste Marie de Tinchebray, came from Star City to Melfort as resident priest. He unfortunately became ill in December 1944 and passed away. He was buried in the St. Mary plot in Tisdale. (Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2) For several years after that, Fr. Desmond came from Nipawin to say Mass once a month, and sometimes, the parishioners also had Midnight Mass at Christmas.

On Nov. 3, 1957, Fr. B. Sharkey arrived to take over the administration of the parish of Melfort, which now included Star City. He rented a house near the church which was then located at the corner of Saskatchewan and Ontario streets. Fr. Sharkey's sister, Alicia, came over from Ireland and was housekeeper at the rectory. At this time, it was decided to move the church to a more central part of the town so property was purchased on Stavel Ave. West. A two-storey rectory with a full-sized basement was constructed. The work on these buildings was mostly done on a voluntary basis. With considerable difficulty and after many obstacles, the church was moved and placed on its new foundation on Oct. 11, 1952. Services had continued to be conducted in the building even while it was jacked up and waiting to be moved to its new location.

In the 1960s, a number of Catholics moved to Melfort from the surrounding parishes. The missions at Kinistino and Fishing Lake also became part of Melfort. The church at Star City had been closed. All these factors necessitated some changes in Melfort. More space was needed to accommodate all these extra parishioners, and so it was decided to build a new church.

In 1970, the parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation were getting anxious to build. For a number of years, Fr. Sharkey and the trustees had been building up a large trust fund for this purpose. The group went to Prince Albert to see his Excellency Bishop Morin and did not return to Melfort until they had the permission to build a new church. The sod turning of the new church took place on Sept. 28, 1970, and the first service was held in the new building on July 25, 1971. The date of the official opening and blessing by Msgr. Morin was on May 28, 1972. The new building was all paid for. There were no loans nor any outstanding accounts against the parish. It was all done by the individual, personal efforts of parishioners. Fr. Sharkey received an ovation in acknowledgement of his work and leadership in the parish. Fr. Sharkey's and his parishioners' dream had come true. Fr. Sharkey was not granted too many years to enjoy the new church as he died at Melfort on Oct. 11, 1979.

The old church that had served the parish of Our Lady of Consolation so faithfully from 1926 to 1971 is now used as a social centre for the people of the parish. Two classrooms have been made in it where catechism is taught to the children.

In 1957, a C.W.L. council was formed in Melfort. The ladies continue their fundraising activities to help meet the expenses of the parish. In addition they endeavor to extend their work into the community and beyond the parish itself. They assist seminarians and students, support the national scholarship fund and the Holy Father's Relief Fund, and contribute to the organization for Development and Peace. They also have many local charities dear to their hearts that they support faithfully.

After Fr. Sharkey's death the parish was administered in turn by Fr. P.E. Coté, C.E. Charest and Robert Van Vynckt. In June 1983 Fr. Luc Gaudet became parish priest, and under his leadership and foresight the church building was greatly enlarged to become a full parish centre with well appointed rooms to serve the growing need for space for catechetical instruction. To complete the complex before his reassignment to North Battleford, Fr. Gaudet's parish had proceeded with the removal of the old church and rectory, and the vacant space was used for the erection of an apartment block, in which quarters are reserved for the pastor. (Source: Lavigne, S. Kaleidoscope: Many Cultures – One Faith, St. Peter's Press, Muenster, Saskatchewan, 1990, p. 208-210)