

Office Hours
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Wednesday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 noon
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Model Families: Do you know a family or families that are exemplary in their faith and charity in your parish or community? It is time for you to nominate them as Model Families of 2019! The Adult Faith Formation Commission is looking for nominations of model families. Write a short biography of the family and tell us why the family is a model of faith and charity. Please indicate the parish or town of the family. Ask the permission of the family you are nominating. When you have obtained the consent of the family, submit a copy of the short biography to adultfaith@padiocese.ca

Invite the family to attend the **Gospel Jamborees**, either in Prince Albert on October 12 2018 at St. Joseph's parish, or in North Battleford on October 13 2018 at St. Joseph Calasancius. A committee will choose 6 families as "Model Families of 2019," and they will be recognized at the **Family Conference in 2019** (More information TBA). Rewards will be given to the families as well as to the ones who nominated them.

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales;
- (2) *Love, Sacrifice, Trust* (Audio) by Fr. Mike Schmitz;
- (3) *The Birth of the Franciscans* (Documentary) by Marco Mattia;
- (4) *Lead Kindly Light: The Life and Message of Blessed John Henry Newman* (Documentary) by Ignatius Press

For more resources: padiocese.sk.ca or bmjsajonas.com

Getting to know...St Henry. He was born in Bavaria in 973 and succeeded as duke at the age of 22. He became the Holy Roman Emperor in 1014. He was noted for his support for the reform of the Church, and for his encouragement of missionary activity. He set up many bishoprics, and he and his wife Cunegunda founded many monasteries. He died in 1024 and was canonized by Pope Eugenius III in 1146. He is the patron saint of dukes, the childless, and the handicapped. His feast day is on July 13. St. Henry is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Church in Leask, Saskatchewan that bears his name. Let us pray that through the intercession of St. Henry that people may generously support the needs and evangelizing efforts of the Diocese of Prince Albert by giving their time, resources, and talents.
(Source: Universalis Publishing Ltd. 1996-2018)

Next issue's contents:

Jesus calms the storm (Matthew 8:23-27); Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

Editors:

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS July 2018

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be too!
(Mt 6:19-21)

by Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

In Jesus, the Messiah, God's son, God has drawn near to abide with us to the end of time. The Sermon on the Mount shows that Jesus teaches His disciples and the people how to inherit eternal life. It is not to annul the Law, but to give it new importance and new interpretation: exposing what is really important. Material possession is one of the realities on earth that the disciples are going to encounter. The use of wealth, honor, and power is not evil in itself, though its use can be abused, excessive, and a danger for the soul. Therefore, the right attitude towards wealth, honor, and power is to be thankful, and to be contented of what God has given us, and put them at the service of God and others. If, by the grace of God, more is given, the goal should not change. Everything should be directed toward God's service and to helping our neighbors. With this goal, heaven becomes the desire of the heart. Wealth, power, and honor are possible means of achieving what is the ultimate treasure, **eternal life**. We should not forget that everything is a gift from God. We will not inherit heaven because of the deeds that we have performed, but because of God Himself in His abundant goodness. God will reward a true, honest, and sincere heart.

In the Gospel of Matthew, there is a comparison between Jesus and Moses. From Mount Sinai, Moses had received the Ten commandments from God for the people of Israel to learn and keep His Law (Exodus 20). Moses taught them again in the plains of Moab as the people of Israel, a new generation who was unaware of the Exodus and the Horeb experience who were about to enter the Promised Land. The purpose of Moses' teaching was for Israel to learn and know the statutes and commandments of God (Deuteronomy 1:1-5). Jesus also teaches the disciples on the mountain. While Moses had received the commandments from God to teach to the people of Israel, Jesus interprets the commandments and teaches the people on His own authority as the Messiah. Therefore, in a way, Jesus is implicitly depicted as God, giving the commandments and instructions. Perhaps, the apocalyptic style of some of the his teachings hint of this image of Jesus, not only figuring the great prophet Moses, but also that Jesus as God Himself, who has drawn near to His people, teaching them about the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Matthew, heaven is described here as a place where one can store up treasures. As it has been mentioned, these treasures may refer to good and well-intended actions, referred in the preceding discourse on almsgiving, prayer, and fasting (Matthew 6:1-18), or even to the whole discourse of Jesus on the mountain (Matthew 5-7). This brings us to the question: Can one inherit heaven by one's action? (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1) In the instructions of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, good deeds with the right motives are mentioned and taught. Thus, actions have to be accomplished that are worthy of heaven. The place where we choose to store up what we value most indicates our priorities. Nevertheless, this teaching affirms only part of Jesus' teachings. In Matthew 6:21, the desire of the heart reveals the intention or goal of a person. In truth, no one can see this intention or goal behind one's action. Matthew 6:1-18 demonstrates that deeds themselves can be mysterious. The reference to the heavenly Father, who rewards a person, points to the needed grace of God to inherit heaven. By one's effort and actions, one cannot inherit heaven, but we must rely on the abundant grace of God, who sees all of our actions, the recesses of our minds and hearts. God will judge deeds according to the standards that Jesus Himself has given to His followers.

Matthew 6:19-21, the instruction on the matter of wealth, challenges the disciples. One of the temptations on earth is wealth; by extension, honor and power. Though the fear of falling into sin is always there, wealth, honor, and power can be used for a higher goal or purpose. To use wealth, honor, and power to the service of others and God's glory, we need the grace of God. If the service to God and our neighbors is our goal, we can never go wrong. The diminishing wealth and power for this goal should also produce exceeding joy and satisfaction. Thus, we ourselves only become instruments for God's abundant blessings to be distributed to others. The attention and commitment of the heart are God and others. We perform our task as stewards of God's gifts, sharing them with our brothers and sisters, especially the less fortunate, the abused, the poor, and the lonely. We can never deem ourselves as greater than our Master but as unworthy servants who are only doing what is our duty (Luke 17:10).

Reality tells us that treasures, which are stored on earth, are susceptible to moths and rust, indicating deterioration. They are also attractions for thieves, who can break into the storage and steal the treasures. In contrast, treasures which are stored up in heaven are beyond the reach of moths, rust, and thieves. Thus, the advantages of storing up treasures in heaven are given emphasis, because treasures stored in heaven are lasting and secured. The longing for earthly possessions is situated on earth, while the longing for heavenly things is in view of heaven. Heaven implies a future condition, assured as a state of happiness. How are we to store up treasures in heaven? And what kind of treasures are we storing there? These are the two pressing questions. The answers are contained in the Sermon on the Mount and ,by extension, following the teachings and examples of Jesus.

Questions for Reflection

1. How will you describe heaven?
2. What is the Church's teaching on heaven and hell?
3. What are your needs, wants, and desires?
4. Will they help you store up treasures in heaven? How?
5. How do you understand the statement "Heaven itself is a gift from God"?

Model Families: In reply to a few inquiries about the nominations for model families
This initiative has been done before by the Knights of Columbus, where they nominated model families all over the world to acknowledge their charitable deeds and active participation in the Mother Church and communities.

We are not setting one family against another, but rather we want to acknowledge their contributions, hoping to encourage and inspire more families to grow in holiness and good works. This process could be compared to a Nobel Peace Award, Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations, Valedictorian, Magna Cum Laude, etc, to mention a few.

We acknowledge that there are many active, good, loving, and holy families in our diocese and in our world that stand out as model families: examples of the love of Our Lord and His hands and feet to God's people. In Matthew 18:2-4, Our Lord took a child and placed the child in the midst of His disciples as an example for the disciples to imitate. So should our endeavor be to appreciate and to promote families working together for the good works of the Church, and the growth of faith in our communities and in our diocese.

In evangelizing, we do not only use general terms, lofty ideals, and abstract concepts, but rather we look at the examples of people: real, concrete, and tangible to human senses, so that they may help truly understand what we teach, what we practice, what we profess in Christ, Our Lord.

Pope Francis, in promoting the "World Family Conference," understands the need to bring families together, to invite speakers who share their experiences, and perhaps are models for people to see and to hear. In this way, it is acknowledging their valuable contributions to the promotion of holy families in the Catholic Church, and throughout the world.

With the grace of God, we hope to acknowledge these families, and to achieve the same effects of the "World Family Conference" in our diocese: the coming together of people with joy and inspiration. It will be a great reminder that families are not alone in their faith, in their perseverance to holiness or in their love for God and His people.

May this help us understand the needs of the Church and clarify your inquiries in promoting model families!

Diocese of Prince Albert Gospel Jamborees

St. Joseph's Parish, Prince Albert from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm October 12 2018 (Friday)
260-25th Street East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan 306-764-4942
St. Joseph Calasanctius, North Battleford from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm October 13 2018
(Saturday) 1942-98th Street, North Battleford, Saskatchewan 306-446-1695
Speaker: Ken Yasinski "The Family and the Christian Faith" and "The Challenges of Family Today" Entertainment: The Sundrops Band & Stephanie Rose