

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Bulletin

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

We are never alone in our suffering



Jonathan Pitre is a 16-year old young man from Ontario who has a rare skin condition called epidermolysis bullosa, which causes severe and very painful blisters all over his body. [...] When asked, “Where do you get the strength to get up every morning knowing what you’re going to have to go through?” he responded, “The strength comes from the people around me.” For years, he thought he was the only one going through that pain, until 2012 when he went to a conference for other people with EB, and it changed his life. He said, “I had never met anyone with my condition.... I had never known there was anyone else.... I knew that I wasn’t alone anymore.”

His experience points to a need every person has: To not be alone. To suffer alone is extremely painful. We’re made for relationships, and when we suffer, we sometimes feel like we’re the only ones suffering. That’s why there are support groups for almost every category of person. [...]

This is one reason why Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days. In the Gospel, it says, “After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the Angels waited on him” (Mk 1:13-14).

Why did the Holy Spirit drive Jesus into a place where He would be tempted? Pope Benedict XVI said that it’s because Jesus had to experience the trials of humanity; He had to go to the “uttermost depths” of human existence, “in order to find the ‘lost sheep’... and to bring it home.” “He must go through, suffer through, the whole of [history of humanity’s suffering], in order to transform it.” It’s fascinating: Why was Jesus with wild beasts? Because Adam was with wild beasts in the Garden of Eden and then tempted by Satan. Why was Jesus there for 40 days? Because the Hebrew people were tested in the desert for 40 years. But where they failed, Jesus succeeds!

Christopher Hitchens, the famous and aggressive atheist, thought God sits by humanity’s suffering with arms crossed, meaning

He doesn’t care. But, because of Jesus, the Letter to the Hebrews says: “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Wow! We’re not alone, God understands our suffering. Hebrews 2:18 also says, “Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.”

Now it’s true that Jesus didn’t suffer every single form of human suffering possible. But we can find a saint for almost every suffering we’re going through. Someone here told me that she always goes to **Mary** because she’s a mother and knows what it’s like. But there’s also **Dorothy Day**, who’s up for canonization, who had an abortion

- **Bl. Matt Talbot** was an alcoholic.
- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** was devastated at the deaths of her eldest daughter, Anne Marie, when she was 16, and her youngest daughter, Rebecca, when she was 12. St. Elizabeth was also abandoned by her friends when she became Catholic.
- **St. Jane Frances de Chantel** was distraught by the death of her husband.
- **St. Martin de Porres** was abandoned by his father because of his dark skin.
- **Bl. Magdalene of Canossa** was abandoned by her mother.
- **St. Benedict Joseph Labre** tried to become a priest four times but was turned away because of his mental illness.
- **St. Louis Martin**, St. Therese’s father, had many strokes.
- **Catherine de Hueck Doherty**, another candidate for canonization, seriously thought about suicide three times.
- **Bl. Frederic Ozanam** suffered from loneliness because he didn’t have satisfying friendships.
- **St. John XXIII** lived in poverty.
- **St. Catherine of Genoa’s** husband cheated on her many times.
- **St. Monica** was the victim of verbal abuse from her husband.
- **St. John Vianney** was a bad student. His report card read: Application—good; Conduct—good; Character—good; Knowledge—Very weak. He gives all priests struggling with their studies a lot of hope!
- **Bl. Charles de Foucauld** lost his faith and struggled with lust.
- **St. Augustine** was also a lustful man, and he and **St. Margaret of Cortona** both had children out of a wedlock.

Last week, we talked about how God sometimes uses suffering to heal something inside of us. And, while it’s true that He doesn’t always rescue us from suffering, He is with us when we suffer.

Here are a few ways we can be more aware that Jesus is with us: 1) Stations of the Cross. These are beautiful meditations on the suffering of Jesus, and the prayers we use on Tuesdays has Jesus speak to us, which is very consoling. 2) During Lent and Easter, we’ll use the Apostles’ Creed which says Jesus “descended

...continued on inside page

Pastor Fr. Justin Huang

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 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
 In case of emergencies,
 please call the office anytime.

Web: stanthonysvancouver.org
 Email: office@stanthonysvancouver.org

Parish Registration

Our parish family warmly welcomes new parishioners. Please register at your earliest convenience by filling out a registration form located in the vestibule or by stopping by the parish office during office hours. If you are registered and moving, please advise the parish office.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:15 am
 Tuesday 7:30 pm
 Wednesday-Friday 8:15 am
 Saturday 9:00 am

Lauds

Weekday 8:00 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 8:45 am
 Sunday 7:45 am

Confession

Weekday 8:00 to 8:10 am *except Tuesday*
 Saturday 9:45 am & 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
 1st Saturday each month 9:45 am to 4:30 pm and
 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 pm in the chapel
 (1365 West 73rd Avenue)

First Friday of each month: 8:45 am to 10:00 am in the church
 followed by Benediction.

First Saturday of each month: 9:30 am to 9:30 pm in the church
 during all-day confessions.

Please call the parish office for more information on other Sacraments and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes.

St. Anthony of Padua School

Preschool to Grade 7

1370 West 73rd Avenue,
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Principal: Darren Yanko

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 School Email office@stanthonypaduaschool.ca
 Preschool Email preschool@stanthonypaduaschool.ca

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Day	Feast or Memorial	Missal Page	Intention
Monday, February 19	Ferial	146	Catalina Co †
Tuesday, February 20	Ferial	149	Tranquilina Casiles †
Wednesday, February 21	Ferial	151	Elias & Teodosia Ramos †
Thursday, February 22	Feast of the Chair of St. Peter	1429	Florencia Gingoyon †
Friday, February 23	Ferial	157	Gertrude Lee Ho †
Saturday, February 24	Ferial	159	Natasha Peters †

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Nick De Vos, Teresa Gaio, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Huguette Piché, Barney Rousseau, Therese Rozario, Filomena Sison, Liliana Taylor, and Theresa Yoshioka.

AS SEEN ON EWTN

**LENTEN PARISH
MISSION**

at St. Anthony of Padua Parish
 7:00 pm, March 11 to 14

**How to Pray for your
sons, daughters and loved ones**

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For more information, please call the Parish Office, 604.266.6131.

A Love Offering will be requested at the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is offering a non-residential Marriage Encounter Weekend at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre on Saturday and Sunday, **April 28 - 29, 2018**. The format is the same as a regular Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, but there are no overnight accommodations. Participants return to their homes Saturday evening and resume the program early Sunday morning. This enrichment is for all married couples and for couples **civily married for more than 5 years**, who are now preparing for marriage in the Church. Cost is \$250/per couple (includes lunch and dinner Saturday, and lunch Sunday) For more information, contact: Steve & Mary Bohnen 604.876.7298 or wwmevancouverbc@gmail.com

Dying Healed THE PROGRAM

Do you want to help those who are sick, suffering, or dying? The simple act of attending to those at

home or in your community who might be lonely, sick, or suffering can bring spiritual healing and restore their sense of dignity. A three evening presentation will be offered on Tuesday, March 20th to Thursday, March 22nd, Lower Hall, St. Anthony of Padua Parish. The following speakers will be featured during this interactive workshop:

Natalie Sonnen, Executive Director of LifeCanada, **Annabelle Chong**, Executive Director of Vancouver's Life Community and **Fr. Justin Huang**. Please register in advance by calling 604.733.6266. Cost is \$45/person. Please pay at the door.



REMINDERS FOR LENT

- ◆ **All Fridays during Lent are special days of abstinence.** This means everyone 14 years and older should refrain from eating meat. Those who are ill are freed from these obligations. Catholics can choose to substitute special acts of charity or piety on these days.
- ◆ **Stations of the Cross:** Tuesday evenings, starting February 20th at 7:00 pm.

Fiat: Women's Discernment Event - Weekend Retreat

Fiat activities are open to single Catholic women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning God's call in life. Following the example of Mary, who gave her fiat to be both virgin and mother, we desire to hear and follow God's call to holiness through discernment of his will for our life and vocation. Join us for a weekend retreat March 2-4 at Westminster Abbey, Mission. To register, visit rcav.org/event/fiat-womensretreat

Interested in helping to improve our church building?

We need your help, particularly project managers, administrators, architects, engineers, technicians, trades, IT specialists, lawyers, accountants, etc. **Anthony Lo**, our volunteer project engineer, has been developing and implementing plans to restore and improve our church building and its operations. There is still much to do and we can use your help. If you're interested, and have a background in technical support in your field, or experience in operations, writing requests/proposals, making phone calls, gathering information/data, doing research, or managing projects, etc., we would like to hear from you! Please contact Anthony at the Parish Office at 604.266.6131.

We are not alone ... *continued from cover*

into hell." Pope Benedict again points out that this phrase also means that Jesus entering into human suffering happened during His whole life. We're going to use this creed because this phrase will remind us that Jesus is with us, and it's a good reminder to learn the first prayer used in the Rosary.

I told you last week about a woman here whose son is in jail. Today I'd like to share with you briefly about a visit I made to Norman Lai, a parishioner here who died two weeks ago. Norm was only 50 and battled with pancreatic cancer for over a year, which slowly wore down his body. He became extremely thin, his feet were swollen, he couldn't eat anymore, and he had bags attached to him because he couldn't go to the bathroom anymore. I was extremely edified by his attitude and faith; he didn't complain, but was upbeat, cheerful, and peaceful. In the last year of his life, he came much closer to God. When I saw him six days before he died, I gave him the

Last Rites, and afterwards, asked him, "Is there anything else I can do for you, Norm?" We were sitting on the edge of his bed together, and he grabbed my hand and held it, and said, "Just be with me... Just be with me."

This can be a new and deeper prayer for all of us when we're suffering: We just softly repeat to Jesus, "Just be with me... Just be with me." No fancy words, just straight from the heart. And then Jesus will say back to us, "I'm here... I'm here," over and over again. This will give incredible peace and strength; we'll realize Jesus is supporting us in our suffering. And after some minutes of this, we can change our prayer to, "Thank You for being with me... Thank You for being with me."

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, February 18, 2018

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