

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

With the Eucharist at the centre, we are a community desiring to be saints, sent out to love like Jesus and proclaim Him in every circumstance.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 19, 2020

Spiritual Friendships



Let's deal with two problems regarding friendships. First, what's called being "unequally yoked," which comes from a teaching of St. Paul (2 Cor 6:14): The term now refers to a marriage or a couple dating where one spouse or person is spiritually stronger than the other. When two animals with a yoke over their shoulders are of different strength and speed, there can be injuries.

Many times a married person has said to me that they know they're not as close to God as their spouse. Typically, a husband will reveal privately that he's intimidated by his wife; he thinks something like, "I can't keep up with you." Because he doesn't excel spiritually like she does, subconsciously he gives up and focuses on other things. Some of us men may actually feel a sense of inferiority: We're supposed to lead our family, but because we're passive, we're discouraged. Of course, this happens to women too, but it's not as common. When it does, these women sometimes feel unworthy of their virtuous husbands.

Second problem: Someone very holy once admitted to me that he had no friends. His vulnerability struck me deeply. Many of us don't have spiritual friendships, who challenge and support us in our ups and downs in faith.

The short second reading has three insights for us. "From Paul, called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes. To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 1:1-3).

First insight: St. Paul had friends and coworkers in God's vineyard. Many scholars point out that Sosthenes is a co-author of

this letter and that his name is mentioned—what's special about that? It's extremely rare in ancient Greek letters: it only happened six times in 645 letters. But St. Paul did it eight times in 13 letters because he wasn't a lone ranger. He calls Sosthenes his 'brother' because "early Christians understood themselves to be an extended family" (George T. Montague, *First Corinthians in Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*).

Every Christian should have spiritual friends, and the litmus test of a spiritual friend is that they talk about... Christ. St. Paul mentions the name 'Christ' nine times in the opening part of this letter, and we just heard it mentioned four times. If we don't talk about Jesus, who He is, our relationship with Him, and what He's doing now in our lives, that person may be a friend, but not a spiritual one.

Second Insight: What do we know about Sosthenes? Almost nothing. He could be the ruler of a Corinthian synagogue who was beaten when St. Paul first went there (Cf. Acts 18:17), and afterwards became a Christian. But the fact that we know almost nothing is helpful. St. Paul is perhaps the greatest missionary in Christian history, while Sosthenes is just a humble worker. So, if we're married to someone who's holier than we are, so what? Like Sosthenes, we should strive to be as holy as we can be.

Third insight: St. Paul writes "to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." He's referring to those who are made holy in baptism (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, 285), but who now have to "strive to be worthy of the opportunity given them" (New Jerome Biblical Commentary, 800, 1401).

The best kind of spiritual friendship is with another Christian who desires to be a saint. As we said in September, the essence of friendship in Latin in antiquity was *idem velle atque idem nolle*, to want the same thing and to reject the same thing. It's hard for me to be spiritual friends with someone who doesn't want to be a saint. I can be friends with them on a philosophical level because we share a desire for truth, and this is great, but they'll never truly understand my heart, what directs my whole life.

Now, if we're in an unequally yoked marriage, here are two solutions: 1) Divorce. Since that's not a good option, let's go to option number two. 2) Grow holier. Sosthenes' life points out that our goal is to become a saint according to our own path. We're not supposed to become mirror images of our spouses. [...]

One of the most spiritually mature things we can do that will catapult us instantly in holiness is an act of humility. Go to your wife and say, "Will you help me grow spiritually?" Real men admit when they need help and take ownership of their growth.

But what if we're the ones who are spiritually more advanced than our spouse? Pray for them, love them, spend time with them! Don't try to fix them. We all like to help people grow but sometimes we try to fix people, meaning we try to change them for our benefit. [...]

...continued inside

Pastor: Fr. Justin Huang Blog: thejustmeasure.ca
Deacon: Andrew Kung deaconandrewrcav@gmail.com
Priest in Residence: Fr. Pierre Leblond plb.op272@gmail.com

Address: 8891 Montcalm St., Vancouver BC V6P 4R4
 Mailing Address: 1345 West 73rd Ave., Van., BC V6P 3E9
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 Hours Tuesday—Friday
 9:00 am—12:00 noon
 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
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Email: office@stanthonysvancouver.org

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Parish Registration

Our parish family warmly welcomes new parishioners. Please register by filling out a registration form located in the vestibule or the Parish Office. 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

Weekdays	Masses	Confessions
Monday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Tuesday	7:30 pm	
Wednesday & Thursday	8:15 am	8:00 to 8:10 am
Friday (school months)	8:00 am	7:45 to 7:55 am
Saturday	9:00 am	9:45 am

Confession

Saturday afternoon 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm
 1st Saturday each month 9:45 am to 1:00 pm;
 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm;
 7:00 pm to 9:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration enter at 1365 West 73rd Avenue
 Daily: 6:00 am to Midnight

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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Please call the parish office for more information on RCIA classes and other Sacraments.

Weekday Masses & Intentions

Monday, January 20	Ferial	Amy Venida
Tuesday, January 21	<i>Memorial</i> St. Agnes	Antonio Velasco
Wednesday, January 22	Ferial	Doreen Francis †
Thursday, January 23	Ferial	Emery Manimtim †
Friday, January 24	<i>Memorial</i> St. Frances De Sales	Gordon Tup Chong †
Saturday, January 25	<i>Feast</i> Conversion of St. Paul	Coronacion Tadiaque †

Prayers for the Sick At Holy Mass we remember the sick including: Nita Carvajal, Nung Chum, Isobel Clancy, Elaine dos Remedios, Kathleen Francis, Feli Hempl, Yvonne Kharoubeh, Molly Loui-Ying, Mary Messere, Susan Panlican, Huguette Piché, Christina Sayo, Teresa Tche, Cynthia Wing.

Policy for booking Mass Intentions

In order to give more people a chance to book Masses for loved ones and deceased individuals, Mass intentions are now booked in two phases: 1) January to June and 2) July to December. Bookings for phase 2, will start on Tuesday, March 3. All bookings must be made in person at the Parish Office. Please call Annie at 604.266.6131 ext. 203 for more information.

Upcoming Homily Themes

January 25 & 26
Are We a Divided Parish?

*** NEW SEASON: *Life is a Gift***

February 1 & 2
8 Reasons Euthanasia is Wrong

February 8 & 9
Stopping 42 Million Murders

February 15 & 16
Receiving Healing & Mercy

February 22 & 23
Judgemental + Gentle = Perfection



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Coming soon...Faith Studies!

Note: Registration deadline is Sunday, January 26. The 17th round of Faith Studies will start up again, **Tuesday nights from February 4 to March 10 at 6:15 pm and 8:15 pm.** All five levels of studies will be offered: **Discovery, Source, Growth, Obedience and Commission.** For more information or to register, please contact Sara, 604.266.6131 ext. 204 or stanthonyfaithstudies@gmail.com.

Looking for a vibrant, supportive Catholic community of women who love God? CFC Handmaids of the Lord invites all women in the parish to attend Christian Life Program (CLP) every **Monday at 6:30 pm, February 3 to April 6** in the church hall. For more information, contact Zeny, 604.261.7077.





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Catholic Women's League: February Events



- 1.) Celebrate Lunar New Year with the CWL at their monthly Coffee Shop & Bake Sale on February 2!** If you'd like to help the CWL usher in the Year of the Rat, donations of sticky rice cakes, sweet desserts and pastries would be greatly appreciated!! Please bring your treats downstairs in the kitchen before Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday, and on Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Thanks to all supporters of the CWL!
- 2) CWL Movie Night** On February 12, 2020, 7:00 pm, in the Church Hall, the CWL will present the International Film Festival's movie "Conviction" which brings to light prison reform through the eyes of women who are incarcerated.

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Oftentimes, we want people to grow spiritually, but the reality is we're not holy enough to help them. Let's say a husband is 7 out of 10 in terms of holiness, while his wife is a 3. He wants her to get to 7 too. But the only way he'll help her is by himself becoming a 9! This is important for parents. Parents, if you want your children to love Jesus like you do, you need to grow yourselves because the truth is you're not holy enough to get your children to where you are now.

Now, what if we have no friendships? Then ask God for them. We have to pray that God will send people into our lives who have the same spiritual desires, with whom we can share our joys and sorrows, who will challenge us, and that we click with them. We can't be friends with every holy person, because we also have to be at similar stages in life and have similar interests.

Also, be proactive in fostering relationships. A common mistake when we go to a church is that we're passive and then wonder why we have no friends at church. Friendships develop over time by us getting involved and slowly getting to know others. If we start treating people with love and kindness, they'll reciprocate, and a friendship might develop. [...]

Lastly, we have *Faith Studies* starting in two weeks, which is an amazing opportunity to grow in holiness according to our own path, to talk to brothers and sisters about Christ, and to grow

in our desire to be a saint. We shouldn't sign up for *Faith Studies* in order to make friends, but spiritual relationships do form, and sometimes friendships do too.

I've seen spouses who were far from God come alive. I remember one time a couple came to me about getting their marriage blessed. At first the husband was opposed to it while the wife was trying to carry it through. After some time, he was so open that she said in front of me and him, "He's changed. I can't believe it. He now wants this more than I do."

And that person who told me that he had no friends started making time to get together with his brother regularly, and then started cancelling things at work in order to make time for friendships.

Finally, you should know that Sosthenes is recognized by the Church as a saint. He may not have been as holy as St. Paul, but he reached the goal! His feast day is November 28. God wants us to have spiritual friends, who desire to become saints.

- excerpt from Fr. Justin's homily, January 19, 2020

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