



Making of rosaries at 6:30 PM.

12. Day of Prayer for Vocations **13.** Scola Cantorum Concert at 7 PM followed by reception in the Hall **14.** Confirmation with bishop Cserháti at the 11 AM Mass, followed by a reception in the Hall for the family members ♦ Bake sale to support the orphans of Fr. Bőjte **21.** Renewing of the vows of the Catholic Men's League; gathering at 3 PM, Mass at 4 PM followed by a feast in the Hall **22.** Victoria Day – Long Weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ New Beginnings Talk: "Byzantine **Ukrainian Catholic Liturgies**/Prayers for the Dead." Monday, **April 24**, 7 PM at Christ the Good Shepherd Parish/St. Michael's Ukrainian Church 182 Sixth St., Etobicoke. Speaker, Fr. Terry Lozynsky, will move us through this rich Byzantine Catholic tradition as it offers consolation to those who mourn the death of a loved one.

♦ **Northmount School for Boys Open House** on Wednesday, **April 26**, 9:30-11:00 AM, 26 Mallard Road. Toronto's only Independent Catholic Boys' Elementary School (JK-8). To RSVP for the Open House or book a private tour please contact us at 416-449-8823 ext. 114 or at info@northmount.com.

♦ **Mothers' Day Dinner and Dance** on **May 6**, 6 PM, in the church hall. Dinner at 7 PM. Music: Zónai Attila. Menu: biscuits, chicken soup, pork with mushroom sauce, breaded chicken, rice, coleslaw, pickles, dessert, and coffee. Cooks: Ritter Teri, Takács Erzszi, and Kormányos Mihály. Tickets are sold Saturdays during teaching times at the Hungarian School office Adults \$30, high school \$20, elementary school \$15, kindergarten \$10. Info: 416-805-3444 (Lipcsey Anna).

Pope Francis: The Gospel of mercy requires generous and joyful servants

"Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book" (Jn 20:30). The Gospel is the book of God's mercy, to be read and reread, because everything that Jesus said and did is an expression of the Father's mercy. Not everything, however, was written down; the Gospel of mercy remains an open book, in which the signs of Christ's disciples – concrete acts of love and the best witness to mercy – continue to be written. We are all called to become living writers of the Gospel, heralds of the Good News to all men and women of today. We do this by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which are the hallmarks of the Christian life. By means of these simple yet powerful gestures, even when unseen, we can accompany the needy, bringing God's tenderness and consolation. Thus continues the great work of Jesus on Easter day, when he poured into the hearts of his fearful disciples the Father's mercy, bringing them the Holy Spirit who forgives sins and bestows joy.

At the same time, the story we have just heard presents an evident contrast: there is the fear of the disciples, who gathered behind closed doors; and then

there is the mission of Jesus, who sends them into the world to proclaim the message of forgiveness. This contrast may also be present in us, experienced as an interior struggle between a closed heart and the call of love to open doors closed by sin. It is a call that frees us to go out of ourselves. Christ, who for love entered through doors barred by sin, death and the powers of hell, wants to enter into each one of us to break open the locked doors of our hearts. Jesus, who by his resurrection has overcome the fear and dread which imprison us, wishes to throw open our closed doors and send us out. The path that the Risen Master shows us is a one way street, it goes in only one direction: this means that we must move beyond ourselves to witness to the healing power of love that has conquered us. We see before us a humanity that is often wounded and fearful, a humanity that bears the scars of pain and uncertainty. Before the anguished cry for mercy and peace, we hear Jesus' inspiring invitation: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:21).

Being apostles of mercy means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. This is the mission that he entrusts to us. So many people ask to be listened to and to be understood. The Gospel of mercy, to be proclaimed and written in our daily lives, seeks people with patient and open hearts, "good Samaritans" who understand compassion and silence before the mystery of each brother and sister. The Gospel of mercy requires generous and joyful servants, people who love freely without expecting anything in return.

"Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:21) is the greeting of Jesus to his disciples; this same peace awaits men and women of our own day. It is not a negotiated peace, it is not the absence of conflict: it is his peace, the peace that comes from the heart of the Risen Lord, the peace that has defeated sin, fear and death. To be bearers of his peace: this is the mission entrusted to the Church on Easter day. In Christ, we are born to be instruments of reconciliation, to bring the Father's forgiveness to everyone, to reveal his loving face through concrete gestures of mercy.

In the responsorial Psalm we heard these words: "His love endures forever" (Ps 117/118:2). Truly, God's mercy is forever; it never ends, it never runs out, it never gives up when faced with closed doors, and it never tires. In this forever we find strength in moments of trial and weakness because we are sure that God does not abandon us. He remains with us forever. Let us give thanks for so great a love, which we find impossible to grasp; it is immense! Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father's mercy and bringing it to the world. Let us ask that we too may be merciful, to spread the power of the Gospel, and to write those pages of the Gospel which John the Apostle did not write (news.va/en/).