



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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PRAYER CORNER

Every morning in September, let's say a prayer for the people of Pakistan who are facing dreadful flooding. Their country has been coping with flooding which has been blamed on Climate Change. This country has left a very small footprint on the planet when it comes to caring for our Earth, but they are facing the ravages of this terrible flood, which may be caused by our carelessness about the care and treatment of the planet.

"Lord, please be with the people of Pakistan, who are trying to understand how to live with devastating flood waters. Please bring some relief to the families who are suffering. Help us, who have so much, to be sympathetic and to help in whatever way that we can."

"Amen.



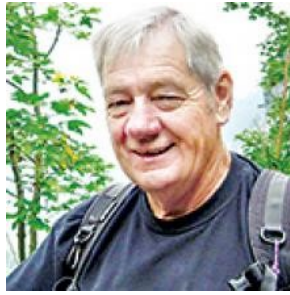
Hi Everyone!

The past few years have seen an unusually huge number of changes in our lives. Of course, the pundits claim that the ONLY constant in our lives is change but we become used to a certain way of life and certain expectations and so any change is difficult for us to accept. Our Politicians are about to change again, Parish Priests regularly move on, the Pope is aging and in due course we'll have another Leader for our church. In our own families, children grow up, leave us and their family home, to begin their own lives without us. We are still connected closely to them, but their own families become more important to them than we are. As we age, we lose neighbours, friends, and relatives.

How lucky we are! The Lord is always constant and never changes. His love and presence is always with us, through thick and thin. It is such a comfort in these precarious days that we only have to turn to the Lord for reassurance and all will be well. God walks with us everyday, through each and every difficulty or hardship that we are facing. Right now, the world seems in turmoil because of the terrible war in Ukraine, the flooding in Pakistan, the many problems within countries, and the lack of good and fair Leadership. Climate Change is a real concern and some even say that it is a crisis. We are still concerned with the state of Reconciliation with Indigenous People and so there is no lack of problems to keep us awake at night! But God has a plan—I wish I knew what that plan was, but I'm trying to trust in God. He has never let me down in the past, and I know that He is looking after me today. Let's all try to let go of the worry we feel and remind ourselves that God is always with us. Remember that old saying that we posted on our fridges years ago? "Let Go. Let God!"

As I stepped out onto my balcony for my early morning "Thank-You, Lord," I felt a bit of a nip in the air. Yes, September is definitely establishing itself, with cooler nights and later sun risings. It was a good summer, garden-wise, but many crops didn't ripen as fast as usual because of those cool nights, which have been around since early August. I wasn't even able to have a toasted tomato sandwich until the last week of August, not July, when I used to have it. The tomatoes were plentiful but they stayed that lovely shade of pale green for ages, no matter how lovingly I spoke to them! Of course, now that I have started to complain about them, my tomatoes are unending and the cukes won't stop producing! The beans didn't do anything until the last week in August and now they have gone crazy with great amounts of fresh beans! I can't face many more meals of garden beans. When I walk up to my friends and neighbours' houses I see them

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*I want to go to Heaven
and I want my angel wings*

*I want to tour that great resort
with waterfalls and springs*

*I know to get to heaven
you need a perfect score*

*So with my five or six on ten
I'll need to work some more*

*A random act of kindness
some help for those in need*

*To feed some poor and helpless one
avoid some selfish greed.*

~ by John Neufeld

This short poem was part of the write-up given out at John's funeral on August 20th. John wrote this poem in 2009. Small cookies in the shape of a dove were also passed to everyone and I couldn't help but think that a dove was the perfect symbol for John. He was kind, funny, inventive and so knowledgeable about an abundance of topics, but mostly, John was peace-loving!

John devoted hours to Blessed Sacrament Parish. He was active in the Sunday morning breakfasts and in any other project that the Knights of Columbus had going on.

He and Doris were main-stays in the collection, packing and distribution of Christmas Hampers. They were both faithful members of our Funeral Lunch Group, always helping with the tedious job of clean-up!

John and a group of fellow parishioners thought nothing of coming together to repair, paint, or clean up the Parish buildings or the grounds.

John was active in so many aspects of Blessed Sacrament. We loved him and will miss him deeply.

John left instructions that he wanted everyone to get along together, and never to forget to pause and enjoy a Prairie Sunset or Canada Geese flying in formation. He also encouraged us to scratch a cow's ear and to build a snow fort, whenever we had the chance. I'm always up for building a snow fort, but I think I'll pass on the cow's ear!

John, you have been a most kind and faithful Parishioner! Rest well in the Great Resort and in the company of the Lord!



John's mark on Transcona is seen on the crescent that bears his name:



Silly Spot

One afternoon, in a small rural town in the early 1900's, an older woman walked up and tied her old mule to the hitching post. As she stood on the dusty road of town, she brushed her skirt to remove some of the dust, when a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. He looked at the lady and started to laugh. He shouted, "Hey, old woman, have you ever danced?"

The old woman looked at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance. I never really wanted to."

A crowd gathered as the gunslinger laughed even louder and said, "Well, you Old Bag, you're gonna dance now! "With that, he started shooting at the old woman's feet. The old woman, not wanting to get her toes blown off, started hopping around. Everyone in the crowd was laughing. When his last bullet had been fired, the gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun. The old woman quickly turned to her mule and pulled out a double barreled shot gun. She cocked both hammers with loud clicks, which carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd went quiet. The gunslinger stopped dead in his tracks on his way back to the saloon. He slowly turned around and the crowd watched as the young man stared at the old woman, holding her shot gun. The barrels of the gun didn't waver as she quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's Butt?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and he said, "No Ma'am, but I always wanted to."

There are five Lessons here.

1. Never be arrogant.
2. Don't waste ammunition.
3. Whiskey or any booze makes you think that you're smarter than you are!
4. Always make sure you know who has the power!
5. Don't mess with old people. They didn't get old by being stupid!

Sudoku

We'll keep on with this for a while, unless you tell us otherwise.

If you haven't played before, here are the rules:

- Every square has to contain a single number
- Only the numbers from 1 to 9 can be used
- Each 3×3 box can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once
- Each vertical column can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once
- Each horizontal row can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once.

				6		9		
9					5			
7	6		8				5	
		9					6	
2								5
					7	1	9	
					3	2		8
8		1		7				
		6	1	8				3

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pulling the drapes and they don't answer the door bell—I'm left standing with another large bag of fresh green beans! The cool nights mean that we soon have to start to get the beds cleaned up! I am a person who likes to be busy and the garden is good for the soul. Except when you are digging out potatoes and trying to dispose of those ungainly tops! Groan! The clean-up is the down-side of gardening!

I'm so pleased that the children going off to school this fall are really going to school! It's been difficult for so many of them having to get used to Remote Learning. A big "Thank-you" to the teachers who devote so much time to our young (and older) students. Let's keep all of those who work with children in our prayers. Let's pray for the students too! September is a chance for a new beginning for all of them! Somehow, it is also a new beginning for us too. Put away all of those summer clothes and bring out the old—maybe you can even avoid inflation and treat yourself to a few new articles of clothing! The calendar for September started off with a beautiful New Harvest Moon. Try to add a few outings to the calendar this month! A visit to the Forks, or a drive to Lockport or Beausejour is always a pleasant way to note the changing seasons. It is a new year—a chance to look at the habits we have developed along the way. Do some of them need to change?? Have a lovely Fall—enjoy the colours and the changing times! Let's be grateful for what we have had but don't forget to look forward to what is around the corner!



Our closing thoughts ...

Summer is often a time of relaxation and reunion which leaves us refreshed and ready to approach a new season. This past summer has been like that for both Chris and I. Chris spent five weeks in England, celebrating at a family wedding and at her brother's 80th birthday. I too was at my brother's 80th birthday! So nice to get away and meet with long lost Family after the dreary days of COVID. I also attended the funerals of two first cousins who were both in their nineties. Both ladies had led productive and happy lives and I so enjoyed renewing acquaintances with relatives that I hadn't seen for years.

Chris and I are both excited to see what the new working group will be able to come up with as far as plans for a meeting place for our Community is concerned. Let's keep that group in our prayers. Please keep in your heart and prayers those family members and those members of our Church Family who have been called home during the past Spring and Summer. We're closing with a short poem that speaks to us.

From Hearts that we have treasured,
From lives that we have shared,
From loves that walked beside us,
From Friends and Family for whom we've cared:
We've learned to treasure Kindness,
We've learned that Grace provides,
We've learned to be together,
We've learned that Love abides.

That's all for now, but let's continue to pray for each other and to keep in touch as much as possible!

Carol Engstrom and Chris Klassen

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