



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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PRAYER CORNER

Pope Francis has asked us to pray for all of the women of the world, during the month of April.

“Heavenly Lord, we pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.”

Amen.

Hi Everyone,

Well, the weather has been pretty good for the past few days and so my thoughts have turned to the garden. I garden with my daughter, and the garden is situated in her yard, so my ideas are usually suggestions which are sometimes accepted and are often rejected. Since I do most of the planting of seeds and bedding plants, I can sneak in a row of whatever I think would be a real treat, even if my earlier suggestion has been rejected!

A few weeks ago, I got into a discussion with one of my neighbours in my apartment block. He is also a gardener, but obviously his knowledge about soil and good gardening practices is far superior to mine. He tried to enlighten me on the advantages of buying a soil kit to measure the pH of the soil in our garden. If the soil is too acidic, it will have a value of less than 7. If the soil value is over 7, you have an alkaline soil. A value between 6 and 7 is the range in which the most nutrients in the soil are readily available. After listening this far into the lecture, my eyes began to glaze over, and I started to do what I do when a homily is too long and irrelevant: I drifted away! I'm sure that there are real advantages to testing your soil and knowing what to do to make it better, but I will just continue to do what we have found to be successful!

We compost and spread it on the garden every Spring, and every few years we add a load of sheep manure. I save eggshells and crush them, and a few years ago, I started adding a bit of Epsom salt. We also rotate our crops - if tomatoes, cukes and carrots, etc. can be called crops! So far, we have had very good luck!

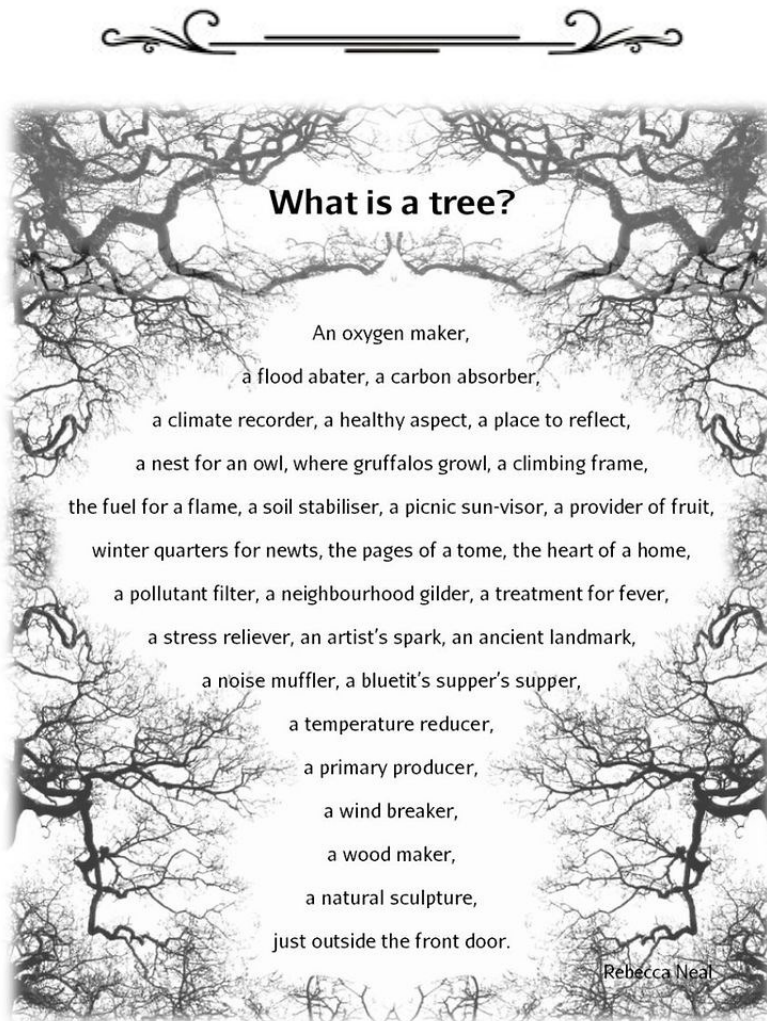
I'm not sure that we save any money by growing our own produce, but isn't it a great feeling to move soil around with our hands and watch the seedlings grow and turn into edible food?? Somehow, we have produced something almost miraculous, with a small seed, water, and precious sunlight! Even flowerpots on our porch or balcony cheer our hearts. Gardening is good for the soul! Come on, April! Bring on the sun and good weather! Don't forget those rainy showers that will bring May (or June) flowers!

I can hardly wait to tip-toe through the tulips! Mind you, eating fresh tomatoes will be even better!



RANDOM TRIVIA

1. What ironic title did Pope Leo X confer on King Henry VIII in 1521?
2. What ultimate reference work was published in 1771, in three volumes?
3. Do Hippopotamuses sport hooves?
4. What game was developed from the Italian lotto game, Tombola, in 1880?
5. What does "rot" mean on a bottle of German wine?
6. What is the Alligator Pear better known as?
7. What institution stopped publishing its "*INDEX of FORBIDDEN BOOKS*" in 1966?
8. What is added to beer to make a Calgary Red Eye?
9. What dog did the English dub The Spotted Dick, The Plum Pudding Dog, and The Firehouse Dog?
10. Which boasts more bones - the arm or the leg?



Answer to Cryptogram

The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.

Silly Spot

- Yesterday, I choked on a carrot that I had chewed and was trying to swallow. All I could think was, "A doughnut wouldn't have done this to me!!"
- When one door closes, another one opens. Other than that, it's a pretty good car.
- You drop something on the floor when you're young and just pick it up. When you're older, you drop something and stare at it, wondering if you really need it anymore.
- You can turn your chesterfield into a nice, comfy sofa bed simply by forgetting your wife's birthday.
- If common sense was shortening, most people wouldn't be able to grease a cake pan!
- Sister Margaret was the smartest nun in the convent. She was known as "*Nun the Wiser.*"
- I'm always amazed at the commercials for medicines that we often see on the American TV channels. The funniest part is when they tell you to check with your doctor to see if this new drug is right for you. Then they discuss the twenty-two side effects! Is it really good for you??
- Most people write CONGRATS, because they can't spell congratulations!



CRYPTOGRAM

ATF KJF ATQJU ATBA GKFWJ'A BXQGF XL EBDKHQAL HVSF QW B RFHWKJ'W ZKJWZQFJZF.

– Harper Lee

Hint: F decodes to E.

Answers to Random Trivia

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Defender of the Faith | 4. Bingo | 8. Tomato Juice |
| 2. The Encyclopaedia Britannica | 5. Red | 9. Dalmatian |
| 3. Yes | 6. Avocado | 10. Leg |
| | 7. The Roman Catholic Church | |

Our closing thoughts ...

A couple of weeks before Easter, Sister Charlotte shared with us a letter from Archbishop Legatt, which announced that Father Kevin had officially resigned as Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, and as a priest and employee with the organization of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. It has been heart-wrenching to lose Father Kevin, but let's be thankful that he was with us for three years. He certainly breathed new life into the Parish, and we wish him well as he travels on in this journey of life.

Sister Charlotte also told us that we would be welcoming our new Pastor, Father Gerry Sembrano, in August, when all of the pastoral appointments take place. Father Sembrano has served in Steinbach and most recently at St. Emile's Parish in St. Vital, and we look forward to welcoming him to Blessed Sacrament!

We owe a debt of gratitude to those behind-the-scenes workers of the Parish, who have worked so hard to keep the Parish on an even keel during this time of confusion and turmoil, since the sudden departure of Father Kevin. These loyal parishioners, with a bit of guidance from Sister Charlotte, have kept the programs running, faithfully cleaned and repaired not only the Church, but also the Parish Centre, kept the finances under control and generally stepped up to the plate and taken on the difficult job of keeping the Church going. We are grateful for your hard work and commend you for it!

Don't you just love the Easter rituals? I do look forward to the Triduum, and Father Emmanuel celebrates with such dignity and decorum. The services were so touching. There was an excessive use of incense in the ceremonies, I thought, but that is a problem that is easily rectified!

Spring is that time of year that leaves us very hopeful. We watch for the greening of the trees and grass, and we notice the return of birds and their cheery songs early in the morning! We worry a bit about drought or flooding and wonder what lies ahead. Spring, however, keeps us guessing and that's a good thing!

Indigenous people have always been certain that the plants and the growth that return every year are Mother Earth's way of supplying us with food for our bodies, and she also gives us plants as medicine for our good health - both in mind and body. Mary Courchene, who is an Elder, explained that sacred medicines have been used by Aboriginal folks for centuries, and she shared this wisdom about them:

"Aboriginal people believe that there are four sacred medicinal plants - Sweet grass, Cedar, Tobacco, and Sage.

- *Sweetgrass represents the North and the hair of Mother Earth. It provides clarity of mind and it purifies.*
- *Cedar represents the South and it is used to attract positive energy.*
- *Tobacco represents the East and is used as an offering before you harvest from Mother Earth.*
- *Sage represents the West and offers strength and wisdom, and clarity of purpose.*

Never rip out these sacred plants, but gently pull them from the base and try not to tear them. When you take plants from Mother Earth, always leave a bit of the plant behind, so that more can grow. Remember to always give thanks to the Creator for all that we have been given."

We can all learn from Aboriginal Folks about giving back to the Earth and looking after it.

Chris and I hope that your April is warm and wonderful! Remember ...

Negativity is contagious

Fear is contagious

Unhappiness is contagious

But ...

Happiness is contagious too!

So is Optimism

So is Love!

Choose the last three!! Especially Love!

Carol and Chris

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