



# REFUGEE FAMILY CULTURAL EDUCATION

Over the next several weeks there will be information in the bulletin describing the culture of Eritrea, the country where the refugee family is from.

## Do you know.....

### Marriage and Family

In Eritrea, nearly all marriages are arranged by families. Among the Tigrinya, parents suggest marriage partners to establish family alliances. The couple involved usually makes the final decision to marry, although some couples in rural areas may not be acquainted before they wed. The bride is often some ten years younger than the groom; in cities she will most likely have completed secondary school before getting married.

The wedding celebration involves at least a week's food preparation and requires a month to brew *suwa*, a beer, and *miyess*, a honey mead. The bride's female relatives provide food for a banquet that follows the morning ceremony. After the gifts have been received and displayed, the couple enters the banquet to share a meal with their guests. In urban areas, some couples also cut a tiered wedding cake. For two or three weeks, the couple stays at home while relatives provide their meals. After marriage, a couple usually lives with the husband's parents for at least two years before establishing their own home.

Among Muslims, wedding festivities include the bride's arrival on a camel and a feast at which guests sit on mats to eat from bowls. Muslim men may have up to four wives if they can provide for each equally. Due to the economic burden of looking after several wives, the practice of polygamy is diminishing.

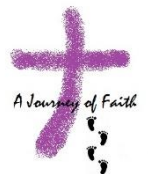
The family is more important than any of its individual members, who will sacrifice personal needs for the good of the group or for future generations. Typically a family will have four or more children, and it is common for grandparents to share the same home. Respected for their wisdom, the elderly are cared for by their adult children.



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## SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

### CONFIRMATION

*The Second Sacrament of Initiation*

### FIRST EUCHARIST

*The Third Sacrament of Initiation*

*\*\* If you have a child who is in Grade 2 or older and has not received the sacraments of initiation, please contact the Parish Office to ensure that you are registered with the parish. \*\**



## News from the CWL



The next CWL Garage Sale drop off date is  
**August 25<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-5pm**



## News from the Knights of Columbus



July 14

Evening bingo

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*

## News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Do you know that the Archdiocese of Regina publishes a bulletin?

Check it out online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Click on the "Archdiocesan News" icon on the homepage.



## Parish-Based Catechetical Home Program



Does your child attend public school?

Please contact the Parish Office by August 15<sup>th</sup> to register your child for the parish-based home program that is offered at St. Gerard.

## Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers)

The new schedules are available on the large table in the Welcome Area.

## Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Welcomers

The new schedules are available online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Or pick up a printed copy from the large table in the Welcome Area.

## YOUTH CHOIR



**ARE YOU IN GRADE 3 TO 12?**

**DO YOU LOVE TO SING?**

**ARE YOU EAGER TO SERVE THE LORD  
AT MASS?**

Parents, if your children/teens are interested in joining a Youth Choir who rehearse weekly and minister monthly at St. Gerard's Sunday Mass, please contact Maria Rica Adane at 306.621.0093

## VATICAN RELEASES ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

To involve young people in preparations for the Synod of Bishops on Youth in 2018, the Vatican has released an online questionnaire to better understand the lives, attitudes and concerns of **16 to 29 year-olds** around the world. The questionnaire can be found on the synod's official site:

<https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>

and is open to any young person, regardless of faith or religious belief. The answers to the questionnaire, along with contributions from bishops, bishops' conferences and other church bodies, "will provide the basis for the drafting of the 'instrumentum laboris,'" or working document, for the assembly.

## Archdiocese of Regina Annual Pilgrimage Sites

July 16	Our Lady of Auvergne, Ponteix
July 16	Mary, Queen of Hearts, Lestock
Aug. 12&13	Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Kronau
Aug. 14&15	Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rama
Aug. 20	Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Kaposvar

For more information, including directions to the sites, visit <https://archregina.sk.ca/archbishop-elect-donald-bolen/annual-pilgrimage-sites>

St. Mary's R.C. Church (Tiny) invites parishioners and friends to attend Mass and the Blessing of Graves at 3pm on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Lunch to follow.



## Bringing Home the Word **+**

### **A Simple Life**

By Mary Katharine Deeley

**When my children** were young, we went for a walk around the neighborhood. On one street we encountered two girls, about five and six years old. The elder child had her arm around the younger and was talking convincingly. "I'll tell you how it goes," she said. "I'll tell you what to do, and you do it." The five-year-old, all eyes, nodded her head at the wisdom of these words.

I don't advocate that one person should tell another what to do, but I know I was smiling, because I thought, "It would be nice if the world was so simple."

Our readings today present the deceptively simple solution to the demands and the temptations of the world. It is as though God is saying, "I will tell you how it goes."

In the face of war and devastation, Zechariah shows us the God of peace, who rides a donkey and whose justice lasts forever.

In the face of hunger, anger, and oppression, the psalmist prays to God, who is slow to anger and abounds in mercy, who raises up the fallen and satisfies the desire of every living thing, and whose reign lasts forever

In the face of death of body and spirit, Paul talks about the life that can be ours if we but open ourselves to the Spirit of God.

And Jesus, seeing that we are burdened by temptations, the expectations of others, the laws that oppress rather than help us live, invites us to become like children, to take off the heavy yoke that binds and put on the yoke of Christ which gives life. Is he telling us what to do? Yes. All that's left is for us to do it.

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### **SERENA Saskatchewan's Sixth Annual "Run for the Family"**

10:00am, Saturday, September 9, 2017 in Saskatoon. Choose from 1km, 3km, or 5km (run, walk, strollers welcome). Pledges can be collected in support of SERENA; prizes awarded (20% of collection). To register, visit [www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com) (races – province SK –click date). Register by August 19<sup>th</sup> for early bird rates; family rate available. For more info, contact [sask@serena.ca](mailto:sask@serena.ca) or [306-934-8223](tel:306-934-8223)

## **Opening Children to God's Love**

Greetings!

As we share our faith and tradition with children and grandchildren, we want to help them develop a relationship with God. We can learn how to talk to youngsters about God by considering what makes our human relationships work.

The relationships most worth having are grounded in love. Our relationship with God flows from the love God pours out to us. God so loved us that each of us is made in God's image. We know, too, that God loved us so much to send Jesus as a vulnerable baby.

In good relationships, we honor and live shared values and strive for peace. We teach our children the Ten Commandments and other guidelines for a Christian life to help them understand the difference between right and wrong. When we attend Mass and see that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves, our children begin to realize that God is God for us, not just me. Why is it important, we can ask, that we are on this human journey together?

Healthy relationships have open, regular communication. When we teach our children to pray from their hearts, we empower them to be in the kind of ongoing conversation with God that can shape and guide their lives from moment to moment. Do we pray together? Do we invite children to pray about their concerns, small and large alike? Can we recognize the ways that God also moves in the silence? All this builds that relationship.

Healthy relationships involve trust. We trust that God is at work in our lives and in all of creation. Ultimately, we are not in charge. A saying attributed to St. Ignatius states this so well: "Pray as if everything depends on God, work as if everything depends on you." We do our best moment to moment, but ultimately we need to trust God's power and goodness. This can be a source of confidence in the midst of life's ups and downs. Do we model this for our children? What do we do with our fear and anxiety?

Last but by no means least, good relationships are sources of joy and life. When we connect with God, we see that nothing is untouched by his fingerprints. We realize that all of life is a gift, a source of wonder that God gives us. As we help children develop intimacy with God, we will openly thank God for these gifts. In that way, we spread our joy that God loves us to those we love most.

Text by Trish Sullivan Vanni. © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 800-933-1800; [www.LTP.org](http://www.LTP.org). *Pastoral Liturgy*® magazine. July/August 2017, [www.PastoralLiturgy.org](http://www.PastoralLiturgy.org)

## YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **"The Yoke of Jesus"**

#### **This Week...**

Zechariah the Prophet speaks of a meek saviour coming to proclaim peace, without the aid of any weapons of war. Jesus is that gentle Saviour who confuses the sophisticated and delights the children. The yoke of Jesus is bearable to those who learn from his humble heart - those who live by the Spirit. Even pain is easier to bear when we know the ways of Jesus.

#### **For Your Reflection**

According to Jesus children know more about some of God's secrets than do the most clever adults.

- Have you ever held a crying baby? Have you seen anyone else do it? Can anything be done to stop a baby's crying? When the baby finally stops crying, is it because the pain has gone away? How can rocking, singing, and cuddling help?

As we grow older, we perhaps don't cry when we skin our knees or drop our toys, but we still have plenty of pain in our life. We never outgrow the ability to hurt or the need for comfort.

- What might be one of God's secrets about dealing with suffering or about comforting someone in pain?

Jesus doesn't promise us a life without pain, but he says that the yoke and burden will be light and easy to bear.

- When have you had to deal with great physical pain? What happened?
- When have you had to deal with great emotional pain? What happened?
- Which is easier to deal with - physical pain or emotional pain? Why?
- How does living in the spirit of Jesus affect the way we deal with our pain?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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## LOST SOMETHING?

**Mitts, toques, etc.** – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

**Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc.** – contact the Parish Office.

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## OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in our city on a daily basis.

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## The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

**St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission** – Searching for God's purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at [www.sttherese.ca](http://www.sttherese.ca)

### **Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.**

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net)

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY** offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, [diplomainministry@stfx.ca](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca) or check the website:

[www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html](http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html)