

Religion

Clergy comment

Be passionately grateful

By MARY CAMPBELL
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Johnnie's mother had told him at least twenty times, before he left, not to forget to say "thank you" to Suesie's mother for inviting him to her party. When Johnny arrived him it was the first question she asked.

"Did you remember the say 'thank you'?"

"Well, I remembered, but I didn't thank her."

"But I told you, and told you, how important it is to thank people, why didn't you say thank you to Suesie's mother?"

"I was going to, I remembered and everything, but, well, the boy in front of me going out of the door said thank you and Suesie's mom said 'Oh, don't mention it ...', so I didn't!!!"

In our North American culture, the land of plenty, (with plenty of land), we consider thanksgiving as part of our good manners. Oh, I think when all is said and done we're sincerely grateful that we

don't have housemaids knees, that the Liberals didn't get in again, that the summer was great and the corn is high. But, somehow, it's just all too polite. Like that's what we're supposed to do, it's all so civil, isn't it??? Kind of like deodorant and lining up at the bus stop. Saying "thank you" is like saying "excuse me", it's very proper and decent. We automatically think that someone who says "thank you" is well-behaved, well-mannered, well-bred, well-something!!!

What we've lost sight of is the deep spiritual significance of giving thanks, of having a truly thankful heart. Have you ever tried to want for something and give thanks for something else at the same time??? It can't be done! While you're being thankful your conscience is freed from all selfishness. Free, think about that!

In times of thanksgiving we are truly selfless, we lose sight of ourselves and our attention is centered on the object of our

thanksgiving or the giver of it. Although this in itself is a highly spiritual state to achieve, there is an even higher level of spiritual freedom that can be achieved by the giving of thanks.

This next step comes through a true passion of gratefulness and expresses itself in social action. To be so conscious of how blessed we truly are that we are driven to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Not out of obligation, or because it's "Thanksgiving" and that's what our society finds acceptable - or even encourages.

But through the joy of the realization of how rich we are, from a grateful spirit comes the passion to do, to for others. To enter into the hurting of a hungry world, enter into the hurting of our lonely neighbors, the hurting of ill-treated children, the sick and the elderly. It is my prayer this Thanksgiving that we are not just politely thankful - but that we may be passionately grateful.

Not just to give thanks - but to do thanks.



25th Anniversary

Family and friends wished Bill and Lois Webb congratulations on their 25th Anniversary. A reception was held at St. Andrews United Church last Sunday for Lois and Bill Webb. (Photo submitted)

Be thankful for young people

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jim Ryan, I'm married and I live in Georgetown.

I will be writing a weekly column in The Herald based on the Gospel reading for that week, found in the Common Lectionary. This column will consider contemporary ethical, family and social issues, along the way making reference to film and fiction, as well as ideas from the social sciences.

My background is varied. I have worked on a farm, in nursing homes, in a mental hospital, and in high schools. I have studied theology and literature. I am Roman Catholic, but I write for a liberal, ecumenical audience, churchgoers and non-churchgoers.

I would welcome any comments and suggestion as well as news items that you might pass along.

By JIM RYAN

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matt. 21:33-43

TWO TITLES

1. Children of the Corn

2. Reap What You Sow

The first is a popular book and film of the horror genre; the second is a proverb.

THREE STATEMENTS BASED ON OBSERVATION

1. Young people know little about agriculture. (Is there a relation between McNuggets and chicken?). They know less about agricultural imagery like reap, sow, harvest.

2. Young people like horror films and books. V.C. Andrews and Stephen King are the authors who are carried around and passed from hand to hand.

3. Young people are very moral.

ONE FACT
North Americans eat three pounds of corn a day. It may not be in the form of corn on the cob. It's in the beef we eat, the milk we drink, and the plastic and cardboard containers that package our beef and milk.

ONE QUESTION
Why did Stephen King combine corn harvest imagery with the horror genre in Children of the Corn?

ONE TENTATIVE ANSWER

If the seed is bad, or the sower is ambivalent, the harvest, even if plentiful, can be evil.

Tomorrow's Gospel reading combines a reap what you sow ethic with treachery. It is harvest time, and the landlord expects his share of the harvest. What he receives however, is truly a horror. His servants and then his son are killed.

1. Margaret Visser, Much Depends on Dinner, (Toronto: 1986), p. 26. Unusual, but scripture isn't anymore unusual than life.

A FINAL QUESTION
Why do young people like horror stories and films?

Because they are moral and they see the bad seeds sown and the evil motivation that plants them.

They may not understand what the words "Reap what you Sow" mean, but they certainly understand the ethics of the statement.

Let's be primarily thankful for young people this year.

Let's also plant fewer bad seeds this year.

Christian School celebrates anniversary

Georgetown District Christian School opened its doors for the first time in September 1965, when it was dedicated for service with three staff members and ninety-nine students. Twenty-five years have passed since then, and the school building has been enlarged three times to accommodate the increasing number of students coming from Christian homes in the community. The school, since its founding, has become interdenominational with member families representing the Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, United, Canadian Reformed, Christian Missionary Alliance and Christian Reformed Churches. The school is run by parents through a Board, who are elected from and by the membership of the school society, in accordance with the directives

laid down in the basic articles of its construction.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary and God's faithfulness through those years, official celebrations took place September 28th and 29th. To kick things off, a planting ceremony in front of the brand new sign, was officiated by the school's principal, Mrs. Treena Sybersma and a few of the students. The sign was painted by local sign painter, Carla Roffel and built and put into place by the school's volunteer Maintenance Committee, an example of how the school benefits from its supporting parents, members and community. Shrubs and plants were donated by Pinebrook Nursery and Landscaping.

Friday evening the school welcomed back old friends, as well

as new, at a banquet centering on the theme "His Faithfulness."

Guests reminisced, ate, laughed, sang and listened in the newly painted gym which a group of parents, students and even grandparents, had painted during the summer in preparation for the anniversary. Carla Roffel designed and painted a full-sized wall mural depicting the school building at the bottom, a nature scene in the background representing the world, and children representing kindergarten to grade eight, in the foreground. The school's cornerstone verse, "For reverence of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Psalm 111: 10, was painted on the top left corner. The mural was dedicated to the Lord's faithfulness in providing volunteers for its boards, committees, fundraisers, teacher aides, etc. that have worked together to make the school such a success.

An Open House was held from one to four the following afternoon. A special anniversary book could be purchased as well as mugs. Students' work from over the years was on display. That Saturday evening a talent and fun night was held as board, staff, students and friends shared talents and laughter about the past and present. It was a terrific evening.

The weekend was a celebration of praise and thanksgiving for twenty-five years. May God bless the school in the next twenty-five years also.

Bible Digest

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6.

Salvation is in a person. His name is Jesus. He is the way to Heaven. Do you know Him?

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17.

Be a real friend. Be a real

brother. Both are in great demand today.

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15:11.

We are not saved from sin and hell by our own good deeds. We are saved by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Have you accepted God's gift of salvation?



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LAURA BERRY

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