



Jean Vanier: Upside-down Economics

Earlier this month, and largely unreported by the American media, there passed from our midst someone who many people around the world truly believe will be hailed as a Catholic saint because he engaged in the “upside-down economics of Christianity; that the first shall be last.”

I am referring to Jean Vanier, the French-Canadian philosopher and humanist who believed the disabled should be treated like human beings and that they deserve one-on-one care. He died on May 7 at the age of 90. We don’t often find people born into privilege and status, and highly educated, who then follow the downward path of Jesus. But as founder of *L’Arche International*, Vanier spent decades in community with people with and without intellectual disabilities and embraced the joys, complications, and demands that go along with such a life.

The fourth of five children, Vanier was born into a deeply Catholic family with prestige and prominence in Canadian society. He served in the Navy for a number of years but was continually drawn to community life and spiritual practices. After a 30-day Ignatian prayer retreat, he resigned from the service.

It makes sense that for a person whose life was marked by recognizing the impact of relationships of listening and presence, it would be a new friendship – Vanier’s connection with priest and mystic Father Thomas Phillippe – that would transform his life and ministry. After earning his doctorate in philosophy in Paris and teaching ethics in Canada, Vanier visited Father Phillippe in Val Fleuri, a small institution in France

made up of men with intellectual disabilities. Though this was an institutional space marked by foul odors and a lack of human nurture, Vanier recognized that Jesus was there in a special way and eventually felt compelled to invite a few men out of the institution to live with him.

So in August 1964, three of them moved to his home in Trosly-Breuil, France. One, Dany, came and went quickly, desiring to return to a familiar environment. But two others, Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux, decided to stay. With this small household, the *L’Arche* movement—French for “The Ark”—began.

The Catholic theologian understood early on that *L’Arche* would not be a place of one-sided service, and his emphasis on true mutuality in relationships has become one of his most enduring legacies for the church. In community, Vanier discovered how human weakness and vulnerability enables us to forge real connections. His fellow community members with intellectual disabilities instructed him with their consistent openness with themselves: their needs, joys, loves, and pain.

Vanier came to emphasize our common humanity: the desire to love and be loved and to develop and share our gifts. He recognized that people who are vulnerable, who experience their anguish and pain openly, are at the core of communities. In their vulnerability, they call everyone together. Over time, we all come to discover our own brokenness and fragility, realizing that “they” are also “us.”

While many ministries involving people with intellectual disabilities began with a clear separation between those

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Jean Vanier

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being helped and those doing the helping, slowly the paradigm has shifted toward Vanier's approach at *L'Arche*, where all are called to share their gifts as members of one body of Christ, doing the work of the gospel together. Our differences show us that we need each other; they can enrich us instead of dividing us.

It is in large part due to the heartfelt theology of Vanier and *L'Arche* that those of us who work at intersections of faith and disability have brought this sense of mutual giftedness into churches, social ministries, and the academy. His theological influence extended across Christian traditions and denominations, including intentional communities like Shane Claiborne's *The Simple Way* and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove's *Rutba House*. Wilson-Hartgrove counts Vanier and the work of *L'Arche* as an enduring inspiration, referencing teachings from Vanier such as "People come to community because they want to help the poor. They stay in community because they realize they are the poor."

Just as Vanier's ministry drew people who seemed different together in community, his message likewise had broad appeal, capturing the hearts and imaginations both of people with intellectual disabilities and of scholars and intellectuals. Vanier compellingly described and so naturally lived into the integration of our whole selves – including our bodies and our hearts.

For people with intellectual disabilities who are drawn to Vanier, at least as my friends who live in *L'Arche* tell it, they appreciate him as a gentle and kind friend. They also enjoy living in a community like *L'Arche*, which strives to be a place where people seek to know and love each other as they are. Being a community that honors the embodied and emotional aspects of being human is part of what makes this a place to live that – while imperfect – becomes a "school of love" even in its difficulty. As Vanier points out, even Jesus' first disciples squabbled with each other, yet they were called to be together. Life in *L'Arche* is less about thinking theology and more about doing theology in community.

As Catholic priest and spiritual teacher Henri Nouwen pointed out, "*L'Arche* is built upon the body, not the word. Words are secondary." It's about "a spirituality of love through small things," everyday actions like holding the hand of someone as they cry, making space for someone to exercise their gifts, saying "I forgive you for annoying me" and "I will also work on my own patience" when someone we live with is annoying us. These are not lofty, idealized notions of community or Christian love, they are grounded in reality and require the integration of our bodies and our hearts.

Across ministry settings, people come to know Vanier's philosophical and theological ideas through his many books, like *Becoming Human* and *Community and Growth* among dozens of others, but also through personal encounters

as he traveled to *L'Arche* communities around the world and his speaking on the areas of faith, community, and the possibility of peace in diversity.

For decades he traveled the globe, connecting with Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Francis over shared love for the way of Jesus and the people societies have marginalized. His voice for peace and love on a global scale, rooted in awareness and compassion toward his own vulnerability and to the vulnerability present in all of humanity, resulted in dozens of international awards and honors.

Father Greg Boyle, who founded **Homeboy Industries**, the largest job-training program for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, describes being deeply influenced by Vanier and the spirituality of *L'Arche*, in particular, living out the understanding that "tenderness is the highest form of spiritual maturity." Vanier's embodied message speaks to the deepest parts of the human heart and resonates across continents and contexts.

In the final years of his life, as a faithful Catholic theologian leading an international ministry, Vanier was repeatedly asked the question of what he would think of being made a saint. He always dismissed the idea. He explains that he really just wanted to be a friend of Jesus, someone who exemplifies a beautiful life of love and humility and not the pursuit of accolades and worldly success. He also said that anyone who would call for him to be a saint must not know him very well. "As soon as you say people are saintly, you're putting them on a pedestal and saying you can't do it," he said in one interview. "But we are all called to work together and love each other and we don't have to be saints to do that."

Through his words and his life, Vanier proclaimed that we're all the same, fragile and wounded, and that it is exactly there where we are beautiful and capable of connection to others. We may not be saints, but we are humans, and as it turns out, that perfectly equips us to be friends of Jesus and to follow the way of the heart.

From the May issue of [Christianity Today](#), by Bethany McKinney Fox (PhD, Christian ethics, Fuller Theological Seminary) who is the pastor of "Beloved Everybody Church".

Fox Creek Art Scape

The Artscape will be composed of several garden rooms. The first is more formal, with benches, pavers, and plants. Moving back towards the creek, two more rooms get progressively wilder with less hardscape and a less organized structure for the native plantings. The lot ends at the creek bed – one of only four lots abutting the original course of Fox Creek along its last remaining bend. Combined with mural Healing Walls, this will complete the Artscape.

The next Artscape meeting will be this Thursday, May 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 889 Manistique, Detroit, MI 48215. Please share this invitation with your friends and neighbors.

All Things Considered

Our Catholic Services Appeal this year is proceeding relatively quickly. Five weeks into the campaign, we are just about \$9,500 away from our mandatory goal.

Yet, it would be a shame to stop there. After all the work we put into the CSA, the bonus for us here at St. Ambrose is that we get to keep all that is collected over and above the Archdiocesan goal. And, like at Christmas, those funds are not subject to the regular 7% tax on donations or contributions. Giving to St. Ambrose through the CSA is a smart move and quite frankly, we could use the extra cash!

And in that department, I was shocked to see last weekend's collection totals. With Mother's Day and the extra mass for Solemn Communion, we had nice crowds at all four masses. But a great many people who attended just sat

on their wallets and purses. It's pathetic that we should have run below budget on a prime weekend. The insult added to injury is that we offered hospitality on Saturday and Sunday – we gave hand-made sheep to our Communicants and Mother's Day gifts as well. At each liturgy, there was great music, a spectacular environment and solid preaching. Yet, our generosity was barely reciprocated. What's it going to take to get Ambrosians and their guests to pick up a fair share of operating expenses? When the collection basket passes in front of you, it's not just for you to look at. It's asking for your response – participate in the life of this parish.

The hard truth is that our parish is getting by on too little from too few. (Maybe it's because everybody figures everyone else must be giving. But 145 envelopes out of 900 belies that myth.) The good news is that it wouldn't take much from each of us to change that. It would take very little. It might mean giving an increase equivalent to a couple of large lattes or a gallon or two of gas. You can make that difference starting now, with either an actual contribution, a modest increase, or a promise to use your envelope or sign up for electronic giving.

Ambrosians are generous when it comes to special collections and holidays, but the reality is that our budget also needs your week-to-week contributions to survive.



St. Ambrose is one of the patron saints of Church musicians and the opera. The Director of the Resident Artists Programs at the Michigan Opera Theatre, **Richard Leech**, is working with **Paul Lavins** in securing talent for our CSA/MOT Opera Breakfast which will be held on June 9th. This is our way of thanking those who contribute to this year's Catholic Services Appeal. Get your contribution in before then so that you can enjoy a wonderful morning of uplifting music.

We've received word of the soloists who will be performing at our Opera Breakfast. Returning is Grosse

Pointe native **Angela Theis**. She is fresh from a performance at Carnegie Hall. (You remember the old joke: A tourist asks a New Yorker "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?". And the answer is, "Practice, practice, practice.") Angela will be joining the voice faculty of Oakland University this fall.

Wixom native **Harry Greenleaf** is in his second season as Michigan Opera Theatre Studio's resident baritone. He holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and is an alumnus of the Michigan State University College of Music. Perhaps you heard him singing the role of Connie Rivers in "The Grapes of Wrath," which is the final MOT production of this season.

A native of North Carolina, **Olivia Johnson** earned her Masters degree in voice performance at the University of Michigan. This season she is a returning member of Michigan Opera Theatre's Touring Ensemble. She graduated from East Carolina University, earning a BA in Music Performance with a concentration in voice. In 2017 she won first place in the National Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists sponsored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Here's your opportunity to enjoy some great young talent in a "command performance". Get your Catholic Services Appeal contribution in before June 9th in order to secure your seat at the Opera Breakfast.



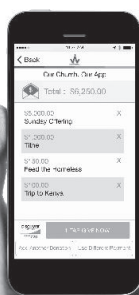
Elias Chacour is the retired Archbishop of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth and All Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church from 2006 to 2014. He is noted for his efforts to promote reconciliation between Arabs and Jews. He describes himself as a "Palestinian-Arab-Christian-Israeli."

Archbishop Chacour will be speaking at Grosse Pointe Memorial, 16 Lakeshore Dr. in the Farms this Sunday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

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All Things Considered

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An advocate of non-violence, Chacour travels often between the Middle East and other countries around the world. In recognition of his humanitarian efforts he has received honors including being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times.



We're wrapping up our Lenten projects. Your charity and concern for the poor during this past Lent was felt in Africa, Central and South America!

\$625 came in the quarter folders for the Kay Lasante Medical Mission in Haiti. That will be remitted via **Bishop Gumbleton**.

Tons of children's books for Nigeria appeared (please stop now) and were carted off by Fr. Anthony to be shipped free of charge by an auto dealer who does business there.

An amazing 38 hearing aids for the Maryknoll missions and Ambrosian Lay Missionary, **Joe Looney**, were collected. Twenty-five of these came through the aegis of **Grant Ruttinger**.



"Ask the Friar" is the topic for the upcoming Tap Into Life program today (Sunday), May 19th at 5:00 p.m. here in The ARK. The group will host a panel-type discussion in which young people can Ask the Friar questions about religious life, Capuchin life, the Franciscan way, etc. The panel will include Capuchins from the Detroit area, as well as lay brothers.



Our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be accepting donations of your good and/or gently used clothing and household items in our church parking lot Saturday, June 8th from noon until the 4:00 p.m. mass, and on Sunday, June 9th, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. mass.

Follow the advice of St. Ambrose, "If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt."

TRP

The Buzz

With this fifth Sunday of Easter, the Church continues to shift our attention from just believing in the resurrection, to our personal participation in the life of the risen Christ. This movement will carry us almost to the end of June, contemplating what Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, the Holy Trinity, and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ have to do with living our faith in 2019.

And it is about active and dynamic involvement in life! Mid-May is a beautiful and invigorating time of year that just shouts this out to us. Nature – especially if you are responsible for a lawn, shrubs, garden, etc. – by now has grabbed your attention and required a good bit of unavoidable care. And even though this year's weather has kept us on our toes with only short-lived teasings of warmth, we know that the full and vivid glory of its rebirth will beckon us outside often to enjoy it fully.

Eastertime too continues to call us out of ourselves to enjoy risen life and to participate fully in it. Here at St. Ambrose, activity is not winding down as we move toward June and the end of the program year. Rather, it just seems to be warming up.



For those who were present at last Saturday's Solemn Celebration with our First Communion children, you know what a delightfully mystical event that was. On Good Shepherd weekend, the youngsters actively joined in the Homily by searching for a lamb with their name on it. One extra "lost sheep" without a name was found. The children, along with the entire congregation, gleefully named it "Bob." Bob has happily spent the past week near the tabernacle in church. Please keep all our beloved "lambs" in your prayers throughout the remainder of this holy season.



Speaking of praying, this coming Saturday on the liturgical calendar is the feast day of St. Bede the Venerable. How about remembering in your prayers our own "venerable" Bede from the Capuchins who has been so faithful in serving our parish for the past five years. Give God thanks, and ask for blessings of good health upon this happy and generous spirit in our midst.



A week from this Monday, on May 27th, our nation pauses for Memorial Day. That day is not only the unofficial beginning of summer, but perhaps more importantly a traditional time of focused attention on those who have died – especially military personnel during times of war. For many it is a time of visiting and tending to the cemetery gravesites of family members and loved ones. In our faith tradition, it can be a respectful, ongoing part of fulfilling one of the corporal works of mercy: to bury the dead.

Prayer at a cemetery can heighten our awareness of the dearly departed's continuing closeness to us in the Communion of Saints. The format could be anything you choose. Some suggested components might include Psalms 25, 27, or 130; a reading from I Thessalonians 4: 13-18; and the Litany of the Saints, including patron saints of everybody in the family. No matter how little or much you include, the visit and the memories engendered by the visit will be worth it for everyone involved.



Plan on participating in the St. Ambrose Playscape (23rd) Birthday Party on Saturday, June 1st. Sign-up forms are available in the back of church, or you can call the rectory to see how you can help. (It really is as much fun as it is work!)



Pentecost is only three weeks away. As has been our tradition here at St. Ambrose for a good number of years, we celebrate that solemn day at each mass by having readers to do portions of the Acts of the Apostles passage in many different languages. If you can read a few lines in another language, please contact me this week at 313-332-5631 and I'll answer any questions you may have and will provide you with deeply thankful support and necessary scripts.

Chuck Dropiewski



Motor City Makeover

There are big changes ahead for Detroit and the area immediately surrounding St. Ambrose Parish. Author and parishioner John Gallagher will be with us to bring us up to speed on three important development projects that will change the face of this part of town. This session will be held on Sunday, June 23rd from 9:45 until 11 a.m. in the ARK

Jefferson /Chalmers : A Strategic Neighborhood

A new development with a grocery store and affordable housing is expected to anchor a revamped Jefferson Avenue in east Detroit. The project is a part of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund, a city of Detroit initiative seeking to reinvigorate areas in the city outside downtown and Midtown with the help of philanthropic dollars. Jefferson-Chalmers is one of seven neighborhoods the city is targeting to attract investment. Plans presented to residents seek to attract investment to return East Jefferson to the walkable, thriving retail corridor it once was.

The Transfiguration of Mack Avenue

On Mack between Connor and Cadieux, approximately 41 percent of the lots are vacant. While the majority of those vacant lots are between Connor and Alter, there are still many empty on the south side of Mack in Grosse Pointe Park. The Eastside Community Network has stepped up to try to stymie disinvestment and redevelop the area. To further reinvest, ECN hired VENTRA Group and Hamilton Anderson Associates to develop a strategy to improve Mack Avenue from Connor to Cadieux.

Keeping our foot on the Gas

Detroit will get a Jeep factory, the Motor City's first new auto assembly plant in a generation, as part of a \$4.5 billion manufacturing expansion in southeast Michigan by Fiat Chrysler that will mean nearly 6,500 new jobs. FCA said it would convert the Mack Avenue Engine factory to an assembly plant for the next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee and a new, large Jeep SUV.

2	0	CSA
1	9	Box Scores

Number of Families	900
Returns in 2018	262
Returns to date	102
Average Gift ('18).....	\$463
Quota for the Archdiocese	\$85,267
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '19 Target.....	\$137,267
Received as of 5/13/2019.....	\$76,688

- The 38th Annual Catholic Services Appeal is now underway. We experienced a strong opening with half of our quota already achieved!
- Remember that once our quota for the Archdiocese is met, all gifts to the CSA are exempt from the regular 7% Archdiocesan tax. It's a great time to help your parish. All overages go to paying our property and liability insurances.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Assistant: Rev. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM, Cap

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Dr. Norah Duncan IV

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net



Playscape Birthday Party

Saturday, June 1st from 9 to 3

Look for sign-up sheets at the back of church
and plan to party and work next month.

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, May 20

St. Bernadine of Siena, priest

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, May 21

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Adeline Urbanski

Wednesday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia, religious

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Thursday, May 23

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Marilyn Miriani

Friday, May 24

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Rev. C.W. Heath

Saturday, May 25

St. Bede the Venerable, priest & doctor

St. Gregory VII, pope and

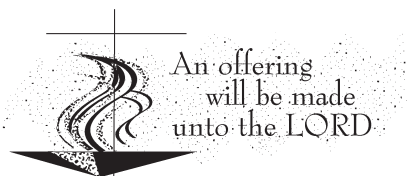
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, May 26

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. - Mass For All People

11:15 a.m. - Mass For All People



Scriptures for 5th Week of Easter

Monday, May 20

- Acts 14: 5-18
- Ps 115: 1-4, 15-16
- Jn 14: 21-26

Tuesday, May 21

- Acts 14: 19-28
- Ps 145: 10-13ab
- Jn 14: 27-31a

Wednesday, May 22

- Acts 15: 1-6
- Ps 122: 1-5
- Jn 15: 1-8

Thursday, May 23

- Acts 15: 7-21
- Ps 96: 1-3, 10
- Jn 15: 9-11

Friday, May 24

- Acts 15: 22-31
- Ps 57: 8-12
- Jn 15: 12-17

Saturday, May 25

- Acts 16: 1-10
- Ps 100: 1b-3, 5
- Jn 15: 18-21

Sunday, May 26

- Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29
- Rv 21: 10-14, 22-23
- Jn 14: 23-29

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 25th and May 26th

4:00 p.m. - Celebrant: Bp Gumbleton **Lector:** Cathy McPherson

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague

Altar Servers: Julianna & Kiernan Tague

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Colleen Jogan, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh

Altar Servers: Nicholas Kurta, Dailey Jogan

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr Bede **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro

Eucharistic Ministers: Pat & Michael Mocer, Sue & Roger Playwin, Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski

Altar Servers: Shea Vatalaro, Malvina Lubanski

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, May 12, 2019

in envelopes we received \$5,194.00

in the loose collection \$783.00

at the Solemn Eucharist Mass.....\$1,530.00

in other donations..... \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$8,897.00***

Under budget for the week..... **\$1,203.00**

** Subtract 7% in Archdiocesan tax from that to get an actual usable collection number.*

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 145

"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes strength to love someone when we feel unappreciated, or used. It takes courage to "love my neighbor" when he may be someone I don't like, someone I don't know or someone that doesn't look like me.

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Gladys Bogos, Wayne Wallrich, Lupe Davila and Fr. Phil Naessens.

CSA/MOT Opera Breakfast

Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Services Appeal takes place on Sunday, June 9th following the 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. masses when we will host our Ambrosian Opera Breakfast in the ARK. We will be celebrating all those who have made a commitment to the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal – and hopefully, the achievement of our goal. We've invited the **Director of the Resident Artists Programs at the Michigan Opera Theatre, Richard Leech and a group of performers from the Michigan Opera Theatre to be on hand to regale us with a selection of operatic highlights.**

In gratitude for your support of the Catholic Services Appeal, come join us for this uplifting musical breakfast celebrating St. Ambrose. There is no charge for those who have made a commitment to this year's CSA. Reservations are requested so that we can make adequate arrangements. RSVP by June 6th. Email stambrose@comcast.net or call (313) 822-2814.



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish



Solemn Holy Communion Celebration - 2019

For more photos go to facebook.com/stambroseparish.