

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

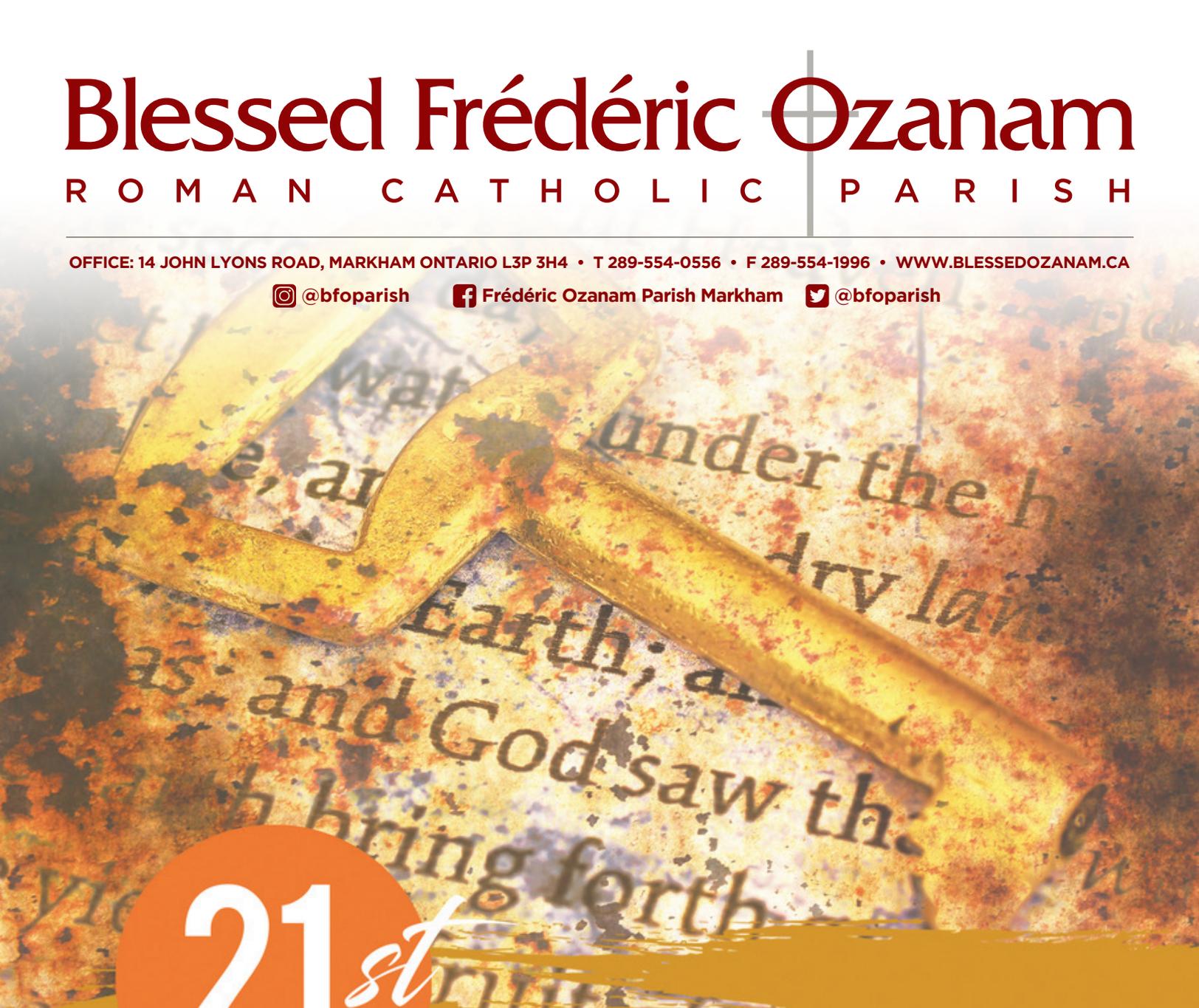
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 @bfoparish

 Frédéric Ozanam Parish Markham

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21st

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19



BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM

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St. Brother André CHS	905-294-7671

WEEKEND MASS

We are so happy to be able to gather once again to celebrate Mass with you! Our current restriction is 158 parishioners at each Mass.

Please register for mass at blessedoazanam.ca/registering-for-mass/

St. Brother André Catholic High School
6160 - 16th Avenue, Markham
Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

CONFESSION

Saturday 4 - 4:45 p.m.
or anytime by appointment

PRAYING THE NEWS | August 23, 2020

"...Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands."

Psalm 138:8

O God, we thank you for all your creation, especially your church, the body of Christ. In these times of suffering and turmoil, may the promise of your enduring love sustain and embolden all people to reach out and help heal what divides us. Use us as you will to be channels of goodness and peace. May our thoughts, words and actions reflect only your kindness.

Jesus, we trust in you. Amen. 

Gospel Reflection for the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Jesus ordained Peter to become the rock upon which he would build his Church, he made a promise. The gates of hell, he said, speaking of the netherworld that belongs to the principalities and powers of darkness (see Ephesians 6), "shall never prevail against it."

Jesus did not say that hell would never win battles against the Church. He said that the *gates* of hell would not win. Of course, they won't; gates don't attack! Gates protect. Gates hold inside their boundaries whatever has been enclosed by a fence or wall. Do you know anyone who has been imprisoned by their sins? Or by hellish circumstances?

Christians are not called to take a defensive posture against attacks and encroachments from evil doers. Christians are called to take the offensive – we are called to attack the very gates of hell, knock them down, and conquer the devils that are trying to drag people into their kingdom of misery and eternal death.

What Jesus did 2000 years ago to free people from evil he still does today through you and me?

For the sinners who want to escape from evil before it's too late, Jesus gave gate keys to Peter when he ordained him as the first shepherd (priest and pope) of Christianity. These keys have been passed from generation to generation through the unbroken line of Catholic priests.

What are the keys? The gates of hell are unlocked by Sacraments; they open the way to eternal life. When a priest "looses" (releases) the grace and forgiveness of God upon a repentant sinner during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or when a priest "binds" a man and woman together in the Sacrament of Marriage, it's Jesus who's doing it through him.

The supernatural power of the Sacraments conquers evil every time we take them seriously and rely on the graces they provide.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

Where is there a locked gate in your life, which needs to get blown open so that Jesus can rescue you from some sort of darkness?

What will you do this week to utilize the Sacraments more deeply, more profoundly?

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

Who do you say Jesus really is, and how do you encounter this Jesus in the Sacraments? Which Sacrament (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Ordination, or the Anointing of the Sick) is most powerful for you personally? Why?

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 23, 2020



If you would like to have a Mass offered for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one, or for a special intention, such as an anniversary, birthday, or illness, please contact the parish office by phone or email.

Due to COVID-19, Masses are only being celebrated Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12 p.m.

VIRTUAL
3RD ANNUAL PARISH MINISTRY CONFERENCE

CALLED TO BE SAINTS (1 Cor 1:2)

Attention parishioners and members of parish ministry!

The Office of Formation for Discipleship invites you to attend their 3rd Annual Conference to help you grow in your ministry and, for those not active in ministry, to give you insight into various ministries.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

EARLY BIRD - \$15 BY SEPTEMBER 13TH

\$25 BY OCTOBER 28TH

Your Conference Experience

Our focused track structure ensures that you receive a solid formation in the ministries in which you serve. Pre-recorded videos from our speakers coupled with our live stream sessions where you can share your thoughts and ask questions, will provide a personalized experience to help you grow in holiness. Our Ministry Tracks cover:

Catechesis • Family Life • Ministers of Care
• Maturing Adults • Stewardship • Liturgy

To conclude our conference, our Special Guest Speaker, **His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins**, will speak about what it means to be holy and how to walk the path of a saint. After his talk, he will partake in a live Q&A answering all your questions related to the theme of the conference. We will also be collecting questions beforehand, so feel free to email Annalisa Parente at aparente@archtoronto.org by **October 28, 2020**. Follow the link below to register:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/conference/Pages/Registration.aspx>

BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM'S FEAST DAY IS FAST APPROACHING!

Although his feast falls on September 9th, this year our parish will be celebrating Blessed Frédéric Ozanam's Feast Day on Saturday, September 12 from 9:00am to noon on our parish property where our community garden is located. The location is the south-west corner of Bur Oak Ave. and White's Hill Ave. We look forward to celebrating our first Mass on the parish property at 9:00am, with the ability to tour the garden until noon. We ask everyone to please drop by and celebrate with us. We are asking for donations of fresh vegetables and fruit that, along with what we will harvest from our garden, will be donated to one or more of the St. Vincent de Paul shelters or group homes. For more information please e-mail ssvp@blessedoanam.ca.

Attendance is limited to 100 people and will take place through Eventbrite. Please remember to bring a folding chair along with you for your comfort.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Update

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks everyone who has continued to support our neighbours in need through their donations during the Covid-19 pandemic. We expect that there will soon be greater demands on our resources for those families who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, due to loss of employment and/or illness, as a result in the reduction of government aid. Donations can be made by e-transfer to ssvp@blessedoanam.ca. Please include your name, address and e-mail or phone number with the donation.

Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity to those in need.

Thank you for doing your part by wearing your MASK at Mass and following our safety protocols. Together we will beat this virus!

*Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, thank you for the hope you have given us.
Help us to give our worries to you and, above all, to trust in your unfailing love.
Amen.*

Called to Use Time Well

What it means to steward time

by Leisa Anslinger



Finding Time, Making Time, Giving Time

We all know that if something is really important to us, we will find the time for it. Whether it's going to a child's sporting event, or a quiet dinner with a loved one, an investment of our time says someone or something is of value to us. Perhaps that is why the idea of stewardship of time hits such a nerve with people. We can almost hear our thoughts ticking... "So if it's important, I'll find time for it, which means if I don't give my time it's like saying that this does not matter...but the needs of others do matter, it's just really hard to find the time!" And so

and to connect our use of time with our life of faith.

But it's my time! What does this have to do with anyone else? If stewardship is about caring for and using the gifts we have been given, then being a good steward of time calls us to recognize that every minute, hour and day we live is a gift, to be used or squandered. While none of us wants to think we squander any of what God has given us, most of us have time we do not steward well.

Time is used in many ways.

We can categorize the ways we use our time: time for self and time for others, or time for work and time for play, or time for what we want to do and time for what we have to do. There is more to it than that, however. As we have already begun to explore, our use of time signifies value and priority: what is important is allotted time; what we don't value as much does not receive time. We say, "I can make time for this," or "I can't find time for that." It is also about attention. When we give time to something, we are being attentive to that person or activity. If all of our time is going toward ourselves or our immediate family, without concern for the needs of others, or if we spend every free moment in front of the television, computer or at our favorite activity, we are attending to

something, and not to another. We may spend so much time with others we neglect the need for self-care, for family, or for the need for a deeper life of prayer or for service. Jesus asks us to do for others as we do for ourselves. This calls us to balance and use our time well.

The challenge: The way we use our time is an expression of our love for God. This requires us to prioritize, and to assign time according to who and what matters most.

Let's get practical. First, we need to think about the ways in which we already use our time. Then we can consider what is most important, who needs our time, and how we can give it. We can develop a plan that takes all of this into account, and we are likely to find satisfaction in knowing we are using our time more wisely. We will consider these practical aspects on the reverse of this sheet.

Let's be spiritual. Putting it simply, our time is not our own. We do not know how many days or years we will live, and have responsibility to use the time we are given well. That's the essence of stewardship of time.

Being a good steward of time first calls us to recognize that every minute, hour and day we live is a gift, to be used or squandered.

it is. I often hear people say that it is easier for them to write a check than to actually give time themselves, even though giving money never seems easy. So, it is worth some time to think about this aspect of our lives,



The Stewardship Project
www.GratefulDisciples.net

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. ...By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:34a-35)



Practical Ways to Steward Time Well

Use your time well, on purpose

Being a good steward of time begins by deciding what is important, planning and living accordingly.

Plan your time: For a week, chart how you use your time. Be honest, brutal even! How much time is used well? How much time are you needlessly wasting? If how you use time is a reflection of what is important, what does your current use of time say about that? What should change? What needs time that is currently not part of your daily or weekly life? How will you plan time in the future to reflect your priorities?

Make time for prayer: Our time with God is the most important time we spend each day. Sunday Mass, reading the Bible, offering our needs and the needs of others in prayer, and listening to the inmost thoughts of our hearts with God is time we simply must "make" if we are to grow as people of faith.

Spend time in work: No matter our age or stage in life, being productive is important to our well-being and how we

contribute to others. If you have lost your job, seeking employment is, of course, your work! If you have a job, fulfill your responsibilities well. If you are retired, find good use of some of your time at your parish or in a local organization that needs your talents and skills as you are able.

Give time to others: Spend quality time with family; invest time in good and holy friendships.

Offer time in service: Plan your time so that every week or month includes outward service to others. No exceptions! When you are convinced you have no time, look at your chart -- and eliminate something that you do mindlessly or out of habit rather than consciously, intentionally and for the sake of someone who truly needs your attention, care, and service. Do not use "lack of time" as an excuse for not doing something that makes you uncomfortable or draws you out of yourself for the sake of another.

Take time for yourself: All of this is not to say you should not take time for yourself. Pray; exercise; rest; feed your body, soul, and spirit; participate in some healthy and appropriate leisure activity occasionally.



NOW



"In a busy society like ours, time is one of the most precious possessions we have. How we spend our time is perhaps the clearest indication of our progress in a life of Christian discipleship." (SDR, 66)



After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord -- and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (Jn 13:12-14)

How Are You Already a Good Steward of Time?

What does your chart tell you about the ways in which you are a good steward of time? We will always have ways to grow as disciples and stewards. How are you already a good steward of time? What areas of your life need attention in order to steward your time better in the coming year? Use this space to record your thoughts and your commitment for the future:

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving
knowing that all that I am and all that I have is a gift from you.

In faith and love, help me to do your will.

I am listening, Lord God.

Speak your words into the depth of my soul,
that I may hear you clearly.

I offer to you this day all the facets of my life,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.

Give me the wisdom and insight
to understand your will for me

and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions.

I offer my gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you
as a true act of faith,

to reflect my love for you and my neighbour.

Help me to reach out to others as you, my God,

Have reached out to me.

Amen.

Prayer used with permission from Stewardship and Development Office, Archdiocese of Chicago.



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