

**Coop's Scoops # 104 Thursday,
September 17, 2020**



Bev and Bob Bullen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past Sunday!

Congratulations to them from all of us. I understand they went together (remember when people used to do that?) for four years before they were married.

For Bev and Bob, the vows they made so long ago endured through the good times, the bad times, through sickness and health, through richer and through poorer, with plenty of

love left over! We wish them many more years of happiness together.

There is another anniversary coming up this weekend.....mine! Not a wedding anniversary, but the 20th anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood on September 19th, 2000 at St. Luke's Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie, under the anointing of Bishop Ronald Ferris. I vowed to do all the things listed on page 646 and 647 of your BAS to the best of my ability with the upholding power of the Holy Spirit. Of course, I review those promises every year, and will do so deeply on this anniversary date. Usually, on this occasion, a Church or Clericus has a little tea party and let the Priest know how they are doing. Can you do that second part for me? I'm not looking for compliments per se, but rather an honest comment on how am I doing in making the love of Christ known and received, in fashioning my life after His, in working together with you to build up the Church, in proclaiming by word and deed the gospel of Jesus, loving and serving His people, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor and in fashioning my life as a wholesome example to others. You can email me, text me, phone me.....whatever....your comments will be kept to myself alone. Ideas to help my ongoing formation and continual growth would also be appreciated

where I may be falling short. Thanks! And if you are not a “comment” kind of person, or your momma taught ya “If you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything at all”, just say a prayer for me and my ministry on Saturday. I am so grateful to God and to you for this ministry. It is my greatest pleasure.

Parish News:

On Tuesday, September 29th, I will be offering the first of a six week small group study based on Bishop N.T. Wright’s book “God and the Pandemic”. We begin at 10am and go for just 45 minutes for covid best practice, and will have to wear masks as we join in Browning Hall. Only ten people plus myself will be able to attend. If, however, there are more than ten wishing to attend, I will offer a second session at 11:00am. This is open to Lake of Bays churches and to St. Thomas Church. You will have to call the office at 645-3486 to tell Cathy or Tracy of your commitment to attend so that we do not extend the numbers in either session. Sorry, no snacks or beverages allowed, as they are difficult to consume without removing your mask. If you want to bring some, they could be shared outside following the session but not indoors.

Those coming to attend should order a copy of the book from Amazon (or elsewhere) as pre-reading of chapters will be necessary. It costs under \$20. People attending who live in bubbles could share. If you cannot access internet, let us know, and we will order the book for you. This course is a lot to take in.....we may have to do a weekly zoom meeting as well to get everyone’s comments in. We’ll learn as we go, and do what needs to be done. This course will also be a blessing!



Humour for the Day

In case the prints too light, it says : “I did my family history on the internet and guess what? I’m Scottish. The McNugget Clan!



That's it, ducks and chickens rule today!

Scripture for the Day: [Matthew 23:37](#)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

Homily: Well, in keeping with my ducks and chickens cartoons, I googled to see if there was a Bible verse about chickens. And lo and behold there was. A Hen and little Chicks. And reading that verse moved my Spirit to make it the subject of today's homily.

In the preceding verses, Jesus is in the Temple warning the Scribes and Pharisees who in Chapter 22 had roundly criticized Him yet again to change their ways, and to guide their people with integrity, transparency, mercy, being so scrupulous as to tithe mint and parsley but not taking time and care to serve the poor and look after weighty matters. Jesus is reminding them that their ancestors murdered the prophets and stoned the sages and scribes. It is a very serious, sad dialogue that's going on. Jesus is expressing the emotion of righteous anger, and he is also to the point of tears as He does it. He longs, yearns, pines for the city of Jerusalem. He says “How I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers its chicks, but you would not. (You were not willing to be gathered: amp).

It about broke His heart. It should likely break ours as well. In our time, there remain “Those who would not”. How do we regard them? Usually not well. We say, or think things like, “oh this generation they are just to self-occupied” or “will they never look beyond the abuses of the Church?” or “Can't they see the good we do and the sacrifices we make for them”. When we think of non-believers, it can be a blame game instead of a heart breaker. Do we ever long like Jesus to be like a

mother hen gathering her chicks....calling people to come close, to be warm and safe, to be protected, to be loved by both a mothering and fathering God?

For the most part, I have to think we do long for that. I see it in your eyes, and your words and in your prayers. We just haven't learned how to be really compelling mother hens. Learned to seek out and make new friends beyond our Christian snow globe bubbles. Learned, like good parents, to recognize the dangers when we see people going too far, see so many ignoring the ancient sacred words. Learned to pepper our conversations and writings and teachings and poems and art with those very things. We haven't learned how to protect all the chicks out there by making our wings warm and safe and open for refuge.

Let's ask our God to open our hearts more and more to the excluded, the marginalized, the openly God-antagonistic, the new age seekers, the unlovely, the forgotten. Then let's help find ways to boost each others wing-strength and wing-reach. It's not a programme, or a how to guide we need....it is a life-long longing to gather in others who have not been reached by the consuming love of Jesus.

Blessings on the journey!

Judie+

Prayer for today:

We pray this day for people everywhere who know they are lost. Who are struggling to find the right way. Who have been wounded in such ways that faith has become seen as an enemy. Help us to become spiritual and emotional refuges for them, as you reveal them to our hearts or they stumble into our pathways. We release and commit to You those who have no such longing, as we must not impose upon their choices. You alone can change the human heart. May we take part in the fulfillment of Your promise, that those who seek You will find You, those who knock will be opened onto and welcomed in. We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Blessing:

Bless your children, Lord Jesus, with the joy of loving You and of abiding with You in the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

