

Coop's Scoops # 128 Thursday, November 19, 2020

Last Scoops was light on the Meditation side, and this Scoops will be light on the information and news side. It is becoming increasingly difficult for me to get everything done in a generally 10 hour day.....no complaints at all, just finding that some of the things I love to do, I have to do a little smaller or a little less. I feel so much support from all of you, my faith family, that I know you will be patient with me.

Anyway, Time's a wastin' , so let's get on with it! (I love the old sayings...my mom used to say that to me everytime I didn't have my homework packed before I put my boots on to go to school).



The Diocese called for prayer to day for Bishop Michael Hawkins of the Diocese of Saskatchewan who has been diagnosed with covid-19 and admitted to the ICU. In

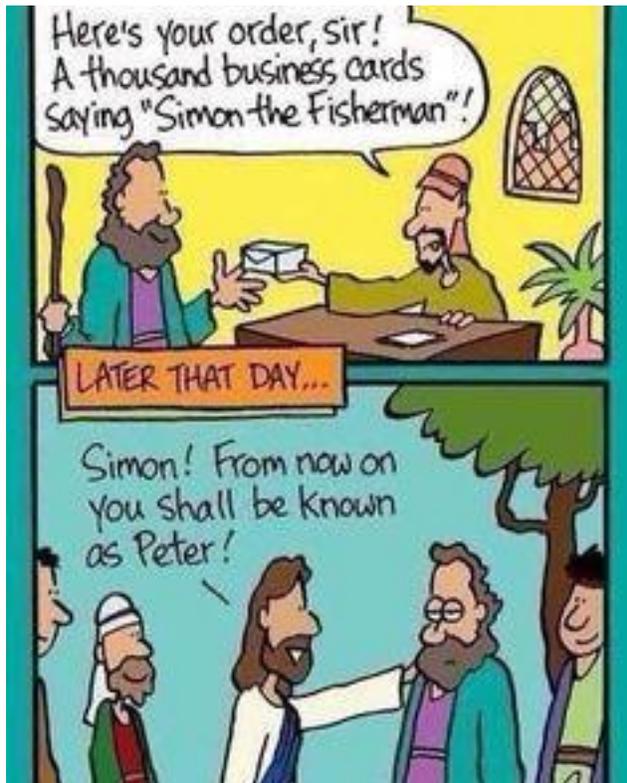
A November 4th letter to all his clergy, Bishop Hawkins mentioned that just as they were being able to have public worship again in the southern areas, they were having to close public worship in the northern Reserves. He acknowledged the stresses and strains of the “unknowing” with regard to Christmas services and continuing regular Sunday worship, which has been the norm in Saskatchewan for awhile but is now under review. He offered encouragement in keeping up vigilant pandemic practices, and doing them more often and with more consistency than ever. It now falls to us to pray for those same clergy and their parishioners who will be deeply affected by the illness of their beloved Bishop. Prayers are also needed for his spouse Kathryn and his family. I'll keep you posted.

Light at the far end of the tunnel: Hooray for the excellent work of scientists in producing what appear to be very promising vaccines which could become available in the coming months. There are still approvals and reviews needed, and a huge amount of work to establish protocols for how and when to dispense the vaccinations to whom. Nevertheless, we can be glad that our health care workers, first responders and the vulnerable elderly may be among the first to be vaccinated. Let's continue to pray for all who work in this field, and for all who

have volunteered to be “trial testers” for vaccine development. We pray for some among them who have become ill with covid, and are thankful that it is so very very few of them. And we pray for a just distribution of vaccine to all the countries and peoples of this world who desire to be vaccinated. There may be a few twists in the tunnel before we get to the light, but the beams are shining along the way.

I purchased a t-shirt for someone recently which showed 2019 with a big check mark in red, 2020 actually crossed out in red, and 2021 with a big red question mark on it. I think the question mark has just moved to red fingers-crossed and will move in time to a nice red smiley face. We’re getting there.

Joke for the Day:





Scripture for the Day: Colossians 3:12-14

New Revised Standard Version

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the

Lord^[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Homily: I have watched with a sort of weird fascination as people have gathered in public settings to protest the wearing of masks during this pandemic. I do not dispute their charter rights to protest, but I cannot comprehend their disregard for the value of other people's lives. I just don't "get" how folks can be so concerned about their own rights, that they fail to see how their actions infringe on other people's needs, dare I say, rights to the healthiest environment possible in our shared spaces. Don't worry, I'm not inviting debate or this, or trying to incite any one who shares those particular views, I'm just expressing my own sense of frustration mixed with some anger. Anger that I do not want to feel or express but which ripples underneath and needs to be changed.

So the Holy Spirit got to work on me suggesting that I look beyond wearing a mask to the whole wardrobe I present to the world in my own daily life. My spiritual wardrobe. Paul writes to the Colossians that they should be clothed in compassion, meekness, kindness, humility and patience and that over all of that they need to wear a great big enfolding cloak of love. Their presentation to the world should look and smell and feel and "be" different when they serve the risen Lord Jesus.

What would clothes of compassion look like? Well could be like a nurse or doctor's togs, or a tool utility belt holding everything that could possibly fix anything. You couldn't be clothed in compassion if you were acting like the worst

guy or gal in the rogues gallery of inflicting pain. Being clothed with meekness would not allow for buying the most trendy gorgeous sparkly outfit when you could have used the money to dress like the ordinary common folk all around you. Clothed with kindness might mean wearing a double layer of sweaters so you can take one off and give it to another. Clothed with patience would mean leaving the skate board at home and using moccasins to beat a slow and steady pace leaving you time to notice the people and the needs all around you.

And being clothed with all of those things would not allow me to rant and hold in disrespect those who protest in ways I think are preposterous. Love does reign things in. Love does enfold the “unlike me” and the “stranger” and the “different” into one huge cloak of a bear hug. Love is the basis of all unity.

We can work to change things, we can share words, we can speak our truth, we can be beacons of light even, but if we do those things wearing any wardrobe other than love, compassion, kindness, meekness, humility and patience we are missing the way of Jesus. We are missing the peace which Christ intends for us to have. The next verse in Colossians 3 reads “ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, And be thankful.” There is no lasting peace for ONE of us, until there is peace for ALL of us. Most particularly in the Body of believers.

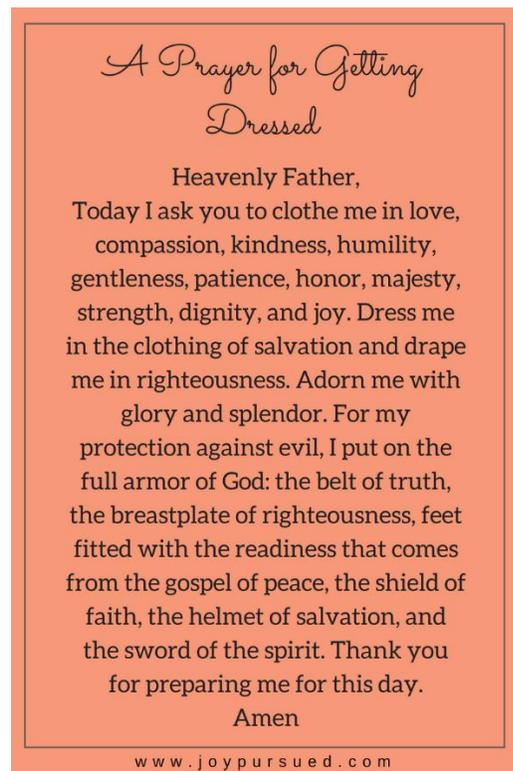
I am now committed to praying for the well-being of those people who refuse to wear masks, and do foolish things like gathering and partying and living only to themselves instead of internally cursing them and hideously wishing they might actually get covid to prove a point. Yes, those are the depths to which this gal can stoop. And if you're honest, you've been there a time or two as well. Maybe not over covid, but over other things. The Holy Spirit blessedly does not let me (or any lover of Jesus) stay there. And I am indeed thankful.

Loving our neighbours is something we've gotten better at during this pandemic. Taking on some responsibilities and restrictions to promote community wellness is an act of love. Wearing a mask is one thing, wearing all the wardrobe needed

to show more of the mind and love of Christ is quite another. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, when they are in accordance with His will and His commandment to love one another as He has loved us.

May God bless us all as we commit ourselves each day to following Jesus and being the people of God. Amen.

Prayer for the Day:



The Lord bless you and keep you as the apple of His eye, and may the love and peace of God, the Father, Son and Holy spirit be with you always! - Judie+