

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FROM: DOCAT

The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church

**God's Master Plan
Love**

3. What significance does God have for our actions?

If God is the originator of the whole cosmos, then he is also the standard for everything that ought to be. All actions are measured against him and his plan. This is how we can recognize what good actions are. To put it intuitively: God wrote the DNA of our lives; it is in freely choosing to follow the instructions he has made part of us that we fulfill our God-given potential. What God wants for us and of us is the norm and the rule of a good, righteous life. Christians act with solidarity because God first treated them lovingly.

4. Can we experience God?

If you reflect on yourself, you soon recognize that you did not make yourself. No one asked you whether you actually wanted to exit or would rather not. You were suddenly there. The next thing that you recognize is that you are finite. Today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow your life will be over. And everything around you will no longer exist someday. Nevertheless, you can think about the infinite: something that exists but will not pass away. Therefore, although you are surrounded exclusively by transitory things, you long for what is infinite and does not pass away. You would like something of yourself to last. How sad it would be, too, if the whole beautiful world were only a snapshot, a meaningless flash that sinks again into nothingness. Only if God really exists are you in safekeeping with him. And all of creation is kept in being, too. Having an idea of God and longing for him are part of being human. Yearning for the infinite and absolute is found in all cultures.

5. Why did God create man and the world?

God created the world out of his overflowing love. He would like us to love him as he loves us. He wants to gather us into the great family of his Church.

'VOCATION SEEDS'

"But the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never be thirsty." Do you thirst to know where God is leading you? Could you be thirsty for an understanding of your purpose? If God is calling you to serve Him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister,

contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director
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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 18:

5:00 pm +Victoria Gabriel Noronha
+Joseph Fernandes
+Marlon Mancol
+Alvira Sylvain
+Leonard Georges
+Lolita Menor
+Rodolfo Junio
Deceased Members of Tanajo and
Boediman Families

Sunday March 19:

9:00 am +Paulina Lapascua Regalado

10:30 am +Caroline Fernandes

12:00 pm Pro - Populo

Monday March 20:

9:00 am +Mr. & Mrs. D'Souza

Tuesday March 21:

9:00 am +Yvonne De Souza

Wednesday March 22:

7:30 pm +Raphael Justin Loh

Thursday March 23:

9:00 am Intention of Rosie Fernandes

Friday March 24:

9:30 am Celebrant's Intention

7:30 pm In Thanksgiving of Edna Fernando

Saturday March 25:

9:00 am Celebrant's Intention

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
on Fridays with Mass at 9:30 am and
concluded with Benediction and Mass at 7:30 pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross after the 7:30 pm Mass.

ST. ANTHONY NOVENA

The thirteen consecutive Tuesday Novena in honour of St. Anthony starts on **Tuesday March 21, 2017 at 7:30pm.** There will be a Mass followed by Novena Prayers and Benediction. All are welcome.

March 19, 2017

DAY OF CONFESSIONS
Wednesday March 29, 2017
10:00 am - 2:00 pm 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Ching Ming Chinese Remembrance Mass 2017
will be held in the Holy Family Mausoleum at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Thornhill on Saturday April 1, 2017 at 2:00 pm. The Mass is organized by Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services - Archdiocese of Toronto which is held in Cantonese and Mandarin with support of the Chinese Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of Toronto. For further details, please see the poster in the bulletin board at the foyer.

IT'S MOVIE TIME

Come and enjoy an afternoon with family and friends. The Catholic Women's League of Canada, St. Aidan Council will host the movie **"What Would Jesus Do?"** on Sunday April 2, 2017 at 2:00 pm in the hall. Light refreshment will be served. Tickets at \$5.00 each will be made available after all Masses this weekend March 18/19 and on March 25/26, 2017.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, St. Aidan Council will hold their Recruitment Weekend on Saturday March 25 and Sunday March 26, 2017. We invite all women of our parish community ages 16 years and over to be part of our vibrant Catholic Women's League. Visit our table in the foyer after all the Masses and talk with our members to learn more about our council.

2016 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS
are available for pick up after all
weekend Masses in the gift shop.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Tel: 647 772 1319 www.svdtoronto.org

During this Lenten journey, let us make an effort to go beyond our comfort zone and help those who need us most. In giving of ourselves - personal and material is a wonderful way of expressing our spiritual, material and financial support to our neighbour-in-need.

Lord, help me to make time today to serve You in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance - St. Vincent de Paul

With a generous heart and spirit, let us share what we have with our neighbour-in-need. Your generous contribution to the POOR BOX will help lift up the lowly and feed the hungry.

Letter from Cardinal Collins
to Prime Minister Trudeau in relation to funding
announcement
re: "sexual and reproductive health programs"
March 10, 2017

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment at your government's decision to provide \$650 million to support "sexual and reproductive health programs" globally. While it is commendable and necessary to foster initiatives that further the rights of women and young girls worldwide, your public comments suggest that unless a woman has access to abortion or contraception, she is not empowered or able to realize her full potential.

I simply remind you and your colleagues that we have no rights at all unless we are afforded the right to life. That decision was made for you and for each one of us by a woman, determined and committed to bring a new life into this world.

It is praiseworthy to offer international aid; it is arrogant for powerful, wealthy nations to dictate what priorities developing countries should embrace. Pope Francis has cautioned the rich and powerful West against the danger of "ideological colonization," in which such countries and organizations offer funding to help further a particular social agenda. Do we empower women by making sex selective abortions more accessible? Money spent on promoting abortion and contraception could be spent on vaccinating millions of women and girls against malaria or other diseases. \$650 million could help build a lot of schools or universities, pathways to knowledge for future female leaders of our world.

Our country could learn from a number of inspiring examples of outreach and care that support women worldwide. Very often these programs are offered by faith-based, non governmental organizations, which are usually the first to arrive and the last to leave any area of crisis or need. They understand the reality of the local situation, and respect the dignity of the people who live there.

Canada is blessed with prosperity and a wealth of resources. Surely we can do better than imposing a distorted vision of the empowerment of women on the people of countries that deserve our support to respond effectively to the challenge of their most pressing needs.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you regarding this critically important issue.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto