

Ministry of Accompanying

Deacon Daniel Lavoie

Ask any solo instrumentalist and they will tell you that any concerto sounds better when he or she has an accompanist. The solo instrument is complemented and enriched by the other instrument(s) doing the accompanying. The accompanist follows the lead of the soloist, but also gently corrects when needed. The soloist is never alone on stage.

And so it is with us – we are never alone on the stage of life. Jesus accompanies us in our life and even though we might feel alone, we are not. If we think to the two men on the road to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 24, they probably felt discouraged - alone. They might have been asking questions like, “Where shall we go?” “Who will lead us?” After the death [and Resurrection] of Jesus, these two fellows felt abandoned and alone – even though they were walking side-by-side. Then Jesus appears and accompanies them in their journey, “Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” They looked, “downcast” or “sad.”

There are many, like the two men on the Road to Emmaus, who are walking away from Jerusalem because they are lonely, especially the vulnerable elderly of our community [society]. They might feel discouraged and as life, here on earth, is approaching its end, the vulnerable are at risk of giving up and there are certain members of our health care system are too eager in encouraging them to avail themselves to Medically Assisted in Dying (MAiD) or Assisted Suicide – we all know that is very wrong – let’s call it what it is – murder.

If we continue in the Gospel passage of the two men on the Road to Emmaus, we read that Jesus broke open scripture and bread with them (c.f. Lk 27-30), and their eyes were open and recognized Jesus. Our vulnerable need to have people to break bread with them – to point to Our Lord – so they might recognize Jesus [again].

The vulnerable need to be valued and be reminded they are valued. Our Lord says, “Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?” (Matt 6:26). They need to be reminded of their dignity even amongst their suffering – whatever form that is manifested. The vulnerable might be tempted, but must be pointed to Jesus, “Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested” (Hebrews 2:18).

People are not alone, but some feel extremely lonely and would certainly benefit having an accompanist. This ministry is for those who would be committed to serve the most vulnerable of our community – to reach out to them and accompany them on their journey – so that MAiD does not even cross their mind as they will be too busy enjoying and valuing life. This ministry of accompaniment is for those who

value each and every person from conception to natural death and who will break bread with them, lead them to Jesus, and be on the stage of life with them. Annette Turgeon from St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria will be at Christ the King Parish on November 16 and 17, 2018 to introduce the Ministry of Accompaniment. Annette is the key person for "Respect Life Ministries" offered from the Cathedral.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 250-941-5923 or by email: dgagne.dlavoie@gmail.com

If you are interested in this valuable ministry, please submit your name and email by contacting the parish office at 250-334-4716 by email: ctkparish@shaw.ca.

Details to follow.