



Message from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

Good Sunday to you. May your weekend be blessed and safe from the perils of heat overload!

In addition to *heat overload*, I'd add: "May your days be blessed and safe from the perils of *news overload*." It's difficult to see newscasts, listen to the radio, look at on-line reports, maybe even talk with family, friends, neighbors and so on, without experiencing an overload of some sort.

I experience news overload about all kinds of things. There seems to be something "brewing" most of the time: tragic news of violence and death, new revelations in the January 6 hearings, the ongoing war in Ukraine, wildfires in the US and Europe, heat exhaustion and deaths in the US and around the world, a Supreme Court ruling which makes it harder for the government to deal with the causes of climate change, and so on. Plus, Pope Francis is traveling to Canada this week to apologize to indigenous people for the Catholic Church's role in the ill treatment and deaths of many children in church-run boarding schools. (Hard to get my head around that reality – in Canada, the US and elsewhere.)

There are bright spots in the news, too. Gun control legislation passed congress for the first time in decades. (Yes, more needs to be done.) Social Service Sister Simone Campbell is awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Biden for her social justice work and advocating for those without a voice. Pope Francis appoints three women (two nuns and a lay woman) to the Vatican office that selects bishops for the dioceses of the world. (That's an overload for some, I bet).

Glen Campbell sang of the Wichita Lineman "searchin' for another overload." We don't have to search – overload is a way of life right now. And God is not unaware of what's going on. Never has been. In today's first reading Abraham was caught in an overload of sin in Sodom and Gomorrah. But Abraham got in a dialog (prayer) with God about it. Over a long period of pleading, God agreed to not "sweep away/destroy" the innocent with the guilty if "only as few as ten" innocent could be found!

In the gospel Jesus' disciples asked him how they should pray (dialog) with God. Jesus' response was along the lines of Abraham's experience: acknowledge God and bring to God your needs and concerns.

We experience "overloads" in our lives and world all the time. But God is never overloaded. We are encouraged to be straight forward with God and trust God to come through for us and with us.

Peace,
Deacon Ross