



Shepherd's Corner

16 Jan 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your outstanding generosity to the Building Fund. The process of selecting an organ continues. This week we will send the charitable tax receipts to all of our donors, as well as a financial report for the year 2021.

Talebearing. When did it become okay to be a tattletale?! Didn't we learn in kindergarten, or earlier, that 'talebearing' was bad behavior? As any kid would define it, a tattletale is someone who tries to hurt another by revealing a fault. For example: "Mom! Johnny ate a cookie when you were on the phone!" The tattletale has no reason to reveal the fault other than personal gain.

Adult talebearing takes this form: "Bylaw officer! I saw this person not wearing a mask!" Or, "Bishop! This parish is not complying with your policy!"

Talebearing can also be called detraction, or gossip. How might that be defined? On detraction, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. He is guilty of detraction who, without an objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," (2477).

This is more than amply supported by the Old Testament. "The lips of the unwise will be telling foolish things; but the words of the wise shall be weighed in a balance," (Eccl.21:28). And further: "The talebearer shall defile his own soul, and shall be hated by all; and he that shall abide with him shall be hateful; the silent and wise man shall be honoured," (Eccl. 21:31). Proverbs says this: "When the wood faileth, the fire shall go out: and when the talebearer is taken away, contentions shall cease," (Prov.26:20).

The New Testament is not silent either. St. Paul sees a danger for young widows: "At the same time they will also learn to be idle, going from house to house and being not only idle, but also gossips and busybodies, discussing things they should not mention," (1 Tim.5:13).

Thank you for your material and especially spiritual support for the parish. May the good God reward you.

- Fr. Novokowsky, FSSP