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Sisters of St. Ann Art Donation



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St. Francis Xavier 125th Anniversary



# The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

December 2011

## “Bouncing” & “Conversion” through Advent and Christmas

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

In the world of computer marketing there is the expression “bounce rate.” This odd phrase refers to the number of times people visit a website and having viewed the home page, they promptly decide to leave it for another site because it holds no relevance for them, it is of no interest to the person—they “hit” it and then “bounce off!” It is only when the website or the “landing page” as it is called, is compelling or interesting enough to the viewer that the person will not bounce off but will, as the marketers say, “convert.” In other words, they will open themselves up to the website and go deeper into its pages and links. Ultimately, the converted person will find the site so compelling and relevant that they will “bookmark” it as part of their world view and make reference to it often.

*Advent ... is a holy season unto itself, just as a pregnancy is not a birth.*

Does this remind you of anything scriptural? How about Jesus’ parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15)? Remember the seed that fell on rocky ground, shallow soil or the thorns and brambles? There wasn’t much to hold the seed in these unwelcoming places, was there? The seed sort of bounced—no root. Then again, the parable mentions the good soil where the seed could go deep, be held in the soil and, if you will, convert into a good crop. We speak here of course of how the Word of God finds itself in the various types of soil within the human heart. It would seem, in a certain sense, that computer technology is not without a scriptural connection!



Icon by Andre Prevost, Winnipeg, MB July 2007

The difference between the marketing language above and the parable of the sower is that the “bounce rate” does not depend on whether the landing page is compelling or interesting; rather, to the sower (God), every human heart is compelling, relevant and interesting and He desires that there be conversion in every heart, rocky soil or not. The difficulty is ourselves: we are the ones who have the power and the freedom to receive the Word of God deeply and well—to receive it on good soil or not.

In essence, this is what Advent is about. It is not Christmas, rather it is a holy season unto itself, just as a pregnancy is not yet a birth. It has its own special demands and obligations such as listening, having awareness, learning and being receptive to the child soon to come—a time to nourish faith and, yes, to convert. Advent is not the time to bounce from one spiritual event to another—from one prayer to another, from one Mass to another. No, we must reflect, listen and receive the mystery of God as something compelling, unbelievably beautiful and offered to us by the Sower. There is no other way to enter Christmas. The child at Bethlehem can only be received through the door of faith and it is faith that enables us, along with Mary and Joseph, to exclaim joyfully: “This is our God!”

In 2012 the Church celebrates a year dedicated to Faith. The Apostolic Letter introducing the Year of Faith is entitled: Porta Fidei (Door of Faith). Pope Benedict writes:

*The door of faith is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church.*

*It is possible to cross the threshold when the Word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming Grace.*

*To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime.*

Let us ask for the grace to journey well through Advent, into Christmas and beyond, knowing who we are, whose we are, and the mission to which we are called. ✠

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# Appeal in Action



by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Thank you and blessings to all parishioners who have supported the *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal to date. Your generous and sacrificial gifts are greatly appreciated. Please know that they will have a genuine impact on building up your Parish and the Diocese. This is also a reminder to parishioners who have not yet made a gift to the Appeal that there is still time to participate. Gifts made before January 1, 2012 will be eligible for a charitable tax receipt for 2011. If you need pledge forms please ask at your Parish office.

The support of the *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal has enabled the pastoral priorities of both your Parish and Diocese to be supported and will further the unfolding of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Your gift and commitment to our *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal will allow our goals to become a reality. Even more importantly, your support is an encouragement to all of us and is a witness to discipleship in Jesus, Our Lord. Being a good steward of the many gifts we have all received will lay a solid foundation for future generations of Catholics in our Diocese.

## Summary of pledges to November 30, 2011

- More than 2,200 gifts have been given or pledged to date.
- Almost \$950,000 raised to date surpassing goal of \$750,000
- More than \$276,000 has been identified for parish priorities surpassing the goal of \$150,000
- Twenty-two (22) parishes have received 70% to 418% of their parish goals to date!
- Parish totals are published regularly in Sunday bulletins and can be found on the website at [www.rcd victoria.org](http://www.rcd victoria.org)

Final numbers will be seen in the *Messenger* in the New Year!

## Appeal Review and Feedback

Twelve (12) parishes took the time to provide structured feedback about the current Appeal. Some of the feedback highlights:

### Strengths

- Appeal administration and coordination
- Frequent communication
- Celebratory Mass and Receptions
- Professional kit, materials and video

### Areas for Growth

- Expand the role of the Diocesan Website
- Include more examples and images of how the Appeal benefits the Diocese and Parishes

- Improve the timing of Diocese mail-out and pledge forms
- Reconsider Commitment Sunday Pledge format and Cards

### Looking Ahead to the 2012 Appeal

- A *Journey of Hearts & Hands* will continue.
- Financial Goal will remain at \$750,000
- Benefitting Diocesan programs will be largely unchanged

### Appeal Elements

- Print Materials
- Clergy Consultations and Committee Training
- Celebratory Mass & Dinner and Regional Receptions
- Mail-Out from the Diocesan Appeal Office
- Video with focussed narrative and images around programs
- Diocesan website will have an expanded role ✂



Fr. Sean Flynn of Shawnigan/Mill Bay and friends at the dinner at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo

## On Our Way Appeal 2011 - Pledge Totals as of December 9, 2011

Parish	City	Priest	Parish Goal	Number of Gifts	Amount Pledged	% of Goal	Avg Gift	For Parish Priorities
Ascension	Parksville	Rev. Melquiades Bayron	\$46,000	166	\$44,014.00	96%	\$265.14	\$8,802.80
Cathedral	Victoria	Rev John Laszczyk	\$111,000	402	\$251,991.61	227%	\$626.84	\$140,991.61
Christ the King	Courtenay	Rev Marek Paczka, S.D.S.	\$81,000	114	\$40,450.00	50%	\$354.82	\$8,090.00
Holy Cross Parish	Victoria	Rev Msgr Michael Lapierre	\$44,000	152	\$49,740.00	113%	\$327.24	\$13,392.00
Holy Family	Ucluelet	Rev Scott Whittemore	\$1,000	8	\$2,750.00	275%	\$343.75	\$1,750.00
Holy Family/Notre Dame	Port Alberni	Rev Stephen Paine	\$39,000	96	\$30,100.00	77%	\$313.54	\$6,020.00
Our Lady of Assumption	Alert Bay	Rev Roger Poblete	\$1,000	2	\$200.00	20%	\$100.00	\$40.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Victoria	Rev Manuel Cardoso	\$19,000	49	\$17,375.00	91%	\$354.59	\$3,475.00
Our Lady of Grace	Saltspring Island	Rev Larrie Soberano	\$16,000	24	\$12,818.45	80%	\$534.10	\$2,563.69
Our Lady of the Rosary	Victoria	Rev Paul Szczur, S.D.S.	\$33,000	87	\$32,824.00	99%	\$377.29	\$6,564.80
Our Lady of Victory	Gabriola Island	Rev Waldemar Podlasz, S.D.S.	\$1,000	3	\$394.00	39%	\$131.33	\$78.80
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Victoria	Rev. John Domotor	\$14,000	51	\$16,840.00	120%	\$330.20	\$5,072.00
Saanich Peninsula	Sidney	Rev Rolf Hasenack, O.P.	\$50,000	130	\$40,680.00	81%	\$312.92	\$8,136.00
Sacred Heart	Victoria	Rev. Alfred Alilio	\$37,000	151	\$39,275.00	106%	\$260.10	\$9,220.00
Schools/Diocese	-----	-----	----	7	\$76,372.00	---	\$10,910.29	---
St Ann's	Duncan	Rev Jai Joseph	\$3,500	2	\$900.00	26%	\$450.00	\$180.00
St. Bonaventure	Port Hardy	Rev Roger Poblete	\$1,000	6	\$4,180.00	418%	\$696.67	\$3,180.00
St. Edward's	Duncan	Rev Alfredo Monacelli	\$45,000	161	\$47,747.90	106%	\$296.57	\$11,198.32
St. Francis of Assisi	Tofino	Rev Scott Whittemore	\$1,000	10	\$1,370.00	137%	\$137.00	\$496.00
St. Francis Xavier/Our Lady Queen of the World	Mill Bay	Rev Sean Flynn	\$24,000	59	\$23,795.00	99%	\$403.31	\$4,759.00
St. Jean Baptiste	Victoria	Rev Benoit Laplante	\$5,000	23	\$8,305.00	166%	\$361.09	\$3,644.00
St. Joseph the Worker	Victoria	Rev William Hann	\$50,000	169	\$48,220.00	96%	\$285.33	\$9,644.00
St. Joseph's	Chemainus	Rev Robert Mmegwa	\$12,000	30	\$7,325.00	61%	\$244.17	\$1,465.00
St. Leopold Mandic	Victoria	Rev Juro Marcinkovic, O.F.M.	\$10,000	1	\$1,000.00	10%	\$1,000.00	\$200.00
St. Louis de Montfort	Lake Cowichan	Rev Jai Joseph	\$3,500	20	\$2,560.00	73%	\$128.00	\$512.00
St. Mary's	Ladysmith	Rev Robert Mmegwa	\$16,000	8	\$1,370.00	9%	\$171.25	\$274.00
St. Mary's	Port McNeill	Rev Roger Poblete	\$1,000	4	\$750.00	75%	\$187.50	\$150.00
St. Patrick's Parish	Victoria	Rev William MacDonald, O.M.I.	\$70,000	183	\$71,913.87	103%	\$392.97	\$15,531.10
St. Patrick's Parish	Campbell River	Rev Vincent Borre	\$48,000	94	\$30,410.00	63%	\$323.51	\$6,082.00
St. Peter's Parish	Nanaimo	Rev Waldemar Podlasz, S.D.S.	\$49,000	82	\$47,900.00	98%	\$584.15	\$9,580.00
St. Rose of Lima	Sooke	Rev Michael Favero	\$15,000	41	\$37,135.00	248%	\$905.73	\$22,135.00
St. Theresa's	Port Alice	Rev Roger Poblete	\$1,000	3	\$480.00	48%	\$160.00	\$96.00
Trinity Catholic	Nanaimo	Rev Jozef Kobos S.D.S	\$37,000	103	\$35,385.00	96%	\$343.54	\$7,077.00
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>\$1,026,570.83</b>	<b>137%</b>	<b>\$420.55</b>	<b>\$310,400.12</b>

Congratulations to those parishes that have met and exceeded their goals!

# Pastoral Itinerary Bishop Richard Gagnon

## December

- 2-3 Knights of Columbus District Deputies Meeting, **Surrey**  
8 St. Andrew's High School Mass (11 am), Sacred Heart Parish, **Victoria**  
10 Legion of Mary (2 pm), St. Andrew's Cathedral  
13 Mount St. Mary Hospital Mass (11 am), **Victoria**  
17 Mass (11 am), **Penelakut Island**  
24-25 Christmas Masses, Ahousaht Village, **West Coast**  
29 Catholic Christian Outreach Conference, **Vancouver**

## January 2012

- 1 Feast of Mary the Mother of God (11 am), St. Andrew's Cathedral  
Harrison Ayre Rite of Candidacy  
5-8 Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops Retreat, **Mission**  
12 General Clergy meeting, St. Mary's Parish, **Ladysmith**  
19 Clergy Day of Reflection  
24 Mount St. Mary Hospital Mass (11 am), **Victoria**

## February

- 1 Council of Priests meeting  
5 Mass (11 am), St. Andrew's Cathedral  
6-7 Clergy Study Days with Fr. John Hibbard  
9 Episcopal Commission for Liturgy, **Ottawa**  
16 Clergy Day of Reflection  
17 Archdiocese of Vancouver, Catholic Educators Conference  
19 Mass with the Communion & Liberation community, Poor Clares Monastery, **Duncan**  
22 Ash Wednesday (Mass 7 pm), St. Andrew's Cathedral  
23 Foundations of the Faith Course with Island Catholic Schools Staff  
26 Rite of Election (11 am), St. Andrew's Cathedral  
27 Elder's Dialogue, Inn at Laurel Point, **Victoria**  
28-March 2 Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops gathering, Inn at Laurel Point, **Victoria**



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# Calendar of Events

## December

Please see page 23 for the schedule of Christmas and New Years' Masses for all Parishes in the Diocese of Victoria

## January

- 2 **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass on the feast day of the Holy Name of Jesus, 9 am.  
6 **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass on the feast day of the Epiphany of our Lord.  
14 **Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Family Movie Night with Mass at 5:00 pm and Movie at 6:00 pm. We'll have refreshments (pizza, juice, popcorn and chocolate by donation) and the movie *Pistachio* featuring the *Veggie Tales*, will be followed by crafts and fun family time. The movie is 50 minutes long and the topic is "A lesson in listening to your parents." Contact the office at (250) 478-3482 or email [olor@shaw.ca](mailto:olor@shaw.ca) for more information.  
24 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** *Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?* will begin Wednesday, January 24, 2012 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, from 7 - 9 pm. For registration contact the parish office at (250) 479-7413 or Charlie Allen, M.Ed., B.Div at (778) 433-5772 or by email to [charlieballen@gmail.com](mailto:charlieballen@gmail.com).

## February

- 25 **Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Family Movie Night with Mass at 5:00 pm and Movie at 6:00 pm. We'll have refreshments (pizza, juice, popcorn and chocolate!) and the movie *Samson & Delilah* featuring the *Veggie Tales*, will be followed by crafts and fun family time. The movie is 30 minutes long. Contact the office at (250) 478-3482 or email [olor@shaw.ca](mailto:olor@shaw.ca) for more information.

## Miscellany

Fridays  
**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** 9:30 - 11 am, Moms & Tots Group. All mothers with children 6 years and under are welcome. For more information contact Rosemarie Urbanson at (250) 391-6618; no registration is required.

## Saturdays

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 10 am (except December 24).

## Sundays

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 12 noon with Gregorian Chant and Sacred Hymns.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Religious Classes for Children and Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. 9:40 am - 10:25 am every Sunday. For more information contact Marie Peeters at (250) 542-4483.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Holy Families Group on the last Sunday of every month. This is an opportunity for married couples to share their faith and discuss marriage and family concerns in an authentically Catholic setting. And there's a potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email [onthisrock@shaw.ca](mailto:onthisrock@shaw.ca).

**To have your event included in the Diocesan Calendar of Events on the website, please email the details to [editor@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:editor@rcdvictoria.org)**



In consultation with the Priest Personnel Committee, I have recently appointed Father Robert Mmegwa as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Ladysmith and St. Joseph's Parish in Chemainus. Father Robert is on loan to our Diocese from the Archdiocese of Owerri, Nigeria.

I am also happy to announce the arrival of two Sisters of the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary in the Diocese of Victoria. Sister Elisa Lavarias and Sister Rosviminda Ochoa will be residing in Cowichan Bay and will provide pastoral ministry in the Cowichan Valley, working through St. Ann's Parish in Duncan.

The Sisters will reside at:  
#14 - 4544 Lanes Road,  
Cowichan Bay, V0R 1N2.

I hope that you will join me in warmly welcoming Father Robert Mmegwa and the Sisters of Religious of the Virgin Mary to our Diocese. We extend to them our prayers, solidarity and support of their pastoral endeavours.

Blessings on this Feast of St. Andrew and during this Advent Season!

*Bishop Richard Gagnon*



## Liturgical and Devotional Prayer Over the Centuries

Sponsored by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Fr. John Hibbard will give a 60 minute presentation on the topic: *How Do We Pray? Liturgical and Devotional Prayer Over the Centuries*. There are three opportunities to hear the talk and ask questions. Each evening will begin at 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 7th at St. Patrick's Church in Victoria**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 8th at St. Peter's Church in Nanaimo**  
**Thursday, Feb. 9th at Christ the King Church in Courtenay**

To register for the workshops, please contact the appropriate parish: St. Patrick's at 250-592-7391 ([parishsecretary@telus.net](mailto:parishsecretary@telus.net)); St. Peter's at 250 753-3570 ([sec.stpetersrc@shaw.ca](mailto:sec.stpetersrc@shaw.ca)) or Christ the King at 250-334-4716 ([ctkparish@shaw.ca](mailto:ctkparish@shaw.ca)).

*John G. Hibbard, a presbyter of the Archdiocese of Kingston, holds a Master of Arts in Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame. He is pastor of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Belleville, Ontario, and a former director of the National Liturgy Office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.*



# Island News & Events



## Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?

by Charlie Allen, Facilitator

St. Joseph the Worker Parish recently held a course entitled *Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?* The course was well received, and will be run again in January (details below). Are you wondering if this course is for you? I'd like to share comments from three participants in our November course.

*I felt as though our course presenter was walking ahead of us through the dark woods, holding back the branches that were in our way, and shining the flashlight so that we knew where to step. Every aspect was handled without condescension, judgment or pressure. This course is for returning Catholics who are feeling a void in their life that nothing else will fill, or a sense of something missing in their life.*

~ NH

*It took years before I decided to even explore the possibility of returning to my roots in Catholicism. I did not want to go back to a church that I thought emphasized rules and regulations that I disagreed with. Through this program my eyes and my spirit were opened. I found grace, hope and an acceptance of who I am regardless of my questions, doubts and fears.*

~ WM

*After all the years of being away from the church I had this overwhelming feeling drawing me back. There was a void I needed to fill. My insecurities left me feeling scared and fearful. By the end of the first session my worries turned to excitement with each approaching weekly meeting.*

~ CA

The next session will take place on Wednesdays from January 4 through February 8, 2012 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, from 7 - 9 pm.

To register call the Parish Office at (250) 479-7413 or email [fatherwilliam@shaw.ca](mailto:fatherwilliam@shaw.ca). You may also call Charlie Allen at (778) 433-5772 or email [charlieballen@gmail.com](mailto:charlieballen@gmail.com). ✕



## Up Island Bazaars

**Harvest Bazaar and Tea**  
**Christ the King CWL, Courtenay**

by Cindy Wilson

Saturday, October 2, 2012 was a brilliantly sunny day for the ladies of Christ the King CWL in Courtenay to host their annual Fall Harvest Bazaar and Tea. The CWL Bazaar has become a fall tradition for many Comox Valley residents.

Crowds were directed to the Bazaar with a new road sign that garnered plenty of attention. Guests to the Bazaar were treated to a delicious afternoon tea party and a shopping extravaganza!! The shopping experience included crafts, books, jewellery, fudge, baked goods and some of Grandma's attic treasures.

This year, the ladies again hosted a "surprise Toonie jar" sale that always creates a buzz of excitement in the crowd. Every year the wildly popular raffle table builds anticipation as the day draws on. There were many unique prizes and loads of lucky winners this year. As well, a silent auction was a very successful addition to fundraising efforts that day—thank you to all those generous folks who bid on the silent auction items.

With a steady stream of traffic coming through the doors, the Bazaar was an excellent place to hold a successful membership drive. While having all the folks gathered in our midst it was an opportune time to share our White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign (WRAP). There was a small table set up to display WRAP information.

The day was an excellent example of women working together for a common goal. Thank you to all the CWL ladies who helped with the planning and preparation for this year's Fall Harvest Bazaar and Tea. God Bless.

**Parksville Church of the Ascension CWL Bazaar**

by Sherry Thorpe, Communications

The Catholic Women's League, Church of the Ascension held its annual Bazaar & Craft Sale on Saturday, October 29 in the Parish Hall. It was a very successful fundraiser; the CWL expresses much appreciation to our parishioners and members for their contributions. Tables included crafts, knitting and sewing articles, baked goods, and a deli table featuring homemade soups, meat pies, perogies, preserves and other delectable items. We also had a Silent Auction of new items, sales tables of gently used ladies accessories and jewelry and used books and board games. Our finishing touch was the tearoom, which featured tea or coffee and homemade scones.

On Thursday, November 10 we held a Deceased Members Service in the church with Father Mel Bayron presiding. Prior to the service, Father Mel was presented with a CWL Stole and accepted the role of our CWL Spiritual Advisor. During the service, the names of all the deceased members were read and red roses were gathered in their memory. It was a very special time that allowed our members the opportunity to remember and offer prayer for all our deceased CWL sisters.

On Saturday, December 10 we enjoyed a catered Christmas dinner. After the hectic Bazaar preparations this was a great time for the members to visit and enjoy the meal with each other and sing a Christmas Carol—or two—or three!

On behalf of the Church of the Ascension CWL, may you and your families enjoy the Christmas Season, and Peace be with you all. ✕



## Book Signing at Mount St. Mary

Reprinted with permission of the Mount St. Mary Foundation

On November 15, 2011 friends and family of author Darlene Southwell gathered at Mount St. Mary to celebrate the success and achievement of the publication of *Caring and Compassion: A History of the Sisters of St. Ann in Health Care in British Columbia* published in September 2011.

Mount St. Mary was honoured to host the event on behalf of the Southwell family. Proceeds from the sale of the book on the day were donated back to Mount St. Mary Foundation and directed to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund. (<http://www.msmfoundation.ca/donations/sisters-st-ann-legacy-fund>)

An official launch at St. Ann's Academy followed on November 20, which was equally successful.

You can get a copy of the book in the Mount St. Mary gift shop, by contacting the Sisters of St. Ann on Begbie Street, or in any local bookstore.

For a review of this book, see page 19. ✕





## Traditional Latin Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace

by P. K. Perkins

Tradition comes from a Latin word meaning *that which is handed down*. The Traditional Latin Mass, therefore, is that Eucharistic Liturgy of the West which was transmitted from generation to generation so that developments grew organically from existing forms.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI promulgated a *New Order of Mass*. However, in 1984, the Holy See found that many had remained attached to the Traditional Mass. Therefore, Pope John Paul II established norms under which the bishops could arrange for priests to offer this Mass. Four years later, in an apostolic letter, the Pope decreed that, “respect must everywhere be shown for the feelings of all those who are attached to the Latin liturgical tradition by a wide and generous application of the directives already issued . . . for the use of the *Roman Missal* according to the typical edition of 1962.” In 2007, in his apostolic letter entitled *Summorum Pontificum*, Benedict XVI declared that the Traditional Latin Mass had never been abrogated “and consequently was always permitted.”

Here in Victoria, in 2008, Fr. Alex MacLellan began offering the Traditional Latin Mass every Sunday at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Esquimalt. This year, Fr. John Domotor, the present Parish Priest, began celebrating it as well. The choirmaster and some choristers of St. John the Evangelist Anglican-Catholic Church assist so that Sunday Masses are normally graced by Gregorian Chant and Sacred Polyphony; and eight members of the congregation now serve at the Altar. As a result, the Traditional Latin Mass is now sung in Esquimalt every Sunday and is said also every Saturday and on many other occasions. This year, as usual, there will be a solemn *Missa Cantata* for Christmas Midnight Mass. The Traditional Latin Mass is a treasure of the Church meant to benefit all faithful. ✠



## Students Support the Hungry in their Communities

by Jamie Zwicker

Over 1,600 students from all seven Island Catholic Schools and Christ Church Cathedral School delighted in October sunshine and the blue skies as they walked in solidarity for those members of the local community who require access to affordable food. In downtown Victoria, dozens of students from three separate schools walked in unison from St. Andrew’s Elementary School as they helped to deliver close to 1,000 pounds of food to the Social Concerns Office.

Gazing over the storeroom now filled to overflowing with food, Grant Crosswell, Director of the Social Concerns Office, says that the food will likely last only about a month. “In four or five weeks it’ll be gone. But it is very important,” says Crosswell, “to teach children about the benefits of serving others in the greater community. We really are our brother’s and sister’s keepers.”

Walking for seventh year with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and their local Conferences, students spent time in their classrooms learning the benefits of direct service, and were invited to bring in items of food for those with needs. And bring it they did—to the Social Concerns Office (on View Street in Victoria), the Cowichan Valley Basket Society (in Duncan) and the Chemainus Harvest House or the local SVdP conference in Port Alberni—delivering over 5.1 tonnes of donated food.

“What really matters though,” says Angela Hudson, Executive Director of the Society of SVdP on Vancouver Island, “is that the children are learning about food sustainability; the choices that they make really can make a difference. We are teaching them that they can make a difference.”

And Hudson knows of which she speaks: it was another young person who set the stage for the SVdP society world wide. Barely 19 years of age, Frederic Ozanam was fortunate enough to study Law at the Sorbonne University in Paris, one of the oldest universities in the world. During one of Frederic’s orations, he was called to task by another student who rhetorically asked of him: “What are *you* doing for them [the poor]? Show us *your* works!”

Later that night, Frederic and a couple of his closest friends pooled what little money they had to purchase some firewood for the poor. But it didn’t end there: within two months, a “Conference of Charity” had been born. And within 12 months, there were more than 100 members, and the Conference was renamed the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Now, barely 175 years later, there are almost 700,000 members in 50,000 conferences in 142 countries and on five continents.

Again this year the schools took advantage of the extra visibility afforded by Farm Credit Canada’s *Drive Away Hunger* campaign and their visiting tractor and trailer tour, courtesy of Saanichton Farms (Victoria) or Island Tractor and Supply (Cowichan Valley). FCC chose to associate with our World Food Day Walk because we helped to provide food that remained within the local community. As part of their contribution to giving back to the community, Farm Credit Canada also provided financial assistance to the schools in order to help defray the costs associated with this event.

So, if you were one of the vehicles stuck behind a tractor in Victoria, Duncan or Chemainus in mid-October—thank you for being so patient. ✠



*Did you know . . .*

**...over 40% of Canadians using food banks are families with children?**

**...children who do not get enough to eat are tired, have trouble concentrating and develop slower than other children?**

**...in an average size classroom in BC, 4 children did not come to school with enough food to eat?**

**...British Columbia has the worst child poverty rate in Canada for the past 7 years?**

**...the percentage of working poor who use food banks has more than doubled in the last 20 years?**

**...that buying our food from local producers can actually help keep the prices of food low?**

**...that there is enough food in the world today for everyone to have enough to eat IF we change the way it is produced?**

**...that as young people, we have the imagination, ideals and energy to make the world a better place for ourselves and for future generations?**

**...we have made a difference for the people in our community.**

**Now, what are some other ways we can continue to help those in need?**



## CELEBRATING LOCAL HISTORY



St. Francis Xavier Church 1887, Mill Bay, B.C.



# St. Francis Xavier Church, Mill Bay 1887-2012

by St. Francis Xavier 125th Anniversary Organizing Committee

Churches have long played an important role in the spiritual and social life of a community, and anniversaries are an ideal time for reflection and celebration.

In 2012, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mill Bay will be 125 years. Built in 1887, it is the oldest building in Mill Bay and one of the oldest churches in the Diocese. St. Francis Xavier boasts a rich history which has added to the vitality of the community that is Mill Bay here in the South Cowichan Valley. In humble appreciation we celebrate and honour the legacy built and left to us by generations of Catholics from this parish that have gone before us.

On September 9, 2011, a year of celebrations was launched in honour of our upcoming 125th Anniversary with a kick-off Gala Dinner and Fundraising Banquet at Arbutus Ridge Golf and Country Club. A contest was run whereby parishioners could submit their choice for a theme of the celebrations. The winner was:

### *Steeped in the Light of Faith for 125 Years*

In attendance was the Lt. Governor of BC, the Honourable Steven Point; Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria; four clergy; First Nations representatives; a Member of Parliament; elected officials; civic leaders; local historians; and parishioners and parish friends. The Knights of Columbus provided an honour guard and the Mill Bay/Malahat Historical Society presented the parish with a Celebrate Local History sign in recognition of this momentous occasion. Presentations of a framed vintage watercolour of St. Francis Xavier were made to Lt. Governor Steven Point and Bishop Richard Gagnon.

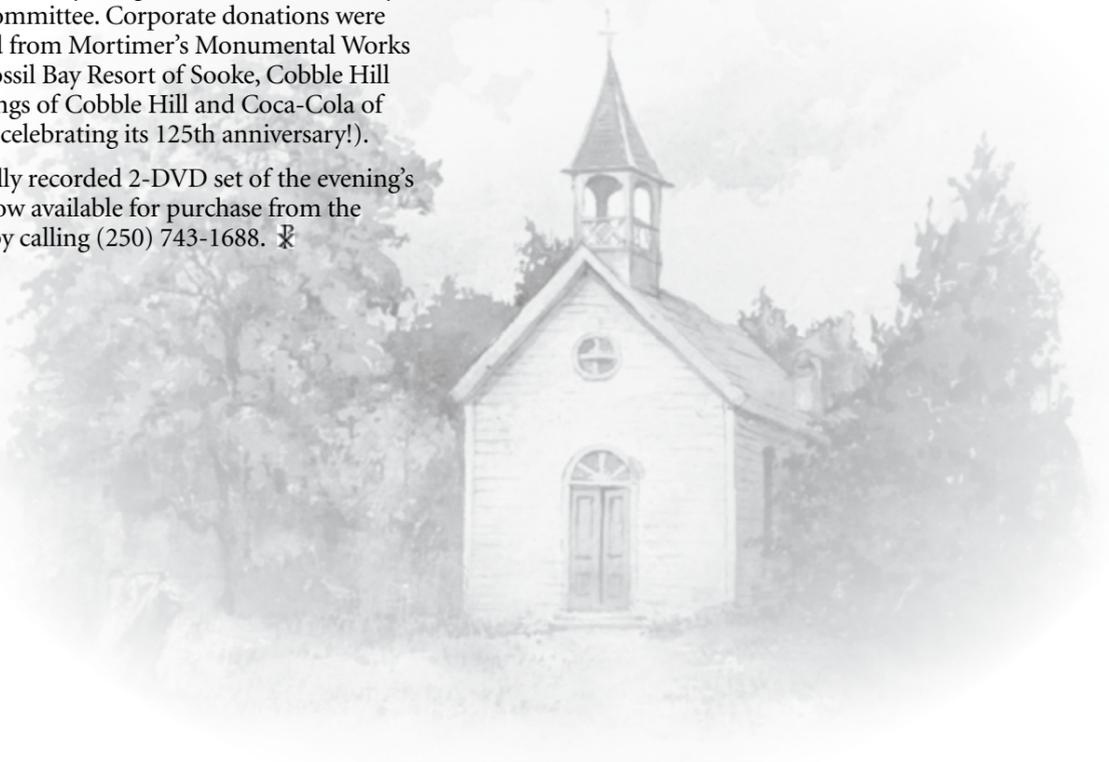
Banquet tables were named after pioneer families of the church, some of whom were instrumental in its founding and others who helped to sustain it for many decades. Along with the names of these pioneer families, descendants were invited to bring in pictures to adorn the table. The evening had an air of festivity along with just the right touch of glamour.

A PowerPoint presentation of some 50 vintage pictures spanning the last 120 years rolled along in the background, a good reminder of the past and the hardships endured. The capacity crowd was treated to a luscious meal followed by memorable speeches and heartfelt greetings.

Entertainment was provided by the Glenora Farms Handbell Ensemble, a local community group symbolizing the connection that St. Francis Xavier has always had with the community; also performing was the Barbershop Quartet of St. John's Anglican, Cobble Hill. St. John's will also be celebrating its 125th anniversary next year; it is a church with a strong connection to St. Francis Xavier for over 12 decades.

A gift bag for each guest included souvenirs and a bookmark specifically designed for this occasion by the SFX125 committee. Corporate donations were acknowledged from Mortimer's Monumental Works of Victoria, Fossil Bay Resort of Sooke, Cobble Hill Fine Furnishings of Cobble Hill and Coca-Cola of Victoria (also celebrating its 125th anniversary!).

A professionally recorded 2-DVD set of the evening's festivities is now available for purchase from the parish office by calling (250) 743-1688. ✠



## Catholic Brotherhood The Heart of the Newman House

by Jeremy Côté

Living in the newly established Newman House has been nothing short of a blessed opportunity, filled with joy and gratitude at every turn. The opportunity to live in community has so far brought me great happiness and peace and many spiritual blessings. It is certainly the opportunity of a lifetime for a twenty-something Catholic man looking to find his way in the world. Having the support of a community of men to pray with, share struggles and successes with and work through community issues with—in short, the “brotherhood” of Catholic men that we have formed over the past few months—is simply extraordinary and more of a grace than I ever thought possible. The brotherhood comes from our common call to live our faith and is evidenced in our daily lives, such as at the weekly “men’s breakfast” held at the Newman House for community and fellowship. It’s a blast!

True manhood is a seemingly lost concept in our secular society. Men are encouraged to exploit, take advantage and serve one’s own needs at all times. The Evil One lurks around many corners, waiting for his chance to capitalize on weak men entrenched in the ways of the world. Living in the Newman House demands a higher call to true Catholic manhood—one of humility, community, prayer and honesty.

Humility is found in our willingness to serve the community and “contribute generously toward the needs of the community such as cleaning and offering privacy,” as our Newman House mission statement outlines.

Community is found in our once-per-month CSA socials, the men’s breakfast and our weekly common meal and community meeting.

Prayer is the centre of our spiritual lives and begins each day at the Newman House, with prayers from the breviary and for each other’s needs for that day.

Honesty must be found in our willingness to live out our call, acknowledge our own personal failings in supporting the community, bring to light misgivings that may occur and offer understanding and forgiveness when needed.

All of this makes up a part of being a man dedicated to God, and all is fostered by the Newman House community. As “Newman brothers” we are seeking to support each other’s call to true manhood and so remain rooted in the faith of Jesus.

We are all so thankful for the opportunity that we have been given to reside in the first Newman House in Victoria, and we fully expect and greatly look forward to its increase and growth in the coming years. ✠

# Priest and the Painter Do It Again!

by Jean Allen

*What inspires a priest and a painter to run from Duncan to Victoria?*

“Our real motivation was to show we believe in youth and our Catholic schools. If you want to witness to what you believe in, lead by example,” said Fr. William Hann, when asked why he and Danny Hayek ran the gruelling 64 km route. With pledges from parishioners, they raised \$5,000 for St. Joseph’s School and the parish Youth Ministry. Fr. William asked Hayek, whose two sons attend the school, to run with him and he readily agreed. “It was a great idea for a good cause and I love running.” This is the second time Fr. William and Danny have made the run together.



Danny Hayek (far right) with some of the St. Joseph’s School Students

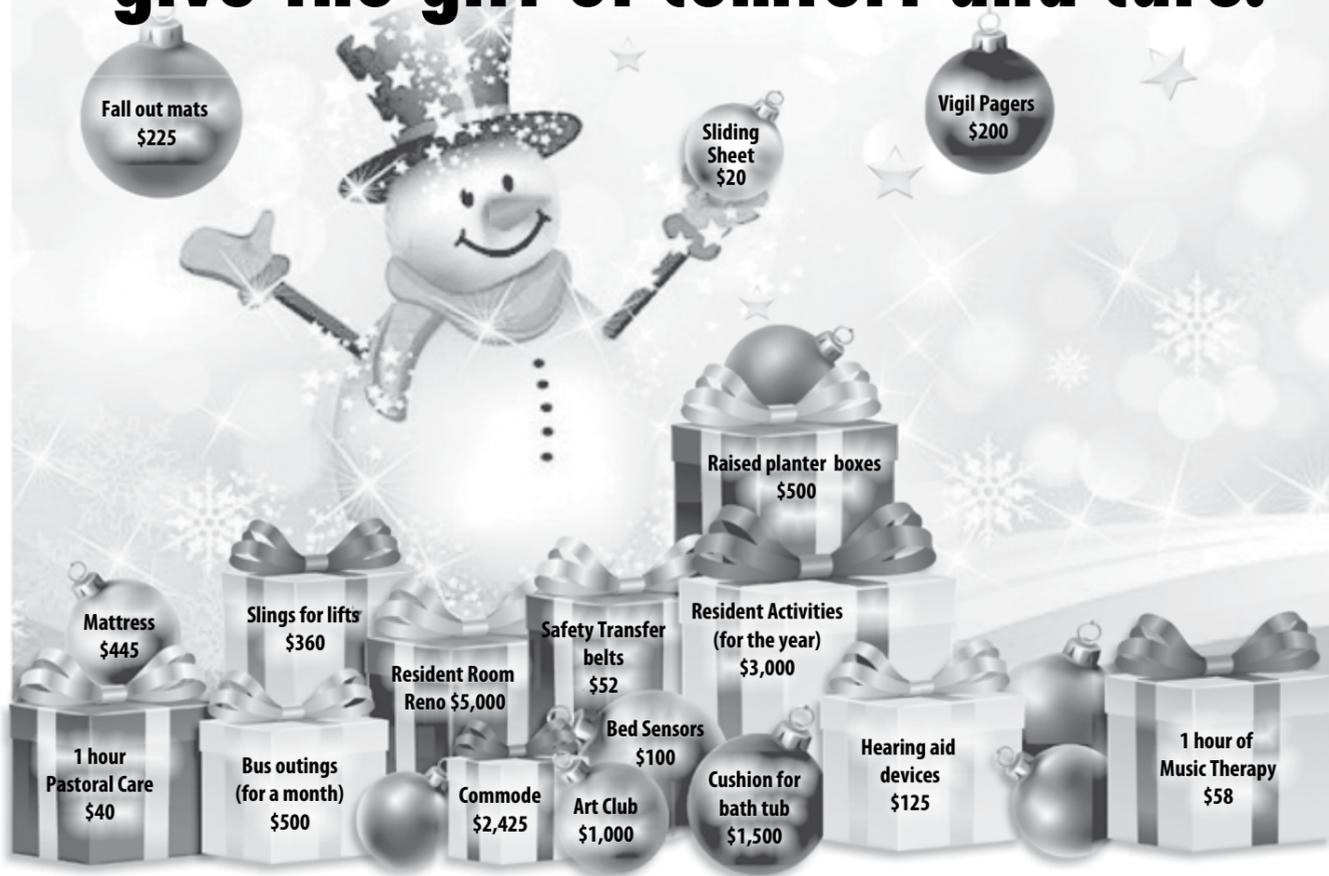
November 18 dawned “perfect for running.” Fr. William and Danny began at Queen of Angels School in Duncan at 5 am, and ended at St. Joseph’s School hours later—Fr. William’s in 5 hours, 48 minutes and Danny in 6 hours, 30 minutes. Along the way, John Vukovic and Bill Kulachkosky doled out water and encouragement. Neither runner had any real problems on the run, although the Malahat Pass was a challenge! On the last 15 km of his run, Danny was joined by Mena Westhaver, a mom of four and founder of the popular “Sole Sisters” running program for women held at St. Joseph’s every January. “That gave me the biggest push to finish this run. Her support meant a lot to me.” Both men were happily greeted at the end of their run by all the St. Joseph’s students and teachers plus numerous parents and parishioners. “That gave me the joy and strength to finish the last kilometre,” said Danny.

The run was part of an overall parish fundraising effort to support the School and the youth ministry. The parish also hosted a casino and silent auction evening called “Build the Spirit” which raised \$24,000—a sum far beyond everyone’s expectations. Over 240 items were donated for the silent auction and more than 200 people attended the adult-only Casino evening. Dianne Tremblay, key organizer for the event, stated, “Father planted the seed, saw the vision and our team moved forward to make it happen. We had such a phenomenal team! We all worked together and had a lot of fun in the meantime.”

“The support between the church and the school is building. Father has an amazing ability to bring people together for a greater cause and this event was the prime example of that,” said Tremblay. Fr. William’s dream is that the parish and the school will foster closer ties and the successful events were the first part of a three-year commitment to bring school and parish fundraising events together.

So, how does a guy feel after completing a 64 km run? “Relieved!” quipped Fr. Hann. “And, unlike Danny, I needed a nap!” ✂

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# Face the Day



by Bonnie Landry

What is a gift? And, while we are at it, what is the point of giving one? Perhaps gifts are expressions of gratitude, love, honour or respect. There is a deep satisfaction that we feel when we see another's delight in something that has been given to them out of love for them.

A gift expresses our love—sometimes a love we cannot express with words. And while we can complain about and be disgusted by materialism, and get swept away with it or reject it, there is still this: a gift is a symbol. It is a symbol of the exchange of some small thing I have given up (money, time, convenience); something I have parted with so that you may have it.

*My life for yours.*

The gift, any gift, including really goofy stuff like moon boots, lava lamps or glow-in-the-dark pillowcases, is symbolic. Even if it comes from a stuffy old aunt out of obligation, even if it was thoughtlessly chosen, even if we don't like it or it doesn't fit—still it is a symbol.

We give gifts on birthdays because it is a celebration of the gift of a life. We are grateful for the gift we were given in new life and we celebrate that gift by giving. We don't just celebrate the birth, we celebrate the anniversary of the birth because we are so grateful for that gift that we want to celebrate it again and again: the sacrifice that we have made in the bearing and raising of a child, and of the gift that the child is to us.

*My life for yours.*

We give gifts on wedding anniversaries because we are grateful for the gift of our spouse. On some level, it reminds us of what our husband or wife means to us: the sacrifice that we have made and the gifts that we have given and received in marriage.

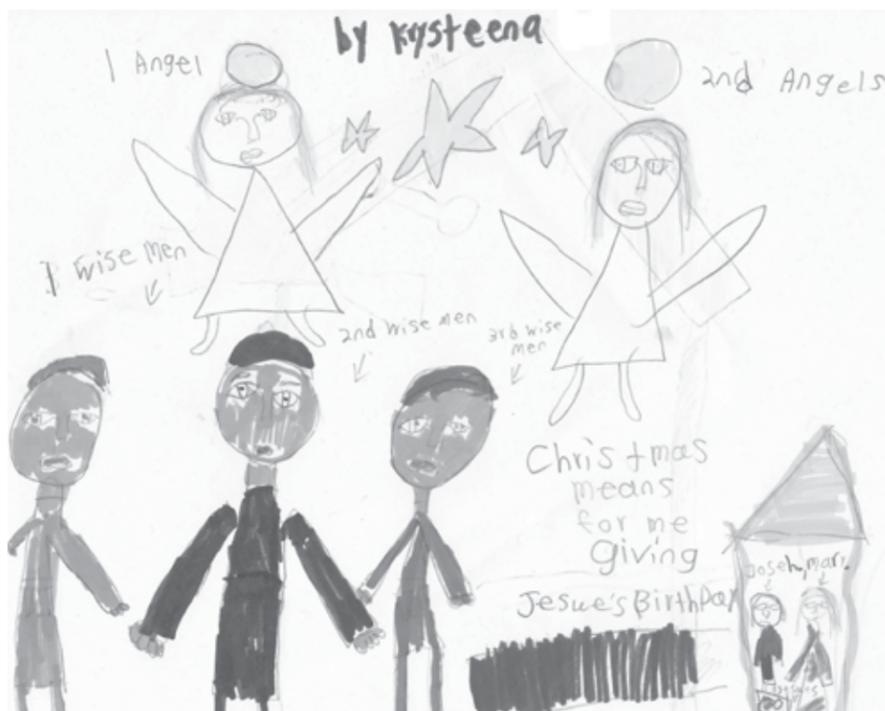
*My life for yours.*

We have opportunities to give in so many ways. Little ways—we cuddle our children, visit a neighbour, participate in a ministry, volunteer. We give something so that another may benefit. We give what we can, however little. Jesus tells his disciples of the woman who gave her last two copper coins. He said that what she gave had more value than the large sums the rich people gave, because it was given out of her poverty. She had only a little to give, but she gave anyway. If we have only a little to give, time, treasure, talent, and we give freely of what we have, the value is great.

But back to moon boots. And dolls and jewellery. Clothing, sportswear, watches, electronics, kitchenware, espresso machines, board games, snow cone makers. Super Slider snow skates. (Do they still make those?) How will we decide? How will we pay for it all? All the wondrous things we used to circle in the catalogue and all we could think about was what we were going to get. And somehow, it was formative. It formed us, of course, in the sure knowledge that our parents and loved ones were going to be generous. But more than that; somehow we knew they were giving us symbols of love, that something very special was going on. That we were celebrating something—and it must be something good to be buying this much stuff.

No matter what, "stuff" does not equal "love." But gifts symbolize celebration, sacrifice and love. Gifts—whatever their form; tangible, material, spiritual, anonymous, physical—symbolize that something very special is happening.

Christmas is the ultimate celebration during which we give gifts. We are bombarded with reminders, coaxed and wowed by all of the gifts that we could buy. All the "stuff" that we could have. We are reminded of how many shopping days we have left, as though the end of the world were at hand.



God has made with us a covenant. The fullness of this covenant, this agreement, this contract is made manifest in Jesus Christ. We are to be faithful to Him, and He will love us eternally. He makes a sacrifice for us. God becomes Man. He is born, suffers and dies. For our salvation. His gift to us.

*His life for ours.*

These moon boots that I give to you, my son, are a symbol of the Great Gift that has been given us. Our faith. Our eternal happiness. Oh, yes, you will appreciate them on some very material level, but those moon boots, that new ear thing that plays music only you can listen to, that small, useless decorative spoon for the rack on your wall, will one day remind you of the reason we are celebrating.

*The Baby.*

Every gift given, every type of gift, every small unselfish act ever given for whatever reason has that potential. A particle of goodness, a scent of heaven. In every gift is the Baby.

Oh yes, of course there's still the money grab, making the quota, staying in the black. It looks like the Giant Economic Wheel has turned Christmas into a commercial event. But does this mean businesses capitalize on our desire to express love through gifts? Yes—and no. Commercialism is alive and well and benefiting from Christmas. But it is wonderful to know that these people buying all the stuff ... all the people ... all the stuff ... are celebrating something. Something profound and life changing.

And they don't even know it. Thus God is capitalizing here, too. Our desire for the stuff is founded on celebration. Every Christmas sale flyer, every kiosk and store hanging garland and star, every new gimmick to buy for the someone who has everything on your list finds its humble roots in the birth of Baby Jesus. It is the reason. It is the Gospel.

We can be Gospel messengers. We can say, "Merry Christmas." We can say, "I'll pray for you." We can answer people's questions about Jesus Christ when they ask. We can be witnesses to our faith; be leaven in the world. This is an awesome time of year to start, at the beginning of the liturgical year, the Church year. A time when folks are ripe to receive a message that speaks of goodness, joy, love and heaven.

Christmas is the ultimate celebration of gifts. Because it is the celebration of the Ultimate Gift. A Baby. *The Baby.* The Baby born to redeem us all. A life lived for our sake, for our redemption.

*His life for ours.* ✠



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## Schools Jump for Joy!

by Jamie Zwicker

Anyone near McKenzie Avenue in Victoria could be excused for thinking there was an earthquake on Monday, November 8. But actually, the ground moved when the students and staff learned of the school's many successes that weekend at various events: nine swimmers and the Senior Girls Volleyball advanced to their respective Provincials. The school's fledgling Rowing Academy smoked the competition and rowed away with eight major team trophies, all the while supported by 42 students participating in the annual Seattle Youth Conference. The list was crowned by the Senior Boys being presented the BC Provincial "A" Soccer Title in Kamloops.

"It certainly was electric here," says Mark Cristante, coach of the Soccer team. "There was a buzz around the school, and it was most certainly a weekend to remember!"

The Soccer team had advanced to the Provincial competition after winning the Islands Zone, beating out Port Hardy and North Islands Secondary the week prior. They began their quest for that title earlier in the fall, and they appeared to be well on their way with a disciplined 7-0 win over Bulkley Valley Christian (Smithers). But Game Two provided them with a setback with a heartbreaking loss to Unity Christian (Chilliwack) by a score of 4-3, but the indomitable Sabres showed a "never-quit" attitude. "It was a tough loss," said Cristante. "Even though we dominated play, unfortunately we did not get the desired results," he continued.

Playing in the backyard of their next opponent St. Ann's (Kamloops) would seemingly prove a challenge as well—especially because the opposition had bussed in "busloads" of students for the pivotal game. "We realized the best way to keep their home fans quiet was to put the ball in the back of the net." And when the dust cleared and the final whistle sounded, they had won with a convincing 5-0 score. Player Tarnvir Bhandal defended against St. Ann's number one player, denying them any chance of setting up plays; Giordano dePaolis scored three goals in the win.

Being top-ranked team in their pool, the Sabres faced off against Pemberton Secondary's Red Devils. Playing four matches in two days led to an exhausting grind, but player Leo Falzon did an extraordinary job providing consistent leadership on the pitch and soon the Red Devils fell victim to the renewed Sabres by a score of 3-1.

The final game had the Sabres going head-to-head with the other #1 team in their own pool, who had previously gained based on a shoot-out win: Mulgrave School of West Vancouver. Cristante had his players watch their opponents' semi-final game: with all the pictures, dancing and cheers in celebration immediately following their shoot-out win, it appeared the spark had been lit to ensure a lively and competitive final.

The Sabres were focused, pumped up, and ready to play a "hard fought, suck-it-up and leave everything on the field" final game. And neither team would disappoint. dePaolis scored early, and Goalkeeper Sheldon Donaldson came up with three stunning saves—one on a breakaway. When all was said and

done, the score was 3-0, and the Sabres were the new Provincial Champions!

They had high praise from their opponents who stated that they were up against a "very strong team in SARHS, from the Island." Cristante couldn't say enough about his players, coaches and supportive parents, and how impressed—and humbled—he was by the manner in which they held themselves both on and off the pitch. "I am so happy with them," he said, "not only did their professionalism deserve this achievement, they earned it."

Principal Andrew Keleher could not hide his enthusiasm, and likened the weekend successes to the exuberance brought about by the recent Olympics in Vancouver. "What it says about our students is that they are determined, they work well together and believe in each other. Those are the qualities they will find every day from each and every person employed in our Catholic schools."

Ahh, a parent's dream—isn't that what life is all about? ✂



## Rowing Team Dominates Junior Category at City Championships

by Joanie Bidlake

St. Andrew's Rowing Team members had an incredible weekend at the City Championship Regatta, held on November 5th and 6th at Elk Lake in Victoria. All of the athletes raced well and represented St. Andrew's High School with class.

The team finished the Regatta with five City Championship wins plus two 2nd-place finishes and a 3rd place finish. The team also won the awards for Junior Girls Aggregate Champions, Junior Overall Aggregate Champions, and the Junior Efficiency Trophy! These wins are even sweeter knowing that in the sport of rowing, BC high school teams are not divided by school population ranking as in other sports (i.e., soccer; AAA, AA, or A), but compete together at regattas regardless of the size of school. Way to go Sabres!!

A big thank-you to our coaching staff, led by Head Coach Alia Zawacki, for their guidance and expertise. Thanks also to all of the parents who continue to support our team in so many ways, and to our staff and members of the school Administration who also come out to cheer on the rowers and support us.

Rowing Academy members will continue their training throughout the year in preparation for competition in June at the "Schoolboy" Regatta held in St. Catharines, Ontario. Fundraising will also continue with our hot lunch days. And please mark your calendars for our "Giant Garage Sale" scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2012—start cleaning out your closets and garages now!

Happy Rowing! ✂



# School Feature

## St. Andrew's Elementary Waits in Hope!

by Keefer Pollard, Principal

Everywhere we go we are inundated with symbols, songs and images that relate the commercial side of Christmas. At St. Andrew's Elementary, as in all the Island Catholic Schools, we endeavor to help students experience the true meaning of Christmas. Through Advent, Christmas and ending with Epiphany, our goal is to assist students to create a space in their hearts to receive the coming of the Word of God among us and to take our place in the unfolding story of Jesus being Emmanuel—God with us.

We introduce this Advent and Christmas theme with a recognition that we wait in hope, and that our call as Christians is to be people of hope. A starting point for this reflection is to consider the hopes and dreams we have. This year, a good example of our hopes and dreams can be found in our *Strong Foundations, Bright Futures* Plan.

Advent and Christmas is a season of hope and anticipation. Here for your reflection are the dreams of some of our students, from a recent school-wide "write," that illustrate their hopes for our new schools in the *Strong Foundations, Bright Futures* Plan.

### Best School of the Future

by Lily, Grade 4

My favourite school in the future would have an attractive building with classrooms that are beautifully decorated. It would also have nice long Spring Break and other holidays. I would make the school brilliant by having a big field trip every two months and I would make the desk chairs really comfortable. It would have a fabulous choice of food in the cafeteria, and for the subjects, they would be amazingly interesting. Instead of learning from the old textbooks, we would watch and learn at the same time. It would also have a private band for the assembly songs. Even a private indoor pool. That would be my favourite school.

### The Best School of the Future

by Alex, Grade 4

In the future, there will be a school that will serve the needs of the students. It will be a very colourful school and very attractive for elementary students. The classes will have very nice furniture and a fabulous swimming pool. A gigantic movie theatre and a theatre where people dance. One class will go to Hawaii at the end of the year. All the classes will go to the sunny beach in Mexico. They will be taught French, Spanish and Chinese. This will be the best school ever!

### Our New School

by Keisha, Grade 6

When our new school is built, I hope the Bishop will consider a few of my ideas when he chooses the design for our new school. First, I would like a bigger, better Computer Lab. Second, I would like an amazing Art Room. Lastly, I would like a Drama/Dance Studio. First I will tell you about the Computer Lab. As a student, I don't want to spend most of my time waiting for my computer to load, instead of doing the assignment I was given. So, that's where fast, new computers come in. In my ideal Computer Lab, there will be 30 current, fast Apple computers throughout the room. Also there will be a box filled to the brim with crisp white lined paper for writing, a colour/black and white printer, and a white-board and black board for the teachers to write our assignments on. Next, I will tell you about the Art Room. This Art Room wouldn't be just any Art Room, it would have double-sided easels to use up less space, and a big sink to wash off the brushes we use. High-quality paints and sketching pencils fill jars around the room. Also, the room would be on the top floor and have lots of windows for extra light. There would be lots of shiny white paper in a bin for jotting down ideas you might have.

Now, for my final idea: a huge Drama/Dance Studio! This studio will have many mirrors and elegant and shiny oak floors. Yoga mats fill a closet and a long ballet bar runs along the perimeter of the room. A chest filled with props and costumes of all sizes sits in corner. Also, a shelf inhabited with scripts from various plays stands beside a beautiful grand piano. Off to one side is a door leading to a medium-size dressing room.

I hope you find these ideas interesting and use some of them in our new school and that it is everything everyone hoped it would be. Every student and teacher in our school deserves the best!

### Our New School

by Gloria, Grade 6

Our new school is something everyone's been excited about. I hope the Bishop will consider thinking about, or even putting my ideas in the new school. My first idea is to have a Dance Studio, my second idea is to have a Student Council, and finally my last idea is to have a Science Lab. So, as I said before, I hope the Bishop will consider these ideas for the new school.

First, I'll talk about the Dance Studio, where mirrors are along the perimeter of the wall and bars hung up. The wooden floors would be shiny but not slippery, so the dancers could just glide along the floor but not fall. Mats would be laid down on the floors for anyone who ever falls. Speakers would be up for the music and our wonderful choreographers, Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Barber, would be there teaching us steps.

Next, the Student Council: a council where students have meetings and open their ideas to other people. They could discuss about what clubs there should be, updating all the computers, it doesn't matter. For the students on the Council they should have a special pin or tie, something that represents that they are on the Student Council.

My last idea is the Science Lab. As a student, I love science. I love it so much that I want to be a physicist when I grow up. So for my last idea, I would like a Science Lab—a large one where there are microscopes and chemicals you can learn and work with. We could experiment with the many kinds of elements or look at bacteria through a microscope. So therefore, I wish for a Science Lab.

Finally, those are my ideas. I know that maybe some (or even all) of these ideas may not be in this school, but the most I can do is to wish for a good school for the students who come in the future. ✂



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Instructor: Richard Rymarz, Ed.D.  
Dates: March 3 & 4, 24 & 25, 2012  
Day/Time: Saturdays & Sundays / 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Location: SMC Community Room

#### CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

(THEO 560/3credits/Core Course)

The course presents the Christian perspective on what it means to be human. Attention will be given to the transformative process and how Jesus transforms our lives. Consideration will be given to how our human lives are shaped by religion, grace and sin by looking at moments of sin, conversion and grace alongside the human realities of finitude, freedom, relationships, autonomy, growth and history.



Instructor: Fr. Martin Moser, STL  
Dates: January 21, February 11 & 25, March 17 & 31, 2012  
Day/Time: Saturdays / 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Location: SMC Music Room

#### CHRISTIAN MORALITY

(THEO 530/3 credits/Core Course)



This course develops an understanding on the sources, development, and history of moral theology using scriptural, patristic, theological, and magisterial sources. Particular attention will be given to the "foundational" moral theology of the Catholic tradition and the call of the Second Vatican Council for the renewal of this discipline by a return to its sources and an integration of moral studies with other areas of theology

Instructor: Fr. John Hoegan, STL  
Dates: January 11 – April 11, 2012  
Day/Time: Wednesdays / 6:00 – 9:00pm  
Location: SMC O'Leary Room

Courses subject to adequate enrollment.

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Tickets: Helder Ponte 250-727-0623 or Parish Office 250-658-1587



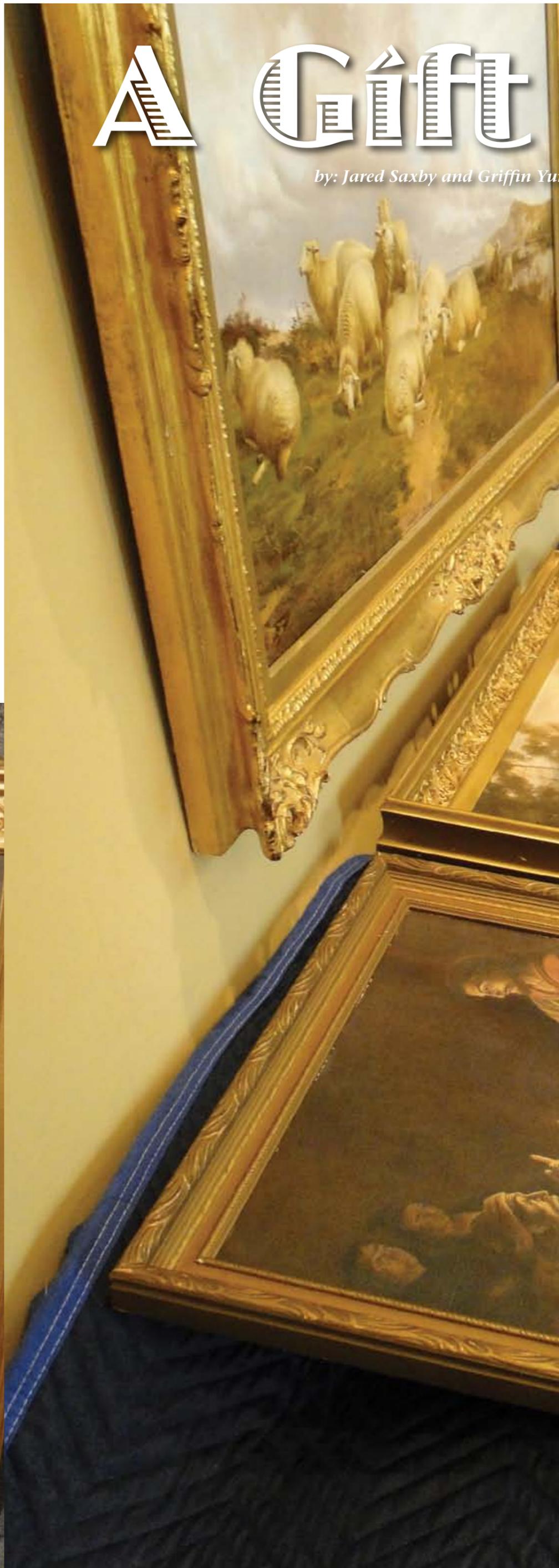
In a gesture of profound generosity, the Sisters of St. Ann donated 18 original oil, water-colour and charcoal pieces, most notably an early Emily Carr painting entitled *Water Lilies*, to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Other works include a scene of St. Ann's by Thomas Bamford, and several beautifully painted works by two nuns who were teachers at the school, Sister Mary Luke and Sister Osithe.

This gift was celebrated on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at a gathering at the Art Gallery, where Director Jon Tupper formally thanked the Congregation. In his address, he acknowledged the important role the Sisters of St. Ann have played in the history of British Columbia, particularly as art educators. Provincial Leader of the Sisters, Marie Zarowny, also spoke at the event and she inspired the listeners as she explained the reasons behind the Congregation's decision to offer these priceless pieces of art to the people of British Columbia.

"Art is an integral part of education and human development," she said. When the Sisters first came to British Columbia in 1858, they began to teach in a rustic one-roomed school. Even in those conditions they taught art, not because they wanted their students to become famous artists, or because they themselves wanted to promote their talents, but because they knew that the elements of the spirit, seeing and creating beauty for example, were essential in education. The Sisters of St. Ann devoted themselves to nourishing minds and spirits, serving God and the community for over 150 years as teachers and health care workers.

Today there are 44 Sisters in BC, most of whom reside here in Victoria. The decision to place this artwork, which for so long had been housed in the institutions of St. Ann, was a long one. "It's bittersweet," Sr. Marie said. "Now that [the Sisters of Saint Ann] are no longer able to keep [many of their] institutions running, [we] wanted the art to be both cared for as well as made viewable for the public." Putting faith into action, a long-standing tradition for the Sisters, the Congregation entrusted its art to the Gallery, hoping that as more people view it, they will enjoy it, learn from it and be inspired by it.

The Sisters have always known that without creativity, an individual cannot develop into a full human person. "We are a consumer society," Sister Marie stated, "And what I think this Exhibition can do is encourage [others] to get involved themselves." People need to look for beauty but more importantly they need to do something beautiful. Art is "the expression of human creative skill and imagination." Without self-expression, the act of "making known one's thoughts or feelings," we could never do what Jesus taught us to do—to love one another. The gallery now houses a permanent tribute to the love that the Sisters of St. Ann have always had for the people of British Columbia. ✠



# A Gift

by: Jared Saxby and Griffin Yu

# Of Art

Yundt, Grade 10 SARHS Students



Photography: Griffin Yundt and Jared Saxby, Grade 10 SARHS Students

# A Gift of Heart

by Connie Dunwoody

It's not that unusual an act, at Christmas time. A bunch of people get together and give gifts to those they consider less fortunate than themselves. Families do it, office groups do it, even individuals do it. Sometimes it happens anonymously, sometimes attended by a merry Santa and his band of happy Elves.

But at Mount St. Mary Hospital, Santa's Elves don't have their genesis at the North Pole; they come from Esquimalt. And not all are swaddled in layers of holly-berry red and pine-tree green; they come in desert-sand beige and khaki green. The clothes aren't important, anyway: what matters is the heart beneath the fabric.

Each December for the past 11 years, staff of the CFB Esquimalt Medical Clinic have gathered and delivered gifts to the residents of Mount St. Mary Hospital. But not just any gifts: these are hand picked for each resident based on his or her needs or wants. Sometimes both.

50-yr old Willie Lam, known locally as "Survivor Willie," has been a resident at Mount St. Mary Hospital for eight years, and each year he has been delighted with the arrival of Santa and the presents. The process starts early: in the fall, Mount St. Mary staff ask each resident what he or she would like for Christmas. A list is gathered and given to the Medical Clinic staff. They check it—and, Santa-like, check it again—and then a present is purchased for each and every resident. There are even extras for new residents who may have arrived after the list was made.

*"We're family here," she says. "It's love that binds us together, and this annual gift-giving is totally based on love. We are so grateful."*

One year, Willie received an electric toothbrush—a gift that many of us would take for granted, or perhaps even regard as second-rate. But it made his daily life simpler. Willie was only 31 when he slipped and fell in his bathroom, hitting his head. He was in a coma for 5 months, and remains permanently disabled. He negotiates his wheelchair with the skill of a Formula One driver, and his lack of mobility doesn't prevent him from volunteering at the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre, at the YM/YWCA or at the Mount St. Mary Chapel. Nor does it keep him from a rigorous Christmas performance schedule with Louise Rose's choir, or stop him from leading the Mount St. Mary Carol Singing—but his movement is limited. The toothbrush? A gift of ease, a need that was met in an "above and beyond" kind of way. His gratitude is profound: "You may not have everything you want," he says, "but you always have exactly what you need."

Mandy Parker, Executive Director of the Mount St. Mary Foundation, which raises funds to support activities and equipment for residents at Mount St. Mary Hospital, deeply appreciates the generosity of the CFB Esquimalt Medical Clinic staff. "This is altruism at its best. They don't have to do this; they don't know the people personally; and they go above and beyond anything I've ever seen," she says. "Each and every resident has a gift personally chosen for them. The presents are beautifully wrapped; they have obviously taken great care to make this a special gift. So much thought and consideration goes into every package." She continues, "not only do they provide presents, a group comes back one or two days before Christmas to help distribute them, singing Carols as Santa visits with every resident."

Like Willie, not all the residents are elderly, but they all need full-time care. The sad truth is, however, that a portion of the population at Mount St. Mary lives in poverty. They have a hard time making ends meet: because of disability, they are unable to work. Some do not have enough money for simple things like a telephone or Internet connection. These are "extras" that we take for granted, yet can be far out of reach for some. In challenging circumstances the CFB Esquimalt Medical Clinic "Elves" are pure grace, a much-needed gift in an often-difficult life.

Willie is happy and thankful for his life at Mount St. Mary. His smile lights up the room. "Life is too short to wake up grumpy," he states. "I don't have much," he explains, "but I can provide a gift of time, and a gift of heart." In Willie's room is a sign that reads *Never Never Give Up*. "Don't ever give up," he reaffirms. "Always do what you can."

Mandy is thankful, too, for the sense of community the Medical Clinic staff shares with Mount St. Mary. "We're family here," she says. "It's love that binds us together, and this annual gift-giving is totally based on love. We are so grateful."

Meanwhile, Willie is anxious for Santa to come. "You know what?" he quips. "I'm going to do this tomorrow." Well, Willie—you may have to wait until December 23, but CFB Esquimalt Medical Clinic will make sure Santa is there with a gift of heart, chosen just for you. ✕

To assist a resident at Mount St. Mary, please consider making a donation to the Mount St. Mary Foundation. For more information contact Mandy Parker at (250) 480-3138, email [MParker@msmfoundation.ca](mailto:MParker@msmfoundation.ca) or visit the website at [www.msmfoundation.ca](http://www.msmfoundation.ca).



# Focus on Youth

## All You Need Is Love

by Katrina Laquian, University of Victoria, CCSA National Executive, Western Representative

In late October, students from UVic participated in the Canadian Catholic Students' Association's Western Conference at St. Mark's College of UBC.

Our conference helped us to study Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*), and apply what we learned about how love is a powerful gift in bringing about justice. The learning experience involved a unique solidarity visit to the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, where the deepest forms of poverty in Canada are found.

Archbishop Miller of the Diocese of Vancouver, in his evening talk on *Caritas in Veritate*, characterized the "love that we have been given" as the love that Jesus gave to us in his ultimate sacrifice for us on the Cross. This love is the love that we are to give to others. And this love sometimes requires that we take ourselves to places we have never been before—emotionally, spiritually, physically—places that force us to be vulnerable to others in ways that would normally make us uncomfortable.

The following morning on the Downtown Eastside, we had to let go of any negative impressions we had about the residents (the negative associations of addiction, unemployment, prostitution, and so on) so we could open our hearts and ourselves so as to "give the love that has been given to us." Students took to the streets doing clean-up or distributing useful items to residents, or helped prepare soup at "The Door is Open" that we would all be sharing with the residents.

In our reflection session with teacher Chris Seppelt, a common response was that the residents of the Downtown Eastside are really people, just like us, and that this place that they have been marginalized for living in is a community in which relationships are formed and life is celebrated, not seen as a setback. We were able to appreciate the lives we take for granted and value the life that is vibrant in the Downtown Eastside community.

Chris expressed it perfectly when saying: "We think we've hit a home run, but we were born on third base." We received from the residents much more than we had the capacity to give to them. And the lessons I learned from them, about how I can give love, are ones I never could have understood on my own from third base. ✚

To learn more about the Canadian Catholic Students Association, and read testimonies from other students in Canada about the conference, visit [www.studentsunite.tumblr.com](http://www.studentsunite.tumblr.com).



The University of Victoria group (from left to right): Chan Kim, Catherine Shenton, Nadia Cornejo, Tesi Wagner, Cameron Côté, Anastasia Pearse, Katrina Laquian

## CSA Coffee House

by Kayla Hart

On November 20, the Catholic Students' Association at UVic took a break from studying and writing final papers to hold its first Coffeehouse fundraiser in the hall of Holy Cross parish in Gordon Head. The hall was lit by candlelight, and more than 40 audience members (students and community members alike) were treated to an evening of local young Catholic talent over cups of tea and coffee and homemade cookies supplied by the UVic Council of the Catholic Women's League. As the crowd gathered and mingled, they were treated to instrumental piano played by Gloria Grohovac, a former student of the Victoria Conservatory.

The musical selections ranged from new arrangements of well-known hymns from the *Catholic Book of Worship* to original songs, and from Josh Groban covers to re-creations of recent jam sessions where poetry was put to improvised music. One performer, Rebecca Muller, came from as far away as Nanaimo, and others, like Tom Hayward and Erin Riendle came from as close as Ansell Road. Other performers included former CSA music leader Phil LeRoss, current music leader Karl Trautmann, recent UVic grad Jeremy Côté, and second-year student and CSA Vice-president Nathan Michaluk, who also organized the event. Each of these local artists came to perform for a friendly crowd and raise money for a local cause—the 9/10 Club soup kitchen run out of St. Andrew's Cathedral. The crowd gave generously, and the final count came to just over \$300—a great Christmas present to the soup kitchen, and therefore to the poor and needy of Victoria.

With the success of the event—both financially and in terms of audience and performer enjoyment—Michaluk says he hopes to do another one next semester, possibly two if there is enough time and interest. Whether the charity will remain the same is yet to be decided, but as with this inaugural Coffeehouse, these events will continue to support not only the artists involved, but also the community at large. ✚



Catholic Student Association  
Winter Retreat  
January 20 to 23, 2012  
Comox Valley



Clarifying Identity in Christ  
"Your life is NOT all about YOU."  
Blessed Mother Theresa

Fr. Stephen Paine is the Pastor of the Port Alberni Parish. Prior to becoming a priest he worked as a lawyer and has a particular interest in cultural analysis from a Catholic perspective. Fr. Stephen will provide provocative challenges for students coming from secular campuses.

For more information email Fr. Dean Henderson [catholic@uvic.ca](mailto:catholic@uvic.ca)



## Remember this?

Well, we're doing it again! The Annual Diocesan Youth Conference is a place for all you young Catholics to get together in fellowship to hear some incredible guest speakers, join in some Praise and Worship with our favourite local Catholic band *West of Eden*, and to share and learn about our faith and what it means to be young Catholics.

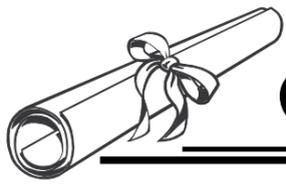
Registration forms and posters will be sent out to parish offices soon; and keep an eye out for our ever-popular Event Page on Facebook. Questions? Contact the Conference Planning Committee at [teamdyc@gmail.com](mailto:teamdyc@gmail.com). ✚

Date: May 25 - 27, 2012

Place: St. Andrew's Regional High School, 880 McKenzie Avenue, Victoria

People: All youth in the Diocese grades 8-12, and recent high school grads





by Fr. Dean Henderson

## “What have you done!?”

This is a frequent query I receive from the Faithful when they discover that the Henderson family (well, five out of seven of the nuclear members) is heading north to the Yukon at the end of January for a six month service/sabbatical/leave of absence. Fr. Frank Franz steps in to assist the student leadership on campus from February through April. And in late April I'll have a number of students join us on a student mission trip to give of themselves through witness to their Catholic faith, service to the community and the reception of new knowledge of Canada and Christ.

When I inform my suspicious friends that we've chosen that frozen Diocese at the invitation of Bishop Gary Gordon (do you remember him touring the Diocese for Catholic Missions?) and with the blessing of Bishop Richard, they're even more puzzled. “What? You want to move into a rectory and take up the administration of a parish and missions, have your kids transfer to the Catholic schools in a Diocese the size of France with only about four priests?”

“That's about it!” I say. No, it's not your typical sabbatical, but it is a great opportunity to serve the Lord and His Church: my faith tells me we'll all likely gain more than we give. Now admittedly, I've been getting in the car in the morning when it's hovering about 0 degrees Celsius, and thinking to myself “this is cold.” Then I think—“this is nothing compared to Whitehorse”—which leads me to moments of doubt. “Are we crazy? I don't even like the cold!”

## Canadian University Campus Ministers and Students Attend World Congress at the Vatican

### Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry Press Release

Toronto, November 30th, 2011 - The Canadian delegation of campus ministers and students arrived November 30 in Rome to attend the 3rd World Congress on the Pastoral Care of International Students sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples. This four-day conference will offer university chaplains and international students the possibility of further deepening the understanding of the importance of cultures, and their values and challenges in the globalized world, in light of the faith.

Canadian campuses have an estimated 103,000 International students studying in universities across Canada, consisting of 10% of the student population. Over half of these students are from Asia, 17% from Europe, there are 17% from North and Central America, 12% from Africa and 3% from South America. International students face a variety of challenges as they live and study on Canadian campuses. For students of the Catholic faith, campus ministry is an important home for faith. This congress will be an opportunity for campus ministers and students to make their ministries even more attune to the pastoral needs of international students.

Gérard Byamungu, Catholic international student at Ryerson (Toronto), originally from Burundi, is excited about the opportunity to represent international students at this gathering. He recalls, “When I became overwhelmed by culture shock, homesickness, loneliness or school-related stress, I needed a place to go and get spiritual strength while meeting people with whom I have a lot in common. Fortunately I found campus ministry and it became my home away from home. Campus ministry brings together people from all over the world who have one thing in common: the Catholic faith.” Gérard will have the honour of speaking on one of the panels at this prestigious and significant Congress.

Katrina Laquian, Guelph, Ontario native and Canadian-Filipino student at the University of Victoria, has been involved with welcoming international students to her Catholic community on campus: “In Canada, where multiculturalism and diversity is everywhere, campus ministry is a place of meeting of cultures as it welcomes everyone who is of the faith or interested in the faith to not only be a part of the community, but play an active role in the community. Catholicism spans many social determinants (ethnicity, gender, race) and this diversity within the faith is reflected in everyone who is invited to the campus ministry.” She looks forward to this truly unique opportunity to be a part of the international Catholic community at this Congress.

In addition to participating in three days of sessions on the International Students and Meeting of Cultures, delegates are also eager for the privileged opportunity to have an audience with the Holy Father. ✠

*The Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry is a national association of professional Catholic campus ministers grounded in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and inspired by the vision of the Second Vatican Council. CCCM exists to bring the Gospel of Christ to the academic world. CCCM is supported by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops through an Episcopal liaison, currently Bishop Fred Colli, and annual funding of the national coordinator position, established in 1948. The CCCM is recognized by the CCCB as a national lay association of the faithful (2011).*

But the Lord has called! I hope to continue contributing to the *Messenger* with an article we'll call “On Mission” to replace “On Campus;” it's the closest thing I get to blogging!

This Christmas edition of the *Messenger* has the theme of *giving* and my thoughts turn to the selflessness and fidelity of that young woman who uttered the angelic prayer at the Annunciation: “Be it done to me according to your word”. Mary's self oblation was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah so many centuries before: “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” The child in her womb came from the Father in heaven to bear witness to the Gospel and culture of life, love, peace and justice.

That meek yet powerful Gospel compelled a number of students this fall to join in the *40 Days for Life* with a small band of others who prayerfully and peacefully bore public witness to the dignity and sanctity of all of life outside a clinic where human lives are intentionally killed. What an inspiration to join an often verbally beaten band of believers on that sidewalk who simply prayed for the dead and those poor souls taking life. The experience reminds me of the story of Fr. Rick Frechette who offered countless funeral Masses for the nameless corpses after the Haiti earthquake. Sometimes the bodies were buried five in one coffin with no one to mourn. One sceptic stated honestly “Why spend so much time and energy serving people who'll never know they've been served?” Fr. Frechette paused a long while then replied, “If the dead are garbage, then the living are walking garbage.”

The Nativity story is many things but it most certainly conveys the Creator's value of embryonic salvation and fetal fidelity. Mary chose the gift of life. Thanks be to God! ✠

## CSA Advent Retreat at Fork Lake

by Elizabeth Fitzmaurice

Advent is here! For many it is a time to put up decorations, time with family and friends, and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour. For students at the University of Victoria, it is a time to study for exams. Stressful? Yes. Hard to get into the Christmas spirit? Most definitely! Thankfully we are blessed with a chaplain who understands this. Fr. Dean Henderson organized a wonderful day retreat for a dozen or so students on Saturday, December 3, at a beautiful Fork Lake property—thanks to Doris and Carlo for welcoming us into their home and for feeding us.

The theme for the day was *Resting Awhile with the God of Comfort and Joy*. Knowing the life of a student, this was the perfect theme. We had a couple of talks, mingling time, Mass, a meal together and silent/quiet time. It was a beautiful way to rest and reflect on the God of comfort and joy.



We talked about how our God is our Comforter and how in sharing in Christ's suffering, we also share in the comfort God has to offer. I found this really put into perspective not only the global suffering of the world, but also the suffering and anxiety of our daily lives. We all have our own Crosses to carry. Fr. Dean challenged us to look at the suffering in our lives, and to try to see how God may use that suffering to draw ourselves or others closer to Him. Reflecting on this I realized that the Advent story—the Annunciation, Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, there not being room in the inn and the birth of Christ in a lowly manger—is a perfect example of our daily suffering and the comfort God grants us. Mary was the perfect woman who had never done anything to deserve the struggles of finding herself pregnant and unmarried, travelling to find the right place to give life to her child, and finally having to settle with a stable. And yet, through her suffering, we are granted the most precious gift of all: Christ!

We also looked at the gift of joy that seems so prominent in the Catholic Church, especially during this time of Advent. Fr. Dean shared a number of stories with us of people from other Christian, religious and non-religious groups who had wondered where we Catholics get our joy. This, as with the discussion about the comfort of God, put my life into perspective. Any of us can get worked up over some of the smallest things, and yet God provides such joy and comfort for us—we only need to seek and ask for it.

This retreat encouraged me to live out this Advent joyfully with the knowledge that Christ was born to share in our suffering and that God is Our Comforter.

Happy Advent! ✠



# A Life of Giving...

## Paul Redchurch: A Lifetime of Giving

by Kayla Hart

Looking at his art, you would never guess that Paul Redchurch has no formal art training besides his high school courses back in Yorkshire, England. Despite this, he has, in his own words, “doodled as long as I can remember.” Since an early retirement from the BC provincial government, he has taken his art even more seriously, and has spent the last 12 years or so “going at it” with brushes and paint—first with watercolours, and more recently with acrylics. His subject matter is as diverse as his technique, ranging from seaside landscapes to vintage cars, and even a tribute to Michael Jackson. In addition to doing it “for the fun of it,” he also does it “for his soul” and realizes the importance of using his God-given gift for the benefit of others. One such occasion was his recent art show *A Sharing of Life's Gifts* held at Goward House Gallery, which ran from late September until November 2.

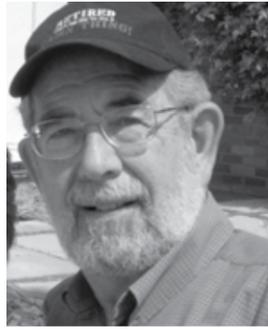
*A Sharing of Life's Gifts* was Redchurch's first solo show, but in true Christian humility and charity, he did not make the show entirely about himself. After paying the gallery fees, all the proceeds went to the Victoria Human Exchange Society (VHES)—a charity which provides short-term housing to people who, through various circumstances, have become homeless and are trying to get their life back on track. The title of his show is a variation of the society's mantra: “Every meeting of persons can be an exchange of life's gifts—A Human Exchange.” The VHES website explains that these days, people can become homeless overnight, from un- or under-employment and the resultant inability to pay rent, substance abuse, family violence, divorce, accidents, or a lack of a family support system. The society operates nine homes in the area, located in Victoria, Sidney, Nanaimo and on Saltspring Island. Redchurch became involved with the Society when he was administrator of the Knights of Columbus Charity Foundation and VHES approached the Knights for aid in establishing a men's house. Various Councils came together to help raise the funds, and the Fr. Michael J. McGivney House was opened, named after the priest who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Almost a decade later, Redchurch still supports the society's hard work and worthy cause, and through his show he not only raised money to support them financially, but he was able to bring some publicity to a charity that has done so much “with little or no fanfare” for nearly two decades. A public thank-you on the VHES website extended appreciation to all of the donations from people who heard about the organization's work through Redchurch's art show. The timing also could not have been more perfect, as they also said that the costs of running these houses (rents, utilities, garbage removal, and so on) have risen for their Victoria locations. Redchurch says, “Naturally, I wish I could have done more—but I did achieve my two objectives: raise funds for my chosen charity, and raise its profile.”

*Every meeting of persons can be an  
exchange of life's gifts—A Human Exchange*

In addition to this show, Redchurch's art is featured annually at the Bowker Creek Brush Up in Oak Bay, along with various other Oak Bay Studio Tours and markets through his membership in the Oak Bay Community Artists Society and Goward House Painters. He also sells cards, and donates a day of his time each year to visit the grade 2B class at St. Patrick's school, taught by his daughter Janette, to share a “fun, fun, fun, ho, ho, ho” art lesson with the children. He has also donated decades of his time in the local Catholic Community, through more than 50 years in the Knights of Columbus, and parish-level involvement since the 1950s with St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Joseph the Worker, and predominantly St. Patrick's church in Oak Bay. ✠

For more information about the Victoria Human Exchange Society, visit their website: [www.humanx.org](http://www.humanx.org).



## Tribute to Muriel Loftus

by Marg Craddock

I recently attended the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators held in Banff, Alberta. I was asked to give a tribute to Muriel Loftus at the conference banquet. The article that follows is that tribute. Some of what I said was taken from the reflection presented by Sister Rose-Marie Goguely SSA at the prayer vigil for Muriel.



At our last conference held in Victoria, BC, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators (WCCRE). At that banquet, we honoured Muriel Loftus as one of the founders of this organization.

Muriel recognized a need for the opportunity to gather to support one another, to network, and to provide ongoing formation for those involved in catechesis and faith formation. Without her vision and hard work there wouldn't have been a WCCRE.

It was truly a blessing that we did honour her at that time because on October 4, Muriel was called home to God. I've been asked to share some of Muriel's story with you. It is my privilege to do so. Muriel was my mentor, my colleague and my friend.

Muriel believed she was called by God to be a catechist. She spent her life making the message and meaning of Jesus Christ available and accessible to people of all ages and walks of life. Probably her greatest gift was to recognize the gifts of others and call them forth. Many of us were touched by Muriel in this way.

As Diocesan Director of Religious Education in Victoria, she was a member of the first team to work at the translation and adaption of the French resource *Viens vers le Père*, which became known as the *Come to the Father* catechetical resource for English-speaking Canada. Muriel was a true pioneer in the Canadian Catechetical movement.

Muriel was a true catechist: she was an echoer of the Word; she could make the gospel stories come alive. The stories of peoples lives were also important her. She had a wonderful gift of being able to link the two stories together.

At Bishop Remi deRoo's invitation, Muriel hosted Christianne Brusselmans and began the first Rite of Christian Initiation Institute in Canada—which served as the launching pad for beginning the RCIA process in the Diocese.

When the Canadian Bishops decided to publish their own Canadian Catechetical resource for English Canada, Muriel was invited to join the writing team. When working on the program development with Fr. Lawrence DeMong OSB and others at the National Office, any programs that either she oversaw or to which she served as a consultant, Muriel ensured that the RCIA process was incorporated in a manner that was faithful to the learning styles of children and adults. After her retirement, Fr. Lawrence and Muriel co-authored another resource for the initiation of children to Confirmation and Eucharist still used in our Diocese: *Come to the Table*.

Life in this ministry had its fire and high water but Muriel hung in there, trusting that this was God's work and that God was with her. She frequently quoted St. Irenaeus of the 2nd century AD, “The glory of God is the person fully alive; and to be alive is to behold God.” She believed Jesus the Christ was the “fully alive” person and that we are called to grow into becoming “fully alive:” the persons God intended us to be.

The last year of Muriel's life was not an easy one. In August, she left her home in Nanaimo and moved to St. Ann's Residence in Victoria. The Sisters of St. Ann, the staff and nursing staff looked after Muriel with love, tender care and respect.

During August and September, I was blessed to spend time with her. We shared many memories and stories of the early days of catechetical ministry in the Victoria diocese, writing team days in Ottawa, Banff conferences and many more. Many people were a part of those memories. Also, it was a time to thank Muriel.

Muriel sought to live the sacrament of the present moment. I have this wonderful image of Muriel and many of the early members of the WCCRE watching and rejoicing over us here in the mountains.

I'll close with the words Bishop Claude Champagne OMI reminded us of and address them to Muriel: “In the fulfillment of God's reign we will be together again.” ✠

Following in her mentor's footsteps, Marg is a Master Catechist in her own right. She has served people in various catechetical ministries right across the country in her capacity as a leader, whether for a parish, a diocese or school system. Marg has been a member of various writing teams for our national catechetical programs, and is a frequent contributor to *Celebrate!* magazine.

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# Group Helps Young Men Keep the Faith

by Greg Van Dyk

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is inspiring young men in a new way—through a Catholic apologetics and discussion group named in his honour.

“I saw him as a real positive role model of masculinity,” said Mark Theobald, a teacher at St. Andrew’s Regional High School, who founded the group in March. “In our society, if we live our faith we are counter-cultural and he experienced that as well.”

Frassati’s Men’s Group meets monthly at St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Victoria to discuss issues facing young Catholic men such as chastity, prayer and the relationship between faith and reason. It targets men ages 18 to 30, aiming to encourage the faith of Catholic men after high school.

Pier Giorgio Frassati was a social activist who devoted his life to helping the poor in his hometown of Turin, Italy. He died of polio in 1925 at the age of 24 and was beatified in 1990 by Blessed John Paul II.

## Many young men feel they lose their sense of Catholic community after coming out of high school

“I had seen a picture of him in the cathedral and here’s this strapping young lad smoking a pipe,” said Theobald, of Frassati. “I thought, ‘Wow. That looks like a good patron for young men.’ So I looked him up.”

Theobald was immediately impressed with Frassati’s balance between living an active life and dedicating an overwhelming amount of time to the poor in his community. “As a patron, he really has an understanding of where young men are in our society today,” said Theobald.

Theobald hopes the group will be able to serve the Victoria community during the Advent season. Perhaps the Frassati’s Men’s Group could work in the soup kitchen, he said.

At monthly meetings, Theobald leads group discussions and hopes that through dialogue he can equip the group’s members with answers to real-life questions. Many young men feel they lose their sense of Catholic community after coming out of high school, he said.

“Young men were telling me that they were on campus and in the workplace and people were asking questions and they couldn’t provide answers,” said Theobald. “I saw a need for learning apologetics and doctrine to be able to offer an explanation for why we believe what we do.”

Relatively new, the group is still quite small—five men attended the most recent meeting. However, the men who have attended have gained plenty from the fellowship.

“It’s nice to be among a group of like-minded guys who can share your struggles and encourage you along the way,” said Attila Varszegi, 20, a second-year student who recently transferred to the University Northern British Columbia. “As a man, I feel that we look up to other men. It’s difficult sometimes to find people to look up to.”

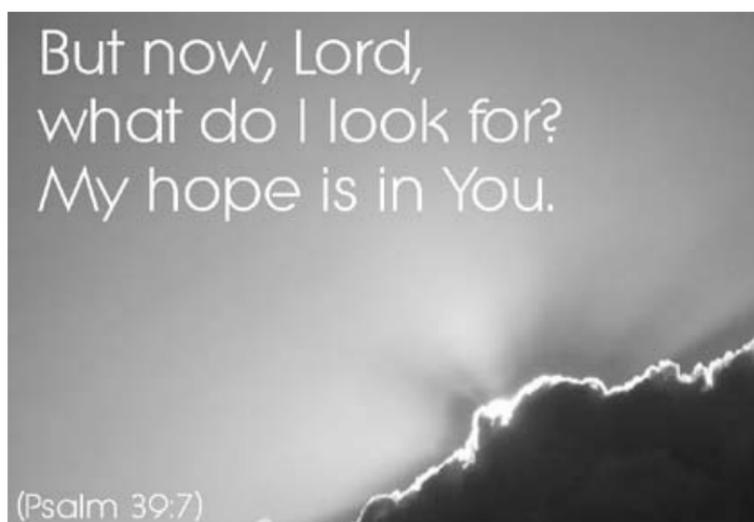
The open and encouraging environment created by Theobald is beneficial, said Varszegi. “It came up that I hadn’t been in church in a while, and he mentioned casually that I could come to church with him and his family. Through that he really got me going back to church.”

José Mendez, a third-year biochemistry student at the University of Victoria, also took part in the last session. “Coming out of high school was tough,” said Mendez. “The group provides the kind of close fellowship that isn’t necessarily found in other places.”

Theobald hopes to achieve success through the ongoing dialogue and fellowship of the group. “What I see in many of our young Catholics is that they are very under-catechized,” he said. “There is a real lack of knowledge. Young men have not been taught how to practice their faith.”

Frassati’s Men’s Group meets every second Friday of the month at 7 pm in the rectory of St. Andrew’s Cathedral. Search “Frassati’s Men’s Group” on Facebook, or email [frassatis@gmail.com](mailto:frassatis@gmail.com) for more information. ✂

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# Words of Hope

by Fr. Stephen Paine

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ. It is certain that some of you have had someone you love die this past year. This is a great sadness, and in the time leading up to Christmas it is likely that your grief over the death of the person you loved will be stronger and more evident. I expect Christmas will be for you a time of some sorrow.

As this is likely the case, I thought I might offer you some words of hope. What is hope? St. Gregory of Nyssa, a Father of the Church from the fourth century, had this to say: “Hope always draws the soul from the beauty that is seen to what is beyond, always kindles the desire for the hidden through what is perceived.”

Until the death of the one you loved, I suspect most of you had hope; I also suspect that many of you are experiencing a period of diminished hope at this time. This is not surprising, for if St. Gregory was right, then while the person you loved was alive you were able to see the beauty of that person, and your soul was drawn from the beauty of the one you loved to the beauty of God.

Your father, mother, husband, wife, child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend or relative of whatever kind was able to convey to you—through his or her acts of kindness and gentleness, his or her acts of courage and support—the beauty of God who is beyond our time and place.

While your friend or relative was alive, your friend or relative was able to kindle within you a desire for what was hidden both in him or her, and, in all the world; namely, kindle within you a desire for God who is the source of all goodness and beauty. Now that your friend or relative is gone, your ability to see beyond them to God also seems to have gone. The desire that had been kindled within you also seems to have died along with the one you love. A very common experience arising from all of this is a sense that God no longer loves you and has abandoned you. With that experience and belief comes a loss of hope—and thus it seems hope, too, has died.

Now of course we know this is a lie: God has not abandoned you and has not ceased to love you. So how might you find hope again? How might you come to see God and know His presence again?

We find hope again in two ways: first, by remembering the goodness and beauty of the person who has died, giving thanks to God for the gift of that person for as many years as we had them. In this way we recall the person, and in recalling the person, we once again see the beauty of God in and through that person’s beauty and goodness. I often think of some small kind act of someone I loved who has died and once again I see the love that God had, and continues to have, for me.

Secondly, we rekindle hope by looking outward and noticing beauty and goodness, perhaps first of things, and then perhaps, of other people. Then when we discover again the beauty of others, and through them the beauty of God, desire and hope is rekindled in our hearts.

Christmas is a perfect time to do this. Christmas is a perfect time to remember the beauty and goodness of your relative or friend, and so see God—and Christmas is a perfect time to look outward to the beauty of the world and to the beauty of those still alive. I suggest that you try to see the world again as a child full of hope sees it—a magical and wonderful world, full of beauty and therefore full of God.

Christmas is the season during which Christians recall the gift of God in Jesus. In Jesus’ beauty and in Jesus’ goodness, many people see the beauty and goodness of God the Father, and in that seeing, we find hope for our present—and our future. So as Christmas approaches, I encourage you to remember the person who died. Remember his or her goodness and beauty. Remember the intimations of God the Father that came through that person and give thanks to God the Father for the person who has died.

I also encourage you, in this period leading up to Christmas, to look outward, to find the Christchild in the people, places, and things of this world. He is there and as He reveals Himself to you, He will reveal to you His loving Father. When you find Jesus, you will find the Father, and when you find the Father—your Father in Heaven—you will once again find hope. *Peace be to you.* ✂



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# Vocations



## The Call to the Priesthood and the Religious Life

### Discern This!

by Fr. Sean Flynn

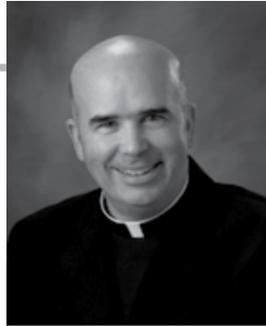
*You have purpose!*

The Church has a wonderful way of drawing us into a deep and intimate relationship with the Lord by simply creating the Liturgical Year. We are now in Advent; a time that lends itself to acquainting us with answers as God moves us to know His will. But this requires that we do not sit back and simply wait for enlightenment. Mary pondered the word of God in her heart and so made an effort to understand while openly doing whatever He asked. She was able to respond for she had a great desire for intimacy and so she continually prayed. Being sinless is not what helped her to respond; being involved with God through prayer allowed her to say “yes” even to the things she did not understand yet cherished because it was the “Love” of her life who came to her, giving her her mission. “Blessed are those who hear the word of the Lord and keep it.”

Cardinal Newman’s prayer *The Mission of My Life* begins by stating, “God has created me to do Him some definite service.” You will find your answer if you:

- Go to Mass, if possible, daily
- Desire and receive the Sacrament of Confession
- Pray daily: Prayer is the lifeblood of friendship with Christ
- Talk to a priest: Trust in God. He may come across more clearly if you talk to a priest
- Read the Gospels: this is the Word of God.
- Mary is your Mother. Make a devotion to Her
- Eucharistic adoration
- Live a life of virtue: Holiness is shown through virtue
- Seek spiritual reading: Google “Cardinal Newman’s prayers”
- Hang around good people: It is a simple fact that people often become like those whom they hang around

For the past couple of years the Diocese has offered a *Day of Reflection* for men who wish to gather to contemplate with others the priesthood as a vocation. In 2012 the gathering is planned for March 24 at Sacred Heart Parish, 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria. The day will begin at 10 am and end with Mass at 5 pm. Bishop Richard will be our special guest so I invite those who have enjoyed this day in the past to revisit the idea of coming together. Please register by calling Fr. Sean at (250) 743-1688 in Mill Bay, or Fr. Alfredo in Duncan at (250) 732-7380. ✠



Sr. Kathleen Bryant, RSC, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, shares the following insight into the celibate life:

### Meaningful Loving in a Celibate Commitment

What is it that enables a priest or religious to live a celibate life, which is healthy, happy and leads to holiness? Some of the most fully alive human beings are celibate. The people who have forged a celibate identity and celibate strength live a certain lifestyle. These are the ones who keep celibacy in perspective. They are generous in their loving as opposed to wallowing in self-pity because of the challenges of their lifestyle. Healthy celibates cultivate deep friendships of chaste intimacy. Priests and religious have adult friends with whom they can share their lives. They know how to have fun, how to relax, how to ‘recreate’ their spirits in the context of community and friendship. They can let go of work to enter wholeheartedly in music, laughter, sport, art, a good meal with friends and so on.

### Skills for Celibate Lovers

- A healthy prayer life, spending quality time with God daily and openness to grow in intimacy with God
- Long term friendships with both men and women
- The ability to use solitude creatively and constructively; the ability to be alone
- The gift to love tenderly and walk humbly with others
- The ability to delay self gratification
- The freedom not to be self-absorbed but to reach out to others
- A wholesome balance and integration of social, physical, intellectual and spiritual resources
- A sense of self identity and acceptance. ✠

## A “DAY OF REFLECTION” ON THE CALL TO PRIESTHOOD

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 10AM TO 5PM MASS HELD AT SACRED HEART PARISH  
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Fr. William Hann  
St. Joseph the Worker





Fr. John Laszczyk  
St. Andrew’s Cathedral



Fr. Stephen Paine  
Holy Family/Notre Dame

The first disciples, and in a special way the twelve, were invited to become friends of Jesus. But the condition for being admitted to this privileged relationship was their radical commitment. Today, too, the only possible response to Christ’s call remains that of the apostles: “They left everything and followed Him” (Lk 5:11).



Fr. Dean Henderson  
University Chaplain



Fr. Sean Flynn  
St. Francis Xavier/  
Our Lady Queen of the World

John Paul II to seminarians and novices in Budapest (August 19, 1991)



Fr. Jai Joseph  
- St. Ann’s



Fr. Scott Whittemore  
Holy Family,  
St. Francis of Assisi,  
St. Lawrence and missions

The day at a glance:

- 10:00am - Gathering
- 10:30am - Morning prayer and a talk by Father Alfredo
- 11:30am - Silence
- 12 noon - Lunch
- 12:30pm - Rosary

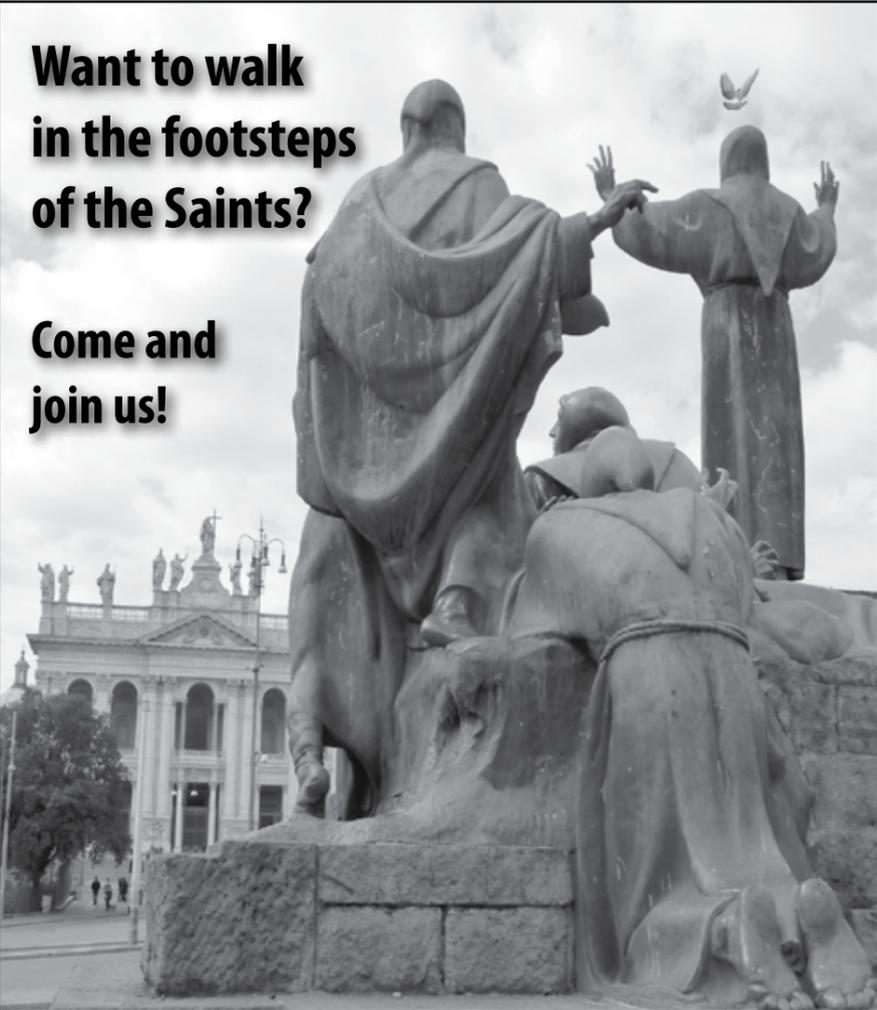


- 2:00pm - talk by Fr. Sean
- Special Guest Bishop Richard
- 3:00pm - assembly with questions and answers

We will finish with silence for personal reflection and to prepare ourselves for the 5pm Mass.

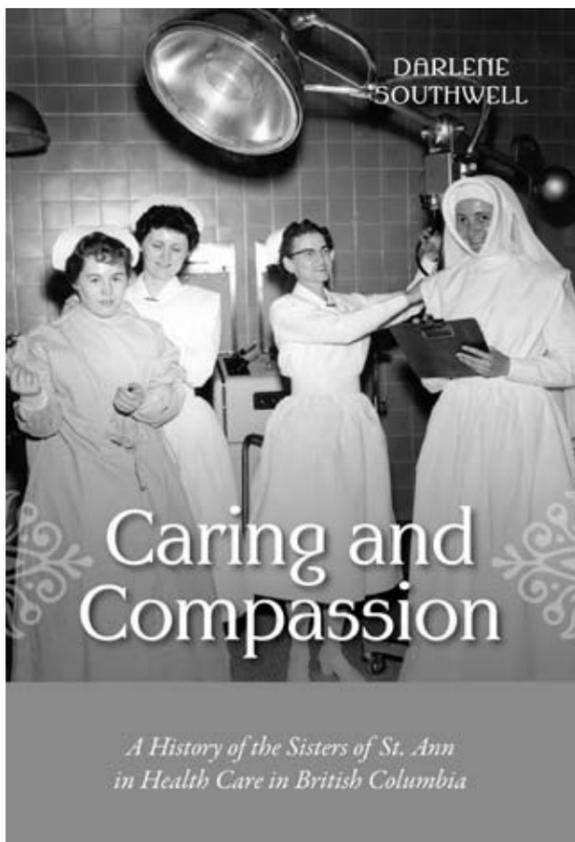
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## Book Review

by Patricia Coward, RN, PhD

**Caring and Compassion: A History of the Sisters of St. Ann in Health Care in British Columbia**  
 By Darlene Southwell  
 Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd., 296pp. \$33.50

The Sisters of St. Ann began as a small religious community in Quebec in the mid-nineteenth century under the leadership of Sister Marie-Anne Blondin. In 1858, they accepted an invitation to serve the Diocese of Vancouver Island. Committed to the education of the young and the care of the poor and orphans, they understood that they would also be called upon to care for the sick. In preparation, two of the four Sisters who were to accompany Bishop Demers to Victoria went to Montreal to gain basic nursing experience.

This book is a recounting of the growth of the mission of the Sisters of St. Ann from these humble beginnings to the development of thriving health care organizations across British Columbia.

The book is divided into three parts describing the establishment of St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria; expansion into a training school for nurses, x-ray and laboratory technicians; and the Sisters' response to the needs for health care facilities in four smaller communities in British Columbia. Information about the development of these facilities is taken from historical records maintained in the archives of the Sisters and presented within the context of the social and political issues of the time.

The Sisters began their life in Victoria in a small log cabin with a dirt floor where they established a school. During recess and school breaks they visited the sick in their homes and often spent all night at the bedside of the seriously ill. By 1875, the population of Victoria had grown to 8,000 and Sisters agreed to build St. Joseph's Hospital "on faith and prayer."

The hospital opened a year later and was considered "a model of cleanliness, cheerfulness and comfort." It served everyone who needed care irrespective of creed, nationality or ability to pay. Despite growing demands for care that required several expansions of the hospital, the provincial government made no contribution to the care of hospital patients until the passage of the Hospital Insurance Act in 1948. The costs of these expansions were borne mainly by the Sisters.

The growth in the population of British Columbia and the demand for hospital and long-term care increased the need for more health professionals. A training school was established at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1900 and continued until 1981, graduating 2,321 registered nurses, 156 x-ray technicians and 127 medical laboratory technicians. In addition, the Sisters continued their own learning through post-graduate studies and made significant contributions to health care at provincial and national levels by participating in a number of professional organizations.

Between 1933 and 1946, four small communities in British Columbia requested the assistance of the Sisters to build, renovate and operate hospitals. The patients served by these facilities reflected the local industries of logging (Campbell River), farming (Smithers), fruit picking (Oliver) and mining (Nelson). The challenges of expanding and upgrading facilities, recruiting nursing and medical staff and attracting sufficient financial resources were constant. Financing from the Department of Indian Affairs was uncertain and the salaries earned by the Sisters were donated to the hospital to cover ongoing expenses and repay loans. Women's Auxiliaries, service clubs and local businesses also contributed to hospital finances.

Due to ever-rising costs and a reduction in the number of young women entering religious life, the Sisters gradually withdrew from ownership of their hospitals and turned them over to local hospital societies. Only Mount St. Mary Hospital, a state-of-the-art extended care facility built on the site of the original St. Joseph's Hospital, is still owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Ann.

Darlene Southwell spent more than five years conducting research for this book. Using archival material ranging from chronicles written by the Sisters to minutes of hospital Board meetings and interviews with religious and lay staff, she has told the story of more than a century of health care provided to the people of British Columbia. The care and compassion demonstrated by the Sisters of St. Ann deserves our gratitude and thanks.

The book will be of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about the Sisters of St. Ann, the early days of health care or the history of British Columbia. ✚



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## Martin Sheen gives voice to Dalai Lama

Catholic actor Martin Sheen who starred in *The Way*, directed by his son Emilio Estevez, this year, has recently completed another project: narrating the audiobook of *Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World*, a new book by the Dalai Lama. A long-time social activist, he spoke with Reuters about how the book's message of compassion and universal ethics resonates with his own beliefs. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19471>  
Posted: Friday, December 9, 2011 8:56 pm

## Film: Pope turns on huge solar Christmas 'tree'

Pope Benedict switched on the solar lights on the world's largest Christmas 'tree' last night, on a hillside near Gubbio, where St Francis of Assisi made the first living crib. The Pope said: "The message I would like to give is that I hope each one of us bring a little light to the environment where we live - in our families, in our countries, towns, communities..." To see Pope Benedict giving the whole message (with English subtitles) go to: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ME59Lt1B2\\_Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ME59Lt1B2_Q) <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19468>  
Posted: Friday, December 9, 2011 2:19 pm

## Pope Benedict to visit Cuba

Pope Benedict XVI is planning to visit Cuba in spring 2012, a senior Church official said yesterday. Monsignor Jose Felix Perez, executive secretary of the Cuban Bishops Conference told a press conference that the exact date had not been settled yet. He said: "the visit will give strength and vigour to the faith in Cuba. The visit should be one of peace and reconciliation." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19466>  
Posted: Friday, December 9, 2011 12:34 am

## Campaign calls for cancellation of European debt

Jubilee Debt Campaign, the successor organisation to Jubilee 2000, today called for a cancellation of many of the debts owed between European countries. They urged Europe's leaders to combine this with market regulation to prevent debt crises in the future. Tim Jones, the Jubilee Debt Campaign's economist, said: "Binding governments to balanced budgets is shutting the wrong stable door after the horse has bolted. Unregulated financial markets caused this debt crisis, not government borrowing..." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19465>  
Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 11:43 pm

## FHL brings hopes to hundreds in Bethlehem

While people around the world will be celebrating Christmas with special services, parties, large meals and many presents, hundreds of poor people who live in the place where Jesus was born, are struggling to survive. This year, one Catholic charity will be bringing hope to some of the most needy people in Bethlehem. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19460>  
Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 4:17 pm

## A Time to Share Our Lives: Blessings of Creativity

by Mary Richardson

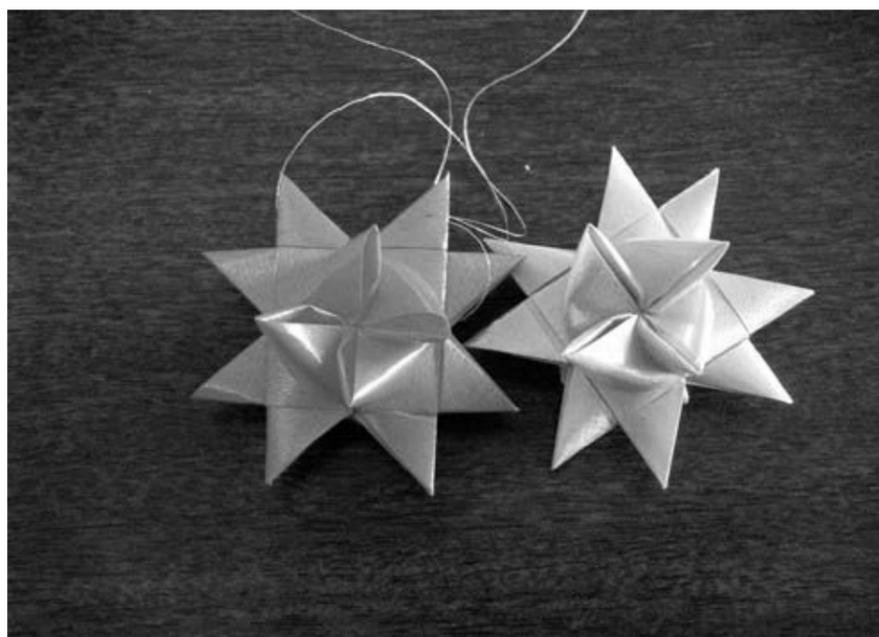
Over the years our First Nations Women's Group in Cranbrook, British Columbia, has discussed Scripture stories, self-esteem, the spirituality of motherhood, God in our midst, gratefulness and practical spirituality. It is during these times that we share deeply with one another, always aware of God on our journeys.

Every fall when our women gather at Marywood Retreat Centre to plan our sessions, we also plan times for creativity. This fall, our women gathered to learn how to make stars from intertwining regular ribbon. Ursula Grady, who had learned how to make pine needle baskets from First Nation member Loreen Allard, came back to show us how to intertwine ribbon to make them look like stars. The stars make nice bows on presents or even as decorations on a Christmas tree.

During this Advent Season of planning for the Christmas celebrations, Loreen also showed the women how to make teepee ornaments from cotton canvas material and design animal shapes on them from felt material or even draw on them free hand with felt pens. We also gathered to make Christmas cards for our loved ones, using previous years' cards as well as other decorations to enhance them. In winter, we craft again around Valentine's Day, and this year we sat down to decorate already-baked cookies.

As we share these days of leisure and working with our hands, sharing our crafts, we come to know one another in God's presence. We often design craft items not for ourselves but for our loved ones: for our families, for our friends. How delighted the Lord must be to see these women working intently and creating gifts for others. ✠

Mary Richardson coordinates the East Kootenay Catholic Native Ministry in the Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia. Reprinted with permission from *Catholic Missions In Canada Magazine*. ([www.cmic.info](http://www.cmic.info)).



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# Impressions



*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. But what I can, I give him—give my heart.  
~ In the Bleak Midwinter, Christina Rossetti*

by Connie Dunwoody

It happens to me every year. There's no particular trigger, not really any exact reason, nothing I can point to and say, "ah, there, that's why." Sometimes it's a person, a conversation, a movie. Sometimes it's a scent, a song, a scene. It never happens when I ask for it; if I go around looking for it, it remains elusively, tantalizingly just out of reach. I yearn for it and I wait for it to happen, but I can't manufacture it. Some years, busy or sad years, I don't even remember I'm waiting for it.

Yet every year, without warning, there's just something in the air that feels like Christmas. It catches me by surprise, stops me cold. My motion halts; I'm captured in suspended animation and I'm pretty sure everything around me ceases, just for one poignant, silent second, in which I hear and feel the whisper of a familiar friend. No one else notices the corners of my mouth turn up ever so slightly. It's an intensely private moment. I focus my attention inward to a faint glow of warmth I'd forgotten was there—yet suddenly realize I'd been yearning for. Hello, I say softly in acknowledgement and welcome recognition. There you are. I was wondering when you'd come. The moment passes: my eyes meet someone else's curious gaze and I shrug gently, lift one eyebrow and smile with eyes softened by the memory of something I've never seen. But the warmth remains. It's a little miracle of ineffable peace, indescribable comfort and inexplicable joy.

This year, it happened over tidy packages of cold chicken pieces at Costco. I don't know why; I've given up questioning its appearance. It's been called *Christmas Spirit*, and I suppose to some extent that's true. My iMac dictionary defines "spirit" in several ways, including: *the nonphysical part of a person that is the seat of emotions and character; the soul; and, a specified emotion or mood, esp. one prevailing at a particular time.* Well, those both seem to fit. Certainly my experience is nonphysical and certainly it seems tied to this Season.

Good ol' Ebenezer Scrooge certainly caught it, albeit reluctantly and almost too late, as his feet neared the flames of the future and he railed against what seemed to be the inevitable, his heart screaming "I want to live" even as he pounded against the immovable walls of an imaginary coffin. Retailers depend on it, and hope to capitalize on what has become a "need" rather than a "choice" to give. "Black Friday" is a big deal in the United States. It's the day following American Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday of November), and traditionally begins the Christmas shopping season in the US. Retailers often open unusually early and offer promotional sales to kick off their season. One explanation of the title suggests "Black Friday" indicates the point at which retailers begin to turn a profit, to move "into the black." It's become so extreme that we've seen reports of fist-fights over deeply discounted items, and some retailers are now even opening at 12:01 am, so as to give shoppers as much opportunity for "deals" as possible.

Or to take advantage of peoples' greed—or to feed the perception that we have to give bigger and better presents to our loved ones to be liked, loved or accepted more completely. We're led to believe that by ourselves, with empty hands, perhaps we are not enough of a gift.

How sad. Because the truth is, wrapped only in vulnerability, we are the ultimate gift—more than anyone could possibly imagine.

Sound familiar?

It happened on another night long, long ago. The world held its breath until a baby breathed His first and then *ah, then!* an exultant swirl of angel wings lifted

our hearts to Heaven, climbing, climbing, climbing to explode in a glorious harmony of celebration *ah, then!* did Love quietly appear in the world as humble animals lowered their heads and warmed a stable with their simple gifts of breath and body and straw *ah, then!* did a Mother's selfless gift wrapped in complete vulnerability become more than we imagined *ah, then!* did the eternal pause come into our lives in the splintering silence of a night shimmering with hope and *ah, then!* did we remember what we'd been waiting for, all this time, all those years, all those centuries, every heartbeat crying in the wilderness *ah, now!*

This year, may your gift giving be full of the beauty of your spirit; may your gifts to loved ones reflect your joy in their existence and appreciation for their presence in your life. May the best gift you give be arms held wide to receive even strangers as friends; may the best gift you open be someone else's heart.

And this year, may *His* gift catch you without warning. May it halt you in the midst of another busy shopping trip and freeze you in the suspended animation of eternal Grace. This year, I wish for you the gift of one poignant, silent second in which you hear and feel the whisper of a familiar friend in an intensely private encounter. I wish for you the faint glow of warmth you'd forgotten was there yet suddenly realize you've been yearning for. Hello, you'll say softly in acknowledgement and welcome recognition. There You are. I was wondering when You'd come. The moment will pass: your eyes will meet someone else's curious gaze. You'll shrug gently, lift one eyebrow and smile even as tears creep into eyes softened by Love and the memory of something you've never seen. And may the warmth remain, tinged with the unexpected scent of a stable—a great big miracle of ineffable peace, indescribable comfort and inexplicable joy as angel wings beat exultantly to the rhythm of your own heart.

Merry Christmas, with all of mine. ✕



Photo by Father Philip Kennedy, president, Catholic Missions In Canada

## Happy are those who are called to His supper

*Bishop Gary Gordon celebrates Mass with Father Kieran Kilcommons in Mary House Chapel; Whitehorse, Yukon*

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# Christmas Mass Schedule

Parish	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day	December 31 New Year's Eve	January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria	3:45 pm doors open for 4:40 pm Carol Singing and Children's Pageant; 5 pm Mass of Christmas Night.	8:55 am Rosary	9:30 am Mass	8 am Mass
	7:30 pm Carol Singing and 8 pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night	9:30 am Mass of Christmas Dawn	5 pm Anticipated Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	9:30 am Mass
	10 pm Carol Singing and 11 pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night (Incense)	11 am Mass of Christmas Day (Incense)		11 am (Bishop Gagnon celebrant)
				5 pm Mass
Christ the King, Courtenay	5 pm Christmas Vigil Mass	8:30 am Mass	5 pm Anticipated Mass for Mary, Mother of God	8:30 am Mass
	12 am Midnight Mass	10:30 am Mass		10:30 am Mass
Church of the Ascension, Parksville	5 pm Mass	11 am Mass		8:30 am Mass
	7:30 pm Children's Mass			10:30 am Mass
	9:30 pm Mass			
Holy Cross, Gordon Head	6 pm Family Mass	9:30 am Mass		8:30 am Mass
	8 pm Mass			10:30 am Mass
Holy Family, Ucluelet	9:30 pm Mass	9:30 am Mass		9:30 am Mass
Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	8 pm Mass			
	12 am Midnight Mass			
Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria		1:15 pm Mass		10:30 am Mass
Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria	7 pm Mass (English)	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	12 am Midnight Mass (Portuguese)			
Our Lady of Grace, Saltspring Island	6 pm Carols	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	7 pm Mass		11 pm Adoration	
			12 am Midnight Mass	
Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford	7 pm Christmas Family Mass	10:30 am Mass	5 pm Mass	8:30 am Mass
				10:30 am Mass
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Esquimalt	7 pm Family Mass	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	12 am Traditional Latin Midnight Mass			12 noon Traditional Latin Mass
Our Lady Queen of the World, Shawnigan Lake		11 am Mass		11 am Mass
Saanich Peninsula, Victoria	6:30 pm Mass (St. Elizabeth's) Carols 30 minutes beforehand.	THERE WILL BE NO 8:30 am Mass		
	8:30 pm Mass (Our Lady of the Assumption). Carols 30 minutes beforehand.	10:30 am Mass (St. Elizabeth's)	5 pm (St. Elizabeth's)	8:30 am Mass (Our Lady of Assumption)
	10:30 pm Mass (St. Elizabeth's) Carols 30 minutes beforehand.			10:30 am Mass (St. Elizabeth's)
Sacred Heart, Victoria	6 pm Family Mass	8:30 am Mass	5 pm Mass	8:30 am Mass
	8 pm Mass	10 am Mass		10 am Mass
	10 pm Mass (Korean)			12:30 pm Mass (Polish)
	12 am Midnight Mass (Polish)			5 pm Mass (Korean)
St. Edward's, Duncan	5 pm Family Mass	10 am Mass (Carols at 9:30 am)	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	9 pm Mass (Carols at 8:30 pm)			
St. Francis of Assisi, Tofino	7 pm Mass		5 pm Mass	
St. Joseph the Worker, Saanich	6 pm Family Mass	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	8:30 pm Vigil Mass			
	12 am Midnight Mass			
St. Lawrence, Ahousaht	11 pm Mass			
St. Leopold Mandic	11 pm Mass (Victoria)	11 am (Nanaimo, St. Ivan)	11 am (Victoria)	11 am Mass (Victoria)
		3 pm (Port Alberni, Holy Family/Notre Dame)	2:30 pm (Nanaimo, St. Ivan)	
		7 pm (Campbell River, St. Patrick's)		
St. Louis de Montfort Church, Lake Cowichan	11:30 pm Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass	Parishioners wishing to attend daytime Mass are encouraged to visit St. Edward's Parish in Duncan		
St. Patrick's, Campbell River	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	9 am Mass
	7:30 pm Mass			11 am Mass
	11:30 pm Mass (Carols at 11 pm)			
St. Patrick's, Victoria	6 pm Mass	10:30 am Mass	7 pm Mass	8:30 am Mass
	9 pm Mass			10:30 am Mass
St. Paul's, Fulford Harbour (Saltspring Island)	11 pm Carols			8 am Mass
	12 am Midnight Mass			
St. Peter's, Nanaimo	5 pm Family Mass	8:30 am Mass	7 pm Vigil Mass with Benediction	8:30 am Mass
	8 pm Evening Mass	10:30 am Mass		10:30 am Mass
	12 am Midnight Mass	4:30 pm Mass (Gabriola Island)		4:30 pm Mass (Gabriola Island)
St. Rose of Lima, Sooke	4 pm Youth and Family Mass	10 am Mass	5 pm Mass	10 am Mass
	8 pm Mass			
St. Francis of Assisi, Tofino	7:00 pm Mass		5:30 pm Mass	
St. Francis Xavier, Mill Bay	5 pm Mass	9 am Mass	5 pm Mass	9 am Mass
Trinity Catholic Church, Nanaimo	3:30 pm Children's Mass	9 am Mass	6 pm Mass	8 am Mass
	5:30 pm Mass			9 am Mass
	10 pm Mass (Carol Sing at 9:30 pm)			



*May the unity and peace of the Holy Family of Bethlehem surround and embrace you this Christmas Season.*

*Bishop Gagnon, the staff of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, and the Editorial Board wish you a blessed, holy, and peaceful Christmas. May you know the joy of His greatest gift, now, and in the coming year.*

*Church of Ascension*  
887 Wembley Road, Parksville, B. C.

*Christmas Mass Schedule:*

**Saturday, Dec. 24th:**  
5:00pm Mass  
7:30pm Family Mass  
9:30pm Mass

**Sunday, Dec. 25th:**  
11:00am Mass

*May Your Christmas be filled with Peace, Joy & Love!*



## Christ the King

1599 Tunner Drive, Courtenay BC V9N 8N3  
(250) 334-4716 ctkparish@shaw.ca

### Christmas Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday, Dec. 24th</b> 5:00 pm Vigil Mass Midnight Christmas Mass	<b>Saturday, Dec. 31st</b> 5:00 pm Anticipated Mass Mary, Mother of God
<b>Sunday, Dec 25th</b> (Christmas Mass) 8:30 and 10:30 am	<b>Sunday, January 1st</b> (Mary, Mother of God) 8:30 and 10:30 am

## Traditional Christmas

### Midnight Mass

At Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish  
849 Old Esquimalt Road, Victoria, B.C. V9A 4W9



WITH GREGORIAN CHANT AND SACRED POLYPHONY  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS COMMENCE at 11.45 p.m.

### REGULAR LATIN MASSES

Sundays 12.00 p.m.  
Saturdays 10.00 a.m.  
First Fridays 9.00 a.m.

For more information [victorialatinmass@gmail.com](mailto:victorialatinmass@gmail.com), Phone: 250-385-3493  
or check our website: [www.LatinmassVictoria.com](http://www.LatinmassVictoria.com)

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

Go and make disciples of all peoples. Matthew 28:19

### 2013 Rio de Janeiro

July 17<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>



Calling all Disciples of Jesus to join His Mission!  
Join youth from every parish in the Diocese of Victoria  
on pilgrimage to WYD 2013 in Brazil.



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT • **STUART ANDRIE**  
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