The Venerable John Paul II who will soon be beatified

Pope John Paul II

by Deacon Keith Fournier

Reprinted courtesy of Catholic Online (www.catholic.org)

Soon we will also affirm what the miracles effected by his continued intercession confirm, John Paul II is a Saint.

The Decree of his Beatification notes, “Since the beginning of his pontificate, in 1978, John Paul II often spoke in his homilies of the mercy of God. This became the theme of his second encyclical, Dives in Misericordia, in 1980. He was aware that modern culture and its language do not have a place for mercy, treating it as something strange; they try to inscribe everything in the categories of justice and law. But this does not suffice, for it is not what the reality of God is about.”

With millions of the faithful I prayed throughout those final days of his life before he entered the eternal communion of love. What a gift he was—and still is. He showed us how to live and how to love as Jesus, poured out for others. He showed us that suffering joined to the Savior is a sign and vehicle of God’s mercy and an occasion of grace. Then, he showed us how to die, not with fear, but with faith.

This Polish Pope was so filled with the love of God it was contagious. A talented and gifted “man of letters,” a playwright, a philosopher, an intellectual giant, a poet and a genuine human being, he had a heart that embraced the whole world like the Heart of the One whom he represented on earth.

He traversed the globe, proclaiming freedom to the captives and truth to the victims of failed false ideologies that had ravaged the people of the 20th century, the bloodiest in all of human history. He proclaimed the unchanging Christian message with a prophetic urgency, profound clarity and contemporary relevance. Many tried to label him but he demonstrated how shallow the labels can be. He was simply a Christian who stood on the shoulders of giants, rooted in the ancient rich tradition of the Church while proclaiming Jesus Christ as “forever young.”

Communism, atheism, secularism and false humanisms were exposed because he had the courage to stand up to tyrants with the bold message of the God who came among us to make us all new! He taught that Jesus Christ is the path to authentic personal, social and universal freedom! He authored more encyclical letters, apostolic exhortations, constitutions and letters than any Pope in the two thousand year history of the Christian Church. Once I started reading his writings as a young man I could not stop. I wanted to consume them, and I have done so, over and over. I also hoped to become them and offer them to others. On that front, I have a long way to go.

It was the writings of this great Pope that prompted a later call in life for this lawyer to the Diaconate and then to the pursuit of a Masters Degree at his Institute and later studies for the PhD in Moral Theology at Catholic University, focusing on his contributions. I knew I was to be a part of the “New Evangelization” and “New Springtime” of world missions that he proclaimed. His successor, Pope Benedict the Builder, is now leading the work.

Over many years I have come to understand more deeply the meaning of living in the communion of the Church because Pope John Paul II taught about it and lived it with such beauty. I have tried to practice his version of authentic ecumenism. I have tried to pass on to others his message of authentic freedom. However, the older I get, the more I realize how little I have accomplished.

This giant whose voice changed history was barely able to speak during those final hours. The once physically robust

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New Feature! Learn about Faith Matters on Page 21

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Appeal in Action
Parish Feature:
The West Coast

Bishop’s Books

March 2011

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Pastoral Itinerary
Bishop Richard Gagnon

All activities in Victoria unless otherwise noted

March
1-4 New Haven, Connecticut Knights of Columbus State Chaplain’s Conference
5 Respect Life Ministry Workshop, St. Patrick’s Parish
6 Mass (11 am), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
9 Ash Wednesday Mass (7 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
13 Mass and Rite of Election (11 am), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
15 Foundations of the Faith with ICS Teachers, St. Patrick’s Parish

Nanaimo General Clergy Meeting, St. Peter’s Parish
Victoria Dialogue with University of Victoria Students, Grad Lounge
19 Catholic Women’s League, Sacred Heart Parish
20 Salt Spring Island Mass (10 am), Our Lady of Grace
Pender Island Mass (12:30 pm), St. Theresa’s Chapel
Mayne Island Mass (3 pm), St. Joseph’s Catholic Mission
22 Mass (11 am), Mount St. Mary Hospital
Diocesan Pastoral Plan / Pastoral Councils Workshop (7 pm), Holy Cross Parish
25 University of Victoria Graduation Mass (5 pm), Holy Cross Parish
29 Parksville Diocesan Pastoral Plan / Pastoral Councils Workshop (7 pm), Ascension Parish

April
2 Knights of Columbus 3rd & 4th Degree Mass (5 pm) & Banquet, St. Andrew’s Cathedral
3 Mass, St. Andrew’s Cathedral
5-8 Harrison Hot Springs Catholic Schools Leadership Conference
9 Parksville Thinkfast Closing Mass (5 pm), Church of the Ascension
12 Mass (11 am), Mount St. Mary Hospital
13 Palm Sunday Mass (11 am), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
19 Chrism Mass (7 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
21 Holy Thursday Mass (7:30 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
22 Good Friday Service (3 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
23 Easter Vigil Mass (9 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
24 Easter Sunday (11 am), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
28-30 Surrey Knights of Columbus State Convention & 100th Anniversary

May
2-3 Campbell River CWL Diocesan Convention, St. Patrick’s Parish
5 Toronto Catholic Missions in Canada Board Meeting
7 Parksville Confirmation (10 am), Ascension Parish
Campbell River Confirmation (2:30 pm), St. Patrick’s Parish
8 Comox Confirmation (10:30 am), Christ the King Parish
12 Mass (12 noon) followed by March for Life, St. Andrew’s Cathedral
14 Ladymith Confirmation (11 am), St. Mary’s Parish Confirmation (3 pm), Sacred Heart Parish
15 Confirmation (10:30 am), Holy Cross Parish
Confirmation (2 pm), St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Vocations Mass (5 pm), St. Andrew’s Cathedral
17-18 Quebec City Episcopal Commission for Liturgy
21 Mass (5 pm), El Shaddai Prayer Group, St. Andrew’s Cathedral
22 Confirmation (10:30 am), St. Patrick’s Parish
23 Chemainus Confirmation (9 am), St. Joseph’s
26 Duncan Canonical Visitation, Poor Clares Convent
27 Clergy Appreciation Dinner, St. Joseph the Worker Parish
28 Diocesan Youth Conference, St. Andrew’s Regional High School
Duncan Confirmation (11 am), St. Ann’s Parish
Langford Confirmation (3 pm), Our Lady of the Rosary
29 Closing Mass (10:45 am) Diocesan Youth Conference, St. Andrew’s High School
Nanaimo Mass (3:30 pm) of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Baptized and newly received, St. Peter’s Parish
30-31 June 3 Surrey Clergy Retreat, Rosemary Heights

Calendar of Events

March
7 Victoria 4 New Voice for the Unborn. People interested in defending the rights of the unborn in Victoria are invited to a founding meeting at Christ Community Church, 3897 Holland (Holland and Helmcken) at 7:30 pm (prayers begin at 7:00 pm). Need a ride? Call Mary at (250) 384-5886.
9 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Ash Wednesday Masses will be held at 8:00 am, 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm. Bishop Richard Gagnon will preside at the 7:00 pm Mass.
13 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Rite of Election, 2:00 pm. See ad same page for more details.
13 Church of the Ascension, Parksville Presents Father Damien and Hodolomar: Murder by Stannation, 7:30 pm. This is a one-man production presented by Fr. Edward Danylo Evanko of the Ukrainian Catholic Church The Holy Dormition of the Mother of God in Richmond BC. Tickets $15 per person. For more information, please call (250) 854-1991.

April
19 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Chrism Mass, 7:00 pm. See ad same page for more details.
21 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Holy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm.
22 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Good Friday Services: Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; Solemn Service, 3:30 pm; Stations of the Cross, 7:30 pm.
23 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Holy Saturday Services: Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; Easter Vigil and 1st Mass of Easter 9:00 pm.
26 Church of the Ascension, Parksville CWL celebrates the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel with a Retreat from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, beginning with Mass. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please call (250) 248-6655.
30 Church of the Ascension, Parksville CWL. Annual Spring Plant Sale from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in the church hall at 887 Wembley Road, Parksville. Great selection of plants, annuals, perennials, small shrubs and more. For more information, please contact (250) 785-4103.

May
1 St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Victoria Divine Mercy Sunday. Prayer begins at 2:30 pm. See ad this page for more details.
6-7 St. Patrick’s, Victoria Good Used Clothing sale to be held in the parish centre at 2060 Haultain Street. Hours both days: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.
31 St. Edward’s Parish, Duncan St. Dawn Marie Kling OSC will celebrate 25 years of profession as a Poor Clare. Please join us for Eucharist at 11:00 am, Bishop Richard will celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral, with those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. All are invited to attend this Diocesan ceremony.

Rite of Election
On Sunday, March 13 at 11:00 am, Bishop Richard will celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral, with those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. All are invited to attend this Diocesan ceremony.

Chrim Mass
On Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm Bishop Richard Gagnon will be the principal Celebrant at a Mass that is celebrated annually at the Cathedral. At this liturgy, the Bishop gathers the Faithful of the Diocese—priests, religious and laity—around him for the blessing and consecration of the oils that will be used in all our parishes in the coming year. Here the Oil of the Sick, used to strengthen and console heal those who are informed, will be blessed. Here the Oil of Catechumens, used to strengthen and free those who are preparing for baptism, will be blessed. Here the Sacred Chrism, used to ordain bishops and priests, to confirm, and to dedicate churches and altars, will be consecrated. And here, too, we will witness the Rite of Reconciliation to Ministry by our priests. May our presence at the Chrism Mass be a sign of our support and gratitude for their ministry—and a reminder that baptism calls all of us to lives of service. All are invited to attend.

Lenten Fridays at the Cathedral
Masses at 8:00 am, 12:10 and 5:15 pm
All Day Eucharistic Adoration
4:10 pm – Evening Prayer
4:25 pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction
4:45 pm – Stations of the Cross

Divine Mercy Sunday at the Cathedral
Come and receive the incredible graces that Jesus wants to pour out on those who venerate and invoke his Mercy. In union with churches all over the world, we will celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, May 1. A special prayer time will begin at 2:30 p.m. allowing us to sing the Chaplet and Litany of Divine Mercy, venerate the picture of Divine Mercy and conclude with Benediction.

St. Andrew’s Cathedral
Corner of Blanshard and View
Parking available at the View Street Parkade
The Asceticism of Pressure and Duty

by Fr. Ron Rolheiser

The past several weeks have been some of most pressured weeks in my life. I have been trying to balance the pressures of teaching a three-hour-a-day Intersession course, my duties as an administrator, a series of emergencies to do with the deaths of a couple of close friends, along with trying to sustain some kind of prayer life, all the time nursing a nasty viral cold. It’s been a pressured time.

We’ve all had similar seasons in our lives, sometimes lasting for years, not just for a couple of weeks. Sometimes the pressures of life simply put us on a treadmill from which, for awhile at least, there is no stepping off. What happens at those times is that we tend to beat ourselves up for getting caught in that situation. Frequently too friends and spiritual directors join in, berating us for not taking better care of ourselves, for not saying no to more things, and for not having the discipline to schedule regular prayer, exercise, and leisure into our lives.

Their challenge is not without value. We do need to take care of ourselves and it is not always a virtue to respond to every need that presents itself. But, that being said, it also needs to be said that sometimes, perhaps most of the time, the pressures of life, those duties and demands that rob us of leisure and rest and time for formal prayer, are, for all practical purposes, essentially a bad thing. There is a fasting and prayer too, by ascension.

Jesus, the Gospels tell us, once went into the desert for forty days and forty nights, taking no food and no nourishment. He fasted. In essence, what this says is that he deprived himself of the normal comforts and supports of ordinary human life. He voluntarily submitted to an asceticism designed to help move him to a deeper level of understanding, love, and maturity (the purpose of all voluntary asceticism). He actively sought out the desert.

Sometimes however the desert finds us. Whenever a season of our lives is so full of pressure so as to deny us the normal comforts and supports of ordinary life, then we too are in the desert and afforded the opportunity to use that deprivation as an asceticism that can help move us to a deeper level of understanding, love, and maturity; except in our case the asceticism is conscriptive rather than freely chosen.

Former spiritualities tried to teach this through a concept they called living out our duties of state. In an oversimplification, the idea was this: God puts us on this earth not just for leisure and enjoyment, but also to serve others and to give our lives over in unselfish duty. Our private happiness, and indeed our private sanctity, is not our highest goal. Once we accept this and begin to give our lives over in service, the duties innate within marriage, family, vocation, church, society, and the needy will, at times, consume us in ways that for long periods of time take away our freedom, our leisure, our rest, and even our time to pray as we ideally should. But that response to duty is also a healthy asceticism, albeit a conscriptive one, which can do for us the very things that private prayer and voluntary fasting can do, namely, push us beyond a self-centered life.

Biblically, this is captured in Jesus’ remark to Peter at the end of John’s Gospel. After Peter had three times affirmed his love and commitment, Jesus turned to him and said: Up to now, you have gird your belt and walked wherever you wanted to go, but now, after this conscriptive, others will pull a belt around you and take you where you would rather not go. What Jesus is telling Peter is that the duties that will now follow upon his commitment of faith and love will rob him not just of his leisure and his own plans for his life, but ultimately too they will rob him of his freedom and his very life. Duty can do that, and often does.

I know a woman whose children are now grown who once confessed to me that, while her children were toddlers, she sometimes went through long periods when she could not even carve our sufficient time for herself to go to the bathroom, not alone find time for leisure or time to pray or sit in solitude. Today she is one of the most unselfish and prayerful persons I know. Obviously her time in the desert of her own life, her feet held to the fire by duty, fasting by necessity from ordinary leisure, did for her what the desert did for Jesus and what the conscriptive rope did for Peter.

Unwelcome pressure, tiredness that we haven’t the luxury to address, and duties that take us beyond our own agendas, if accepted without resentment, can function as God’s conscriptive, ascetical hook, taking us, as if against our own will, to deeper and more mature places.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
**Island News & Events**

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**Harrison Ayre Installed as Acolyte**

*by Denise Buckley*

Sunday, January 23rd was a very special day at Christ the King Parish in Courtenay. Father Marek and the entire parish were pleased and privileged to welcome Bishop Richard who bestowed the order of Acolyte on Harrison Ayre, “our” seminarian, at the 10:30 Sunday Mass.

Bishop Richard, in his very informative and touching homily, explained the history and significance of the minor orders. This was much appreciated by the parishioners.

After the liturgical celebration, a reception hosted by the ladies of the CWL was held in the Assisi Room in honour of the occasion.

Congratulations Harrison—and thank you for being with us Bishop Richard!

---

**Special Mass for Michael Wayne Dunahoe**

*by Barbara Dunahoe*

On Thursday, March 24 at 12:10 pm a special Mass will be celebrated for Michael Dunahoe at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish, 849 Old Esquimalt Road. March 24 marks the 20th anniversary of Michael’s disappearance. Everyone is welcome.

Child Find BC will also hold the Michael Dunahoe Dance on Friday, April 8, and a Fun Run on Sunday, April 10, to raise funds to continue its work to find missing children. In Canada in 2008 a total of 56,102 children went missing, compared to 2009 in which 50,492 children disappeared. British Columbia children went missing, compared to 2009 in which 10,318 in 2009.

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**The Great Adventure in Ucluelet**

*by Maria Kaiser*

Holy Family Parish in Ucluelet has had a wonderful opportunity for a different kind of Bible study. Our group of seven women and one gentleman got together and began our quest to learn more about the Bible. We meet once a week for two hours, with Fr. Scott facilitating. We start with a prayer, followed by a group discussion about our homework and what the Scripture readings of the week mean to us. This is my favourite part of the study, and normally takes about an hour.

We then watch a one-hour video of Catholic “revert” Jeff Cavins giving a rundown on a particular period of the Bible, going through Scripture and referencing the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Great Adventure is a Catholic Bible study consisting of 24 sections, created in a simplified format, which follows the continuous story of God’s increasing revelation to humanity. It uses colour coding to help remember various biblical periods, charts, a workbook with questions and answers, and a timeline. The study references relevant principles and subjects found in the Catechism and Dei Verbum (The Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation).

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**The Great Adventure in Ucluelet**

*by Maria Kaiser*

Following are participant comments about what the study has done for them.

**Rita**

I get to have a better understanding of the Word and understand better the readings at Mass. I enjoy getting the history of my own religion starting from the beginning. It explains the whole story very well.

**Ken**

I’ve never read the Bible in order like this before. It has been very enriching. I look forward to our weekly sessions.

**Debbie**

The Great Adventure Bible Study has been an ongoing journey of greater comprehension and deepening faith. We are nearing the end of our Old Testament study. What has really struck me is that despite sinfulness and unfaithfulness God never gives up on His people. He continually calls us back to Him. That is so affirming for the world today and for me personally. God’s Will will prevail. The weekly sessions of discussion and sharing our responses to the questions have been enriching, and listening to Jeff Cavins’ talk expounds it all. This study has inspired a longing to learn more.

**Nora**

I like learning more about the life of Christ. I also love the company I am studying with!

**Edna**

The Bible study explains the whole story. I like the camaraderie of the group.

**Santina**

There is a lot of information to take in and I have to absorb a lot, but I pray and keep an open heart and mind that I understand it all.

**Meri**

I like getting together to learn about the history of the Bible. Our meeting together gives me more incentive to read further and learn more.

**Maria**

I like the approach of TGA (The Great Adventure). Despite my Catholic education and upbringing, I am learning the Bible in a way that gives me a more profound and deeper appreciation of my faith. It reminds me of the infinite love, forgiveness and protection I have and that I am never alone. I highly recommend this study to those who want to have a continued understanding of the Holy Bible and discover how it is relevant in your lives in the 21st century.

**Fr. Scott**

The Great Adventure Bible Study is an enjoyable way to learn the continuity of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, from the first covenant made with Adam and Eve, to the covenants made with the family of Noah, the tribe of Abraham, the nation under Moses, the united Kingdom under David, and finally all of humanity through Jesus Christ, our Universal Saviour. This study enriches one’s understanding not only of the Bible, but also of the Catholic Church and the Mass.

We meet every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m.

Visit the website for more information:

http://biblestudyforcatholics.com/information/home
Love and Remembrance
Bring Light to Church

New windows reflect local and First Nation heritage of little church

by Laura Lavin, Peninsula News Review
Reprinted with permission of Peninsula News Review

Love and loss have brought new light to Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Central Saanich. Long-time parishioner Lee Heide made a donation, in memory of his late wife Mary, to the church to make and install two new stained glass windows.

One of the windows was designed by First Nation artist Charles Elliott and incorporates the eagle, the salmon and the hands of blessing. The other, designed by Cavon Butler and Tim Smith, of Glass-Smith and Company in Victoria, who also built the windows, incorporates the sun, grapes, a sheaf of wheat and the Alpha and Omega.

“I love art, visual art,” said Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Vancouver Island Richard Gagnon. “Art helps us draw closer to God.”

Gagnon made a special appearance at Our Lady of Assumption to both celebrate the Eucharist and bless the two new windows. “It is particularly interesting that religious art focusses on God the Creator and his creation and is usually a reflection of our faith,” Gagnon said. “Art helps us to answer a call in our hearts that we long to respond to.”

Gagnon said, “we are working on healing and reconciliation in our diocese” and to that end they are bringing the Returning to Spirit program to Vancouver Island. The Returning to Spirit training program has been designed to address residential school issues and for anyone who wants to move beyond their existing limits and constraints.

The Returning to Spirit program is based on returning people to the spirit of who they are, rather than reliving their painful experience of residential school.

“Hearts have been changing in this diocese between ourselves and our First Nation brothers and sisters,” said Gagnon.

Art helps us draw closer to God.

Gagnon and Reverend Rolf Hasenack OP, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption and St. Elizabeth’s Church in Sidney, blessed the windows and congregation after Mass was celebrated Sunday.

By Denise Buckley

Hundreds gathered for a special liturgy on Friday, February 11, which marked the Seventh Annual “Healing Mass” at Christ the King Parish in the Comox Valley. This special Mass is always held on February 11, which is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and also “World Day of the Sick.”

Among the specially invited guests were residents of the various care facilities of the Valley, as well as shut-ins of the Parish, regular parishioners and the community at large. Greeters welcomed everyone as they entered the special liturgy presided over by Pastor Marek Paczka and concelebrated by Father Joseph Killoran.

Special readings made the liturgy unique. The ritual of healing included the bestowing of special oils (from St. Joseph’s Oratory, Montreal) on those physically, mentally or spiritually in need of healing. Many remarked at the overwhelming peace they felt as they received the blessings and prayers of the officiating clergy.

After Holy Mass, everyone was given a one-decade “walking Rosary” as a memento of the occasion. A hot breakfast was offered to everyone in the Lower Level, prepared and served by the Knights of Columbus of the Dr. Tilman Briggs Council.

Participants enjoy breakfast after the Healing Mass

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Diocesan Messenger – March 2011
The great mandate—Matthew 25: “The Lord wants us to visit.”

“First I was sick and you visited me. … In so far as you did this to one of the least of these, you did it to me,” Jesus said. (Matthew 25:36, 40) More than 30 people with equal representation from Nanaimo, Parksville, and Port Alberni gathered every two weeks during January and February for the Diocese of Victoria Hospital and Homebound Outreach Pilot Training Program. The material, developed by the Diocese of Victoria and still in the pilot phase, was enthusiastically welcomed by participants who have been eagerly awaiting this information and the encouragement to engage more in hospital and homebound visiting. Some were newcomers to pastoral care while others have had 12, 16 and as many as 20 years of experience visiting the sick, bereaved and lonely. Several also have formal training in pastoral care.

As a primary health care nurse practitioner and a parishioner of Trinity Catholic Church in Nanaimo, I was pleased to co-coordinate the four sessions. Scouting for “local talent” revealed a wealth of expertise to be mined in our area. People gave freely of their time and talent to enrich others who attended these sessions. Priests of four parishes opened their church doors to participants. Administrative Assistants in each of the parishes were indispensable in identifying people who could set up tables and chairs, prepare the room, operate audiovisual equipment, greet the participants and hand them their information packages, present sessions as lecturers, and prepare and serve refreshments during breaks. This involved almost three dozen people in four locations.

Participants at the first session at Church of the Ascension in Parksville

Session One at the Church of the Ascension (Parksville) opened with a DVD presentation by Fr. Mark Miller, PhD, a bioethicist who spoke of The Healing Ministry of Christ, stating that Jesus had a dual ministry of preaching the Good News and healing the sick. Christian community, not just health care personnel, needs to be involved in health care.

Gerry Herkel, also of Church of the Ascension, and a member of the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee, expanded upon the theme of The Healing Ministry of Christ, and encouraged us, saying, “we are all empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to Christ’s mission and presence … Parishes are coming to see that their pastoral responsibility includes addressing the life situations of parishioners in the home.”

Session Two at Trinity Catholic Church (Nanaimo) was presented by Moira King on the topic Communication and Listening Skills. Moira completed her one-year contract as the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Coordinator in September 2010. A parishioner of St. Joseph the Worker Church (Victoria), she is also very involved with the Hospital and Homebound Pilot Training Program on the Diocesan Health Care Committee, and a business communications and marketing consultant. Moira spoke about improving communication by learning to listen more effectively, gave examples of verbal and body language, and conducted fun breakout scenarios and role-playing techniques. She quoted Henri Nouwen, “Listening is the highest form of hospitality” and St. James (1:19), “Be quick to listen and slow to speak.”

Participants at the second session at Holy Family / Notre Dame Church in Port Alberni

Session Three at Holy Family / Notre Dame Church (Port Alberni) opened with a DVD presentation by Fr. Mark Miller PhD on the Healing Ministry in the Care of the Dying, reviewing the background of Christian care in hospices and the modern development of hospice and palliative care. Fr. Miller outlined the importance of pain control and symptom management in the care of the dying. The gifts that the dying can give us include sharing peak experiences that they often have during the dying process, their ability to re-unite family, and sharing the comfort and encouragement they often receive from God, often in a dream. Fr. Miller said, “Euthanasia steals a part of the dying process” and went on to describe how it steals from the community the chance to learn from the dying person.

We need to care for life in all its segments, to realize that these, our brothers and sisters, are wonderful teachers. We can learn, share, give, and build a faithfulness to one another, a community, an image of the love that conquers all.

~ Fr. Mark Miller PhD

Marge Norell, a retired registered nurse with extensive experience in palliative and hospice care, and a parishioner of Holy Family / Notre Dame Parish (Port Alberni), conducted a discussion with participants of lessons learned from the dying.

I addressed the topic The Grieving Process and Strategies for Coping With Loss. When we experience a major loss, grief is the normal and natural way our mind and body react. Everyone grieves differently, but there are common patterns people tend to share. I also presented information to assist with the process of healing.

Marilyn Klizs, of St. Edward’s Parish (Duncan), worked as Pastoral Care Coordinator at the Cowichan District Hospital, retiring in 2008. A member of the Diocesan Health Care Committee, she presented Ministering to People With Mental Health Issues and Ministering to Families. Marilyn discussed the various experiences of grief and that each person has his or her own timetable and his or her own style of grief, including ways in which families cope and how to communicate with children.

Session Four Who Am I As a Caregiver, which was a video presentation by Fr. Mark Miller followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Marian Lord, dealt with the philosophy of Care Giving and also provided details on preparation for the pastoral visit, the actual visit, and the follow-up. This final presentation took place at St. Peter’s Church (Nanaimo) on Saturday, February 19. Marian, who has a degree in Theology, is a parishioner of Trinity Catholic Church (Nanaimo) and former staff chaplain for the neurology and neurosurgery units in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

The Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee will provide more details in the coming months on the Hospital and Homebound Training Outreach Program and its role in answering Jesus’ call to service.

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Put your trust in our professional service
If I’ve heard it once, I’ve heard it a million times (not that I’m given to hyperbole or anything). “Wow, you look like your Dad!” Or, “I see so much of your Mom in you!” People I don’t even know seem to be able to recognize me. You look so much like your folks, I’d have known you anywhere.

It’s all over my face, this identity. I’ve had to say there are pretty strong genes in my family. For example, each of my brother’s five children has a distinct look, but there is a visual thread that ties them together. You can tell they are related just by looking at them. My nephew is the spitting image of his father, who is, as George Farquhar wrote in The Constant Couple, “as like his own dadda as sin.” My sister’s son is a mini-mom, with a similar mop of hair and a similar bottle, “… as if he were spit out of his mouth.” One of my nieces looks an awful lot like other members of her immediate family—but in an odd quirk of genetics, she resembles me a great deal. More than that, my brother has a unique lower lip that wasn’t apparent on anyone else in the family—yet when we looked at old photos, there was it quietly established generations before on Great-Grandma Walters. “Aha!” we crowed. “There it is!” As if that one feature called into question whether he was “right.”

Yes, there is an image that ties us all together, that identifies us as being part of a larger family, something that we cannot escape. Not to pick on my brother or anything (though turnabout is sometimes fair play even decades later), at his wedding, pictures were taken of the bride’s mother and the groom’s father, a pictorial foreshadowing of how the happy couple might look years hence. Teenagers sometimes find this discouraging: looking like your parent isn’t necessarily regarded as a good thing when you are young and unwrinkled, but the older you get, the more I catch a fleeting glimpse of someone else’s face in my mirror.

Nice to see you again. I’d know you anywhere.

When we were little, my brother and I used to look into our Mom’s face and chorus, “I see Davey in your eyes,” or “I see Connie in your eyes.” We referred to the minuscule, dancing reflections of our tiny selves, but perhaps out of the mouths of babies came a profound truth. Perhaps it really meant much more.

My brother has an amazing ability to connect in conversation with someone, his eyes intent on theirs with genuine concern, compassion and interest. It’s as though he recognizes something in them even if he doesn’t know them. OK, honestly, he’s got five kids, so I’m not saying he never glares impatiently (it’s genetic). But there have been many times I’ve looked at my brother while he looked at me—and recognized us. Times we nearly exploded with unexpressed mirth at the dinner table. A glance across a room that spoke volumes about the conversation he was having. A look that expressed a never-before-experienced grief at Mom’s funeral. Joy and delight honouring our Dad at his retirement party. Inside jokes and meaningful conversations shared in an instant.

In January I showed up unexpectedly in Barrie, Ontario to celebrate my brother’s 50th birthday. I’d never seen the look on his face when the door opened and he saw me standing there. I’d never forget the tears that filled those eyes, so like mine, when they looked at me and recognized us, and I’d never ever forget the wonderful hug that followed.

It was a case of taken identity, times two. I claimed him and he claimed me, together more than the sum of our individualities, more than brother and sister, more than friends. I saw in him the love of God for us, grace in the blink of an eye. I’d have known you anywhere.

Then there are the times when the image you see is almost, but not quite the person you think you know. I once spent several minutes chatting with someone whom I thought I recognized as my good friend from junior high. It had been three years since I’d seen her, because we went to different high schools. She did the classic double-take, stopped in mid-stride and said, “Heeeeey! How’re ya?” I knew and recognized her face, yet I couldn’t place her. It’s so easy to ignore the outstretched hand, the pleading glance, the shame disguised as hostility. We pretend not to hear the unasked question, and turn away from what—and whom—we fear as unfamiliar, threatening, distancing.

But imagine if we intentionally looked for God in all people—and imagine that we found Him. Could we gaze into the familiar face of love and joy and delight honouring our Dad at his retirement party. Inside jokes and meaningful conversations shared in an instant.

There You are. I’ll know You everywhere.

There have been many times I’ve looked at my brother while he looked at me—and recognized us. Times we nearly exploded with unexpressed mirth at the dinner table. A glance across a room that spoke volumes about the conversation he was having. A look that expressed a never-before-experienced grief at Mom’s funeral. Joy and delight honouring our Dad at his retirement party. Inside jokes and meaningful conversations shared in an instant.

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But wait—there’s more. It means the image of God is not only in you, but also in those around you, waiting to be recognized and celebrated, longing for someone to wake up and truly look with eyes that see. And then to take action. Maybe even to change how we act, and how we treat each other. As Mother Teresa said, “each one of us God is Jesus in disguise.”

The poor walk beside us every day, hungry for love, lonely in a crowd. Maybe the very people we think we already know are the ones we see the least. Perhaps there’s someone at the next desk or in the next room, quietly losing hope. It could be strangers on the street.

Maybe it’s who you need to be seen.

It’s so easy to ignore the outstretched hand, the pleading glance, the shame disguised as hostility. We pretend not to hear the unasked question, and turn away from what—and whom—we fear as unfamiliar, threatening, distancing.

But imagine if we intentionally looked for God in all people—and imagine that we found Him. Could we gaze into the familiar face of love and not be changed?

There You are. I’ll know You everywhere.
**New Beginnings**

**Final Totals for the Journey of Hearts and Hands**

by The Appeal Team

As you know, the monies raised will meet the ongoing needs of the faithful in 2011 and continually for years to come in future appeals. We are now turning our attention to the programs and using the funds for their intended purposes throughout the Diocese and parishes. In fact, the first payment has been made to parishes for their share of the Appeal funds received to-date. Because the goal was exceeded, all programs will receive a pro-rata share of the actual funds received.

**APPEAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- A Priests’ Steering Committee, made up of pastors representing every region of the Diocese, was established to lead the Appeal.
- Sound and fair policies were created which will serve as a framework for future years.
- Over 340 parishioners attended regional receptions with Bishop Gagnon.
- More than 120 Appeal volunteers were recruited and trained.
- Individual parish training meetings were conducted in almost every parish.
- Two parishes raised more than $100,000.
- Eight parishes raised between $50,000 and $99,000.
- Through the sharing formula, parishes will receive over $400,000 for their local needs.

**Parish Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Priest</th>
<th>Parish Goal</th>
<th>Number of Gifts</th>
<th>Amount Pledged</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
<th>Avg Gift</th>
<th>For Parish Priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew’s Cathedral</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev John Lasczcyk</td>
<td>$111,000</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>$275,502</td>
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<td>$735</td>
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<td>Christ the King</td>
<td>Courtenay</td>
<td>Rev Marek Paczka, S.D.S.</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>$58,110</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>$440</td>
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<td>St. Patrick’s</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Paul Murphy</td>
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<td>212</td>
<td>$105,934</td>
<td>151%</td>
<td>$560</td>
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<td>Saanich Peninsula</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>Rev Rolf Hasenack, O.P.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>$53,484</td>
<td>107%</td>
<td>$337</td>
<td>$12,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter’s Parish /</td>
<td>Nanaimo</td>
<td>Rev Waldemar Podlasi, S.D.S.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>$71,701</td>
<td>143%</td>
<td>$556</td>
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<td>Ol. of Victory Mission</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev William Hann</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>$58,155</td>
<td>116%</td>
<td>$361</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Joseph the Worker</td>
<td>Campbell River</td>
<td>Rev Vincent Borre</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$38,345</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$383</td>
<td>$7,669</td>
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<td>Church of Ascension</td>
<td>Parksville</td>
<td>Rev Josef Kobos, S.D.S.</td>
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<td>119</td>
<td>$36,274</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$305</td>
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<td>St. Edward’s</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
<td>Rev Alfredo Monacelli</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>$50,178</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>$369</td>
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<td>Holy Cross Parish</td>
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<td>Rev Msgr Michael Lapierre</td>
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<td>$83,636</td>
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<td>$594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Family?Notre Dame</td>
<td>Port Alberni</td>
<td>Rev Stephen Paine</td>
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<td>141</td>
<td>$62,470</td>
<td>160%</td>
<td>$443</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>Rev William MacDonald, O.M.I.</td>
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<td>144</td>
<td>$43,820</td>
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<td>$304</td>
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<td>Trinity Catholic</td>
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<td>Rev Piotr Golinski</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>$37,080</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$371</td>
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<td>Our Lady of the Rosary</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Paul Szczur, S.D.S.</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>$44,949</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$505</td>
<td>$16,159</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis Xavier/</td>
<td>Mill Bay</td>
<td>Rev Sean Flynn</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
<td>118%</td>
<td>$486</td>
<td>$8,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady Queen of the World</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Manuel Cardoso</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$24,180</td>
<td>127%</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Fatima</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Larrie Soberano</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
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<td>$15,860</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>$369</td>
<td>$3,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>Rev Oscar Paraiso</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$6,030</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>$317</td>
<td>$1,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Rose of Lima</td>
<td>Sooke</td>
<td>Rev Michael Favero</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>$55,418</td>
<td>369%</td>
<td>$803</td>
<td>$40,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady Queen of Peace</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Alex MacLellan</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>$23,584</td>
<td>168%</td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$10,467</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Joseph’s</td>
<td>Chemainus</td>
<td>Rev Oscar Paraiso</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$8,720</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>$396</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Leopold Mandic</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Juro Marcinkovic, OFM</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Ann’s</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
<td>Rev Iai Joseph</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$4,120</td>
<td>118%</td>
<td>$515</td>
<td>$1,196</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Louis de Montfort</td>
<td>Lake Cowichan</td>
<td>Rev Iai Joseph</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Jean Baptiste</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Rev Benoit Laplante</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$8,840</td>
<td>177%</td>
<td>$340</td>
<td>$4,072</td>
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<td>Holy Family</td>
<td>Uchulet</td>
<td>Rev Scott Whittemore</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$2,720</td>
<td>272%</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$1,720</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi</td>
<td>Tofino</td>
<td>Rev Scott Whittemore</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,525</td>
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<td>$305</td>
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<td>St. Bonaventure</td>
<td>Port Hardy</td>
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<td>$12</td>
<td>$14,455</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Totals** | 2,544 | **$1,214,140** | **162%** | **$477** | **$488,062** |

On behalf of the Appeal Team, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who made the Journey of Hearts and Hands a success. Not only did we meet the goal but we exceeded it by 162% with more than 2,500 gifts! Leadership and participation was a critical part of the Appeal’s success. Priests and Lay Leaders not only responded to requests with their financial generosity, but with their time and effort in asking fellow parishioners to also support the Diocese of Victoria. Thank you!
Dear Parishioners of the Diocese of Victoria,

I wish to write to you in order to extend a word of congratulations and thanksgiving for a very successful inaugural year of our Journey of Hearts and Hands Diocesan Appeal. The Appeal was set at $750,000 and the amount pledged was $1,234,140 representing 162% of our Appeal goal. The monies raised will be applied to individual parishes for their pastoral needs and to the Diocesan programs and initiatives, as outlined in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

This achievement is immensely positive for our Diocese and represents a new beginning of working together for a common goal. The Journey of Hearts and Hands Appeal is about participation and involvement on the part of the People of God in their parishes and the Diocese. I wish to thank most sincerely every one of the 2,500 parishioners, clergy and religious who participated in the Appeal and laid such a strong foundation for future growth. As we look to the future together, it is my prayer that support for our Journey of Hearts and Hands will see an even greater level of participation. We can truly do great things together.

I am most grateful to our clergy, religious and lay leaders who provided leadership and motivation. I wish to also thank, once again, our Diocesan Staff at the Pastoral Centre who dedicated many hours during the course of the Appeal.

With solidarity in prayer, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard Gagnon
Bishop of Victoria

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Parish Pastoral Council Workshops

The Diocese of Victoria will be hosting evening workshops for Parish Pastoral Councils on implementing the Pastoral Plan at the parish level. The workshop will include specific topics for parish councils, including:

- Review of Pastoral Plan
- Individual parish results
- Priority setting
- Goals
- Implementation
- Timelines
- Identifying and measuring results

The workshops are designed to provide working interactive sessions for parish councils so we encourage the entire council to attend along with the pastor. To accommodate larger numbers and group discussion there are two locations and session dates to choose from.

Victoria
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2011
Time: 7 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Place: Holy Cross Parish, Victoria

Mid-Island
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2011
Time: 7 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Place: Church of the Ascension, Parksville

Please RSVP by March 11th to Isabel at 250-479-1331 or iharding@rcdvictoria.org

---

Fundraising Coordinator
Required for the Diocesan Appeal

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria seeks a Fundraising Coordinator for our Annual Appeal.

The ideal candidate will assist the Appeal Steering Committee to develop and implement an annual fundraising strategy. The successful candidate must be able to work independently, be a self-starter and work well under time constraints for this challenging position.

Principal Responsibilities:

- develop and implement a fundraising strategy
- promote stewardship principles
- set priorities, goals and budgets
- recruit, develop and facilitate volunteers
- identify and cultivate potential donors
- communicate with current donors and stakeholders
- prepare marketing materials and presentations to deliver to potential donors and key stakeholders
- work collaboratively with Appeal Steering Committee

Special skills, knowledge or technical expertise:

- organizational and project management skills
- high level of creativity and strong attention to detail
- outgoing, confident, persuasive communicator with excellent writing skills
- adaptable to change and able to work flexible hours
- considerable knowledge of the principles and practices governing a Catholic environment
- knowledge of stewardship principles
- excellent computer skills, including advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite and statistical reporting
- background in fundraising, marketing or public relations is preferable

Compensation will be based on skills, experience and hours.

Please submit a resume by March 31, 2011:
Personnel and Recruitment Committee
Diocesan Pastoral Centre
1 - 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8X 2A1

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Being in the Now

by Fr. William Hann and Roseline Ferre

They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the Apostles. (Acts 2. 42-43)

I am fascinated by the charisma of the early Church and the beginning Church in the days, months and years after Christ died and rose again. They had courage and the willingness to assume responsibility and risk. In many ways, we as a Diocese are asking ourselves those same questions: how do we witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in a world in one word, and seemingly turned off? How do we continue to be agents of hope and healing in a culture of cynicism and despair? Ultimately, history will answer those questions for us but being in the now is of the essence. We can engage the culture in which we live, or we can hide from it.

As pastor of St. Joseph the Worker parish for five years now, I feel very positive about proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and building communities of hope that service the needs of people and build up the Church. I believe a parish community must have the courage, wisdom and willingness to look within in order to better understand how we can continue moving forward in Christ and living out the mission of the Church entrusted to us as a pilgrim people in a pilgrim Church. Here at St. Joseph the Worker Parish we looked within. We asked ourselves a very important question: how do we measure up as disciples of Jesus Christ? And then: Are we building community? What are the experiences of parishioners in this community of faith? What are the needs of the members of this community? As pastor, I see my role as calling forth the gifts of each member of the parish and allowing them to be church. How do I do that?

We conducted a survey to get a sense of what people were experiencing, feeling and needing in our community. This faith community-based process sought to direct all activities and ministries in our parish toward the fulfillment of the basic mission of the Church in light of the current circumstances within our local area. In consultation with the parish community we were able to create a plan of action based on the essential mission of the Church. Pastoral planning seeks to create opportunities for pastoral leaders and all members in each parish to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the local Church through the lens of mission.

At St. Joseph the Worker Parish, the Parish Council led the planning process. As a first step, it developed and implemented a survey to gather input from all parishioners. Inspired with the feedback, the Council then held a retreat to develop parish goals and an action plan. The Council members are now accountable for implementing this plan.

This planning process was an exercise in collaborative ministry with the entire parish community. We can’t do everything, but with focus on priorities, we can do some things very well. It is my belief that the pastoral planning process allows us to engage in a conversation regarding the resources available to the Church and those needed to fulfill the mission entrusted to us. As a result of this process, we as a parish community were able to put in order the gifts and resources of St. Joseph the Worker Parish to enable the Gospel to be proclaimed throughout our community with ever-increasing vibrancy and enthusiasm.

Below you will find the vision and goals of our community as a result of this engaging process:

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH VISION AND GOALS 2009-2012

The following goals for 2009-2012 were developed at the Parish Council Retreat based on input received in the 2009 Parish Survey.

Preamble

We at St. Joseph the Worker parish are a Roman Catholic Faith Community who, by virtue of our baptism are called upon to be church. Over the next three years we will continue to respond to the Church’s mission of the Church. Pastoral planning seeks to create opportunities for pastoral leaders and all members in each parish to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the local Church through the lens of mission.

Do You Know this Man?

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend the First Annual Diocesan Pastoral Planning Conference

October 28 – 29, 2011

and you will! In fact you won’t forget him!

David Wells is married with three children and lives in Devon, England:

• Seven years as a senior high school teacher
• Two years as a Research Assistant for the Catholic Education Service in London
• Six years as Adult Religious Education Adviser for the Nottingham Diocese
• Currently Co-Director of the Department for Formation, Plymouth Diocese
• Currently a member of the Bishops Conference for Britain and Wales Committee for Catechesis and Adult Religious Education
• Renowned (and entertaining) speaker presenting seminars in many parts of the world, including USA, Canada and Eastern Europe as well as throughout the UK
• A popular speaker at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress
• Developed learning programmes for parents, including You, Your Children and their Catholic Faith
• Important loves of his life are his family, football and food!

David Wells will lead off an exciting conference which will include international, national and local experts in living a vibrant Faith in an increasingly challenging culture. Beginning with recognizing the root causes of our culture’s apparent downward spiral, and then identifying key principles and agents for hope, this Conference will get to the essentials and the practical, right down to our own backyard by incorporating our Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Plans. Mark your calendar! October 28 – 29, 2011.
**Catholic Schools**

**Superintendent’s Message**

*By Leo Chalain*

Working in Island Catholic Schools is a privilege and an honour. Parents, who are the primary educators of their children, delegate to us the awesome responsibility of taking God’s most precious gifts, their children, and we do our utmost to help them become mature, creative, thoughtful, respectful, loving, educated and contributing members of the community and of Christ’s family.

We take that responsibility seriously and work hard to fulfill our calling. We are educated and trained to professional standards and we strive to provide every student with the best opportunities available to promote growth and fulfillment to help the student become a responsible citizen of this world and one fully prepared for a life yet to come. We want students to excel in mathematics, science, in literature, in the arts, in languages, social studies and citizenship, and in physical and emotional well-being. But above all else, we want our students to recognize through what we say and do that we are made for God. He has made us to be his own and, no matter what we do, He will always love us unconditionally.

Our call is to help their daughters and sons develop a personal, close and loving relationship with Jesus as they also become well-educated citizens for the 21st century.

In support of parents and in acting out our calling, we teach students that God loves each of us with a love that cannot be quenched, a love so profound that He sent His son Jesus Christ to save us and bring us home. We teach that Jesus is the centre of who we are and He always will be; that He knew us by name before we were born; that out of love for us He died to save us. And, if we do our jobs well, the students develop a content for living, a moral compass to steer by and a strong desire for an ultimate destiny greater than worldly fame and wealth.

Rest assured, however, that our schools are places of learning. Academics matter. Studies matter. Excellence matters: in all we do excellence is not only a motto but an ever-arching goal. Our graduates achieve success at university and in the workplace. They are prepared to serve and the entire community benefits from their endeavours. They become artists, doctors, carpenters, nurses, office workers, teachers, computer operators and programmers, and some become scientists. Whatever careers they have, whatever jobs they do, they have been taught always to do their best. They become moms and dads who strive to raise their children in the faith they have been gifted by God. They are, many of them, the parents who have entrusted their children to us. Our call is to help their daughters and sons develop a personal, close and loving relationship with Jesus as they also become well-educated citizens for the 21st century.

This cycle of learning and faith enrichment is what the Church has done for 1500 years or more and it is a tradition we are proud to call our own. If you have not enrolled your children in our schools, give it serious consideration now. Visit our Island Catholic Schools website at www.cisdv.bc.ca. There are links there to each of our seven schools. The benefits are distinct and observable. You can have faith in our schools.

Over 150,000 participants from 137 countries have already registered, and an estimated 300,000 youth will take part in the program.
Annual Hoops for Hearts Basketball Tournament

by Kim Arthurs

This year during Catholic Schools Week, St. Andrew’s Regional High School hosted 110 students and 15 staff members in an all-day 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Approximately $2,800 was raised to help support the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Students showed their team spirit by dressing in fun and outrageous pink and red outfits. We had our first King and Queen of Hearts, and our first international team made up solely of international students!

The games were intense and highly contested, with the winning teams playing against the teachers at the end of the day.

Many, many thanks to the PE 11/12 students, in particular to Rebecka Crighton, Stephanie Crighton, and Chrish Jeyapal who worked tirelessly all day to ensure the success of the event.

The following quotes help describe what the day is all about:

Hoops for Hearts was amazing as always. Our school really came together to raise some money and have a great time playing a sport we love. Everyone played with heart and enthusiasm and had a terrific time.

~ Julie, Grade 12

Hoops for Hearts was awesome this year! The enthusiasm was outstanding all day long. Each team brought its own spirit which just morphed when all the teams were together, making the experience just that much more thrilling. I believe our school community grew closer together having so much fun for a worthy cause. Our school truly exemplified our motto “to build in love.”

~ Rebecka, Grade 11

Every year Hoops for Hearts is such a success. It’s a lot of fun to be part of, and a great way to see so many people in a school community raising money for such a worthy cause.

~ Julie, Grade 11

It is great belonging to a school community that has so much pride.

~ Elliot, Grade 11

Who won in the end? Well, teacher Danny Brock, out of breath and sweating profusely, put it well when he quipped, “They’re young … and we’re old.”

Nevertheless, both the Junior and Senior games ended in a tie.

Many thanks to Sika for their very generous prize donations during the tournament. The students loved and appreciated the bags, t-shirts, water bottles and stickers.

Images out of Africa

Former St. Andrew’s Elementary Artist explores contemporary art of Rwanda

Reprinted courtesy of the Times Colonist

When Eric Mazimpaka embarked on his journey to make What Will Tomorrow Bring, a documentary about the rise of contemporary art in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide, he started by doing what he does best—painting. The African refugee painted a portrait of K’naan, whose single Wavin’ Flag became the unofficial anthem for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. After catching up with the Somali-Canadian rapper at the Winter Olympics, Mazimpaka, 23, showed him his painting and got him to sign it. It reads: “K’naan supports What Will Tomorrow Bring.”

He has since collected dozens more, including from two former child soldiers from Uganda and students he addressed at an assembly last fall at St. Andrews Elementary School, the first school Mazimpaka attended when his family immigrated here. He hopes to finish his film next year.

It typifies the drive and optimism of a man who has had good reason to wallow in self-pity yet chooses to embrace a Rwandan movement’s belief that, “It’s better to light a candle than curse the dark.”

The Nairobi-born artist’s family moved to Rwanda when he was an infant, and fled to Uganda two years later. He lost his father amid the east African nation’s unrest, and encountered more racism after relocating to a ghetto in Sweden.

After being sponsored by St. Andrews (Cathedral) Refugee Association, he immigrated to Victoria at age nine with his mother Claire, a residential care attendant, and brothers Cassius, now 31, and James, 19. Soon thereafter, the blizzard of 1996 struck.

“What is this? Why can’t I just get a break?” Mazimpaka says, looking upward and bursting into the infectious laughter that punctuates much of what he says as he recalls his reaction to Victoria’s notorious snowstorm.

Negativity isn’t an option for Mazimpaka, an amateur boxer who also practices “another form of healing”—capoeira, an African-based fusion of martial arts, dance, self-defense, music, culture and play.

“There are so many things you can be negative about, but if you look at the full spectrum, there are worse things,” he says. “Cherish that, and don’t ever take that for granted. What do I have to be sad about? I don’t have to walk for four days of mining to be paid 10 Euros to feed a family of eight, and to be chased by rebels.”

He is referring to an issue he hopes to raise awareness of through his documentary and SIYON (Stand in Your Own Nation) Studios, the local fine art clothing company he operates with partners Benjamin Stewart and Kevin Parks.

It’s the practice of illegal mining and smuggling of precious minerals like coltan, used to manufacture cellphones, DVD players and other consumer electronics, by rebel militias who enslave the local population, including children, in the Congo.

Despite pleas from humanitarian organizations to classify Congo coltan as a “blood mineral,” it’s still being imported.

“This is happening right now in the Congo, in this day and age,” sighs Mazimpaka, whose grandfather grew up in the Congo.

Despite pleas from humanitarian organizations to classify Congo coltan as a “blood mineral,” it’s still being imported.

“People can’t go into the Congo, unless it’s to see how much he inspired students at the school when he visited last year.

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What Might the Future Hold for Me?

By Jamie Zwicker

Students in Stuart Andre’s Grade 11 Religion class were invited to a special breakfast during Catholic Schools Week. Hosted by the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) and the Knights of Columbus, these two Catholic service organizations presented ways to further hone students’ spirituality of service and knowledge of their Catholic faith, with the support of friendship. Along the way, both the CWL and the Knights of Columbus presented snippets of their founders and long history of the services they provide.

Students were exposed to these two organizations in particular because it was felt that high school-aged students needed to see the connection between student life now and life in the not-so-distant future. “In fact,” said Mr. Andre, the purpose was to show that “there exist within the Church avenues which allow students to support their faith through service and friendship.”

The Catholic Women’s League began offering assistance to immigrants arriving by train in downtown Edmonton, Alberta after the First World War. Since then, the CWL has spread throughout the countries having over 100,000 members representing the largest Catholic women’s organization in the country, and work hard to lobby various levels of government, whether in Ottawa or hosting a hospitality suite at the Vancouver Olympics,” says Carol Vesvick. The whole time we are having fun—otherwise, why would we do it!”

“We are not just old men with fancy hats and flipping pancakes,” says Stephen Usaith, with a smiling nod to his father, Roland. “We are making a difference in changing and saving peoples’ lives.” It has even helped change the attitude of a Knight and former hardened police officer who began to see “the person behind the addiction” after his involvement with the Knights. From humble beginnings as a fraternity aimed at helping one another’s families in sickness and death, the Knights currently administer an $80 billion insurance plan. Present in 15 countries with 1.8 million members, they also do much to support the Church in friendship, service and spirituality. “That’s pretty impressive,” says Dante Fiocco. “I never knew they had so many members. And they raise money for wheelchairs in Third World countries too!”

Both of these organizations provide much of the support at the local parish level, and provide a rather impressive source of voluntary labour at the service of the local community. Typically, they perform many of the ‘seen and must-do’ jobs that help make our parishes function: hosting and coordinating parish bazaars, serving on building committees, hosting breakfasts and meals (including this one), among other forms of outreach. They also work hard at furthering their own education and develop their own charisms through meetings and conferences at the diocesan, provincial and national level. And all of this is done within a supportive spirit of congeniality and friendship.

For Mr. Andre, students have responded well to these presentations over the past five years. Will the High School and Mr. Andre do it again? “You bet.”

Love of Sport and Students

By Jamie Zwicker

Ms. Deb Garner, University of Victoria graduate and current substitute teacher, effectively combines her love of sport and love of students at St. Andrew’s Regional High School (SARHS).

All her life, including active participation as a child, Deb has been heavily involved in the local sporting scene in several sports. For the past three years, she has dedicated her time and attention to the SARHS Junior Girls Basketball team as their coach.

Coaching is not new to Ms. Garner. She has actively coached organized sports since her years studying Physical Education at the University of Victoria, and has coached many high school sports including volleyball, soccer, and basketball. For the last three years, Ms. Garner has been dedicated to the Junior Girls Basketball team at the SARHS.

Her philosophy is simple: share with every student the benefits of hard work in a positive and productive setting. “Every athlete brings something unique to the team,” says Ms. Garner. “Some are more skilled, some are more enthusiastic. But each and every one has her own place on the team, and contributes in her own way.” And her approach appears to work. Rather than cutting players from the team (she admits that she doesn’t like to do that), she instead supports alternate players who would otherwise not have a chance to participate. She also has a group of solid players from which she can recruit and support for the next year. Every week she spends as many as four hours or more running practices and games, emailing and organizing, but she has the support of parents and her sponsor teacher—even volunteer driving.

The camaraderie of a well-oiled team is in part its own success. “The smiles, the laughs, and high-fives are what it is all about. The score, although it is nice when we pull ahead, is irrelevant. There is something to be said about winning—and losing—graciously.”

As for the team’s success, Ms. Garner has been impressed. “We have a little more height, a lot more control, and an overall improved understanding of the game. With a recipe like that, you can’t help but be impressed.”

Knights of Columbus and CWL share with students

Fr. Mel Bayron, school chaplain, and the children at St. Andrew’s Elementary Academy of the Word, kicking off Catholic Schools Week.

Both organizations offer post-secondary bursaries to students to help offset the costs incurred in furthering their education.

An Easter Tradition

by Eleanor Braun (Grade 7, St. Joseph’s School Chemainus)

Jesus Christ our Lord made the ultimate sacrifice by suffering through torture and finally dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Amazingly, He rose on the third day.

There is a tradition that remembers these outstanding sacrifices by putting on wreaths made of red and green. The red symbolizes the blood that was shed for all, and the green new life.

At Easter, we celebrate the great miracle of Jesus rising from the dead.

The Cost

by Naomi Liu (Grade 7, St. Joseph’s School Chemainus)

When I saw a Cross one day
I felt that I should repay
for Good Friday,
the day He died

Jesus died upon that Cross
for us, who were all lost.
Jesus calls us home.
He paid the cost.

Jesus, the Resurrected One

by Megan Leslie (Grade 7, St. Joseph’s School Chemainus)

When the stone was rolled away
I found it true, that He would pay
for all our sins and bad things we say.

Jesus died upon that tree
to set my broken heart so free
It lets me know that He loved me.
He loves us, and all our kin
He paid the price for our all our sin
and I am Mary Magdalene!

He Rose Again

by Bryton Madsen (Grade 7, St. Joseph’s School Chemainus)

In love, for us, He was crucified.
He lived.
He died.
He sacrificed.
Buried in love
He conquered hate
The stone that guarded the sacred gate
He moved, rolling from its place.
He saved us from our sinful ways
and on the third day He rose
to walk among us once again!

Jesus Reigns

by Carly Jabelka (Grade 7, St. Joseph’s School Chemainus)

Jesus reigns
He lives again
Resurrected from the dead.
His tomb was so heavy
but with might
He moves the stone in the night.
His body
His blood
His holy strength
healing love and sacrifice
were poured out free
from when He rose
eto eternity.
What do the Catholic faith communities of Ucluelet, Tofino and Ahousaht have in common? Yes, their shared faith in Christ, yes, their experience of the presence of Christ through the Sacraments of the Universal Catholic Church, made present on a local level. Yes, they are all on the far West Coast of Vancouver Island. Some people refer to this area as the “wet coast,” the “Wild West coast,” the “far left coast,” or “The Edge” (of the world). Did you know that each of these communities also has a church building? And you may not have known that they have the same priest. For many years Fr. Phil Smith OMI served these communities.

I would like to take you on a narrated and photographic tour of these places and some of the associated people. We’ll begin in Ucluelet, where the priest normally resides. The population of Ucluelet is about 1800, with about 25 or so attending our Sunday Mass at Holy Family Church. During the past year, Ucluelet received international recognition for the Wild Pacific Trail, for the Black Rock Resort, and for The Great Adventure Bible Study held at Ken and Debbie Webb’s place. Yes, our Bible study really has put Ucluelet on the world map!

The Holy Family Women’s Auxiliary does some fundraising for the parish, including the sale of apple pies and an annual bazaar, and the women help to provide motivation for renovating the rectory to make it look “more civilized,” or something like that. Some men of the parish, and others outside of it, have contributed their time, skill, knowledge and supplies for building restorations. The Knights of Columbus from Christ the King Parish in Courtenay also have helped with renovations and restorations and more. Three times they have made the long and windy trip (with some “car sickness”) from the drier east coast of Vancouver Island, through Sutton Pass in one of the Island’s highest ranges, and over to the “far wet coast.” Not only have they provided moral and financial support here, but they have also restored the church confessionals, patched and painted the stairway and living room in the rectory, and supplied the office with a printer.

We have added a weekday Mass, which sees about four participants. Some say that they come so that I am not alone, but I believe that it is Christ who draws them here. After every Sunday Mass we have coffee, tea and assorted items to eat. It is a time to linger in our Christian fellowship and to welcome visitors.

Three times a week the priest from Ucluelet makes a 40-minute drive through the very scenic Pacific Rim National Park to offer Mass at St Francis of Assisi Church in Tofino. This town of about 1,600 is world renowned, so we get many tourists attending Mass here. I appreciate seeing the witness of their faithful presence, noting that they have not taken a vacation from their vocation as Christians.

Sometimes we have numerous young Filipinos attending Mass when they are able to get away from their work in the various resorts. Weekend Masses have a small handful of participants, while the Saturday evening Masses get 15 to 20 or 30 or more, depending on the season.

Contrary to the outward appearance of this church, it is very beautiful inside. The stained glass windows, locally made altar and lectern and the smell of cedar enhance the appeal of this place of worship. The three religious Sisters who reside in this area (St. Anita, St. Laura and Sr. Margaret) have for many decades taken good care of the church and add to its beauty with their presence, music, and the gift of many flowers from a local florist.

Every year St Francis of Assisi parish puts on a huge bazaar, which brings in as much as $20,000. The three Sisters are the primary organizers and workhorses of this event, though they are supported by the work and financial generosity of many, many others. All sorts of people from Tofino contribute to this bazaar: baking; smoking salmon; preparing food for lunch; making crafts, always including a much-coveted quilt; donating gifts for the raffle, auctions or table sales; setting up; buying and bidding on the items; and helping to dismantle and clean up afterwards. Last year, one resort owner even provided a paid employee to help for the day. The proceeds of this bazaar provide at least 80 large Christmas hampers, support the local church, and afford something for people in need, both locally and internationally.

Some say that they come so that I am not alone, but I believe that it is Christ who draws them here.

On the second Sunday of each month, and occasionally at other times, the priest takes a 45-minute boat ride from Tofino to the village of Ahousaht, on Flores Island. Here reside about 1,000 Nuu-chah-nulth People. The infrastructure of this community is developing greatly and the population is growing. Here it is so encouraging and joyful to see the value and priority that is given to family life and to community relationships. Baptisms are an important event, which are followed by a huge feast, all of the cake, pie, jello, and other sweet things that you can eat in one sitting, and then some. Sunday Masses have a half a dozen or more, but sometimes there are two dozen or more, especially when there is a baptism. On Christmas Eve 2009, when Bishop Richard presided, we had something like 80 people present.

If you have ever seen the film I Heard the Owl Call My Name you would have seen many people from Ahousaht and St. Lawrence Church. The building certainly has seen better days, and its condition is beyond restoration. The foundation has been eroded to the point that the steeple is starting to collapse, windows are almost slipping out, and the floor has a long (and ever-growing) crack. We need a new church building. For many years there has been talk of building an ecumenical Christian church in Ahousaht.

It is a joy for me to provide a priestly presence in Ahousaht. There is such an acceptance that to be human is to be spiritual, and even religious. So many people have been welcoming and have made an effort to help me to feel accepted and included. At a community potluck supper there was a mock wedding for the fun of everyone present, which included me. I was given a role and title as “Chief Vatican.”

I hope and pray that this tour of the places and faces here on the “wet coast” gives a sense of Catholic life in the small, rural and isolated communities of Ucluelet, Tofino and Ahousaht. Please pray for our growth in love and faith, and for the growth of our lives as Christian People in the Catholic Church. God bless you!!!!
Newman House Community Planned at UVic

Chaplain searches for a House and Student Community to take up residence!

One hundred and eighteen years after the first Newman Club was established by medical student Timothy Harrington at the University of Pennsylvania (and only three years after his death), Blessed John Henry Newman, the great Cardinal convert, theologian and humanitarian continues to inspire the faithful all over the world. “With the long established success of Newman Houses on the Canadian Campuses of Queen’s University, McGill and the University of Toronto, the time is right for the western-most University in Canada to have its own Newman House,” says Fr. Dean Henderson of the Catholic Chaplaincy at UVic and Camosun College.

Inspired by the September 19, 2010 Beatification Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham England—which Fr. Dean attended along with Queen’s Newman House Chaplain Fr. Raymond da Souza—Fr. Henderson anticipates the Newman House Community (klaquian@uvic.ca).

One hundred and eighty years after the first Newman House was established in England, Blessed Newman’s vision of education of both the heart and the mind, “he says. Newman himself expressed that “The general principles of any study you may learn by books at home; but the detail, the colour, the tone, the air, the life which makes it live in us, you must catch all these from those in whom it lives already. ”

Students for the inaugural year will be selected from applicants who are committed to a simple house “rule of life” including prayer and the baptismal commitment to a “preferential option for the poor.” The youth of our country receive the opportunity to live this solidarity out through an annual THINKfast, a 25-hour fundraising fast. Students raise funds to support D&P’s projects in the Global South and join together for 25 hours of education and spiritual reflection on global issues.

Our Diocese has been holding annual THINKfast events in various cities across Vancouver Island. This year there will be nine events hosted by Courtenay, Duncan, Parksville, Victoria, and the University of Victoria (UVic). Victoria, which has been hosting the program since 1995, held its THINKfast from February 25 – 26. In 2010 students raised $2,800, and this year raised $1,100.

UVic will be hosting a THINKfast from March 11 – 12. It will be the first THINKfast held on campus in D&P’s first year as a university club. Previously Victoria and UVic have held two joint events (2004 and 2005).

Parksville is hosting its second THINKfast from April 8 – 9, with a comprehensive approach that captures the Youth Ministry Model of our Diocese through a collaboration between Church of the Ascension youth, pro-life youth, and social justice youth. With a fundraising goal of $1,200, Parksville is expecting over 60 youth to participate.

THINKfast provides an opportunity for youth to engage in global issues, grow in their faith, and develop their skills as leaders in our community.

For general information on THINKfast and youth leadership through D&P, visit www.youth.devp.org. For information on THINKfast events in our Diocese, please contact Nancy Stuart (nancy-stuart@shaw.ca) or Katrina Laquian (klaquian@uvic.ca).

With the assistance of the Catholic Advisory Board, Fr. Henderson is hoping to hear expressions of interest both from prospective student residents, and members of the Diocese who might assist with securing a suitable house for September 2011. Please contact Fr. Dean Henderson by: email catholic@uvic.ca, or by calling 250-882-2151.

I’m really excited for the possibility of a Newman House on campus. Students come to UVic to be educated, but learning doesn’t just take place inside the classroom. Having a place to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ, to reflect on our studies from a Catholic perspective, and to grow in the fellowship of communal living will be a real blessing for the Catholic community on campus. — Third year student

THINKfast

by Katrina Laquian, Development and Peace UVic, Co-President, Development and Peace Victoria Diocesan Council, Youth Co-ordinator, Western Representative

“Solidarity! We are called to a common fellowship with others. We are also called through the message of the Gospel to have a “preferential option for the poor.” The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (D&P) creates this solidarity between us as Canadian Catholics and our brothers and sisters living in the Global South.

The youth of our country receive the opportunity to live this solidarity out through an annual THINKfast, a 25-hour fundraising fast. Students raise funds to support D&P’s projects in the Global South and join together for 25 hours of education and spiritual reflection on global issues.

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Some moments always surprise me, moments that happen only if you are not really waiting for them. Some of life’s bigger events happen slowly and unexpectedly when you aren’t so fixed: like the way I grew older, the way I started dating my boyfriend last month, right when I least anticipated a relationship. But these other moments, maybe because they come in such little chips of time, sneak up on me much more intensely. Electric fragments in which you catch a flash of the Divine.

I saw one such fragment this Valentine’s Day when my boyfriend took me to a concert at the Maritime Museum. It was the locale that grabbed us. Valentine’s Day in one of the most historic buildings in Victoria! We could ride the old elevator! There is something decidedly romantic about elevators from the turn of the century.

“It’s a Frank Sinatra concert,” he said.

“I don’t mind Frank Sinatra,” I said.

“Me neither,” he said, “but we’ll probably be the only young people there.”

He wasn’t right, not quite. One other 20-something couple rode the elevator with us and found a seat in the old courtroom, the makeshift concert hall. The rest of the benches, however, gleamed with heads of silver.

I felt my face flush, suddenly embarrassed to intrude, if this could be called an intrusion, into a room full of titans. We had no place being here. I thought, in this elderly romance, the last storhouse of remembered and half-forgotten love. My boyfriend had paired his dress pants, tie and shirt with orange Converse® shoes and these certainly betrayed. I only had two decades to their seven, eight or even nine. We had no right to be here, and, more accurately, more ashamedly, I felt that we should have no desire to be here. We should want only the pubs and clubs or our own people. At the utmost, if we must interact with our elders, we should be kind and helpful, the way I try to be at my job at Cobs Bread when I help the lady with the quivering fingers count out her change. Our change would be to kind and helpful while at the same time, secretly, we pity the shake, the thick glasses, and congratulate ourselves on brightening their day by being so much more young and fresh.

But we should not, by choice, attend their concerts. This we should not even want.

The oldest audience members sat, in the benches that would have been reserved for the University of Victoria invite all members of the Diocese to participate in the Catholic Students’ Week. There are great works happening in Campus Ministry is an essential aspect of the life of a university student. Through it, students receive many opportunities to practice their faith on campus, and build relationships with other Catholic students to truly enrich their university experience.

The Canadian Catholic Students Association (CCSA) unites students who witness to the Gospel on campus. Since 1946, the CCSA has been connecting Catholic students on campuses across Canada through annual conferences, a solidarity trip to Mexico (Global Connections), and Catholic Students Week.

The Catholic Students Association of the University of Victoria is a member of the CCSA and is participating in this year’s Catholic Students Week from March 12 – 20. It is a national event during which Catholic students across the country organize events on campus that focus on Liturgy, Catechesis and Mission.

Last year, 1,300 events were held at 32 campuses in Canada. The University of Victoria will be contributing over 25 events to this year’s count. Catholic students of the University of Victoria invite all members of the Diocese to participate in the events we have planned for the week. There are great works happening in Campus Ministry at the University of Victoria and we would love the community to share in our witness to the Gospel.

Please refer to the schedule for the event that interests you.

For more information on the CCSA, please visit www.ccsa.ca. For more information on UVic’s Catholic Students Week please contact Katrina at klaquian@uvic.ca.

The oldest woman sat tucked up in a blanket in her wheelchair with two younger women, maybe 65, on either side of her. Her daughters, I thought, or her nieces. Her husband must have passed on by now. My heart pinched the way it should when I look at old age.

The singer began the song just the Way You Look Tonight. My boyfriend looked at me and I smiled at him. And then I looked at her. She was smiling too, brightly and intensely, at the singer who presented her with one of the pink roses he had in two glass vases at the side of the stage. She took it, pressed it to her small, wrinkled nose. And I knew, at least, I think I knew, that right then she was both remembering her life and living her life simultaneously. She drew no lines, as I did, between what had been and what is now, for both were alive in her in that moment. Both were, and are parts of her. They flowed through the tips of her lined thumbs to the ends of her bridal-white hair. Then she in her gay shawl was a hundred times more alive than I was in my vibrant red dress.

“That’s the thing,” I whispered to my boyfriend.

“What thing?” he asked.

“The thing about older people. You think they are so frail and then you look up and ... I don’t know … they become, somehow, life. You look up and say, that’s life, right there. That is life. And one day you want to be as alive as they are.”

The next Friday I work at Cobs and the woman with the unsteady hands comes in, just as we are about to close for the night. Her hair is thinning, falling strand by strand. It is as yellow as bleached autumn leaves or the papers of an ancient paperback.

I count out the change for her the way I always do and I think how the tree and the paperback are still incredibly alive with sap and story, even more necessarily alive, in the winter.

When she looks up and thanks me, my heart gives no pitying pinch but opens to receive the warmth in her dark brown eyes. For a moment, her hair, her fingers, herself become incredibly beautiful to me. It’s one of those transcendent times, I receive the warmth in her dark brown eyes. For a moment, her hair, her fingers, herself become incredibly beautiful to me. It’s one of those transcendent times, I realize, and I let myself stand rooted in the moment because I know how fast they can go. It can be just a blinking. Just a minute. Just a second. Just the way she looks fresh.

For more information on UVic’s Catholic Students Week please contact Katrina at klaquian@uvic.ca.

For a map of UVic, visit www.uvic.ca/students/undergraduate/explore/maps

Saturday, March 12

Avamae Far – CSY Style
52 Avenue to Saint Vincent de Paul
1:00p.m. Meet at UVic fountain

Monday, March 14

Daily Mass followed by Adoration and Reconciliation
11:30a.m. Interfaith Chapel

Tuesday, March 15

Daily Mass followed by Ecological Stations of the Cross
11:30a.m. Interfaith Chapel

Wednesday, March 16

Daily Mass followed by Divine Mercy Chapel
11:30a.m. Interfaith Chapel

Saturday, March 19

Liturgy Tag at Laurel City Fun Centre
Details to follow

Sunday, March 20

UVic Mass
4:00p.m. Holy Cross Parish

For detailed event information, visit events.uvic.ca
To the one who considers himself a candidate I say …

the priesthood. Tell them of the gathering that will take place on May 14 at St. Church. Therefore dear reader, I request you to pray that God grant you the labourers into the harvest. “(Luke 10:2) Prayer is the key to sustaining a healthy “The harvest is great and the labourers are few, therefore ask your father to send “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. “ (Matt 5:5) I understand their response as a pure love for the Church. These young minds could see a greater need than their own and did not hesitate to give way for the need of the Church. It is not about solving a confusing puzzle. Then, God himself will take care of you. “I have often preached about being alert. This is not 

The world and all its adornments I have despised for love of my Lord Jesus Christ; whom I have seen, in whom I have believed, in whom is my delight. Whether we feel drawn to religious life or not, this prayer should be at the centre of all our lives and part of every step we take in vocational discernment. I am going to continue to deepen my knowledge of religious life and encourage other young women to learn more about this precious and vital vocations

Discern This!
by Fr. Sean Flynn

I have often preached about being alert. This is not because the end is coming but rather as a way to see the Gospels unfold before our eyes. The Gospels demonstrate a way of life, not just that of Jesus or of others, but of our own life.

We hear in Scripture that God chooses the weak to shame the strong. This proclamation is often a consolation to those who feel God is calling them to a consecrated life. Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” is another Scripture passage that helps reflect on the religious vocation. An awareness of God with us truly enhances life. Lent, along with the Easter season, is a wonderful time in the liturgical year, as it draws us to be more alert to the God who is with us and to reflect on the Resurrection that leads to holiness in life.

While I was teaching catechism to a group of young children in preparation for their Confirmation, I toured the church. The class, which consisted of three girls and two boys, learned about the vestments the priest wears for Mass. Both boys are altar servers and at least one of the girls attends Queen of Angels School where there is training for young people to be altar servers.

After a straight-forward answer of “no” to the question, “are there any girl priests?” came another question, “do you have a girl as altar servers?” I answered, “not yet.” Then I felt it important to explain why it is good to encourage the boys to serve. I told the class of how boys could be more apt to hear God’s call to the priesthood if they experience serving at Mass. I also asked them if they would keep an eye out for boys they thought would make good priests and encourage the boys to ask about serving at Mass. Without a moment’s thought they agreed they would hunt out boys to serve. These children gave a very strong witness to their love of Church.

“Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.” (Matt 5:5) I understand their response as a true love for the Church. These young minds could see a greater need than their own and did not hesitate to give way for the need of the Church. It is not about solving a confusing puzzle.

All you need is to desire whatever God may desire for you. Remaining true to this desire opens your heart to receive what God wants for you.

Then, God himself will take care of you.1 ~ Rev. Thomas J. Richter

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:3) “Is there something you wish us to pray for Father?” This was the question and kindness I got at the Poor Clare’s Monastery when I picked up our order of Hosts. The offer was too important for me to simply “spout-out” something without thinking of what I could ask these consecrated women to pray about.

Here again I see a great witness to the love of the Church. These women have devoted their lives to God in prayer and they take their vows very seriously. “The harvest is great and the labourers are few, therefore ask your father to send labourers into the harvest.” (Luke 10:2) Prayer is the key to sustaining a healthy Church. Therefore dear reader, I request you to pray that God grant you the strength to encourage those who consider a candidate to reflect on a vocation to the priesthood. Tell them of the gathering that will take place on May 14 at St. Ann’s Church in Duncan. (1775 Touhyale Rd. starting at 10 am ending with Mass at 5 pm.) Have them call Fr. Sean 250-743-1688 or Fr. Alfredo 250-746-6831 to register.

The Father simply wants you to trust him enough to take the next step, not the tenth or twentieth. He wants you to focus on going from A to B, not on going from A to Z.

When you take that step Jesus will reveal the next one!2 ~ Rev. Thomas J. Richter

Step 1: Register to come to the “Priesthood Day of Reflection.”

1 A Jesus Calling You to be a Catholic Priest? Rev. Thomas J. Richter, NCEPVD 2009
2 Ibid. pg 17

Benedictine Retreat
by Catherine Bartle

“Listen, o child, to your Master’s precepts, and incline the ear of your heart.” – Prologue, Rule of St Benedict

How many young women on Vancouver Island know what it is like to live in an Abbey of contemplative Benedictines nun? Probably very few. Well, I didn’t need much persuasion when the opportunity arose a couple years ago to visit the Abbey of St. Walburga in Virginia Dale, Colorado.

With a pocketful of prayers and a plane ticket in my hand, I headed off with two women from Vancouver for a week-long visit. We finally arrived at the Abbey, home for over 20 women who have taken vows of obedience, stability and fidelity to the monastic way of life, situated in a valley of streams and fields surrounded by tumbleweds of red granite boulders studded with cacti.

There was never a dull moment for the three of us, rising at 4:20 am to join the Sisters as they began their day with the words, “Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare Your praise.” The day was filled with a balance of work, either at the busy guesthouse, in the garden, herding cows with ski poles or learning how to keep bees, and prayer, when we were drawn together to worship the Beloved through seven offices of the Liturgy of the Hours and daily Mass.

Despite the excitement of our work and the novelty of our surroundings, I could not shake a feeling of reassurance and peacefulness emanating from this place, so far removed from the persistent materialism of the secular world. Here the true Home of all hearts, found in the tabernacle, encompasses every action and thought. Since then I have visited St. Walburga’s again, plunging from busy university life to the tranquility of the Benedictine life, and I was able to witness the Solemn Profession of two of the sisters.

This ceremony marked their final vows to monastic life, and, most importantly, to the Lord Jesus Christ. The beauty of the ceremony and the many prayers sung by the sisters as they committed their lives to Christ was overwhelming. One of these prayers seemed especially relevant to me, as I mentally compared the vocational environments we can choose from when discerning where God is calling us to be and where each of us can best serve Him in our journey to seeing Him face-to-face:

The world and all its adornments I have despised for love of my Lord Jesus Christ; whom I have seen, in whom I have believed, in whom is my delight.

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The world and all its adornments I have despised for love of my Lord Jesus Christ; whom I have seen, in whom I have believed, in whom is my delight.

Whether we feel drawn to religious life or not, this prayer should be at the centre of all our lives and part of every step we take in vocational discernment. I am going to continue to deepen my knowledge of religious life and encourage other young women to learn more about this precious and vital vocation in the Church.

For those who are seriously discerning their vocation and are interested in upcoming retreats, there is a Monastic Life Workshop for Catholic single women at Westminster Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Mission, British Columbia from March 25 – 27, 2011 and October 14 – 16, 2011. These weekends offer an opportunity for personal prayer and conferences on religious life led by the monks of the Abbey. Please visit the Abbey’s website at www.westminsterabbey.ca for contact information.

There is also a women’s retreat at the Abbey of St. Walburga’s, Colorado, May 27 – 29, 2011. The sisters have a great website on which you can learn more about their life, register for retreats and find contact information: http://www.walburga.org.

Two Sisters at St. Walburga’s Abbey sing the Suceipe Me during Solemn Vows.
Closure of American College in Louvain

By Fr. William Hill

The American College in Louvain (Louvain) Belgium is to close its doors next June. This news may seem unimportant to present day Catholics on Vancouver Island, but the American College of the Immaculate Conception in Louvain gave the Catholic Church on Vancouver Island four bishops and at least fifteen priests.

The bishops included Charles Seghers, second bishop of Vancouver Island, who did extensive missionary work in Alaska, which at the time was part of this Diocese. Father Seghers was the first priest from the college to come to the Diocese in 1863. He was ordained bishop in 1873 and was murdered in Alaska in 1886. Seghers was a brilliant man, a good musician, and he also collected books for a library which is now part of the Special Collections Library of the University of Victoria.

Another brilliant priest was John Lemmens, who followed Seghers’ second term as bishop. Like Seghers, he was to die an untimely death. He died of illness in Guatemala in 1897 while trying to raise money for the recently built St. Andrew’s Cathedral.

Father August Brabant was for years a missionary among the aboriginal people on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. At one point an attempt was made to assassinate him. Father Brabant left memoirs which have been published.

Another brilliant priest was Monsignor Francis Leterme. He worked extensively in the Victoria area and also in the Comox Valley. He died in 1932.

Father Adrian Vullings (from Holland) was the pastor when the original church of our Lady of Lourdes in Oak Bay was built. This parish was later to become St. Patrick’s Parish. Father Vullings died in 1940.

Father William Heynen (another Dutchman) was for many years pastor at Nanaimo. He died in 1939.

Father John Jondau was ordained for Vancouver Island in 1867. He was at one time Vicar General of the Diocese and was requested to be the bishop, but refused. He died in 1888. His body lies in the crypt at St. Andrew’s Cathedral, alongside that of Archbishop Seghers and Bishop Demers.

The American College in Louvain was established in 1857 by two American bishops with the support of the Belgian bishops for the purpose of enabling North American students for the priesthood to pursue studies in Europe, and to afford young men from Europe who wished to study for missionary work on the North American continent a place where they could study.

While the first bishops on Vancouver Island had their permanent residence in Victoria, they were known as “Bishops of Vancouver Island.” The Diocese was part of a church province presided over by the Archbishop of Oregon City. As part of this American Church province, the Diocese of Vancouver Island was able to obtain priests from the College in Louvain.

The situation changed in 1903 when another bishop from the Louvain College, Bertram Orth, was made Archbishop of Victoria. Archbishop Orth resigned in 1908 and the archdiocesan title was transferred to the new mainland See of Vancouver.

From then on, bishops of Victoria came from Canada. They often brought priests from Eastern Canada with them.

Of the fifteen priests and four bishops, who came from the American College, of whom this writer has information, eleven were Belgians, six Dutch, and two were Germans. Belgians suffered terribly during the First World War and it is probable that from that time on the American College in Louvain was taking students from English-speaking countries whose bishops decided to send them there.

At present the number of students is declining, as is the number of bishops who send their students to the college. This is why the American College of the Immaculate Conception in Louvain (Louvain) is closing its doors after one hundred fifty four years of service to the Catholic Church especially on the North American continent.

Father William Hill took a sabbatical leave at the American College in Louvain from 1989 to 1990.

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The Bishop’s Books

The Seghers Collection in the University of Victoria’s McPherson Library

by Darlene Southwell

Most of us could be forgiven for being unaware of these treasures housed at our university since little has been said about them in many years. But recently Dr. Helene Cazes from the French Department in the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of Victoria (UVic) gave a public lecture on the topic. After lengthy research in the Diocese of Victoria Archives and those of the Sisters of St. Ann she is well informed on the contents and significance of these holdings. Currently she teaches the graduate Seminar entitled Old Books in New Libraries, which is an introduction to Book Culture and the History of the Book through the discovery of the Seghers Collection.

Bishop Charles John Seghers was for years a missionary among the aboriginal people on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. At one point an attempt was made to assassinate him. Father Brabant left memoirs which have been published.

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**Youth Voices Challenge**

**Competition Launched for Youth-produced Videos on Jesus’ Teachings**

by The Youth Voices Challenge Committee

A top prize of $1,500 will go to the Catholic youth group in the Victoria Diocese who gets the highest number of hits for their YouTube video.

The video must have a teaching of Jesus as its theme and receive the highest number of hits in its category by 1 pm, Thursday, July 14, 2011. The youth must be between the ages of 13 and 19 and must produce their videos in a group of three to five members.

The group's three-to-five-minute video must be based on one or more of Jesus’ teachings, as quoted by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; entrants must select one or more quotes provided by the foundation on its website: www.catholicfoundationofvancouverisland.org

Registration deadline for the competition is March 11, 2011. The competition's rules and registration form are available on the foundation’s website.

The Youth Voices Challenge has a second prize of $1,000 and a third prize of $500. An additional prize of $1,000 will be awarded in a “same-parish” group category. This prize will be given to one parish or group whose video has the greatest number of “hits” in this “same-parish” group category.

Youth in each group can use Facebook, Twitter, text messaging, e-mail and other media to encourage their family and friends to view their videos on YouTube to gain the most number of hits up until the deadline of July 14 at 1:00 pm local time.

Of the 90,000 Catholics in the Diocese (comprising 28 parishes across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands), more than 9,000 Catholic students attend public schools and various independent schools not associated with the Catholic Church. This number does not include youth who are below the age of 19 years, those who attend post-secondary institutions, or who are not in school.

The Youth Voices Challenge is sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, in collaboration with the Diocese of Victoria’s Office of Religious Education.

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**Office of Religious Education Update**

by James E. O’Reilly, Office of Religious Education

What an exciting time to be a part of the Church! While recognizing many challenges, we have taken an important and historic step in our Diocese. Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan has been promulgated and Parishes throughout the Diocese have now received their survey results. The real and wonderful work now begins!

The Bishop, with the Pastoral Planning Committee, started with the experience of our Diocesan roots through a review/recommendation process of the 1986 – 1991 Synod, and then developed a comprehensive process of diocesan priorities. This assessment took the form of a series of consultations beginning with an initial survey; then regional discernment discussions, and culminating in a second needs verification survey.

Seeking to honour the Church’s tradition of subsidiarity, the Report of the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee took the Six Core Priorities with the identified Diocesan Goals and Recommended Diocesan Action, and provided suggestions to parishes for their own planning direction.

These suggestions, rather than being directives, were designed to provide a starting point for local parish discussions as part of their own process of developing local Parish Goals and Actions.

In January, the survey data and comments specific to each parish were mailed out, and now the true work at the local level begins! This important step will ensure that the Mission of the Church is planned for in a way that is meaningful and responsive to local needs. It will also ensure the global Diocesan Pastoral Plan will be realistic and responsive in ways that can take into account local realities, make informed decisions and effectively apply resources.

As part of our Diocesan Family’s journey, regional meetings are scheduled in March to assist Parish Pastoral Councils with the task of discerning and planning their own component of pastoral planning for the next five years. At the end of October we will have a Diocesan Conference to revisit, re-vision, and reaffirm our common direction.

This first concrete planning step for local parishes will be an opportunity to bring new vigour to Councils as they prayerfully discern and deepen their sense of local needs and assess creative strategies with the help of a Diocesan Team who will support them with tools and experience born of identified common needs, resources and proven strategies.

What has this to do with Religious Education? Well everything! The mission of the Church is to bring the Good News of Salvation, teaching all nations. Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan has seen the Face of Christ revealed in the needs of our sisters and brothers, and through palpable new energy reveals the grace of the power of the Resurrection rising amidst challenges. Now we enter into an ongoing dialogue, deepening the awareness of the Mystery of Christ among us, working together locally and globally for the same purpose, supporting, encouraging and guiding each other, calling on the One who has called us! 

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**SILVER TOURS 2011 PILGRIMAGES**

**TRIPS OF A LIFETIME**

Price includes: airfare from vancouver, hotel accommodation per person sharing in a twin room with private facilities, meals, sight-seeing tours, tips to guides and drivers and much more.

**ITALY – BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II**

25 April - 04 May , 2011 (10 Days)

St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, Hermegilde, San Damiano Church, Rivottorta,
Santa Maria degli Angeli, Eucharistic Miracle of Siena, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Padre Pio, St. Paul Outside the Walls, Sta. Maria Maggiore, St. John Lateran, Santa Scala, St. Peter’s Basilica, St. Alphonsus Church/Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Visit: Assisi, Siena, Rome and Vatican City.

01 May - Beatification at St. Peter’s Square. Our hotel, Santa Maria Alle Fornaci is just a 5-minute walk from St. Peter’s Square.

Spiritual Director: Fr. Larrie Soberano

Tour Price: $2,950.00

**EXTENSION TOUR TO POLAND**

November 16 - 29, 2011 (14 Days)

Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, Wadowice; hometown of PJP3I, Auschwitz, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Czestochowa, (Shrine of the Black Madonna) and Warsaw.

3 nights in the Pastoral House of the Divine Mercy.

Tour Price: $1,100.00

for extension only with basic tour of Italy.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

November 16 - 29, 2011 (14 Days)

Israel: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Shepherd’s Field, Ein Kerem, Massada, Dead Sea, Jericho, Bethany, Nazareth, Haifa, Cana, Mt. Tabor, Jordan River, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Mt. Beatitudes, Capernaum, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee & more.

Spiritual Director: Fr. Edward Evancho

Tour Price: $3,699.00

For more information – contact Sheila Silversio/Silver Tours

(250) 755 1981 or 1 888 755 1988 | email:mssil@telus.net

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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

~ Matthew 28:19-20
Faith Matters

by James E. O'Reilly, Office of Religious Education

How are Saints Made?
By canonizing some of the faithful, i.e., by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in full conformity to God’s grace, the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors. (Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 828)

A Cloud of Witnesses
Originally only martyrs were held up to the faithful, but by the fourth century various other witnesses to Christ who had not been martyred were added, including the popes from St. Peter on. Local bishops would also decide which candidates should have honourable mention and a feast day on the liturgical calendar.

Over time local bishops came to defer the responsibility and privilege to the Bishop of Rome to review cases and to make the final decision.

By the sixth century the process became formalized with the inscription of the names of the Canonized on a roll of saints. This is evident from Pope Boniface IV’s dedication of the Roman Pantheon to Saint Mary of the Martyrs (Santa Maria dei Martiri). In 993 Pope John XV canonized Ulrich of Augsburg a saint, formally and universally, in the way we know today.

In the twelfth century, it was Pope Alexander II who restricted the prerogative of canonization to the Holy See.

The Process
Today in 1983 changes to the process of canonization were announced and included reducing the length of the process to ten years. First an interested part or group approaches the local bishop. Those advocating one for sainthood prepare a report on the person which is sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Venerables
Upon researching the candidate’s virtues to verify if the person practiced virtue to a heroic degree or died a martyr’s death, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints either recommends or does not recommend the person’s cause. When the pope accepts the report, the person is declared “venerable.”

Blesseds (Beatus, Beata)
This second apostolic process follows, and typically involves a very lengthy process of scrutiny by an advocatus Dei (advocate of God). This “promoter of the cause” (a prosecuting attorney, in canon law) is authorized to examine the person’s life, virtues, writings, reputation for holiness and reported miracles. Sometimes referred to as the “promoter of the faith” or “devil’s advocate” (advocatus diaboli), he is required to present the “other side” by raising objections. Two documented miracles must accompany the case as evidence of the candidate’s intercessory role. Upon completion of the requirement the venerable candidate is then “beatified” (or declared a beatus, or busta for a woman) by the pope at a ceremony at St. Peter’s. This is also accompanied by the unveiling of a portrait (photo or painted) and the recommendation for veneration to a particular city, region or religious order.

Saints
While the requirements for sainthood have not always remained consistent, the steps above currently apply. Once the diocesan investigation has been completed the candidate is called a “Servant of God” and the documentation is sent to Rome to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints where nine theologians judge the merits of the cause. If the cause is found to have merit, it proceeds to the Bishops and Cardinals of the Congregation, who pass the cause on to the Pope for his personal decision, if they agree.

The person can be beatified (called “Blessed”) if one documented miracle has occurred since their death. Two miracles after their death are required for canonization. Miracles are usually defined as immediate, complete spontaneous cures of a serious and pathological disease or a condition which medical science cannot refute or explain.

Pope John Paul II will be beatified on May 1, the Feast of Divine Mercy.

With notes from “The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catholic Dictionary Peter M. Stravinskas, PhD, STD” The Catholic Source Book, Harcourt Religion; and Catholicism for Dummies Rev. Kenneth Brightenhi, PhD, and Rev. John Trigilio, Jr., Ph.D.

DC = Diocesan Camps: Back by popular demand, our third annual Diocesan Camps for youth are well underway. Junior Camp grades 5-7 “Encounter the Mystery” July 26–31 2011; Senior Camp grades 8-12 “In it, Not of it!” August 2-7, 2011.

DYC = Diocesan Youth Conference: Our Eighth Annual Diocesan Youth Conference will be held at St. Andrew’s Regional High School May 27 – 28, 2011. Featuring APeX Ministries (aka Brad and Gene, a nationally-known comedy duo deeply committed to their Faith!) the Conference includes General Sessions, Fun Sessions, and Spiritual Sessions (see page 28 for more information).

WYD = World Youth Day: Shepherded by our own Fr. Dean Henderson, this group of pilgrims has been meeting regularly in preparation for their trip to Madrid August 11 – 22, 2011.

CEC = Catholic Educators Conference: Held annually in Vancouver, this conference (February 14 – 15) included John L. Allen Jr. National Catholic Reporter’s Senior Rome Correspondent, (speaking on his recent book The Future Church); Fr. Bill Burke of the National Liturgy Office; and Pam Stenzel, an internationally known educator who speaks to over 500,000 teens per year and addresses the tough issues of sex with honesty, humour and insight. The conference included many other speakers and drew 1,300 participants.

D&P = Development and Peace: On February 11 and 12, Dr. Bob McKeon, Associate Director of the Archdiocese of Edmonton’s Social Justice Office and Vice-Dean of Theology at Newman Theological College, unpacked the many layers of Pope Benedict XVI’s recent encyclical Caritas in Veritate highlighting its profound implications with regard to the personal, social, economic, ecological and global dimensions. St. Mark’s College, the Catholic Theological College at UBC: St. Mark’s has developed a close relationship with the Diocese of Christi and St. Mark’s Colleges, discussed a number of exciting options for addressing our particular adult faith formation needs. Over the years more than 20 Vancouver Islanders have benefitted from St. Mark’s course offerings. From short topic-specific courses to certifications and degrees for teachers as well as interested laypersons, we will be learning more!

WCCRE = Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators: Meeting twice annually and providing a major conference for catechists, this body will hold its next conference November 10-13, 2011 in Banff, with the focus on the New Evangelization. The Diocese of Victoria hosted the 2009 Conference with 150 delegates, focussing on the Word of God.

WCACYM = Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers: This gathering of Youth Ministers from across Western and Northern Canada recently held its annual gathering in Vancouver January 20 – 23. With a little help from the Diocese, Sandy Borbeau of Sacred Heart Parish, Derek Ballinger of St. Joseph’s Victoria, and Katie Gaetz, Matthew Morrison, and Trisha Williams of Ascension Parish joined approximately 30 delegates. Featuring Mgr. Mark Hageneson, former Youth Office Director for the Archdiocese of Vancouver as retreat leader, and former BC Lions football player Jamie Taras as workshop facilitator, the event focused on the key elements necessary for a balanced life, both personal and ministerial.

DPP = Diocesan Pastoral Plan: Perhaps the most significant of the bunch, the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is gaining momentum. Beginning with regional workshops (March 22 and 29) which will assist parishes in the discernment, planning, and implementation phases, plans are also underway for a major Diocesan conference (October 28 – 29, 2011) which will situate and relate the work our Diocesan and Pastoral planning processes within the greater context of the Church’s international and national realities. Drawing on elements of “thinking globally and acting locally,” and taking into account major sociological research, Papal teaching and the Canadian Bishop’s recent catechetical syllabus, the conference will address practical and effective methods and strategies in dealing with the uncertainties of our rapidly changing and often challenging culture.
Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger OMI Memorial Bursary Program Underway

by Edward Shawchuk

The British Columbia and Yukon Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce that the 2011 Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger OMI Memorial Bursary Program is now receiving applications. Once again we are privileged to offer thirty bursaries of $500 each to Catholic students across the Province of British Columbia. These bursaries are made available on a one-time-only basis to young practicing Catholic students who are in their second or subsequent year of post-secondary education at a recognized institute of higher learning within the Province. Applications are accepted until June 30, 2011 with the bursaries being awarded in the fall. The Terms of Reference can be found on our web site at: www.vcn.bc.ca/kofc/forms_reports.html#Bursaries.

Requests for applications should be addressed to:
Knights of Columbus BC & Yukon
Attn: Edward Shawchuk, Bursary Chairman
23105 Gilbert Drive
Maple Ridge, BC V4R 0C3

We would like to once again congratulate the many recipients over the past years and look forward to being able to assist many more young people in the advancement of their education.

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Summer Institute 2011
Exploring Biblical and Theological Foundations of Catholic Traditions

For this sizzling summer week from July 4 to 8, 2011, we will be offering 10 exciting courses! We will have 2 courses running simultaneously each day. You can choose 1 HOT TOPIC COURSE per day.

**COURSE OPTIONS**

**OPTION A**

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<th>COURSE</th>
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For more information visit www.stmarkscollege.ca
The other day my older children queried why I always threaten things that don’t make sense. Like, “I’m going to blow my cork!” What they probably thought was that in a state of frustration or anger, I am rendered senseless and therefore say things that sound silly. In fact, the things I threaten are a冷冷ly calculated skill practiced over many years.

Years ago I read a parenting book that suggested one should never make threats that can’t be followed through. This is good advice, I suppose, and I took it to heart—but how, then, does a parent blow off steam under duress? This is important to look at because there is so much duress that comes with parenting, and a significant amount of accompanying steam. So, always looking for a loophole to The Hard Way, I devised a Clever Plan. I only make threats that: (a) are not possible, or (b) no one understands.

In this way, I can blow off steam by threatening things and not actually having to follow through! My eldest daughter quite astutely observed, “you’ve probably blown your cork piles of times, but because we don’t know what it means we didn’t even notice.” Frankly, I’m a little surprised it has taken 23 years for my children to notice this parenting phenomenon.

Because this has been such an effective parenting tool for me, I thought that for those of you who didn’t grow up with a lot of clichéd threats, I should share my list. My children helped me remember all the very best ones. Typically, empty threats follow a fairly predictable formula. The parent dislikes a particular considerate behaviour in the child, characteristically and mildly asks him or her a couple of times to stop the behaviour and then, when this is proven ineffective, desperately throws out something like this: “IF-YOU-GUYS-DON’T-STOP-FIGHTING-I’M-GOING-TO…” (insert one of the following):

Blow my cork
Hit the roof
Hit the wall
Have a conniption
With a pax upon you
Go bananas
Flip my lid
Flip out
Go snakey
Go berserk
Have a cow

OKAY… Breathe Deeply. There is actually a better way.

I have learned (the Hard Way, of course) that dealing with children doesn’t actually require threats, clichéd, empty or otherwise. Our modus operandi as parents tends to be one of two options: carrot or stick. Cajole or threaten.

Not that there is never a place for “motivators.” But sometimes our entire day can oscillate between doling out carrots and threatening with sticks. Lent is a good time to improve family relationships and increase the patience, tenacity and stamina required to deal with unsocialized human beings. Our children, that is.

Any improvement we want to make in our lives as Christians has to start with our relationship with God. Sometimes just examining our conscience at night is enough to raise awareness of the times during the day when we lost patience or let our ideals slide. In a perfect world, we would default to prayer instead of frustration, anger or giving in.

Well, it isn’t a perfect world, but if we don’t start with ideals, if we don’t have ideals, where will we end up? One day at a time, one hour at a time, one small frustration at a time, we can change our reactions, ourselves, our relationships and ultimately our love of God. It’s circular. We call on God for His strength and grace. Sometimes just examining our conscience at night is the space we need between breath and action. Sometimes in that space we need to allow God to work. Sometimes in the space of that breath is the moment where we can think, “Is there some other way I can respond to this situation,” or “How would Jesus want me to react?” Or simply, “Is this pleasing to God?”

One time I gave up yelling for Lent. By Easter, I almost forgot how to talk. But consider these truths: Lent is a time for spiritual growth. Effective parenting requires self-mastery. Whatever we choose to give up helps us to practice this self of self-mastery and it models for our children, The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2223) states: “The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery — the pre-conditions of all true freedom.”

Hold On To Your Kids is an excellent book by Gordon Neufeld about children and our relationship with them. The premises on which this book is based include keeping the relationship intact; firm and loving guidance; and avoiding the carrot and stick method of parenting. While not overtly Christian, this book upholds a philosophy that is one of the most Christ-like I’ve ever come across.

Another resource I have recently come across is a set of DVDs available at www. securechild.org. This is a Catholic program developed for the purpose of assisting parents to “form healthy and secure relationships with their children … The secure attachment relationship assures that children will develop with empathy, self-control and harmonious personalities.” This program asserts, with much backing from medical research, that the child with a secure relationship with his or her parents will be far less likely to develop aggressive or inappropriate social behaviours, and also far less likely to be victims to such behaviour.

And back to prayer. For every small success we experience, and for every small success we see in our children, all thanks be to God.

Corks, coves, the pos and bananas can all stay where they should be. Breathe Deeply. There is a better way. It starts and ends with prayer.

Baby steps. 

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St. Joseph the Worker Council 13356 serving Saanich West
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Archbishop Peter Smith on status of marriage, civil partnerships in church

The Government statement on 17 February makes it clear that they are now contemplating a fundamental change to the status of marriage. That is something which was never envisaged by the Equality Act or any other legislation passed by Parliament. Marriage does not belong to the State any more than it belongs to the Church.


Archbishop Lacroix on April 7, 2009. Since 2008 Bishop Lacroix has been on the Executive Council of the World Conference of Secular Bishops.

Bishop Lacroix was born July 27, 1957, in Saint-Hilaire de Dorset, Quebec.

A member of the Pius X Secular Institute (I.S.P.X.), he was ordained a priest on October 8, 1988. In 1990, he began missionary work in Colombia, where he assisted in establishing his secular institute there as well as working in a parish.

Latin America.

Diocesan Administrator of the same diocese. Archbishop-elect Lacroix succeeds Archbishop Lacroix

Archbishop Lacroix

A statement issued afterwards says: 'The Archdiocese of Quebec City has a Catholic population of 1,040,690 in 220 parishes and missions, served by 431 diocesan Bishops (CCCB).

Bishop on April 7, 2009. Since 2008 Bishop Lacroix has been on the Executive Council of the World Conference of Secular Bishops and the Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), accompanied by four Bishops from the four regions of Latin America and the Caribbean the Presidents of the Conferences of Bishops of Peru, Chile and Panama, as well as the General Secretary of the Conference of Bishops of Brazil took place in Baltimore, Maryland, February 7-9, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to foster collegial bonds among the Bishops comprising the episcopates of Canada, the United States and Latin America.

The theme of this 36th gathering of the Bishops of America was "Communion and Communication". It centred on an exchange of views on how to transmit, to the modern world, the Gospel message and the image of the Catholic Church made up of the faithful gathered together in Christ Jesus. From their experiences and perspectives as Catholic Bishops from different regions in the whole American continent, the participants discussed successes and challenges in communicating and living the faith as a result of the rapidly changing means of social communications. Together they shared their experiences of how the new media can serve to bring together and to expand the knowledge and personal experience of the message of Christ in a rapid and accessible manner, both within the Church and in society at large. They also discussed the challenge of forming, in all members of the Church, a spirit of deepened reflection on the wide-ranging contents of newly developed means of social communication, in light of the Gospel message.

Truth and Reconciliation Community Event

by Sr. Sheila Moss SSA

Given the many years of involvement in Residential Schools of the Sisters of St. Ann, Srs. Marie Zarowny and Sheila Moss were pleased to participate in a gathering about Indian Residential Schools entitled Open Hearts, Clear Minds: a Road to Reconciliation held at the University of Victoria on Dec. 3 – 5, 2010. Bishop Richard Gagnon and Fr. Jai Joseph (St. Anrís, Duncan) as well as other representatives from the Diocese also participated. The event was coordinated by the Anglican organization, Aboriginal Neighbours, in partnership with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the four church denominations that administered residential schools in BC.

The program consisted of prayer, ritual, presentations and sharing circles. The aim of the gathering was to provide opportunities for members of the Churches to hear the stories of the First Nations survivors with the hope that the sharing would lead to healing and reconciliation.

On Saturday morning leaders of the Churches were asked to speak about why the Churches were present at the event. Bishop Gagnon stated that he came as Shepherd of the Diocese of Victoria with the desire to make things right. He said that we need the truth, and truth often requires change. He concluded his remarks with an apology for the wrongdoing of some individual priests, for the pain that was suffered and for the Church’s part in causing that pain.

Display boards showed photos and stories of the different schools. Mickey King and Carey Pallister from the Sisters’ archives prepared an excellent display on Kuper Island School.

Only one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioners was able to attend, Chief Wilton Little Child. Residential School survivors were given the opportunity to make formal statements to the Commission if they wished. Native healers were also available throughout the event. To strengthen social bonds all joined in a feast Saturday evening that included a delicious meal, inspirational speakers, music, dance and lots of laughter.

Though many of the memories shared by the Aboriginal participants were painful, for some it was the first time they felt free to publicly speak of positive experiences they had. Many of the men spoke of the hearing and formative role of sports at the schools and of the close, lasting friendships they formed with one another.

The event closed with words and rituals of appreciation to the organizers and the participants for the openness and sensitivity of all in this ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation.

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2011 Meeting of the Bishops of the Church in America

The annual meeting of the presidencies of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), accompanied by four Bishops from the four regions of Latin America and the Caribbean the Presidents of the Conferences of Bishops of Peru, Chile and Panama, as well as the General Secretary of the Conference of Bishops of Brazil took place in Baltimore, Maryland, February 7-9, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to foster collegial bonds among the Bishops comprising the episcopates of Canada, the United States and Latin America.

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Archbishop Lacroix

On February 22, 2011 his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI named the Most Reverend Gerald Cyprien Lacroix Archbishop of Quebec City. At the time of his nomination, he was Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec City. On August 17, 2010, he had been elected Diocesan Administrator of the same diocese. Archbishop-elect Lacroix succeeds His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet whom the Holy Father appointed last June as Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops and President of the Commission for Latin America.

Bishop Lacroix was born July 27, 1957, in Saint-Hilaire de Dorset, Quebec. He attended Laval University where he earned a master's degree in pastoral theology. A member of the Pius X Secular Institute (I.S.P.X.), he was ordained a priest on October 8, 1988. In 1990, he began missionary work in Colombia, where he assisted in establishing his secular institute there as well as working in a parish and teaching at the Major Seminary of Popayan, Colombia. Upon returning to Canada in 1998, he became the head of the Pius X Secular Institute, a position he held until his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop on April 7, 2009. Since 2008 Bishop Lacroix has been on the Executive Council of the World Conference of Secular Institutes. He is currently a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Life and Family of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

The Archdiocese of Quebec City has a Catholic population of 1,040,690 in 220 parishes and missions, served by 431 diocesan priests, 275 religious order priests, 93 permanent deacons, 2,916 religious Sisters and Brothers, and 67 lay pastoral workers.
In my previous article I gave background to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement between the Federal Government (Canada) and the 54 legal Catholic Entities that had been involved in the Schools. As stated in Part III of this series, the Agreement was implemented in September 2007. A primary goal of the Catholic Entities was to reach an agreement that would address the issues with justice and compassion, and yet ensure their limited resources were diverted from legal fees to healing and reconciliation.

Canada’s Commitments
The most significant benefit of the Agreement to the Catholic Entities is that Canada committed itself to indemnify each Catholic Entity for all compensation paid to a Claimant. This removes from the Entities the need to constantly pay legal fees; it preserves reputations of innocent staff of the Schools and it frees funds for ministry, healing and reconciliation.

To speed up the process of resolution, Canada established an alternative dispute system, which removes the process from the courts; plaintiffs had the right to opt out of the alternative system and to pursue their claims in the courts. However if they did so, they forfeited other benefits from the Agreement. Canada also committed to establish and fund a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which would result in a National Research Center (see www.trc.ca).

As recognition of the contribution of the Schools to loss of culture and social disintegration, Canada committed to pay a Common Experience Payment (CEP) to each former resident of a School, the amount determined by the number of years the resident was at the school.

Catholic Entities’ Commitment
The most pertinent commitments made by the Catholic Entities are cash contributions; in-kind contributions; a Canada-wide campaign to raise $25 million; and provision of relevant archival material. A not-for-profit organization was established: Corporation of Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement, or CCEPIRSS.

Cash Contribution
Collectively the 54 Catholic Entities have contributed $29 million to fund programs that contribute to healing and reconciliation. Some of the money has been distributed through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. A major project that receives funding is Returning to Spirit, a joint Church/Aboriginal initiative that engages both aboriginal and non-aboriginal participants in a transformative process. This three-session opportunity is offered in the Diocese of Victoria.

In-Kind Contribution
Each of the Entities committed to in-kind services with members of First Nations, totaling $25 million over 10 years. Projects need to meet certain criteria, be requested or recommended by First Nations individuals or organizations and approved by a Federal Government/CCEPIRSS committee established for this purpose.

Canada-Wide Campaign
The Catholic Entities are required to make “best efforts” to raise $25 million by the end of 2014, the proceeds to go to healing and/or education projects with First Nations People, especially youth. This campaign, known as Moving Forward Together: Campaign for Healing and Reconciliation, or simply, Moving Forward Together (MFTC), was launched in June 2009 (website: www.movingforwardtogether.ca). It is organized according to three streams, each with its own volunteer team: National, Catholic and Regional. Already, Catholic organizations that were not involved in the schools have made contributions as an act of solidarity with those organizations that were involved and to try to “right” an historic wrong.

Projects will be identified according to established criteria and monies raised will be able to be directed to specific projects. This campaign will have significant implications in our Diocese: volunteers will be needed to be part of the regional team and to help identify projects. There will also be a “pew collection” to which we will all be invited to contribute.

Archival Access
Entities that have relevant archival material from the schools are working with the Commission to establish a process of access.

These important legal requirements, however, are just the beginning of how we in the Catholic Church can contribute to the healing and reconciliation process. It is also important that we continue to educate ourselves on the history of the schools, their impact on First Nations and those who worked in the schools as well as the role of church organizations and individuals.

We also need to familiarize ourselves with the current struggles and achievements of members of First Nations and to work with them to bring about a more just, inclusive society. Scriptural and theological reflection on these issues and on the need for reconciliation can help us respond at this time of our history to such a legacy. How do we meet the challenge of Micah 6:8? And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
—Matthew 28:20

Sister Carmen Catellier, S.N.M., right, is friend to all and pastoral minister in Cross Lake—an isolated northern Manitoba Cree community three hours from the nearest town. Before coming to Cross Lake, Sister Carmen was pastoral minister in the Manitoba Cree community of Brochet and Dene reserve of Lac Brochet, following her 23-year teaching career.

Your support can make a big difference to her ministry and the First Nations people of Cross Lake. Your gift will help fund the travel costs of Sister Carmen and missionaries like her as they give witness to His promise in Canada’s remote Northern territories.

Help share in the work of our missionaries. Please send your gift today!

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA
201-1155 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4T 1W2
www.cmic.info | 1-866-YES-CMIC (937-2642)

Diocesan Messenger – March 2011
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Holy See Expresses Grief Over Libya Situation

Prelate Decrees Violation of Elemental Rights

Adapted from February 27, 2011 Zenit Press Release

The Holy See is expressing “concern and grief” due to the bloody repression of the protests taking place in Libya at present, said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

The Holy See’s permanent observer at the U.N. offices in Geneva affirmed this Friday during a meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Council, which met to assess the measures being taken toward this North African country.

As happened in other countries such as Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, protests have also been unleashed in Libya against the ruling regime. However, the authorities in the latter country, supported by paid mercenaries, have turned to violent measures to squelch the protests.

Archbishop Tomasi said Friday on Vatican Radio, “The Holy See states that first of all it is necessary to put an end to this violence and effect a return to dialogue to see if a solution can be found.”

“The protests express the popular will for active and democratic participation in the management of the country,” he added.

In the course of Friday’s meeting, “important recommendations were made,” the archbishop affirmed.

He explained, “The first is that the United Nations General Assembly which has the authority should suspend Libya from the Human Rights Council, of which it is a member, because the Libyan authorities have behaved in a way totally contrary to the principles of the Human Rights Council.”

The second recommendation, the prelate concluded, is “to create an international investigation mission, which should go to Libya to examine how things really are and to see how to help to remedy and block this enormous violence against the civilian population.”

Chalice

Chalice is an independent Canadian Catholic sponsorship organization with headquarters in Nova Scotia. Chalice sponsors over 43,000 children around the world regardless of race, creed or religion.

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Help a child in need | www.chalice.ca

Chalice provides food for a hungry child, medical care and the opportunity to go to school instead of going to work—all because ordinary people come together.

Send your prayers online | www.chalice.ca

Let’s join together in daily prayer. Together we can make a difference in our world and provide support for each other. Pray with us online and feel the power of prayer!

Diocesan Messenger – March 2011
Glossary

acolyte [əˈkoʊlɪt] noun
a person assisting the celebrant in a religious service or procession.
• an assistant or follower.

ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French acolyt or ecclesiastical Latin acolytus, from Greek akolouthos follower. Previously one of the Minor Orders.

beautification [bɪˈeɪtɪfɪkaʃən] noun
[in the Roman Catholic Church] declaration by the pope that a dead person is in a state of bliss, constituting a step toward canonization and permitting public veneration.

ORIGIN early 16th cent. (in the sense [action of making blessed]): from Old French, or from ecclesiastical Latin beautificatio(n-), from beautificare ‘make blessed,’ from Latin beatus ‘blessed.’

canon 1 [ˈkænən] noun
1 a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged: the appointment violated the canons of fair play and equal opportunity.
• a church decree or law: a set of ecclesiastical canons.
2 a collection or list of sacred books accepted as genuine: the formation of the biblical canon.
• the works of a particular author or artist that are recognized as genuine: the Shakespeare canon.
• a list of literary or artistic works considered to be permanently established as being of the highest quality: Hopkins was firmly established in the canon of English poetry.
3 (also canon of the Mass) (in the Roman Catholic Church) the part of the Mass containing the words of consecration.
4 Music a piece in which the same melody is begun in different parts successively, so that the imitations overlap.

PHRASES
in canon Music with different parts successively beginning the same melody.

ORIGIN Old English: from Latin, from Greek

canon 2 noun
a member of the clergy who is on the staff of a cathedral, esp. one who is a member of the chapter. The position is frequently conferred as an honorary one.
• (also canon regular or regular canon) (in the Roman Catholic Church) a member of certain orders of clergy that live communally according to an ecclesiastical rule in the same way as monks.

ORIGIN Middle English (in the sense [canon regular]): from Old French canonnic ‘according to rule’ (see canonnic).

imago dei (“Image of God”)
Latin: a theological term, applied uniquely to humans, which denotes the symbolic relation between God and humanity. The term has its roots in Genesis 1:27, wherein “God created man in his own image...” This scriptural passage does not mean that God is in human form, but rather, that humans are in the image of God in their moral, spiritual and intellectual nature. Thus, humans mirror God’s divinity in their ability to actualize the unique qualities with which they have been endowed, and which make them different than all other creatures: rational structure, complete centeredness, creative freedom, a possibility for self-actualization and the ability for self-transcendence.

From www.pbs.org/faithandreason/theogloss/imago-body.html

temporal 1 [ˈtempərəl] adjective
1 relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; secular.
2 of or relating to time.
• Grammar relating to or denoting time or tense.

DERIVATIVES
temporally adverb

ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French temporel or Latin temporalis, from tempus, tempus ‘time.’

temporal 2 adjective
Anatomy
of or situated in the temples of the head.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin temporalis, from tempora ‘the temples’.

venerable [ˈvɛnərəbəl; ˈvɛnrə-] adjective
accorded a great deal of respect, esp. because of age, wisdom, or character: a venerable statesman.
• (in the Roman Catholic Church) a title given to a deceased person who has attained a certain degree of sanctity but has not been fully beatified or canonized.
• (in the Anglican Church) a title given to an archdeacon.

DERIVATIVES
venerability [ˌvɛnəˈrəbələtɪ] noun
venerableness noun
venerably | ˈvɛnərəbli | adverb

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin venerabilis, from the verb venerari (see venerate).

Great Truths About Life that Little Children Have Learned

1. No matter how hard you try, you cannot baptize cats.
2. When your mom is mad at your dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don’t hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask your three-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
5. You can’t trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Reading what people write on desks can teach you a lot.
7. Don’t sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
8. Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic-tac.
9. Never hold a Dustbuster and a cat at the same time.
10. School lunches stick to the wall.
11. You can’t hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
12. Don’t wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
13. The best place to be when you are sad is in Grandma’s lap.

What Do I Say?

By Connie Dunwoody

I’m not saying it’s going to happen – well, it could, surely it could – so it’s better to be prepared! Just in case, here’s a handy list of the proper ways to address certain dignitaries.

The Pope: His Holiness
A Cardinal: Your Eminence
An Archbishop: Your Grace
The Bishop: Your Excellency
The Queen of England: The first time, Your Majesty. Thereafter, “Ma’am.” (The first time??? Thereafter??? Like it’s gonna happen more than once?) Unless you’re the President of the United States, and then, apparently, a handshake will do.

Your Spouse: If Female, refer to “The Queen” above.
If Male, “Your Lordship” would work nicely.

Try this for a week, just for fun. “Good e’en, Your Majesty.” “Greetings, Your Lordship, Prieste, how wast thy day?” Do try not to giggle. It will quite spoil the atmosphere.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

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Countdown to Conference

by Flo Follero-Pugh

The Diocesan Youth Conference 2011 is only months away! This year our Diocese is hosting its eighth annual conference designed with, by and for youth. Our keynote speakers will be Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer—the team of “APeX Ministries.”

APeX is an internationally known comedy duo based out of Baltimore, Maryland and Casper, Wyoming. Since 1996 they have travelled North America using a style they define as “Christian Vaudeville.” What exactly does that mean, you ask? It includes death-defying juggling, sketch comedy and personal testimony. In other words, they are evangelists, they throw things at each other, and they are funny.

Who can resist that? A weekend away from home, meeting old friends and making new ones, and figuring out this thing we call “faith” with Gene and Brad. Save the date—don’t let your parish youth miss out on this amazing experience!

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 by email to teamdyc@gmail.com or phone 250-544-0999.

Cathedral Royale: We Are the Church

When: May 27 - 29, 2011
Where: St. Andrew’s Regional High School, 880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria
Who: All youth in the Diocese in grades 8 – 12, and recent high school graduates

Catholic Health Association of BC Bursary

The board of directors of the Catholic Health Association of BC is pleased to announce that it will grant two bursaries in 2011—each in the amount of $250—to graduating students who are enrolled in a Catholic secondary school or who are a member of a BC or Yukon parish and enrolled in a public secondary school or who are home-schooled.

Interested students are invited to submit a 500 word essay to the Association by March 31, 2011, that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of Spirituality in Health Care. Catholic health care is sometimes characterized by what we don't do—however, what we are seeking from applicants in this exercise is an understanding of that unique, intangible element in the care we give to the spirit and the difference this can make to health and healing.

Essays may be sent by regular mail to the address below or via email to smhouse@shawlink.ca. Applicants are asked to include a return address as well as information about the school he or she attends and the date and place of their graduation ceremony. Emailed submissions must be sent prior to midnight on the 31st of March. If submitted by regular mail, they must be date-stamped on or before the 31st.

A committee of the CHABC board of directors will evaluate all submissions that are received by the specified due date and will announce the recipients of the bursaries before April 30, 2011.