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50th
International
Eucharistic
Congress



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

April 2012

I See His Blood upon the Rose

By Joseph Mary Plunkett (1887–1916)

I see his blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.

I see his face in every flower;
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice—and carved by his power
Rocks are his written words.

All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
His cross is every tree.



Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Statement by the President of the Canadian Conference Of Catholic Bishops Welcoming The Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

It is with great joy that the Bishops of Canada welcome the February 18, 2012 announcement that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will canonize Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, elevating her to sainthood. This event will be a great honour to all of North America, but also in a particular way to its Aboriginal Peoples, of whom Kateri will be the first to receive this dignity.

Blessed Kateri, known as “the Lily of the Mohawks”, was born in 1656 in what is now New York State. Persecuted for the Catholic faith she held so tenaciously, she moved to a Christian Mohawk village in what is now Kahnawake, within the current diocese of Saint-Jean Longueuil, Quebec, where she died at the age of 24.

For this reason, she is rightly claimed by the Church both in the United States and in Canada. We in Canada therefore rejoice together with our American brothers and sisters in this joyful news. Pope Benedict recently reminded us that all saints, “through their different paths of life, show us the various ways to holiness, united by a single common denominator: to follow Christ and to conform ourselves to him, who is the ultimate goal of our human existence” (*Angelus*, November 1, 2011).

In particular, Kateri provides us “an example of fidelity . . . a model of purity and love” (Blessed John Paul II, “Address to the Indians of North America,” 24 June 1980). As a member of the Communion of Saints, she will hold a special place within the universal Church, being one of the “great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Revelation 7.9).

We therefore humbly ask: “Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!” Help us imitate your life of devotion to Our Lord, summed up in your dying words: “*Jesos konoronkwa!*” —“Jesus, I love you!”

+ Richard Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops ✕



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Appeal in Action

by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Diocesan Appeal—Practicing Stewardship

One of our Stewardship Goals in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is to affirm and promote stewardship as a significant priority in the Diocese. So when we have a successful Appeal such as *A Journey of Hearts and Hands: On Our Way* we are beginning to learn how to embrace every definition or aspect of stewardship. The following points discuss many of these aspects of stewardship:

- **Based in Scripture:** Stewardship comes directly from The Old and New Testaments. It is not a new fad but rather the way God has always expected His people to live.
- **Dependence on God:** Stewardship recognizes that everything we have and everything we do is a result of some gift that God has placed in our hands.
- **Gratitude:** We must take time every day to recognize and be grateful for the gifts God has given each of us.
- **Giving Back:** Stewardship is returning a portion of these gifts back to our Church because we have a powerful need to show our love and gratitude to God.
- **Transformative:** Stewardship changes the way we look at every decision we make.
- **A Love Response:** Our generosity comes from our grateful response to God's abundant love for us as expressed in our manifold gifts and talents.
- **Proportionate Giving:** We give in direct proportion to all the gifts God has given us.
- **Spending Time with God:** Stewardship involves spending some time each day with God in prayer, Mass, Scripture reading, meditation or service.
- **Sharing Talent:** Stewardship recognizes that God has given each person individual skills and talents so that they can use them to carry out the mission and ministry of the Church.
- **Giving Treasure:** Stewardship involves giving treasure to support the building up of God's earthly kingdom. We are all challenged to give from our substance rather than our surplus.
- **Trust in God:** We trust that our generous God will always provide for us; maybe not all we want but certainly all that we need.
- **Accountability:** As in the *Parable of the Talents* all individuals will be asked to give an accounting of what we have done with our God-given talents. Likewise, all parts of our Church are accountable for the way in which the gifts that have been given have been used.
- **Thankfulness:** Stewardship calls us to be grateful to God for all His gifts and to appreciate and recognize all those who give generously to the parish.
- **Counter-Culture:** While current culture pushes us to strive for more, stewardship helps us recognize that we have enough—and enough to share.
- **Discipleship:** We strive to put God first in all things, and to follow where Our Lord leads us.

2010 Gifts and Pledges Compared to 2011 Appeal

	2010	2011
Goal	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
Number of Gifts	2544	2591
Total Pledged	\$1,214,140	\$1,084,192
% of Goal	162%	145%
Average Gift	\$477	\$418
Parish Share	\$488,062	\$346,299

2012 Appeal: Looking Ahead...

A Journey of Hearts and Hands will continue in the fall of 2012.

- Tentative Sundays for Appeal 2012
October 14 – October 21 – October 28 – November 4
- Financial Goal will remain at \$750,000
- Diocesan programs will be largely unchanged
- The Priests Steering Committee will again lead the Appeal
- Mike Patterson will continue as Appeal Coordinator
- Appeal elements will continue to be:
 - Print Materials
 - Clergy Consultations and Committee Training
 - Celebratory Mass & Dinner and Regional Receptions
 - Mail-out from the Diocesan Appeal Office
 - Video with focussed narrative and images around programs
 - Diocesan website will have an expanded role

Conclusions:

- Very successful Appeal again this year
- Participation up slightly
- Pledges down slightly ✕

Pastoral Planning Update

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

In the Fall of 2011 parishes submitted their local Parish Pastoral Plans following regional workshops providing tools and a template for developing these plans. Six months have now elapsed since parishes throughout the Diocese developed their own Parish Pastoral Plans.

Work is currently underway through regional workshops to provide parishes an opportunity to “pause and reflect” on how their plans are unfolding, to receive support, to explore problem-solving strategies and tools for refining their process. The workshops are also an opportunity to share “best practices,” identify initiatives for potential collaboration and garner input for the next Diocesan Pastoral Planning Conference to be held October 26 – 27, 2012. What follows is an overview of the Pastoral Planning process to date.

Claiming the Past with Gratitude Living the Present with Enthusiasm Looking to the Future with Hope

PHASE ONE: AUGUST 2009 – AUGUST 2011

- **Summer 2009:** Formation of the *Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Planning Committee* which reviewed and incorporated relevant recommendations from the 1986 – 1991 Synod.
- **November 2009:** Initial Survey of Parishes followed by regional sessions validating input.
- **May 2010:** Second Pastoral Planning Consultation Survey distributed, resulting in the establishment of the Six Core Priorities (*A. Liturgy/Sacraments/Prayer/Word of God; B. Marriage, Family Life and Sanctity of Human Life; C. Parish Outreach/Social Justice/Ecumenism; D. Religious Education and Vocations; E. Stewardship/Administration/Finance; F. Youth and Young Adults*).
- **August 23, 2010:** Publication of the *Report of the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Planning Committee* detailing Pastoral focus for the years 2010 through 2014.
- **March 2011:** Regional workshops assisting parishes in developing a five-year Parish Pastoral Plan with a draft template to be completed and submitted to the Diocese.
- **April – August 2011:** Formulation and submission of Local Parish Pastoral Plans to the Diocese .

PHASE TWO: AUGUST 2011 – JANUARY 2012

- **August 2011- September 2011*:** Diocesan review of Parish Pastoral Plans
- **October 2011*:** First Annual Diocesan Pastoral Planning Conference:
 1. Ministry-based workshops explored the Six Core Priorities of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan related to
 - *current practices*; and
 - *ideal directions for growth*
 2. Parish Pastoral Plans were reviewed with stakeholders in Regional Groupings in order to:
 - *establish opportunities for mutual support, mentoring and collaboration on common goals*; and
 - *provide grassroots feedback for further refinement to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan*
- **October 2011 – January 2012:** Diocesan review of Pastoral Planning Conference feedback together with Ministry and Regional workshop data, bringing clarity to Diocesan planning.

*A number of individual workshops were presented to parishes unable to attend original regional Pastoral Planning Workshops

PHASE THREE: JANUARY 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2012

- Conference Ministry and Regional Workshop session discussion data sent to Pastors.
- Diocesan Messenger Special Edition charting progress on each of the Six Core Priorities.
- Bishop's Diocesan Pastoral Plan Implementation Advisory Committee struck.
- Pastoral Planning Follow-up Regional Spring Workshops initiated throughout March and April 2012, for Pastors, their Parish Pastoral Council Chairs and Parish Pastoral Council Members as well as those in Parish Ministry Leadership. Workshops are provided for checking-in, support and problem solving. In addition, the sessions will provide the Diocese with direction for the October 26 – 27, 2012 Second Annual Diocesan Pastoral Planning Conference. ✕





Observances and Traditions of Lent and Easter

by James E. O'Reilly

Lent originated as a type of retreat for catechumens preparing for initiation into the Church and the Paschal Mystery at the Easter Vigil. It also became a time of renewal for the already baptised who journeyed with the catechumens. Three traditional spiritual practices continue to our time as part of the Lenten preparation for Easter:

- **Prayer** (an opportunity for a more intense and regular opening of our hearts and minds more to God);
- **Fasting** (restricting our intake of food, or human desires, the resulting hunger being a reminder of our dependence on God, and as a sign of solidarity with the poor); and,
- **Almsgiving or Charity** (providing material support and care for the poor) can be characterized as doing something positive in addition to giving something up.

The word *Lent* originates from the Anglo-Saxon word for Spring, *lencten*. *Lenctentid* (Springtide) was the Saxon name for *March*. It also marks the month of lengthening days, another root connection for “Lent.” This forty-day period was also known as *Quadragesima* which is Latin for the number forty, a direct reference to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert prior to beginning his public ministry. The first reference to the Church’s forty-day observance of Lent is found in the *Canons of Nicea* (A.D. 325).

Shrove Tuesday heralds the *Lenten* season which begins on the following day, *Ash Wednesday*. The word *shrove* comes to us from Middle English, and is derived from the Old English verb *scrifen* meaning to *prescribe*. This was a direct reference to the Sacrament of Reconciliation when the priest prescribed a penance and pronounced absolution. Traditionally people would go to the priest to be “shriven” before Lent began. Originally Shrove Tuesday was part of the three days before Ash Wednesday, known as *Shrovetide*. Once “shriven,” repentant and absolved, people made merry and feasted prior to undertaking the rigours of Lent.

The custom of having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday was connected to this feasting as a way of using up the animal fats (butter and lard) used in cooking and which traditionally would be given up for Lent. In northern Europe “Carling Sunday” was so named for the parched peas fried in butter (carlings). As these were times before refrigeration, and so as to avoid spoilage and waste, the fats were used up for the Shrove Tuesday feast. This also explains the association with the term “Fat Tuesday” or the French equivalent, “Mardi Gras.” “Carnival,” which we also associate with this time, is popularly derived from the Latin, “carne vale” (literally farewell to flesh or meat). The celebratory aspect, reflected in parades and parties, harkens back to at least medieval times and possibly has pagan roots. As it was the practice to have no parties or other celebrations during Lent, Carnival came to be associated with one last hurrah before all such activities were suspended.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the ashes resulting from the burning of palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. The ashes are a rich symbol, connecting us to our Old Testament biblical roots: a sign of mourning and penance for sins. They also remind us of our mortality, and our ongoing need for repentance.

Violet vestments, symbolizing penitence and royalty, are worn throughout Lent. The option of wearing rose-coloured vestments on the fourth Sunday of Lent, or *Laetare Sunday* (from the entrance antiphon for the Mass of the day, *Laetare Jerusalem*, “Rejoice Jerusalem”) is a recognition that Lent will soon be over because Easter is imminent, a cause for hope and joy.

Laetare Sunday was also known as *Mothering Sunday*, hearkening to a time when people would go to the church of their baptism or the cathedral of the diocese. By extension mothers were also honoured on this day, with roses (picking up the liturgical colour) being brought to mothers after Mass. In some areas Mothering Sunday was associated with honouring St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Mother. A case of “Christian feast reversal,” this Christian tradition of honouring mothers was long established before the secular version of Mother’s Day was instituted in May of 1914.

The Fifth Sunday of Lent traditionally sees crucifixes, statues and pictures being covered with purple cloth until Good Friday, a reference to the end of the Gospel of the day where John (8:59) recounts “Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple” as Jesus’ enemies prepared to stone him.

Holy Week begins with *Palm* (or *Passion*) *Sunday*, when the Passion of our Lord is read and blessed palms are distributed. Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem when palm branches were strewn in his path to honour him. The palm signified triumph and victory in the ancient world. There is wry irony in this commemoration as it highlights the fact that those who praised Jesus would soon be the ones to call for his death, reminding us of our own wavering fidelity to God.

In some areas this Sunday was known as “Fig Sunday” as figs were eaten on this day recalling the fig tree Jesus cursed after his entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11: 12 -14). “Spy Wednesday” followed—a reference to Judas, who conspired with the Jewish authorities and betrayed Jesus.

Maundy Thursday is now better known as *Holy Thursday* where the order of priesthood is highlighted as rooted in Christ’s service to all. The restored tradition of washing the feet of twelve men from the community is a direct link to and echo of Christ’s mandate to the Twelve Apostles. “Maundy” refers to the words of Jesus found in an ancient Latin antiphon for the day: *Mandatum novum, do vobis*, “I give you a new commandment.”

In some areas Holy Thursday was known as “Shear Thursday” relating to an ancient practice of trimming hair and beard signifying spiritual preparation for Easter.

Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” in Latin, was a solemn and mournful observance incorporating two prayer periods of the old Breviary, Matins and Lauds, and prayed the evenings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Illumination was provided by fifteen candles on a triangular stand which were extinguished one by one, with the last candle being hidden under the altar. Then, in darkness, a great noise was made representing the quaking of the earth which accompanied the death of Jesus. Following this the candle was brought forth from under the altar and placed on the top of the stand signifying Jesus’ Resurrection and triumph over the darkness of sin and death, at which point the assembly departed in silence.

The *Triduum* (“Three Days” in Latin) is the holiest part of the liturgical year. Beginning with Holy Thursday’s evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, it continues through Good Friday’s Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, Holy Saturday’s day of rest and climaxes at the Easter Vigil.

The *Easter Vigil* draws us in to the central Mystery of God’s sacrificial and saving love which has brought us freedom and light. Starting with the church in darkness, an empty tabernacle and dry holy water fonts, we enter into a richly symbolic and spiritual event. The Paschal Candle is prepared and marked, the New Fire is lit, and the New Light is passed from the processed Paschal candle, accompanied by the chanted “Christ our Light” and response “Thanks be to God” as the “Light of Christ” is raised at three points along the main aisle of the church. The beautiful and powerful sung Easter proclamation, the *Exultet* (“Rejoice,” dating from the 5th or 6th century) profoundly announces the wonder and dignity of the Easter Mystery. Up to nine readings (three to seven Old Testament readings and two New Testament readings) remind us of God’s marvellous care for His people from the beginning of time. The lyrical and uplifting Easter *Alleluia* heralds the proclamation of the Easter Gospel account of the Resurrection. The Easter water is also blessed for the catechumens and they are baptised at this time and received into the Church.

So great in importance to the Church is this Season during which we celebrate the central mystery of our faith, Christ’s triumph over sin and death in His Resurrection, that it is celebrated for the Great Fifty Days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. From the Greek, *pente*, fifty, is the perfect number 7, squared, plus one, (for the first day of the New Life). The word *Easter* likely originates from the Norse word *Eoster* designating the season of the rising sun, Spring.

On the fortieth day the Lord’s Ascension into heaven is celebrated. In times past the Christ Candle, or Paschal Candle, was extinguished on this day as a symbol of Christ physically leaving the world. Today the Paschal Candle remains lit throughout the Easter Season.

Pentecost, which ends the Easter Season was also referred to, particularly in England, as “Whit Sunday” or “Whitsun,” carries a direct reference to the white (*whit*) initiation garment which the new Christians received at the Easter Vigil and wore for the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season.

May this Season, rich as it is in symbolism and grace, draw us into a deeper awareness of God’s profound love for us! ✠

(With notes from the Catholic Source Book, fourth edition, Harcourt Religion Publishers; CatholicCulture.org: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1043>; Catholic Dictionary, Our Sunday Visitor Press; and Catholic Online: <http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/faq.php>)

KOINONIA CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Koinonia Christian Books has been sold - effective April 1.

The new owners will continue with the existing name... it's business as usual. Judith Ravai wishes to extend her thanks to all of Koinonia's customers for their many years of loyalty.



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Pastoral Itinerary

Bishop Richard Gagnon

Calendar of Events

- April
- 3

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Chrism Mass (7 pm)
- 5

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Holy Thursday Mass (7:30 pm)
- 6

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Good Friday Service (3 pm)
- 7

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Easter Vigil (8 pm)
- 8

St. Andrew's Cathedral:Easter Sunday Mass (11 am)
- 13-14

Victoria: Truth and Reconciliation Regional Event, Victoria Conference Centre
- 15

SaanichPeninsulaParish,Sidney: Confirmation(10:30am)
- St. Andrew's Cathedral: Rite of Reception of the Anglican Catholic community (5 pm)
- 17

Victoria: Mount St. Mary Hospital Mass (10:30 am)
- 21

St. Patrick's Parish, Campbell River: Confirmation (1 pm)
- Christ the King Parish, Courtenay: Confirmation (5 pm)
- 22

St. Mary's Parish, Ladysmith: Confirmation (9 am)
- St. Ann's Parish, Duncan: Confirmation (11 am)
- 26-29

Richmond: Knights of Columbus Annual State Convention
- May
- 1

Victoria: St. Joseph the Worker Parish 50th Anniversary Mass (5 pm) and Dinner
- 5

Sooke: Mass and Blessing (11 am) of St. Rose of Lima Church
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Victoria: Confirmation (6:30 pm)
- 6

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Vocations Mass (11 am)
- St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria: Confirmation (2:30 pm)
- 7-8

St. Elizabeth's Parish, Sidney: CWL Diocesan Convention
- 12

Ascension Parish, Parksville: Confirmation (11 am)
- St. Peter's Parish, Nanaimo: Confirmation (5 pm)
- 13

Holy Family/Notre Dame Parish, Port Alberni: Confirmation (10 am)
- 14-18


Surrey: Clergy Retreat, Rosemary Heights
- 24

Ottawa ON: Episcopal Commission for Liturgy
- 26

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Vatican II Council Celebration (10:30 am)
- St. Andrew's Regional High School, Victoria: Diocesan Youth Conference
- Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Confirmation (5 pm)
- 27

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Confirmation (11 am)
- 29

Victoria: Mount St. Mary Hospital Mass (11 am)



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April

14

Our Lady of the Rosary: Family Movie night, 6:00 pm. Entrance is free; pizza, juice, popcorn and chocolate by donation. The featured 75-minute long movie will be *God Made You Special*, a Veggie Tales movie. For more information call (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca.

14

Christ the King, Courtenay: "Come Let us Marvel in the Beauty of the Lord" An evening of fine dining and ravishing entertainment starts at 6:00 pm with entertainment to follow in the parish hall. The menu features Chicken Cordon Bleu, Pan Roasted Potatoes and a lovely Spring Salad, finishing with a selection of fine desserts and tea or coffee. This is a fundraiser to support youth in grades 9 - 12 to attend a retreat in Tofino & Ucluelet. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$12.50 for children under 10 years of age. For more information, please contact Deanna Beaudoin at (250) 334-4716 or email deanna.beaudoin@gmail.com.

27-29

Christ the King Senior Youth West Coast Retreat, Tofino & Ucluelet: Senior youth retreat based on Psalm 46:10: *Be still and know that I am God*, featuring Pious Posers Lance and Jay from Calgary, AB. For more information contact Deanna Beaudoin at (250) 334-4716 or email deanna.beaudoin@gmail.com.

27/28

St. Patrick's, Victoria: CWL Good Used Clothing Sale on Friday April 27 and Saturday April 28, 2012, from 9:30 am – 2 pm, in the Lower Level of St. Patrick's Parish Centre, 2060 Haultain Street. Wheelchair Accessible.

May

1

St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: 50th Anniversary Celebrations. To officially commemorate 50 years of service, celebration, holiness and prayer, Bishop Richard Gagnon will preside at the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker Mass at 5 pm, followed by a Gala Dinner at 6:30 pm in the St. Joseph School gym. Tickets are \$40 each. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (250) 479-7413, email the office at sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or visit the website at www.sjtw.ca.

5

St. Andrew's Regional High School: The St. Andrew's Rowing Academy is sponsoring a Giant Garage Sale to raise funds to help pay for their trip to St. Catharines, Ontario where they will compete May 30 – June 3, 2012 in the "Schoolboys" national regatta. Your participation in, and support of, the Garage Sale will help our rowers with their trip expenses—and it will help YOU have a more clutter-free home! Or—if you are a bargain hunter—then will we have DEALS for you!! Doors open to the public at 9 am; vendors have access on Friday from 3:30 - 8:30 pm and Saturday morning at 7:30 am. To secure a table as a vendor (\$30, cheques payable to St. Andrew's Regional High School), or for more information, contact Joanie Bidlake at (250) 727-6893 ext 227 or email jbidlake@cisdv.bc.ca.

12/13

Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria: Our Lady of Fatima Festival - *Todos Bem Vindo* - All Are Welcome. A celebration of the First Apparition of Our Lady to the three children in Fatima. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 12 at 8 pm, followed by a recitation of the Rosary and a candlelight procession. On Sunday, Mass will be at 10 am followed by a procession and a social festivity featuring delicious traditional Portuguese foods, BBQ and entertainment. For more information, email the office at olfvictoria@shaw.ca.

June

9

St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: St. Joseph the Worker CWL 50th Anniversary Strawberry Tea will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 2 pm – 4 pm in the parish hall. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (250) 479-7413, email the office at sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or visit the website at www.sjtw.ca.

16

Our Lady Queen of Peace: The annual Lobster Dinner will begin immediately following the 5 pm Mass, in the Community Centre, and includes Lobster or Ham with all the trimmings, dessert and tea/coffee. Ticket price TBA; for more information contact Carol Molloy at (250) 384-3884.

Miscellany

Wednesdays

St. Patrick's Victoria: Moms & Tots group. Come together with the moms of St. Patrick's Catholic Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria) for faith, fellowship and laughter. We discuss everything from two-year-old tantrums, to the dignity of women, to faith in our families and back to potty training. We meet at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings; childcare is provided. Contact Bonnie at (250) 213-4984 or koalabear_writer@yahoo.ca for more info.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

San Diego to Mexico Cruise: Mary Hof, parishioner of St. Edwards, Duncan, and sister of Fr. John Laszczyk, Rector of St. Andrews Cathedral, will be escorting a trip November 7 to 17th, 2012. You'll spend three days in San Diego, then board the Holland America Zaandam to cruise for 7 days in the waters of the Mexican Riviera. You'll visit Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, enjoy local markets and experience the colorful customs of these west coast Mexican cities. There will be a priest on board. At this time, there is female parishioner from St. Andrew's Cathedral looking for a travelling companion. For more information, contact Mary by email to gmhof@shaw.ca or call her at (250) 743-4074.

To have your event included in the Diocesan Calendar of Events on the website, please email the details to editor@rcdvictoria.org

Deepening in Intimacy with Christ


A Retreat with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

A weekend retreat based on the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola* will be facilitated by Fr. Elton Fernandes, a Jesuit from St. Mark's College, Vancouver. The retreat will be held at the Cathedral on Friday evening, April 27 from 7 – 9 pm and continue on Saturday, April 28 from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Participants will attend the 5 pm Mass at which Fr. Fernandes will preside and preach. To allow time and space for prayer and sharing, the retreat will be limited to 30 participants.

Cost of the retreat is \$30.00 payable at the time of registration. This fee will cover such things as coffee/tea, a light lunch on Saturday and the honorarium for the Retreat Master. No refunds will be given unless a replacement can be found. Retreat is limited to 30 participants.

Biographical information: Fr. Elton Fernandes entered the Jesuits in 1999. After being missioned to studies in Taiwan and China, he returned to Canada in 2008 to obtain a licentiate degree in spirituality and then serve at a retreat house in Guelph, Ontario. Currently, he is teaching Ignatian Spirituality at St. Mark's College and giving retreats in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

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Diocesan Messenger – April 2012

Island News & Events



iLEARN ... iBELIEVE ... iPRAY

by Fr. Alfredo Monacelli and Paula Hudson (Children's Religious Education Coordinator)

*For every one who asks, receives, and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

~ Matthew 7:8-9

The signs of God's presence in our life are revealing the power of Christ's Resurrection that continues to accompany us in our journey of faith.

St. Edward's Parish has witnessed the grace of the Mystery in the seven children who were baptized during the Saturday evening Mass and the one child baptised at the Sunday Mass.

The occasion was the Queen of Angels School Mass celebrating the this year's theme *iLearn, iBelieve, iPray*. The idea that it takes a community to raise a child was at the forefront of the decision to have these baptisms performed during the school Mass. The parish, staff, teachers, students and their families all came together to celebrate and welcome the new members of our faith family.

The children are students of Queen of Angels attending catechism on Wednesday evenings through the faith formation program offered by St. Edward's. The joy of the event was palpable throughout the ceremony. The children from the school performed an angelic liturgical dance which included the pouring of the water into the font that was soon after blessed by Father Alfredo. This was an intensely beautiful and spiritual moment. The grace of the dancers combined with the ritual pouring of the water was very moving.

The faces of the children waiting to go up to the font and receive the Sacrament of Baptism were shining with joy and expectation. Their happy energy radiated to all of us. What a gift to share in a renewal of our beliefs through these children!

The hope that Christ has given us with His Resurrection shone out from the children standing in the sanctuary waiting to receive the holy Sacrament of Baptism. With this gesture of Baptism these children were giving an inexorable testimony to all of us, that Christ has never abandoned us.

As we reflect on our responsibility to each other as members of our Christian family we think about the parable of the mustard seed. The meaning of this parable is very simple: our children are like the smallest seeds but they have the potential to grow into trees. As a community we have come together to help our "seeds" grow into healthy trees ready, in return, to nourish and feed their community.

What a great tribute to the sense of community and faithfulness we nurture here at St. Edward's Parish and Queen of Angels Catholic School. ✠

4th Degree Knights Enjoy International Celebration

by Wil Wilmot, State Deputy

During the weekend of March 16-18, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus from Vancouver Island and Washington State gathered at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Langford to celebrate the 36th annual International Weekend. The event, inaugurated in 1976 in Port Angeles, Washington, is held annually and alternates between Fr. Brabant Assembly in Victoria and Assemblies in Silverdale, Bremerton and Port Angeles, Washington.

The aim of the gatherings is to promote internationalism and good fellowship through our



Knights and their Ladies from Msgr. Albury Assembly, Courtenay, enjoy dinner and fellowship

Catholic fraternity. This year's event also included an exemplification which brought 28 new Sir Knights and their families into the 4th Degree.

The highlight of the evening was Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Richard Gagnon of Victoria, followed by a delicious buffet dinner and the awards presentations. Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Hank Francis presented the following on behalf of Fr. Brabant Assembly:

Family of the Year: Sir Knight Ray and Lady Amy Merriman

Sir Knight of the Year: Sir Knight Shawn Leckie

Medal of Merit: Sarah Chapeskie

The Medal of Merit award is presented annually to individuals (not necessarily a member of the Knights of Columbus) who have made a significant contribution to their church and community.

The evening was capped by a very thoughtful and introspective talk on Patriotism delivered by Fr. John Joliffe. ✠

New Knights of Columbus Council a First for Sacred Heart

by Greg Van Dyk

The Knights of Columbus have established a new council at Sacred Heart Parish—the first such council in the history of the parish, and the newest council in British Columbia. The council was approved in February and boasts 34 members, including three priests.

"I hope that the Knights of Columbus will help in bringing the parish community together," said Fr. Al, the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and the official chaplain of the new council. "They will be able to help in strengthening family life," he said.

The new council was formed under the direction of Eloy Mendez, who is now the Grand Knight at Sacred Heart. Mendez has many plans for the new council, including pancake breakfasts, a golf tournament, and assisting with parish maintenance. "We are going to be there to help Fr. Al in any way that we can," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization with 1.7 million members worldwide. The Knights provide both funding and volunteer opportunities in service of the Church and the community.

"What makes our new council different is that we have many young members," said Mendez. "The Catholic Church is alive and growing, and this new council is a definite sign of this fact."

The men who join the Knights of Columbus gain the bond of friendship, as they work together for the common good of the parish

Paul Aussenegg is 21 years old, and has been a Knight of Columbus since September 2008. He is one of several young men to join the new council, and strives to encourage Catholic men to follow his lead.

"Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be a Knight," he said. "The Knights of Columbus have helped me so much in the past. I'd like to get more young men like myself involved, and I hope to get to know my fellow Knights even better as the years go by."

Fr. Al recognizes the valuable fellowship that the new council will provide.

The men who join the Knights of Columbus gain the bond of friendship, as they work together for the common good of the parish.

Fr. Al also notes the importance of the Knights of Columbus in promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life, encouraging devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and modelling Catholic worship through heartfelt recitation of the Holy Rosary.

"I think men should join the Knights because this is one fraternity, a lay organization wherein they can exercise their baptismal call," said Fr. Al. "There is an element of worship, as they regularly attend the Sunday Eucharist which is the centre and culmination of the whole life of Christian community."

Mendez agrees that the Knights of Columbus are integral for strengthening both the Catholic community and the faith of individual members. "Membership in the Knights has helped to strengthen my faith," he said. "That unity gives me strength."

The new Knights of Columbus council at Sacred Heart Parish meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm in the church hall. For more information, or to inquire about joining the Knights, visit www.kofc.org. ✠

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Victoria, BC is looking for applicants for the role of **PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / SECRETARY**

This is a part-time position (30 hours per week). The successful applicant will love meeting and working with people, will have strong written and verbal English communication skills and will be able to interrelate with a broad variety of age groups and diverse cultural backgrounds. A full Job description is available at the church office or on the website at: www.sacredheartvictoria.com.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a covering letter and resume no later than April 15, 2012 to sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca or by mail to: 4040 Nelthorpe St, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1, Attention: Personnel Committee



Jean Vanier—Sower of 37 Years of Faith and Sharing on Vancouver Island

by Mary Catherine Ruel, Christ the King Parish, Courtenay

The first small seed brought from a Jean Vanier retreat, held in Vancouver in February 1974, continues to bear fruit as *Faith and Sharing Vancouver Island* gathered in August for the 37th annual five-day summer retreat at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo. *Faith and Sharing* and *Faith and Light* (for parents with a child with disabilities) are sister movements of *L'Arche*, founded by renowned Canadian Jean Vanier in 1964 in Trosly France, located 20 km from Compiègne.

Why Trosly? Jean Vanier, a devout Catholic, continuing to seek God's will for his life, had gone to Trosly to see his spiritual director, Father Thomas Philippe, a Dominican. "Père Thomas," as he was known, was a chaplain at an institution for men with intellectual disabilities. Visiting this and other institutions in France, Jean was appalled by the conditions and the reality of how modern society treated people with disabilities. Their cries for family and friendship haunted him.

Subsequently, he took two men, Philippe Seux and Raphael Simi, who had been institutionalized following the death of their parents, out of an institution to come and share life with him. Following Jean's example, soon others in the village felt this call of God and did the same. This was the beginning of *L'Arche* (French word for *Ark*, a place of refuge); there are now 137 communities in 40 countries throughout the world. There are also some 1600 chapters of *Faith and Light* worldwide. Like Mother Teresa who "stepped out," leaving the comforts of her teaching order to minister to the dying in the streets of Kolkata, Jean left the comforts of a navy career and a university teaching position to answer God's call in this unique way. What a remarkable and fruit-filled life.

Jean's formative years were the war years. His father, George P. Vanier, the first French-Canadian Governor General of Canada, was Canada's ambassador to France when Paris was liberated in 1944. Jean stood on the platform with his mother, Pauline, a Red Cross volunteer, as survivors from concentration camps

arrived in the train station. Jean witnessed what happens when one nation or society, in this case Nazi Germany, tries to eliminate people who may be of a different culture, religion, or who are weak.

Jean's voice is a prophetic one in this generation. We know that civilized society, with its culture of death, has moved towards eliminating children before their birth, including specifically targeting unborn children with a disability, such as Down Syndrome, and the weak and elderly through euthanasia, arguing that they are a nuisance and cost too much. In the founding of *L'Arche* Jean writes that *L'Arche* communities, where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together, are not a solution to a social problem but a sign of hope—that *love is possible*—and that we are not condemned to live in a state of war and conflict where the strong crush the weak.

The charter of *L'Arche* states that each person is unique, precious, sacred and brings gifts, contrary to the more prevalent attitude that the birth of a child with a disability is considered a tragedy for a family. Yes the weak need the strong; but as Vanier discovered in living for more than 40 years with people with disabilities, the strong also need the weak. Our society needs the weak, for the weak have an intelligence of heart, he says—a childlikeness, spontaneity, joyfulness and acceptance of others.

Vanier, a man of deep prayer, always speaks of Jesus; His words and actions. In Luke's Gospel, Jean reminds us, Jesus says, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the lame, the crippled and the blind and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. (Luke 14: 12-14)." In *L'Arche* and *Faith and Sharing*, that is what we do: invite people, including those with disabilities, their families and friends, to come and share life together, praying, eating, celebrating and resting in God's love. Some of our *Faith and Sharing* family on Vancouver Island are now three generations. For many, each summer retreat is like a family reunion, a place of total acceptance and a place to be filled with God's love and hope which sustains them the year through. Each year new people join us; they come to the "well of living waters" for time to abide with God, receive

healing and love experienced in a faith community.

Many *Diocesan Messenger* readers know that people who live on a disability pension live on very little money. Families with a child with a disability are most often very challenged financially. In order to attend the *Faith and Sharing* retreat a number of our participants need to be subsidized. Andre and I, members of Christ the King Parish in Comox Valley for 40 years, have coordinated Faith and Sharing since 2004. We have not appealed for financial help since 2006 but our monies are very low and the time has come to ask for some help. Knowing full well that there are many demands on your and our monies, we would be very grateful if you would consider giving a donation so that we can continue to offer our annual summer retreat and renewal days and subsidize those with disabilities to attend. We can be contacted by e-mail at amcruel@shaw.ca to answer any questions. Our mailing address is 426 – 12th Street, Courtenay, BC, V9N 1T7. ✕

St. Louis College Alumni Concert Presents

Vic High Rhythm and Blues Band

With guest appearances by:
St. Andrew's Elementary School Choir
St. Andrew's Regional High School Choir

**Saturday, May 12, 2012
1:30 to 3:30**

@ St. Andrew's Elementary School Hall,
1002 Pandora Avenue, Victoria
Intermission 2:15 – 2:45


Tickets: \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 for children

All proceeds go toward St. Louis Alumni Foundation and Scholarship
(Coffee and dessert by donation will be served during intermission)
(Silent auction on display throughout case pay for items upon leaving)
(Free parking available at the back and school grounds)
(Come a little early to peruse the items)

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Thursday May 10, 2012

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Spellbound by Godspell

by Raya MacKenzie

For the parish's 50th year anniversary, St. Joseph the Worker once again shared the community's theatrical talents. Wendy Payne directed a spirited performance of *Godspell* with Donny McGeragle starring as Jesus.

The musical dramatizes the Gospel of Matthew focusing on the *Sermon on the Mount* in the first act, and the Crucifixion and Resurrection in the second. But the play does not set these events in Jesus' Israel—instead it tells Christ's story as if it occurs in a present-day city. Christ's disciples flock to him from all walks of life: teachers, artists, carpenters, and window washers join Him to act out the parables and follow him even to death. The change in setting explicitly reminds us how current Christ's message, death, and Resurrection are in our lives in modern Canada. Christ does not only revolutionize old Jerusalem but also Victoria in 2012. Would we follow if we saw Him suddenly walking down Fort Street?

The cast's enthusiasm and musical range depicted the miracles that occur when we take a leap of faith in following Jesus. Kathy Lokhorst pumped up the fun with her portrayal of the feisty Sonia who sings *Turn Back O Man* in a red sequin dress. Alli MacKenzie executed the classic *Day by Day* with poise and a rich, clear voice. The whole cast brought the parables and the Crucifixion to life in with great recognition of both Christ's divinity and His humanity.

The funds raised through *Godspell* will go to support the Parish's growing Youth Ministry. The cast, choir and production team dedicated their work to the memory of Marion Aussenegg, Jenny Daniels, and Dennis Payne. ✕



Sister Nuala Kenny's Courageous Conversation

by Jean Allen

We must ask ourselves what was wrong in our whole way of living the Christian life, to allow such a thing (the sexual abuse crisis) to happen.

Pope Benedict XVI, Dec. 2010

In a workshop titled *Healing the Church: Relationships and Power*, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Sister Nuala Kenny (SC, OC, BA, MD, FRCP, Professor Emeritus, Dept. Of Ethics, Dalhousie University), recognized as one of the leading experts on clerical abuse in Canada, presented insights in answer to Pope Benedict's question. Sister Kenny's impressive qualifications are extensive but to those who attended the two-day sessions, she was simply a compassionate physician and a discerning prophet bringing a message of clarity and hope.

With great empathy, Sr. Nuala compared the Church's response to this crisis to a patient suffering from a debilitating disease. "Treating just the symptoms or misdiagnosing the cause of the illness will only result in more pain and suffering and, in the long run, death," said Sr. Nuala. "We can no longer ignore the root problems that allowed the abuse crisis to occur."

Sr. Kenny's message reflected her love of the Church and her desire to see it move forward in a healthy manner was clear.

Sexual abuse, explained Sr. Nuala, is primarily an abuse of power. Over the centuries, within the culture of the Church, the Ministerial Priesthood was accorded increasing power, the laity put priests on pedestals, became more passive and lost sight of their own baptismal call to the Common Priesthood. This situation placed priests in environments of unhealthy isolation. A culture of secrecy, unaccountability and image protection enabled abusers and facilitated the unacceptable response of the Church.

The long-lasting trauma of victims of sexual abuse is the most visible consequence; but included among the victims are people suffering a crisis of faith due to a sense of betrayal as well as good priests and bishops who are scared, angry, discouraged and even more isolated now than ever before.

Sister Nuala's prescription for the healing of the Church is that the laity reclaim its baptismal priesthood, the clergy recognize and respect the gifts of the laity and both nurture a healthy interdependency. She challenged all to return to Gospel values and to speak out about the faults of the system that need to be addressed. The whole Church—not just the clergy—must engage in honest discussions of where the problems lie.

"Healing the Church from the sexual abuse crisis requires us to be rooted in Christ," remarked Father William Hann, Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, "and when rooted, we must be men and woman of hope and be courageous to look within and talk about those systemic and cultural realities that allowed this to happen."

Sister Kenny was the inspiration for a life affirmation of hope and relief for sexual abuse victims and abusers. It was truly amazing to have laity and clergy together dealing with this soul distorting and very difficult topic.

We left with Hope Springs Eternal.

Fr. Hann, sponsor of the workshop, received abundant feedback. "Sr. Kenny's message reflected her love of the Church and her desire to see it move forward in a healthy manner was clear. What a blessing her ministry is to our Church!" wrote Stuart Andrie, Diocese of Victoria Office of Justice and Life Coordinator. Laity and priests alike praised her message and everyone left with a sense of joyful confidence.

Prognosis? Through faith-filled and loving openness to face our faults and walk in wisdom, the patient will be healed! ✠



Sr. Kenny with Fr. William Hann

50th Annual Charity Appeal Wraps Up

by Wil Wilmot

The 50th annual Knights of Columbus Charity Appeal campaign concluded Saturday, February 4 with the Main Prize drawings held at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford. This was another very successful year, thanks to our new Charity Appeal Chairman Brother Ken Rehman of Langford Council. Ticket sales across British Columbia commenced October 4, 2011 and ran through to one week before the final draw. The Early Bird drawings for cash prizes totaling \$17,500 took place on January 21, 2012. There were two winners from Vancouver Island among the twelve; Helene Marshall of Ladysmith and Gerry Lindner of Victoria. Congratulations to both.

Unfortunately there were no Island recipients among the Main Draw winners with the three vehicles going to Kelowna, Erickson and Maple Ridge. The winner of the grand prize of \$50,000 was a lady from Cultus Lake. When presented her cheque she stated that she would be sharing her winnings with her three "Bingo Buddies."

After the prizes are paid for and other expenses deducted, the remainder of the proceeds are returned to local Councils through the province to dispense to charities in their communities; the more tickets that a council sells, the larger the return for local charities.

The Knights of Columbus, BC & Yukon wish to thank all who purchased tickets, helping to make the program the success that it was. ✠



Deputy Grand Knight Langford Council, Ken Miller and Charity Appeal Chairman, Ken Rehman present Gerry Lindner with his Early Bird cheque of \$2,000



State Deputy Wil Wilmot (left) and Grand Knight, Chilliwack Council, Kevin Frank present a cheque to Victoria Tauber winner of the Grand Prize of \$50,000

Catholic Students' Week at UVic

by Kayla Hart

At the beginning of February, the Catholic Students' Association at UVic—along with Catholic clubs at universities all across Canada—participated in a week-long event called "Catholic Students' Week," which is an opportunity for these clubs to make themselves present on their campuses, shed some light on the Catholic faith and form a stronger Catholic community.

The events officially began over the weekend with a photo scavenger hunt around the UVic area on Saturday, February 4, and a student Mass at 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 5. Each day of the week began with the opportunity to read the Morning Office together on campus, and for most of the week, an Information Table was set up so the members of the CSA could share their faith with other students.

Other events throughout the week included social gatherings like "Burgers, Beer and the Bible" at the UVic Grad Lounge, watching the movie *Courageous*, and a "locally sourced" Social Justice potluck at the Newman House. The students also spent a rainy evening downtown handing out food and other items to those living on the street.

A number of prayer and Sacrament-oriented events were offered as well, such as opportunities for Reconciliation, daily Mass, singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and not one, but two chances for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The second of these opportunities was a Saturday night Adoration called "Summit," held at the University Multifaith Chapel with the help of Bishop Richard Gagnon and Father Alfred Alilio from Sacred Heart parish. This second-to-last event of the week was one of the most highly attended and talked about, and there are plans to hold another Summit in April.

Those participating in Victoria's Catholic Students' Week were fortunate that it coincided with a visit from the *Sisters of Life* who were providing a retreat at the Cathedral on February 10 and 11. In addition to the opportunity to attend the retreat, students were also treated to a personal visit with the Sisters, who came to the Newman House on the Friday afternoon for the Rosary and tea before beginning their retreat on Friday evening.

In follow-up correspondence from the Canadian Catholic Students' Association, the national president congratulated the UVic council on their variety of events and well-rounded campus ministry. Looking back on the week, council member Tesi Carmona was pleased with how everything came together. When asked which events were the most successful, she said, "It depends what you mean by *successful*." Focusing more on the substance and less on the attendance, she was particularly impressed with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, saying "After we finished singing, I noticed the big and peaceful smiles on the faces of those that went; that is enough for me to say that was successful." ✠



Hoops For Heart 2012

by Chanpreet Gill and Soraya Rizzo

We would like to begin by thanking everybody who participated and contributed to making the 2012 *Hoops for Heart* tournament at St. Andrew's Regional High School the best yet. Planning, hard work and dedication were vital ingredients of the successful day.

As the head coordinators for the event, it was most definitely not a walk in the park. Together, we learned a lot about working as a team. There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that was highly important to making the day run as smoothly as it did. Though at times our stress level was at its peak, we managed to get through by cracking a few jokes and taking it step by step. It was a very rewarding experience, and it was great knowing that we were helping an outstanding cause.

The tournament could not have been as incredible without the support and generosity of our sponsors: Pure Health Lounge, GoodLife Fitness, Steve Nash Gym, The Fix, Saanich Parks, and finally, Spank It Sports. Together as a school we were able to fundraise \$3,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Special congratulations to our top fundraiser, Sheldon Donaldson.

We would like to thank our amazing planning committee: without them this day would not have gone as smoothly. Also a thank you to Mrs. Arthurs who was a huge contributor and a very important part in helping us organize the day. Lastly, a shout-out to Mr. Cristante for his amazing skills as our Master of Ceremonies!

Though there were ups and downs the tournament was extremely successful; we are so delighted that we could be a part of the SARHS Sabres community, and together support a great cause.

Some thoughts from our student body...

"I think that it was probably one of the most fun days that I have had in high school."
~ Carlos, Grade 8

"The whole day was really great! Everyone had fun, played hard and fair, even if they weren't great at basketball. It was a great bonding experience, and the best part was that it was for a good cause."
~ Katia, Grade 8

"It was a lot of fun!"
~ Eduardo, Grade 9

"I thought this year's tournament was the best yet! It could not have been any better. P.S. The coordinators are the best."
~ Hannah, Grade 10

"I could feel the sense of Sabers community; it was a heart filled day."
~ Tarnvir, Grade 11 and Eli, Grade 12

"It was my final year to be a part of the tournament, it couldn't have been any better."
~ Giordano, Grade 12

Thanks to everyone who was a part of the day! ✂



Myles Kitson and Elodi Forest, who won King and Queen of Hearts. This title was given to the boy and girl who played with determination, spirit and sportsmanship

Call for Speakers or Workshop Presenters

The Diocesan Office of Religious Education periodically receives requests from parish groups for names of workshop presenters and/or speakers. Acknowledging that need, we also recognize that we are blessed with well-qualified individuals able to address a range of topics impacting Catholic life in the twenty-first century. How do we connect the two parties? To be more effective in matching needs with charisms, we invite your input.

If you have a speaker or workshop presenter you wish to recommend for a Diocesan Speakers' Bank, please contact Jim O'Reilly by e-mail (jeoreilly@rcdvictoria.org) with the name of the proposed speaker or presenter, contact information, and if known, area(s) of education and/or experience, expected remuneration (if any), and references that may be contacted. The Bishop as first teacher of the Diocese should approve all speakers who visit the Diocese.

If you have a contact outside the Diocese, for example, a priest, religious or lay person who would view this invitation as an opportunity to share his/her gifts with one of our interested parishes, please share this information with them.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to circulate this list to appropriate parties for use in September, 2012. ✂

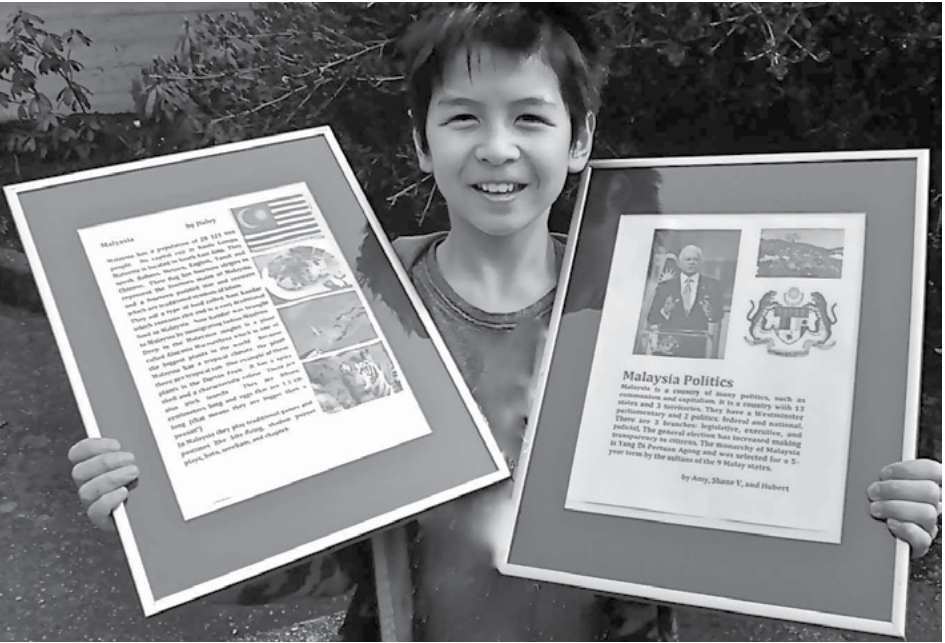
World Day of Prayer

by Bern Muller, Grade 6/7 Teacher, St. Joseph's, Chemainus


"Let Justice Prevail" was the theme for this year's International World Day of Prayer. On Friday March 2 students in my grade six/seven class from St. Joseph's School gathered for an Ecumenical prayer service with representatives from the Chemainus area's Christian Churches. This year's prayer service was written by the Women of Malaysia, and raised awareness of several issues of particular concern to women living in that country.

During the week prior to the prayer service, the students learned some general information about Malaysia in their Social Studies lessons, before conducting their own research and preparing framed information posters about social issues in Malaysia. They shared their findings with their peers in class and then displayed their projects in the church. The children also learned and then performed a song in the Tamil language.


After the service, refreshments were served in the parish hall. It was a great opportunity for the students to connect their Social Studies lessons about Global Communities with very real examples of Social Justice. ✂



Hubert displays some of the information posters that his grade six class prepared for the World Day of Prayer Service





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Youth Protecting Youth Censured at UVic

by Bronwyn Lawrie
Reprinted with permission from the Catholic Register

The University of Victoria (UVic) Student Society’s board of directors has censured campus pro-life club Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), effectively silencing the organized pro-life voice on campus.

On grounds of violating the university’s harassment policy, the board’s decision Feb. 6 is a response to the 90-plus complaints against the club related to a “Choice Chain” event on campus in November and the club’s use of posters from the National Campus Life Network. The “person poster” juxtaposes historical statements made by secular authorities against the personhood of African Americans, natives, women and Jews, comparing them to statements by the Supreme Court against the personhood of an unborn child. “Sometimes the most important lessons take the longest to learn,” reads the poster.

After three months of discussion, a society-run complaints committee recommended that YPY be censured, have its booking privileges on campus suspended until the spring of 2013, be prevented from using similar posters again and be asked to write a formal apology letter to complainants. An amendment to the poster motion removed YPY’s postering privileges until the student society passes a policy regulating acceptable poster content.

The committee did not release reasons for its action. Student society chairperson Tara Paterson—who is also the student and youth representative for the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada—did not respond to a request for comment on the harassment policy, the board’s decision or the meeting, which she chaired. “We see this as a major violation to our freedom of speech and freedom of expression,” said Cameron Côté, YPY’s vice president. “It’s like saying you’re allowed to have your own thoughts, you just can’t share them. With this motion we can’t share our view that abortion kills an unborn child with the general public, the people that need to hear this message.”

The board decided that both Choice Chain and the posters broke its harassment policy. The policy defines harassment as “the abusive, unfair or demeaning treatment of a person or group of persons that has the effect or purpose of unreasonably creating a hostile, intimidating, threatening or humiliating environment.”

“There’s no way of proving that someone is innocent of harassment if harassment is simply based on a feeling,” said Côté. “Being offended is incredibly valid, but being offended is a feeling, whereas harassment is an action. None of the complaints cited an action or a behaviour done by any participants in Choice Chain or by the poster itself.”

YPY is still allowed to book private meeting rooms for club members and to have a table at the twice-annual Clubs’ Days event. The club is discussing its response to the motions. “We’re going to have to find other ways of expressing our freedom of speech and expression,” said Côté. “There’s no way anyone can restrict our conversations with our peers, with our lab partners, with people in our classes. We will just continue on as a club and host whichever events we’re able to host within the new restrictions until we’re able to resolve them.”

YPY was asked to write an apology letter to the Students of Colour Collective, the Women’s Centre, the Native Students Union, Israel on Campus and the Jewish Students Association. These groups felt that the NCLN poster co-opted the experiences of marginalized populations to further arguments against abortion.

“We’d be more than happy to issue a clarification letter,” said Côté. “We can see from the complaints and from the board meeting itself that both the poster and Choice Chain were misunderstood.

“There’s certainly been a banding together of club members because of this hardship,” said Côté. “We are incredibly confident that we are still in the right.” ✂

Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops Meet in Victoria

by Char Deslippe

The Inn at Laurel Point was the perfect venue for the February 27 – March 2 Annual Spring Assembly of Catholic Bishops from the Roman and Ukrainian Rites. In total, six Archbishops and fifteen Bishops from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Yukon and British Columbia gathered for four days of prayer and discussion about local and national concerns.

While the agenda left little time for exploring Victoria, after a brief stop at St. Andrew’s Cathedral Wednesday afternoon the group was privileged to celebrate the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts with Father Theo Machinski and the choir at St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Church. Following liturgy, the clergy were then dinner guests of His Honour Steven Point and Her Honour Gwendolyn at Government House. This experience was certainly one of the highlights of their visit.

Business continued throughout the week with large and small group presentations on a variety of subjects. Thursday evening dinner was shared at Vista 18 where the *Dine Around Town* menu and venue provided closure to a week of challenging dialogue between and among the participants. The Bishops next gather in Ottawa in the fall at which time the ongoing work of evangelization and proclamation of the Gospel in Canada will continue.

As bags were packed and Knights of Columbus arrived to chauffeur the clergy to their various flights home, one Bishop was heard to remark, “the grass is green, the water not covered by ice, the flowers all poking their heads through the earth ... who wouldn’t want to stay here?” We were blessed to have these faith-filled men in our midst. Let us continue to pray for them and their work for the Church. ✂

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth...
~ Song of Solomon 2:11-12a

40 Days for Life

By Alex Berns, Vigil Coordinator

As I write this, we are halfway through our spring vigil. It has been so nice to be able to witness to life in Victoria. Even though the weather is a complete turnaround from our first public witness, it is not so bad when the alternative is not acknowledging that in our city, a place of beauty, there is also much sadness and heartache; and really, the price of doing nothing is much too high for our children. “Doing nothing” still demonstrates a choice in a society that considers itself too busy to “do something.”

However, there is also much good news and tremendous hope for the future. There are many courageous and tireless people of goodwill in our city. Their selfless giving and personal sacrifices are a testimony to their unconditional love for the unborn children who are sometimes mercilessly discarded in our beautiful city.

I wish to offer a personal and heartfelt thank-you to those I know who are for the change we so desperately need and whom we must continue to support. Let us all run the good race with them in our calling:

- Catholic Women’s League
- Justice and Life
- Knights of Columbus
- Priests for Life
- Respect Life Ministry
- Sisters for Life
- Youth Protecting Youth (U.Vic)
- March for Life Victoria
- 40 Days for Life
- Men and Women of Peace
- Signal Hill
- Choose Life Victoria
- Rachel’s Vineyard
- Grace to Grace
- Mt. Joy College
- Silent no More
- Birthright

We thank you all for the work that you do in support of the unborn.

In conclusion, I offer you a quote from a very broken 30-something woman who said to us, “Where were you when I was seventeen?” So you see, even while we are a quiet presence at the vigil we can help; and through our continued presence, we may even become the visible hope of those who seek peace. ✂



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Jawl & Bundon, Barristers & Solicitors

Bursary

The Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce the Jawl & Bundon \$2500 Bursary for a graduating Catholic student in the Diocese of Victoria.

Criteria:

- A grade 12 Catholic student from the Diocese of Victoria
- Acceptance in a post-secondary institution
- Demonstration of good citizenship
- Preference will be given to students who live outside of Greater Victoria and Nanaimo
- Preference will be given to First Nations students

Items to Complete & Submit:

- Jawl & Bundon, Barristers & Solicitors, Bursary Application form (available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org)
- Letter of recommendation from your parish priest
- Certification of Post Secondary acceptance or registration
- An application letter explaining how you meet the criteria, including:
- your community involvement and service activities
- your accomplishments, awards and relevant activities
- your post-secondary plans
- a brief explanation of your (or your family's) financial needs

Additional Information:
Please submit the above, by July 15th to:

Catholic Diocese of Victoria
1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Catholic Diocese of Victoria at (250) 479-1331.



Easter in the Philippines

by Fr. Alfred Alilio

In the predominantly Catholic Philippines, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are national holidays; work is suspended in government offices and private businesses. Most stores are closed and most people in the cities head to the provinces for the long Easter weekend.

Holy Week is commemorated with street processions, the Way of the Cross, and a Passion play called the Sinakulo. The Church keeps the day solemn by not tolling the church bells, and no Mass will be celebrated. In some communities (most famously in San Fernando, Pampanga), the processions include devotees who self-flagellate and sometimes even have themselves nailed to crosses as expressions of penance. After three o'clock in the afternoon of Good Friday (the time at which Jesus is traditionally believed to have died), noise is discouraged, some radio stations and television stations sign off (while others remain signed-on, broadcasting religious programming), businesses automatically close and the faithful are urged to keep a solemn and prayerful disposition through to Easter Sunday.

At Mass on Palm Sunday, Catholics carry palaspas or palm leaves to be blessed by the priest. Many Filipinos bring home the palm leaves after the Mass and place these above their front doors or their windows, believing that doing so can ward off evil spirits. Holy Monday marks the beginning of the *Pabasa* (literally, reading) or *Pasyon*, the marathon chanting of the story of Jesus' life, passion, and death, which continues day and night for as long as two straight days. A popular Holy Thursday tradition is the *Bisita Iglesia* (Church Visit), which involves visiting several Churches at which the faithful would pray the Stations of the Cross. The last Mass before Easter is also celebrated on Holy Thursday, usually including a reenactment of the Washing of the Feet of the Apostles; this Mass is followed by the procession of the Blessed Sacrament before it is taken to the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday in the Philippines is commemorated with street processions, the Way of the Cross, the commemoration of Jesus' Seven last words (*Siete Palabras*) and a Passion play called the *Dinakulo*.

Easter morning is marked with joyous celebration, the first being the dawn *Salubong*, wherein large statues of Jesus and Mary are brought in procession together to meet, imagining the first reunion of Jesus and his mother Mary after Jesus' Resurrection. This is followed by the joyous Easter Mass. ✠

MALIGAYANG PASKO NG PAGKABUHAY!
(Happy Easter)

Lenten Mission at Sacred Heart Parish

by Fr. Alfred Alilio

Sacred Heart Parish was fortunate to have a three-day Lenten retreat led by Fr. Frank Franz. It was very successful, and well attended. The retreat offered both morning and evening sessions, and people were able to choose sessions that fit with their schedules. Some of the participants' feedback follows:

HOW DID YOU BENEFIT SPIRITUALLY FROM THIS RETREAT?

- Renewed and inspired me to know of God's love and forgiveness for me
- Makes us look at our lives and learn how we can make a difference for ourselves and for others
- Realizing the very wide scope of God's love for us
- Enlightening – the role of the prophets now makes great sense
- More understanding of the Triduum
- Has made me think more about the real meaning of "church"
- Learned more about what the Easter celebrations are
- Affirmed my beliefs

DID ANYTHING PARTICULAR INSPIRE YOU?

- Open discussion about Judeo-Christian history
- Explanation of the Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil
- Inspiration of hope for today and forever
- Being alive in God's love
- I love the way Father Frank explained things—it put "flesh on the works" of the Scripture
- How much God loves and cares for me
- How to better communicate with God ✠

AN INVITATION FROM SACRED HEART PARISH

Sunday, June 3, 2012 – 1:00 – 4:30 pm (Refreshment break included)
Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St., Victoria, B.C.

Marking the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council

Facilitator	Bishop Remi J. De Roo
Content	An outline of some of the key pastoral orientations of Vatican II; the practical applications which affect our spiritual life and our outreach to society.
Theme	How our spirituality has been enhanced by Vatican II. How can we pray better because of Vatican II? How can we apply Vatican II to our mission of promoting justice, peace and charity in the world today?

QUESTIONS

Priority will be given to questions that attendees present in advance, so we can plan to coordinate the topics and avoid duplication, thus using our time to the best advantage.
Please email Fr. Al or Marilyn @ sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca with any questions re this event.
We look forward to this very privileged time together.

A Treasure in our Midst

by Christine Monier

Lock Mawhinney (December 19, 1938 - February 20, 2012), founder of L'Arche Comox Valley, passed away on February 20, 2012 after a 15-month battle with cancer. It was truly a beautiful death as he died at home, surrounded by his wife, Joanne, and eight children.

Before his death Lock achieved the completion and publication of his book, *A Personal Account of the Journey of L'Arche to the Comox Valley (1983-2002), a Treasure in a Field*. This book is a remarkable gift of the founding story of L'Arche Comox Valley for all to cherish.

Lock Mawhinney was born, raised and educated in Vancouver, BC. Following two years of seminary study he earned his B. Ed. degree from UBC and an M.Ed. degree in Special Education Administration from the University of Oregon (Eugene). He was a treasured and long-time parishioner of Christ the King parish in Courtenay.

He had a lengthy professional career with the Comox Valley School District as a teacher, consultant, coordinator, supervisor, and eventually Director of a large and diverse department serving the needs of students with special needs. Lock was an advocate for the rights of all students to access full and appropriate educational services in inclusionary environments. He spent the majority of his thirty-four-year career implementing this goal in the challenging and expanding field of disability. Over the years he received a number of related provincial awards for his work in Special Education.

The journey for Lock and his wife Joanne with L'Arche began mid-career (1983), when they attended a "Faith and Sharing" Retreat in Victoria animated by Jean Vanier. They were profoundly impacted by the message of Jean Vanier and L'Arche. Coupled with Lock's active faith life and community oriented home life, he was convinced "on the spot"—indeed inspired—to bring L'Arche home to the Comox Valley. Anxious to learn more about L'Arche and its vision and mission, Lock became a friend of and frequent visitor to L'Arche Greater Vancouver as well as an avid reader of Jean's Vanier writings.

Through the hard work and dedication of Lock Mawhinney and a group of loyal friends, his dream to bring L'Arche to the Valley became a reality when the first L'Arche residence, Jubilee House, opened in 2000.

Lock's Mawhinney's role to serve L'Arche went well beyond our local community as he also held various roles on the Board of Directors for L'Arche in the Americas and on the Board of L'Arche Canada during its formative stages. In 1993, he left National Board work, still highly motivated to begin L'Arche in his home community.

He subsequently founded the Board of L'Arche Comox Valley and served as its President for five years.

Lock retired from School District 71 as Director of Student Support Services in 1998, to take on the role of Founding Community Leader of L'Arche Comox Valley, a position he held until 2002.

Lock remained an active community member of L'Arche Comox Valley until his death and it gave him great joy to witness the opening of the L'Arche Outreach Centre in 2006 and the purchase of land in 2011 as signs of further expansion of L'Arche here in the Valley.

All the members of L'Arche Comox Valley, our many friends and supporters would like to offer a tribute to such an outstanding "gentle-man" who inspired many.

Thank you, Lock, for your vision, leadership, determination, patience, service and faith, and for leaving us such a wonderful legacy in this book; your memories, stories and the rich journey of your life that you shared so lovingly with so many of us in the L'Arche Comox Valley and the Comox Valley community. You were truly a "Treasure" in our midst.

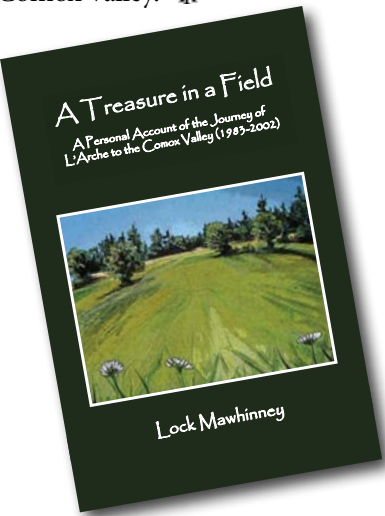
To purchase a copy of Mr. Mawhinney's book, please contact:

L'Arche Comox Valley
1744 England Ave
Courtenay BC V9N 2P6
250 334 8320
www.larchecomoxvalley.org
office@larchecomoxvalley.org

Proceeds of book sales will be donated to support the programs and services of L'Arche Comox Valley. ✠



Cory Pagnoni (L), resident of L'Arche Jubilee House and Lock Mawhinney, Founding Community Leader, lead the Western Region L'Arche Pilgrimage in Vancouver in September 2011



Change Your Thoughts, Change Your World!

by Deanna Beaudoin, Youth Ministry Coordinator, Christ the King

“Change your thoughts, change your world,” were the six words that popped into my head when I sat down to read this year’s Lenten message from our beautiful Papa, Pope Benedict XVI. As I came across this line in the first paragraph what struck me was the Holy Father’s introduction to the Letter to the Hebrews: *Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.*

His Holiness states, “These words are part of a passage in which the sacred author exhorts us to trust in Jesus Christ as the High Priest who has won us forgiveness and opened up a pathway to God.” Let us be concerned for each other indicates a responsibility towards our brothers and sisters. Being concerned for each other invites the gift of reciprocity. To stir a response in love and good works calls for us to walk together in holiness. Is this not what we are all called to fix our gaze upon, not only in Lent, but always?

In response to this beautiful document we proposed a mini-retreat, a youth mission; in doing so we invited all those in our “neighborhood” (Campbell River, Powell River and Port Alberni) to join us.

Over the last month, our youth ministry team has been working together with CARITAS Canada focusing on relief efforts one action at a time; a singular action, propelled by Christ through the youth to help aid those teens all the way across the world in Mindanao, Philippines. This retreat was to be the culmination of those efforts. We were gathering the youth to not only reaffirm their Lenten promises and fuel their journeys thought the Lenten desert, but to gather as a wider community of solidarity with those youth way across the world.

Be concerned with each other is the first step. We must change out thoughts. These days, the world seems smaller because social media and technology join us together so immediately. When I refer to our “neighbours” it’s because nowadays we don’t communicate as regularly with our physical neighbors as with our social networking neighbors. It’s so much easier for the youth of our culture to grasp the great tragedies happening to their peers across the world because it’s being made known to them everyday though social media. And the youth of this generation are ready to respond—we hear the message of the Pope! We rise to this challenge; we are responsible to our brothers and sisters of the world in need. We are ready to walk in holiness with our neighbours.

This mini mission was a culmination of hard work and much prayer. Our friends from the west joined us Friday afternoon and as an entire team led a Lenten dinner for our brothers and sisters in Christ of our Parish. It was loads of laughs, and couldn’t have gone better. It wasn’t without hiccups—like running short of food—but there was an opportunity to put into practice our reciprocity to our neighbors. We banded together and created a solution which came together in the form of a quick-thinking chef and many good-hearted youth!

After dinner we led a time of prayer for the parish, using a contemporary Stations of the Cross, which called to mind the necessity of care towards our living world. It was a beautiful display of neighborly friendship. We had participants from each parish leading, some very young and some senior youth as well. The dynamic was beautiful.

As this portion of the evening closed we settled in and officially began our retreat. The focus was on three things: calling to mind our Lenten promises and strengthening them; fasting in unity for our singular prayer intentions at home, but also for those youth in Mindanao; and building up and enflaming the light of Christ within each of us so that as we walk away in turn from this mission we will shine brightly carrying this light back into our own communities.

That evening was filled with unexpected blessings; we welcomed our guest speaker Fr. Dominic Borg who is the founding father of the Discalced Carmelite order in Canada but is originally from Malta. He engaged the kids beyond my expectation. A bible scholar and dynamic speaker, he kept our youth on the edge of their seats!

Following our first conference we created prayer candles using the seven-day sanctuary candles. Each person signed each others’ candles with a prayer or a blessing in hopes that these candles might be used in times of temptation or spiritual loneliness to remind each other that they are walking together in holiness.

Father Dominic blessed the candles as we shared the flame and then we processed into Adoration, where our talented bandleader Roger Collin and his lovely wife Laura were kind enough to lead us through Compline (night prayer) and on to some beautiful, reverent musical adoration. During Adoration, we had the opportunity for Reconciliation.

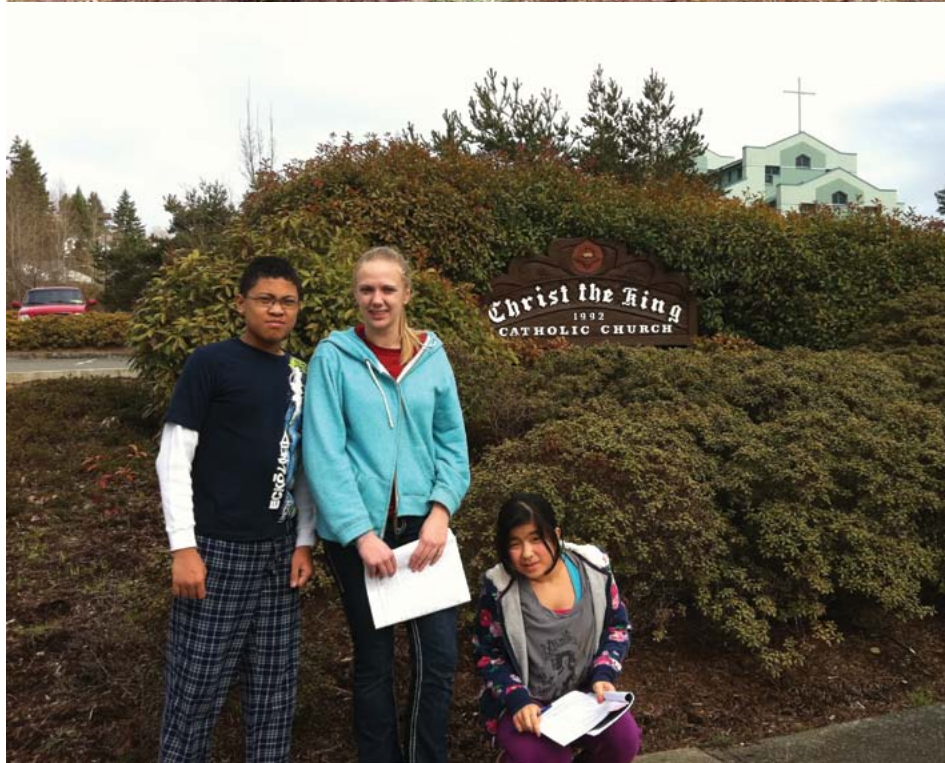
On day two of our time together we got to experience a couple of unique opportunities. Our second conference, which was also led by Father Dominic, was on Lectio Divina. We often speak in youth ministry of “breaking open the word.” It’s a well-used term to describe getting to the Scriptures. I think in all my years in ministry and including all conferences that I have been blessed to attend to this day, that morning, for the very first time I understood what that truly meant.

Farther Dominic in his very fast-paced, eloquent way talked to us about Psalm 23. I bet not one of the kids present will ever hear the phrase “The Good Shepherd” without lovingly thinking of our Father in Heaven.

The rest of the day was spent in fostering the relationships between neighbours though “wild” games and solemn prayers and concluded by celebrating the Holy Eucharist together. In the end we broke our fast by sharing one last meal joyful meal together. As everyone said goodbye we recognized the influence of the Holy Spirit over this weekend and uttered silent prayers in thanksgiving.

I would like to take the opportunity to share some comments and testimony left by our youth; in recognizing the face of Christ in each other they each reflected his light back. It’s a beautiful sight to witness and I am very grateful.

Change your thoughts, and you will change your world. ✂





Profile - Queen of Angels School, Duncan

A Parent’s Perspective

by Brenda Hennig

Catholic Schools Week reminds me of why we send our children to Queen of Angels School. Each time we prepare as a school to celebrate Catholic Schools Week I watch the enthusiasm build in the teachers and students. The ideas are discussed and special events are planned with the spirit of community. The enthusiasm is contagious: soon bulletin boards are decorated and students are looking to see all the displays throughout the school.

The excitement around the activities that take place during that week is catching as well. This year our students were working together, big buddies and little buddies, to finish a scavenger hunt about our school. There were smiles, laughter and sense of camaraderie through the halls as one group figured out an answer: they were showing others and helping ones who didn’t have the answers yet. This was not a competition; the students made this a team-building exercise. Even during lunch and recess, the older ones were helping some of the younger students so that everyone was able to participate. That is really what community is all about, and this is what makes our Catholic Schools so special. It is always interesting to watch the parents touring and seeing the magic of our school in action. It always makes me smile because I remember seeing the magic for the first time.

When we moved to Vancouver Island from a small town on the prairies called Stony Plain, we were very nervous about where we would send our children, then aged 10, 8 and 5. We were obsessed with finding the “right” school for them. We moved at the end of June and I was worried about this decision all summer.

My husband and I had chosen to put the children in the Catholic School in Stony Plain and we were very happy with our decision, so Queen of Angels was on our list to check out. Over the summer we looked at different school websites and read all we could on the schools in the area. At the beginning of August we started to phone schools to see if we could arrange for a tour. The third week of August my blood pressure was through the roof, but we started to book our visits. Our first appointment was at Queen of Angels, and when we first walked in the school we were greeted with a warm smile by the secretary and introduced to the principal, who gave us a tour. My husband and I were immediately put at ease: as we were guided through the school and saw the cheery classrooms being prepared by teachers who truly seemed to love their jobs, we knew we had found the community for our children to learn in.

As our children have grown within the school and faced challenges in their education, staff have supported them. One of our boys had a file an inch thick when we moved here and he was only going into grade two. We knew that we were dealing with something that we did not know how to handle. The Learning Assistance Teacher and his Classroom Teacher worked together to make sure his needs were met. The school’s staff never gave up; he is now in grade seven and feeling very successful. That is a priceless gift to a child and to his parents: thank you.

The gift of church and school is also a blessing; the children were able to talk about faith in school, and their catechism classes at church were made up of students whom they knew from school. The boys would say, “We talked about this at school today too!” The bridge between church and school has shown our children that faith is not just about Sundays: it should be a part of every day.

As parents we all want what is best for our children. We want them to feel love and acceptance, as well as compassion for others. When we see our children growing and learning in this school environment to “take care of one’s brother” as Jesus taught us, it reaffirms what we have always tried to model for them. Our children also feel loved and honoured at school—and most of all, they feel accepted. As a parent what more can you ask for? ✂

I like Queen of Angels school because the teachers are nice.

~ Emma

More than a Team

by Erin Giles and Lesley Whiteside

This year we had the honor of coaching the grade six girls basketball team at Queen of Angels School. This dynamic group of 15 always had smiles on their faces and played with an enthusiasm that was wonderful to watch. Even though we didn’t win a game, each basket was celebrated and each loss shrugged off. As coaches, we encouraged the kids to learn, believe in themselves and above all have fun. At the end of the season, we are proud of each of them and what they accomplished in the short season.

This team was much more than the players and coaches. It was parents cheering us on and teachers who gave up their lunch hours to cover our duties. It was the PE teachers and athletic coordinators who scheduled games; it was teachers who gave up prep times to cheer us on in our last tournament; and it was office staff and administrators who looked after injuries and stayed late to make sure all the players got home safely.

This team is proof that Queen of Angels School is a community that supports each other above all else. It’s a community that we are thrilled to be a part of. ✂

iBelieve...iLearn...iPray

by Brenda Hennig

When we were sent the theme for Catholic Schools Week, we discussed our ideas as a group. The ideas flowed quickly and soon we had a whole list of ways to show the theme and incorporate it into our celebrations for Catholic Schools Week. We took the idea of the Apple technology and ran with it. We split the theme into three groups and allocated one per division, so primary was given *iBelieve*, intermediate got *iLearn* and middle school had *iPray*.

With *iBelieve* each primary student was able to decorate a puzzle piece with what they believe about Jesus, Mary, God or Heaven. We put the child’s picture on the corner of their piece. All of the puzzle pieces were put together into a display that was in the shape of a cross. This was *iBelieve*.



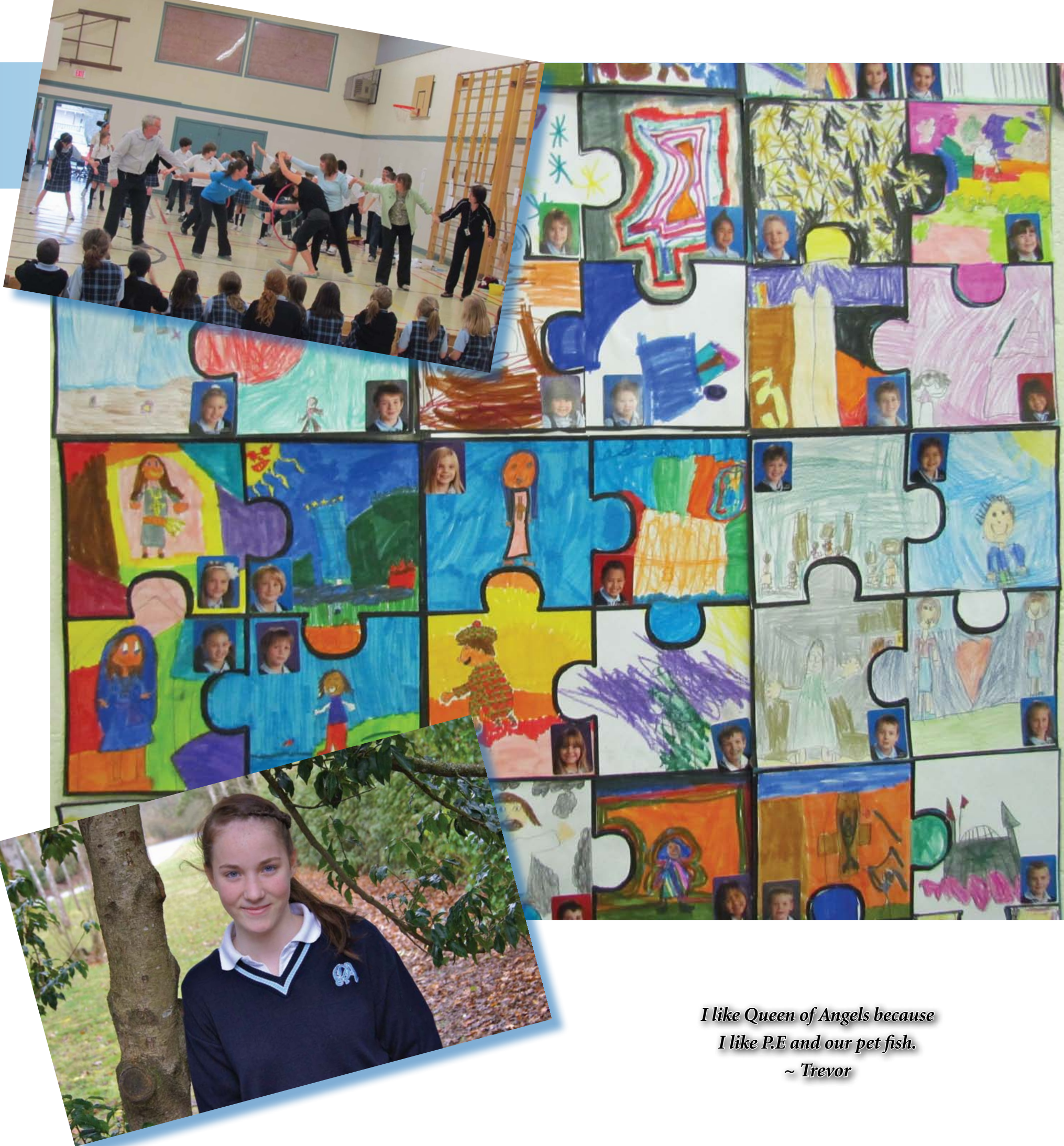
iLearn was displayed with iPads. Each intermediate-grade student was given an iPad template on which they were able to decorate. The “apps” were the things that the students learn. Some of the students were quite creative and came up with apps like “faithbook.” Each student was able to choose the learning that they felt was important at our school.

The middle school had iPod templates and in the window of the iPod, a list of what the students were praying for made up the “playlist.” This was a powerful display as some of the iPods displayed very personal messages, while some had a more global scope. In the middle of the bulletin board is a beautiful cross made out of blue cloth. The iPods surround the cross and the arms of the cross extend to the iPods as Christ reaches to us.

We also had a great deal of activities that our school participated in throughout the week. There was a very successful History of Queen of Angels Scavenger Hunt in which all of the students participated. The older students in the school “buddied up” with the younger students to make sure everyone was able to participate. At the assembly, a draw was made and two students from each division were chosen for “Lunch With Mr. Therrien.” We also had a performer named Graham Walker perform on Thursday for kindergarten to grade four classes. The assembly, which ended with a loud rendition of one of the student’s favourite songs, *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*. Our school-wide “write” was incorporated into Catholic Schools Week as well.

All in all, we had a very eventful week during which the students enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools. ✂





*I like Queen of Angels because
I like P.E and our pet fish.
~ Trevor*

Wrestling Club Calls Queen of Angels School Home

by Brenda Hennig

The Cowichan Valley Wrestling Club, with support from Island Catholic Schools and School District 79, has won the bid to host the 2013 Provincial Wrestling Championships in Duncan next February.

Queen of Angels School has been very supportive of the Cowichan Valley Wrestling Club, and our students have benefitted by this partnership. At the Island Wrestling Championships one of our very own students, Molly O., beat out girls who were two and three years older than her to place first in her weight class. She qualified for the Provincials in Penticton in February.

Mr. Nick Zuback, teacher at Queen of Angels, was honoured with the Ed Ashmore Award in recognition of outstanding service to wrestling on Vancouver Island. Congratulations to Mr Zuback!

The wrestling program at Queen of Angels School and the Cowichan Valley Wrestling Club have grown and produced Regional, Provincial and National level athletes in only six years. The Provincial Championships is a huge undertaking as it will see as many as 1,000 people coming to the Valley to take part in this three-day event, which will be held at the Island Savings Center.

If you would like to support, sponsor, volunteer or just find out more information about this prestigious event you can email Nick Zuback at nzuback@cisdv.bc.ca or call him at 250-746-4056. ✂

Queen of Angels Students ThinkFast

by Yvonne Van Ryk

Once again this year our student council hosted a *ThinkFast* event. The event took place at Queen of Angels School on March 2, 2012. This fundraising event is a 25-hour fast. All of the proceeds go to Development and Peace in an effort to improve living conditions in underprivileged countries.

The purpose of this event is two-fold, not only to raise funds while encouraging servant leadership in our youth, but also to raise awareness in our community of the challenges these countries face on a daily basis. This year the focus is small-scale sustainable farming. To reinforce the importance of this, and enable our children to learn first hand what it means, we were invited to visit a local small-scale farm. One of our parents runs this farm and because he is well known in our school community, we are hoping that the connection and the message will come through clearer to our students. We are looking at collaborating with St. Andrew's Regional High School next year to make this event bigger and better!

Our student council worked hard to pull this event together. 32 students participated, raising \$1,238! And our fundraising web page was designed by one of our student council team—he did a great job! It's so awesome to see our students involved in planning events and activities that make a difference for others. ✂

*I like Queen of Angels school because I think music rocks!
~ Tiana*



Focus on Youth

Camp Homewood 10th Annual Retreat

by Terri-Ann Wynans

“Camp Homewood” — speak those words near any young person in your Parish and you are likely to hear some great stories! In February, 170 youth and chaperones from all over the Diocese gathered for the 10th Annual Diocesan Retreat at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. It was a faith-filled weekend of prayer, camp activities, singing, learning about the Sacraments and making everlasting friendships. Our energetic spirit-filled retreat leaders were from Face to Face Ministries (F2F) in Saskatoon. We were truly blessed by the leadership of Ken Yasinski and his team of Mason, Jon, Tolysha and Gabe.

The F2F team challenged the participants to “Chart their life’s course for happiness, fulfillment and meaning”—our destination is to be nothing less than the divine love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were encouraged to set a goal—life with Christ before us—and to not lose focus. Ken and the team encouraged the participants to surround themselves with other like-minded people who would help them on their faith journeys.

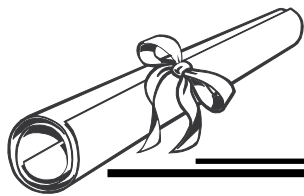
We were thankful that Bishop Richard Gagnon and Fr. Sean Flynn were able to join us and to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist with us. The hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday night with Bishop Richard was a highlight for many of the participants.

As Camp Coordinators, Bonni Roset (St. Patrick’s Campbell River) and I (Notre Dame, Port Alberni), would sincerely like to thank the participants, leaders, Bishop Richard, Fr. Sean and Fr. Vince for their support as well as the Catholic Foundation for its generous donation. It is with the helping hands of many that this camp is able to be such a wonderful experience for the young people in our Diocese! ✠

Some of the comments that young people wrote on their retreat evaluations were:

- *I met many Catholic Christian friends—seeing their faith strengthened me*
- *I need to focus more on my faith and not get confused with sports*
- *I felt close to God—I met friends that I can trust to help me out*
- *I am going to share my beliefs!*
- *First time at ADORATION—I never felt so close to Jesus before—really touched by it*
- *I enjoyed Reconciliation with the Bishop; I felt really close to God*





On Mission



by Fr. Dean Henderson

Well, here I am, in the Rectory of the parish of Our Lady of Victory in Porter Creek, just a few miles up the Alaska Highway from Whitehorse. The local CBC radio news has just issued a “wolf warning” for those on the local ski hill and advised people to carry cell phones at all times; I would have thought bear spray would be a more effective deterrent but then I’m from the “South.”

While much in the Yukon is similar to life in Victoria, there are substantial differences. Today our sixth-grade son, Dominic, returns from a five-day school “outdoor education experience”—a euphemism for a bison hunt, and I don’t mean a photographic adventure. Holy Family, Dominic’s Catholic elementary school (entirely funded by the Yukon government) has a snowmobiling-wrestling-coach principal who apparently claims the right and duty to shoot the bison, while sharing the responsibility with the grade six students for its gutting, skinning and butchering—what urbanites might politely refer to as “processing.” There are reportedly vegetarians in the Yukon, but I haven’t met one yet. Whitehorse has four active priests (and a couple of quite elderly, tough-as-nails French Oblates), and only three more priests in the rest of the Yukon; one of them, Fr. Kieran of the Madonna House Apostolate, went along with the school as the Bison Hunt Chaplain.

Thankfully, I felt God calling me to celebrate daily Mass here in Porter Creek in a well-heated Church, and pray for them. But I almost got a Bison myself while driving up from Victoria. It was lying on the Alaska Highway, and at 30 degrees below zero, at night, with snow blowing across the road, was impossible to see until we passed it, adjacent to our van. We shouldn’t have been driving at night for that very reason, but didn’t quite realize that the spots on the map where we hoped to find a motel were actually just gas stations closed for the winter. Between Fort St. John and Whitehorse we rarely spotted another passenger vehicle; we got the distinct impression everybody else knew something we didn’t. But we survived the four-day drive and managed to see more moose, caribou, bear and fox than



humans. The wildlife thought we were crazy.

We’ve made many adjustments to our new environment and culture since arriving on January 28 (just in time for the weekly Sunday Mass on a Saturday night) in order that I can spend Sundays travelling to either Teslin, YT or Atlin, BC for a celebration of a Sunday Mass. We’ve experienced the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous festival at which I served hundreds of sourdough pancakes with the Knights of Columbus and watched people commemorate the gold rush by carrying 700 pounds on flour on their backs. The Arctic Winter games commence soon with athletic teams from Greenland, Russia, Scandanavia, Alaska, Northern Alberta and British Columbia, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

The people of the parish have been so thankful to have a priest in residence since a Vancouver priest returned to the mainland in June after two years of serving here. Daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, a Diocesan weekly teaching course, catechizing children, visiting the sick and offering a pastoral presence in the community and schools have made a difference already. But the pace is pleasant with little in the way of “program” pressures. I often have time to ask the Lord “How can I serve you today, Jesus?” Shortly, I’ll be off to Teslin for a three-day Lenten mission and I’ll offer the Sacraments of Christ’s loving presence, the Gospel of life, and the fact of the Church’s continuing care for each person. But it’s been years since a priest has been in residence there, and even years since a wonderful lay couple lived in the rectory and provided the Catholic Church’s pastoral heart for the people in their community. Without that presence, people, like sheep, stray and it’s a real shame. It’s been years since a couple-dozen Oblate priests were active in the Yukon; only one is left. Bishop Gary Gordon has only one Diocesan priest and a handful of lay and religious servants of Christ in the small communities amidst the enormous, majestic and beautiful country. I can’t help but wonder how the Lord will call people into this vast harvest field.

Thanks to the generosity of a faithful donor, in late April after exams seven young adults will be travelling up North from the UVic campus community for an immersion in the Diocese. (Three of them are young men from the Newman House where 2 spots will be available from May through August.) They’ll be painting the Bishop’s Chancery office, learning from First Nations Elders, witnessing to their faith in Jesus and His Church amidst the high school youth and experiencing the creation of God’s power and goodness. Perhaps one of them will hear a “call.”

What about you? As we dwell with the Lord in His suffering and passion this Lenten season, how can we not be moved to serve Him, to respond to the spiritual needs of His people? There must be some who hear the “call of the wild” resurrected King of the Universe; who know that a zeal for souls stirs them to join in the Church’s great mission to proclaim Christ—and are unafraid of the presence of wolves. ✠



Connections



by Raya MacKenzie

Sometime in March each year, usually when Lent just begins to draw to a close, I happen to look out a window, or an open door, or glance up on a walk or a run—and I am startled by the cherry blossoms clinging fragily to the damp boughs. Then I feel a soft opening in my soul and I embrace the promise of spring once again.

This sudden gift of cherry blossoms surprises me even more because by now it should be commonplace. I’ve seen enough spring seasons to anticipate these changes and like any Canadian child, I had the seasons hammered into me in kindergarten. I know, intellectually, that around this time those pink clusters will certainly appear on the trees. But somehow there is such a difference between knowing about cherry blossoms and experiencing them. Head down, focused on whatever new worry creases my brow today, I suddenly have the good fortune to look up and see this renewal. So perhaps the happy accident is not so much that the blossoms unfurl, but that I miraculously pause to be a part of a returning season, a new spring.

Lately I have had a case of what my parents have designated “the third year blues.” I am getting closer to the end of a long winter of university studies. Part of me wants very much to move on from all these books and start what I consider to be “a real life.” But at the same time, I feel nervous about what such a change might bring. What would I do for “a real life?” I love to plan; plans make me feel safe, secure, and that I have a direction even if I end up deciding on the plan just for the sake of having a schedule. I’ve planned out what I would do if I went to law school after my bachelor degree, what I would do in order to get my masters, or to become a teacher or a journalist. I have even started planning what I think my friends should do. Almost all the time, I feel that I am trying to live ten years ahead of my “present”—ahead of the time of “now” in which I should be revelling.

This year I opened the door and saw the cherry blossoms in a moment of uncertainty and anxiety. I stopped, fell still, and remembered again that I have been given the greatest of gifts—that God has granted me the Grace to stand in this place of endings and beginnings with breath in my lungs and wonder in my soul.

Lent and Easter work often in the same way as winter and spring. Just as the cherry blossoms burst into life whether or not I am present to see them, so did Christ rise from the dead some 2012 years ago, even if we were to forget about His sacrifice. These events of revival are no less miraculous when they go unacknowledged—but when we stand as witnesses to them they become personal and immediate. When we celebrate Easter we recognize the suddenness of the Resurrection, its immediacy to us. One hymn I love contains these words: “We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, we come to know our rising from the dead.” Yes, His rising, but also our rising, every time we raise our eyes, sometimes seemingly by accident, and see Him on the Cross or extending His hand out of the tomb. And every time it surprises us that He calls us to be present with Him.

Spring starts falling into place. This morning I woke up to the robin’s call and a patch of sun on my pillow. There is a God of great plans but He is also a God of blessed accidents. He allows us to discover His miracles whether we have known about them always or if we doubt their truth. Spring will follow winter, Christ will rise, and the world will turn around again. Perhaps the answer to all my small anxieties will simply fall into my life one day—or rather my life will fall into an answer. And then I will say: look, it was so obvious. So planned. So accidental. Strong and fragile as a blossom in spring. ✠



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Through her teaching, Colette Soucy, below, said, "I strive to help children recognize God's presence in their lives and to experience His great love."



"My role is to help all students grow as good human beings"
-Colette Soucy

Photo shows Colette Soucy with some of her Grade 3 students in Attawapiskat, Northern Ontario: from left, Skyra Kataquapit, Khadyn Hookimaw and at back Logan Wesley.

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Anglicanorum Coetibus: A Gathering of Anglicans

by Fr. Michael Birch

Our patron Blessed John Henry Newman once said, “In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Nowadays it is just said, “change is good.” Well some changes are undoubtedly good; some are decidedly not good.

The Christian Church never stays the same; at least, it never stays the same for more than a century or three! For we Christians seem to be just as restless in matters of faith as secular people are in matters of business, or technology, or social mores.

The Anglican Communion has experienced a certain restlessness over the past fifty or more years due to changes that have occurred in its teachings and Church life. There is no doubt that changes affecting traditionally held teachings on marriage and divorce, ordination and sexuality have been the cause of much debate, tension and for numbers of bishops, clergy and laity, a source of conflict of conscience leading to a feeling of unhappiness and dissatisfaction with the changes which have occurred. Such debates relative to Scripture, Tradition and the continuous teaching of the Church have led to a certain fractioning within the Communion itself. Some have broken with the Canterbury Anglicans, either forming into dioceses of an evangelical and more protestant nature, or into dioceses of Catholic-minded Anglicans who sought to live and teach the Catholic Faith, and to worship accordingly, as far as they could.

The Holy Father, when he was Cardinal Ratzinger, as long as ago as the late-1980s, increasingly received many requests from such Catholic-minded Anglicans for help in sorting out the situation they found themselves in. His response has been Anglicanorum Coetibus, “A Gathering of Anglicans,” in which he laid out ways in which groups of Anglicans could enter into full communion with the Catholic Church in a corporate manner and to maintain the liturgical, spiritual and pastoral traditions of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church, as a precious gift nourishing the faith and as a treasure to be shared.

Part of this plan is the erection of Ordinariates, of which four are now functioning or will be shortly: England, Scotland and Wales; North America; Australia and the TAC Diocese of the Torres Straits. Canadian Anglican groups that have applied under this new provision will be part of the North American Ordinarate in a Canadian Deanery until we are strong enough to have our own Ordinarate, if that comes about. The Ordinary that has been appointed is Monsignor Jeffrey Steenson, a former Episcopal Bishop of the Rio Grande, and a professor at St. Mary’s Theological Seminary in Houston, Texas.

Here in Victoria, a group comprising six clergy and 18 – 20 lay people and religious, who have formed *The Fellowship of Blessed John Henry Newman* as a sort of forerunner to the formation of a Parish, have applied for Ordinarate status. Bishop Gagnon, Fr. John Laszczk, and Fr. Dean Henderson (prior to his departure for the Yukon) have been instrumental in carrying out our catechesis prior to being received into the Catholic Church. Our clergy, those who are approved by Rome to advance to Catholic Ordination, will receive instruction online from St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Married men may be ordained to the priesthood, but only celibates to the Episcopate.

It is hoped in the next little while to obtain a church building for these new Ordinarate Catholics. Who can belong to it? Anglicans (once received) can be members of this parish, former Anglicans who are now Catholics, or Catholics whose family background is Anglican, or who are married to an Anglican can apply to belong to the Ordinarate parish (once established). Other Catholics will be able to attend and receive Holy Communion, but will not be eligible to become members of the Ordinarate.

Our group of “gathered Anglicans” will (*Deo Volente*) be received into the Catholic Church on **Sunday, April 15 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew’s Cathedral.** We extend to all our Anglican friends who remain in one form or another of Anglicanism, as well as all members of the Diocese of Victoria, to join us in this joyous celebration, as we seek to rebuild our foundations within the Catholic Church.

We thank the Holy Father (the Pope of Christian Unity), Bishop Gagnon, Fr. John and Fr. Dean for their very positive and friendly response to us, and for the time, encouragement and help they have so freely offered. We also thank Fr. Benoit and the parish of St-Jean-Baptiste, our temporary home, for their gracious hospitality. We will keep you informed from time to time as to our progress. Pray for us as we will for you, and may God bless you; and our Lady of Walsingham and Blessed John Henry Newman pray for us. ✠

L to R: Fr. Sean Henry, Bishop Peter Wilkinson, Bishop Richard Gagnon, Fr. Peter Switzer, Msgr. Geoffrey Steenson (Ordinary of the Ordinarate of the Chair of St. Peter, North America), Fr. Michael Birch, Fr. Don Malins

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Diocesan Messenger – April 2012



Face the Day



by Bonnie Landry

I don't write a lot about humility. While writing certainly doesn't call for expertise in a particular subject matter, but rather an ability to explore the subject adequately and create interest for the reader, I do feel that familiarity with a topic incites a compelling argument. Lacking a good, solid and—what's more—dependable reference point for humility, I prefer to simply steer clear of addressing the topic in a public way. But the time has come. I do desire humility; I even try my best to achieve it. But it's really, really hard.

Sin is kind of a dirty word these days.

We don't like to talk about it.

But learning about sin and raising awareness about it is really the only way to deal with it, to weed it out.

I recently watched *Toy Story 3* with my children. The entire movie is brilliant, particularly if your children were small when the original came out and are heading off to college now. In one particular scene, the toys are being forced out of their comfort zone, and are worried for their future. Buzz (voiceover by Tim Allen) says, "This is no time to be hysterical." Potato Head (voiceover by Don Rickles ... now don't you want to watch it, even if your kids are the wrong age?) says, "This is the perfect time to be hysterical!"

To everything there is a season, says Ecclesiastes 3:1. This season for me is honing humility.

Humility is a virtue. One of the hallmarks of virtues in general is that they are difficult to attain. St. Bernard of Clairvaux answered the question, "What are the three most important virtues?" by quoting St. Augustine: "Humility, humility, humility." Very funny (Saint jokes just crack me up). In the grand list, Humility plays opposite Pride as the seven capital sins and their opposite virtues.

Sure, that was 1,500 years ago, but really, not much has changed. Sanctity requires humility. So in my Great Quest—where do I find me some humility? For a start, I like to read quotes and succinct thoughts on humility by Smart and Important people. But it's only a start. Something tells me I am going to have to do a little more than read quotes in order to grow in humility. Mostly what I need to do is keep my trap shut.

This list of seven sins is also known as the Cardinal, or Deadly Sins. Deadly? That's harsh. When we talk about deadly in the Catholic sense, we don't actually mean: It Will Kill You Dead. The inference is that it will destroy the life of grace within us. His grace, which is our freely given ticket to heaven, is no longer available without repentance.

This list, for the sake of clarity is: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. These are considered the sins which are the origin of all other sins.

Sadly, I have been known to commit several of these within a 24-hour span—and I was asleep for seven or eight of those hours. But it is the specific sins of wrath and pride which seriously contest my desire to grow in holiness.

These seven sins are not a separate category of sin. As with all sins, they vary widely in nature and degrees of seriousness. They can be venial or mortal, depending on the grievousness of the matter, sufficient reflection of the offence, and an individual's willful intent to commit sin.

Sin is kind of a dirty word these days. We don't like to talk about it. But learning about sin and raising awareness about it is really the only way to deal with it, to weed it out.

Personally, I like the list of Capital Sins and their Opposite Virtues because it helps me to know what to think about if I am trying to forge virtue or curb sin.

<i>Lust</i>	<i>Chastity</i>
<i>Gluttony</i>	<i>Temperance</i>
<i>Greed</i>	<i>Generosity</i>
<i>Sloth</i>	<i>Diligence</i>
<i>Wrath</i>	<i>Meekness</i>
<i>Envy</i>	<i>Brotherly love</i>
<i>Pride</i>	<i>Humility</i>

Isn't that a handy list? I can just check out which virtue I need to work on to conquer a vice, or which vice requires me to attend to a particular virtue. I'm halfway there—knowledge is power. Well, in this case, at least the knowledge of self is the first baby step in overcoming vice.

So, to not practice humility is to court pride. Venturing to overcome a fault requires the practice of the opposing virtue. To truly take seriously the practice of humility, I have to take a look at the sin of pride—which, by the way, I do not like to do, especially when it is my pride we are examining. To take a more indepth look at pride (as well as all the other virtues and vices polished by the human race), which I do not have the space nor the humility to do here, check out the definition listed below. But just to whet your appetite, it starts with, "An inordinate esteem of oneself." Ouch.

I came across a fantastic website called CatholicReference.net while doing some research on sin and my desire to weed out my own. From *cruce salus* to *zucchetto* (which is not, after all, a small Italian cookie nor a stringed instrument played for your pleasure while eating Eggplant Parmigianino in upscale Italian restaurants) the Catholic world is defined and explained and the path to holiness encouraged courtesy of Father John Hardon's *Modern Catholic Dictionary*. St. Thomas Aquinas is referred to as s. thom. in this comprehensive Catholic dictionary. You must really know you've made it when the Church gives you a snappy little nickname.

Here is the definition of humility given on CatholicReference.net:

The moral virtue that keeps a person from reaching beyond himself. It is the virtue that restrains the unruly desire for personal greatness and leads people to an orderly love of themselves based on a true appreciation of their position with respect to God and their neighbors. Religious humility recognizes one's total dependence on God; moral humility recognizes one's creaturely equality with others. Yet humility is not only opposed to pride; it is also opposed to immoderate self-abjection (I, personally, am not having too much problem in this area), which would fail to recognize God's gifts and use them according to his will.

So here is the very cool part: just in case you're getting low on things to pray about, we can pray for virtue and the strength to overcome vice.

Once again, on the long and winding road to sanctity, I find myself on my knees. ✠



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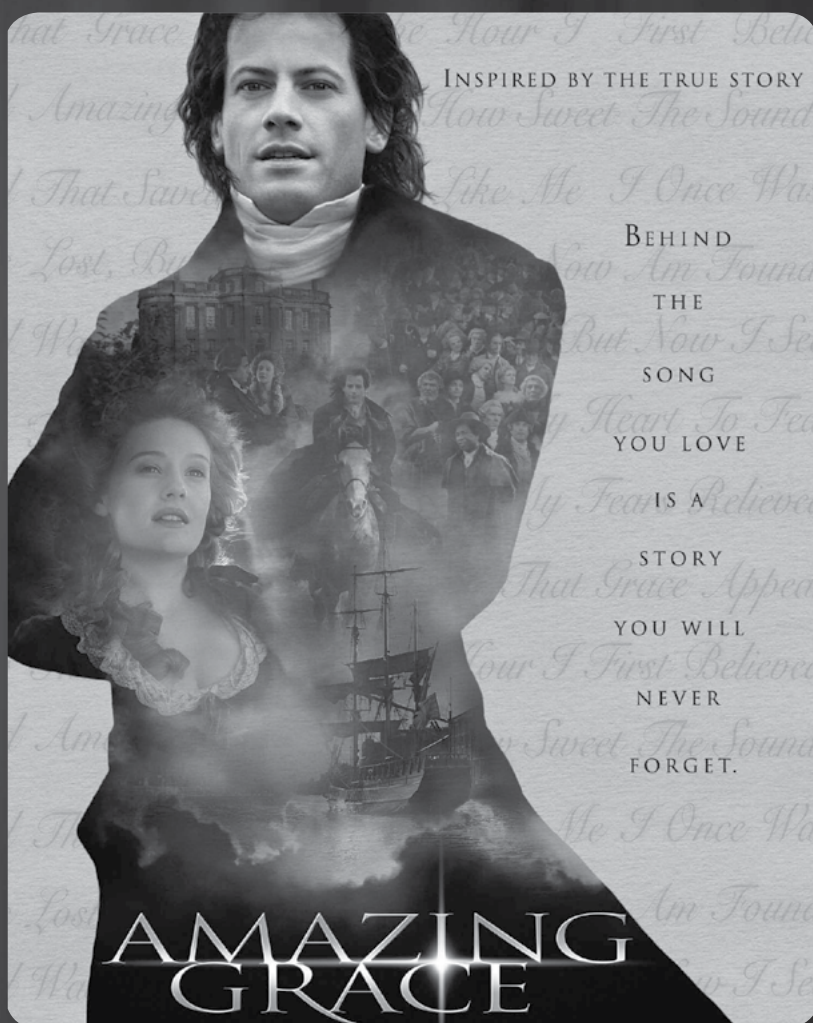
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Case No. 11-22820 (RDD)
(Jointly Administered)

On April 28, 2011, The Christian Brothers' Institute and The Christian Brothers of Ireland, Inc. (collectively, the "Debtors") filed for protection under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). You may know the Debtors by the names listed below.

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For more information, including (i) a complete list of all Brothers affiliated with the Debtors; (ii) a listing of schools and/or other institutions at which the Debtors' Brothers taught, performed ministry, or were otherwise affiliated with; or (iii) on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please (a) visit the Claims Agent's designated website at www.omnimgt.com/TheChristianBrothers; (b) call the Claims Agent at 1-800-873-4094; (c) write to the Claims Agent at Omni Management Group, 16161 Ventura Boulevard, Suite C, PMB608, Encino, California 91436; or (d) call the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors appointed in these cases at 1-888-667-4266.

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November 21 – December 04: Holy Land Pilgrimage

Spend 14 days with Fr. Vince Borre as Chaplain and Spiritual Director. Spend the First Sunday of Advent in Bethlehem with a Christmas Mass at a Cave in Shepherd's Field. Walk in the footsteps of our Lord from His birth to Crucifixion and Ascension. Rate with airfare from Vancouver, sight-seeing, Entrance fees, 29 meals, and accommodations – CA\$3,499 per person.

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Office of Justice & Life

by Stuart Andrie, Ministry Coordinator, Office of Justice and Life

“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he rose and followed him.”

~ Matthew 9:9



The Calling of Saint Matthew is a masterpiece by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, depicting Matthew 9:9. It was completed in 1599 – 1600 for the Contarelli Chapel in the church of the French congregation, San Luigi dei Francesi in Rome. To me, this passage and this image are at the heart of the mission of the Office of Justice and Life. Christ brings true light to the dark space of the injustice of the sitting tax collectors, but notice he doesn't stop there. He extends an invitation to Truth. He says, “Follow Me!” Now had Jesus just walked in and blown the whistle on the tax collecting, this would have a much different meaning for us as Christians. But He doesn't, He goes further. “Leave behind the injustice of the past and live in the Light and the Truth that only I can provide—follow Me.”

As Catholics, we too are called to follow Jesus' example and bring light into the dark, but most especially to extend the invitation of Christ to follow Him to those whom we serve. If we are not offering this invitation, our work will be incomplete. Charity and truth are intrinsically linked; we cannot simply point out injustice when we see it (even if it is done out of charity or love), nor can we pretend to be able to offer and provide an adequate answer or solution in most cases. But what we can and must do is extend this invitation to follow Him, He who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, in His Church.

Father Raniero Cantalamessa OFM, the preacher to the Papal Household, says, “Christianity doesn't begin by telling people what they must do, but what God has done for them. Gift comes before duty.” In other words, our love for God and love for neighbour begin as responses to the love and truth we've already received from the Church and are impelled to pass on. Love and charity go hand in hand with truth.

Pope Benedict's most recent encyclical spoke about the necessity of this relationship between charity and truth:

Through this close link with truth, charity can be recognized as an authentic expression of humanity and as an element of fundamental importance in human relations, including those of a public nature. Only in truth does charity shine forth, only in truth can charity be authentically lived. Truth is the light that gives meaning and value to charity. That light is both the light of reason and the light of faith, through which the intellect attains to the natural and supernatural truth of charity: it grasps its meaning as gift, acceptance, and communion. Without truth, charity degenerates into sentimentality. Love becomes an empty shell, to be filled in an arbitrary way. (Caritas in Veritate, 3)

It is the mission of the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Justice and Life to work together with parishes, diocesan groups and parish-based communities to help promote the Catholic Church's teaching on social justice relative to integral human development as a central aspect of the proclamation of the Gospel. The genesis of this mission can be found in the writings of the Holy Father in *Caritas in Veritate*. If we are to move toward proclaiming and advocating for integral human development in charity and truth, we need to be aware of just how intrinsically linked justice issues and life issues are. As the Pope states:

Openness to life is at the center of true development. When a society moves towards the denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man's true good. If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of a new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away. (Caritas in Veritate, 28)

It is the mandate, then, of the Office of Justice and Life to foster this integrated approach in conjunction with the various ministries within the Diocese.

In the initial stages of the unfolding of this office, I will be focusing in the goals and recommendations found in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan (See Diocesan website www.rcdvictoria.org for further information). For the first few months I will be looking to meet with advocates at the diocesan level and at the parochial level in the ministry areas of justice and life to see how this office can support and encourage their work. This initial period will also give me a better picture as to where there may be needs to be met on both levels of this very critical ministry.

If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre 250-479-1331 or by email: sandrie@rcdvictoria.org.

To defend the truth, to articulate it with humility and conviction, and to bear witness to it in life are therefore exacting and indispensable forms of charity. (Caritas in Veritate, 1) ✠



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TRC Regional Event in Victoria, BC April 13-14, 2012 at the Victoria Conference Centre & Fairmont Empress

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), is hosting a Regional Event on April 13-14, 2012 at the Victoria Conference Centre and Fairmont Empress.

The TRC's Regional Event in Victoria will provide Residential School Survivors from Vancouver Island with the opportunity to reflect and share with the TRC their residential school experiences and its legacy. It will also serve to inform the broader Canadian public on the history of residential schools.

Regional Event activities will include statement gathering, traditional ceremonies, Survivor gatherings, educational activities and displays, witnessing Survivor statements, cultural performances, films and more.

We invite you to attend and encourage you to facilitate the participation of Survivors from your community.

Everyone attending the event is asked to register online at trc.ca. There is no cost to register.

The TRC is holding a block of rooms at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on a priority basis for Survivors and an accommodation subsidy is available to registered Survivors, on a limited basis.

For more information on accommodations please visit trc.ca or contact:
Lily Fawn, Accommodations Coordinator
at (250) 386-1344 or via email at lily@macgillivray-associates.com.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established as a result of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150 year history of the Residential Schools, and guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.



Liturgical and Devotional Prayer throughout the Centuries

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

In early February a group of fifty people gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall at St. Patrick's, Victoria to hear Fr. John Hibbard, former director of the National Liturgical Office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, speak on liturgical and devotional prayer.

Using familiar, informal terms and apt analogies, Fr. Hibbard noted that all prayer emanates from our Baptism. He began with definitions and distinctions.

Devotional prayer, which Fr. Hibbard termed "warm and fuzzy" prayer, was identified as the foundation or "base of the mountain" of one's prayer life. It is the fundamental regular daily relationship we have and develop with Jesus, Mary, and the Saints. By its very nature devotional prayer is personal and intimate.

Prayer as communication is both speaking and listening, and it is during the times of silence in liturgical prayer that some of our most important "work" occurs.

Liturgical prayer by definition is public prayer (from the Greek, litourgia, "public work"). Referencing the history of the word, Fr. Hibbard noted modern day "public works" departments reflect the origins of the word from the ancient world. What had been a practical, common descriptor was adopted and Christianised when Emperor Constantine, through the Edict of Milan (313 CE), "legitimized" the Christian faith and handed over large public buildings (basilica) for use as places of worship, public worship, Christ's "public works" buildings.

It was during this period that many of the more formal and grand dimensions we associate with Sunday "High Mass" were gradually introduced. These ceremonials represent enhancements which began to characterize liturgy as it moved from homes to large public buildings.

In essence the most distinctive aspect of liturgical prayer is our gathered reality. Liturgical prayer is less about me and Jesus and more about the gathered Body of Christ. Just as devotional prayer is the "base of the mountain," the daily foundation, so liturgical prayer is the "top of the mountain," that which provides the most profound and complete experience of prayer. Silence, symbol and gesture are key elements of liturgical prayer, and perhaps the hardest of these for us to practice in our time is silence.

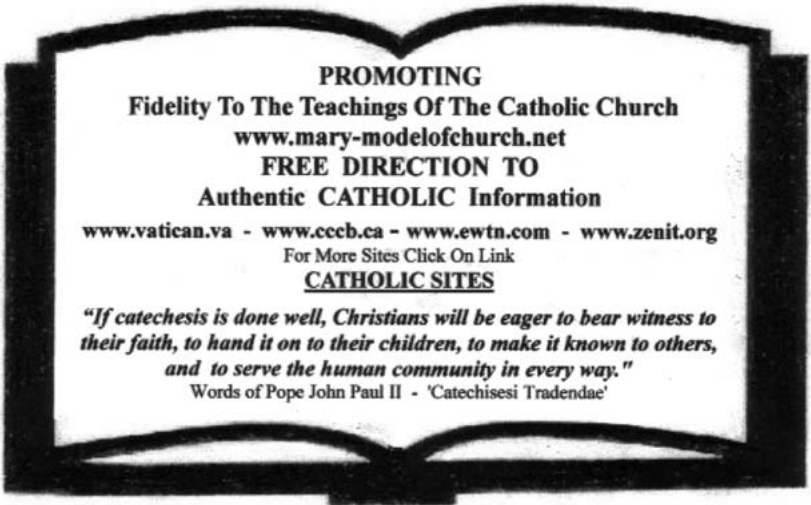
Prayer as communication is both speaking and listening, and it is during the times of silence in liturgical prayer that some of our most important "work" occurs. Here we experience a personal dimension as part of our public prayer, an expression of our diversity and unity. These include our reflection during the Penitential Rite, when we ponder our unworthiness and praise God for His merciful love; the time following the readings during the Liturgy of the Word when we open ourselves to God's voice resonating in our hearts, challenging, encouraging; and following reception of the Eucharist when we express our gratitude as thanks for God's ultimate gift.

Fr. Hibbard also traced the origins of some popular devotional prayers. He noted the full rosary with its 150 beads flows from the Breviary, or the Divine Office, rooted in the 150 Psalms, which priests, religious and some laity pray throughout the day. The Stations of the Cross evolved from pilgrims bringing back the tradition of walking the Via Dolorosa, Christ's Way of the Cross, through the streets of Jerusalem. Eucharistic Adoration is a "freezing in time" of the moment of elevation of the Host during Mass.

Fr. Hibbard, in highlighting the difference between devotional and liturgical prayer, made an apt analogy using our shared human experience of taking meals. He noted, as a celibate person, his simple dinners are taken alone often in front of the television. He then contrasted this to times when a family invites him to their table, often decorated with flowers and candles, and rich with conversation. The former is "eating," the latter is "dining!" One is essential for life; the other is really living life!

While devotional prayer is fundamental, as it forms us as individuals within the Body of Christ, liturgical prayer is essential, for at the deepest level it is the Prayer of Christ—Christ offering Himself to God the Father. In this "work" we have a deeper realization of who we are. We, gathered as a whole, are a visible sign of Christ to the world, offering ourselves to the Father.

In addition to his presentation at St. Patrick's Victoria, Fr. Hibbard gave presentations in Nanaimo and Courtenay as well as during the Priests' Study Day. ✠



Royal BC Museum and Sisters of St. Ann Preserve BC History with Unique Partnership

Victoria, BC – In an effort to preserve a vital part of BC's history, the Sisters of St. Ann are placing their important collection of historic artifacts, religious objects and documents dating back to 1858 under the stewardship of the Royal BC Museum.

Under an agreement announced today, more than more than 100,000 photographs, 500 pieces of art, 250 metres of documents (over a million archival records) and over 1,000 artifacts chronicling the Sisters' pioneering work in British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska will move to the Royal BC Museum where they will be available for research and exhibition.

"We are extremely pleased to work with the Sisters of St. Ann to provide a new permanent home for their important artifacts and records, ensuring they are preserved and accessible for the future," said Pauline Rafferty, CEO of the Royal BC Museum. "The Sisters of St. Ann's have had an enormous impact on the story of British Columbia; this collection offers true insight into the early days of the province."

The Sisters of St. Ann have made a significant contribution to the life and development of BC and the west. These pioneering women opened 13 schools, nine hospitals and one nursing school in Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Campbell River, New Westminster, Vancouver, Kamloops, Oliver, Smithers, Prince George, Nelson, Dawson City (YT), Juneau (AK), and Douglas (AK), as well as numerous parochial schools.

"Throughout our 154 year history in British Columbia and other areas of the Pacific Northwest we, the Sisters of St. Ann, have carefully preserved the records of our lives and the works we established to serve the people of this region," Says Sister Marie Zarowny, Province Leader of the Sisters of St. Ann. "We did so for their historic, artistic and educational value as well as to honour the Sisters and all those who worked with us. We now entrust these precious records to the museum and archives, ensuring they will continue to be available to future generations."

Under this agreement, the Sisters will pay all costs for maintaining the archives until 2027, including the salary of their archivists who will work on site at the Royal BC Museum and advise Royal BC Museum archivists and curators.

The collection includes liturgical objects used during mass, large hand-carved rosaries worn by the Sisters, a Victorian-era autograph book owned by Edith "Dollie" Helmcken, and an historic religious book presented to the Sisters by Bishop Modeste Demers upon their arrival in the West in 1858.

Other significant items include archival photographs, vintage textiles, documents, and letters that help to tell the remarkable story of the Sisters of St. Ann in British Columbia.

"These objects add to our collection and are extremely important to the ongoing study, understanding and presentation of the BC story stretching back to its earliest days of settlement and development," said Gary Mitchell, Director of Collections, Research and Access Services at the Royal BC Museum.

About the Royal BC Museum

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum preserves and shares the stories of British Columbia – on-site, off-site and online – through its research, collections, exhibitions, publications and educational programs. Its two-hectare cultural precinct in Victoria also includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites; and its seasonal satellite museum gallery in Vancouver showcases BC's history in one of the oldest buildings in Chinatown – Wing Sang. For more information about the Royal BC Museum, visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca or call 1-888-447-7977. ✠



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Government urged to keep Sunday special

Both religious and secular groups have expressed concern over Chancellor George Osborne's announcement that in Wednesday's Budget he plans to lift Sunday Trading laws during the Olympic Games, in order to maximise profits. Currently large stores in England and Wales can only open for six hours of continuous trading between 10am and 6pm on Sundays.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20064>
 Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2012 11:52 pm

Egypt: 'Christians must stand up for their rights'

Christians need to have equal rights in the new Egypt, according to the acting leader of Coptic Catholics, who refuses to be downbeat as the impact of Islamist success in recent elections sinks in. Bishop Kyrillos William Samaan of Assiut, who is representing Cairo-based Patriarch Cardinal Antonios Naguib who is now gravely, said Christians of different Churches were setting up formal ecumenical structures to safeguard the place of the faithful in Egyptian society.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20062>
 Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:38 pm

Caritas urges EU to let immigrants bring families

Caritas Europa has written an open letter requesting that the European Union allow migrant workers to bring their families with them. At a meeting of the Caritas executive board in Brussels last week, they urged confederation 'to guarantee respect for the right to family life for non-EU nationals and their families living in the EU'. Board members, who include Caritas leaders from several European countries, Caritas Social Action Network and CAFOD, say they want a better implementation of the current EU directive on family reunification, a legislative act that will allow immigrants to bring their families to Europe.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20061>
 Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:15 pm

Cuba: government opens website for Papal Visit

The Cuban government has launched an official website in preparation for the Holy Father's visit later this month. Besides the official program of the visit, there are articles on current and relevant data for the Catholic world, like the biography of the priest Felix Varela and a video on the Vatican City. Browsers can also download films on the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Cuba on January 1998.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20060>
 Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:43 pm

The common-good case against same-sex marriage

In his latest blog on 'Bridges and Tangents', entitled 'In defence of conjugality: the common-good case against same-sex marriage' - Fr Stephen Wang writes: "You might be sick to death of media discussions about same-sex marriage, but just in case you need a bit more background and food for thought, here is the latest briefing paper from Catholic Voices."
 To read his summary and comments, see:
<http://bridgesandtangents.wordpress.com/2012/03/17/in-defence-of-conjugality-the-common-good-case-against-same-sex-marriage/>
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20058>
 Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2012 5:00 pm

Statements by the Prime Minister of Canada

Welcoming the vatican's decision to canonize Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement after the Vatican announced that Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha will be canonized on October 21, 2012:

"This past Saturday we learned that the Catholic Church will be bestowing its highest honour—canonization—upon Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha later this year.

"Known as the 'Lily of the Mohawks', Kateri Tekakwitha, who is entombed in a marble shrine at St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake, Quebec, was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980 in recognition of her unwavering devotion to God.

"When Pope Benedict XVI canonizes her in October, Kateri Tekawitha will become North America's first aboriginal saint.

"This will be a great day for Canadian Catholics and a deep honour for our country."

On the formal elevation of Archbishop Thomas Collins to the college of cardinals

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement after the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, formally elevated Cardinal-designate Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, to the College of Cardinals at a ceremony in Rome, Italy. Cardinal Collins was accompanied by a delegation of Canadians, including the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and the Honourable Julian Fantino, Associate Minister of National Defence.

"On behalf of Canadians, I would like to congratulate His Eminence, Thomas Collins on his formal elevation today to the College of Cardinals by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. While retaining his commitment to the 1.7 million Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto and numerous Canadian charities, organizations, and educational institutions, Cardinal Collins is now adding to his already-substantial international responsibilities.

"The cardinals are usually the principal advisors to and ministers of the pope, either assisting in the administration of the affairs of the Holy See or serving as Archbishops of major cities throughout the world. That a native son of Guelph, Ontario, has been made a cardinal is a source of pride for all Canadians.

"With this appointment, Cardinal Collins becomes the fourth cardinal in the 110-year history of the Church in Toronto and the 16th cardinal in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada.

"On the occasion of this great honour for Catholics throughout Canada, I wish our country's newest cardinal all the best in his continued ministry." ✠

Pope Benedict XVI Blesses Eucharistic Congress Bell

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 L'Osservatore Romano, 2012

Pope Benedict XVI received the International Eucharistic Congress Bell in Rome today, Wednesday, March 14. He blessed the Congress Bell and rang the Bell as part of preparations for the upcoming 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 (IEC2012).

The Holy Father received the Bell, which was presented by a delegation headed by the President of IEC2012, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, accompanied by Secretary General of IEC2012, Fr. Kevin Doran, and members of IEC2012 staff during a papal audience.

The Pope received the delegation during a papal audience in St Peter's Square at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 14. The Holy Father rang the Bell which is calling people from across the world to Dublin for the Congress, which takes place from June 10-17. "Pope Benedict XVI blessed the bell, rang it vigorously, and paused to admire the icons as Archbishop Martin explained their significance," explained Fr. Kevin Doran.

Colette Furlong, Pastoral Services Manager in IEC2012, presented Pope Benedict XVI with the first commemorative medal struck to mark this year's 50th International Eucharistic Congress. Sheena Darcy, IEC2012 Office Manager presented shamrock to the Holy Father.

Later the Bell was moved to St. Peter's Basilica where it remained for Mass celebrated by Archbishop Piero Marini, President of the Pontifical Committee for the International Eucharistic Congresses. The Bell was rung at Masses throughout Wednesday as an invitation to the Congress.

Later in the week the Bell travelled to St Isidore's Irish Franciscan College, where this year's St Patrick's Day Mass was celebrated on Saturday, March 17. Also attending this Mass was Deputy Pat Rabbitte, Irish Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, as part of his visit to Italy for St Patrick's Day celebrations. On Sunday, March 18, the Bell was present at Mass in the Pontifical Irish College.

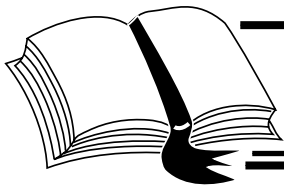
Speaking during the Bell Pilgrimage in Rome, Fr. Kevin Doran, Secretary General of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012, said: "It seems somehow appropriate that the Bell, on its way to visit Pope Benedict, was delivered on Tuesday afternoon [March 13] to the very office beside St. Peter's Square where Pope Benedict himself worked for over 20 years."

Fr. Doran added: "We are truly delighted that with this visit the Bell has brought parishes, schools and hospitals all over Ireland into a closer Communion with the Pope as we enter the final phase of preparation for the Eucharistic Congress."

Journeying with the Bell are the four Eucharistic Congress Icons which represent the four parts of the Mass, and correspond to each of the four stages of the pastoral preparation programme for the Congress. The Bell calls people to prayer and the Icons offer rich themes for reflection.

Ring for Renewal invites people to pause on the journey of life and reflect on how we can renew as people and as members of the Church as we prepare for IEC2012. Read more about Ring for Renewal at www.iec2012.ie/ringforrenewal. ✠





Impressions

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God.”
~ Job 19:25-26 RSV Catholic Edition*

by Connie Dunwoody



I don't remember much about that weekend; it was pretty overwhelming. I do recall bits and pieces; memory flashing like heat lightning on a dark plain, illuminating things I didn't even know I'd seen.

Flash ...

I couldn't sleep; I don't know why. It was hot and I was restless and bothered. I wandered to the Garden to think, to clear my head, to get my wits about me. I heard the faint sound of someone praying, a desperate sort of whisper that rang with abandonment and uncertainty. I peeked through the foliage and saw a man kneeling on the ground saying something over and over, his head drooped wearily over his hands. It sounded like a plea—but it didn't seem to be the kind of prayer the gods usually bother to answer. In its final moments, I heard him say, “not my will but thine be done.” It was uttered with resolute acceptance, but also conveyed a quality I didn't understand. It sounded like compassion. I don't know which of the gods he prayed to—but it scared me and I don't know why.

Flash ...

I watch this man get slowly to his feet, tedious heaviness drenching his limbs with the torpor of utter exhaustion. He looks at his companions, lying there asleep, and I see loneliness settle around him like a cloak. I hear him ask sadly, “Do you sleep? Cannot you watch one hour with me?” He says this more than once; the third time he adds something strange: “Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” I feel so odd; my skin tingles and the hair on my arms rises as though lightning is about to strike. I've seen animals like this before a storm: edgy, anxious, unsettled. I suddenly recall tales of some strange, wild man in the desert shouting about a new kingdom and the Son of God, and stories of other zany prophecies, but surely it's nothing to do with that. I dismiss the thought easily but the sense of foreboding remains. Something is going to happen, something of huge proportions that none of Caesar's sages saw coming—something none of us will understand and that nothing on earth or in the heavens can stop. I don't know what it is—but it scares me and I don't know why.

Flash ...

They came to get him. Even I could see the false heartiness as the one called Judas separated from the crowd and greeted him. He rushed forward, feigning deference. “Master!” he called, and kissed this man on the cheek. It was sinister, that embrace; it offered no love and yet was received with compassion, as though an evil intent was no surprise. Thus identified, the guards grabbed him. He spoke, but I was too far away to hear. I crept closer and heard his final words: “Let the scriptures be fulfilled.” My skin prickled with an odd sort of recognition. They started dragging him away, and I followed, helpless in timidity but compelled by a force I could not resist. I stumbled; one of the guards turned, and seized me. I cried out in fear, wrenched my arm away from him and bolted, running for my life. I've nothing to do with him!

As I ran I heard their footsteps, heavy as iniquity, as they led him away—it scared me and I don't know why.

Flash ...

He stands before Pilate, silent and bound, unresisting as the mob shouts for his death. Pilate, strangely concerned and perplexed, prods him with words, seeming almost desperate for a response. I can tell he doesn't want anything to do with this, does not really believe this man guilty of any crime, but his actions seem predestined by an outcome which he is powerless to control. He keeps asking, with pleading, puzzled eyes, “Is this true?”

And this man, this quiet man whose overheard prayers trouble my ears, replies only once and says nothing more. Which is, I suppose, an answer of sorts. But why would anyone *choose* this death? I try to blend in, to let the crowd know I'm not *with* him, as though they could see the events of that dark dawn when I'd been close enough to touch him. But the words I'm going to hurl, the clever, jeering jest I've carefully crafted to arouse hate-filled, mirthless laughter, dies in my throat. I just can't say it. There's something different about this man—it scares me and I don't know why.

Flash ...

Oh, gods, I don't understand why I can't stay away from this. They're taking him to hang, to be crucified for reasons that seem completely absurd. They've made him carry his own cross, a bone-crushing weight of wood that presses him earthward even as his eyes seek heaven. I watch him stumble and fall and I want to leap out of the crowd and yell that this is wrong *but the weight of that cross and the weight of the crowd press in on me make me so terrified so silent so pathetic and I cannot move cannot help him or myself oh gods what is happening oh gods save me he's fallen right in front of me ...* I fall to my own knees, helpless and afraid, weak with panic, ragged breath catching on words in my throat that will not come out. I gulp air, frightened beyond redemption.

Flash ...

His eyes, when they meet mine, look right through me to the most private core of my being. He sees me, the actual me, the one whom I hide from everyone. He sees the sneak who cheats his brother and the liar who denies his friend. He sees the malicious gossip who speaks hate and the coward who runs away. He sees *me ...*

but wonder of wonders ... I am no longer afraid. He still scares me but it is awe, not terror.

I look at him and see limitless love. I look again and cannot break his gaze. I whisper, heart pounding in my chest, “who *are* you?” and His eyes answer back, “you know Who I am, you have always known,” and I do. I look and see the face of the only God I'll ever need looking back. He touches my head—a gentle benediction of absolution, a farewell of forgiveness. My heart breaks and I weep, feeling my soul wrench, knowing this to be oh-so-wrong and completely right at the same time. He smiles and my spirit leaps for joy in the midst of horror. I stand as another helps Him to His feet, trying to honour Him in the only way I can. The guards command someone else to carry His cross ... and I watch as they lead Him away. I know my life is different—but it scares me, and I don't know why.

Flash ...

It is finished.

My heart has died within me although it continues to beat, and I am filled with a despair that knows no end. I was so sure He'd do something, that at the last there would be a rescue, some miracle that would save Him from torture and death. I couldn't watch, knowing what would come. I've seen it before and been almost glad, vastly relieved it wasn't *me* dying on a cross, hiding the knowledge even from myself that if I were caught in any of my nefarious actions, it *would* be me. But this time I would have given almost anything to trade places with Him. *I'm* the coward, *I'm* the hate-speaker, *I'm* the liar, *I'm* the thief ... *it should have been me.* I fall to my knees and shake my fists at Heaven and wail my puny protest, crushed by the weight of truth, choking out words as tears pour down my face, “it should have been me, oh *God*, it should have been *me!*”

There is no answer save a cooling breeze that gently dries my hot, salt-streaked face and reminds me of His ineffable touch. Yet as I follow and watch Him laid tenderly in the tomb, there is a quiet stirring within me that says *this is as it should be.* I don't understand—but it scares me, and I don't know why.

Flash ...

I can't sleep and this time, I know why. Even though it's barely dawn, it's hot and I am restless and bothered. I wander to the tomb to think, to try to clear my head, to get my wits about me. I want to spend time with Him, to regain the sense of peace and courage that replaced fear and doubt as He looked in my eyes, exposed my soul and breathed love into my very being. I want to be unafraid and know exactly why.

I walk through the dewy grass, the rising sun lighting the path as the scent of flowers drifts around me. It disturbs me that the world goes on as though nothing happened. But something *has* happened: the stone they placed in front of His tomb is gone! Outrage bubbles in me; was it not enough that they crucified Him? Must they also disturb His final rest?

I rush forward and see others there, awake even before me, perhaps awake all night, mourning Him. Women carrying spices and oil. I watch as they disappear into the tomb, and I long to follow, my infant courage not yet overcoming my adult tendency towards invisibility and silence. I catch a glimpse of a white robe, the luminous face of a young man sitting where He had lain. “He is not here,” he said, and as I heard the words I knew it to be true. My soul leapt for joy as the sound of glorious singing filled my ears: music ordained by God that swirled like the early mist around us, suffused with truth and love and ringing with the harmony of paradise.

The women walk steadily towards me, bewildered faces broadcasting a paradox of belief and uncertainty. “He is risen!” they say, wonder in their voices and hope shining in their eyes. “He is risen indeed,” I whisper back, and feel the universe shift.

Flash ... ✕



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Holy Week Mass Schedule

Parish	Holy Thursday (Apr 5)	Good Friday (Apr 6)	Easter Vigil (Apr 7)	Easter Sunday (Apr 8)
St. Andrew's Cathedral	7:30 pm Mass of the Last Supper 10 pm Night Prayer	11 am Family Service 3 pm Solemn Afternoon Service 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross (Night Prayer to follow)	8 pm	8 am 9:30 am 11 am 5 pm
Christ the King (Courtenay)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
Church of the Ascension (Parksville)	7 pm	10 am Stations of the Cross 3 pm	10 am - Noon Sacrament of Reconciliation 8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
Holy Cross	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
Holy Family (Ucluelet)		7 pm		9:30 am
Holy Family/Notre Dame (Port Alberni)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	9 am 11 am 5 pm Croatian
Our Lady of Fatima (all services in Portuguese and English)	7:30 pm	3 pm	8:30 pm	10 am
Our Lady of Grace (Saltspring Island)	7 pm Adoration to follow	3 pm	7 pm	8 am St. Paul's, Fulford Harbour 10 am Our Lady of Grace
Our Lady of the Rosary	7 pm Adoration to follow until 10:30 pm	3 pm	8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
Our Lady of Victory Mission (Gabriola)	4:30 pm			4:30 pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace	7 pm Adoration to follow	3 pm	8 pm	10 am 12 pm Traditional Latin Mass
Sacred Heart	7:30 pm Adoration until Midnight	3 pm	8 pm	8:30 am 10 am 12:30 pm Polish 5 pm Korean
St. Edward's, Duncan	7 pm	9:15 am Stations of the Cross up Mt. Tzouhalem	3 pm	10 am
St. Elizabeth and Our Lady of the Assumption (Saanich Peninsula) Services at St. Elizabeth's unless otherwise noted	7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Eucharistic Adoration	3 pm	9 pm	8:30 am Our Lady of the Assumption 10:30 AM St. Elizabeth's
St. Francis of Assisi (Tofino)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	
St. Joseph the Worker (Victoria)	7 pm	3 pm	8:30 pm	6 am Sunrise 10 am 12 pm
St. Joseph's (Chemainus)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	10:45 am
St. Lawrence (Ahousaht)				7:30 pm
St. Leopold Mandic (Croatian)	7 pm Victoria, St. Leopold Mandic	7 pm Victoria, St. Leopold Mandic 3 pm Nanaimo, Sv. Ivan Krstitelj	7 pm Victoria, St. Leopold Mandic	11 am Victoria, St. Leopold Mandic 2:30 pm Nanaimo, Sv. Ivan Krstitelj 5 pm Port Alberni, Holy Family Notre Dame 7:30 pm St. Patrick's, Campbell River
St. Patrick's (Victoria)	7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration until 10 pm	3 pm 7 pm Stations of the Cross	10 am Blessing of the Easter Bread 7 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
St. Peter's (Nanaimo)	7:30 pm Private Adoration until Midnight	3 pm Liturgy of the Word and Stations of the Cross	11 am Blessing of the Food 8 pm	8:30 am 10:30 am
St. Rose of Lima (Sooke)	7 pm	3 pm	8 pm	10 am
Trinity Catholic (Nanaimo)	7:30 pm Adoration to follow until 10 pm	10 am Stations of the Cross 3 pm followed by time for Confession	8 pm	8 am 9 am