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Report



# The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

February 2012

## The Irish Eucharistic Event 2012: A Year of (3) Themes

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

As we begin this 12th year of the 3rd millennium of Christianity, the Church draws our attention to three great themes for 2012: we begin a *Year of Faith* in October, a year for the *International Eucharistic Congress* and the year marking the *50th Anniversary* of the opening of the *Second Vatican Council*. Of the three themes, I wish to comment briefly on the *International Eucharistic Congress* to be held this June in Dublin, Ireland, and to do so for two reasons. Firstly, it is an international spiritual event that has importance and influence for the Universal Church; and secondly, we are privileged to have a small group of laity and clergy (myself included) who will represent our Diocese at that unique event.

At the Plenary Assembly for the CCCB held last October in Cornwall, Ontario, I was handed a beautiful prayer card

with the Eucharistic Congress Prayer printed on one side and on the other, an aerial photograph of the concluding Mass for the 2008 International Eucharistic Congress, held on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City. The title under the photograph read: "From Quebec to Dublin."

What jarred my memory was the sight of all those people holding umbrellas—maybe 50,000 people holding umbrellas! I will never forget how, during the Communion Rite, a powerful and torrential rain storm hit Quebec City. People had to literally run for shelter after receiving Holy Communion—many of us made a private "Prayer after Communion" while slogging through 4 or 5 inches of water on the field on the way to the buses. Never before had I witnessed such a powerful: *Ite Missa Est!*

For those with a poetic mind, the allegory was striking—drenched in water, a symbol of our Baptism and nourished by the Bread of Life, God spoke to us, but not in the silence that the prophet Elijah experienced, but rather in a rain storm and the Good Lord seemed to say to us: *Off with you and witness to Me before the whole world!* In the new revised Roman Missal, the priest ends the Liturgy with similar words, but less dramatic: *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord!*

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## Office of Justice and Life Coordinator Appointed

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

In keeping with the goals of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, I am happy to announce the creation of a new Diocesan Ministry that will develop two important areas of pastoral mission, namely, Justice and Human Life. This pastoral work will be centered in a recently formed Diocesan Office of Justice and Life. The Diocese has engaged Mr. Stuart Andrie as Ministry Coordinator and one of his first initiatives in starting this new pastoral approach in the Diocese will be to contact pastors and parish leaders so as to develop priorities and programs. Mr. Andrie began his appointment on February 1, 2012.

The Mission Statement for this Diocesan Office is as follows:

*The Diocesan Office of Justice and Life, working together with parishes, diocesan groups and parish-based communities, promotes the Catholic Church's teaching on social justice relative to integral human development as a central aspect of the proclamation of the Gospel."*

The new approach of the Office of Justice and Life is based on the understanding that Catholic Social Teaching and Human Rights relative to reverence for human life are, in reality, concerned with human development and are integral to one another—it is all about the human person. In recent years the Church has emphasized this fact through its Magisterium and challenged the People of God to work for integral human development at all levels, including human rights, social justice, environmental and economic concerns. For example, in his Social Encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*), Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that:

*One of the most striking aspects of development in the present day is the important question of "respect for life," which cannot in any way be detached from questions concerning the development of peoples. It is an aspect which has acquired increasing prominence in recent times, obliging us to broaden our concept of poverty and underdevelopment to include questions connected with the acceptance of life, especially in cases where it is impeded in a variety of ways. (#28)*

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Read about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan in the Special Pullout Section...







# Appeal in Action

by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

## DIOCESAN APPEAL SURPASSES 2011 GOALS

As the calendar year drew to a close, the Diocese of Victoria announced that the 2011 Diocesan Appeal, *Journey of Hearts & Hands: On Our Way*, had reached and surpassed the \$750,000 goal set for this year. As at January 31, 2012 parishioners from all 32 Island parishes had given or pledged a total of almost \$1.1 million dollars.

Thank you to all parishioners who supported the *Journey of Hearts & Hands: On Our Way* Appeal. Your generous and sacrificial gifts are greatly appreciated. Your support of the *Journey of Hearts & Hands: On Our Way* Appeal has enabled the pastoral priorities of both your Parish and Diocese to be supported and will further the unfolding of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Special thanks and blessings are sent to all Pastors and Lay Appeal Leaders in parishes throughout the Diocese. You have offered your gifts and talents in the building up of the Body of Christ and His Church. Your individual and collective roles have made this Appeal a success!

St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to Timothy that stewardship is profoundly community oriented. And the combination of Diocesan coordination, Parish leadership and the generous support of the People of God have led to the success of the 2011 Diocesan Appeal.

## Gifts and Pledges Received

Summary of pledges to January 31, 2012

- More than 2,500 gifts have been given or pledged
- Almost \$1.1 million has been raised, surpassing the goal of \$750,000

- Over \$346,000 has been identified for parish priorities, surpassing the goal of \$150,000
- Seventeen (17) parishes reached or exceeded their goals
- Twenty-three (23) parishes reached 80% or more of their goals

## Looking Ahead to the 2012 Appeal

- A *Journey of Hearts & Hands* will continue over four Sundays in the fall of 2012: October 14 – October 21 – October 28 – November 4
- Financial Goal will remain at \$750,000 with Diocesan programs that benefit from the Appeal largely unchanged
- The Priests Steering Committee will continue to coordinate the Appeal
- Appeal elements will continue to be:
  - Print Materials
  - Clergy Consultations and Committee Training
  - Celebratory Mass & Dinner and Regional Receptions
  - Mail-Out from the Diocese Appeal Office
  - Video with focussed narrative and images around programs
  - Diocese website will have an expanded role

The support of generous Catholics across the Diocese is witness to an appreciation of stewardship in the Church of today. This Christian stewardship begins with a sense of who we are as disciples of the Lord and what we have been given by means of that vocation. As good stewards we know that we are not the owner of the resources entrusted to our care but our role is to preserve, manage and nurture these gifts. ✠

On Our Way Appeal 2011 - Pledge Totals as of January 31, 2012							
Parish	City	Parish Goal	Number of Gifts	Amount Pledged	% of Goal	Avg Gift	For Parish Priorities
Ascension	Parksville	\$46,000	168	\$45,014.00	98%	\$267.94	\$9,002.80
Cathedral	Victoria	\$111,000	417	\$258,421.61	233%	\$619.72	\$147,421.61
Christ the King	Courtenay	\$81,000	122	\$41,611.00	51%	\$341.07	\$8,322.20
Holy Cross Parish	Victoria	\$44,000	156	\$52,590.00	120%	\$337.12	\$15,672.00
Holy Family	Ucluelet	\$1,000	10	\$3,200.00	320%	\$320.00	\$2,200.00
Holy Family/Notre Dame	Port Alberni	\$39,000	106	\$34,450.00	88%	\$325.00	\$6,890.00
Our Lady of Assumption	Alert Bay	\$1,000	3	\$300.00	30%	\$100.00	\$60.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Victoria	\$19,000	53	\$18,225.00	96%	\$343.87	\$3,645.00
Our Lady of Grace	Saltspring Island	\$16,000	31	\$14,388.45	90%	\$464.14	\$2,877.69
Our Lady of the Rosary	Victoria	\$33,000	97	\$35,574.00	108%	\$366.74	\$8,659.20
Our Lady of Victory	Gabriola Island	\$1,000	4	\$494.00	49%	\$123.50	\$98.80
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Victoria	\$14,000	52	\$17,300.00	124%	\$332.69	\$5,440.00
Saanich Peninsula	Sidney	\$50,000	137	\$43,950.00	88%	\$320.80	\$8,790.00
Sacred Heart	Victoria	\$37,000	156	\$46,285.00	125%	\$296.70	\$14,828.00
Schools/Diocese	-----	----	8	\$76,472.00	---	\$9,559.00	---
St Ann's	Duncan	\$3,500	2	\$900.00	26%	\$450.00	\$180.00
St. Bonaventure	Port Hardy	\$1,000	7	\$4,280.00	428%	\$611.43	\$3,280.00
St. Edward's	Duncan	\$45,000	172	\$50,927.90	113%	\$296.09	\$13,742.32
St. Francis of Assisi	Tofino	\$1,000	10	\$1,370.00	137%	\$137.00	\$496.00
St. Francis Xavier/Our Lady Queen of the World	Mill Bay	\$24,000	63	\$25,235.00	105%	\$400.56	\$5,788.00
St. Jean Baptiste	Victoria	\$5,000	25	\$8,605.00	172%	\$344.20	\$3,884.00
St. Joseph the Worker	Victoria	\$50,000	178	\$51,470.00	103%	\$289.16	\$11,176.00
St. Joseph's	Chemainus	\$12,000	31	\$7,445.00	62%	\$240.16	\$1,489.00
St. Leopold Mandic	Victoria	\$10,000	1	\$1,000.00	10%	\$1,000.00	\$200.00
St. Louis de Montfort	Lake Cowichan	\$3,500	22	\$2,860.00	82%	\$130.00	\$572.00
St. Mary's	Ladysmith	\$16,000	12	\$2,820.00	18%	\$235.00	\$564.00
St. Mary's	Port McNeill	\$1,000	5	\$1,050.00	105%	\$210.00	\$240.00
St. Patrick's Parish	Victoria	\$70,000	198	\$77,268.87	110%	\$390.25	\$19,815.10
St. Patrick's Parish	Campbell River	\$48,000	98	\$31,721.00	66%	\$323.68	\$6,344.20
St. Peter's Parish	Nanaimo	\$49,000	87	\$49,780.00	102%	\$572.18	\$10,424.00
St. Rose of Lima	Sooke	\$15,000	49	\$41,685.00	278%	\$850.71	\$26,685.00
St. Theresa's	Port Alice	\$1,000	3	\$480.00	48%	\$160.00	\$96.00
Trinity Catholic	Nanaimo	\$37,000	108	\$37,020.00	100%	\$342.78	\$7,416.00
		Totals	2,591	\$1,084,192.83	145%	\$418.45	\$346,298.92
Congratulations to those parishes that have met and exceeded their goals!							





# The Irish Eucharistic Event 2012: A year of (3) Themes

Pope Benedict is much more theologically precise when he explains in *Sacramentum Caritatis* that the words *Ite Missa Est* originally meant *dismissal*, however Christian usage saw the word *dismissal* changed to mean *mission*—therefore stressing the missionary nature of the Church—the Church exists to Evangelize.

So there we were, on the Plains of Abraham, at the conclusion of the 49th *International Eucharistic Congress*—a great spiritual event held in modern day, largely secular Quebec. A Eucharistic event which coincided with the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Quebec City whose motto reads, surprisingly enough: *God’s Gift I will treasure!* This motto was not lost on Cardinal Ouellet, Archbishop of Quebec at the time, when he decided on the theme for the 49th *International Eucharistic Congress*, namely: *God’s Gift for the life of the world!* The Eucharist as God’s gift of Himself for the life of the world became a great focus during the events of the Congress and a great reminder to the people of Quebec (and of course the rest of us), that their very secular province, a place where the decline of the practice of the Faith has been dramatic since the 1960s, was the birthplace of the Catholic Faith in Canada and that the gift of God, the Holy Eucharist, is always to be loved, treasured and valued. In other words, we have a responsibility to pass on the Faith to others—*Ite Missa Est*. And just as every licence plate in the province has the words *Je me souviens—I remember*—so the Eucharist through the words of the Consecration, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” makes present to us, here and now, the Passover of the Lord. Jesus is really and truly present among us today in an amazing way—present even more “intimately” to us than He was to His Disciples 2000 years ago. Pope Benedict has often invited us to be “surprised by Christ” in His Word and Sacrament.

On a lighter side, my experience of the 49th *International Eucharistic Congress* was a sort of “World Youth Day”—but for Adults! It was a seven-day event with opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and occasions to be surprised by the Christ among us. On a more reflective note, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, now in the heat of the preparations for the Congress to be held in his city, calls the 2012 Congress a *Kairos* moment. In other words an opportune time, in the Biblical sense, when something special can happen due to God’s intervention:

*It is indeed a providential occasion for people to come together in communion with Christ and with one another to reflect on the wounds inflicted on Christ’s body, the sometimes painful remedies needed to bind and heal them, and the need for unity, charity and mutual support in the long term process of restoration and ecclesial renewal.*

These are not just nice theological thoughts; rather, they echo very strongly the spiritual environment in Ireland today and the pain which is present in the Church in Ireland and society as a whole. Archbishop Martin has said that the setting for the Congress in Ireland is one of both light and darkness. On the one hand, there is the reminder of the “rock of faith from which Irish women, men and children of the Church were hewn,” and that we can still be grateful for the gift of faith that Irish Catholics spread throughout the world, including our country. Yet one is also aware that Ireland is treading a “path of healing, renewal and reparation for the abuse of children and vulnerable young people particularly by clergy and religious.”

In many ways, Archbishop Martin says, Irish Catholics are like those Disciples on the way to Emmaus: they are disoriented by the things that have happened, are seeking a path leading to understanding, meaning and hope. It is not without coincidence then that the theme chosen for the 50th *International Eucharistic Congress* is *The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and One Another*. The challenges facing the Catholic Church in Ireland are not unrelated to the challenges, difficulties and suffering being experienced by the Church in many places in the world, whether these are open persecutions waged upon believers, sin within the Church and without, a prevailing Godlessness in many old Christian societies, and a decline of faith and morals. Yet events like an International Eucharistic Congress are occasions when the host Church invites the rest of the world to come and pause in a commitment of Faith and Prayer. It is a moment when the Church in Ireland and beyond can benefit greatly from listening again

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## Office of Justice and Life Coordinator Appointed

The challenge before us as a Diocese is to develop a dynamic, enthusiastic approach to all questions concerning human development. I ask for your prayers, dedication and support as we develop this new ministry of Justice and Life.

Stuart comes to us from Island Catholic Schools where he taught in the Religious Education Department for four years; he is currently completing his term as Youth Ministry Consultant for the Diocese of Victoria. He received his BA in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and his MA in Religious Studies from Providence College in Rhode Island. Stuart also completed four years of postgraduate studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome and he later taught in the Caribbean for two years in Antigua while serving as a lay missionary.

I wish to welcome Stuart to his new position and at the same time I would like to acknowledge the hard work and recommendation of our Diocesan Search Committee. As he prepares to begin his new and challenging ministry, Stuart may be reached at the Pastoral Centre at 250-479-1331, local 244 or via email at sandrie@rcdvictoria.org.

Finally, it is with gratitude that I recognize the support that our *Diocesan Appeal, A Journey of Hearts & Hands*, has had in our Diocese thereby enabling this new initiative to be established as part of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. ✠



to what the Holy Spirit has said and is saying to the Church, in and through the Second Vatican Council. It is an honorable moment of Grace.

In conclusion, I should say a brief word about how the International Eucharistic Congress connects with our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. There are two connections. The first has to do with our scriptural motif for our Pastoral Plan, namely, the Biblical account of the Road to Emmaus. In the Pastoral Letter inaugurating the Pastoral Plan, I commented that the Road to Emmaus story is one in which the sufferings of the Disciples can be seen as a universal “type” for the Christian life in general as one struggles to follow God’s Will in the world. The Disciples only changed from despair to Hope after they had been enlightened by Jesus on the road. Christ, indeed, is at work even today and is walking with us on the road and His grace is available to us at all times.

Archbishop Martin also focuses on the story but from the standpoint of mission. He explains that after Jesus had vanished from their physical sight He then became visible in a new way through Faith. He becomes visible in the Disciples themselves, whose eyes have been opened by Scripture and the Breaking of the Bread. The message is clear, for the Christian community, Scripture and the Eucharist are major sources of encounter with the Risen Christ who builds us up in communion with one another and sends us out as “other Christs” to evangelize—*Ite Missa Est*.

A second connection with our Pastoral Plan is the stress on Eucharistic devotion: *Eucharistic Adoration is highly recommended as a source of blessing for the whole community*. Here I wish to encourage the development of Eucharistic Adoration in our Diocese as part of our Pastoral Plan. It is a wonderful way to recognize, acknowledge and praise the Lord’s presence among us and is of inestimable value for our whole community. Such devotion is very much a part of any Eucharistic Congress.

During the coming *Year of Faith*, beginning October 2012, let us focus a little more on the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist as privileged means of communion with Christ and one another—the theme for the International Eucharistic Congress 2012. I would also invite you to attend a special celebration this coming Saturday, May 26th at 10:30 am at St. Andrew’s Cathedral to mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. As Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin reminds us, Communion or *Koinonia* is “the inspiring idea of the Council and the central axis of all its documents”. ✠



49th Eucharistic Congress, Quebec City, 2008. Photo: Ron Turner

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Pastoral Itinerary

Calendar of Events

Bishop Richard Gagnon

February

- 4
- Quadra Island, Camp Homewood, Reconciliation & Mass
- 5
- St. Andrew's Cathedral, Mass (11 am)
- 6
- Government House, Victoria, Reception in honour of the 60th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Throne as Queen of Canada
- 7
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Victoria, Clergy Study Day (Liturgy) with Fr. John Hibbard
- 11
- St. Patrick's Parish, Victoria, Mass (9 am), Day of Reflection with the Sisters of Life
- 13-14
- Ottawa, Ontario, Episcopal Commission for Liturgy
- 15
- London, Ontario, St. Peter's Seminary
- 16
- Parksville, Clergy Day of Reflection, Ascension Parish
- 17
- Archdiocese of Vancouver, Mass, Catholic Educators Conference
- 22
- St. Andrew's Cathedral, Ash Wednesday Mass (7 pm)
- 23
- St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Victoria, Foundations of the Faith Course with Island Catholic Schools Staff
- 26
- St. Andrew's Cathedral, Rite of Election (11 am)
- 27
- Victoria, Elder's Dialogue, Inn at Laurel Point
- 28-2
- Victoria, Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops, Inn at Laurel Point

March

- 7
- Victoria, Council of Priests
- 24
- Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria, Vocations – Day of Reflection
- 24
- Victoria, Youth Protecting Youth Gala Dinner
- 25
- Holy Cross Parish, Victoria, UVic Catholic Students Grad Mass and Dinner



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Diocese of Victoria

1 - 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC,

Canada V8X 2A1

www.rcdvictoria.org

Circulation 7,000

2012 Publication Dates

February, April, June,

September, November & December

Articles submitted for consideration

must be received by the 5th of the month preceding

publication. Submissions should be no more

than 400 words in length, and those chosen for

publication may be edited for content or length.

Submissions and comments should be sent to:

editor@rcdvictoria.org

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February

- 1/8/15/29
- St. Patrick's Victoria: How to Get to Know More About Islam. 4 evening sessions: The historical perspective of Islam (where the religion came from, and divisions of Islam); the Four Pillars of Islam; Living in a Majority Moslem Country; and The Challenges of Christians to Live with Moslems. Sessions will start at 7 pm each night (Wednesdays in February) at St. Patrick's Parish Hall (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria, BC). Presenter: Fr. Tony Gonsalves OFM, of the Franciscan Friary in Victoria. Fr. Tony was born and educated in Pakistan and worked extensively in Moslem countries. He has a great depth of knowledge to share with us. Everybody is welcome.
- 11
- Our Lady of Fatima: Valentine's Dinner/Dance in Our Lady of Fatima Hall. Doors open at 5:30 pm; dinner at 7 pm. Adults \$40, children \$20. For tickets call Helder Ponte at (250) 727-0623.
- 19
- Social Justice Series: Imagine a Community Without Food Banks. 2 – 4:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 1273 Fort Street, Victoria. Over coffee and in small groups we will talk about hunger in Canada. Presenters: Prof. Emeritus Graham Riches, UBC School of Social Work; Elly Carlson, Researcher; Elietha Bocskei, Researcher and Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist; Food Bank Managers; Food Bank clients from the CRD. For more information contact Nancy Stuart at (250) 383-7169.
- 25
- Our Lady of the Rosary: Family Movie night, 6:00 pm. Entrance is free; pizza, juice, popcorn and chocolate by donation. The featured 30-minute long movie will be Samson & Delilah, a cartoon version of a great adventure story from the Bible. For more information call (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca.

March

- 2/3
- St. Andrew's Regional High School: ThinkFast 2012. ThinkFast brings youth together to explore the causes of poverty and social injustice, and it inspires them to learn how they can make a difference in their community and the world. ThinkFast empowers youth to live out their faith and make socially responsible decisions about how they live their lives while also raising funds for Development and Peace. For more info contact Danny Brock at dbrock@cisdv.bc.ca or Katrina Laquian at klaquian@uvic.ca
- 12/14
- St. Andrew's Cathedral: Cathedral Lenten Mission with Bishop Gary Gordon from Whitehorse, Yukon will take place Monday to Wednesday, March 12 – 14, with Masses and talks at the noon hour and 7 pm. Bishop Gary will introduce the Mission at all the weekend Masses on March 10 and 11.
- 23/24
- St. Patrick's Victoria: Development and Peace Lenten Retreat featuring Fr. Max Olivia SJ. 7 – 9 pm Friday, March 23 and 9:30 am – 3:30 pm on Saturday, March 24. For more info or to register, contact David Stuart at stuart.da@shaw.ca or home: (250) 360-2142; cell: (250) 514-6647.

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.

- 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.

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. 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

Returning to Spirit

Residential School Reconciliation Program

Making the Impossible Possible

Returning to Spirit: Residential School Reconciliation Program (Part I: March 26-30, 2012)

This workshop for non-aboriginals is sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria and will be hosted at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 753 West Burnside Road, Victoria.

The Returning to Spirit program is based on returning people to the spirit of who they are rather than reliving the painful experience of the past, particularly that of Residential Schools. A similar workshop for aboriginals will be offered during the same week on Penelakut Island (formerly Kuper).

Learn how to: discover the spirit of who you are; move beyond healing and experience reconciliation; create a future based on choice rather than on reaction to the past; experience the impossible as being possible; bridge the differences between yourself and others; discover how Residential School shows up in your life today and how it impacts Canadian society; and be part of the solution.

For more information please contact Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins at (250) 479-1331 (cynthiabw@rcdvictoria.org) or Mary Parry at (250) 477-0593 (maryparry3@gmail.com).

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Diocesan Messenger – February 2012



# Island News & Events



## 40 Days for Life

by Alex Berns, Vigil Coordinator

With our first-ever 40 Days for Life public prayer vigil now successfully behind us, we will undertake the next vigil to coincide with Lenten devotions beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and concluding on Palm Sunday (April 1).

Our 12-hours-per-day prayerful presence was held for so many babies whose lives end here in our beautiful city. Perhaps this vigil was only a light to shine as a witness to the horror taking place here; it seems we encounter so much suffering pre- and post-abortion in our society.

Therefore it is our resolve to be peaceful, to be prayerful with love and mercy described in Scripture, to be a visible sign here in this place, to quietly affirm that all life is sacred and has the dignity and sanctity created in the likeness of God.



Our first-ever vigil was totally amazing: 109 people logged 879 hours (between 6 am and 6 pm daily) of visible, prayerful witness and support of the Gospel of Life. Well done Victoria!

We wish to thank Choose Life Victoria without whose support this would not have been possible. To participate in our Lenten 40 Days for Life vigil, please visit the websites listed below to register for the vigil or to offer prayerful support. You may also email fortydaysvictoria@hotmail.com. ✠

[www.chooselifevictoria.com](http://www.chooselifevictoria.com)

[www.40daysforlife.com/victoria/](http://www.40daysforlife.com/victoria/)



*For thou didst form my inward  
parts, thou didst knit me together  
in my mother's womb. I praise thee,  
for thou art fearful and wonderful.  
Wonderful are thy works! Thou  
knowest me right well; my frame  
was not hidden from thee, when I  
was being made in secret, intricately  
wrought in the depths of the earth.*

~ Psalm 139:13-15

(RSV, Catholic Edition)

## Looking Back 2,000 Years

by Fr. Frank Franz

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land was always just a dream for me, tucked away in the back of my mind as something, someday, I might do. I had always hoped I would get to Bethlehem one day before I got too old to travel—or died, whichever came first. Christmas in Bethlehem! If only ... and if I had then realized my deepest hopes and gone there, I would happily have been another Simeon: “Now you can let your servant go in peace!”

All my hopes and dreams suddenly became a reality when I was asked to be chaplain for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Not only was I where Jesus was born, but I also visited Jerusalem where Mary and Joseph presented him in the Temple and where Simeon and Anna beheld him; I set foot in Nazareth and Capernaum where he lived; saw Cana where he performed his first miracle; heard echoes of him giving The Sermon on the Mount on the shores of the Sea of Galilee; experienced the height of Mount Tabor where he was transfigured and actually had the feeling of being between heaven and earth. We had the privilege of visiting the site where Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist; even seeing Bethany and Jericho and Emmaus and the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, venerated as the place where Jesus died and rose again. These are just a few of the highlights of the two weeks I spent in Israel!

We were also thrilled with all the side trips to many churches where I had the privilege of celebrating Mass with the other pilgrims I traveled with; experiencing the Way of the Cross through the streets of Jerusalem; visiting the Wailing Wall, and the Israel Museum where I saw the Scripture fragments from Qumran; the Tomb of King David; the Temple Mount; the Dead Sea; and having a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee ...

Looking back, I now realize that if the pilgrimage had been another two weeks or even a month longer, that time would also have been too short to see all that Israel has to offer spiritually and historically!

What a blessing to have been able to take what I can only describe as a trip of a lifetime! And my deepest thanks go out to Sheila Silverio for the opportunity to be a part of her pilgrimage and my gratitude to all my fellow pilgrims for making the journey so memorable for me. ✠

## Youth Voices Challenge Awards

by Rosemary Blank, Church of the Ascension, Youth Administration

The Youth Voices Challenge Committee, representing the Catholic Foundation and the Diocese of Victoria, are pleased to announce the winners of Youth Voices Challenge 2011. Based on the YouTube viewing results at 12 pm on Thursday, September 15, 2011 the final tally was as follows:

- *Brand New Day*, Church of Ascension, Parksville; 1,939
- *Camel*, Saanich Peninsula Parish; 1,346
- *Compassion Play*, St. Patrick's Parish, Victoria; 454

As a result, the team of the Church of Ascension parish received the top prize of \$1,500 and because all members of the team attend the Church of Ascension, the parish received a bonus of \$1,000. Saanich Peninsula's team received the second prize of \$1,000 and St. Patrick's team received the third prize of \$500.

On behalf of the Committee, James E. O'Reilly congratulates all the entrants for a job well done in employing contemporary media to highlight a dimension of the Gospel message.

Each of the teams has been individually awarded their prizes in separate presentations.

The Church of Ascension in Parksville was pleased to have The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island Vice Chair Rose Marie Hague officiate the First Prize presentation to Michael Dobinson, Josh Ford and Chris Sumando, on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Each was awarded \$500 and Fr. Melquiades Bayron accepted the \$1,000 bonus award on behalf of the parish. Matthew Dobinson accepted the prize on behalf of his brother, Michael, who is currently in Japan on a student exchange program.

Congratulations were extended to all three for taking the Youth Voices Challenge. They created the YouTube video *Brand New Day*. They individually encouraged their family and friends to check out the video and received 1,939 hits on the YouTube site. They are commended for their courage, enthusiasm and initiative for a job well done. ✠



# Building Community Spirit

by Lorraine Parsons and Kim Poitras

As part of our ongoing 50th Anniversary year, St. Joseph the Worker Parish was able to celebrate two additional successful events.

### Arbutus Choir Benefit Concert for the Thembaletu Orphanage

About 150 people gathered at St. Joseph the Worker Parish on December 14 to bring in Christmas with the Arbutus Choir led by Jack Boomer. Along with the beautiful music and ambience, the choir, in its third annual benefit performance at our parish, contributed its time and energy to bring hope and a better life to Zulu children impacted by HIV/AIDS in a remote area of South Africa. More than \$2,000 was raised. A further \$2,500 was raised through a collection at Masses, a Parish Council donation and half of the proceeds from the St. Joseph the Worker Parish concert.

All monies are sent to the Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi, a Zulu order of Sisters, to help manage their Thembaletu project. Thembaletu consists of three components that benefit the local community. They are:

- A children’s shelter (orphanage) cares for between 22 and 35 abandoned or orphaned children. With further funding assistance, the shelter could be expanded to care for more children, with the house mother units that are common to many other South African orphanages with European or North American support.
- St. Anthony’s Creche (day care) looks after 40 neighbourhood children, many from orphan-led homes.
- An Outreach/Home-Based Care program that assists 200 families and 180 orphans in six nearby communities, providing food (rice, beans, powdered milk, cooking oil), and blankets, and assists with medical support and HIV/AIDS education. The Sisters also run a volunteer training program for assistants who help people in local communities.

### Working Together as a Whole Community

What started in the past as “blue sky” discussions between St. Joseph School Principal Simon DiCastri and St. Joseph the Worker Parish priest Fr. William Hann grew to more of an idea and vision after attending a workshop by Jim O’Reilly, Religious Education Coordinator, Diocese of Victoria, entitled Forging a Pastoral Vision between Parishes and Schools. Jim really put an extra spark into things.

Both Fr. William and Simon approached the St. Joseph School Council with the intention of having one event planned by the two groups. It had already been proven that the two groups could hold their own successful functions.

At first, discussions seemed to fizzle out. However, Diane Tremblay, Co-Chair of the St Joseph School Council then decided she could understand the vision and stepped up to coordinate the event. Diane said, “We could do twice the job with one awesome event.” Everyone would work together—St. Joseph School team, parents, St. Joseph the Worker Knights of Columbus and parishioners.

Diane organized her committees and planned the event as a Silent Auction and Casino Night. The purpose was to raise funds to support extracurricular and recreational activities for the school and youth. With so many families involved with the school and attending the parish such an occasion would be welcomed.

On Saturday, November 18, 2011, over 240 items were donated for the silent auction and more than 200 people attended the adult-only Casino evening. Admission tickets were sold and each recipient received some play tokens to be entertained during the casino games while the silent auction took place. The auction was offered in three stages to allow enough time for participants to bid. There were lots of great appetizers served by the youth of the parish as well.

A few special items were featured during a public auction held closer to the end of the event. Parishioner and volunteer auctioneer Mena Westhaver performed an outstanding job to drive the bids high and to entertain all with her banter. The end result was a wildly successful auction. There was such a demand for one item that another parishioner, Jim Ross, committed his fishing charter for a second trip. This really capped the evening’s fundraising efforts.

The result of joining the two groups, including the Priest (Fr. William Hann) and Painter (Danny Hayek) Run that occurred earlier in the day, proved to be enormously successful. The grand total raised was over \$ 24,000.

This event was an outstanding example of how the whole parish community joined together to host a successful and fun-filled evening. Father William Hann and Simon DiCastri were so pleased by the joint-effort results of volunteers that discussions have already taken place for another event next fall. ✂



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# Our Story Tells Us that God Loves Us

A Reflection on the Advent Retreat by Father John McCarthy and Sister Gertie Jocksch

by Tanya Taft

On the evening of December 2 a number of people gathered at St. Joseph the Worker Parish to hear Fr. John McCarthy discuss the issue of whether *matter really matters*. During his opening remarks, Fr. John stated that "... we are the first generation to understand that we have a [cosmological] history, we have seen the blue planet!" And this realization is fostering a growing awareness in our communities of how deeply we are connected to the earth, to the universe.

Fr. John explained that over hundreds of years, humanity moved from seeing the world as a creation to seeing the world as nature, with an existence that could be explained by science. This world view led some Christians to assume that the salvation of the soul was the only concern and that care of the natural world was futile. However, Fr. John proposed that at this present time we are called to the "re-enchantment of nature as the word and beauty of God." Even though science and religion have often been treated as adversaries, nature is an important part of faith. "Something in nature draws us in and that Something is God," he said. We all know this to be true. Don't we feel centered and connected after walking in East Sooke Park all day, or watching the clouds and ocean from the top of Mount Doug Park? The evening ended with a reminder by Fr. John that since we have seen the Blue Planet and are aware of our connection to nature, we are responsible not only to the poor of the world, but also to the environment.

Saturday morning began with an introduction by Sr. Gertie Jocksch to the documentary *Journey of the Universe* by Brian Swimme and Mary Tucker. Sister Gertie outlined Brian's motivation for producing this documentary. She explained that we are "enveloped by a story" and that this story is "the story of the universe." The broadcast was a beautifully filmed and thought provoking documentary in which Swimme took us to many stunning aspects of our evolving universe. His proposal that "life was not an accident," that it was "inevitable given the complexity that the developing universe had reached," led to a spirited discussion after viewing the film. The precarious balance between speed, time and gravitational forces that allowed the universe to develop as it did, filled all viewers with awe. Our existence was prepared billions of years ago!

During the afternoon session, Fr. John started with another question: "What is the deep wisdom that can guide us on our journey?" He briefly outlined how scientists over the last few hundred years became aware that the universe was changing (Big Bang Theory), that the earth was changing (Plate Tectonics) and also that the human was changing (Evolution). Fr. John did not ignore the past struggles of the Church to accept champions of these scientific discoveries, such as Galileo or Teilhard de Chardin. He went on to describe the current appreciation of the

Church and its leaders for science. It has been recognized that there is no conflict between the theory of evolution and faith. Fr. John concluded this thought with a quote from the 1997 Catholic Catechism, paragraph 302. Creation is "in a state of journeying toward an ultimate perfection yet to be attained."

Science and its theories of change and evolution are accepted by the Church. But where is God in all of this? The answer presented by Fr. John was profound and surprising, an answer that was and always will be part of our Faith:

*I believe in one God,*

...

*Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,*

...

*Through him all things were made.*

...

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life ...*

Fr. John emphasized that the Trinity is central to our faith, and therefore our faith tells us that *matter matters*. We are called to care for it. It was created by God, through Christ with the giver of life, the Spirit. This is our story, the story of how much God loves us.

Three weeks later, on Christmas morning, we heard the familiar and profound words from the beginning of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him." For the participants of the Advent retreat, those words had a new significance and depth.

Thank you Fr. John and Sr. Gertie, and thanks also to Fr. William Hann for organizing this special event! ✠

*Fr. John McCarthy is a member of the Jesuits. He has a BSc in Forestry, a Masters of Science in soil science and a PhD in forest ecology. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1994. Currently Fr. John is the chaplain at UBC and teaches ecological theology at St. Mark's College.*

*Sr. Gertie Jocksch is a sister of Charity of Halifax. She has a Masters of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Regis College in Toronto. Currently she coordinates programs in Earth Literacies on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver.*

## World Day of the Sick



Catholic Diocese of Victoria  
Office of the Bishop

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January 19, 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Universal Church celebrates **World Day of the Sick**. This day, established twenty years ago, is a day set aside to recognize the reality of those who are ill within our families and communities and the responsibility for each of us to be in solidarity with the vulnerable and those in need. It is also a good day to recall our Church's teaching on the Christian meaning of suffering and Christ's ever abiding presence among us as the Lord who heals, comforts and saves: "*Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest*". (Matt. 11:28) Jesus desires us to link our crosses to his cross as he is gentle and humble of heart and we will find rest for our souls: "*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*". (Matt. 11:29) Through our Faith in Christ and participating in his Pascal Mystery, we become open to the grace of God in our needs and our crosses and prayers for the good of others.

This day is also a good opportunity to acknowledge the important contributions of all those who directly care for the sick and the elderly, whether in Catholic hospitals and health care facilities, public hospitals or in the home. To care for the sick and the elderly in any capacity, as a health care professional or as a volunteer from the local parish community is to participate in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

This year, the Church draws our attention to the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and its special contribution in assisting the sick and the elderly in their need. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that this Sacrament is not a minor Sacrament but one which deserves greater consideration today because of its spiritual benefits to the sick and the elderly. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is not only for those at the point of death but also for those who are seriously ill or advanced in years. The elderly, in fact, should be encouraged to be anointed once per year. The Rite of Anointing for both the ill and the elderly may be done by the priest on an individual basis or within the celebration of a liturgical service where more may receive the anointing.

.../2

Page 2

This is also the time to recall that there are two Sacraments of Healing in the Catholic Church – the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. These two Sacraments spiritually complement one another and should be connected whenever possible because the spiritual and psychological burdens of despair and discouragement can be transformed into a moment of Grace and inner strength. The Holy Father reminds us in his letter for the World Day of the Sick that the use of blessed olive oil in the Sacrament of the Anointing recalls the "*double mystery of the Mount of Olives as the location of the olive grove that was the Garden of Gethsemane - both the place where Our Lord confronted his Passion as well as the place where he Ascended into Glory. Oil thus acts as God's medicine offering strength and consolation, yet at the same time pointing beyond the moment of illness toward the definitive healing, the resurrection*". This year then, let us recognize afresh, the importance of these Sacraments of Healing as important spiritual gifts given to Christ's Church.

In 2008 I announced the creation of the Diocesan Health Care Committee to serve in a consultative capacity on health care issues, needs and concerns within the Diocese. The committee is composed of men and women of various professional backgrounds and is chaired by Father William Hann, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria. The work of the committee continues and I commend them for their work in the Diocese, such as the Training and Education modules for volunteers and the efforts at Advocacy and Action to improve hospital accessibility for volunteers. The committee's encouragement to develop pastoral care certainly includes the invitation for the sick and the aged to receive the Church's Sacraments of Healing as well.

How can you help? Firstly, it is vitally important that an atmosphere of prayer continue in our parishes not only for those in need, but also for those directly ministering to the sick and the elderly. Secondly, be proactive and let your parish know of individuals who are in hospitals, nursing homes or shut-ins at home, so that they may be visited by representatives of the parish. In Victoria, the Catholic Hospital Chaplain to the two general hospitals responds to emergency calls from these hospitals, and visits those in hospital each week, yet visiting parishioners from one's own parish remains a key component to pastoral outreach. Finally, become a parish volunteer yourself, either in one of our Catholic Health Care facilities such as Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria or St. Joseph's General Hospital in Comox, or serve as a part of the parish outreach team.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my prayers and support to all of our clergy and volunteers who form the core of parish pastoral outreach in our Diocese and to acknowledge with gratitude all that our health care professionals, both within our Catholic institutions and outside them, do for the care of our people.

Yours in Christ,

*+ Richard Gagnon*

Most Reverend Richard Gagnon  
Bishop of Victoria





# John Paul II: Inspired by his Legacy

by Greg Van Dyk

Early into his Pontificate, John Paul II preached words that were both immensely powerful and timeless. “Do not be afraid!” he said, “Open wide the doors to Christ!” These words ring true today, particularly for the Church’s young people. It is these profound words that glimmered from a large banner that hung at this year’s *Rise Up* conference in Vancouver.

*Rise Up* is an annual conference hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO)—an organization working to evangelize university and college campuses across Canada. This year, around 600 young people from 72 campuses all across the country gathered in Vancouver to attend the five-day conference.

A group of about 20 young people from Victoria travelled to Vancouver for the conference, along with university chaplain, Fr. Dean Henderson. *Rise Up* was filled with many powerful speakers, both lay and clergy, who focussed on the legacy of the recently beatified pontiff.

One of the most amazing events of the conference was arguably the intense Adoration and Reconciliation on Thursday night, at which about 40 priests were available to hear confessions! A talk by Fr. Clair Watrin was presented before the sacramental part of the evening. In the session, Fr. Clair asked the room of hundreds of young Catholics: “Do you know what God wants?” No one shouted a reply, but Father was quick with a definite response: “You, baby, you! You!”

Each morning we had the opportunity to pray the Rosary together, and one morning the chapel was so full that the room overflowed into the hallway. Mass was also celebrated daily. The Hyatt Regency hotel was essentially flooded with young energetic Catholics who were excited about their faith. One lady who was staying at the hotel apparently remarked in an irritated tone, “You people seem to be everywhere!” She indicated that she had travelled to Spain this past summer and encountered the hundreds of thousands of Catholic pilgrims attending World Youth Day. Yes, we are everywhere and we don’t plan on changing that anytime soon.

On New Year’s Eve, we celebrated Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Dressed in our finest, hundreds of Catholics flooded the streets of downtown Vancouver in suits and dresses. “Where are all you people going?” someone on the street remarked, shocked to see so many young people headed in the same direction. “To church,” we happily replied.

The conference provided more than great talks (as well as great food!). *Rise Up* was a real sign that the Catholic Church is alive, thriving, and growing. The future of the Church was visible at this conference. More importantly, *Rise Up* sent a clear message to each person attending: you are not alone.

It can be easy to feel like you are the only person who loves the Church and fights for what is Good, True, and Beautiful. Sometimes you must stand up for what is right, even if you are standing alone. But that’s the great thing. You aren’t alone. There are countless young Catholics all around the world standing with you.

The fellowship that the *Rise Up* conference provided is perhaps the greatest gift of all. In times of weakness, when confidence is lacking, and when your faith is tested, you can remember that you do not struggle alone. And remember the inspiring words of Blessed John Paul II that hold just as much power now as they did so many years ago:

“Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!” ✠

## 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.*

# Development and Peace Lenten Retreat

Spirituality, Ethics, and Integrity in the Workplace

by Jacques St. Laurent

Las Vegas is not the typical place you would expect to find a Jesuit priest. Neither are companies and business associations the typical environment for exploring spiritual and ethical questions. But Fr. Max Olivia SJ works at the confluence of these seemingly contrary fields. A popular speaker, author, and consultant at the heart of the Las Vegas business community, Fr. Max is committed to exploring how spirituality and ethics can inform decision-making in today’s business world.

In May 2002 he took his ministry to Calgary, Alberta, where he also worked with Bishop Henry on the theme of ethics in the workplace. Prior to his arrival in Calgary, Father Max worked as the pastor on the Blackfoot Reserve in Southern Alberta. We are delighted that Fr. Max will be coming to Victoria to share his extensive and varied experience of exploring spiritual and ethical questions. Please join us at St Patrick’s Church in Oak Bay, where he will lead us in an illuminating Lenten retreat. (See Calendar of Events for more information.) ✠



Fr. Max Olivia lives in North Las Vegas, Nevada. He has a BA in marketing, an MBA in organizational behavior, and a M.Div. from Berkley Theological Union. He has over 30 years of experience leading retreats, has published five books and written numerous articles on spirituality and ethics.

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# TRC Announces Regional Event



December 13, 2011 – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) held a press conference with First Nations Leaders and Mayor Dean Fortin to announce that the TRC will host its first Regional Event, April 13-14, 2012 in the City of Victoria, BC.

The TRC’s Regional Event in Victoria will provide more than 2,000 survivors from Vancouver Island (and adjacent islands) with the opportunity to reflect and share their experiences with the TRC.

Justice Murray Sinclair, TRC Chair said, “The TRC Regional Event is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.”

Regional Event activities will include Statement Gathering, Traditional Ceremonies, Survivor Gatherings, Education Day, Witnessing Survivor Statements, Cultural performances, films and more.

In preparation for the TRC Regional Event in Victoria, four Regional Hearings will also be held on Vancouver Island.

“The Regional Hearings on Vancouver Island are just four of many that are happening throughout Canada leading up to national events. The smaller hearings give survivors who may not be able to attend a national event a chance to still share their story. Each story has its own truth to it,” said Sinclair.

The TRC’s Regional Event in Victoria and the Regional Hearings on Vancouver Island will provide an opportunity for Residential School Survivors to share with the Commission and Canada the unique experiences of children who attended Residential School.

The City of Victoria is proud to host the TRC’s first Regional Event and is working with the TRC to engage more businesses and community members in this important gathering.

Planning is already underway for the TRC’s BC National Event which is scheduled to be held in Vancouver in the Fall of 2013. Dates and locations for the BC mainland Hearings in lead up to this event will be announced at a later date.

## TRC Vancouver Island Regional Hearings Schedule

Port Hardy	February 27-28, 2012
Campbell River	March 1-2, 2012
Port Alberni	March 12-13 2012
Cowichan (Duncan)	March 15-16, 2012
TRC Regional Event in Victoria, BC	Victoria Convention Centre & Fairmont Empress April 13-14, 2012

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission 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.

For more information on National and Regional Events please visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca)

Media Inquiries: Nancy Pine, Senior Communications and Outreach Advisor Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 613-947-4647 office 613-316-5654 cell Email [nancy.pine@trc.ca](mailto:nancy.pine@trc.ca) ✉

# A Long Camino

by Raya MacKenzie

Judy Ravai, owner of Koinonia Christian Books across the street from the Cathedral, asks that that the community of workers and customers might remember Christ’s words: “Seek first His kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given besides.” This “way of holiness” led Judy to and from many places, both geographical and spiritual. Ravai was born in Communist Hungary and she remembers much of the pain of that time, especially the persecution of Catholics and Catholic priests. For her First Communion, Ravai and her class had to sneak to the little Church of the Holy Spirit under the cover of night.

“Those were the dark days,” says Ravai. But then she smiles, “Thank God, it is over!” Ravai and her family escaped to Vienna when Ravai was 17 years old and soon after they immigrated to Canada. In 1983, Ravai founded Koinonia books which began what Ravai calls her *camino*. She began the store out of the basement of her Duncan home as a service for the Catholic community. Many Catholics, including Ravai, were taking prayer and study classes and Ravai’s store provided them with much-needed study material. A year later, she moved the store to downtown Victoria. Now, Koinonia serves a large client base, even mailing books to the United States, Europe and Asia. At home, the store welcomes all people, from the searcher to the very devout. Ravai’s camino has welcomed hundreds of people along the journey. But this part of the journey is coming to an end. In the spring, Ravai will retire and she is currently looking to sell her bookstore.



“We trust that God will provide the right combination of people who view the business as a ministry as well as a financial venture,” she says. “But we are not closed yet!”

The spirit of *Koinonia* certainly remains open to all who enter. Soft music plays in the background and the books nestle neatly within their shelves. Saint figures, candleholders and framed prayers each have their places on the counters as if they were keepsakes rather than merchandise. Ravai picks out each one carefully.

“That was my prayer,” says Ravai, “to have a place of welcome and compassion where everyone can come.” *Koinonia* means *the Communion between Christ and all His people*. “Not just me and Christ,” says Ravai, “But me and the human.”

Ravai certainly loves and gives to all the broken or joyful human people she encounters. The bookstore has material for Catholics but also for Lutherans, Presbyterians, Anglicans and people of many other denominations. Ravai even has some Jewish customers and ensures that her shelves include menorahs and Hanukkah cards.

“You have to focus on the common ground,” says Ravai. Street people also come in to Ravai’s shop to share in the koinonia. One man buys saint cards. Another woman stops in to have coffee with Ravai.

“We know their history,” she says, “their ups and downs. We cry together. But we laugh together too.”

Just then, an opportunity for laughter enters the shop in the form of a young youth minister with a confused, wrinkled brow.

“What are you looking for?” demands Ravai. She has known the young man since his childhood and enjoys kidding around with him.

“I’d rather not say,” he says.

“Come on,” says Ravai, “Whatever it is, I can find it for you.”

“I’m looking for a porn shop,” the youth minister admits. Ravai’s eyes widen. “To pray in front of it,” he clarifies, “to pray for the people who go there.”

“Oh!” exclaims Ravai, “I’m afraid that’s the one thing I have no idea where to find.” All the workers and customers in the shop dissolve into giggles.

“You see,” says Ravai, “we have to have a good sense of humor. And joy.”

For Ravai, God continues to grant joy in optimistic and troubling times. When Ravai was walking on the beach the day she took that great risk in opening up the store, a piece of driftwood in the shape of a Cross washed up at her feet. It now stands strong in Koinonia at the top of a bookshelf. Ravai’s favourite Bible quote comes from Jeremiah: “I did not promise you disaster, but a future full of hope.”

Ravai looks forward now to her future when she will have more time for her five grandchildren, travelling, and, of course, reading her books.

“I will miss it,” she says of the store. “People come in and we all start crying. It’s going to be an emotional last few miles. But you have to let go. People are ready for somebody new, somebody fresh. God is never stale.” She pauses. “God,” says Ravai, “God is always a surprise.”

Judy Ravai would like to thank all those people who have been a part of her camino with Koinonia Christian Books in Port Hardy, Port MacNeil, Duncan, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Victoria and everywhere she has walked with and learned from other pilgrims on the journey! ✉

## KOINONIA CHRISTIAN BOOKS

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# Island Catholic Schools



## Catholic Schools: iLearn, iBelieve, iPray

by Joe Colistro, Superintendent of Schools

In the fall of 2004 Catholic educators from across the province met to discuss the possibility of a British Columbia Catholic Schools Week. The reasons for developing a common Catholic Schools Week were many and included educating the public on the value of Catholic schools, to celebrate learning, to build community and school spirit, to provide a venue to showcase our Catholic schools and most importantly to strengthen the links between home, school and parish.

Spearheaded by Island Catholic Schools, the vision for a common week to celebrate our Catholic schools was supported by each Diocese and became a reality. During the months that followed, the development of a *Marketing and Liturgy Guide* to be used as a resource for schools in preparation for Catholic Schools Week was completed.

Catholic Schools Week has been a focus for Catholic schools across the province since that time. Each year schools within their communities highlight the many great things happening in Catholic education. This year Catholic Schools Week was held from February 5 through 11, and the theme was Catholic Schools: *iLearn, iBelieve, iPray*.

This year's theme is at the heart of why our schools exist. The theme, which views our schools as Catholic faith learning communities, focused on each student's faith and learning journey—a journey supported by teachers, support staff, parents and the faith community.

During Catholic Schools Week an awareness of, and commitment to, Catholic education on Vancouver Island was fostered and enhanced at each of the seven Catholic schools from Victoria to Port Alberni.

*Each year schools within their communities highlight the many great things happening in Catholic education.*

*iLearn* activities such as Open Houses, Science Fairs, Hoops for Hearts and writing and journal activities highlighted the thirst for knowledge.

*iPray* activities helped center students, parent and staff on being in God's presence and included school-wide prayer, school participation at Sunday Mass and Catholic Schools Week liturgies.

*iBelieve* was fostered through "Thank You" assemblies, appreciation days and speakers at Sunday Mass, all of which served to form an understanding of why our schools exist, and focused on our mission as Catholic schools.

Numerous other activities included our parish and school communities and included pancake breakfasts sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Folkfest talent shows, and teacher/student competitions.

All in all it was a great week, a time to be thankful for the gift of Catholic education, to reflect on our Catholic schools and to focus on this year's theme: *iLearn, iBelieve, iPray*. ✠

## Excerpts from Address of The Holy Father To UK Pupils

Sports Arena of St Mary's University College

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and dear young friends,

It is not often that a Pope, or indeed anyone else, has the opportunity to speak to the students of all the Catholic schools of England, Wales and Scotland at the same time. And since I have the chance now, there is something I very much want to say to you. I hope that among those of you listening to me today there are some of the future saints of the twenty-first century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness.

Perhaps some of you have never thought about this before. Perhaps some of you think being a saint is not for you. Let me explain what I mean. When we are young, we can usually think of people that we look up to, people we admire, people we want to be like. It could be someone we meet in our daily lives that we hold in great esteem. Or it could be someone famous. We live in a celebrity culture, and young people are often encouraged to model themselves on figures from the world of sport or entertainment. My question for you is this: what are the qualities you see in others that you would most like to have yourselves? What kind of person would you really like to be?

When I invite you to become saints, I am asking you not to be content with second best. I am asking you not to pursue one limited goal and ignore all the others. Having money makes it possible to be generous and to do good in the world, but on its own, it is not enough to make us happy. Being highly skilled in some activity or profession is good, but it will not satisfy us unless we aim for something greater still. It might make us famous, but it will not make us happy. Happiness is something we all want, but one of the great tragedies in this world is that so many people never find it, because they look for it in the wrong places. The key to it is very simple – true happiness is to be found in God. We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success, or in our relationships with others, but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts.

Not only does God love us with a depth and an intensity that we can scarcely begin to comprehend, but he invites us to respond to that love. You all know what it is like when you meet someone interesting and attractive, and you want to be that person's friend. You always hope they will find you interesting and attractive, and want to be your friend. God wants your friendship. And once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change. As you come to know him better, you find you want to reflect something of his infinite goodness in your own life. You are attracted to the practice of virtue. You begin to see greed and selfishness and all the other sins for what they really are, destructive and dangerous tendencies that cause deep suffering and do great damage, and you want to avoid falling into that trap yourselves. You begin to feel compassion for people in difficulties and you are eager to do something to help them. You want to come to the aid of the poor and the hungry, you want to comfort the sorrowful, you want to be kind and generous. And once these things begin to matter to you, you are well on the way to becoming saints.

In your Catholic schools, there is always a bigger picture over and above the individual subjects you study, the different skills you learn. All the work you do is placed in the context of growing in friendship with God, and all that flows from that friendship. So you learn not just to be good students, but good citizens, good people. As you move higher up the school, you have to make choices regarding the subjects you study, you begin to specialize with a view to what you are going to do later on in life. That is right and proper. But always remember that every subject you study is part of a bigger picture. Never allow yourselves to become narrow. The world needs good scientists, but a scientific outlook becomes dangerously narrow if it ignores the religious or ethical dimension of life, just as religion becomes narrow if it rejects the legitimate contribution of science to our understanding of the world. We need good historians and philosophers and economists, but if the account they give of human life within their particular field is too narrowly focused, they can lead us seriously astray.

A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints. I know that there are many non-Catholics studying in the Catholic schools in Great Britain, and I wish to include all of you in my words today. I pray that you too will feel encouraged to practice virtue and to grow in knowledge and friendship with God alongside your Catholic classmates. You are a reminder to them of the bigger picture that exists outside the school, and indeed, it is only right that respect and friendship for members of other religious traditions should be among the virtues learned in a Catholic school. I hope too that you will want to share with everyone you meet the values and insights you have learned through the Christian education you have received.

Dear friends, I thank you for your attention, I promise to pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me. May God bless you all! ✠





# St. Andrew’s Elementary Celebrates Week of Christian Unity

by Brenda Bella, Vice Principal, St. Andrew’s Elementary School

All were certainly welcome at St. Andrew’s Elementary’s Liturgy highlighting the need for prayer for Christian Unity. In our multicultural school, it is very fitting that we learn about and acknowledge other faiths, and especially those that are present within our own learning environment.

During this Liturgy we gratefully welcomed pastors from other faith traditions in the downtown area. These pastors have recently welcomed our students into their own churches and taught them the similarities and differences between their faith community and Catholicism. This year we were fortunate to partner with the Presbyterian Church of St. Andrew’s, Grace Lutheran Church, Christ Church Cathedral School, St. John the Divine Anglican Church and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. It is always a wonderful learning opportunity for our students.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity occurs between the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, on January 18, and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. During this week, we focus on praying for the unity of Christian Churches. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began in 1908 and has grown and developed. Today it is a joint effort between the Roman Catholic Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Orthodox, Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed, United and independent churches are all represented. Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the observance of this Week of Prayer throughout the entire Roman Catholic Church.

At our Liturgy of Prayer for Christian Unity we also welcomed students from our neighbouring Christ Church Cathedral School. All students were attentive to the words of our Chaplain Father Luyen as he related gifts and talents to the different strings and notes on his guitar. Thank you, Father Luyen, and thank you to the Grade Three students for preparing for and leading the Liturgy. Thank you as well to all of the parents and other special guests who were able to attend.

As our school community continues to “build in love,” we will also continue to pray for Christian Unity so that no matter where we are, the love of Christ will one day end divisions. ✠

Photos by Walter Kuhn

# iLearn, iBelieve, iPray

by Gwen Jahelka, Principal, St. Joseph’s School, Chemainus

The theme for Catholic schools in our province was one that caused a bit of unease among teachers, especially those who are sticklers for grammatical accuracy. However, one must admit that playing with the popular “i” products, such as “iPad®” and “iPhone®” is a clever way to bring a current flair to the core attributes of a Catholic school.

Essential to the essence of any school is of course, learning: *iLearn*. What is essential to a Catholic school is our rootedness our faith in God: *iBelieve*. And of course, one of the core actions and responses to that faith: *iPray*.

At St. Joseph’s Chemainus we extended the theme *iLearn, iBelieve, iPray* throughout the 2011-12 school year to encapsulate additional core elements of our school community.

We began in September with *iRespect* days, helping our students build community through activities that focused on communication, cooperation and kindness. Students were divided into “family groups” and explored Christian virtues in fun and creative ways. We made virtue signs and friendship trail mix, went on a tour of the church and so much more. Our *iRespect* days helped us set a positive tone for the school year. It helped our new students integrate more fully into our community and it allowed our teachers to get to know all the students in our school.



We have continued to reinforce the *iRespect* message through monthly activities and events that included a visit from an entertaining clown, Major Conrad Flapps, who helped students explore strategies to stand up against bullying. The consistent messaging of *living by Christian virtues* has helped us to build a warm and loving community. Our Epiphany Feast was another special day during which we reinforced what it means to be a caring member of our Catholic school. Students shared their spiritual gifts with Jesus as they committed to doing something to make the world a better place.

Through the season of Lent we will continue the “i” messages as we focus on the importance of giving to others in sincere and generous ways through *iServe* with our Lenten mission. Each classroom will take on a special project to serve those in our local and global communities. For example, the grade 4/5 will visit our local senior centres to share jokes and fellowship. Our grade 3/4 class will collect dimes for a math “measurement unit” and then donate the money to sponsor our Chalice foster child. *iServe* will help the students focus on others in a variety of meaningful ways.

At St. Joseph’s you can see that *iLearn, iBelieve, iPray* are only just the basic components of life in a Catholic school—even if the spelling is a bit unconventional! ✠







*by Gwen Jahelka, Principal*

Students and staff alike dressed in their finest attire on the Feast of the Epiphany. A Persian prince who came to honour the visit of the Magi on January 5 at St. Joseph's School.

We began our day with our Epiphany Mass celebrated by Father Robert Mmegwa. From there the students had written out what their gift for Jesus was; perhaps it was to be kind, to be more of a special box or bag and symbolically gave their treasure to Jesus. Our very generous and supportive parents provided a turkey feast complete with vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Students then had the opportunity to enjoy a PowerPoint presentation of the Holy Land and v.

It was a very special day for our students. It all began with an idea of one of our teachers. Mrs. De. The children understand its significance, that Christ came for all people, for all nations. From there.

Our students will definitely remember the meaning of the Feast of the Epiphany and how Jesus loves them. ✠







nce, a Chinese princess, a First Nation chief and an African queen were just few of the visitors

the children presented their personal spiritual gifts to Jesus in a short ceremony at the school. re helpful, or to be compassionate and understanding. They had wrapped these gifts in a tive Parent Auxiliary provided all students, staff and visitors from our parish community a

were able to see some of the places where Jesus fulfilled his ministry on earth.

eb Cadwallader visualized a big Epiphany feast to honour this special feast day and to help the e, the entire community pulled together to make this a reality.

s was born for each and every one of them, and as a teacher there is no greater joy in knowing





# Focus on Youth

## The Victor Anderson Memorial Basketball Court

**February 4, 1993 - July 7, 2011**

Friends and family of Victor David Paul Anderson have established a Memorial Basketball Court Fund to honour and remember Victor's passion for community, faith, life and sports. Victor was a kind and cheerful young man who excelled at basketball and sports. He was tragically taken from us in a car accident at the age of 18. Victor will be remembered for his kind heartedness and lovable nature, his compassion and energy. The new basketball court will be installed at Queen of Angels Catholic School in Duncan and will provide a place for students and the community to come together and share camaraderie and enthusiasm for sports. Donations may be made to:

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## One Week With a Pontifical Council

*by Katrina Laquian, University of Victoria, Canadian Catholic Students Association*

December in Vatican City is filled with anticipation as the majestic Christmas tree is placed beside the Obelisk in the centre of St. Peter's Square. What a historic and fitting place to be in the month we celebrate Jesus' birth. And what a fitting time, the close of the semester, to gather Catholic students together from around the globe.

I received a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to be one of two Canadian student delegates to the *III World Congress of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People*. We joined with just over 100 participants (cardinals, bishops, sisters, priests, chaplains) from 36 countries to discuss the meeting of cultures and create a working document for the Pastoral Care of International Students. The Pontifical Council hosted two previous congresses in 1996 and 2005, but this year was the first at which international and local students were invited to contribute their experiences and ideas.

It was inspiring to experience ecumenical dialogue at the level of the Pontifical as we were greeted and joined by leaders of other Christian denominations. I was also amazed by the interest that brought everyone to the Congress. Participants really wanted to know what kind of challenges international students experience on campus (loss of identity, large international fees, homesickness, etc.), and what services and programs campus ministries in other countries provide. We constantly referred to one another's experiences in our dialogue and round-table sessions, whether the topics were culture and faith, or culture and education, or the paradoxes of globalization.

The Pontifical Council provided a very open space where the meeting of cultures could take place. As a young person, it can sometimes be intimidating to approach higher members of the church, but by the end of the Congress I had shared a lecture with a sister, professor, and presenter from Haiti; shared lunch with several bishops from Africa; and summarized my workshop group's discussion to the entire delegation. That such a Council exists to ensure that international students are formed as leaders in both their host country and home, is a promising commitment that the Church has made to become servant-leaders for a just and peaceful humanity.

Universities are "called to be laboratories of humanity," Pope Benedict XVI noted in his private address to our delegation, that can "become places, where Jesus Christ can be met and known, where one can experience His presence that reconciles, calms, and instills new hope."

By helping students to find and appreciate that authentic humanity in their studies at university, we will build leaders who can bring that humanity to the rest of the world.

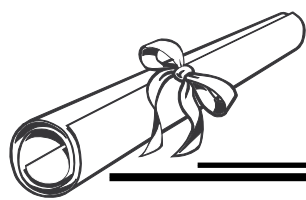
For more information on the III World Congress, visit [www.pcmigrants.org](http://www.pcmigrants.org) and [www.cccm.ca](http://www.cccm.ca). ✕



**Back row (L to R): Sr. Norma Macdonald, Janice Ryan, Sr. Elaine Baete  
Front row (L to R): Fr. Daniel Renaud, Katrina Laquian, Gerard Byumungu**







# On Mission



by Fr. Dean Henderson

As you read this in early February, God willing, I will be ensconced in the snowbound city of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, and settled in the Rectory of Our Lady of Victory for our six-month sabbatical of service in the Northern missions (as opposed to the mission here).

It's comforting to know something of the Yukon, having flown up for Easter last year, but I know nothing of mid-winter. It's making me shiver just thinking about it even though I am writing from a very comfortable couch in Victoria. The anticipation conjures up fond memories of my grade five memorization of Robert W. Service's *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. Do you remember it?

*There are strange things done in the midnight sun  
By the men who toil for gold;  
The Arctic trails have their secret tales  
That would make your blood run cold;  
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,  
But the queerest they ever did see  
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge  
I cremated Sam McGee ...*

But I actually don't have a lot of time for reminiscing as there is so much on the To Do list for the five Hendersons heading North: write this article, prepare campus ministry and Diocesan responsibilities for my absence, outfit our van with snow tires and repair its interior heater, and think about what to pack for six months. Henderson Christmas presents included Arctic parkas and ski-do boots rated to -63. Actually, I will not be happy if it doesn't get a little colder up there after these big investments.

Meanwhile, here in Victoria, about 20 Victorians joined with 500 other Canadian Catholic students at the annual Campus Catholic Outreach (CCO) *Rise Up* conference in Vancouver from December 28 to January 1. Its theme was the legacy of Blessed John Paul II; I think he would have been proud of this jubilant, youthful segment of our Church. As the primary evangelist that led to my reception into full communion with the Catholic Church, I was particularly pleased to honour the memory of that great and holy Pontiff. My "roomie" at the hotel was Fr. Chris, a Basilian chaplain at Assumption University in Windsor, recently headed by

## Catholic Students Week 2012

by Katrina Laquian, UVic Catholic Students Association

The UVic Catholic Students Association has already had an eventful and inspirational semester on campus, especially considering the activities for Catholic Students Week!

In February we continued our participation with other campus ministries in the Canadian Catholic Student Association's (CCSA) national week of events. Last year, we contributed over 30 events to the over 250 events that were held on 35 campuses in Canada, being the campus to hold the most events in Canada! As of press time, we don't have final results in for 2012's activities, but will provide a full report in the April edition of the Diocesan Messenger.

This year, we were pleased to welcome our new CCSA campus representative, Tesi Wagner, who helped bring back to the Victoria community many of the classic events from 2011. Tesi will provide a full update in the April edition, and as well, details can be found on the Diocesan webpage at <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/catholic-students-association.php>. And don't forget to follow the Diocese on Twitter for up-to-date event notifications for the CSA and other Diocesan activities throughout the year (@rcdvictoria). ✂

Fr. Tom Rosica of Salt and Light. It's a rare treat to "talk shop" with a professional colleague and even rarer that I can pick the brain (and heart) of a priest 15 years my junior. With the New Year's Gala conclusion of the conference, students have once again flooded the Universities and Colleges and resumed classes for their winter term.


Our annual winter retreat in the Comox Valley will welcome Fr. Stephen Paine, the Port Alberni Pastor as our speaker with the added blessing of an evening of musical ministry by Saskatchewan artist Mark Mallet.

But Catholic student life isn't all conferences and retreats. I'm privileged to assist students, staff and faculty by frequently offering the spiritual fortification of the Sacraments. Regular pastoral intervention and guidance is required for many students who suffer from a variety of conflicts and challenges. Being a presence on behalf of Jesus amongst his young-adult flock is both immensely demanding and intensely rewarding. I part for the North with a holy hope that "a change is as good as a rest," and that I will return with fresh insight and inspiration, in the words of British war-effort fame, to *Keep Calm and Carry On* in campus ministry. ✂


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Fr. Jai Joseph  
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Fr. Scott  
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and missions

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

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

The day at a glance:

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



THY WILL BE DONE

2:00pm - talk by Fr. Sean  
Special Guest Bishop Richard

3:00pm - assembly with questions and answers

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



Bishop Richard Gagnon answering students' questions during Dish with the Bishop, one of the week's top events



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# Connections



by Raya MacKenzie

One night during my first winter working at Cobs Bread, the rain slicked down the front glass windows, each drop a tiny snail-trail crossing from one corner of the glass to the other. Each drop was far more alive than I was. I was crouching on the floor behind the display cabinets, a posture the manager had ordered us never to assume, but I was exhausted. I always felt exhausted during that winter. I had just entered my first year at University and the transition had taken its toll on my mind, body and spirit. My perfectionism and anxiety had descended into that shadowy underworld called depression. I shivered against the cabinet, not because the bakery with its roaring ovens contained any chill, but because I was also suffering from that peculiar disease that affects young, anxious females. I would not eat. Surrounded by bread and I would not eat. Blanketed by warmth and I froze to the ends of my hair. My hair had started falling out in clumps.

“Hello!” an accented voice called. A customer had entered the shop. I sprang up from the floor and willed my blank eyes to focus on the man standing before me.

“Oh, my God!” he exclaimed.

“What?” I said. Heaven forbid that we were out of his favorite bread! In that case I knew I would have to spend a good twenty minutes trying to calm him down.

“I am thirty years too late!” he cried. He was a broad man with an olive complexion and a well-groomed white beard. He might have been Italian or Greek or from some other warm land where the people have large, brown eyes. His were the softest and most beautiful I had ever seen.

“Your eyes,” he said, “they are so beautiful! You are such a beautiful young woman!”

I did not feel beautiful. I had spent months warring against my own flesh, hating the girl I saw reflected back at me in mirrors and windows, forcing myself to shrink smaller and smaller.

I should have thanked him politely but I just kept looking at him, shocked at his admiration.

“You must learn to dance the tango,” he said. “The tango is the most amazing dance—where two people join together with so much life. It’s how I met my wife. Yes, you must learn to dance the tango.”

I smiled, finally. “Oh,” I said. “Yes. Maybe I will.”

“Yes,” he said. He returned the smile. And he was right; he was three decades too late to dance the tango with me. But he was just on time to take the first step to help me.

This is my last winter working at Cobs. In a week, I will begin a new job at a law firm scanning and filing documents. I am excited for new possibilities, but I will miss the bakery. I have done so much growing there. I am happy now and I am blessed.

On my break during my last Cobs shift, I go to the grocery store to buy apples. I select the shiniest ones and plunk six of them into a bag. I am just about to turn the twist-tie when a voice to my right says:

“You know you must wash those very well.”

I don’t recognize the voice right away but I say, “Yes, I will do that.” I don’t want to admit that I never wash any fruit very diligently. I look in the voice’s direction and there he is. That man who saved me nearly three years ago. I want to say, “I learned the tango.” I want to say, “It is beautiful. Things are very beautiful now.” I want to say, “Thank you.” But he probably doesn’t recognize me at all. I have returned to my usual weight and shape, my cheeks are less hollow. He might tell every sales girl that she is beautiful and that she should dance the tango. He will not know me. How can I say all that I want to?

How can I thank him?

I often feel this way about all the small “saviours”—and the great Saviour—who rescued me during that terrible year. I had a lot of help, then; other “small s” saviours who made, as the tango/apple-man did, a profound difference to me in moments of need I couldn’t begin to articulate. Some of them still guide and protect me, but none more so than the “big S” Saviour, the Man who responded to my silent cry for help and made a profound difference because He gave His life for me—this eternal Man who rescued me with His own body and His precious blood.

How could I ever I express my gratitude for Christ, this man-and-God, who feels so close and yet sometimes so far away? There is nothing I can do or say that could ever “make good” for the life He sacrificed for mine. It’s beautiful—and equally awkward—to be saved. We want so much, especially in this society of individuals, to be able to save ourselves. We want to be resolute and self-sufficient. We want to believe we can rescue ourselves; perhaps we believe that not doing so somehow makes us weak and that this weakness, our reliance on others when we are utterly at a loss on our own, makes the salvation a shameful thing, not a miracle.

Maybe we even believe that if we can “pay back” our “saviours,” we will save face, redeem our need for redemption, as it were. But in so doing, we turn the miracle from “love” to a simple economic exchange: your gift for mine. Mine for yours. We’re even, now.

Perhaps this is why the only thing Christ asks of us for our salvation is the humility to allow ourselves to be saved again and again. He tells us to eat His body and drink His blood, but as an extension of His sacrifice, not as our sacrifice to appease Him. He moves in to inhabit our very flesh, there to save us all over again each time we consume His body and His blood. He asks us to love one another and enter into the miracle of helping each other, a small “saving” of each other in the maelstrom of life. These requests are not so much laws that we must follow because He saved us but mysteries we must live so that He lives in us as we live in Him.

Back to the grocery store. I want to say “Thank you” to the man next to me. Instead I ask, “You have to wash the apples because of the wax?”

“Yes,” he says. “The wax. Paraffin. All that shine,” he gestures to the apples, “is wax.”

I nod helplessly, somehow understanding that the wax is a fake shine, a facade to create beauty when what inside is still hidden.

“And what is the best way to get rid of wax?” he continues. I have no idea.

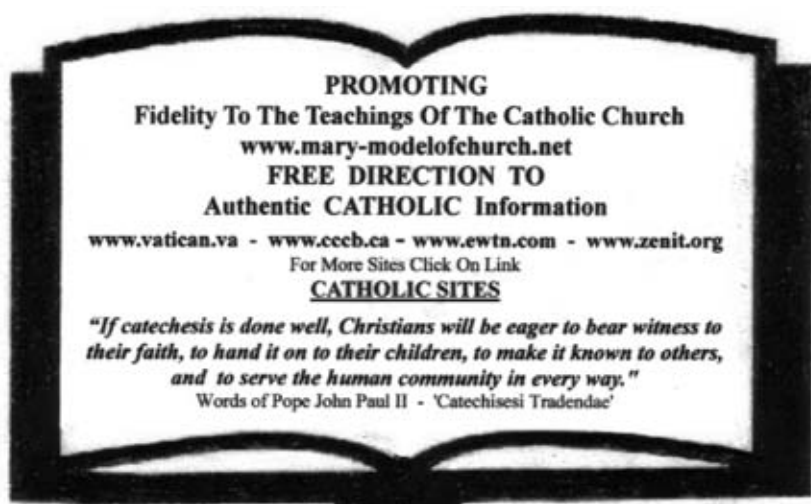
“Vinegar!” he says. “You must wash the apples in vinegar and then rinse them in warm water right away.”



What a bizarre command, I think to myself. I have never heard of apples in vinegar. Then again, he told me to tango too. And I learned to dance.

The next day I pack one of the bright apples for my lunch and I run hot water over it, just because he made me a little suspicious about the wax. I can feel it on the apple’s skin, melting a bit and becoming sticky under the heat. The shiny facade dissolves and a hidden truth is revealed in a moment of profound difference.

I wish I had thanked him. I wish there had been a way for me to show him what he had done for me. Instead, I let him “rescue” me again in a smaller, more daily way this time. I go to the pantry and get the bottle. I wash my apple.

In vinegar. ✂





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Fr. Brabant 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly serving Greater Victoria

For information about the Knights of Columbus in your area please contact your parish office or visit our web site at:

[www.kofcvictoria.bc.ca](http://www.kofcvictoria.bc.ca)







# Face the Day



by Bonnie Landry

Ash Wednesday—the first day of Lent—is almost upon us. If you were raised as a Catholic, you knew that before you could speak; but if you were raised a practicing “Nothing” like I was, you likely have no idea. Before I became Catholic, I didn’t know what Lent was. Truth to tell, in my early days of being Catholic, I didn’t know either. But I do know now, and what I know is that the practices encouraged by the Church during Lent have helped me grow, little by little, and each year I have a deeper understanding of what Lent is—and why I need it.

During Lent, the Church encourages us to be more attentive to prayer, to fasting and to almsgiving. Thus it is an ideal time to hone the prayer life; punctuate our day with prayer at new and different times, like adding the Angelus before lunch, or adding something to morning prayer. Or we could just take a moment to think a little more about the prayers that we already say, make praying more intentional.

Rote prayers, or habitual, memorized prayers, are essential to the Christian life. Sometimes, when we are under duress (and we inevitably are), the only prayers we can think of are those we know by heart. Also, when something is in our brain, there, always to draw on, when we fill our brain with beautiful things, we are more likely to think on beautiful things. But it can happen that rote praying becomes dry. We don’t think about the words; we don’t actually pray them, we just say them. Lent is an ideal time to add depth to our prayer life by simply thinking more about what we’re saying.

Memorize or re-memorize the Ten Commandments, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Beatitudes, or a particularly meaningful scripture passage that beckons you. This is my favourite quote from scripture, from the Gospel of Luke 12:48:

*To whom much is given, much will be required.*

It only took me about one minute to memorize! And no, I didn’t intentionally choose that one because it was short. But it helps. Adding some small dimension to one’s prayer life (intention, adding prayers, memorizing prayers or Scripture) will add up to a lot over a lot of Lents. And if the habit is instituted in children at a young age, the potential to grow during each Lent is incredible. It doesn’t need to be especially challenging. Just a little challenging. To conscientiously develop prayer life helps to detach us from the life of the world, and draws us ever closer to God. Prayer fosters detachment from the idea that we are in charge.

Another practice we are encouraged to pursue in Lent is fasting. Fasting! Fasting? How archaic is that? Well, pretty archaic. But the Church is archaic, and I mean that in the very nicest way possible. Check this out: Fasting is good for the soul. Fasting is good for the soul. Seriously. “Why is that?” ask the skeptics. Well, primarily, intentional fasting is an exercise in the practice of self-control. Self mastery. Temperance. These are things that are good for the soul. Old fashioned notions, perhaps, but self-control defines maturity.

Those who fast must detach. Detachment, even from small, everyday things like food, foster our ability to detach. It creates in us a habit of mastering acts of the will. We need to learn detachment from little things before we can learn to detach from big temptations. Detachment from worldly things moves us closer to our Christian mission of growing in holiness and carrying the Gospel message to the world.

Fasting reminds me of a line from Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking Glass*. “When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, “it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.” “The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can make words mean so many different things.” “The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master—that’s all.”

Which is to be master? The food? I think not.

Almsgiving is another way of saying “caring for the poor and needy,” or “charitable contributions.” Sometimes that means directly donating to the parish or the diocese, which safeguards the poor, the needy, or those who need medical care, education, protection, support and love. Sometimes that means giving a sandwich to the guy with his cup out on the street. We could keep spare change in our pocket to contribute to street performers. We could give up a couple three-dollar coffees a week and use the money to increase our donation for weekly collection—an opportunity for fasting and almsgiving in one small act! We could pray for a particular intention at the same time we would normally purchase the coffee, a kind of Lenten hat trick!

We must do something, however small, during Lent to give alms. And maybe you’ve already guessed the reason why: detachment. Detachment from worldly

goods. Our stuff, our money. And detachment from worldly goods propels us closer to a life of devotion to God.

It’s good to have fun, it’s good to eat, it’s good to have money. In fact, those things are totally awesome. But it is vital to not be attached to these things. We need them, yes, and like all good gifts, they were given by God. But they are, after all, a means to an end.

The Church is not here to control our actions. Not to control, but to guide. Like the father to his son, guidance from a wiser and more mature source; and guidance given and obedience observed with love and respect creates unparalleled harmony in our life.

As we pursue a life of holiness, we are called to seek the wisdom of the Church. If the Church recommends these Lenten acts, in loving obedience we act according to our knowledge that first and foremost, the Church desires our salvation. It is Her purpose.

A mother rejoices when the child has a moment when they see the wisdom bestowed on their parents, and respond. It begins as compliance: yes I will do this thing, because I trust you. Or, I will challenge you on this because I think I know more than you. And one day, by the grace of God: thanks, mom, for teaching me right from wrong. I get it now. As parents we teach, guide, pray and place all our hope in this: that our children will respond to what we offer them in love.

That is what the Church does for us: teaches, guides, prays and places all Her hope that we will choose rightly, drawing from the wisdom available to us, founded on Jesus Christ. What rejoicing must happen when we take the wisdom offered to us and respond ...

Perhaps not many folks want to pray more, fast more, give away more. That’s natural. We then look to the supernatural. The life in Christ asks us to respond to this simple thing; to respond to God’s calling us to Himself.

By the simple practice of detachment from the small daily things that we place so much importance on, we learn how to detach ourselves from sin and invest more in God. Through detachment we claim mastery over so many small things. This leads us to mastery over much, much bigger things in our life. Seeking guidance and being willing to accept the wisdom of the Church in these Lenten things is in itself an act of the will, a small step towards the detachment required to reach a life of spiritual joy. ✕



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## Religious Leaders Reflect on Christian Presence in Arab World

The World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit reaffirmed churches' commitment to justice and peace in the Middle East, while stressing the importance of a common vision for living together by Christians and Muslims in the Arab world.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19731>

Posted: Friday, January 27, 2012 5:00 pm

## Vatican Defends Transfer of Alleged Whistleblower

An Italian television programme has claimed that a former top Vatican City official was moved to another post, against his will, after he complained about the way contracts were being awarded. The programme: 'The Untouchables' broadcast by the La 7 channel on Wednesday night, showed several letters sent last year by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, when he was deputy-governor of Vatican City, to superiors, including Pope Benedict, about the corruption.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19727>

Posted: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:49 pm

## Pakistan: Caritas Relief Efforts Hampered by Kidnappings

A rise in abductions of foreign workers by Islamist militants has curbed relief efforts in flood-affected parts of the country, say officials from Caritas Pakistan. Seven foreign aid workers have been kidnapped in the last six months, with four of them taken so far this month.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19722>

Posted: Thursday, January 26, 2012 6:45 pm

## Churches Pray for Christian Unity

Despite all the divides and divisions, churches and congregations observed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the month of January, with a profound theme for this year: 'We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ' (cf. 1 Cor 15:51-58).

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19718>

Posted: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 11:08 pm

## Economic Evolution

The World Economic Forum in Davos began 25 January, under the cloud of the IMF's warning of the risks that the eurozone crisis poses to the global economy. With the integration of politics and economics receiving more attention than ever before, Brendan MacPartlin SJ describes the recommendations of a Vatican document published at the end of last year, in which the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace outlined a vision for financial reform under the guidance of a new, global body.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19716>

Posted: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:17 pm

## Holy Land: Campaigners Issue Appeal after Demolition of Peace Centre

After Israeli bulldozers demolished the home of Salim and Arabiya Shawamreh for the fifth time this week, human rights campaigners, aid agencies and representatives from several Jewish organisations and Christian churches issued the following appeal... "How much longer will Israel be allowed to escape accountability ... We call upon all people concerned... to speak out and respond to repeated Israeli actions which only push peace further out of reach."

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=19715>

Posted: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:35 pm

# Pope Benedict XVI Elevates Archbishop Thomas Collins to the College Of Cardinals

TORONTO (January 6, 2012) – This morning following Mass at the Vatican, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, announced that His Grace, Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will be elevated to the College of Cardinals, an international group of principal advisors to the Pontiff.

Archbishop Collins commented on his appointment:

*"I am deeply honoured that the Holy Father has called me to be a member of the College of Cardinals. I am grateful for the trust he has placed in me, and recognize this honour as a sign of his esteem for the role of Canada and of the Archdiocese of Toronto in the universal Church. I ask the people of the Archdiocese, whom I am privileged to serve as bishop, and all people in the community, to pray for me and for all who serve Our Lord through ministry in the Church."*



Born and raised in Guelph, Ontario, Thomas Collins was ordained a priest in 1973. Pope John Paul II named him Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta in 1997 and Archbishop of Edmonton in 1999. Pope Benedict later appointed him as the 10th archbishop of Toronto on December 16, 2006.

The formal consistory, at which the new cardinals will be created, will take place February 18-19 in Rome. Cardinal-designate Collins will become the fourth cardinal in the 110-year history of the Archdiocese of Toronto and the 16th cardinal in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada.

The College of Cardinals is convened at the discretion of the Holy Father to discuss issues of significance – most members serve on committees covering a variety of matters. When the papacy is vacant (ie. death of the pope), all cardinals under the age of 80 gather in Rome for a closed meeting, called a conclave, to elect a new pope.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.9 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 different languages each week.

Photos and biographical information regarding Archbishop Collins' appointment to the College of Cardinals can be found online at: <http://www.archtoronto.org>. ✠

# CCCB Website: The Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples in Canada

(CCCB – Ottawa)... On the occasion of the feast of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, who dedicated herself to the education and care of Indigenous children and the children of the first French colonies in the country, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has added a new section to its webpage dedicated to the Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This new webpage is to serve as a reference tool to recall the common history and enduring traditions shared by the Church and Indigenous Peoples, and to highlight what is currently being done on a pastoral level among Indigenous Peoples in each of the four major pastoral regions of Canada.

This new section of the CCCB website is composed of several different sections that represent a detailed virtual library for those interested in reading about this common history, including the more difficult episodes as well as moments of reconciliation and projects of hope.

"Since the earliest days of the Church in the Western hemisphere, there has been special concern and attention for the Indigenous peoples, many of whom have become part of the Church and given much to it," the webpage states. "As Pope John Paul II has noted, the evangelizing process over the years was uneven and limited." At the same time, despite these struggles, the webpage continues, "the Church has walked with Aboriginal Peoples, shared their joys, their sufferings, and their aspirations, and supported their struggles for recognition of their rights for personal and collective growth. Then and now, the Churches provide a place where Native and non-Native Peoples may find common ground. Non-Native Church members have accompanied Native Peoples on their journey – sometimes leading, sometimes following, sometimes side-by-side."

Some of the main sections that visitors to the website can explore include:

- Texts of the Holy See
- Meetings with the Holy Father
- Canadian Catholic Initiatives
- Let Justice Flow Like a Mighty River
- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council
- National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal Peoples
- Indian Residential Schools
- Returning to Spirit
- CCCB Art Collection



The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is the national assembly of the Bishops of Canada. It was founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948. After the Second Vatican Council (1962–65), the CCCB became part of a worldwide network of Episcopal Conferences, established in 1965 as an integral part of the life of the universal Church. ✠





# A Journey that Lasts a Lifetime

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*Porta Fidei*, [the “door of faith”], that is, the door God opened to the pagans at the time of the Emperor Claudius and of Paul’s missions. Since then, therefore, it has been open to all peoples, to our day, to the beginning of the 21st century in a global world subject to rapid and unpredictable changes. Benedict XVI’s *Motu Proprio* begins with this evocative image from the *Acts of the Apostles*, the book of the Bible that tells of the first steps taken by the Church. With it the Pope proclaims a new “Year of Faith”, similar to the Year that Paul VI proclaimed to commemorate the martyrdom of the Apostles, patrons of Rome, two years after the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council.

The document—announced by the Pope at the end of an important congress marking the debut of the recently created dicastery for the New Evangelization—is as it were a small encyclical, steeped in biblical references and with an acutely sensitive attention to today’s times.

The *Motu Proprio* comes under the banner of the Second Vatican Council and of those who directed, governed and brought it to conclusion and began to apply it in the Church and throughout the world: Paul VI and John Paul II. The date of the document is significant in this respect: October 11, the anniversary of the opening of the Council and the liturgical feast of Bl. John XXIII, the Pontiff who had the courage to convoke it and who opened it.

Indeed, the *Year of Faith* will begin on 11 October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is its richest doctrinal fruit. It resembles the one proclaimed by Paul VI in 1967: “If the Council does not expressly address faith, it speaks of it on every page”, the Pope said on 8 March. And on 29 June, the 19th centenary of the Apostles Peter and Paul, he opened the year of faith, which ended on 20 June 1968, by proclaiming the *Creed of The People of God*.

In the *Motu Proprio*, Benedict XVI recalls how his immediate predecessor, also proclaimed Blessed, defined Vatican II in 2001 as “the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century”, and from a historical perspective too the event appears as of indisputable importance, despite contrary and inconsistent points of view. At the end of 2005, Joseph Ratzinger—the last Roman Pontiff to have had a first-hand experience of the Council—presented an interpretation of it consistent with Catholic tradition and both theologically and historically convincing.

This new initiative of a Pope who can speak to everyone and go straight to the heart of the matter will follow precisely in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Benedict XVI thus claims that since the beginning of his ministry as Successor of the Apostle Peter, he has recalled the “need to rediscover the journey of faith.” And this is what matters too, because in a context in which a “unitary cultural matrix” inspired by Christian faith is often lacking, we cannot accept “that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden.”

Therefore, faced by the thirst for God that women and men of our times experience in the deserts of this world, each and every follower of Christ, through continuous personal renewal, must make their witness of the one light that enlightens the world shine out. “In a journey,” writes the Pope, “that lasts a lifetime.” ✠

For more information, visit [www.osservatoreroman.va](http://www.osservatoreroman.va)

# 50th International Eucharistic Congress Launches Ecumenical Programme

A unique element of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, which will take place in Dublin from June 10th-17th 2012, is the extensive involvement of Christians of other traditions in both the pastoral preparation and the official programme for the Congress week

The organising committee of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, chose the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January) as the occasion for the launch of the ecumenical programme of the Congress. The theme of the Week of Prayer is *we will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Fr. Kevin Doran (Secretary General of IEC2012) commented that, “historically, there has been a tendency for Catholics to use the word ‘conversion’ as if it only applied to other people. St. Paul, who was a man of strong faith and firm conviction came to a new understanding of the meaning of faith, through his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He subsequently devoted his whole life to bearing witness to Christ and forming Christian community in a pagan world”.

“One of the biggest challenges for Christians of all traditions in today’s society is to bear common witness to our faith in Jesus”, Fr. Doran said. “In order to do this we must all be changed through our encounter with Jesus, in whom alone we can triumph over sin, both our own sinful attitudes and the sinful structures which give rise to so much suffering in society.”

One of the more significant features of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, is the dedication of one day, June 11th 2012, to celebrating and reflecting on the relationship of Communion into which Christians are drawn through Baptism.

International Eucharistic Congresses are celebrated every four years in the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. While previous Congresses have sometimes included an ecumenical workshop or prayer, the extensive involvement of Christians of other traditions in so many elements of this Congress (preparation of pastoral resources; Congress week programme; youth programme) is quite unique. In advance of the Congress, Fr. Doran was invited to address the recent Synod of the Church of Ireland dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

Fr. Doran expressed his hope that “these concrete expressions of our communion can help to place more focus on the unity which we already have as Christians”.

## Details of the Programme for Monday 11th June

The principal liturgy on this first full day of the Congress, will be a “Liturgy of Word and Water” celebrated by Most Rev. Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin). The homily will be preached by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev of the Russian Orthodox Church. Meanwhile Brother Alois Löser, prior of Taizé will give the Catechesis (or teaching) on the theme of Baptism.

Other significant ecumenical interventions during the week include: Rev. Nicky Gumbel, of Alpha International, who will address the theme of reconciliation, and a presentation by Rev Ruth Patterson, Director of Restoration Ministries, on being “Companions on the Journey” of faith. Prof. William Reville will give an address entitled *Celebrating the Mystery of Life*. ✠

## The 50th International Eucharistic Congress General Information

- The 50th International Eucharistic Congress 2012 will take place in Dublin from June 10 to 17, 2012.
- The theme of the Congress is *The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with One Another*. Communion—like Solidarity—means a relationship of mutual love and self-giving.
- The Congress expects up to 20,000 pilgrims each day at the RDS, of whom about 50% will come from overseas.
- The Congress is an international gathering of people that occurs every four years somewhere in the world. It aims to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church; to help improve our understanding and celebration of the liturgy and to draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist. These aims are achieved through a programme of pastoral preparation in the years leading up to the Congress and a programme of liturgical and cultural events, lectures and workshops over the course of one week.
- The concluding event of the Congress will be a Mass in Croke Park, in which approximately 80,000 people will participate.
- Previous Congresses took place in Quebec (2008) and Guadalajara (2004).
- For more information: [www.iec2012.ie](http://www.iec2012.ie)
- Registration for the Congress is now live on <http://www.iec2012.ie/registration>

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### October 8 - 23: Marian Pilgrimage

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### November 21 - December 4: Holy Land Pilgrimage

Spend 14 days with Fr. Frank Franz 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.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Discipleship: The Journey of Hearts and Hands

## Diocesan Conference Feedback

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

A heartfelt thank you to the 153 Conference attendees who expressed such enthusiasm and provided amazing feedback. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the positive, inspiring and constructive comments which we received from you, the teachers and parishioners. What follows is a compilation representing comments appearing with the most frequency, along with some of the more striking observations.

## Main Keynote Speaker and the Conference Theme in General Feedback from Teachers

### What stands out as memorable from the Conference ...

- Love and knowledge are inseparable, and Catholic schools are all about the LOVE. It's how we interact with our students that they will remember, not our curricular brilliance!
- My life is bigger than me, whether I realize it or not. Being awake in my life would allow me not to miss the opportunity in every moment to do good, with the smallest of deeds.
- Remember we are called to be the very best that we can be and this means allowing others to be the best they can be. The point is we affect lives on a daily basis and I'm going to remember that.
- I will see the child through the eyes of a child, no matter what hardship I am going through.
- They need me, but I need them.
- I have to say I was skeptical about the day, but was surprised when David Wells began to speak. It just reminded me to slow down and **take the time** and not let moments pass me by ... I reflected personally and professionally all weekend long.
- He [David Wells] was engaging—made me laugh, made me cry and reminded me why I do the work I do.
- I am planning to resign as general manager of the Universe. If anyone else would like to apply, that position is now available.

### One thing I am going to try or feel ...

- Exercise a daily habit of contemplative thankfulness.
- We were challenged to ask ourselves if we are missing the point. We are so privileged to work with the students in our school—let's not make it all about assignments and test scores. Let's make it about building community.
- I want to be more positive at work and see the good in others yet at the same time, be realistic about it all. Rather than complaining about the bad, I want to focus on the good.
- I liked the way he [David Wells] honoured ... the idea that relationship and community are the most important factors in school. We have to remember that it's the people in our school that count. Foster that and then the other things will come.
- The sense of community among the staff of the Catholic schools of Vancouver Island, I feel honored to be part of this family.
- I appreciated being reminded that my life is full of meaning because I am connected to something larger.

## General Comments from Parishioners

### What stands out as memorable from the Conference ...

- I was reminded of the need for silence, internal prayer and personal relationship with Christ.
- Aided me in renewing my faith and the desire for prayer.
- I needed the nourishment.
- It was spiritually rejuvenating.
- Feeling part of the process of growth
- It reawakened important values. I felt more connected to members of my parish and other parishes.
- It showed me how to think “outside the box.” The reaffirmation that love comes first.
- I came to realize that in the past five years I worshipped work so much and forgot what my life is all about—it's not about me—it's about others too.
- The First Nations workshop helped me see myself differently and helped me appreciate the pain and the longing for acceptance among First Nations People.
- I felt part of the process ... Listening to others helped me heal some of my past hurts.
- The spirit of fellowship that was demonstrated among the participants was food for my soul.
- I am so proud to be Catholic and I want to shout it to the world.
- I have a sense of the way forward. The opportunity to be part of groups within the Diocese was made real. I felt the positive energy of the Church.
- It reminded me of the importance of the big picture and the danger of taking the narrow view.

- [It brought] to life our Pastoral Plan.
- It is a pleasure to meet/share with those brothers and sisters “over the Malahat.”
- We enjoyed coming together with the other parishes in the Diocese to share ideas and experiences.
- Very encouraged and enlightened by the love of the Church and faith-strengthening words.
- I learned a lot! Very inspiring and I realized that I am truly needed in my ministry.
- I can see how the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is so important to guide us ... in being the Church.
- Helped me place my parish in a broader Diocesan context.
- It helped me with my Ministry.
- Shhhh Shhhh Shhhh—listen—need space to hear the voice of our Creator.
- Evangelization as service-in-response, not as proselytizing.

### The Conference was helpful for me personally because ...

- Knowing that we are not alone.
- Excited by the reality of my faith not only a Sunday gathering but in being sent to be Jesus to all I meet.
- The vision provided ... motivates me to be more inclusive of those who hold conflicting priorities and views from the ones I hold; to be open and welcoming to those with whom I am uncomfortable or whom I even dislike.
- Awesome Conference. Please provide next year and years to come.

### One thing I am going to try or feel ...

- Encourage leadership in the parish.
- Be a better witness to my faith.
- Building relationship with the Church.
- Be more involved, particularly in Pastoral Ministry.
- Delegating so I can have more balance between communion and mission.
- Inviting a few people to join me at Mass at Christmas ... participate in some form of faith formation activity.
- Work harder in my ministry. Work to make it better than it is. To listen to our Parish and discern what adult faith formation is wanted.
- Helping the parish develop a marriage prep course or finding other parishes couples could go to for a course.
- Read more Benedict [XVI].
- More participation in Native ministry and Catechesis.
- It helped me find a focus for my faith.
- Joining the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life committee ... finding ways to work with other parishes on shared goals.
- I'm going to reach out and invite people to Mass—perhaps a “fallen away” Catholic, or a non-Catholic person.
- To try and get more parish members to take an active part in the life of the parish.
- Keep working towards cooperation and community building among peoples.
- Dispel the “narrow” view of Catholics held by some of my friends and family.
- Keep a focus on the REASON and not the rules, always bearing in mind the reason behind the rules. To be courageous/confident in being a witness to the richness of our faith. Remembering it is not about me.
- Look to the past with thankfulness, the present with forgiveness and the future with hope.

The many practical and very helpful suggestions as well as those which have not been included here have been discussed by the planning committee and will form part of the foundations for our next conference. Thank you! ✕



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# A Leap of Faith

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

*A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step ... ~ Lao-tzu*

If you were in Victoria at St. Andrew’s Regional High School on October 28 and 29 you witnessed a remarkable event which continues to impact hundreds of Catholics from all walks of life from all across the Diocese.

What was going on at the end of October which has influenced so many Catholics and has them so excited? What assured them that they were not alone; that their efforts have value and have not been in vain; that others share the same pain and are willing to walk with them? What prompted the rediscovery of God’s great love for them individually and for His Church collectively; the determination to tackle common problems and the desire to work together for common solutions?

What rejuvenated so many?

Over two hundred teachers and parishioners across the Diocese were welcomed, warmly welcomed by a brother and an Elder, Daniel Sam. Symbolic, yes—simple, yes—but profound. It was a clear statement that we are part of something bigger than all of us together; yes, we are all different, but in this time and this place we walk together as brothers and sisters with the same Call: to seek, to claim, to reflect and to share the goodness with which we have been graced.

Delegates were then primed for the internationally recognized catechetical expert from England, consultant to the Bishops of England and Wales, David Wells. Then everyone heard David say that he came to tell us nothing new!

Most came expecting something, hoping for something. What they didn’t expect was to find that something was both within them and around them. And while not all came with the same eagerness, as the days progressed you would have never guessed as much.

No, David didn’t tell us anything we hadn’t already heard at some point in our respective journeys, but what David did do was to help us to open our eyes, minds and hearts to be present to that which we all seek, to that which we all need, to that which really matters, that which underpins everything with authenticity, meaning and purpose—the presence of God.

David invited us to once again take up with renewed excitement the quest for an ever-deepening awareness of and relationship with the One who called us into being out of His Love; who forms us in His Love; who constantly calls us back to His Love; and with whom we are invited to spend an eternity of ever-deepening discovery of His fathomless Love.

But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be “devout” and to perform my “religious duties,” then my relationship with God will grow arid. It becomes merely “proper,” but loveless. (*Deus Caritas Est*, 18, Pope Benedict XVI, 2006)

David reminded us to look beyond the “what” of our busy lives to the “why” of what we are doing. What really counts is what’s underneath it all, what is behind it all, what sustains it all. Is our horizon the next coffee break, the next vacation, retirement or Eternity—an Eternity which is ever-present in the Now. Quite simply, are we missing the point of who we are, to Whom we belong and what our Destiny is?

Susan Campbell transitioned us to the great work done by the Canadian Bishops *On Good Soil: Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults*. Don’t let the scintillating title fool you. This is a pivotal document for our Canadian Church; it is comprehensive, inspiring, user-friendly, and extremely practical. Born out of an exhaustive analysis of the religious education curricula employed by the various national bishops’ conferences of the world, this manual is a “best practices” resource to assist pastors and parish ministries as well as diocesan offices. It gets to the heart of our Canadian urban and rural social realities, drawing on the best understandings of human/spiritual development and provides proven strategies and resources for addressing real issues facing our communities. Thanks to the Diocesan Appeal, every Parish in the Diocese will be supplied with a copy of this essential document.

It is the special vocation of the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will. They live in a world in each and every one of the world’s occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which as it were, formed the context of their existence, they are called by God to the sanctification of the world, from within, in the Spirit of the Gospel by fulfilling their own particular duties. (*Lumen Gentium*, 31)

The balance of the Conference focussed on practical experiences, issues and strategies in the areas of ministry and “parish life.” The Ministry sessions, coming out of the core areas of the *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* (Liturgy; Faith Formation of Children Youth and Adults; Social Justice; First Nations; Stewardship; Spiritual Support for Seniors; and Vocations), focussed on verifying grassroots experience, wisdom and creative strategies for mutual support in each respective area.

The “parish life” sessions drew on the experiences coming out of local parish pastoral plans. Also incorporating a sharing of respective share local parish pastoral plans, the sessions were a way to highlight practical strategies for common issues and a means of providing the opportunity for forming bonds of support.

The discussion points coming out of both sessions were recorded and are being discerned for insights to assist pastors and their local parish pastoral councils. This data will also assist the various Bishop’s advisory groups at the Diocesan level, particularly the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee, as we continue the Journey together as local and Diocesan Church.

What created such excitement and new energy was the coming together, the sharing of common experience and common concerns in a spirit of solidarity and mutual support in hope—a hope borne out of awareness. We all recognized why

we were doing this: we recognized a call from God, a call to do God’s work, a work that is not easy, but which is possible because we are not alone.

Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outer necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave. Here we see the necessary interplay between the love of God and the love of neighbour which the first letter of John speaks of with such insistence. *Deus Caritas Est*, 18.

Let us pray that as we continue to wrestle in our parish communities and at the Diocesan level with our pastoral plans, that we will come to a deeper realization of the “why” behind the “what” of our “doing”—that we might effectively yoke our activities with the “master plan”—The Master’s Plan! It is in this awareness of serving this higher purpose that we discover our own gifts, our own part in the Play and the excitement which draws others into the action, all for the sake of the “Other” and each other.

It is quite simple really: “The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps” (Proverbs 16:9). Doing all this in concert with others exponentially increases the potential for good. Our leaps of faith, predicated by prayer, rational discernment, careful action and prayerful assessment dispose us to encounter the source of all Goodness and Truth. The God Who loves—the God Who is Love, communal love in action—loves to see our loving response lived out in community.

Our First Steps reveal the promise of an exciting Journey! ✚



**‘I just do my little part, one day at a time.’**

*Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Whitehorse*

For Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Whitehorse, “a little part” means driving long hours on the icy roads of Northern British Columbia and Yukon to bring Christ's Light to 22 missions and parishes in an area that covers 723,515 sq km. Just seven other priests minister in the diocese.

“The need is great,” says Bishop Gordon, above. “I see daily the desire for our Church's ministry in these missions.”

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# Impressions



*And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,  
“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

*~ Luke 22:19 RSV Catholic Edition*

by **Connie Dunwoody**

Odd things happen to me.

I have the medical history of an extremely accident-prone 100-year old, including (more or less in order of occurrence): open heart surgery; quarterly bouts of inexplicable pericarditis for two decades after surgery; removal of two weird, benign cartilaginous tumors from my thumb; an odd ankle-tendon surgical repair which involved recreating the sheath through which the tendon ran; three arthroscopic knee repairs; an ulcer the size of Manhattan caused by h.pylori bacteria that cavorted through my digestive system for three years until a “triple-therapy” cocktail of medications proved effective; one dislocated elbow requiring a three-hour surgery to reintroduce the ulnar nerve to its proper home; oh, and fibromyalgia caused by a mild sleep apnea. Most recently, I achieved a rather thorough ripping-off of all the hamstring tendons on my left leg from my “sit bone,” and at the moment I’m awaiting the results of tests to determine the cause of the relatively severe joint pain I’m experiencing in my hands and feet.

There’s more I won’t bore you with. During an initial appointment, one family doctor foolishly asked, “have you ever had any operations or major illnesses?” He received this bizarre recital, blanched visibly, was silent for a long moment and then said nervously, “I’m almost afraid to ask this ... but are your parents still alive?”

Yes, if it can be torn, bumped into, tripped on, fallen down, fallen up, sliced open, detached or recovered from, chances are pretty good I’ve done it, and in the oddest way possible. The movie of my unusual ankle tendon repair is still on file at Mt. Sinai hospital in Toronto, and the hamstring injury was one that my doctors, who had more than 100 years of combined experience, had never seen.

I might even have been a challenge for Jesus, who could raise the dead and heal the lame as easily as look at you. I can imagine him seeing me in a lineup and thinking (in a most un-Jesus like way, which is clearly my imagination run amok, and not at all the way He would actually respond), “really? You again? Didn’t I cure (insert disease or injury here) yesterday?” Me, sheepishly, “Yes, Lord, but I have a new one.”

With all these injuries and ailments, you might be tempted to believe I’m more comfortable playing it safe, staying on the couch rather than risking additions to my impressive collection of scars.

A broken heart and a broken body. Me, an athlete? The odds are against it.

Well. It seems the spirit stubbornly persists when the body is silent. We’re a bit afraid of silence—but it is in the silence that miracles occur. Something, something propels action when a tendency against risk might be a more normal reaction. So as strange as it may seem, against all these odds, in spite of my odds ... I’m an athlete of sorts. I swim, I run. I regularly clip my clumsy self into my bicycle and happily pedal up and down hills at an alarming speed. (Well, down at an alarming speed. Up is much more sedate.) It is, perhaps, odd behaviour for someone so accident prone and not really explicable in “normal” terms. I’ll never come first in any race—but I win. Every time.

Perhaps I’m in good company, living a life in which “odd” is “normal.” I mean, I wonder if the Disciples ever felt the same way. This man everyone’s talking about shows up on the shore of a lake, your lake, and utters a strange sentence: “Leave your nets and I will make you fishers of men.” (Insert general eyebrow-raising here.)

And it doesn’t get any more “normal” after that. “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven,” he said. And, “The meek shall inherit the earth ... love your neighbour as yourself ... believe in me and you shall be saved ...



Photo: **Sammie Pater**

take up your Cross and follow me ... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through me.” (Insert general head-scratching here.)

Let’s face it: in those times, in that place, Jesus was a bit odd. Known as the son of a carpenter from Nazareth—Nazareth, of all places—he broke rules, flouted convention and quietly defied authority. He was a King without any visible kingdom, dressed in simple clothing, walking from village to village with a ragtag bunch of followers. He fed thousands with a boy’s modest lunch, cured people of life-long illnesses, cast out demons, raised the dead and mourned the living. He spoke of a curious Father whom no one had ever seen; of mansions with many rooms and of a Paradise no one could fathom.

He went where no one else could, did what no one else dared, said things that some found offensive, unnecessary, inexplicable. He had the audacity to forgive, valued most that which could be neither seen nor carried, and spoke in simile, paradox and puzzle. He hung out with tax collectors, prostitutes and people unlikely to ever amount to anything. He sought out the injured, the sick, the blind, the lame. The fearful. The undeserving. People like me. People like us.

He deliberately chose to spend time with the “less-thans” in a society that placed great importance on position, power and rules, risking disfavour with those whose downward-turned thumb could end his life. He moved through the world with unmistakable

confidence, had visions of distant lands in his eyes and truth on his lips and his voice carried the authority of eternity, even in whispers.

But when he could have fought back, he didn’t. Though he likely could have invoked it, there was no bright blaze of glory, no angel brigade tearing back the curtain of heaven to obliterate the bad guys, no Hollywood last minute saving of the protagonist—there was only a resounding silence. Pilate probably found it puzzling that he went, compliant and compassionate with steady, soft brown eyes fixed inward on Heaven and Home, to a cross that shouldn’t have been his. An instrument of torture became a symbol of redemption for a world that couldn’t begin to comprehend what this “normal” was.

A broken heart and a broken body. Him, a Saviour? The odds were against it.

But the Spirit stubbornly persisted when the Body was silent. This man, this beautiful, complicated, courageous, conundrum of a man-who-was-God, who didn’t fit anyone’s understanding of “normal,” was and is the Salvation of all who believe in Him and call on His name. Betrayed by a friend, misunderstood by those whom He chose, denied and doubted by those closest to Him—He still loved the fractured souls of this miserable world enough to die for us. In the fearful silence, a miracle occurs—His body, broken for ours. It’s not really explicable, in “normal” terms.

But odds are—we win. Every time. ✠



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DM0112





# World Youth Day Rio De Janeiro Brazil July 23 - 28, 2013

by Stuart Andrie

*"Go and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28: 19)*

Yes! Preparations are already well under way for the next World Youth Day which will be held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil from July 23 – 28, 2013!

The Diocese of Victoria is putting together a Pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2013, spearheaded by Father Dean Henderson who will serve as Chaplain for the journey.

Past World Youth Days have been a very great and moving experience for those who were able to participate! Here is what some of the 2011 participants said:

*More than a million young people from all over the world gathered in one city and stayed out for hours in the heat and rain to cheer like crazy for a small, 84-year old man who preached the love of Christ for His Church here on earth. It makes no sense unless you have faith. And it inspired so much hope for a Catholic future. The love that I witnessed in those two weeks in Spain from other pilgrims and native Spaniards is something that I won't soon forget. ~ Joyce Wong*

*World Youth Day was so special because we were warmly welcomed by the families of Spain and they made us feel at home. Our Diocese should attend Rio 2013 because every youth in our Diocese should have the opportunity to attend a World Youth Day and our Diocese should not miss one as long as they exist. ~ Matthew Morrison*

What follows is the proposed itinerary put together by Dube Travel, which handled our highly successful World Youth Day pilgrimage to Spain in 2011:

## Suggested Itinerary

### WYD with Days in the Diocese

July 17	Depart Vancouver
July 18	Arrive Brazil and transfer to Days in the Diocese location
July 19-21	Days in the Diocese
July 22	Arrive Rio and take a panoramic tour of the beautiful City of Rio. Check into your hotel midafternoon. Welcome Dinner that evening
July 23	Opening Mass
July 24-26	WYD Events
July 27	Vigil
July 28	Closing Mass—afternoon free to rest or see Rio sites
July 29	Return to Vancouver

While we are still in the process of finalizing cost details, if you are between the ages of 18-35 let us know if you are interested in journeying together to represent the Diocese at this great event. **The journey begins now so join us today!**


Contact Stuart Andrie at (250) 884-1870 or email [youthoffice@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:youthoffice@rcdvictoria.org) to reserve your spot today! ✕

# WORLD YOUTH DAY

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


## 2013 Rio de Janeiro

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



Calling all Disciples of Jesus to join His Mission!

Join youth from every parish in the Diocese of Victoria on pilgrimage to WYD 2013 in Brazil.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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# Help a just world take root

## CULTIVATE THE TIES THAT BIND US TO THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER

I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole Earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food.  
[GENESIS 1:29]

For these seeds to be grown in a healthy environment and for their fruits to be distributed equitably, we must cultivate not only land, but justice.

Every day, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East take concrete action in their communities to help justice and peace grow. Can we do the same? Follow this *Solidarity Calendar* to find out how.

What resources must we preserve so that justice and the crops of the Earth can grow? To better understand the work of the men and women cultivating justice, we encourage you to cultivate a single plant from a bean. Throughout Lent, we invite you to reflect and take concrete steps to preserve the resources that all plants and justice need to bloom.

To learn how to plant your seed, go to [www.devp.org/sharelent](http://www.devp.org/sharelent)



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CALENDAR  
2012



Please give generously

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...reflect on your lifestyle and how it affects the planet and the lives of communities that we support in the Global South...

... act in favor of justice:


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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1. Each time you see this icon, we invite you to visit the <i>Share Lent</i> campaign website at: <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a></p> <p>2. Did your bean sprout? If you need help, <b>visit the website!</b></p> <p>3. Challenge yourself: you can raise money online while protecting the planet. Participate in the <b>GIVE IT UP!</b> campaign.</p> <p><b>GO! Cultivate justice!</b></p>			<p>22</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>SEEDS</b></p> <p>You will have to take care of your bean for all of Lent.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>There are 1200 varieties of beans, a major source of nutrition for families in the Global South. Can you name 5 types? <b>5¢ for each one you name.</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Seeds from the Pastoral Land Commission, Brazil</p>
<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 26</p> <p>Pray for the Pastoral Land Commission in Brazil, which supports seed diversity.</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>WATER</b></p> <p>You will have to water your plant when the soil is dry. What happens if you don't?</p>	<p>28</p> <p>How many litres of water did you use last week to wash yourself? Please answer here: <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a></p>	<p>29</p> <p>1</p> <p><b>MARCH</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> Bottled water companies use 3 litres of water to produce 1 litre of bottled water. <b>10¢ for every litre of bottled water in your house.</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> Women produce up to 80% of the world's food. Yet less than 20% of the world's landowners are women.</p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>LAND</b></p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 4</p> <p>Pray for Caritas Ethiopia, which is restoring access to water after the drought in the Horn of Africa.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Can your plant survive if you give it polluted water?</p>	<p>6</p> <p>In many countries, mines dump toxic chemicals into the water, which eventually reduces soil fertility. The metals they are mining are used in electronic devices. <b>For each electronic device in your house, give \$1.</b></p>	<p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>International Women's Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Small-scale farming promotes soil fertility by preserving local trees and wetlands and by diversifying crops.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Did you sign the Action Card in support of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners who work with small-scale farmers? If not, do it here: <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a></p>	<p>17</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 11</p> <p>Pray for the Zambia Land Alliance which promotes and defends the rights of small-scale farmers to land.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>There are more than 4 million landless peasant families in Brazil, where 2% of landowners own half of all the land. Two-thirds of that land is not cultivated although 2/3 of the population is malnourished. <b>\$1 if you have some land to grow vegetables.</b></p>	<p>13</p> <p>Where did you get the soil to plant your bean? Did you have to buy it? Is there fertile land near you?</p>	<p>14</p> <p>21</p> <p>Roughly half of the greenhouse gasses emitted each year are produced by industrialized agriculture and global food systems. For more on this: <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a></p>	<p>22</p> <p>How many kilometres does the food in an average Canadian meal travel to get to your table?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Please answer here: <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Help a just world take root everyday. Join <i>Share Year-Round</i>, our monthly giving program. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.devp.org">www.devp.org</a></p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18</p> <p>Pray for IRATAM, in Haiti, which promotes the planting of trees in coffee gardens to improve air quality.</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>AIR</b></p> <p>As human beings depend on oxygen to survive, plants feed on carbon dioxide.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>In Paraguay, soy is grown to produce fuel for cars in the North, although many people there suffer from hunger. <b>Donate 10¢ for every toy car you own, \$2 for every real car.</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p><b>APRIL</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p><b>LIGHT</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p>There are approximately 820 power plants producing electricity to meet the needs of Canadians. Our country is amongst those which consume the most electricity per person. <b>For each light bulb in your house, give 5¢. Give 5¢ more if they are on.</b></p>	<p>31</p>
<p>SOLIDARITY SUNDAY 25</p> <p>Make a donation to support the partners of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. Like you, they are helping a just world take root.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Send a drawing or a picture of your plant to: <a href="mailto:sharelent@devp.org">sharelent@devp.org</a>. Tell us what you did during Lent to help your plant and justice take root. We'll send you a link to the <i>Garden of Justice</i>.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>For every battery in your home, give 25¢. <b>Give 10¢ if they are rechargeable.</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>DAYS WITHOUT VIDEO GAMES!!</b></p> <p>For the end of Holy Week, give yourself a challenge: take a break from video games and enjoy the air and the light outside! If the weather is nice, get out your bike!</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Does your plant have enough light to grow? It needs it to stay green!</p>		
<p>PALM SUNDAY 1</p> <p><b>APRIL</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>EASTER</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>EASTER MONDAY</b></p>	<p>THANKS TO YOU, JUSTICE IS TAKING ROOT</p> <p>VISIT THE GARDEN OF JUSTICE at <a href="http://www.devp.org/sharelent">www.devp.org/sharelent</a>: maybe you'll see a drawing or photo of your plant! If you haven't sent one in yet, there is still time: <a href="mailto:sharelent@devp.org">sharelent@devp.org</a></p>	<p>Share Lent 2012</p> <p>CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR <b>Development and Peace</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.devp.org">www.devp.org</a>   1 888 234-8533</p>		