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Vatican II
50th
Anniversary



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Truth &
Reconciliation
Commission



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St. Rose of
Lima's new
church



The
Diocesan

Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

June 2012

FRANCISCAN POOR CLARE SISTERS CELEBRATE: 800 Years of Foundation and 100 Years on Vancouver Island

by Sr. Joyce Harris SSA

Imagine this!

In 1212, a young woman of eighteen left her wealthy family to follow in the footsteps of a “beggar” countryman named Francis. It was the beginnings of the great Franciscan movement which was to set the world on fire. While St. Francis was out proclaiming the wonders of Christ to rich and poor alike, Clare was expressing this same spirit through contemplation and joyful service within the monastery with an energy that embraced the world! In 800 years, the way of life begun by St. Clare has extended beyond Assisi to all parts of the world, even to Vancouver Island.

The Inspiration

What was this fire all about? What was it about Francis and Clare that so captured people’s hearts? Both of them were completely imbued with God’s extravagant love for them, for every person and for all creation. Francis did not become patron of the environment only because he cared for animals. Clare and Francis saw the profound interdependence of all life as gift from a relational God. They, too, were living in a time of huge social and economic upheaval. By embracing poverty and establishing collegial styles of governance within their communities they challenged existing unjust structures. Francis and Clare



The Centennial logo was created by Sr. Kathleen McGarry OSC

believed deeply in the Incarnation and strove to incarnate God’s compassion in every aspect of their lives.

New Leader of Women

Clearly, St. Clare was a strong foundress who mirrored the love of Christ so totally, that like Francis and Mary she lived passionately her call as disciple. Clare experienced a way of contemplative praying that drank from the Source—inviting God to gaze upon her as she “considered, contemplated and then imitated” Christ, transforming her life. Her commitment on Palm Sunday of 1212 forged a new era for Religious women. Clare struggled with her powerful, wealthy family and frequently with ecclesiastical authority to establish a contemplative lifestyle in partnership with the Franciscans. Collaborating with her Sisters she was the first woman to write her own *Rule* which was approved as she lay dying. Led by the Spirit through confusion, doubt and hard-discerned choices, she set her Community on a vibrant path that burns brightly in her sisters today.

Catching the Flame on Vancouver Island

Bishop Alexander McDonald welcomed three foundresses from their Monastery in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Victoria in 1911. The sisters first lived at 632 Dunedin Street while raising funds for the building of the Monastery on Haultain Street. It was finally completed and the first Eucharist celebrated on December 8, 1912.

The first postulant was a Victoria woman, Alma Francis Tourigny, who received the name Sister Victoria! Among other young women who joined the community was Pauline Capleau (of the Kootenay Tribe and of the family of chiefs of the Shuswap Tribe). Pauline became a Novice in 1926 (Sister Mary Celine) but unfortunately died at the age of 21. The community increased with members from many countries forming its own League of Nations!

Continued on Page 9

Diocesan Pastoral Plan leads to Integration at Pastoral Centre

by Char Deslippe

The *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* (DPP) provides an overall context and focus for the important work of the Pastoral Centre. In this second year of implementation, parishes are once again setting goals and strategies for improvement in one or more areas identified in our six priorities. At the same time, the Pastoral Centre diocesan and school-focused staff has been involved in examining their capacity for working together more efficiently and effectively.

The DPP priority *Stewardship, Administration and Finance* has been a focus for all Pastoral Centre employees for the past six months. In January 2012, Bishop Richard Gagnon asked for an administrative review of the responsibilities and workload of all departments and ministries to ensure efficient use of both personnel and financial resources. To this end a Seattle-based international Church consulting company, The Reid Group, began a series of individual and group consultations across the Diocese. Much dialogue and reflection ensued; all agreed that any review or reorganization must be informed by the vision and mission of the Diocese, the needs of the parishes, schools and local communities, as well as ordained and lay leaders, and the priorities of the DPP.

In early June, the Reid Group consultants submitted recommendations to Bishop Gagnon based on their best-thinking generated from examining documents, interviewing numerous people representing different interest groups from across the Diocese, and their own experience working with other Catholic dioceses. The key recommendation to be addressed on a regular basis is: *How can the Diocesan Pastoral Centre be structured and staffed most effectively and efficiently to serve the entire Diocese in living into the six Diocesan-wide priorities while living out its vision and mission?*

In September a more detailed presentation of the recommendations will be shared. Before that time, a smaller Implementation Coordinating Committee will begin work on the immediate, short-term and long-term goals, fleshing out just how the day-to-day operations will evolve. While most changes will involve Pastoral Centre staff who have traditionally been “school” or “diocesan” focused, the essence of the change could be summarized in the word integration.

The Bishop’s faith and courage in working to achieve an integrated model of operating the Pastoral Center has been consultative and provides a plan to move forward by spelling out a common purpose and vision for the Diocese. The proactive move is filled with challenges but, no doubt, will bring greater unity, cooperation and more service-oriented teamwork. Let us be guided by the Spirit as the work begins! ✠

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Read about a trip to the Yukon on Page 16!





Blessing, Celebration Mark Opening of New St. Rose of Lima in Sooke

by Alan Strickland, photos by Keith MacKenzie

It was the best of times May 5 for Bishop Richard Gagnon, Pastor Fr. Mike Favero and parishioners of St. Rose of Lima parish in Sooke, and the T'Sou-ke Nation. The occasion was the official opening of the parish's brand-new church on Townsend Road in the heart of Sooke.

"This is a happy day, and it is a good day for all of us to be here, cherishing old memories and building the foundation for new memories," the Bishop emphasized in his address to the joyful gathering.

The wonderful day-long celebration began with the formal gifting of the old church building by Bishop Gagnon to T'Sou-ke Nation Chief Gordon Planes and Elder Shirley Alphonse (it will become a Native Arts and Culture Centre). Following a welcoming song and lively percussion by Chief Planes, Elder Alphonse and T'Sou-ke Nation drummers, Fr. Mike presented Chief Planes with the key to the old church, and the Chief responded by presenting Fr. Mike with a ceremonial paddle to guide the parish on its journey to its new home.

At the new church, using holy water and cedar boughs for sprinkling, Bishop Gagnon, Elder Alphonse and a procession of T'Sou-ke Nation drummers and singers blessed the land and the building exterior, then the sanctuary, nave, sacristy and all rooms and hallways.

After the blessing, Bishop Gagnon—assisted by Msgr. Lapierre and Fr. Favero—presided over a special Mass to celebrate, dedicate and anoint the new church. And it was a special Mass indeed: the sun, obscured by threatening clouds much of the day, finally burst forth, flooding the altar and Eucharist with a glorious abundance of heaven-sent light.

The 4,600-square-foot church is a multi-functional, single-floor design which allows for a wide range of religious, educational and community activities. A key architectural feature is a ribbon of glass completely surrounding the sanctuary, designed to bathe the altar area in natural light.

Responsible environmental stewardship is also a key factor in the design. For example, rainwater will be collected and dispersed in a measured way through a series of rain gardens on the property, to ensure the soil is continually nourished with water in order to protect the habitat and slow down water runoff into Sooke's Nott Brook watershed.

The opening of the new church marks the end of over ten years of planning and fundraising for a facility designed to help meet the needs of St. Rose of Lima parishioners and Sooke residents in the twenty-first century. St. Rose parish was located at the old site for more than 85 years. ✠



Appeal in Action



by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Diocesan Appeal— Stewardship In Action

by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

One of the Stewardship Goals in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is to affirm and promote stewardship as a significant priority in the Diocese. When we have a successful Appeal such as *A Journey of Hearts and Hands* we have an opportunity to consider the concepts around our roles in taking stewardship into the action stages:

What are some principles of stewardship?

- Gratitude—We receive God's gifts with gratitude as we appreciate our dependence on God's abundance.
- Responsible cultivation—We manage the gifts given to us for the glory of God and in service to humankind.
- Justice—We share with others God's gifts with love and justice.
- Return with increase—Faith in God's love gives us the confidence to give generously from our substance.

What difference will stewardship make in my life?

- The needs for services in our world are never ending and contemplating all that is needed can be disheartening.
- However, stewardship shifts the focus from the needs of the world to our relationship with God and changes our priorities to joy in God's generosity.

What difference will stewardship make in our Diocese and my parish?

- Stewardship can grow the stake parishioners have in their diocese and parish by providing opportunities to show responsibility, teamwork, sacrifice, and investment in the future of our Church.

What are some practical ways the Appeal takes stewardship into action?

- Personal Witness—Volunteers on the Parish Appeal Team speak to what stewardship means to them and how they are living it in support of the Appeal.
- Commitment of Leadership—The pastor and parish appeal team are united in their vision of stewardship, parish goals and the Diocesan Appeal.
- Communication and Education—Since parishioners like to hear the stewardship messages in different ways, the Appeal story is told in printed materials, video, on the Diocesan website, through social gatherings and personal testimony at Mass.
- Recognition of gifts in talent and time—Wonderful partnerships of pastors and lay leaders present the Appeal at the parish level. The Appeal thanks all those whose hard work makes the Appeal successful.
- Accountability—Regular reports are made at Mass, through parish bulletins and in the *Diocesan Messenger* with complete financial details.

2012 Appeal: Looking Ahead

The 2012 weekend Appeal schedule will be:

October 13/14 – October 20/21 – October 27/28 – November 3/4

Financial Goal will remain at \$750,000 and Diocesan programs will be largely unchanged.

The Priests Steering Committee will lead the Appeal. Members include:

- Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria
- Rev. John Laszczyk, Rector, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria
- Rev. Alfredo Monacelli, Pastor, St. Edward's, Duncan
- Rev. Marek Paczka, Pastor, Christ the King, Courtenay
- Rev. Stephen Paine, Pastor, Holy Family, Port Alberni
- Leah MacKenzie, Financial Administrator, Diocese of Victoria
- Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator, Nanaimo ✠

Continuing The Journey of Hearts And Hands

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

Parish Pastoral Planning is alive and well! From March through to May regional Follow-up Spring Workshops have been offered to parishes across the Diocese to provide guidance and support in implementing their Parish Pastoral Plans. Eighteen parishes were represented at these events.

In August and September of 2011, draft Parish Pastoral Plans were submitted by parishes to the Diocese. These Plans had their genesis four months earlier when regional workshops were offered by a Diocesan team. At that time Parish Pastoral Councils were given a methodology for reviewing, revising or developing their Parish Mission Statement, and analysing and verifying the data from their Parish surveys in order to develop relevant goals and practical objectives and strategies for responding to identified local needs.

The regional Follow-up Spring Workshops represented a "six months out" check to determine what was working, what needed revising, and what needed reconsidering.

Pastors and their Parish Teams were most generous in hosting these events. Christ the King parish hosted the North Island workshop which was also attended by St. Patrick's Campbell River. St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo hosted the Mid-Island/West Island group with representation from Trinity in Nanaimo, Ascension in Parksville and Fr. Scott Whittemore representing the West Coast Parishes. St. Edward's hosted for the Cowichan Valley and Gulf Islands, while Sacred Heart Parish hosted the North-West Victoria/ Western Communities and Sooke areas with St. Rose of Lima and Our Lady of the Rosary in attendance. Our Lady Queen of Peace hosted the Victoria area with St. Jean Baptiste and St. Patrick's attending. Finally, St. Patrick's Victoria hosted the Saanich group with Holy Cross, Our Lady of Fatima and Saanich Peninsula Parishes being represented. Two additional sessions were also offered to accommodate the particular needs of a number of parishes.

Attendees reviewed their respective goals for consistency with the Diocesan goals and their Parish Mission Statement and for relevance to the needs of their parish. Moving from the fundamental principle that the role of Parish Pastoral Council is to support the Pastor, working together as "head and heart, hands and feet" in the service of the parish, participants shared real insights into listening and responding to the pastoral needs of their parishes.

Finally participants were invited to plot their successes, their current initiatives and anticipated or future initiatives on a timeline graph. This tool was used at the Diocesan office level and published as a supplement to the February 2012 edition of the *Diocesan Messenger*. So often we are so engaged with our current work that we fail to appreciate just how much does go on in any one parish, not to mention

any one Diocese! While the exercise was helpful in tracking progress with pastoral planning, an unexpected benefit was the raised awareness which resulted.

At the parish level people may not be aware of all the services, supports, activities and opportunities which exist in their own church community. Developing such a simple chart can serve as a record, an education, support and encouragement for all parishioners.

Recognizing that "few plan to fail, but many fail to plan," the Pastoral Planning process operates on some fundamental principles: knowing and claiming who we are as Catholic communities founded on Christ and His Church; recognizing the importance of relationships and the giftedness of each member of the community; the importance of calling forth these gifts for the fulfillment of individuals, the enrichment of the local community, as well as the world; and the value of periodic review, reflection and revision in order to continue to be effective.

It all begins with Christ encountered in community, especially through Word and Sacrament, and is realized in sharing the experience of this encounter. This is the core of who we are as Church, those who evangelize and catechize—in other words it's the Encounter and the sharing of the Encounter.

The *Evangelion* (the *Good News*) is that the God who made us loves us to the point of having died for us; this love is so profound as to have conquered death and remains with us always in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Catechesis means, literally, "to echo." What we echo as those who have encountered Christ is articulated in the Church's profound meditation over 2000 years: her understanding of what responding to this encounter and living in this relationship with God "looks like." For us as Catholics, this is beautifully reflected and presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

In terms of practical tools to inspire and guide their work as Parish Pastoral Councils, workshop attendees were reminded of the *General Directory for Catechesis*, published by the Vatican for the Universal Church, and *On Good Soil, Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults* published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a local blueprint and resource.

The final stage of Parish Pastoral Planning will take place with a year-end review to be completed before the Fall. This last step will provide parishes with the needed insight and practical strategies to carry their parishes through the coming year.

Rather than a final round of regional workshops, a self-guided process will be made available for parishes to assist them in evaluating progress, and making the necessary adjustments for the next part of their *Journey*. ✠



Pastoral Itinerary

Bishop Richard Gagnon

June

- 1 **Nanaimo:** Confirmation (11 am), Trinity Parish
Langford: Confirmation (5 pm), Our Lady of the Rosary Parish
- 2 **Victoria:** Confirmation (10:30 am), Holy Cross Parish
 Confirmation (2 pm), St. Patrick's Parish
- 8-19 **Dublin, Ireland:** 50th International Eucharistic Congress

July

- 13 **Comox:** St. Joseph's General Hospital AGM
- 15 **Victoria:** Ordination of David Hogman to the Order of Deacon, St. Andrew's Cathedral (5 pm)

August

- 7-9 **Anaheim, California:** Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention
- 11 **Victoria:** Poor Clares 100th Anniversary Mass (10 am), St. Andrew's Cathedral
- 12 **Parksville:** Knights of Columbus Mass (10:30 am) for the intentions of Ven. Fr. Michael McGivney
- 27-28 **Sooke:** ICS Administrators Conference, Best Western

COME AND JOIN US FOR A UNIQUE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE

December 7-9, 2012

at St. Peter's Church and Trinity Catholic Church in Nanaimo

December 8, 2012

at Church of the Ascension, Parksville/Qualicum Beach

December 11, 2012

at Queen of Peace Church Esquimalt, Victoria

SR. GAUDIA and SR. VIANNEYA from Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, Poland will be our guest speakers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE PHONE ST. PETER'S CHURCH AT 250 753-3570



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Calendar of Events

July

3-6 **Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Calling all children ages 6 - 13! If you are looking for a Catholic way to spend a week of your summer, to be with friends and have a good time ... we have something for you! Join us for music, acting, crafts, prayers, field trips, Mass, games, skits and lots more! The camp will run from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Snacks are included and a t-shirt is provided. Cost is \$70 per child and \$60 for each additional child of the same family. To register (by June 18), contact Our Lady of the Rosary at (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca.

16-20 **St. Andrew's Cathedral:** Summer camp from 9 am - 4 pm with an extra hour before and after at no additional charge. Cost is \$50 per child. For more information email lrbudac@shaw.ca or call (250) 383-8342.

23-27 **Sacred Heart Parish:** 8th Annual Summer Camp from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm for children in Kindergarten through grade 7. For registration forms please email lidi moodie@gmail.com or call (250) 479-6495. Teen and Adult volunteers are still needed.

August

- 11 **Poor Clare Sisters Celebration Reminder:** 1912 - 2012 A Centenary of Prayer Presence. Please join the Poor Clare Sisters for a Eucharistic Celebration at St. Andrew's Cathedral at 10 am. The Eucharist will be followed by a reception at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 2060 Haultain Street, the site of the original Monastery.
- 15 **Sacred Heart, Victoria:** Information meeting about World Youth Day 2013 with Fr. Dean Henderson, 7:30pm
- 29 **Trinity, Nanaimo:** Information meeting about World Youth Day 2013 with Fr. Dean Henderson, 7pm

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. We have one room left. 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

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Monsignor Michael Lapierre has decided to withdraw from his diocesan appointments as Vicar General, Chancellor, and Judicial Vicar as of June 8, 2012. He will also withdraw from his position as Administrator of Holy Cross Parish on June 30, 2012. His decision to step back from his appointments is for a period of one year. It should be noted that there is absolutely no question of misconduct of any kind in this decision, which he discussed with his bishop beforehand. I am very grateful for the hard work, generosity and commitment that Monsignor Lapierre has applied to these positions over many years in serving the Diocese of Victoria.

Rev. John Laszczyk appointed Vicar General "pro tem" effective June 8, 2012.

Effective June 30, 2012

- Rev. Anthony Gonsalves OFM appointed Pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Victoria.
- Rev. Jai Prakash Joseph, will return to his home Diocese of Bellary, India, at the request of his bishop.
- Rev. Jose Prakash (not a relative of Rev. Jai) from the Diocese of Bellary, India, appointed Pastor of St. Ann's Parish, Duncan.
- Rev. Frank Franz will retire and will be available to assist with priestly ministry.
- Rev. Vicente Borre appointed full-time Hospital Chaplain in the Greater Victoria area general hospitals.

Effective August 1, 2012

- Rev. Shayne Craig, former Rector of St. Joseph Seminary, appointed Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Campbell River.

Call for Speakers or Workshop Presenters

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

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

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

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





Local Anglican Community Joins the Roman Catholic Church With Joy

by Greg Van Dyk

Sister Mary Joseph always seemed to sense the profound sacredness of the Roman Catholic Church, despite living as an Anglican until a recent conversion.

“I, at thirteen, found the local Catholic church and used to go there every day after school to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. I’d tie up my dog outside,” said Sr. Mary Joseph, who first entered Anglican religious life at age 19. “Going every day after school was a blessing for me. It was boring for my dog, but there you go,” she said with a joyful laugh.

Sr. Mary Joseph was one of 22 members of the Anglican Catholic Church who were recently received formally into the Roman Catholic Church in an April 15 reception at St Andrew’s Cathedral in Victoria. The group includes four priests, who are studying to officially become Roman Catholic clergy.

“He asked if I was nervous,” she said.

“And I said, no, I was so full of joy that there was no room to be nervous.”

“It’s been a long process for me,” said Sr. Mary Joseph, whose group was able to enter the Catholic Church thanks to a document called *Anglicanorum Coetibus*—Pope Benedict’s official permission for Anglican communities to become fully Roman Catholic while retaining many of their beautiful Anglican traditions.

“Yes, we are bringing our Anglican ‘treasures’ and heritage and patrimony, to enrich the Catholic Church, which is what the Holy Father has asked us to do,” said Sr. Mary Joseph.

In 2007, Bishop Peter Wilkinson of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada (ACCC) and others visited Rome to present the proposal for the group to formally enter the Roman Catholic Church. The group had to take a course on the Catholic faith, and sign in agreement with the Catechism. Bishop Richard Gagnon, Fr. Dean Henderson, and Fr. John Laszczyk of the Diocese of Victoria assisted and mentored the Anglican group in their journey into the Church.

Since the April reception, the group of former Anglicans has been able to celebrate weekly *Anglican Use* Catholic Mass at St Jean Baptiste parish. The Mass is authentically Catholic and, because of the

Anglican customs, it may even seem more traditional than many post-Vatican II Catholics are familiar with.

Scott Vannan—one of the Anglicans received into the Diocese—is the choir director for the group, and notes the importance of reverence and holiness in the Mass.

The local group of Anglicans recently received into the Catholic Church includes Joel and Deborah Mullan, a young couple with Baptist and Presbyterian backgrounds.

“Long before I was even Anglican, I appreciated that the Roman Catholic Church was always consistent and steadfast in Her doctrine and didn’t sway to the ways of the world,” said Deborah, whose husband was also looking for a church faithful to Christian tradition.

“The size of the Roman Catholic Church and its preservation of correct doctrine were a major draw,” said Joel, who mentioned that Sr. Mary Joseph helped him to learn the Rosary.

Sr. Mary Joseph, the godmother to the Mullans’ young son, was also attracted by the doctrinal consistency of the Catholic Church.

The reception into the Roman Catholic Church was the final step for many Anglicans on their long faith journeys. The ceremony held at St Andrew’s Cathedral was a moment of overwhelming joy and deep spiritual peace for those who found their place in the Roman Catholic Church. Sr. Mary Joseph recalled a conversation she had with Bishop Richard Gagnon after the service.

“He asked if I was nervous,” she said. “And I said, no, I was so full of joy that there was no room to be nervous.” ✠



Island News & Events



Pilgrimage to Rome: Dream Or Reality?

by Claire Holmes, Sacred Heart Parish

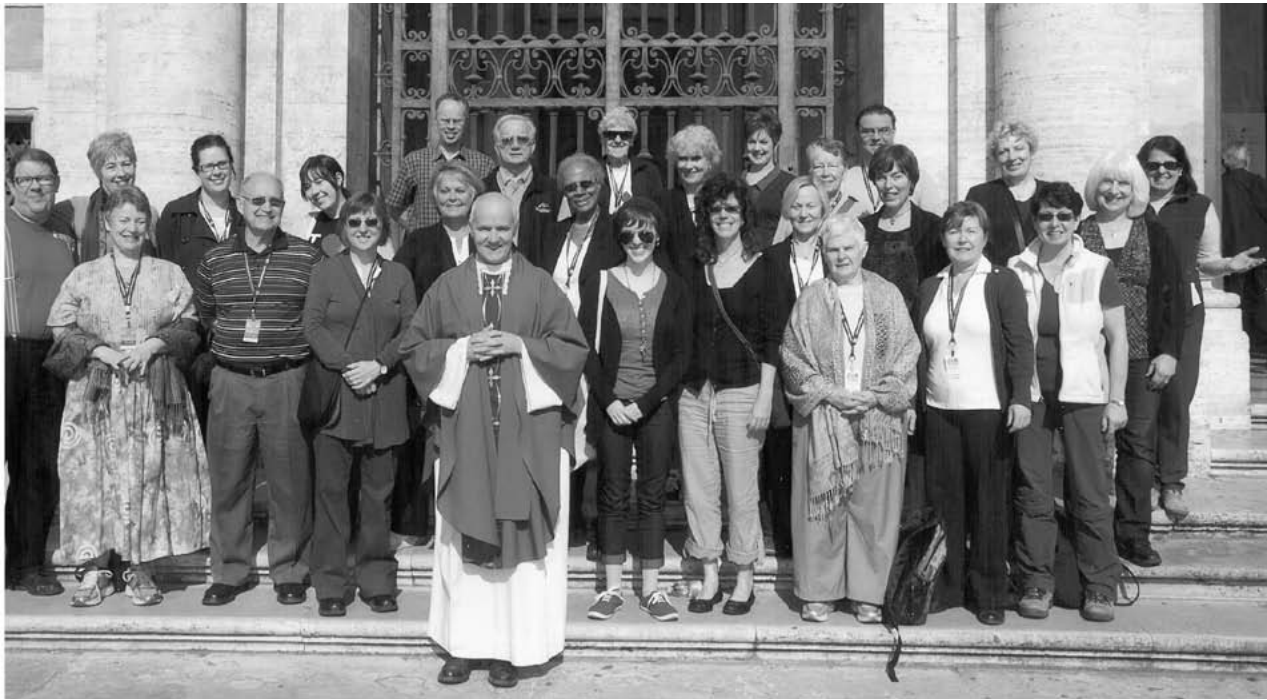
In early 2011, Fr. William Hann and Stuart Andrie, Justice and Life Ministry Coordinator for our Diocese, proposed a pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in 2012. It soon became a magnet for those interested from St. Joseph's and other parishes. The timing was excellent: March 16 to 26, 2012—preparing us for Easter.

"Pilgrimage" is defined as "a journey to a shrine or other sacred place or a long search made for exalted or sentimental reasons." For 23 participants from St. Joseph's and three from Sacred Heart, ours was a true spiritual journey. Interestingly enough, there was a mix in generations among the group, ranging from teenagers to seniors (even if some of us deny being in the latter category). A common bond was soon established as we shared with each other and our exceptional tour guide, Irene Dominici (Mama Mia!) who accompanied us from our arrival in Rome to our departure, participating in the daily liturgy celebrated by Father William in private chapels throughout our stay. It provided a very intimate feeling of closeness to God and the saints commemorated in the different churches visited. Viewing the well-preserved body of Saint Clare of Assisi, my patron saint, touched me particularly. It brought back the struggle fought for a Franciscan Rule for Women she and Agnes of Prague fought for and obtained through their lives as described by Joan Mueller in her book *The Privilege of Poverty*.

Visits to numerous churches and sites in Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome and learning about their history through private guides in specific areas including the Catacombs of St. Callixtus gave us a better understanding of our church history. The climax was Vatican City with our Mass celebrated in the Vatican Grottos followed by a guided tour of the Basilica of St. Peter, including the Sistine Chapel. No words can describe how awestruck we all were by the works of art—but most of all by the feeling of being at Heaven's gate.

Every evening following dinner we met to pray and reflect on our day's activities with an opportunity to express what we gained from the day. Several shared their feelings openly while others, including myself, remained silent. Even today, it is difficult to express what this journey meant for me. Deep down, I feel renewed in my faith and better prepared for what lies ahead for me. I will be forever grateful for this privilege and sincerely hope that all those who can afford it will join in the proposed pilgrimage to be repeated in 2014.

On behalf of all pilgrims, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Fr. William and Stuart for the efforts spent in organizing this activity and taking care of every detail. I have never witnessed such thorough organization in all my travels over the years! Thanks also to our family members who could not join us but who were united in spirit. This was a DREAM COME TRUE! ✠



Pilgrimage

by Adrienne Hughes

My 17-year-old daughter and I had the privilege of participating in St. Joseph the Worker's 50th anniversary pilgrimage to Rome. I can't really tell you why we signed up for this journey; I only knew it was something we had to do.

In short, it was a profoundly moving experience. We were awestruck by the culture, history, beauty and faith of the Italian people. It was humbling to be in ancient churches, surrounded by incredible relics and beautiful icons, knowing how many people sacrificed their lives, sometimes literally, for all that surrounded us.

I will confess I felt like a bit of an imposter, being among the incredible people from our parish community and the others who joined us. Although I have belonged to St. Joseph's for more than five years, I have been careful to stay on the periphery, not really getting involved. Pilgrimage can be a paradox: on the one hand, it's an incredibly personal journey, but on the other, it isn't possible without a loving faith community.

For us, this sense of community—this friendship, caring, sharing and support—made the pilgrimage. We now realize it isn't enough to just show up on Sundays. We need to participate. We need to support one another in order to live our faith and to make this kind of experience possible.

Our Pilgrimage To Italy

By Mary-Anne Neal

The air feels cool against my face as we slowly descend the staircase. I pull my shawl closer around my shoulders; the temperature below ground is a constant 15 degrees Celsius, year-round. As my eyes adjust to the darkness, I begin to make out images on the rough walls. Here I see a small chapel, there is a tiny coffin. To the left, someone has painted Biblical scenes. Over there, a family is buried in a small enclave. Together with 25 other pilgrims from St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart parishes, I am exploring the ancient catacombs of Rome, and I will never be the same.

Celebrating Mass together daily was perhaps the greatest gift of the pilgrimage. Each sacred space had its own unique charm and history. When Wendy led us in song, the acoustics in the chapels lent harmony to our voices. We took turns reading, distributing communion and otherwise assisting Fr. William. Most important to me was knowing that our fellow pilgrims supported us with their thoughts and prayers when we offered up our intentions. My prayers were answered: soon after we returned home, I learned that my son's recovery from a hip replacement was much faster than the doctors had predicted. Other prayers offered up during our spiritual journey were also answered.

The pilgrimage transformed each of us in a unique way. Now that we have returned to our day-to-day lives, I encourage you to ask the pilgrims for their perspectives on the journey; the answers will all be different. For myself? My faith has been strengthened and renewed. I feel proud of my Catholic heritage. I marvel at our world's 2,000+ years of devotion to our Saviour. And I bask in my new-found connection with the other pilgrims. Our shared memories will last a lifetime.

Pilgrims Prepare for 50th International Eucharistic Congress

by Denise Buckley, Group Leader

A group of 42 people will travel from the Diocese of Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary to attend the 50th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) in Dublin, Ireland. Our group, along with four priests from our own Diocese, plans to attend many of the events of the Congress from 10-17 June, as well as travelling to the Shrine of Knock during the first week.

With the theme *The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and With One Another*, the Congress allows pilgrims the opportunity to hear such speakers as Brother Alois Loser (Prior of Taize Community, France); His Eminence Oscar Andres Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga (Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras); His Eminence Sean Cardinal Brady (Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland); and Dr. John Monaghan (Deputy President of Society of St. Vincent de Paul) and many more. We all look forward to attending the *Statio Orbis* (closing Mass) on the Feast of Corpus Christi which will be held at the famed "Croke Park" and presided over by Canada's own Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Papal Legate for the Congress and the present prefect of the Congregation of Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. The Mass will be concelebrated by numerous priests, Bishops and Cardinals from all over the world.

The second week of our 16-day trip will be one of touring and shall include visiting religious and secular sites in the southern counties of Kildare, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford and Cork. Our schedule is chock-full with visits to such places as the ancient Clonmacnoise, Dunbrody Abbey, the Dunbrody Emigrant Ship, Our Lady's Island, and the Cobh Heritage Centre to name just a few.

At our daily Masses, it is the intention of our group to pray for our home parishes and Dioceses as we travel through the land of St. Patrick! Please stay tuned for a full report of our activities upon our return. ✠



Monsignor Philip Michael Hanley, Ph.D.
1925 - 2010

Prelate of Honour at St. Andrew's Cathedral, pilot, sportsman, teacher, leader and scholar. With his own gifts he nurtured those of others. Father Hanley's legacy to Catholic education was realized in 1983 with the Opening of St. Andrew's Regional High School.

"To Build in Love"

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

On May 25, Bishop Richard Gagnon blessed the Memorial to Monsignor Philip Hanley at St. Andrew's Regional High School. The Memorial recognizes Msgr. Hanley's contributions to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Victoria through St. Andrew's Regional High School



CHAC Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland

by Darlene Southwell

From May 8 through 11, St. John's, Newfoundland welcomed more than 250 delegates to the 72nd Annual Conference of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada.

Eight people from Victoria attended: Fr. William Hann, Diocesan representative; Mount St. Mary CEO Sara John Fowler; Mandy Parker, Executive Director for the MSM Foundation; Lois Toms and Esther Sangster-Gormley, Mount St. Mary Board Members; Evan Fagan and me from the Marie Esther Society.

This year's theme of *Spirituality and Health Care: Growing Into Wholeness*, was amply fleshed out by the keynote presenters. Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, gave the opening address. Telling the story of her lived testament accompanying death row inmates through to their final moments, the book has sparked international dialogue on the death penalty. She urged us to "blow on the sparks of life" and stand up for life at all stages.

Other speakers—Sr. Donna Markham OP, Kirby Kranabetter, Dr. Thomas Kerr and Sr. Elizabeth Davis OSM—expanded on the possibilities of healing through forgiveness (which does not necessarily include reconciliation), developing healthy relationships, changing institutional culture and paying attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society.

Catholic Health Care in Canada has a total operating budget of \$5.6 billion in its 108 health care organizations, employing 60,928 people. Clearly these organizations contribute greatly to the wellbeing of our country. This conference enables participants to build community and to be renewed in our common mission and this year, to focus on spirituality, not just for ourselves, but for the people we serve.

All was not work though, as we shared an evening of celebration together, enjoying dinner plus entertainment by the group The Spirit of Newfoundland.

We all left the conference with the question: *How am I the face of Jesus?* ✠



Attendees at the CHAC Conference

20th Anniversary Celebration at St. Edward's Duncan

by Tony Parr

Tuesday, May 15 marked the 20th anniversary of Sherriden Clements' tenure as secretary of St. Edward the Confessor parish in Duncan.

All who have worked with Sherriden know of her encyclopedic knowledge of the parish's history, gleaned over these two decades, as well as from having lived in the parish well before she became its secretary.

In that time there have been half a dozen pastors and administrators who have passed through, while Sherriden has been a constant presence as they come and go, and as the membership of the congregation shifts and changes. Sherriden has come to know the workings of the parish as probably no one else does. All who come to her for help in small ways and large have come to know of her experience and the wisdom gained from it, as well as her patience in sharing these.

And so it was fitting that a celebration was held in the rectory, hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council. PPC Chair Mary Hof made a presentation of gifts, and Pastor Fr. Alfredo Monacelli gave a short speech of thanks for Sherriden's work, which of course goes far beyond any known description of her job. Parishioners were invited to drop by to share cake and coffee and have a word with Sherriden, and throughout the morning dozens did so.

The thought was expressed to Sherriden that the first twenty years are the hardest and that it eases up a bit during the second score years. In what light Sherriden viewed this bit of bumper sticker wisdom is not recorded. ✠



Fr. Alfredo Monacelli and Mary Hoff present Sherriden Clements with a certificate of appreciation for 20 years of faithful service to the parish



COURSE OFFERINGS

SCRI 500: INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

The course revisits the history of Salvation and the writing of the Bible: development of the Law. It includes the study and appreciation of the Historical Books, the Prophets, Psalms and Wisdom Literature.

Fr. Walter Vogels, M.Afr.

July 3-6 & 9-13, 2012 * 8:30 am -12:30 pm * SMC Music Room

THEO 540: LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

The course introduces the public prayer of the Church, the Sacraments and the liturgy of the hours. It includes the study of the Christian understanding of the liturgy, the sacraments in general and the sacraments of initiation and sacraments of healing from a biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral perspective with attention to current issues in sacramental theology.

Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI

July 9-13 & 16-20, 2012 * 1:00 – 4:30 pm * SMC Oliver Room

THEO 501: FOUNDATIONS OF THEOLOGY

The course examines the nature of theology. It looks at revelation (Scripture and Tradition), spirituality, liturgy, philosophy including the role of faith and reason, and the human sciences. It reviews the major periods of history of the church and the role of the teaching office (Magisterium). It examines the importance of theology for the church and considers aspects of moral and pastoral concern.

Fr. Martin Moser, OMI

July 3-6 & 9-13, 2012 * 5:00 – 9:00 pm * SMC Music Room

PAST 501: INTRODUCTION TO DIACONAL MINISTRY (Permanent Diaconate Students Only)

The course presents an overview of the diaconal ministry, which leads the candidates into a reflective appreciation of the ministry as a "visible sign of the Church's service to the world". It also provides an opportunity for discernment in responding to the challenges of diaconal life and its commitment.

Msgr. Gregory Smith

Schedule and venue to be determined

EDLR 520: LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

The course presents an overview of the concepts and theories in educational leadership and management. It leads the students into a deeper understanding of the purpose(s) of education and its contribution to societal transformation. Also, provides an opportunity to revisit and re-examine topics related to leadership and pedagogy including the challenges and best practices in education.

Team Teaching

July 3-6 & 9-13, 2012 * 8:30 am -12:30 pm * SMC Oliver Room

CALR 520: CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP THEORY AND PRAXIS

The course presents an overview of the Catholic ministry leadership its theories and praxis. It leads the students into a deeper appreciation to the various ministries in the Church. Also, provides an opportunity to revisit and re-examine topics related to leadership and pedagogy including the challenges and best practices in ministry leadership.

Team Teaching

July 3-6 & 9-13, 2012 * 8:30 am -12:30 pm * SMC Oliver Room

Registration Begins:

April 10, 2012

(Application and Registration Forms are available online)

For inquiries and registration, please contact
Emil Canlas, Coordinator of Enrolment Services:

Phone: 604.822.4463 ext. 118

Email: registrar@stmarkscollege.ca
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Pro-Life Activism on Canadian Campuses

by Anastasia Pearse, Western Campus Coordinator, National Campus Life Network

As my first academic term with National Campus Life Network (NCLN) comes to a close, I find myself overwhelmed by the fruits of our work. Over the past school year I have visited pro-life clubs on university campuses across Western Canada, educating and supporting the students so they can effectively bring the message of life to their campuses. I don't have space to write about all the initiatives pro-life clubs have taken this year, but through my visits to the clubs and by assisting with the organization and promotion of their events, I have witnessed firsthand the number of students who have been reached with our message.



BC Life Week, coordinated by our Western Office, was undeniably the highlight of the semester in the region. With the theme *We Want the Debate*, the week consisted of an intensive series of events hosted by our six BC pro-life campus groups. The purpose of *Life Week* was to host multiple activities throughout the week, thereby engaging as many students as possible with the pro-life message using a variety of mediums. The climax of the week was abortion debates which occurred on four campuses, attended by hundreds of students. Other events included information tables, NCLN resource distribution, pro-life movie nights, and surveying students on abortion.

Life Week reached thousands of students and encouraged discussion on this critical issue. This discussion is essential because when many students ignore the issue, they perpetuate the tragic status quo. NCLN is very proud of all our pro-life students who have dedicated their time and energy to sharing their life-affirming message.

In Victoria, UVic's pro-life club, Youth Protecting Youth (YPY), is continuing to face opposition from their Students' Society (UVSS). In November, the club hosted a "Choice" Chain event, a display that involves hand held signs depicting images of aborted babies. Because of the event, the UVSS alleged that the club contravened the club harassment policy, and has therefore penalized YPY by removing their booking privileges for a year, and writing policy that specifically targets pro-life groups, in attempts to censor their campus activities. The students are working to combat this censorship.

Despite this opposition, pro-life student activism is growing. YPY has been gathering momentum as more students become involved and their pro-life activities increase. Some of the students have also been involved in starting a pro-life club at St. Andrew's Regional High School, the *St. Andrew's Life Savers*. This newly established club is successfully raising awareness about these critical life issues with their high school peers. Students such as these are bravely and boldly speaking up for the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society; the present and future of the pro-life movement is in good hands! ✂

Todos Bem Vindos!

by Our Lady of Fatima Festival Committee

On the weekend of May 12 and 13, Our Lady of Fatima Parish celebrated the Festival of the *Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima*, patroness of our parish. On Saturday evening a Portuguese dinner was provided in the hall. Mass was at 8 pm and was followed by the Rosary and a candlelit procession. Then there was a movie in the hall titled *The 13th Day*.

On the Feast Day, which happened to land on Sunday—and Mother's Day—this year, there was a procession after Mass followed by festivities in the hall. As would be expected there were a variety of Portuguese foods, performances by the Portuguese Band and the Folkloric Dancers. It was a very successful festival celebrating Our Lady of Fatima and, in this case, all Mothers.



Please join us for our next festivals: *Holy Spirit Festival* on June 17 and *Senhor da Pedra Festival* on September 2.

All are welcome—*Todos Bem Vindos* ✂

St. Edward's Mystery Tour

by Tony Parr

As with most parishes, the members of St. Edward the Confessor in Duncan tend to move among the others in the parish whom they've gotten to know early on. In an effort to solve this problem, because it is a problem of community (and so, too, of Communion?) the Mystery Tour was inaugurated. Convinced that the more people intermingle in a variety of ways, the more members of the parish they'll have some personal relationship with, Mary Hof started the Mystery Tour in the spring of 2008. (The "mystery" is that no one but the organizer knows the destination beforehand.)

This year the participants gathered in St. Edward's parking lot and boarded the 47-passenger bus at 10 am on May 17. It was a fresh and sunny spring morning, perfect for this kind of trip. As the bus approached the Highway on Trunk Road, bets were on as to whether we'd turn north or south. The bus did neither, but carried straight on, heading west out of town and on along the winding Old Lake Cowichan Road. We stopped first at Studio Two in the vicinity of the Stone Soup Inn. There was pottery there and jewelry, some of which was bought by the group, and some by Mary for raffling off near the end of the tour. About forty minutes later we headed off to the next mystery stop, which turned out to be the Sikh temple near the town of Lake Cowichan. There we were welcomed with a light snack followed by a visit to the worship area.

We were asked to remove our shoes and cover our heads with the white scarves provided. Inside, we sat on the floor to hear an informative talk given by Raj, a prominent member of the Sikh community. This was followed by his reading, in Punjabi, from a holy book. Each was then given from a communal bowl a small portion of a sweetish rice-based confection, and the ceremony concluded with the reading of a prayer, also in Punjabi.

The "mystery" is that no one but the organizer knows the destination beforehand.

Then we were given lunch, consisting of portions of a variety of Indian foods. We left the temple around 1:30 pm and headed to the Kaatza Museum of forestry and rail at Lake Cowichan. As with many museums you could spend half a day at each and not exhaust the sights. But we didn't have a whole day for that. Our final stop was a short visit to Fr. Alfredo's other parish, St. Louis de Montfort church; then, tired and happy, we got back to St. Edward's by about 4:00 p.m.

Our pastors, Fr. Frank Franz and in the last two years, Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, have always been on board for these tours. Over the last five years the Mystery Tour has gone to a cranberry farm, places for chocolate making, honey making, glass blowing, the Aerie, parks, an herb farm, gardens and other points of interest on southern Vancouver Island. The Tour has even travelled as far south as Victoria, where the group lunched at *Sauce*, a restaurant run by Mary's son Steve. The advantage of that, Mary says, "was that I was able to pre-order by giving everyone a choice of five items when they paid for tickets. We were all out of there in one hour and that didn't always happen at other places. That can really throw your schedule out of whack."

Organizing one of these tours is a large and time-consuming job. After putting together five of them, Mary is retiring from that post. Why? When asked, Mary says, "So someone else will have the opportunity to offer something."

There are many who hope someone will. ✂



Participants of the St. Edward's Mystery Tour gather before setting off on the day's adventures



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Ressourcement, Aggiornamento and Friendship

by James E. O'Reilly

The sun shone brightly both above and within St. Andrew's Cathedral on May 26 as people across the Diocese gathered to remember and celebrate an event occurring 50 years ago, the impact of which we are still exploring and experiencing—the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

It was joyful celebration lifted by brilliant brass, soaring song and words straight from the heart. For many it was a journey back—a coming home—and a way to the future. Bishop Richard Gagnon spontaneously and beautifully reflected on the moving Readings—from Ezekiel, Paul to the Corinthians and John's Gospel—recalling the faithful, generous and fruitful Spirit of God; breathing new life into the dry bones of the hopeless. This same Spirit's variety and richness of gifts nurtures and guides His Church; constantly calls us to Himself, to be faithful, to love as we are loved; who walks with us as our Friend and commissions us with the promise of His fidelity.

Canada's youngest bishop at the time participating in the Council, Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo shared observations clearly steeped in years of reflection. He shared three terms which represented for him key currents marking the Council: from the French *Ressourcement*, from the Italian *Aggiornamento* and from English *Friendship*.

The Church, responding to the challenges to Her authority during the Protestant Reformation, remained entrenched in a defensive mode and was about to have more than windows opened by the Holy Spirit. A surprising turn of events unfolded as a result of the election of an aging "caretaker Pope," John XXIII, who unexpectedly called an Ecumenical Council. This Council, assembled in October of 1962, was a remarkable departure as it was not convened as previous Councils were to address any doctrinal concern.

As the Council unfolded there was a clear call to return to "the sources" of our Faith: the *Ressourcement*, a rediscovery of the core experience of the Early Church; an "updating" or a reading of the "sign of the times" with the Church engaging the world, entering a dialogue, affirming where the Spirit is at work—the *Aggiornamento*; and, forming relationships built on what we hold in common, affirming the breadth of our ecclesial family, a forging of new and enduring *Friendships*.

These profound foundational concepts were to be translated into some radical changes for the life of the Church: the renewal of the Liturgy which would be celebrated in the vernacular to enable the Faithful to participate more fully; greater prominence being given to the Scriptures as the Living Word and central to the Church's Liturgical and Theological life; and, efforts in the area of working for Christian unity through ecumenical dialogue.

Finally the integral place and role of the laity together with the ministerial priesthood as central to the character and mission of the Church was recognized. Through our common Baptism all are invested in Christ, sharing, albeit through different roles, Christ's threefold Office of Priest, Prophet and King interceding for others, proclaiming God's Word and leading through service.

A delightful reception followed, graciously hosted by the families and students of St. Andrew's Elementary. Gathering old and new and marked by a renewed sense of hope, this was a true celebration, a rediscovery that *Ressourcement*, *Aggiornamento* and *Friendship* are alive and well. ✠

Continued from Page 1

FRANCISCAN POOR CLARE SISTERS CELEBRATE: 800 Years of Foundation and 100 Years on Vancouver Island

On October 11, 1961, the Sisters welcomed the opening of Vatican II, which brought exciting changes to the Church and to Religious Life. Bishop Remi De Roo, who was in attendance, gave regular radio reports and visited the monastery after each session to share highlights. The document *The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy* effected positive changes for inclusive and participative celebrations. Other changes followed: removing grills and curtains and even appearing on CBC television with their Sisters who had made a foundation to the Vancouver Diocese in 1950.

With the assistance of competent Religious, the Sisters of St. Ann, the Cenacle Sisters and lay people, the Clares were enriched with classes in Scripture, Theology, Liturgy, Psychology and the Arts.

Towards the end of the 1960s the sisters were faced with a building in need of very expensive repairs. After a four-year search they relocated to Duncan and moved in to their new monastery on November 19, 1973. The monastery was officially blessed by Bishop Remi De Roo in March 1974 and then received a final addition in the 1990s.

Living Flames in the 21st Century

Vancouver Island is blessed to have a Contemplative Women's Congregation which images a particular call and gift within the Christian community and to the world. Everyone is invited to live a contemplative stance while those called to a contemplative lifestyle embrace a constant rhythm of prayer, both personally and communally. This is the heart of their lives whether praying the *Liturgy of the Hours* together, participating in Eucharist or taking quiet spaces to deepen their own intimate relationship with God. It forms the mystic lens from which they prioritize everything else. Lest you think they spend all day in chapel, their days like yours, are full. They garden, distribute altar breads, correspond with many people, give spiritual direction to Hermitage guests, participate in workshops, lead Prayer Days (Youth Groups, UVIC students, CWL members etc.) and hold community meetings. Those from nearby parishes frequently join them for Mass and every year on the Feast of St. Clare the Sisters invite all their friends and benefactors to a wonderful celebration of thanksgiving and joy.

Steeped in their Franciscan charism the sisters keep an open and discerning heart to the needs of the vulnerable and oppressed. Their encounter with Christ is "big picture", challenging us to be co-creators with God to establish equality, economic and social justice on earth. They are keenly aware of climate change and environmental issues and do everything necessary to leave a very small carbon footprint.

An amazing flame indeed! Their life of simplicity, prayer and radical commitment to Christ continues to inspire women today. Get in touch with them if you are discerning such a vocation.

Fanning the Flames

As we celebrate with and give thanks for the presence of the Poor Clares, let us support them in every way possible so that they continue their invaluable ministry to God's people on Vancouver Island. ✠

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Celebration Reminder

1912-2012

A Centenary of Prayer Presence

Please join the Poor Clare Sisters for a Eucharistic Celebration on
Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 10am
at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View Street, Victoria.

The Eucharist will be followed by a reception at
St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 2060 Haultain Street, the site of the original Monastery.

Be part of the legacy – Give to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund

Mount St. Mary Foundation created the Sisters of St. Anne Legacy Fund to honour the Sisters' outstanding contribution to health care and education in Victoria. The endowment will fund:

- Music Therapy
- Spiritual Care
- Resident Activities
- Palliative Care & Practical Nursing Education at Mount St. Mary.

Become part of the legacy, consider making an outright gift to the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund or by leaving a gift in your will. To discuss how you can get involved, please contact Mandy Parker, Mount St. Mary Foundation, 861 Fairfield Road, Victoria BC V8V 5A9 or call 250-480-3138 or at mparker@msmfoundation.ca. Visit our website at www.msmfoundation.ca.



**Mount St. Mary
FOUNDATION**



Seeing Each Other: Steps Toward Truth and Reconciliation

by Raya MacKenzie

Our family photos provide us one of the best perspectives from which to see ourselves. Whether printed on faded film or assembled from millions of digital pixels, pictures allow us to watch the children we used to be growing up, frame by frame. We gather a sense of history in seeing our fathers as tiny babies, our mothers in their grad gowns. But the former students of residential schools and their descendants have very few photographs to capture their pasts.

At the Truth and Reconciliation event held in Victoria this April, the Sisters of St. Ann displayed the pictures that they had collected from 1891-1974 when the Sisters taught in the residential schools.

“These pictures become really important for former students to see themselves as kids and to show their kids or the grandchildren,” says Sister Marie Zarowny, the Provincial Leader for the Sisters of St. Ann. “It reminded them of the things they did at the school that they enjoyed doing because just like family photos, they are of special of events.”

For many former students, the years spent in residential schools contained few happy memories. Separation from family, culture and language emotionally devastated the students. Some experienced physical or sexual abuse.

“I think that for those students whose experiences were very negative, to hear someone saying something positive can easily be interpreted as a denial of their experience,” says Sr. Zarowny. “Only as people have an opportunity to go through their own healing can they even hear that others had positive experiences. It’s all part of the process.”

That process officially began in 2007 when the federal government established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission will include seven national events, one of which will be held in Vancouver in 2013. The Victoria event was an extra, local opportunity for First Nations People to share their experiences of residential schools. Twelve Sisters of St. Ann attended the event. Six had taught in the schools. Former staff members were invited to speak at the event, but none of the Sisters spoke.

“The Commission does want to hear the experiences of former staff,” says Sr. Zarowny, “but there really hasn’t been a public forum in which that can be told. It’s not a good time for that to be told. However, since we want our story to be part of history, we have commissioned a historian to write a book of our experiences in the residential schools.”



St. Andrew’s Students Experience Truth and Reconciliation Commission

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

St. Andrew’s Regional High School teacher Cathie Fowlie and her grade 10 students got a first-hand look at the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s awareness project for students at the TRC’s Education Day. They participated in educational activities about Residential Schools at the Learning Place and the Victoria Conference Centre Theatre in a special session held for them April 13. Students were welcomed from School Districts 61 and 62, as well as St. Margaret’s and St. Andrew’s Regional High School.

National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo provided a moving keynote address to the students as did Barney Williams Jr. in sharing his experiences. Students shared that they were most impressed with these two powerful speakers, noting their strength and desire to work with all to heal and move ahead. As well, students enjoyed the First Nations’ poetry, dance and song presentations in addition to the learning centre displays.

An excellent discussion followed in the classroom. Students commented on the impact of this tragic chapter in Canadian history as well as the complexities of understanding its genesis and the importance of working towards reconciliation and resolution.

A strong identification with the importance of working together to facilitate healing and to end hatred was very evident from the students. The historical record was seen as serving as an important role in education. Students appreciated that hearing all voices allows greater understanding.

Listening is honouring—it is a recognition of the truth: the pain of the victims and survivors. Truth challenges and inspires a determination to never let such a tragedy happen again. It is also acknowledging, as a number have done, the good done by those who served, giving the best they had, often all that they had. Reconciliation is hope for a new beginning—it is motivated by forgiveness and a desire for wholeness in relationship. Students heard the truth and were impressed with the spirit of forgiveness and hope which they saw in so many. ✕

For Sr. Zarowny, the most difficult part of working with the Commission is her love for both the First Nations who are in pain and the Sisters whom she believes did not intend to cause that pain.

“I know the love and self-giving and generosity of all the sisters who worked in the schools. They gave their lives for these children and often at great personal sacrifices,” she says. The time from 1891 to 1974 contains many periods of turmoil. During the Great Depression, the Sisters working in the schools had to contend with food shortages and drought. Sr. Zarowny says she feels their pain and the pain of the First Nations people who have suffered in the schools and from the impact the schools have left on the following generations.

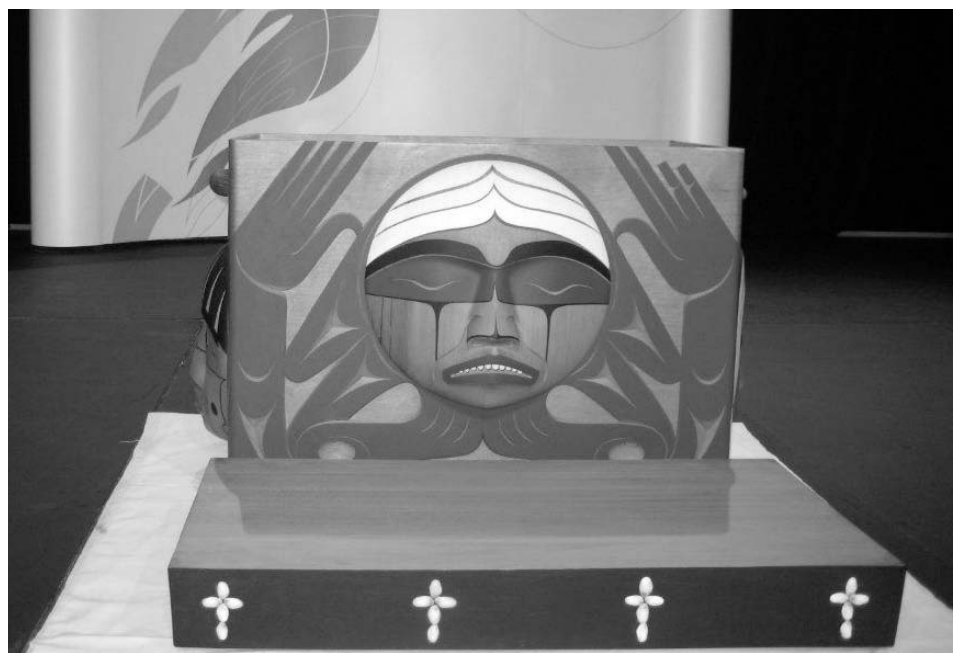
“It’s messy and it’s painful, but God is there,” says Sr. Zarowny. “The process has nurtured my utter conviction that God is at work and that good will come from this if we all continue to respond.”

Sr. Zarowny believes that most Canadians continue to dismiss the presence of First Nations people. Their treaties, land claims, and concerns over environmental issues continue to be ignored.

“The whole history of colonization based on racism continues in a lot of ways,” says Sr. Zarowny. “It has been structured into our consciousness. It continues to be something we need to struggle to dismantle.” The Catholic Community also needs to increase its awareness of First Nations as a part of the Body of Christ.

“An aspect of the theology of reconciliation is that a new relationship emerges out of it,” says Sr. Zarowny. “We need to enter into relationships with First People. What are Parishes doing to reach out to First Nations in the area? How can those who want to be a part of it? There are many who are baptized Catholic who don’t feel welcome. They feel invisible.”

She pauses. “Probably many of us feel that way as well. Does anybody know that I’m here? We need to ask: how can we see one another and what does that mean? What is the next step beyond that? How are we ready to re-engage? I think these are all questions we need to think about, together.” ✕



The TRC Bentwood Box

The TRC Bentwood Box reflects the strength and resilience of Residential School Survivors and their descendants, and honours those Survivors who are no longer living.

The Box will travel with the TRC to all of its seven National Events throughout Canada.

As the Box travels with the Commission to different provinces and territories, offerings will be made to it to commemorate personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation.

At the end of the TRC’s mandate, it will be housed in the National Research Centre.

Throughout the TRC Regional Event, the Bentwood Box will be on site for the Commissioners Sharing Panels, Honourary Witness Ceremony and during the Expressions of Reconciliation.

Carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, the TRC Bentwood Box is a lasting tribute to all Indian Residential School Survivors.

Steamed and bent from a single piece of red cedar, the carved panels represent the unique cultures of former First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

The artist pays respect to his own grandmother by depicting her residential schools experiences at Kuper Island in the carvings.





The Future is Now

by Joe Colistro, Superintendent of Schools

A number of months ago I discussed with the Bishop the importance of opening a dialogue on Catholic Education on Vancouver Island. On June 4th and 5th with the support and blessings of the Bishop, more than 40 participants including parents, Council and Board members, support staff, teachers, principals, priests, Bishop Richard Gagnon and myself gathered to discuss Catholic education. The purpose of the Forum was to engage participants in providing thought-provoking discussions and to provide tangible results that will assist Island Catholic Schools in determining our schools' strengths and challenges and hopes for the future. Discussions focused on:

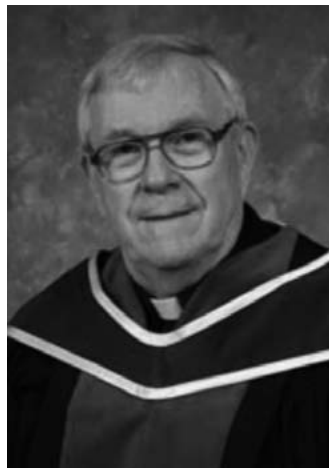
- the distinctiveness of Catholic schools (in our area);
- the value of Catholic schools;
- our hopes for Catholic schools;
- major issues facing Catholic schools, now and in the future;
- promoting and protecting Catholic education for the future.

The participants were there to listen, reflect, create new ideas, and most importantly to open a conversation and begin a dialogue on Catholic Education in the Diocese of Victoria. Witnessed by the broad spectrum of participants it was evident that we all share in the responsibility of promoting and sustaining Catholic schools.

Our facilitator for the Forum was Father James Mulligan CSC. Fr. Mulligan works at faith formation with teachers, principals, administrators and trustees as a Faith Formation animator with the Niagara Catholic District School Board. He was for many years a teacher at Welland's Notre Dame College School where he taught Religion and French. Catholic education emerged as one of his two special interests. He is the author of four books including the best-selling *Catholic Education: The Future is Now*. *The Future is Now* is a rigorously honest description of the state of Catholic education in Canada today.

The Forum began on the evening of June 4th with a talk on the challenge of the New Evangelization to Catholic Education. The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, to believe in the Gospel message and to go forth in proclaiming the Gospel. The next day was spent in groups dialoguing over the value, distinctiveness, opportunities and challenges of Catholic Education and culminated in developing a plan and setting priorities for action. Numerous actions items were brought forward for discussion. A committee from the Diocese will develop strategies and timelines with what success will look like for each of the priorities. Priorities included areas such as Faith Formation for teachers, staff and adults; strengthening home, school and parish connections; building community; providing leadership opportunities for students, staff, parents and clergy; Faith Journey Plans for staff; and fostering Catholic identity in our schools.

Catholic education is central to our faith. We are called in our Catholic schools to provide a daily living witness to our faith. Our hope is that through the conversation opened in the Forum we continue to plant the seeds of Faith, seeds that will bear fruit in the lives of the children we teach. ✠



Fr. James Mulligan CSC

St. Andrew's Elementary Is A School On The Move!

by Keefer Pollard, Principal

As we wait for our eventual amalgamation with St. Joseph's Victoria, we have continued to be strong supporters of the *Strong Foundations, Bright Futures* plan. This year, we have begun to see obvious signs of our exciting future as we have participated in Open Houses exploring concept designs for our new schools. Also, our teachers went on retreat with St. Joseph's Victoria staff as we begin to form our two faculties into one teaching community.

In the meantime, we have worked assiduously to remain a school of excellence and continually strive to perfect all our educational endeavours. Of particular note is our continued academic ranking as one of the top five elementary schools in Victoria. Also noteworthy, this year, is the move by all of our grade levels to a leveled, guided reading practice within a balanced literacy program.

On an extra-curricular level, we have continued to provide an amazing array of extra-curricular activities for our students. In addition to physical education classes and daily physical activity, this year we fielded teams in cross country, basketball, volleyball, badminton, track and field and swimming; and specialty classes in tennis, swimming, karate and curling. We had two choirs and several dance troupes and won accolades in the choral, school dance and ethnic dancing sections of the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival. We have had chess clubs, art show, CanWest spelling competitions and hosted the 6th Annual Island Catholic Schools Speech Competition.

Thank you, Gracious God, for the blessing of being part of St. Andrew's Elementary this year. May you continue to bless us in the years to come, both here next year, and in our new home. ✠

Queen of Angels Catholic School: A Year of Review

by Brenda Hennig

The year started out running with the *Terry Fox Run* in September, in which all of the students participated. It was an excellent event! Mrs. Maclean and the staff make this a fun and meaningful event for all of the students—even the Early Learning Centre are involved in this event.

In October, we had the Family Halloween Party and Dance, which was hosted by the Parent Group. It was standing room only and all had fun. We also collected toiletries for the homeless.

In November we celebrated Remembrance Day with our Remembrance Day Dance put on by our Grade 6 students, who did a fabulous job. We also celebrated World Food Day with the largest donation we have given to date—3,800 lbs of food!

As we headed into December we were able to celebrate Advent with Mass, as well as the Christmas Concert that was held at the Cowichan Theatre. All of the students from kindergarten to grade 6 were involved this year and they performed their little hearts out. As a staff we supported multiple families through the Cowichan Valley Family Life Association so that they could enjoy the Christmas season. The school also collected warm clothes for people with needs, and we donated our turkey dinner to Warmland House.

In January, we had our *Artists and Angels* Program in which talented artists from the area come in and

show their craft to the students in Intermediate and Middle School grades. Catholic School Week was a great success this year.

In February we were able to celebrate *Mardi Gras* with a pancake breakfast that was hosted by the Knights of Columbus as well as attending Mass on Ash Wednesday. During the Lenten Season, we were able to collect food for the Food Bank and celebrated the Passion with the *Passion Play* that the grade 7 classes performed for the school as well as an evening performance for the parish and the community.

March started out with *ThinkFast*, in which our Middle School students participated in a fast for 25 hours and raised money for Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. We also had our Art Show, in which student's art was displayed throughout the school.

In April we held our Fine Arts Night, which included students from grades 5 through 9 and our grade 3 choir. The students performed a variety of different numbers and the concert was well received. Our students have also participated in the Hector Macintosh and ICS Speech Competitions and have done very well. We celebrated Earth Day with an assembly and other activities throughout the school including the raising and releasing of salmon into our local environment. We also have had numerous Interhouse activities, performances and events.

Fr. Alfredo has been very involved in our school by visiting the classes throughout the year, attending our special events, and in conjunction with the school Masses, helping the school to continue building a bridge to the Church for our students. Liturgical Dance is also a big part of our Mass celebrations throughout the year and we are blessed to have this experience as well. In turn we have had fifteen students from our school receive Sacraments this year, including eight students being baptized. Our staff have been a large part of the Church community as well; we have staff members who are involved in Council, Eucharistic Ministers, Liturgical Ministers, Sacramental Preparation, Children's Liturgy and many other aspects of the church life.

The year is not quite over, but so far we have had a successful year filled with fun, laughter, love and learning. What more could we ask for? ✠



St. Joseph's Elementary

by Simon M. Di Castri, Principal

With Christmas seemingly yesterday, and the end of June apparently right around the corner, it's a valid question to ask where the time goes! The pace of life in an elementary school is fast and furious, with something-or-other either on the horizon or disappearing just over it. The Fall is full of all sorts of activities—Swim Club, Cross-Country, Track & Field, and, as always, in October, we held our traditional "Hike-for-Haiti," a 30+ year fundraiser supporting orphanages in that beleaguered country. This year, we added a head-shave for the Tour de Rock in October, where I was (skillfully?) clipped to a level Kojak would have been proud of, and the kids raised almost \$3,000 in less than a week. Who knew that shaving the Principal's head could be so lucrative?!

St. Joseph's hosted its usual annual activities, including the Halloween Howl, a Christmas Concert and our year-end Fun Fair, an event we are teaming with the SJTW parish to host, thereby broadening the appeal to a wider community. The Fun Fair is our second foray into shared community events with the parish, as we got together on our first annual Gala Casino Night and Silent Auction, which was a huge success. We featured the Mad Science Program again this year, with solid student interest and support. We also brought in Ballroom Dancing, and although it required some persistent encouragement, it was a great success with students and teachers. There was Earth Day, where we all planted seeds, Lights-Out, Shake-Out BC, Student Council Spirit Days, Catholic Schools Week, and of course, monthly Liturgy with Fr. William—it's a wonder we can find time for "readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic'!"

One of the most memorable events we participated in was a result of our upcoming amalgamation with St. Andrew's Elementary School. In an effort to bridge our schools, the two staffs came together for a staff retreat aimed at teambuilding and getting to know each other. We divided staff into five groups, and had each group prepare an appetizer or dessert to be shared among the whole group. We met at the London Chef on Fort Street, where all ingredients were gathered, and the groups began their cooking. The result was an exquisite array of 'appys' and desserts that would have made Jamie Oliver proud! The table fellowship and sharing was inspired, and the event went a long way toward assuaging insecurity and uncertainty, and building positive professional relationships.

The year has been good to the St. Joseph's Elementary School community, and with our own strong foundations, and those of our sister school St. Andrew's, we can, indeed, look forward to a bright future for Catholic Education on Vancouver Island! ✂

St. Patrick's School: Educating Tomorrow's Christian Leaders for Over 50 Years!

by Deanne Paulson, Principal

St. Patrick's has again offered a proven academic education in a faith-based environment. Diversity in learning styles was addressed in the classroom, supplemented with small-group Learning Assistance and Math and Language Arts enrichment. From Kindergarten through Grade 7, we had specialist teachers in the areas of Music, French and Physical Education.

The high school preparatory program, offered in grades 6 and 7, designed as a bridge between elementary and high school, was a big success. Students were introduced to "subject" specialist teachers for core subjects, and learned the organizational skills required to adapt to different classrooms and teachers for different subjects. They selected exploratory courses based on their interests. The options included band, drama, visual art, leadership and digital media.

Students continued to be given many opportunities to express their faith. Weekly assemblies started with prayer and many included a virtues skit or liturgical dance. Students started their day with intentions and prayers in their classrooms. The day may also have included religion classes, attending Mass with "buddies" or participating in social justice initiatives. All students in grades 5 through 7 attended an age-specific annual retreat.

St. Patrick's offered a range of extracurricular activities vital to a well-rounded education. The choir program and speech arts programs received top awards in the Victoria Arts Festival. Again this year, our students participated in a full range of sports, including cross-country running, swimming, volleyball, basketball, soccer and track and field. They competed very successfully in city and independent leagues. Intramural sports ran during lunch hours for students interested in playing at a recreational level.

Strong foundations for a bright future! ✂

St. Joseph's School, Chemainus

by Gwen Jahelka, Principal

The 2011-12 school year has been filled with many blessings for our school. God's abundance allows us to grow in numbers despite decline in the general student demographics in the area. This is a huge blessing and we are honoured that families are choosing a Catholic education for their children. Our new families have become active members of our community and have contributed in many diverse ways.

Community spirit is alive and well at St. Joseph's. Our Family Fun Fishing Derby, our Epiphany Mass and Feast and our Face-to-Face School-Wide Retreat are just a few examples how our school family celebrates our unique vibrancy as a Catholic school. Another highlight of this school year was our Reading Rocks celebration. Students were blown away with the teacher rock band as we recognized the reading achievements of all students through our Love to Read program. Our Love to Read program allows students to work on specific reading skills and strategies in a small group setting. Teachers are constantly fine-tuning and refining instruction to best meet the needs of learners. They view all the students as "our children," which helps to create a loving community of trust.

This year we began running a bus from St. Peter's in Nanaimo. We are trying to help families access a Catholic education for their children. We are hoping we will fill this bus with families who desire a loving, Christ-centered school community for their children. For more information about this opportunity, please visit our website www.stjosephselem.ca or call 250 246 3191. ✂





Busy Spring for Rowers

by Alia Zawacki, Program Coordinator and Head Coach and Joanie Bidlake, Team Manager

The past few months the SARHS Rowers have been busy preparing for their trip to St. Catharines, Ontario where they competed in the Canadian High School Rowing Championships (“Schoolboys Regatta”). Between early morning rowing practices, local area Spring regattas, fund raisers—and, of course, school—there wasn’t time for much else! Members of the St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy along with their coaches and chaperones were off to St. Catharines, Ontario on May 30th. The last two weeks before they left were filled with tough water practices on long weekends, early in the morning and after school. The rowers were ready to compete and excited to represent our school. Results of the races can be found at www.cssrarowing.ca.

Thank you to everyone for your support of our new program and of our rowers. We are looking forward to updating you about our trip and regatta in the September edition of the *Diocesan Messenger*!

Here’s a little synopsis of what we’ve been up to lately:

- Maple Bay Regatta – Saturday, April 14: Members of St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy enjoyed competing in the Maple Bay Regatta on Saturday, April 14. This regatta is one of three the rowers competed in to help with preparation for the fierce competition at the Canadian High School Rowing Championships in St. Catharines. The rowers did a great job representing our school and finished with one 1st place, two 2nd places and one 3rd place
- Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast fund raiser – Sunday, April 15: The next day, the rowers were up early serving pancakes to a group of 160 people who came to enjoy a delicious Sunday breakfast meal held at Applebee’s Grill & Bar in Tuscany Village, in support of the St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy trip to St. Catharines. Thank you to the Applebee’s staff, and all those who came out to support our fundraiser.
- TC 10K Race – Sunday, April 29: A good number of rowers participated as part of the SABRES team for the Annual Times Colonist 10K Road Race; in addition to supporting our school team, it was a great opportunity for some additional cardio training!
- Giant Garage Sale – Saturday, May 5: The largest fundraiser for the Rowers this year, the “Giant Garage Sale” closed with a profit of over \$2,000. But the other wonderful outcome was a very busy, fun and social event that promoted community. Putting on this event required a lot of hard work by parents and rowers alike; we were also the beneficiaries of very generous donors who supplied many things, from pizza to baked goods; and from furniture to plants and a fascinating array of goods to sell at the rowers’ tables. We sincerely thank all who donated, worked at, contributed, attended and spent their money buying those special “treasures” at this event.
- Shawnigan Lake Regatta – Sat/Sun, May 12 & 13: Once again, a busy weekend of rowing saw the St. Andrew’s rowers fighting hard in races held on beautiful Shawnigan Lake, competing against other clubs in the area. All crews improved from their results from the last regatta and five crews made the tough finals. ✂



St. Andrew’s Rowers 2nd in Canada

Members of the St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy recently returned from the Canadian High School Rowing Championships in St. Catharines, Ontario with two silver medals. The Junior Boys Double with Tristan Hayton and Patrick Keane and the Junior Girls Double with Gemma Kerr and Hannah Taft, both brought home silver medals making those crews #2 in Canada.

*St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy
is in its inaugural year*

The team sent 20 rowers to compete in this prestigious event and qualified seven out of 10 crews into the finals. This is an amazing accomplishment in itself as 16 of the 20 members are only in Grade 9 and competing at a National event for the first time. “Being able to have 7 out of our 10 boats entered make the finals was very exciting. The future certainly looks bright for the St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy,” said St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy Head Coach, Alia Zawacki. The team also finished 16th out of 137 schools in the total overall points category.

Both winning crews fought hard in their final races, pulling into 2nd place in the last 500m of the race. “The support of my teammates and the rowing academy, helped me to reach inside and find the drive to push ahead and finish in second place.” said Gemma Kerr, silver medalist in the Junior Girls Double.

St. Andrew’s Rowing Academy is in its inaugural year, providing a formal credit bearing training program within the regular school timetable for 23 rowers at the school. ✂



Parish Profile



St. Joseph The Worker Parish - 50 Years (1962-2012)



**A Pilgrim People Rooted
In Christ...
Yesterday, Today and Forever**

by Jean Allen

The church was full and so were the hearts of the Parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker when on Tuesday May 1, 2012, the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker (SJTW), the community gathered together at a special Mass and Gala to give thanks for 50 years of hard work and many blessings. Celebrating with the Parish were Bishop Richard Gagnon and Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo who was the Bishop of the Victoria Diocese in 1962 when St. Joseph's was built.



Several priests of the Diocese honoured the Parish by coming to concelebrate the Mass and to join with the community in commemorating their Jubilee anniversary. Included among them was Fr. William Hill who was pastor of St. Joseph's from 1982 to 1989.



Before the Anniversary Mass began, Bishop De Roo blessed the Parish's new library situated in the expansion area that was completed in 2010, and Fr. William Hann then led the whole congregation in a prayer for all workers written by Blessed Pope John XXIII. A full choir along with several musicians filled the church with glorious music as the Bishops and priests processed in.

In his homily, Bishop Richard drew attention to the Scriptures of this Easter season that also tell the story of the building of a church—the early church. He referred to the passage where, for the first time, unnamed men intentionally evangelized the Gentiles. He then reminded us that we are all beneficiaries of that first act of evangelization as well as of consequent acts of evangelization and service down through the ages by people who remain unnamed. The Bishop asserted that having our names remembered is not what our faith is about. It's about “men and women seeking to live their faith and do their part because they know it's the right thing to do.”

Bishop Richard encouraged people not only to appreciate the unnamed men and women who built up the Parish of St. Joseph the Worker but also to see themselves as builders of the community for the next generation. He pointed out that St. Joseph's life teaches us well about the work of building. “There was no opposition between St. Joseph's faith and his work,” said Bishop Richard. “His work came from his faith.” The Bishop also quoted from *The Constitution of the Church in the Modern World*: “Where men and women, in the course of gaining a livelihood for themselves and their families, offer appropriate service to society, they can be confident that their personal efforts promote the work of the Creator, confer benefit on their neighbours and help to realize God's plan in history.”

Following the Mass, approximately 340 people proceeded to the school gym for a Gala banquet. Everyone was surprised and impressed with how the decorations transformed the gym into a beautiful space in which to eat and converse with one another. Wedding planner, Reine Mykyte of Marian Blue Décor and Rentals, provided beautiful floral runners and centerpieces for the tables as well as white chair coverings held in place by elegant and colourful bow sashes.

The meal, catered by Melting Moments of Victoria, was abundant and delicious with multiple selections for every taste. For dessert, an enticing five-foot chocolate fountain with fruit for dipping was a visual and mouth-watering delight. A cash bar was organized and run by Gord Hryhoryshen and the Sidney Council Knights of Columbus, giving the St. Joseph the Worker 13356 Knights a chance to relax and celebrate with the rest of the Parishioners, visitors and guests—although member Jacques Moreau was kept busy at the sound system. Moreau provided a composite recording of popular songs from the last 50 years and kept the music playing seamlessly in the background.



St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria



A Marian Grotto is now in the planning stages with schematics drawn up and a significant donation to the legacy already made by Peter Daniels in memory of his wife, Jenny Daniels. This Grotto will be built near the Cross on the front lawn of the church and will be a beautiful legacy along with the votive candle stand in the church that was unveiled last fall. Both legacies will provide places of solace, prayer and contemplation for coming generations.

In the past six years, St. Joseph the Worker Parish has grown and flourished under the community-building gifts and leadership of Fr. William Hann who was appointed as pastor in 2006. The fruit of this growth was evident when, in the afternoon of May 6, 2012, a record number of 37 children and 9 teenagers received the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. The Parish is known to be very family friendly and Fr. Hann takes a personal interest in the children and teens and their spiritual formation. The First Eucharist and Confirmation program used in the Parish is one in which parents participate and one that creates

The Emcee for the evening was Parishioner Jo-Ann Roberts, host of CBC's 90.5 FM program *All Points West*, and she kept the event moving along pleasantly, humorously and smoothly. A highlight of the Gala was a 10-minute video produced by Nice Lady Productions. This video featured a number of St. Joseph the Worker Parishioners, along with Fr. Hann, expressing what it meant to them to be a part of the Parish. A few of those featured were people who had been in the Parish since its inception in 1962. By the end of the video one could not help but appreciate even more deeply the lively, joyful and Christ-centered community of St. Joseph's.



Jo-Ann Roberts

After the meal, Bishop Richard, Bishop De Roo, St. Joseph's School principal Simon Di Castri, Fr. Hann and Parish Pastoral Council Chair Moira King, who is also the chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, spoke words of congratulations to the people of God and expressed appreciation for all who have served the Parish and who have had a hand in building it into what it is today. Simon Di Castri noted that he was especially happy to participate in the celebration, as it was his father, John Di Castri, who was the architect of the original SJTW church building.

In addition to thanking Bishop De Roo, as Moira acknowledged Most Rev. Raymond Roussin, Bishop Richard and all faithful clergy—several of whom attended the Gala—she offered these words: "May Our Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother hold you in their loving embrace."

In closing, Moira thanked everyone for attending and also elicited a spontaneous and enthusiastic standing ovation when she thanked Bishop Richard for appointing Fr. William Hann to the Parish for an extended period.

A legacy quilt was presented to the Parish. The wonderful quilt was made by St. Joseph the Worker children under the guidance of Parish Art and Environment Coordinator Lorraine Hawkes. "The quilt was produced over a number of Sundays. We had the children in Sunday School Classes and the children in Children's Liturgy groups decorate each piece—a 3-1/2 inch square. They were asked to think about what the St. Joseph the Worker Parish means to them. The children used permanent markers for fabric decorating and I sewed four of their small squares together to make a larger square. Then I bordered the larger squares with red and purple, two of the colours that are part of the 50th Anniversary banner. The finished size is approximately 80 inches by 70 inches." The quilt is presently hanging in the Parish's Community Room.



enthusiasm and joy in children, parents and teachers alike. *Edge* and *Ignite* provide fun and formation for teens while adults of the Parish are also urged to deepen their spiritual life in various Parish groups and programs and Fr. Hann encourages Parishioners' initiatives to this end.

A Parish never flourishes in isolation and the people of St. Joseph the Worker would like to express honoured thanks to all those from outside the Parish who came to the May 1st Mass and Gala to pray, give thanks and celebrate the anniversary with them. We are blessed by and grateful for your support.

The Parish's 50th Anniversary celebrations aren't over yet. The faith community of St. Joseph the Worker along with St. Joseph's School will be holding a Kid's Fun Fair on Friday, June 15, 2012 from 6 – 8 p.m. The SJTW Knights of Columbus will serve up great food and there is a strong rumour going around that principal Simon Di Castri will be in the Dunk Tank! In the fall of 2012, the Parish's 30th Anniversary Bazaar will be held on Saturday, September 29. A family event and the publication of the full history of the Parish from 1962 to 2012 will wind up the Jubilee year.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, a pilgrim people rooted in Christ yesterday, today and forever, is well situated to solidly launch into the journey of its next 50 years of forever. We give profound thanks and praise to God for all that has been and all that is to come. ✠



Focus on Youth

The Fellowship of the North

by Eric Kyfiuk

From spending 44 hours traversing British Columbia on a bus to snowmobiling on a frozen lake to learning wisdom from Tlingit elders, our Yukon mission trip was full of remarkable experiences. Eight young people recently left Victoria to join Fr. Dean, our University Chaplain, who is serving in the missionary diocese while on sabbatical. We left on April 24 and after spending a night at St Patrick's in Vancouver, boarded a bus bound for Whitehorse. Travelling by bus showed us the expanse and beauty of the land and allowed us to see elk and bison on the way, meet new friends and rendezvous with old ones during a late-night stop in Prince George.

We went in the missionary spirit to serve the Diocese by painting the Chancery, waxing floors and bearing witness to the faith in the Catholic high school. We accomplished these things by God's grace, but we were received and taught so graciously by our hosts that the trip could better be described as an enlightening retreat surrounded by northern beauty.

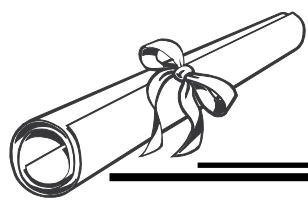
Enough cannot be said about the people who made this trip possible for us. Bishop Gary Gordon is amazing. He is doing a fantastic job in a position that suits an outdoors man like him perfectly. We were also very touched by the generosity of the families we dined with in the evenings. Fr. Dean did a great job of organizing this trip with special help from my friends Nadia and Nathan. With Fr. Dean our group numbered nine, so we called ourselves "the fellowship"—a reference to the questing travellers from *Lord of the Rings*. This joke kept getting better as we found ourselves hiking, exploring caves and experiencing the wild during our mission.

After arriving and recharging in Whitehorse, we visited the communities of Atlin and Teslin where the elders taught us about the respectful, grateful relationship we are called to have with the land and with God's creatures. We learned about the pain and destruction of recent history (residential schools, environmental destruction and other tragedies) that came from a lack of understanding and respect for the people and the land. Despite these losses, the elders we listened to were hopeful, noting positive cultural and environmental developments: the children of Atlin are learning their traditional tongue and the world is learning from the environmental work of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. We were especially inspired to see that after so much suffering, wise people in these communities are still putting their hope in the Lord. As one of our teachers said, the path to reconciliation is to do as Jesus did and take the time to sit down and eat with our neighbours and listen to them. So often this requires humbly accepting hospitality and letting the Lord work instead of presuming to accomplish this ourselves. We learnt this lesson many times during our stay.

We also awesomely experienced the beauty of creation: in ten days we saw orcas, moose, elk, bison, mountain sheep, porcupines, and black and grizzly bears. These experiences were truly gifts from God; some of these animals are rarely seen. We visited the St. Elias Mountains at the edge of Kluane National Park, the largest mountain range in Canada, and hiked with mountain sheep. Seeing such magnificent lakes and mountains made us realize our smallness and moved us to praise.

God's hand was on us during every experience, keeping us safe and allowing us to receive Christ's love from our hosts, teachers and friends, and to radiate His love too. We pray in thanksgiving and ask that God's joy and peace may continue to grow in us, in the Yukon and in this Diocese to which we return. ✠





On Mission



by Fr. Dean Henderson

*I wanted the gold and I got it
Came out with a fortune last fall,
Yet somehow life's not what I thought it,
And somehow the gold isn't all.*

~ *The Spell of the Yukon* by Robert W. Service

"When they preached the gospel in that city (Derbe) and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith..." Acts 14:21-22

On rare occasions I wonder if this short-term mission assignment in the Yukon is of any significant long term benefit. Certainly it must be conceded that the presence of lay, religious and priestly vocations, committed to this Diocese (and ours) for the long haul is ideal and must be prayed for and sought with the shrewdness of a viper and innocence of a dove! But I am heartened by the Easter Epistle readings like that above in which Paul and Barnabas embark on their first missionary journey and offer itinerant ministry "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith." I hope and pray that as I administer the parish of Our Lady of Victory in Porter Creek Whitehorse, and travel to villages like Teslin, Atlin, Haines Junction and Carmacks, preaching the gospel, celebrating the Sacraments, caring for the sick, searching for the lost and lapsed, teaching children's Catechism and adult Apologetics, souls will be strengthened. This is the *Missio Dei*, the mission of God which has been embraced by so many followers of Christ that have exemplified the sacrificial love of Christ that both inspires and humbles me.

One such missionary who laid foundations for the Oblates and Sisters of St. Ann in the Yukon is Fr. William Judge, who established both the first church and hospital in Dawson City at the end of the 19th century. This hearty American Jesuit spent most of his life in ministry amongst the aboriginal peoples of Alaska (long before the era of residential schools of which I'm learning much) before his last assignment prior to his death at age 49, ministering to the numerous souls in the wild and populous gold rush city of Dawson. He writes in his memoirs of one winter when there was a stretch of ten days at -70° C, and another occasion when he and his dog sled team fell through river ice, nearly dying of frostbite and exposure. He was the grateful inheritor of our own Archbishop Segher's fur sleeping blanket, after the Archbishop was murdered on the banks of an Alaskan river. Expressing a truly missionary sentiment regarding the miners flocking to the Yukon to make it rich he said: "If men would do half as much for heaven as they do for gold, how many saints would there be, and how much more real happiness in this world."

In continuity with the mission of the Church, we have just said farewell to eight young Catholics associated with the Campus Ministry in Victoria who participated in a ten-day Yukon mission trip. From their arrival in Whitehorse at 3:15 a.m. after 44 hours on the Greyhound (during which they grasped the immensity of our land and the diversity of our wildlife) to their departure on Air North nine days later, these missionaries worshipped God, travelled to isolated missions, learned from faithful Native elders, met with a dog musher and his team of huskies, witnessed to Christ in the Catholic high school, soaked in the stunning beauty of this part of creation, stripped and waxed floors, painted Bishop Gary's Chancery, received the hospitality of the faithful, and in a word, *enjoyed* an unforgettable experience of mission. They were as invigorated as I was exhausted! And they certainly remind me of the mission back home.

It would seem that Blessed John Henry Newman continues to intercede for our Campus Ministry as we plan for the September inauguration of the first student women's house, named by those intending to establish this community—Bethany House. One student will be joining the community from Whitehorse as a result of our new connection between Dioceses. It is safe to conclude that after its first year, the Newman House community of 5 men (in rental accommodation) has been an inspiring success. Their spiritual and academic progress has been exemplary, all the while offering a joyful home for Christian student hospitality. As this initiative is for the benefit of the whole of our Diocesan student community that ventures to Camosun and UVic, join me in asking: Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us!

One last note of missionary import! Two years from the conclusion of the World Youth Day in Madrid in which 28 Diocesan pilgrims, with our Bishop, experienced the massive and vibrant nature of our Church "ever ancient and ever new" (St. Augustine), we are being called by the Holy Father to join him in Rio de Janeiro July of 2013. With Stuart Andrie, I invite all young adults between 18 and 35 to explore at Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria on August 15, and at Trinity Parish in Nanaimo August 29 the possibility of pilgrimage to Brazil. Come and join the infinite and insuppressible missionary heart of God! ✠

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"If catechesis is done well, Christians will be eager to bear witness to their faith, to hand it on to their children, to make it known to others, and to serve the human community in every way."
Words of Pope John Paul II - 'Catechesi Tradendae'





Connections



by *Raya MacKenzie*

In early March, while driving home from our Sunday run at Elk Lake, my mother turned to me and said, “You could get your own apartment.”

“What?” I said. I felt for a second as if she were kicking me out of my carefully lined baby-bird nest. I stopped myself. She said could not should.

“Dad and I would help pay,” she said. “You feel stuck.”

She was right. For most of the run I had complained to my aunt, uncle, and my mother too about how I did not feel any progress in my life. One of my friends had become a manager, had rented her own place, had bought a cat. I was still finishing my degree (which was going to take an extra year!) still living in the same little room I had slept in since I was ten. My sister was making plans to attend university in Vancouver or in Edmonton—somewhere new. I would remain surrounded by the people and places I had always known.

Yes, I felt stuck. But as my mother turned to me in the car and posed the apartment question I realized that I had allowed myself to become stuck because I was so afraid. All my life I have despised change. I clung to my training wheels long after I had learned to pedal without them. I played with Barbie until I turned thirteen. I still have all of my notes from grade seven in my closet! I hold fast to all my old habits, long after they have ceased to make sense, until someone gives me a rough push into my future.

You could get your own apartment. It was the push I needed—the kind of push my mother has always given me.

Until now, I have misunderstood my mother. I have always seen her as the strong one, the unsentimental one. While my boyfriend can present his mom a sappy card and she cries, my mother appreciates cards that make her laugh with a joke as sharp as her wit. She compliments me when I deserve it and critiques me when I feel I do not.

I used to look at paintings and statues of the Virgin Mary and think, what? If this tender, quiet, gentle person is the ideal mother, then what have I got? I thought I ought to have a sentimental mother, a strong no-nonsense father (my Dad will tear up if I present him with a cute rhyming couplet). What was wrong with our family that we did not resemble the Holy Family?

The story of Jesus’ trip to the Temple particularly troubled me. Here was Jesus, trying to make his own way in the world and his mother trying to keep him at her side. I felt that if my family had been plunked into the model, my father would have his arms nearly suffocating me in his embrace while my mom tried to dislodge his grip. And I would have never gone missing in the first place! I would have made both my parents hold my hands so I did not get lost! Well. It isn’t the first or most major difference between me and Christ.

When I was a child, I used to beg my mother to tell me other stories. “A true story,” I would say, “One about when you were little.” And she would always, with delight, tell me the stories of her brothers and sisters dressing up a cat, or painting their hair green, or accidentally falling out of the family car. These stories made me feel that I belonged to a past greater than myself; that I belonged to her and to her childhood. I loved to observe how the stories changed if I asked my aunts or my

uncle for their versions.

As I grew older, my mother’s stories became more strategic depending on what I required at the time. When I needed advice about friendships, she told me some lessons she had learned. When I was heartbroken, she told me about disappointed love.

There were many things she would not tell me unless I asked her several times, and these she often kept hidden because they were not the stuff of legend but of personal journal. She would indicate to me when she did tell me these stories, in her expression and her voice, that at this point her story was not meant to be mine. At this point, she would seem to say, I expect you to make your own stories.

Of all the gifts my mother has given me, the greatest is the gift I continue to reject: the room to build my own life. She wants me to know her, to love her, to belong to her—but she does not want to mold me into her. She has given my history, but more importantly she continues to offer me the future. I so often forget that the final goal of motherhood requires that newness, that letting go, that love that looks like distance.

There is another story of Mary, less told than the first one, but one that I think shows that the Ideal Mother could be both the nurturing woman and the woman who knew how to shove her child into His own narrative.

At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus turns from the precocious child into the hesitant young man. He requires his mother to lean over and say, “Son, they have no wine.” She pushed him towards the first miracle—she launched him into all he could become. In recognizing this strength in Mary, I feel both proud that my mother resembles her and foolish that I could overlook that Mary resembles all aspects between mothers and children: caring, story-telling, pushing, pushing back, and—I’m sure—occasionally misunderstanding.

Last week my friend (soon to become my roommate) went on a shopping trip with me to assemble some of the kitchenware for our apartment. We are looking for a place and hope to move around the first of July.

I came home laden with a cheese grater, pots and pans, knives and spoons.

“I hope you haven’t got everything,” Mom said.

“Why?” I said.

“There are some things I want to give you.” She indicated some old cooking sheets, muffin tins and cake pans. The ones she used for most of the baking when I was little. I saw the pan she baked my birthday cakes in from my first birthday until my tenth when she went back to work after a decade of sacrificing her ambitions to care for my sister and me. I remembered she had iced these cakes by hand, each flower-petal, each clown-nose, each unicorn horn. I looked at her hands and suddenly loved each contour on her knuckles, each half-moon on her nails.

She looked up and smiled.

“So save some room for me!” ✂

Sister Lucy DuMont Celebrates 60 Years

by *Dianne Bird*

On May 5, 2012, Sr. Lucy DuMont held a Celebration of her 60 Years as a Sister of St. Ann, at Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria. The celebration commenced with a renewal of vows of chastity, poverty and obedience in the beautiful stained glass oval Chapel. During the ceremony, Sr. Lucy spoke about the meaning that her vows held for her 60 years ago. Then with great wisdom and grace, she shared the deeper and broader meaning that they hold for her today.

After the renewal of her vows, the more-than 80 attendees were invited to the Village Square at Mount St. Mary’s to have a bite to eat, visit with one another and join in the Open Circle portion of the afternoon.

In Sr. Lucy fashion, everyone was included in the Open Circle, beginning with a simple ritual. Guests were provided with two different-coloured strands of yarn. Each person was asked to identify something (such as relationship/faith/value) that enhances their life and that they would like to re-commit to. One coloured strand represented themselves and the second, different-coloured strand represented the life-giving person or thing that they had chosen to recommit to. In a symbolic tying together of these strands, guests joined Sr. Lucy in a recommitment ceremony.

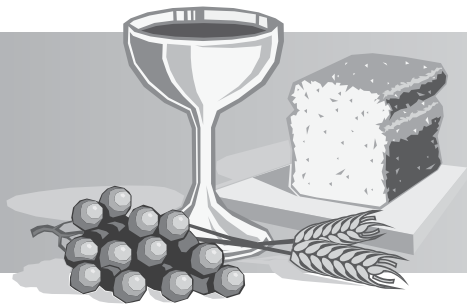
Attendees were also invited to participate in some entertainment during which they sang songs and told stories of their times with Sr. Lucy. A particularly beautiful performance of *The Rose* was sung by Martina Haakenstad. Sr. Lucy then cut her celebratory cake, which was served with coffee and tea.

Through the generous donations of guests, a Garry Oak tree will be planted on the grounds of St. Ann’s Academy in recognition of Sister Lucy’s 60th Anniversary.

In June, Sr. Lucy will travel to Lachine, Quebec to continue her anniversary celebrations with many more of her Sisters of St. Ann. ✂



Vocations



Discern This...

by Fr. Sean Flynn

We recently had three young men attend our annual “Day of Reflection to the Priesthood.” This was our third year of offering this day and each year there has been a completely new turnout. As Vocation Director I will try to continue to offer this day—thank you for your prayers.

In March I went to Calgary to participate in the National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors Conference, from March 11th–14. There were representatives from over 100 different congregations of Sisters, from all over the country and parts of the US—including some of the sisters of St. Ann from Victoria. If you would like to know more about some of these communities call me at (250) 743-1688 and I will arrange to have a copy of the list sent to you.

I have put into the hands of the pastors of every parish a booklet entitled *Is Jesus Calling You to be a Catholic Priest?* Ask your pastor to share it with you. As you wonder about what your life calling might be, don't be afraid to investigate life as a priest. Like any other wondering you may have done, if you do not satisfy the possibility that your curiosity is more than just wonder, it will merely be speculation, just wondering. On the other hand, it could very well be God calling you!

In his article *On Mission* in the April edition of the *Diocesan Messenger*, Fr. Dean challenged the readers to consider a call to the priesthood to service and to meet the needs of those in the northern part of our country. I wish to join in his challenge to consider the priesthood as your vocation by introducing you to a book written by Fr. Myles Gaffney, the director of Vocations, for the Diocese of Calgary. His book focusses more on vocation as a life immersed in Christ. What I mean by that is he shares about the many types of vocation using the examples of the dedicated lives of single persons, the married and the priesthood.

As an example of a “single life” of fulfillment, the vocation of love that everyone shares as a Christian, he uses is the example of Katherine Hughes (1876-1925). Katherine Angelina Hughes has been described as “Alberta’s Catholic Renaissance Woman.” During the course of her life she was a teacher, journalist, archivist, official government agent and political activist. She passionately gave herself to helping aboriginal Canadians and disadvantaged women, and was instrumental in founding the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) in Canada. When emphasizing the Sacrament of Marriage, Fr. Gaffney mentions Georges and Pauline Vanier.

For an example of discerning the priesthood, and there are many, I would like to bring attention to one that is most relevant. This is the priesthood lived by Fr. James Morrow. But before I offer you a synopsis of Fr. Gaffney’s article on this simple priest I should tell you the name of his book. It is entitled *Signposts of Our Faith*. These “signposts” are all Canadians. The cover has a painting of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

The story of Fr. James Morrow begins with the observation that diocesan priests are like offensive linemen on a football team, or “shock troops” that lead an invasion. We do not know too much about these priests. They often play a hidden but critical role in furthering the kingdom of God. Fr. James Morrow was such a man. He was an ordinary priest in an ordinary situation: one who God used to accomplish extraordinary things.

Briefly, Fr. Morrow was known for his hard work. He spent most of his priesthood on the prairies of southern Alberta. He assisted so many people during the impoverished, windswept times of the Great Depression of the 1930s that he came to be known as the “friend of the poor.” Fr. Morrow’s brother priests testify to his taking the spiritual life, his priesthood, and work very seriously. Former parishioners describe him as “quiet,” “sincere,” and “holy.”

Fr. Morrow’s parish of Brooks included mission churches in the towns of Bassano, Patricia, Tilley, Lomond, Rolling Hills, as well as Gem and Rainier—an area of more than 15,000 square kilometres. He worked in this parish and those missions for some twenty years.

Unfortunately space calls for a conclusion to my remarks about this dedicated individual who was a solid witness of Christ with us. There is no miraculous act performed by Fr. Morrow; he was just a diocesan priest. Diocesan priests do not make a vow of poverty, but are called to live a simple life so that they may be truly available to their brothers and sisters. They do this in imitation of Jesus, and like him, are special friends of those who are most in need. Our Lord himself teaches that to be truly wealthy means reaching eternal life.

In all this, a priest is sustained by a spirit of prayer, promising to pray the *Liturgy of the Hours* daily for the Church and for the whole world. ✠

*And a scribe came up and said to him,
“Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”*

~ Matthew 8:19

In loving memory of Joanne Chafe

by Bernadette Gasslein

Reprinted with permission from *Celebrate! Magazine*

Have you ever led an adult faith formation session? Or participated in one? If so, then your work or your learning has probably been inspired at one level or another by Joanne Chafe, the former Director of the National Office of Religious Education (NORE) of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Joanne died on Friday, February 17. She had worked at the CCCB for thirty-five of her sixty years.

Joanne’s passionate commitment to adult learning and to adult faith was recognized all over the English-speaking world. In the late 1980s, when I was her colleague at NORE, the adult education portfolio was forging ahead and Joanne was at the vanguard. *Adult Faith, Adult Church*, the first document to spell out a vision for adult faith education in the Church in Canada had just been published in 1986. Joanne tirelessly promoted adult learning, through *Caravan*, a publication aptly named since it provided to pilgrim people on the move workshop models and practical applications for dealing with all aspects of Catholic faith, and through workshops all over the land. For almost every document of any importance that came out of Rome or out of the CCCB, Joanne and her adult faith advisory committee published the accompanying study/workshop guide. If you needed ideas for a workshop, you could certainly find lots of resources. The CCCB published *Caravan* until 2004. Joanne continued on valiantly, surviving the cut-backs at the CCCB that saw NORE reduced to a two-person office: herself as the Director, named to that position in 2000, and her administrative assistant, Simonne Carr, who also died suddenly just a few weeks ago, at the end of December. Not only did Joanne carry on the work of the office, but she also worked tirelessly on international consultations on adult catechesis and completed a doctorate at Columbia University.

The most recent document to come out of the National Office of Religious Education, *On Good Soil*, published in 2011, addresses the catechetical challenges of the early 21st century. It is itself a model of an adult approach to catechetical ministry, recognizing that its readers bear within themselves many of the answers they are seeking, and inviting them to ponder and discuss as they work through the document. It addresses needs that were scarcely mentioned in earlier documents: the catechetical needs of the marginalized, of aboriginal Catholics, the different needs of rural and urban situations. It refuses to polarize the people it attempts to serve, instead inviting us to recognize and to affirm what is good in Canadian society today. In other words, it is a wise and balanced guide to new evangelization in Canada today.

There is no question but that this is a critical time in the Church’s catechetical mission in general, and, in particular, here in Canada. With Joanne’s death, and the death earlier in 2011 of another of our colleagues at NORE, Muriel Loftus, we have seen the passing of two of the great figures in the Canadian catechetical landscape. Joanne came on staff just two years after the publication of Paul VI’s document on evangelization, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. In the thirty-five years that she worked at the CCCB, she saw the world and the Church change enormously. Joanne died just as the Church is preparing for a synod on new evangelization. Those of us who work in this field know only too well the truth that one sows and another reaps. There could be no better way to honour Joanne Chafe’s memory and continue her legacy than to take *On Good Soil* and let it guide us in our new and renewed evangelizing and catechetical efforts, so that what she has sown may yield a hundredfold.

“Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them” (Rev. 14.13). May all the seeds Joanne has sown yield an abundant harvest. May her many good deeds follow her, and may her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in God’s peace. ✠

Bernadette Gasslein is the editor of Celebrate! She has been involved in various liturgical and catechetical ministries, including four years as a project specialist with the National Office of Religious Education of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. She now leads workshops around North America. Gasslein holds a license in sacred theology with specialization in pastoral catechetics from the Institut Catholique de Paris. She is coordinator of liturgical life at St. Charles Parish in Edmonton, Alberta, where she and her husband live.

Celebrate!, published quarterly by Novalis, is Canada’s only pastoral magazine. It has won over 50 awards for excellence, editorial writing, and outstanding articles from the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada, and the Canadian Church Press. Its heart and core always remain the commentaries on the readings and prayers for Sundays and feasts, surrounded by articles addressing all aspects of twenty-first century pastoral life. Celebrate! authors include men and women from coast to coast in Canada, and around the English-language world. The Diocese of Victoria subscribes to Celebrate! and recommends it as valuable resource. To subscribe: by Internet: <https://abonnement.novalis.ca/eng/open/celebrate.htm>; by telephone: (514) 523-6222 or 1-800-387-7164; by fax: (514) 278-3087 or 1-877-278-3087; by E-mail: celebrate@novalis.ca.



National & International News



New App for Eucharistic Congress

A free App the MAGNIFICAT - has been announced to accompany visitors to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC2012) in Dublin. The feature includes: morning, evening, and night prayers inspired by the Liturgy of the Hours; readings and prayers of each daily Mass; daily meditations drawn from the best writings of the Church Fathers as well as recent spiritual masters. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20556>

Posted: Friday, June 8, 2012 2:53 pm

Catholic priest who discovered Big Bang Theory

Few theories could claim to have a more fundamental status than Big Bang Theory. This is now humanity's best attempt at explaining how we got here: A Theory of Everything. This much is widely known. What's less well known is that the man who first proposed the theory was not only an accomplished physicist, he was also a Catholic priest, Father Georges Lemaitre. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20555>

Posted: Friday, June 8, 2012 2:08 pm

Catholics advised to beware of 'greenwash'

In a Vatican Radio interview for World Environment Day (5 June), Fr Joe Rozansky, OFM, director of the Order of Friars Minor Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Rome, discusses the goals of his delegation to the Rio+20 UN Conference later this month. He and his colleagues will ask the bigger questions both at the UN Conference and the 'People's Summit' - a separate meeting of non-governmental organizations. They will challenge the notion of the 'green economy' that, as currently framed, has the potential to be more green wash than the transformative work of linking these efforts to care for creation and care of our neighbor suffering environmental degradation and the effects of climate change.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20548>

Posted: Thursday, June 7, 2012 8:48 pm

Cardinal Marc Ouellet at International Theology Symposium, Maynooth

Cardinal Ouellet delivered the keynote address yesterday evening in the John Hume Building of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, for the formal opening of the International Theology Symposium at which approximately 400 Irish and international theologians began four days of deliberations on various aspects of the Symposium theme: "The Ecclesiology of Communion, Fifty Years after the Opening of Vatican II". Cardinal Ouellet is Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops and will be Papal Legate to the 50th International Eucharistic Congress which opens this Sunday, 10 June 2012. (Text)

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20547>

Posted: Thursday, June 7, 2012 8:03 pm

Papal Message for Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Pope Benedict writes: "I write to offer my warmest congratulations to Your Majesty on the happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of your reign. During the past sixty years you have offered to your subjects and to the whole world an inspiring example of dedication to duty and a commitment to maintaining the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, in keeping with a noble vision of the role of a Christian monarch..."

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20544>

Posted: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 9:53 pm

The statement below was read by Bishop Gagnon during the "Expressions of Reconciliation" and placed in the TRC Bentwood Box (referenced on Page 10).



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Office of the Bishop

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Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
Regional Event, Victoria, British Columbia
April 14, 2012

Statement by Most Reverend Richard Gagnon,
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Dear members of First Nations communities and friends,

I bring you greetings from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria - a community of faith that has been present here for more than 165 years. I feel privileged and honoured to have been given the opportunity to participate in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Regional Event in Victoria and to be a part of the journey towards reconciliation and healing between First Nations People, the Church, and the wider community.

I feel very deeply, the immense responsibility given to our generation, including all of us present today, to lay the foundation for a better future - a future which is life giving. It is how we walk together, as fellow human beings that will give direction and hope for those who follow us. These days of gathering around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are not only historic days, but they form an honourable moment - a humble moment that will not be forgotten.

As the Roman Catholic Bishop here for the past eight years, I have grown to understand more and more, the reality of Residential Schools and their impact on First Nations People from one generation to the next. On a personal note, this knowledge and understanding has caused me to reflect upon my high school years when I was educated alongside aboriginal teenagers who numbered at least half of the school population at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in North Vancouver. It is painful for me to recall my own ignorance of, and detachment from, the woundedness and grief that I personally witnessed in the aboriginal community during those years.

I stand here today to express my deep sorrow for the suffering that has occurred to aboriginal people through the Residential School system that operated on these islands - the home of First Nations People for thousands of years. I am ashamed of the actions of some Catholic individuals over the years, who inflicted harm on young people entrusted to their care in these schools. I acknowledge and regret that these abuses occurred, as well as the separation of family members, which contributed to a breakdown of family life and loss of traditions. As the Roman Catholic Bishop of this local Church, I apologize for the harm done and for the role the Church has contributed toward the painful legacy of Residential Schools.

It is important for me to recognize not only this woundedness among the aboriginal people, but also the pain and disappointment experienced by many good men and women who worked in the schools, often giving their lives to the cause of education. Every member of the Church has, in fact, been affected by this legacy. It is humbling and a source of hope to see both aboriginal and non-aboriginal people seeking ways to bring understanding and justice within this brokenness.

We cannot change what has occurred, but what we can do is build a future - to do "the right thing" together - and this is why we are here today. We also have a responsibility to the next generation, to leave them a legacy of mutual respect, understanding, and a willingness to listen to one another. I extend a hand of friendship to all of you - may we treat this honourable moment in an honourable way, not only for ourselves, but for others as well.

As a Christian I look towards our Crucified Lord and see that in the midst of pain, alienation and grief, there is still hope - there is still the promise of new life. As Jesus was lifted up to his Father - to the Creator - so we must lift ourselves up, and each other, to walk along a new path. It is within this hope that our Church stands with you today.

Thank you, once again, for this opportunity.

Yours in solidarity and hope,

Most Reverend Richard Gagnon
Bishop of Victoria



Observations on a recent change in government policy re: proposed anti-bullying legislation

For some time now we have all been particularly concerned about making sure that our schools are safe and welcoming places for everyone. This concern has been reflected in new educational policies over the last several years, and most recently in proposed legislation such as Bill 13 and Bill 14.

For the comments of the Ontario bishops concerning these bills, and the wider issue of bullying that has occasioned them, I refer you to our brief published on the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario website.

For the moment, I would simply like to comment on the recent change in government policy concerning one method of addressing one form of bullying, and of providing personal support for some students, namely Gay-Straight Alliances. All of those who care about Catholic education are committed to assuring that Catholic schools are formed by the principles of the Gospel, in which all people are treated with love and respect. As we Christians put it, not as some pious platitude but as a practical norm for life: Catholic Schools must be places where each person is received as Christ.

This may not always happen in a Catholic school, for we are all sinners, but we earnestly try to live up to this standard. We have a rich array of spiritual resources, and methods developed out of our faith tradition, which not only fight bullying, but shape a school environment that is welcoming to all. Our schools also provide competent and compassionate personal support for individuals. We also consistently have sought, and continue to seek, to work together co-operatively with the Ministry of Education to assure that Catholic schools meet and exceed all government standards.

Bullies use many excuses to mistreat others - it is usually because someone stands out in some way. If any students are mistreated, because of whatever factor attracts the attention of the bully, then that is evil. Our concern is that all students be welcomed and loved, and that none be bullied. In Catholic schools we seek to attain that goal through methods that arise out of our Christian faith tradition, are shaped by it, and are in harmony with it.

A "Gay-Straight Alliance" is a particular method of addressing one form of bullying, and providing personal support. The GSA model was developed in the United States in the 1980's. Because this model is so closely related to a movement with particular views concerning the human person and the issues of life, people who disagree with those views are understandably concerned that the model can serve as a means not only to address bullying, but to promote the views with which they disagree. Those who share those views will no doubt wish to use the GSA methodology. They are certainly free to do so.

I question, however, why provincial legislation should make this particular method normative in a Catholic school, which has its own different but effective methods of attaining the goal of addressing bullying and providing personal support for all students, ones which, unlike GSAs, arise out of its own fundamental principles and are in harmony with them. If the point is that there is something unacceptable about those Catholic principles, then I find that troubling, and wonder whether caricatures of Catholic faith are in play. I recognize, of course, that even among Catholics the richness of our faith, and the reasons for its teachings, have not always been communicated effectively. This is even more true within the popular culture in which we live, the sea in which we all swim.

GSAs are the only particular method or strategy mentioned by name in Bill 13. That is interesting. Now, with the recent change in policy, if any student insists on this particular method, then the trustees and principals who are responsible for the religious foundations of the school are compelled to agree.

As pastor of a large diocese, on the road constantly visiting the people, I have again and again heard concern from parents and educators about the proposed imposition of the GSA methodology on Catholic schools. That same concern has been expressed to me by people of other faiths, since parents often choose to send a child to a Catholic High School precisely because they expect a particular approach to life which is largely in harmony with their family and faith convictions. Names of organizations carry with them a distinct content: if someone asks you to join the Liberal, Conservative or New Democratic Party, you rightly expect something different from each. These groups each have their own traditions, their own shape. So the key issue is not just the name itself, but the content connected with the name, with the "brand". Is it something that you want, or something that is in harmony with your basic principles? If it is, then fine; but it should not be imposed on a community. Some questions come to mind:

1. Why is a piece of provincial legislation being used to micromanage the naming of student clubs?
2. Why are Catholics not free to design their own methods to fight bullying, and provide personal support to students, as long as they attain the common goal of a welcoming and supportive school? Why must they instead be compelled to accept a particular method that comes from a different approach to the great issues of life?
3. The leadership of students is crucial in the fight against bullying, and in making their school a place of love and respect for all. In fact, the most effective way to stop bullying may well be the example of fellow students. Students work together with the adult leadership of the school to promote the good of all. But trustees and principals are legitimate stewards of the spiritual tradition of the school, and in a Catholic school, that includes the Catholic faith tradition. Why should the power of provincial law be used to override that legitimate adult authority so that this one particular method can be imposed by any student who wants to do so?

4. With the principle established that the legitimate local authority is nullified in this case, then is any student free to introduce any program, any club, or any advocacy group relating to any issue? Over a year ago, I heard the principle behind this new policy expressed this way: "if a student wants it, he or she has got it." That may sound attractive, but it is a very shallow and distorted view of student leadership. Trustees and principals are legitimate adult stewards of the common good of the school community at the local level, and it is not helpful when Queen's Park moves in to remove that responsibility.
5. Apart from whatever one thinks of the idea of GSAs, in any particular school is a GSA the most effective method to help students being targeted by bullies? Who makes that decision in a local school? Is it those adults who are entrusted with responsibility for the local school community and all of its members? The new policy says that they do not. Is that wise?

To the members of our Catholic community: I urge you to reflect on the implications for Catholic education of this sudden government change in policy, and of the extraordinary privileging of one particular way of dealing with bullying and personal support. Catholic educators should be free to make sure that Catholic schools are loving learning environments in which every person is treated with love and respect, and to do so in a way that arises out of our faith tradition and is in harmony with it. We need to consider the path ahead.

To our friends and neighbours of other faiths, or of no faith, including those who disagree with any or all of the beliefs of the Catholic Church, and those who personally support the beliefs that form the context for GSAs: please consider the implications for all when legislation is enacted that overrides the deeply held beliefs of any faith community in our province, and intrudes on its freedom to act in a way that is in accord with its principles of conscience. If it happens to us, it can happen to you, on this and other issues. When religious freedom becomes a second class right, you also will eventually be affected. There is no reason for this controversy. We all want schools that are loving and welcoming places for everyone. We simply ask that diversity be respected in our society, and that we be able to attain the common goal of welcoming schools, and of personal support for students, using methods that are in harmony with the faith we cherish.

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

President, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario ✠

Spanning Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith is the world's second largest. Bishop Murray Chatlain, below, and eight missionary priests are regularly on the road or in the air serving in the diocese's outlying mission posts—their ministries made even more difficult by the fact that 75 per cent of their communities are inaccessible by road.



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Psalm 104

Bishop Murray Chatlain with Judy and Danny Bayha and their children.

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Religion in Conflict with Science and the Call for a New Evangelization

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

A New Evangelization? What is the *New Evangelization* and what do we need it for? This may have crossed your mind; or mind, made you cross! What we have here is not just some new buzz word, but perhaps one of the most important initiatives the Church has launched in our time, if not in millennia.

The world has changed. You may have noticed a creeping secularism with some quite vocal proponents of atheism: Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett and Christopher Hitchens. At the heart of this “Straw Man” is the proposition that religion, a relic of past ages, is rooted in superstition, unsubstantiated scientifically and propelled by fear, ignorance and a power-hungry hierarchy. Such a system, insisting on blind adherence and operating on unquestioning obedience, constrains human freedom, perpetuates mindlessness and inequality, and is the last great impediment to human freedom and enlightenment. Attacking its organized institutions to liberate the masses has become fashionable with high-profile champions gaining media priority, and slogans festooning the sides of busses in campaigns throughout major cities to rally the troops.

In our “latest and loudest wins” culture, it is often overlooked that Science is a child of the Church—yes, the Church. Science and the scientific method were nurtured through such efforts as those of the medieval monks who literally saved Western civilization by preserving and copying our intellectual patrimony of the East as well as the West; the establishment of universities, and the unparalleled scientific work of the Jesuits (who most notably established an infrastructure in the 17th century of observatories in Asia, Africa, Central and South America).

These observatories saw developments in such areas as astronomy, geomagnetism, meteorology, seismology (also known as “the Jesuit science”), and solar physics. In the realm of scholarly pursuit, intellectual scrutiny and debate, particularly in Philosophy, the medieval university established a system of remarkable freedom in the area of intellectual rigour and inquiry. The very reason Western civilization developed as rapidly as it did can be attributed to the Catholic sensibility that God’s creation is good, God is revealed in the ordinary, and we were given a reasoning mind to develop, as well as our soul, in the service of God and humanity.

In our own age the Church continues to make vital contributions to science; a few examples: Msgr. Georges Lemaître SJ (Physicist, father of the *Big Bang Theory*), Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ (Paleontologist, Geologist, Cosmologist, Philosopher), Fr. Stanley Jaki OSB (Physicist, Theologian contributed to understanding of convergence in Philosophy of Science and Theology), Fr. Michael Heller (Mathematician founding member of the International Society for Science and Religion), and Fr. Robert Spitzer SJ (Philosopher, Theologian, Physicist).

Ironically Science, the child of the Church, seemed to turn on her parent during the so-called Age of Enlightenment and has reached full-blown adolescent petulance in our own age. Western culture has forgotten her Christian roots. The world was ripened into such disbelief given the fallout from the Crusades, the Religious Wars of the 16th Century, and the progressive fragmentation of Christendom, as well as the pivotal and popular influence of Voltaire and his Secular Humanism. Suddenly amongst the intellectual classes it became fashionable to denigrate the Church and Her teaching. The major flashpoint was of course the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror during which heads, on a number of levels, rolled. Out of this a certain mentality arose which sought the elimination, particularly by political means, of any form of religious influence in public life. In addition, the vacuum created by the elimination of the Church’s influence was filled by the rise of “scientism.” Scientism posits that *science is the key which holds the answers to all of humanity’s ills, and a certain absolutism that holds that what cannot be proven by science cannot be.* The works of such revolutionary thinkers as Darwin, Marx and Freud (whose attempts to define humanity disavowed and disregarded any divine origin), effectively reduced humanity to mere biological, economic and sexual drives.

The triple-threat diadem in this secular crown is the “Promethean Humanists,” Feurbach, Marx and Nietzsche whose theories are born out of a rebellion and antagonism towards God, which in its extreme seeks a nihilism, a destruction of all that is good. There is a logic based on a false premise: *if I say there is no God then anything goes because I get to decide.* Clothe any or all of these ideas with an increasingly pervasive money-driven media, the most powerful vehicle for information delivery in history, and you have the perfect storm.

How many of these phrases are familiar: “You’ve got your truth, I’ve got mine” (Subjectivism); “Nothing is absolutely true” (Relativism) and ... wait for the kicker... “I doubt religious beliefs are true” (Religious Scepticism)? We may even have heard some of them from our own children!

Where’s the love? It’s not that we are talking about unloving, selfish people; just don’t mention religion! It’s one thing to disagree, it’s another to be antagonistic.

Our culture needs an extreme makeover! Forget the media, we can no longer assume that our government or civic institutions operate from a place which is rooted in principles let alone Christian principles. Not only is everybody on different pages, they’re in different books! We change the world by starting with ourselves!

We need to know who we are and what we are about; where we come from and where we are going. We need to know the answers to the same fundamental questions which have faced all people at all times: “How does one learn the art of living?” and “Which is the path towards happiness?” As Catholics we believe in a Loving God who loves us into existence; that we are made in the image of this loving God who calls us to love, who sustains in love, and who invites us to be in this loving relationship forever.

This is what the New Evangelization is all about: Encounter with God, and sharing the experience of the Encounter. This should sound familiar because there are countless people who we know have lived this: think of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Mary, Paul of Tarsus, Augustine, Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Bernadette of Lourdes, Therese of Lisieux, Kateri Tekakwitha, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Mother Theresa.

Admittedly all of these are exemplars, exceptional people, but every last one would admit it begins with recognizing in our lives the loving presence and work of God who transforms, sustains and sends us into the world.

How do we experience this Encounter? We must ask, be open, and be present to opportunities for God to work. Just as ears must hear sound and eyes must experiencing light to fully function and develop, so with our souls. The desire to return God’s Love, the practice of personal and community prayer, listening and reflecting on the Word, celebrating the Sacraments, and loving and serving others all open and dispose us to encounter the Risen One.

Love cannot be contained, it must be shared! As we grow in being present to and in relationship with God we will desire to know more and share more. It all begins with God and is sustained by God through assistance provided by the Church who provides us with a rich tradition of spiritual and intellectual guides and “tools.” As near as our parish priest and the worshipping community we have a rich banquet for spiritual and intellectual growth, between Word, Sacrament and Adult Formation opportunities.

In this Information Age, filled as it is with so much misinformation about faith, for a solid foundation in understanding we have the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as a practical, spiritual and intellectual guide for everyday living of the Encounter. This work represents 2,000 years of the Church’s experience, Her wisdom, born out of meditating on what living out this Encounter, this relationship, entails and means for everyday life.

Pope Benedict XVI has signalled the importance and urgency of these issues. In addition to establishing a new *dicastery* (department) in the Vatican Curia, the *Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization*, the Holy Father has dedicated from October 11, 2012, until November 24, 2013 as *The Year of Faith*, and has called some 300 Bishops from around the world to Rome from October 7 – 12, 2012 for a synod to reflect on and respond to “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.”

As Catholics we have a rich spiritual and intellectual tradition, one which the Church gifted to the world, and which forms the foundation of Western civilization and culture. Sadly the world has a short and perhaps selective memory. It is time for all of us to recognize that we all have a part to play in setting the standard, by doing the loving thing, deepening our own spirituality through ongoing experiences of Encounter and developing our understanding what this means for practical living by informing ourselves by becoming familiar with what the Church teaches.

Albert Einstein, arguably the most influential scientist of our age, said, “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.” We are all being called to claim our heritage as Catholics with a keen sense of balance, something which is lacking in our world. It is a call to grow in both the spiritual and intellectual dimensions: Our Encounter—our Relationship with God, as well as our rational understanding of the Truth, our rich intellectual tradition of the meaning and purpose of Encounter. We owe it to ourselves, to our brothers and sisters on the planet, and we owe it to God. ✠

Acknowledgements:

How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization by Thomas E. Woods, Jr.;

The Secularization of the West, James Hitchcock;

“What Are Characteristics Of The New Evangelization?”, Dave Nodar;

The New Evangelization: Building the Civilization of Love, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger;

Catholic Answers Forum; Wikipedia.





by Bonnie Landry

I have a Bible, inscribed with my name in gold on the front. The front leaf is inscribed: "To Bonnie Patricia, on her christening, from your Godparents. April 12, 1964." Long before I understood what the Bible would mean to me in my future, this was one of my treasured possessions.

I am grateful that my parents baptized me. I didn't know it growing up, but when I came into the Church I became aware of the grace I had received by this act. But apart from this significant act, I was "unchurched." As luck would have it, my parents also chose for me a Christian godmother. I know that her impact on me was profound, in the little things that she did, and her actions are a powerful witness to the role of godparents.

I was fortunate to grow up next door to my godmother. My interaction with her, taking that into consideration, was minimal. It was so little. But it was so much.

My godmother gave me a Bible. It is small and feminine with a white, leather-bound cover. Besides the inscription on the inside cover it has a copy of Raphael's Sistine Madonna. She is serene and beautiful. The Blessed Mother is holding Baby Jesus, and her delicate veil is billowing beside her. To this day, it is one of my favourite paintings of the Madonna.

My godmother made herself accessible to me. She didn't preach to me, or even try to teach me. She simply told me, at a couple of pivotal points in my life, that if I had any questions, I could ask her.

My godmother prayed for me. I didn't know this until I went to her to tell her that I was entering the Church when I was 27, but I knew that the reason I was entering the Church had something to do with her prayers. And I was compelled to tell her that.

My godmother exposed me to Jesus Christ. At a few pivotal points in my life, my godmother asked me if I would like to attend her Christmas Eve candlelight service. I know now that she did it to provoke thought in me, and perhaps questions. And it did.

My godmother gave me another book as a young child. Probably around the age of ten, she gave me a small children's book which was an illustrated version of Corinthians 1:13. Though I knew nothing whatsoever of who was speaking, to whom he was speaking and Who he was representing, this book ensured my understanding that love is not a feeling. Love is an act and love is a choice.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The command to love is the distillation of all the teachings of Christ: love God, love your neighbour. The culture of death is, ultimately, the denial of this command. And daily we are confronted with the culture of death.

I grew up knowing that love is an act. Love is something that I do. I may or may not feel loving but I must treat others with love. Respect for life, in all the many ways that it is played out, is love in action. We have a responsibility as Christians to witness to the love of Christ. Sometimes that responsibility comes with a specific title—godmother, husband, wife, priest—and a particular set of duties, a promise, a vow, a covenant, even. But title or not, an outlined task that comes with the title or not, we have a job to do.

Passivity is not benign.

"Activity" of the culture of life does not require us to be "Activists." Only some are called to be Activists, but all are called to be Active. To be passive against the culture of death condones and courts it. There are so many ways Christians can witness to their neighbours and families the culture of life. We can be active with so little time and energy, and so little can mean so much.

Give children the gift of faith. Allow it to be the conduit for your own growth as a mature Christian.

Be accessible to children. View them as blessings. Be interested in what they say and do. Remember that you were a kid once, and what it felt like to have a big person be interested in what you have to say.

Pray for an end to the culture of death. All our prayers, tiny aspirations or movements like *Forty Days For Life*, every single one makes a difference.

Expose others to Christ through your actions. Respond positively to someone having a new baby, even if it's their fourth ... or fifth, or ... babies are our hope for the future. Babies are hard work. But so is maintaining swimming pools. An older gentleman that we knew, who with his wife had ten children, told us that when people told him he had too many children, he asked them (with a smile on his face) "which one should we give back?"

Speak about children positively. Not about how they are an annoyance and you can hardly wait to get away from them. How many times do parents get asked if they will be glad when school starts again? How do we respond? Think about it. What a golden opportunity to say, "I've really enjoyed having them home." Or, "I'll miss them!"

Express sorrow when someone is negative about children. When women find out my husband and I have seven kids, they often respond with something like, "I've got two and THAT'S ENOUGH!" Albert says, "That's too bad." Interestingly, women will sometimes then tell him that they wish they could have more, or that they can't afford it, or their husband doesn't want any more kids. For just a moment, they think about the pleasure of babies and motherhood.

Support moms and dads in little ways. Compliment them on their children. Hold a door while they get the stroller through. Find some tiny way to ease their duties and see Christ in them and in their children. Don't glare at them when their children make noise at Mass.

Give the gift of Life. If you are waffling about whether or not to have another baby ... just be open to the possibility of another baby. What an amazing way to celebrate the culture of life—openness to a newly created life.

We have a duty. As Christians, as godparents, as sponsors, as members of a family. We have a role to play to actively pursue and support a culture of life. We must protect, defend, pray.

And love. In all the little ways we can. ✠

Sister Helen Quinn, SSA (Sr. Mary Desmond)

Born September 17, 1918 in Bainsville, Ontario, Sr. Helen was the eldest in a family of ten. She died peacefully on May 25, 2012 at St. Ann's Residence in Victoria, BC.



Helen entered the Sisters of St. Ann in 1937 and pronounced her vows on February 10, 1939 in Lachine, Quebec. She prepared for ministry by obtaining a BA from Anna Maria College in Paxton MA, a teacher's diploma from University of Montreal and a theology diploma from Loyola College. Helen's extensive teaching ministry began in 1939; for 39 years she taught Primary through Secondary students in the Catholic School system of Montreal. Following this, Helen concluded her teaching career by serving another five years as a school chaplain. In 1983, after her dedicated teaching ministry, Helen moved to St. James Parish in Vernon, BC and enjoyed Pastoral Ministry visiting the sick and the elderly. Sr. Helen retired to Victoria in 1996, where one of her great joys was serving as Eucharistic Minister to her Sisters.

Predeceased by her parents Thomas Quinn and Pearl (McGarry) and siblings Regina, Patrick, Carmel, Desmond, Norah and Alice. Survived by her sisters Isabelle Saunders, Sheila Cashion and Mary McGillis, many nieces, nephews and her own community of Sisters of St. Ann. ✠

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Office of Justice & Life

by Stuart Andrie

In the month of May we were called to reflect on the sanctity of human life. Our annual *March for Life* took place this month and also we remembered our mothers in a special way; and in particular, we remember the Blessed Mother (as the month is dedicated to her). These events naturally lend themselves to the pondering of life and the gift and mystery that it is from the moment of conception to natural death and at every stage of human development in between.

As Christians we recognize that all life is a gift from God and that it is *sacred*. "Human life must be respected because it is sacred. From its beginning human life involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end." (*Compendium to the Catechism* #466). It is because human life is sacred that we are called to respect life at all stages from conception to natural death and every step along the way ("from the womb to the tomb"). Because God gave us this gift of life, we are called to recognize its sacredness and treat each other accordingly, and also, we must act as stewards of the goodness of creation that He has provided us with to live out our lives in fruitful and life-giving ways. "God freely confers being and life on everything that exists. Man and woman, created in his image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26-27), are for that very reason called to be the visible sign and the effective instrument of divine gratuitousness in the garden where God has placed them as cultivators and custodians of the goods of creation." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* #26).

Recognizing the gift of life and the goodness of creation compels us to act when the sanctity of human life is being violated: to publicly speak up for life at an event such as the *March for Life* (www.m4lvictoria.ca) or perhaps to be a visible witness outside the local abortion clinic with the 40 Days for Life vigil (www.40daysforlife.com/victoria), or to devote our efforts to supporting our ministries that try to help young mothers and fathers in crisis pregnancy situations (www.chooselifevictoria.com and Respect Life Ministries 250-812-0087). But we cannot and must not stop there. If we are to truly recognize the gift of life that God has given and recognize our innate compulsion to serve the human person as a result we must help each other at all stages of the journey. We must strive to seek solutions to the problems of addiction and homelessness, and we must explore ways to support our brothers and sisters stricken with poverty and natural disaster in the global south through the efforts of our Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (www.dev.org). We must also strive to find ways to see the truth of the Gospel applied not only to the beginnings of life at conception, but also, at the end of life dealing with the problems of proposed legalization allowing euthanasia, and the importance of dying with dignity.

We must not and cannot stop there however. We must care for and be true stewards of the gift of creation that God has given us charge of: "God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared fairly by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity. This principle is based on the fact that 'the original source of all that is good is the very act of God, who created both the earth and man, and who gave the earth to man so that he might have dominion over it by his work and enjoy its fruits (Gen 1:28-29). God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favoring anyone.'" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* #171). Thus we have a duty and a responsibility to care for the earth and ecological justice must be a priority as a part of our understanding of the sanctity of human life and the integral development of the human person.

In essence, we are working at restoring our world and ourselves with what was lost by the original sin, that is, the harmony we had with God, harmony between man and woman



or man and his neighbor, and the harmonious and life-giving relationship between humankind and the earth. "It is in this original estrangement that are to be sought the deepest roots of all the evils that afflict social relations between people, of all the situations in economic and political life that attack the dignity of the person, that assail justice and solidarity." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* #27).

The temptation we face is that sometimes we can become overly single-minded, too focussed on just one of the many issues that face us in light of this disharmony. We need be reminded that in essence, working towards the good of the human person includes all of these various stages and thus there should be a certain level of collaboration and coherence among the various groups working ultimately toward the same end. "By means of her social doctrine, the Church shows her concern for human life in society, aware that the quality of social life—that is, of the relationships of justice and love that form the fabric of society—depends in a decisive manner on the protection and promotion of the human person, for whom every community comes into existence." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* #81)

In his weekly General Audience on April 25, 2012 Pope Benedict XVI reflected on charity and justice and the deeper meaning our faith gives to social action. The necessary relationship of charity, justice and revealed truth about who we are as human beings with the profound gift of the sanctity of human life, should always guide our perspective when the temptation to become too single-minded becomes too great.

"There are no limits to helping our neighbors, but it is essential that it be done in the light of the Holy Spirit, so that pure activism is not lost." (Pope Benedict General Audience April 25, 2012) Therefore informed by the truth of the good news we are compelled to act, to help out our brothers and sisters who are in need both on a local and global level, to defend the human person at all the various stages of development and to defend the gift of God's creation. "In this view charity and justice should not be interpreted as 'social actions' but also as 'spiritual actions'" (Pope Benedict General Audience April 25, 2012)

As we move forward, let us be mindful of the utmost need we have as Christians to recognize our responsibility toward integral human development and good ecological stewardship. "The development to which all nations aspire must involve human beings in their entirety." (Pope Benedict General Audience May 4, 2012) The challenges ahead of us are many, but with a deeper reflection of the truth revealed to us by God, we all should be compelled to work together for the good and be able to see the bigger picture of the total development of humanity, from conception to natural death, and every stage in between. "Religion helps us to recognize others as brothers and sisters in humanity. Giving everyone the opportunity to know God, in complete freedom, is to help them forge a strong personality which will enable them to bear witness to good, and put it into effect even at great cost. In this way we will build a society in which sobriety and fraternity triumph over misery, indifference and selfishness, over exploitation and waste and, above all, over exclusion." (Pope Benedict General Audience May 4, 2012) ✠

Prayer For Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Gracious Father,
giver of life and all that is good,
bless our Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Send the Holy Spirit
to guide our efforts
in building your kingdom
here and now.

Create in us
loving hearts and minds
in service to all people.

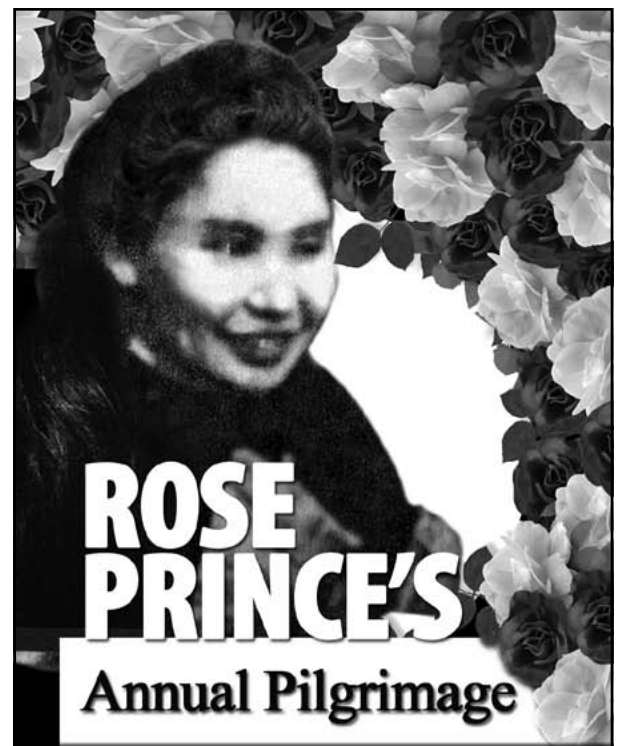
Make us responsible stewards
of all that we have received
from your bountiful generosity.

May all we think, say and do
give glory to your name.

We ask this through Jesus Christ
who lives and reigns with you
in the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven, pray for us.
St. Andrew, pray for us.



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March for Life: Witness to Faith

by Julie Gerein, St. Andrew's High School

Each spring, a pro-life event known as the *March for Life* takes place in Victoria. Witnessing to their faith, people from across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland join together to affirm the sanctity of all human life. Following Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Patrick's Catholic Church and St. John the Evangelist Anglican Catholic Church, participants carry signs while marching through downtown Victoria and gather on the lawn of the Legislature to listen to various pro-life speakers. In the past, the group has been treated to personal testimonies, presentations by Catholic and Protestant clergy, and pro-life apologists (that is, "thinkers"). The *March for Life* gives a voice to the voiceless and publicly defends the most weak and vulnerable members of our society: the unborn.

I have attended the *March for Life* each of the past three years, and it has always been an extremely positive experience. The event takes place in spring, a time when we feel especially close to the fragility of new life and when we celebrate the inherent value and God-given dignity of every human person. Attending the March impacts my faith, as I am surrounded by people who are not afraid to share their beliefs with others. Witnessing their courage challenges me to also live with conviction and stand up for what I believe. ✂



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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Victoria Diocese Council

by Dorothy Griffin

On May 6 – 8, 2012, the CWL celebrated its 84th Annual Diocesan Convention. Hosted at St. Elizabeth's Parish in Sidney, this event was well attended by 109 Catholic Women from across the Diocese as well as Bishop Richard Gagnon and Fr. Rolf Hassenak representing Fr. Frank Franz, the retiring Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Also in attendance were Fr. Waldemar (St. Peters, Nanaimo), Fr. Alfredo Monicelli (Duncan), Fr. Larrie Soberiano (Salt Spring Island), Fr. Al Aleio (Sacred Heart, Victoria). Fr. Mel Bayron from Ascension parish in Parksville was installed as the CWL Diocesan Spiritual Advisor for a term of five years.

The business of the convention was enhanced by presentations by a variety of gifted speakers. On Monday, BC/Yukon Provincial Council President Nancy Simms presented a vibrant workshop titled *What Do You Stand For?* By believing in the sanctity of life and the dignity of human beings everywhere, women play an important role in church and society. By striving to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bringing a deeper spiritual presence to home and the work place, by supporting the many objects of the League through promoting the teachings of the Catholic Church, by developing good legislation that will uphold and defend Christian values in the modern world, women can do much to develop a world of peace and harmony.

The Keynote speaker at the banquet on Monday evening was Michelle Fraser, who spoke about Marriage and Family. Being concerned about families, the Bishop, under his Pastoral Plan initiative, has invited Michelle and her husband, Dr. Allan Fraser together with about 30 other couples to help set up a new Diocesan Marriage Council office and together have been asked to come up with ideas as to what can be done to support marriages and families on Vancouver Island. The Bishop would like to have a diocesan-wide marriage prep course, counselling and tools available to help marriages/families in crisis, to educate about Natural Family Planning and Theology of the Body, to pray for and to celebrate anniversaries, baptisms, and family life in general. The goal is very noble; to build, brick by brick, living stone by living stone, a healthy culture of life and family on Vancouver Island.

On Tuesday, the Guest Speaker, Grant Crosswell, General Manager of St. Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria, entertained us with lively and humorous anecdotes, and shared his early life experience learning about the basic needs for homeless people. As in the Bible, Social Justice is often learned by example. He had early experiences of taking in homeless people by his family, eventually learning that peoples' basic needs are to be loved, to belong, to have a sense of self-esteem, to gain independence. Social Justice says that we have a voice. We are called to be advocates, to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We can write letters, ask for housing, and promote legislation to meet the material needs for the homeless. And more, we are called to conversion, from Social Justice to Social Action. Listening with a look of love, to bring the presence of Christ to the poor.

Bishop Richard responded to Mr. Crosswell's talk by explaining that problems with homelessness are sometimes problems with mental illness, addiction, lack of employment, or lacking the experience of a home life. And after having exhausted pursuit of better legislation and housing remedies for the homeless, if we wonder what we can do to remedy the situation, on a practical level: "when in doubt, make soup!"

The CWL Bursary of \$500 was awarded to Nicole Oei. Graduating from Gordon Head Secondary, Nicole is a member of Sacred Heart parish. We congratulate Nicole, who has been on the school honour roll since grade 9 and is in the Challenge program in Grade 12, and was deemed to be the most qualified out of seven applicants to win the award.

The new Council for 2012 – 14 was selected as follows: Immediate Past-President Betty Hoskins; Past President—Daisy Mah; President—Kathy Weswick; Secretary—Connie Haffey; Spiritual Development—Caroline Keller; President-Elect and Organization—Blanca Stead; Health & Education—Maureen Ingram; Resolutions—Dorothy Griffin; and Legislation—Trudy Fiege. Interim Treasurer is Betty Hoskins. The CWL extends a special welcome to our new Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Mel Bayron from Ascension parish in Parksville.

CWL Plans for the future are to establish a private foundation funded by The Catholic Women's League of Canada and the Sisters of Service, to train Catholic women to assume leadership roles in the church and in society.

In closing, we were gaily entertained by the St. Peter's Parish ladies with homespun lyrics, *inviting* us to attend the 2013 Diocesan Convention in Nanaimo next spring. ✠



Bishop Gagnon with some of the new Executive

Knights of Columbus Celebrate at 101st Annual State Convention

by Wil Wilmot, State Deputy

During the weekend of April 28-30, 2012, Knights of Columbus members from around British Columbia and the Yukon and their guests gathered at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport for the 101st Annual State Convention. The weekend was kicked off by the opening Mass which was concelebrated by five of our seven Bishops and seven visiting priests. Following the opening Mass and official ceremonies which included the State Deputy's report, guests were treated to an awesome casual night of entertainment. Friday night's theme was "BC & Yukon Knights salute the CFL." The convention committee members are to be congratulated for the spectacular introductions routine and floor show.

Following the Necrology Mass Saturday morning at which over 140 Brother Knights who had passed away since the last convention were honoured, the delegates got down to business of dealing with the many reports that were presented and with the election of officers for the coming year. Saturday afternoon saw the Annual Awards Presentations at which various councils and individuals are recognized for outstanding projects or contributions conducted during the past twelve months.

The highlight of the Convention was the State Deputy's Banquet held on Saturday evening. Following a delicious sit-down dinner the most prestigious awards were presented. Those recognized this year were:

- Knight of the Year – Fred Weigman – St Clare of Assisi Council in Coquitlam
- Grand Knight of the Year – Edgar Ursua – Archbishop Duke Council in Richmond
- District Deputy of the Year – Koon Ming Lau – District #5 – Vancouver
- Most Active Council – Christ the King Council #5148 – Kitimat
- Family of the Year – Jason & Holly Routley – St Charles Garnier Council #9845 – Kelowna.




Jason and Holly Routley with five of their six children and Bishop John Corriveau.

In addition, the proceeds of the *Pennies for Heaven* fund were distributed to our Bishops. This year total contributions were \$106,087.01; each of our seven Bishops was presented with a cheque in the amount of \$15,155.28 for projects within his respective diocese.


The convention wrapped up on Sunday morning. Following Mass the delegates passed a number of important resolutions and heard the closing remarks of the Officers elected for the coming year. Congratulations go out to the State Executive for the 2012-13 Fraternal Year:

- State Deputy – Wil Wilmot – Sacred Heart Council 15445 – Victoria
- State Secretary – Ed Shawchuk – Thomas Haney Council 5566 – Maple Ridge
- State Treasurer – Arcie Lim – St Anthony of Padua Council 14925 – Vancouver
- State Advocate – Peter Horsfield – Star of the Sea Council 7015 – White Rock
- State Warden – Michael Gernat – St James Council 4949 – Vernon
- Immediate Past State Deputy – Michael Yeo – Coquitlam Council 5540 – Coquitlam ✠



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Prayer to the Holy Spirit

We stand before you Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will,
to make it our own
and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of the Father and Son.
You desire justice for all:
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favour.
Unite us to yourself in a bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name,
may we temper justice with love
so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you
and earn the reward you promised to
good and faithful servants.
You live and reign with the Father and the Son,
One God, forever and ever.
Amen.

This prayer is believed to have been composed by St. Isidore of Seville, and prayed at various Councils dating back to the 7th century. Blessed Pope John XXIII continued this tradition by offering this prayer at the beginning of each session at the Second Vatican Council, from 1962-1965.

