



See Page 2

Appeal in Action



See Page 20

*Blessed Kateri
Tekakwitha*



See Page 12

*St. Francis
Xavier 125th
Anniversary*



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria November 2012

Notes from St. Adèle: The 2012 Plenary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

This past September the yearly Plenary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) met near St. Adele in the Province of Quebec. The small town, named after the eighth-century saint with that name, is nestled in the Laurentian Mountains northwest of Montreal. The forests were ablaze with colour by the end of September, at least a month ahead of our west coast autumn. St. Adele herself lived a life of great spiritual colour, being a wife, mother, then widow, a nun and finally a renowned abbess who has been described as holy, prudent and compassionate—spiritual characteristics which are always before us bishops when we gather for the business of the yearly Plenary.

Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton, President of the Conference for his first of a mandate of two years, ably guided us through a huge and challenging agenda. My purpose here is to provide a glance at some of the activities from this year's Plenary.

For the first time in my experience, a day was dedicated before the official start of the Plenary to have an open forum on aboriginal issues and the ministry to First Nations peoples. About thirty bishops gathered for this special day and being present among them, I was astounded by the variety of ministry throughout Canada currently being done on behalf of First Nations communities. Among a number of discussion points was the question of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (TRC) process in our country. There have been a series of regional gatherings in Canada as well as national ones. We discussed the pros and cons of the TRC gatherings, both the strong and hopeful aspects as well as the problems which have been evident and hinder the work of revealing the truth about residential schools and the work of reconciliation. We had such a gathering in Victoria last spring, attended by many aboriginal and non-aboriginal people throughout the Island. I was most pleased to see so many Catholic laity attend as

well as religious and clergy. I was able to make an expression of regret and apology to First Nations people for the harm done in the past as well as share my hope for a brighter future. The experience in Victoria of the TRC was a welcomed part of the dialogue between the bishops that day. I am most appreciative for the active part played by the Sisters of St. Ann in that gathering and for their constructive critique and expressions of affirmation. I am thankful also to the part played by Mrs. Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins (Chancellor) in helping to facilitate our Diocesan participation.

We also discussed the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha in Rome on October 21, 2012. This is a very significant event not only for First Nations people in North America but for all of us. The Canadian Government sent a strong delegation to be present that day as well. Bishop Lionel Gendron of St. Jean-Longueuil spoke at some length about the way the news of the Canonization is being received by First Nation peoples. Bishop Gendron's comments were most helpful as the Mohawk community of Kahnawake is located in his diocese, across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal. This is the territory where Saint Kateri spent the last years of her life before she died at the age of 24. Her body is entombed in the small wooden church on the reserve. I had the privilege of visiting there once and praying at her tomb; it was an experience I will never forget.

Bishop Gendron shared with us that the percentage of Mohawk who regularly practice the Catholic Faith is very similar to the practice of the Faith in Quebec in general, around twenty percent. The reaction to the canonization has been diverse, as one would expect. The majority of Catholics seem very happy with this development but there is a caution as to how it will be celebrated. The traditional way for the Mohawk to express joy is often more interior than exterior.

Continued on Page 3

The Pastoral Centre Staff Here to Serve You!

by Char Deslippe

The vision and mission of the staff at the Pastoral Centre has always been to serve the parishes, schools and various communities across the Diocese. In recent months, while the vision and mission have not changed, the building itself has certainly been a flurry of activity as offices were moved, telephone contact information changed, and employees clarified their evolving roles and responsibilities.

What brought about this change? The priorities set in the five-year *Diocesan Pastoral Plan*. These six priorities, we know, are an ongoing focus. As we address them it has become clear that a more efficient and effective use of resources is necessary. We have learned that integration of pastoral services to parishes and schools across the entire Diocese would more effectively address the overlap in many areas of ministry.

To meet changing needs, the composition of the Pastoral Centre staff has changed and each of us is part of one of three "circles" or teams who support a common vision and mission. The information that follows is designed to make it easier for those we serve to more easily contact us. All calls to the office on Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm will reach the switchboard at (250) 479-1331. The extension number for each of us can be found in the parenthesis following each name. We welcome your calls and inquiries anytime; please leave a message if we are away from our phones so we can connect with you at our earliest convenience.



Pastoral Centre Staff

Continued on Page 28

Inside



Appeal in Action	2
Calendar of Events	4
Catholic Schools	11
Face the Day	19
Impressions	26
Island News and Events	5
National/International	23
Office of Justice and Life	22
On Campus	17
Pastoral Itinerary	4
Vocations	18

The Year of Faith: What Does It Mean? See Page 10 & 21

Appeal in Action



by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Reflections on Stewardship 2012

What is Stewardship?

It is a lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility. It is the acknowledging of God as the Creator and Owner of all. Christian Stewards see themselves as the caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering and action.

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (everything we have: for instance, our time, talent and treasure) that we have been given. It involves the intentional, planned and proportionate giving of all we have.

Finally, stewardship encourages everyone to participate in the task of building the Kingdom of God. When we explain that God has given each of us certain things, that these gifts are our responsibility to care for, and that we are accountable for what we do with these gifts, then there is no doubt that everyone should be involved. Stewardship rejects the notion that we must "have it all" and instead demonstrates the value of giving in love, service and justice. Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good, yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now ...”

~ St. Teresa of Avila

What is meant by giving of one's time, talent, and material possessions?

Our time, talents and material possessions constitute just some of the treasures we have been given by our very generous God. Sharing these gifts involves being with God in prayer and worship, using our gifts to help build God's Kingdom among our family and friends, our workplace, and our communities and parishes. It means becoming living examples of the Gospel in our communities and parishes.

“Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

~ Matthew 5:15-16

Holy Family Church—Ucluelet and St Francis of Assisi—Tofino

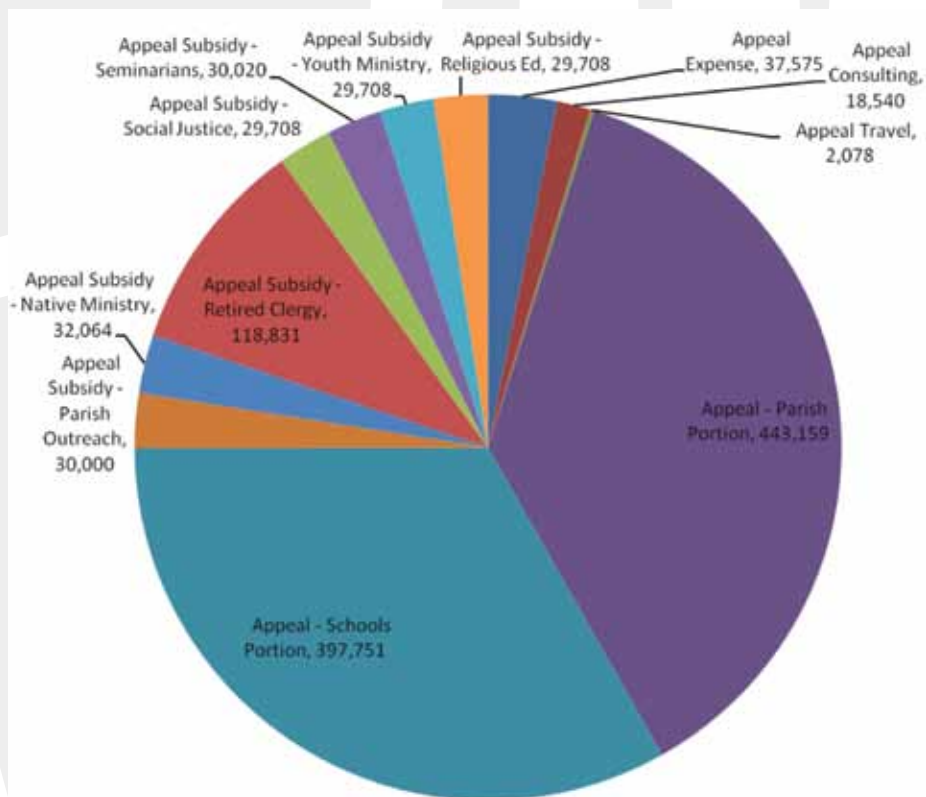
These very small parishes on the west coast of the Island receive monthly support through the Appeal to assist with the basic needs of the Catholic communities in Ucluelet, Tofino, and Ahousat First Nation. Pastor Fr. Scott Whittemore says that this small subsidy makes the parishes and mission work viable. The money pays for basic utilities and supplies, as well as liturgical and educational materials.

In 2011 Holy Family Church in Ucluelet had a new roof installed through Appeal resources and this year the church received a fresh coat of paint as well as window and gutter improvements.



2011 Appeal Financial Summary

The graph below is a visual summary showing how Appeal money was spent last year. Expenditures in 2011 came from money held in trust from gifts received in 2010 and were matched to the stated goals of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Appeal expenditures in 2012 will come from gifts made in 2011 using a similar model. What the graph clearly illustrates is the power of the Appeal to support parish goals and Island Catholic Schools as well as many other priorities in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.



Make a Personal Plan to Celebrate the Year of Faith

October marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. On this momentous anniversary, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed October 2012 as the beginning of a Year of Faith. But what does this Year of Faith mean to Catholic stewards?

In his apostolic letter announcing the Year of Faith, the Pontiff stressed three important areas in our life of faith. He exhorted us: 1) to better understand our faith; 2) to take some action to give witness to our faith; and 3) to share our faith with others.

Don't let this year slip away without embracing its opportunity for growth. Make a personal plan that will set concrete goals and deepen the stewardship of your faith life this year. Here are some questions to guide you in the Holy Father's three-fold areas of concern.

- Faith seeks truth. What am I to learn about my faith in the God of Jesus Christ?**
 - Read the Bible. One simple plan is to prayerfully read each day's lectionary readings, which can be found online at www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
 - Intentionally choose several books on Catholic life and spirituality this year. These could range from books on centering prayer to the lives of the saints or perhaps a book on the Second Vatican Council. Immerse yourself in Catholic reading.
- Faith leads to Action. What action will witness to my commitment to Christ?**
 - Pray—We live our faith more fully by cultivating a more disciplined prayer life. The most important time of your day is the time you set aside for prayer.
 - Give generously to the Church through the 2012 Diocesan Appeal A *Journey of Hearts & Hands: Forward with Courage*.
 - Exchange one hour of time spent in front of the TV or computer each week with an hour spent with others who are in need of your unique gifts.
- Faith is not a private affair. With whom should I share my faith in Christ?**
 - Attend Mass more often, and bring someone with you.
 - Join or form a bible study group.
 - Talk to a family member, friend or coworker about your faith.

The Year of Faith is a wonderful gift meant to help us to grow in our Catholic faith. Make your plan now for this Year of Faith, and prepare yourself to be amazed at how Christ can work in and through you when you take the initiative to grow closer to Him. ✠

~ from the *International Catholic Stewardship Council*



Notes from St. Adele: The 2012 Plenary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

They hold dear, in a humble way, such profound realities as sacredness, and are hesitant about more extravagant public expressions. The decision to canonize Kateri, after the Holy See’s acceptance of a miracle on a First Nations reserve in Washington State, is seen by many as a gesture to the world that the Mohawks exist and that this is a strong affirmation of their identity and culture. Others would be less enthusiastic as they see this recognition of Kateri’s Catholic Faith and life as going against their traditional ways. Regardless of the reaction to Saint Kateri, this event cannot help but have significance among First Nations people in Canada and well beyond.

Turning from the day given over to aboriginal concerns, I reflect now on another important aspect of the Plenary, namely the current Synod of Bishops being held in Rome on the subject of the *New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith*. A delegation of three bishops from Canada will represent the CCCB at the month-long Synod: Archbishop Gerard Lacroix of Quebec and Primate of Canada, Bishop Francois Lapierre of Saint- Hyacinthe, Quebec and Bishop Brian Dunn of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. All three bishops are scheduled to make interventions at the Synod: Bishop Lacroix will speak on the vital aspect of our own encounter with Jesus Christ as the core of the New Evangelization. Such an encounter is a grace and we must renew this particular grace, this reality in our own lives and then be ready to witness to this before others. Bishop Dunn will pose the question, “How do we Evangelize those who have been deeply hurt by clergy sexual abuse?” He will offer four approaches to this important question: The ministry of listening, the careful consideration of why this has occurred, the effort to build a spirituality of communion within all structures of the Church, and finally by supporting co-responsibility by encouraging change in the mentality, attitude and heart in the ways of working closely with lay persons. Bishop Lapierre will refer to number 130 of the *Instrumentum Laboris* (the working document for the Synod) and its advocacy that social justice must be an important part of the New Evangelization. The Social Doctrine of the Church bears powerful witness to the Faith. He will stress that there is a vital link between the Gospel, Social Justice and the New Evangelization. Much more needs to be done from this perspective. As you can see, the Canadian delegation will have made a valuable contribution to the work of the Synod.

Among a variety of topics discussed at the Plenary, I will briefly mention a few more: much discussion ensued regarding the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP or D&P) and the difficulties which have now occurred because of drastic funding cuts from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This will have profound effects on both staff and programs. Discussion also occurred around the Bishops’ Standing Committee which assists D&P. It is working well but there are still a few bumps to be ironed out, such as the difficulties this year relative to the Fall Educational Campaign.

Another topic was in regard to the progress to date of the provisions in the Apostolic Constitution, entitled *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. The North American Ordinariate for Anglicans who have entered the Catholic Church desirous of retaining their Anglican liturgical patrimony has now been firmly established in the United States and plans are now being made to establish a Canadian Deanery in relation to the Ordinariate. The first ordination for the Canadian Deanery will occur in Victoria this coming December, the details of which will soon be

published. I am grateful for the hard work and commitment of Fr. John Laszczyk (Vicar General) in assisting the *Fellowship of Blessed John Henry Newman* in making their transition into the Ordinariate through the Canadian Deanery.

Another discussion point was a careful consideration of the protocols for responsible ministry in all dioceses in Canada. Again I am most thankful for the huge amount of work done in the Diocese of Victoria in structuring our Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment program which seeks to create safe environments throughout our communities. Special mention should be made of Mrs. Leah Mackenzie (Financial Officer) for spearheading this work and to Mr. Leo Chaland for taking on the position of Diocesan Responsible Ministry Coordinator.

The bishops also discussed the work of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) and in particular the National Life and Family Initiative for the spring of 2013. The work of COLF has been exceptional over the years as they have provided excellent educational materials for a whole host of topics associate with Reverence for Life and Family Life. I am grateful to Fr. Dean Henderson (University Chaplain) for his forming a Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Committee which is working towards a spring conference for families as part of the National Initiative.

The area of Ecumenism plays a part in many discussions at the Plenary. In particular, the Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and InterFaith Dialogue, brought forth the important question of ecumenical collaboration in social justice work. It was also a good opportunity to refer once again to what the relevant documents of the Second Vatican Council had to say about ecumenism. Also in connection with this was the topic of Kairos (an Ecumenical association of churches, ecclesial communities and organizations in Canada who work on joint social justice programs). Some of the challenges of working within Kairos form an on-going discussion among the bishops.

Finally I would like to make reference to the general sharing and dialogue that occurred regarding what is being done and what is being planned for by various dioceses around the theme of the Year of Faith. This, from my perspective, was most helpful and should assist our Diocese in pastoral planning this year. Coupled with this selection from the Plenary agenda, I should also mention that guest speakers presented topics on: Religious Freedom in Canada; the historic opening of the Second Vatican Council; the clergy sexual abuse problem and what is being done to bring healing throughout the Church in North America; the question of Refugees coming to Canada (given by the Honorable Jason Kenney); and an address by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of Kiev-Halych, the Patriarch of Ukrainian Catholics around the world. His reference to the struggles for Evangelization in the Ukraine remains a gift for the whole Church through the witness, persecutions and struggles of Faithful Ukrainian Catholics.

In conclusion, a Plenary such as this serves not only the opportunity to discuss and learn about many aspects of Catholic life in Canada but allows the opportunity for the bishops to learn from each other and to grow in a spirit of collegiality, so much encouraged by the Second Vatican Council. Yes the Plenary 2012, comprising over eighty bishops, other clergy and considerable numbers of lay people (160 people in total), was very full and even colourful as the trees around St. Adele! ✂

Official Hymn of the Year of Faith

CREDO, DOMINE

PRELUDE
Maestoso

Organ

A) VERSE AND REFRAINS FOR ASSEMBLY

1. Pil-grims we, full of ex-pec-ta-tion, what bread o-pen still. Lord, you
2. we, lost and de-spair-ing, our wounds in your foot-steps. You re-cre-
3. we, brok-en and ex-hausted, we fol-low Pen-te-cost. Lord, you
4. we, your cross on our shoul-ders, for each new that you give.
5. we, gath-ered by your call, each day
6. we, thank-ful and u-ni-ted, each day

9. re-vea-ling the Fa-ther, You for us are Son of the Most High.
Birth, feeds us with your light, You for us are the Morn-ing Star.
heal those who seek you in the de-sert, You for us are the hand that heal-
rise in the Morn-ing of Ea-ster, You for us are the life e-ver-last-ing.
are the breath of the Spi-rit, You for us are Word of the fu-ture.
guide us on the path-way of life. You for us are hope of sal-va-tion.

13. Rit: Cre - do, Do - mi - ne, cre

16. do! 1. With the saints who are walk - ing with us, O Lord, we ask: Rit: ad
2. With Ma - ry the first of all be - lie - vers, O Lord, we pray:
3. With the poor who are yearn - ing for help, O Lord, we im - plore:
4. With the humb-le who wish to be born a - new, O Lord, we plead:
5. With the Church which pro - claims your Gos - pel, O Lord, we in - voke:
6. With the world where your king - dom is a - mong us, O Lord, we cry:

21. au - ge, ad - au - ge no - bis fi - dem!

25. Rit: Cre - do, Do - mi - ne, ad - au - ge no - bis fi - dem! 2. Pil - grims fi - dem!

FINE

2

Pastoral Itinerary

Bishop Richard Gagnon

Calendar of Events

All events are in Victoria unless otherwise noted

November 2012

- 1 Government House, Farewell Reception for the Honourable Steven Point, Lieutenant Governor of BC
- 2 Government House, Luncheon Reception on the occasion of the Installation of Judith Guichon as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of BC
- 3 Sacred Heart Parish, Mass (5 pm) and Knights of Columbus Charter Presentation
- 4 St. Andrew's Cathedral, Mass (5 pm)
- 8 St. Andrew's Cathedral, Necrology Mass (12 pm)
- 10 St. Andrew's High School, Justice & Life Workshop
- 15-17 **Halifax, NS:** National Liturgy Commission meetings
- 20 Mass (10:30 am), Mount St. Mary Hospital
- 21 Clergy Study Day, St. Joseph the Worker Parish
- 29 **Duncan:** Clergy Study Day, St. Edward's Parish
- 30 Dedication of St. Andrew's Cathedral Mass (12 pm)

December 2012

- 2 St. Andrew's Cathedral, Mass (11 am)
- 6 Queen of Peace Parish, Ordination to the Diaconate of Peter Wilkinson (7 pm).
- 8 St. Andrew's Cathedral, Ordination of Peter Wilkinson (10 am)
- 11 Sacred Heart Church, Advent Mass (11 am) for the community of St. Andrew's Regional High School

DID YOU KNOW...

The Diocese has a redesigned website!

If you haven't visited it lately, check us out at www.rcdvictoria.org

You'll find lots of current information and helpful links, including a News and Events Calendar that features Diocesan events as well as current information for our Youth.

And you can also find us on Twitter! Search for "rcdvictoria" and follow us today for current updates.

For more information, contact Connie Dunwoody at editor@rcdvictoria.org.

World Youth Day 2013

Unfortunately, we have not received enough registrations to warrant a World Youth Day group trip to Rio in July 2013. Consequently, the Diocese of Victoria will no longer be coordinating a Diocesan pilgrimage.

All youth who are interested in attending are encouraged either to connect with the Archdiocese of Vancouver (www.rcav.org/OYYAM/WYD_2013_Information) or speak to our booking agent, Chris Dube (CDube@dubetravel.com), to make your own travel plans.

Thank you for your understanding.

November

- 13 **St. Mary's, Ladysmith:** 6 – 9 pm. Retreat: The HSI Discipleship Program featuring Aneel Aranha, founder of Holy Spirit Interactive. Mass will be at 6 pm with the Retreat following immediately. Aneel Aranha, founder of HIS, is a renowned preacher and retreat leader who has spoken to millions of people around the globe. He is the author of several books including the seminal *The School of the Holy Spirit*. Between travels he conducts leadership programs and mentors growth communities. For more information contact the office at (250) 246-3260.
- 14 **St. Joseph's, Chemainus:** 6 – 9 pm. The HSI Discipleship Program featuring Aneel Aranha, founder of Holy Spirit Interactive. (See Nov 13 St. Mary's entry above.) For more information contact the office at (250) 245-3414.
- 15 **Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria:** Annual Christmas Bazaar & Resident Art Show, 10 am – 3 pm, 861 Fairfield Road. This traditional Christmas Bazaar will feature unique gifts for all: handmade quilts and knitting, Christmas décor, baked goods, greeting cards, chocolates, jewelry, a raffle and much more! Admission is free. Refreshments and a hot lunch will be available. For more information, contact Candis Elliott at (250) 480-3100, extension 3201 or email her at celliot@mtstmary.victoria.bc.ca.
- 15 **St. Mary's, Ladysmith:** 6 – 9 pm. The HSI Discipleship Program featuring Aneel Aranha, founder of Holy Spirit Interactive. (See Nov 13 St. Mary's entry above.) For more information contact the office at (250) 246-3260.
- 17/18 **St. Elizabeth's, Sidney:** 5 – 5:30 pm on Nov 17 and 11:30 am – 1 pm on Nov 18, CWL Bake Sale. For more information email coordinator@spparish.com.
- 24 **Our Lady of the Rosary:** 6 pm, Family Movie Night featuring *The Miracles of Jesus*. Jesus' miracles reveal his divinity and suggest that those who come to God through Christ will themselves be miraculously transformed. Running time approximately 50 minutes. Admission is free; juice and pizza are available by donation. If you are planning to attend, please contact the parish office by email (olor@shaw.ca) or phone (250) 478-3482 so we'll know how many pizzas to order.
- 25 **St. Elizabeth's, Sidney:** 11:30 am – 1 pm, Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, in the Kitchen & Hospitality room. For more information email coordinator@spparish.com.

December

- 2 **Our Lady of Fatima:** Come enjoy a Portuguese Bake Sale, immediately following the 10 am Mass. 4638 Elk Lake Drive ... all are welcome! For more information, email olfvictoria@shaw.ca or phone (250) 685-1587.
- 11 **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Esquimalt:** 10 am. Come and join us for a unique spiritual experience of the Divine Mercy Message. Sr. Gaudia and Sr. Vianneya from the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, Poland will be our guest speakers. For more information, contact the office at office@gqp.ca or by phone (250) 384-3884.
- 16 **Our Lady of the Rosary:** Annual Christmas Party. Admission is free but your spot needs to be reserved. Please contact the Parish Office to book your ticket: olor@shaw.ca or (250) 478-3482 .

January 2013

- 20 **St. Elizabeth's, Sidney:** 11:30 am – 1 pm, Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, in the Kitchen & Hospitality room. For more information email coordinator@spparish.com.

Upcoming Events

Spain & Portugal 2013, May 24 – June 8

Beginning in Barcelona, visit the beautiful sites of Montserrat, Valencia, Madrid, Avila, Puebla de Sanabria, Santiago de Compostela, Oporto, Fatima, Lisbon and more!!! Enjoy your trip in an air-conditioned coach with professional guide & driver. We will celebrate Holy Mass daily at many famous cathedrals and religious sites with Fr. Shayne Craig as our Chaplain. If you would like to receive a detailed itinerary & pricing information, please contact Denise Buckley (Tour Leader) at two-bucks@shaw.ca or call 250-339-1807.

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.

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



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Island News & Events



Saint Patrick's Parish Celebrates 100 Years

by Paul Redchurch, Parishioner, St. Patrick's Parish

1912 – Our Lady of Lourdes – 1960 – Saint Patrick's – 2012

In January 1911, a small group of Franciscan nuns known as the Poor Clares, whose mother house was in New Orleans, secured, through the generosity of Mr. Michael Carlin, a piece of property in the neighbourhood of the "Exhibition Building." Mr. Carlin, a prominent contractor at that time in the city of Victoria and the owner of considerable land in Oak Bay, donated three lots to the Sisters while a fourth lot was purchased. According to press clippings of the time, the arrival of the nuns seemed an opportune occasion for founding a new Catholic parish with a public chapel to be built in connection with a new convent.

The original parish of Our Lady of Lourdes comprised the whole District of Oak Bay and extended into the City of Victoria as far as St. Charles Street and Belmont Avenue.

The monastery and church were constructed by Victoria contractor Michael Lawless, under the direction of the "new parish" priest, Fr. Adrien Vullingsh who drew up the plans and was the main contractor and foreman. The construction costs were estimated at \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively, less fixtures for the church. At the time of their construction, both buildings were in the country. A photo taken at the time shows wide-open country in all directions and not a single house was seen on the vast landscape.

The new Our Lady of Lourdes Church, which was modeled after the original shrine at Lourdes in France, was consecrated and opened for worship on December 15, 1912 and accommodated approximately 200 people. In 1914 a rectory was built on the east side of the church.

In 1954 the parish, then under the leadership of Fr. Michael McNamara, undertook the building of St. Patrick's Elementary School on Trent Street. The school, which was designed by well-known architect and parishioner John Di Castri opened in January 1956 with two teachers—Sr. Mary Mercy and Sr. Mary Eugenia of the Sisters of St. Ann—teaching a total of 35 pupils in Grades 1 – 4. Today the school has 29 teachers and a student population of 328 in Grades K – 7.

The current St. Patrick's Church was also brought to fruition under the dynamic leadership of the very popular "Fr. Mac" and was also designed by John Di Castri. The first celebration in the new church was Midnight Mass, December 24, 1960. The parish, currently under the direction of pastor Fr. William MacDonald OMI and lay pastoral council, serves over 700 families and is also the spiritual home to the local Vietnamese Catholic community, served by long-time former parish pastor Fr. Peter Ho.

Major parish organizations include the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Development & Peace.

In 1973 the Poor Clare Sisters moved to Duncan and the monastery was torn down in 1975.

The land previously occupied by the original parish church and monastery is now occupied by a parking lot, the parish hall and administrative complex and the 24 unit life-lease St. Clare Villa for seniors, which were all opened in 1999. ✕



At 90 Fr. Joe Keeps His Garden in Bloom!

by Steve Hill, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Ethics at St. Joseph's General Hospital

Having a hobby when you retire is very important, says Father Joseph Killoran.

Born October 15, 1922, in Belledune, New Brunswick, Fr. Joe should know a thing or two about retirement, since he celebrated his 90th birthday last month.

An avid gardener, his garden on Glacier View Drive, known as "Grotto Gardens," has frequently been on garden tours, and visited by numerous parishioners and friends.

Fr. Joe began teaching in 1944 and was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1963. In 1980, he arrived on Vancouver Island, serving in Comox, Victoria, Gold River and Courtenay. He retired to Comox where—no couch potato—he remains active in his garden and in the community.

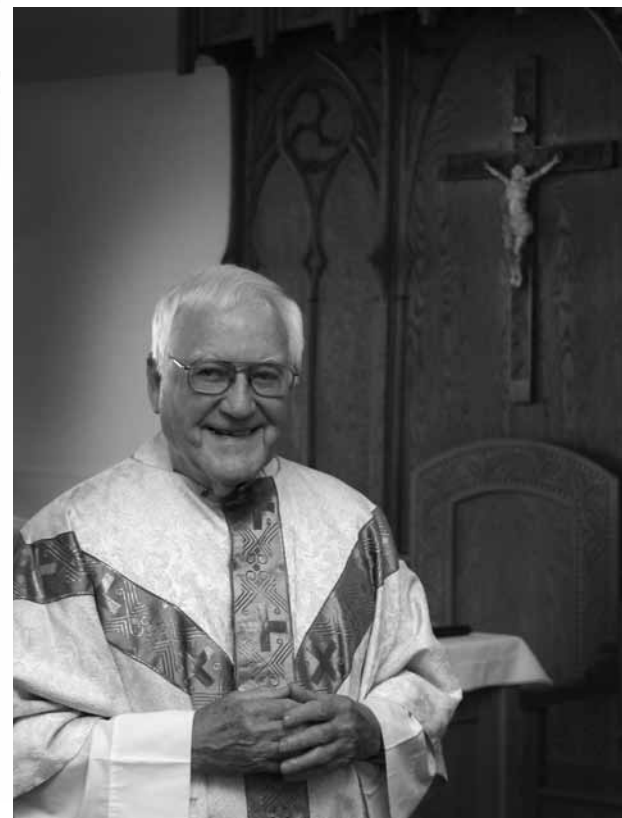
He says weekly Mass in the main chapel at St. Joseph's General Hospital. He visits the sick and aging residents at the Views, and gets up occasionally in the middle of the night to give the Sacrament of the Sick to Catholics who are nearing death.

He also serves as relief Pastor at Christ the King Parish and to neighboring parishes. During a recent Sunday homily he reminded the congregation that all the parts of the Mass are very important. They should listen, and pay attention, to every word!

Renowned for his quick humour, ready smile and laughter, when asked about the secret to his healthy longevity, he laughs, "If I knew the answer to that I could make a lot of money!"

Widely appreciated for his dedication and commitment to serving others, Fr. Joe considers his vocation to the priesthood humbling. He continues to generously serve others to this day.

In June of 2013, Fr. Killoran will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination. More celebrations—and many more smiles—are expected at that time. And his garden is expected to be in full bloom. ✕



Fr. Joe in the Main Chapel of St. Joseph's General Hospital.

Photo credit: Jim Peacock



Long-time parishioner and Oak Bay artist Paul Redchurch was requested to do two paintings of the church, one of which was retained by the parish, and the other was presented to the Bishop and is displayed at the Pastoral Centre

Vatican II After 50 Years: Dialogue and Catholic Identity

by Fr. Thomas Ryan CSP

Dialogue and Catholic identity was at the heart of Georgetown University’s October 11–12 conference celebrating Vatican II After Fifty Years.

“Only in the mid-20th century did dialogue emerge as an acceptable form of religious discourse,” said Fr. Joseph O’Malley SJ, in his keynote address. “After World War II, the cultural imperialism of Western nations was at an end. Christian missionaries realized they had to divest themselves of their cultural prejudices. Religious pluralism had become a fact of life. People rubbed elbows with Jews and Muslims on a daily basis. Was it really true that there was no salvation outside the church?”

O’Malley, the author of *What Happened at Vatican II*, observed how in the Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), the style avoided words of alienation and condemnation. The Church was developing a new language: friendship, brotherhood, sisterhood, conscience, the dignity of every person, collegiality, reconciliation, and mutuality. “Dialogue is the word that captures their spirit. Vatican II represents a language reversal—from monologue to dialogue—in the history of the Church,” he said.

In *The Church in the Modern World* (*Gaudium et Spes*), O’Malley observed, the Church’s relation with the world is described as a dialogue—a cultural dialogue on a mega scale. “But dialogue does not exhaust the meaning of the Council. Dialogue and proclamation must be taken together. The Church’s inclusion of dialogue, however, signals a significant shift in mindset—from threats to persuasion, from exclusion to inclusion, from suspicion to trust, from intransigence to seeking common ground, from alienation to recognition, from monologue to dialogue.”

Catholic and Irrevocably Ecumenical

Another of the speakers, Dr. Catherine Clifford of St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, reminded listeners in her talk *Catholic and Irrevocably Ecumenical* that unity belongs to the very identity of Christ’s Church, and that the Council calls every member of the Roman Catholic Church to work and pray for restoration of full unity among the followers of Jesus. Pope John XXIII considered unity the ultimate aim of the Council.

Dr. Clifford described the language of the Council as a subtle shift away from the narrow and exclusive identification of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Christ. “The experience of dialogue,” she reflected, “gives rise to a deeper understanding of the one Church, as well as of each particular church’s contribution to it with its own unique spirituality, theological emphases and practices.”

She noted how the French priest Paul Couturier, who in the 1930s helped shape the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, invited Christians to pray together rather than for each other’s conversion. He invited people to pray for unity “as Christ wills it and when he wills it.” Couturier’s vision was not centered on Catholicism or a single confessional church, but on Christ so that each of the churches would become more fully “church.”

And in its *Decree on Ecumenism*, the Catholic Church acknowledged that the Church of Christ, while it continues to exist in the Catholic Church, extends beyond the boundaries of the Catholic communion. There was a shift from an “ecumenism of return” to an “ecumenism of recognition.”

On the topic of dialogue and ecclesial identity, Clifford observed how, when Paul VI succeeded John XXIII, he brought a heightened consciousness that the identity of the church must include the dissonance between the church’s self-identity and it’s identity in the eyes of the world in its divided state.

“Ecclesial identity is not a fixed reality,” said Clifford, “but a dynamic reality.” As developed in his 1964 encyclical *Ecclesial Suam*, Paul VI saw the church’s dialogue with the modern world as critical if the church is to fulfill its mission. It can’t be indifferent to the world, but must come closer to it. Dialogue is to become the fundamental disposition that underpins every aspect of the church’s life and mission. “There’s scarcely a page in the Council documents in which ‘dialogue’ does not appear.”

It is to be a hallmark of the Church’s relations both within and beyond the Church. Clifford noted that “Vatican II embraced this principle of dialogue in its Decree on Religious Liberty which affirms the right of very person to follow the dictates of conscience, while also requiring us to seek the truth. Dialogue is a common search for the truth.”

The exchange involved in dialogue reveals the inner nature of the church which reflects God’s dialogue with the world. “The Church is called to be a sacrament, a sign of unity for the whole human community. We have to live that not only among ourselves within our own church but amongst all churches,” she said.

“We would do a great disservice to seminarians today if we did not prepare them to be agents of dialogue,” said Dr. Clifford. A deep commitment to ecumenism must inspire them to work for the ongoing renewal of the Catholic Church. They must become themselves instruments of dialogue and reconciliation. The way we live together and love one another is the only effective way we have to ‘be church’ today, to proclaim the Gospel.” ✠

Thomas Ryan CSP, directs the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in Washington, DC.



Rob Reid congratulates the two resident Mount St. Marythoners

Mount St. Marythoners Complete Their Own Marathons!

by Mandy Parker, Executive Director, Mount St. Mary Foundation

Funds raised will renovate rooms and build the endowment
Every year, I am amazed and inspired by everyone who participates in our annual fundraising event. This year is no different. We went with the theme “What does your marathon look like?” and our Marythoners embraced it.

The team was 57 strong this year with 36 pledge collectors either walking, running, cycling or wheel-chairing in their own event or in one of the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon events held on Sunday, October 7. Two Cheering Stations volunteers tracked their steps and recorded an amazing 32,000 and 29,000 steps, equivalent to a half marathon.

For the first time since the GoodLife Fitness Marathon’s Charity Pledge Program began seven years ago, two Mount St. Mary residents participated. One walked and another wheel-chaired his own marathon, and both collected pledges. I’m inspired because of the courage and determination it took for these two residents to get out and do it. They could have just stayed home but no, they wanted to make a difference—and that they did.

For one resident, it was his dream to complete a marathon. At 77 years of age, he never thought it possible, but every week for 10 weeks leading up to the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon, he pushed his walker around Victoria, keeping track of his mileage. And by the tenth week he had completed the equivalent of two marathons. The other resident performed a similar feat in his wheelchair.

Both men crossed the official finish tape at Mount St. Mary Hospital to much fanfare and media. Race director Rob Reid was onsite to present marathon medals to our two Marythoners. One resident was asked by the media if it was hard, and he replied, “Yes, it was very hard, I walked more than two times a marathon! I’m tired and going to go for lunch.”

We are blessed to have such great support from the participants and those who pledge their support either through donations, sponsorship, in-kind gifts or through purchase of a business-card-sized ad. We couldn’t do it without all of you and the Board and Hospital with to extend a great big “thank you” for helping to raise \$44,443—with more coming in every day!

There is still time to contribute to this year’s events.

Donations to the “marathon” will be accepted until December 31. Visit www.msmfoundation.ca, or call 250.480.3138 or mail to: Mount St. Mary Foundation, 861 Fairfield Road, Victoria, BC V8V 5A9 ✠

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The Call to Life

by Fr. John Laszczyk, Rector, St. Andrew's Cathedral

Respect Life Ministry at the Cathedral has had a terrific impact upon many in the last two years. At first the Ministry began in response to a need to assist an unwed mother who needed assistance in bringing her baby to term contrary to the wishes of the father. Since then many mothers and fathers have been counselled; some have brought their babies to term while others, regrettably have chosen a different path.

For those who accept our assistance we offer numerous counselling and support sessions, provision of a doula or a mid-wife, help to set up nurseries, as well as guiding some mothers through adoption procedures as they offer their child better possibilities with new parents. With five different moms there has been a need to assist with court proceedings.

Annette Turgeon, Respect Life Ministry Coordinator, states:

“While responding and reaching out to pregnant women is central to the ministry, we reach out to all people, younger and older, when they are experiencing a crisis in their lives. We seek to respond to them as they encounter their struggles within their lives. There are so many issues as a result of a world that treats us as objects and consumers. Young women can be overwhelmed by a culture obsessed with image and materialism and young men may be tempted down a path towards objectification and selfishness. When a person does not understand his or her value or purpose in life, we should not be surprised that they do not see the beauty and dignity of every life, especially the tiniest or weakest. At Respect Life Ministry we seek to give them a glimpse of the complexity and beauty of life, while addressing the areas of their struggles. The human heart is designed to love and be loved and our work is sometimes the first time people hear about the meaning of life and the possibility of reclaiming their dignity while living the struggle.”

Respect Life Ministry is also involved with family and marriage counselling including domestic violence, takes referrals for addiction and pornography counselling and is working with the Diocesan Office of Social Justice to host four Sanctity of Life workshops throughout the Diocese in the next few months.

This ministry exists only through the financial generosity of its supporters. If you would like to become a supporter, your donation will be gratefully received. Donations can be sent or brought to St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View Street, Victoria BC, V8W 1J8 with a notation that it is for Respect Life Ministry. If you wish to use VISA or a Debit card please contact the Cathedral office at 250-388-5571. ✕

Testimony

I came across Respect Life Ministry when I was working with my mom and one of her clients had learnt I was pregnant. She gave me a Respect Life Ministry pamphlet. I read it and while it appealed to me, I am not Catholic and did not know how I would be accepted. I ended up calling the number a couple days later. The phone call was easy, warm and welcoming. There was no condemnation, no judging and no pressure. I no longer felt alone in this situation.

I met with the co-coordinator of Respect Life Ministry and soon discovered a whole Catholic community behind me without a sliver of shame or embarrassment. Respect Life Ministry saw me through my pregnancy, providing prenatal vitamins, prenatal care, a nursery for my daughter, legal assistance, reconciliation with my family and friends, and counselling throughout the whole situation. The coordinator and mentor assigned to my situation were there for me as friend and mentor. Both these women held my hand throughout the whole process; comforting me, encouraging me and reassuring me that I would not be abandoned and left on my own. I was especially assured that my baby and I would be okay in the end.

My life has changed for the better and I am so grateful I made the choice to bring my daughter to term; she is the light of my life. I'm not sure what I would have done without the support and guidance of Respect Life Ministry.



St. Joseph's General Hospital, Comox: AGM Highlights a Year of Changes

by Jane Murphy, CEO

The field of health care is complex with rapidly changing treatments, technologies and practices. The last year has seen a number of changes at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Comox.

Bishop Richard Gagnon joined the hospital Board and Executives for their annual general meeting on July 13, 2012 to review the highlights of the last fiscal year. Some of those highlights include a 19% increase in the number of surgeries performed, the balancing of a budget originally facing a large deficit and a 44% increase in the number of days patients waiting for alternative care spent in the hospital.

The year also brought with it a new CEO, Jane Murphy, the achievement of full accreditation for the hospital and the announcement of the North Island Hospitals Project.

“The hospital has made a number of improvements over the last year and will continue to do so despite the fact that a new hospital will open in the Valley in a few years,” said Ms. Murphy. “It is important to remember that St. Joseph's will continue to provide acute care services to this community and region for many of our programs for at least five more years. We must stay focused on the care we are providing and also continue to develop and enhance those services. Our population is growing and aging and so standing still until a new hospital is built is not in the interest of our community,” Ms. Murphy added.

2013 will mark 100 years of service that St. Joseph's General Hospital has provided to the Comox Valley and North Island.

St. Joseph's Hospital was founded in 1913 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto at the request of the Comox Logging Co. The willingness of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto to respond to this request is an example of Christian virtues and traditions in the Healing Ministry of the Church.

Given the fast-paced nature and the ever-changing field of health care, it is imperative that St. Joseph's always keeps the patients and residents it serves at the center of everything it does.

Everyday physicians, staff and volunteers perform big and small acts that make a difference. Having the knowledge, skill and equipment to provide high quality care is essential; however, as important is that our patients and residents truly feel compassion and kindness in the care they receive.

At St. Joseph's, the key enabler to our success is our unique, values-based organizational culture derived from our history of the Sisters of St. Joseph's of Toronto and the values they espoused in delivering their mission of “Care With Compassion.” Our culture inspires innovation, excellence and compassionate care. ✕



L to R: Jim Bennett, Chair of the Board, Jane Murphy, CEO and Bishop Richard Gagnon

Photograph compliments of Comox Valley Echo Newspaper

Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world. Don't ever underestimate the beauty and power of the witness you give in your pro-life work.

~ Archbishop Charles Chaput

St. Joseph the Worker Winds Down its 50th Anniversary Celebrations

by Jean Allen

What began with the blessing of a first legacy and a community meal ended in the same manner as the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker gathered on October 20 for the blessing of the newly constructed Marian Grotto, and to close the Jubilee year with a thanksgiving Mass followed by a potluck.

The Marian Grotto was a long-time dream of pastor Fr. William Hann. When office administrator for St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jenny Daniels, who had a great devotion to Mother Mary, died in February this year, her husband, Peter, agreed with Fr. William to coordinate the design and construction of the Grotto. He led the fundraising with his own substantial donation in memory of Jenny. Through the donations and hard work of many parishioners, the work was completed in September 2012.

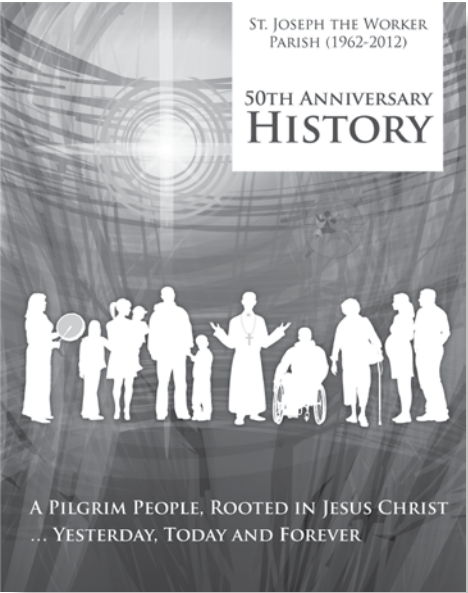


“The Marian Grotto Memorial Garden is a place to sanctify the memory of loved ones and to sit at the feet of Our Lady of Grace. Memory and prayer in the presence of Mother Mary will bring much comfort and peace,” said Fr. Hann.

Mass began with a stirring and appropriate First Nation’s Prayer Song sung by Traditional Anishinaabe Teacher, Louise Milburn. The song, *Creator’s Own Song* is over 10,000 years old. “When we sing that song, we think about all the things we have to be grateful for in our lives and the many blessings that the Creator bestows upon us including life itself,” explained Milburn. “During this time of the 7th fire, we believe we are in a time of healing for ourselves, each other, and the earth.”



In his homily, Bishop Richard encouraged parishioners to claim the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look to the future with hope. “Remember the people of faith who have influenced you. This is the Year of Faith and we are called to listen to God’s words, heed them and act upon them.”



One last legacy remains in this Jubilee year. A visual and comprehensive history celebrating the roots and the parish’s journey to date will be published and available for purchase in November.

“The 50th Anniversary has been a meaningful milestone filled with a litany of memories, events and legacies,” said Moira King, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee. “Special thanks to the Committee members who planned the year-long 50th Anniversary celebrations and to all those who gave so generously of their time, talent and treasure to make our 50th celebrations so memorable.” ✂

50th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Emeritus Remi J. De Roo

Taken from remarks made by James O’Reilly on September 16, 2012

We have gathered today to recognize some significant milestones and to give thanks for the blessings received through God’s servant, Bishop Remi DeRoo. At age 38, he was the youngest Bishop in the world at the time of his appointment, and is one of the last surviving bishops of Vatican II who attended all four sessions of the Council from 1962 to 1964. Bishop Remi served 37 years as the Bishop of Victoria, and officially marks 50 years as a bishop in December—which makes him the longest-serving Bishop in Canada.

Apart from these distinctions one cannot but be impressed by Bishop Remi’s intellect; his accomplishments in the areas of philosophy, sociology, and catechetics; and as an author or co-author of a dozen books, not to mention his facility with a wide variety of languages. Anyone who has heard him address questions following a presentation knows what I mean.

Appointed Bishop of Victoria on October 31, 1962, Bishop Remi was immediately summoned to the Second Vatican Council, already in session since October 11 of that year. He was active at all four sessions, and addressed the Council on four occasions, and also submitted and/or co-signed a number of written “interventions.” As we also celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of Vatican II with the Year of Faith, it is significant to note that the Year of Faith’s importance is marked by the focus on the New Evangelization—reemphasising the dignity and responsibility of our baptismal calling, rooted in Encounter and Relationship with Christ, in service for each other and the world, for the sake of the Reign of God.

- It is quite fitting to note that one of Bishop Remi’s interventions at the Council dealt with:
- the unity of the divine creative and redemptive plan;
 - the one vocation of all believers concerning simultaneously both spiritual and so-called temporal matters;
 - the sacramental character of family life and conjugal intimacy;
 - the one calling of the ordained ministerial priesthood concerning all spheres of life; and
 - religious freedom and ecumenism.

- We also know that Bishop Remi’s contributions have been far from limited to academia; he was and continues to be very active—on the ground, in diverse communities, with the people, particularly the poor and the marginalized. In addition to his example, his leadership has been extensive, for example he has served as:
- Canadian Episcopal Representative on the International Secretariat of the Apostleship of the Sea (1963-78)
 - Founding Member and Vice-President, of the World Conference for Religion and Peace, (Kyoto 1970) WCRP Canada (1988)
 - Chairman of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop’s Social Affairs Commission, (1973-87; 1991-95), (1980-85)
 - First Chairperson, of the Human Rights Commission for the Province of British Columbia (1974-77)
 - Member and President of the Western Conference of Catholic Bishops, (1984-88)
 - Member of the CCCB’s Theology Commission, (1987-91)
 - Former CCCB Representative on the Vatican’s Commission for Culture
 - Founder and Honorary Life Member of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (CSRS) here at the University of Victoria, B.C.

As we are standing in a school gymnasium I think it is also important to note that it was through the efforts of Bishop Remi that Catholic schools in this province first received government funding through successful lobbying by the Federation of Independent Schools which was formed in 1966 in the library of Corpus Christi School in Vancouver.

It is also fitting to acknowledge that today we live in a time of great promise for the Church in Canada and for our Diocese, which I would suggest directly connects us to the vision of our Council Father—and a key vision of the Second Vatican Council—which should give us encouragement and move us forward together. I am referring to the efforts of our Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops with the release of their “national blueprint” for evangelization and catechesis, *On Good Soil*, as well as the release of our own Diocesan Pastoral Plan under Bishop Richard’s guidance, *Claiming the Past with Gratitude; Living the Present with Enthusiasm; Looking to the Future with Hope*. It is good to be here!

Before I end a couple of quotes—the first one being from sacred Scripture and chosen by Bishop Remi as his motto; and the second, his reasons for choosing this quote. I think these sum up why we are all here.

Aedificatio in Caritate: “To build in love.” (Taken from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians chapter 4, verse 16)

This was chosen as my motto to emphasize my conviction that the common vocation of all baptized believers is to build up the Body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit bestowed on all the members of the Church by Jesus, [the] Risen Lord.

Let us give thanks to God for his faithful servant, Bishop Remi De Roo. ✂

Appointments

Judicial Vicar Appointed

Bishop Richard Gagnon is pleased to announce that Rev. John Laszczyk JCL, Vicar General, has been appointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Victoria. Fr. John was ordained on June 16, 1979 by Bishop Remi De Roo and served in Victoria, Campbell River, and Courtenay prior to being appointed as Rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral in 2001. Fr. John graduated with a Licentiate in Canon Law from St. Paul's University in 1986 and has served as a Judge and Defender of the Bond for our Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.



Fr. John Laszczyk JCL

Chancellor Appointed

Bishop Richard Gagnon is pleased to announce that Mrs. Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins has been appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria. Cynthia's experience with the Diocese began in 1994 as Secretary at Queen of Peace Parish and continued at Holy Cross Parish where she served as Parish Coordinator from 1999 – 2003. Cynthia joined the Pastoral Centre team in August 2003 when she was hired by Bishop Roussin to serve as his Executive Assistant and she has continued in that role with Bishop Richard Gagnon since that time.



Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins

In addition to facilitating the many responsibilities of the Bishop's Office, Cynthia has assisted with various tasks in the Chancery Office and also been responsible for the commitments associated with the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, encompassing outreach to the First Nations communities, and coordinating the *Returning to Spirit*® workshops. Cynthia is a part of the Pastoral Centre leadership team and her new responsibilities as Chancellor will include the Diocesan archives, serving as notary and secretary of the Curia, and continuing to respond to various needs of the clergy and the parishes.

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Richard Gagnon has, in consultation with the Priest Personnel Committee, made the following pastoral appointments:

Effective October 9, 2012

Rev. William Hann appointed Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools and Evangelization, while continuing to serve as Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria and Bishop's representative to Catholic Health Care.



Fr. William Hann

Rev. Marek Paczka SDS appointed the Bishop's representative to the Board of St. Joseph's General Hospital in Comox while continuing to serve as Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Comox/Courtenay.

Effective November 1, 2012

Rev. Frank Franz will serve as part-time Administrator of Our Lady of Grace Parish on Salt Spring Island until further notice. ✠

“Prayer in action is love,
love in action is service.”

~ Blessed Mother Teresa

Camp Homewood 2013

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For more information, contact one of the Diocesan Retreat coordinators:
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BONNI ROSET (broset@telus.net) 250-923-4299

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Year of Faith



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

The Year of Faith and How We're Called to Live It

by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput OFM, Cap.

In leading us into the Year of Faith, which began October 11, Pope Benedict calls on each of us as believers to “rediscover [God’s] joy,” to “radiate [God’s] word,” and to make our Christian witness “frank and contagious.”

Now those are wonderful words, but how do we actually live them? We need to begin by realizing that we’re not being asked to do the impossible—only the uncomfortable and inconvenient.

Benedict is asking us to examine our hearts and our habits of life without excuses or alibis. He’s asking us to tear down the cathedral we build to ourselves, the whole interior architecture of our vanities, our resentments and our endless appetites, and to channel all the restless fears and longings of modern life into a hunger for the Holy Spirit. If you think that sounds easy or pious, try it this week.

In every generation, Christians yearn to get back to the “purity of the early Church,” and of course that seems like an admirable goal. But the Church has *never* been pristine. She’s *never* been without scandals and sinners, apostates and critics and persecutors. St. Paul was run out of town more than once; he was rejected by his brothers more than once; and when he writes his Epistle to the Ephesians, he’s writing from a jail cell.

In reality, sin is part of the human terrain and a daily challenge to our discipleship. And if our hearts are cold, if our minds are closed, if our spirits are fat and acquisitive, curled up on a pile of our possessions, then the Church in this country will wither. It’s happened before in other times and places, and it can happen here. We can’t change the world by ourselves. And we can’t reinvent the Church. But we can help God change us. We can live our faith with zeal and conviction—and then God will take care of the rest.

Benedict has some concrete suggestions for the Year of Faith that deserve our close attention. Three of them stand out:

First, the Holy Father urges parishes and other church groups to study the Creed and the Catechism. The Creed is the definition of who we are. It’s a fundamental declaration of Catholic faith, identity and belonging.

Second, the Pope asks us “to intensify [our] witness of charity.” The Pope stresses that faith and charity depend on one another. Faith without charity “bears no fruit.”

Third and finally, Benedict urges us study the history of our faith and see the way in which “holiness and sin” are so often woven together.

Henri de Lubac, the great Jesuit theologian, once said that when the world insinuates itself into the heart of the Church, the Church becomes worse than the world—not just a caricature of the world, but the world in greater mediocrity and even greater ugliness.

Real faith—the kind our Holy Father calls us to—demands a keen awareness of our failures as Christians and a spirit of repentance. It requires us to seek out who Jesus Christ really is, and what he asks from each of us as disciples. And that always involves the Cross.

Does that sound anything like the actual tone of Catholic life in our country today? Too often, probably not. Yet that’s the life of honesty, holiness, heroism and sacrifice that God asks from all of us as a Church and each of us as individual believers in the Year of Faith.

Human beings make history, not the other way around. God made us to be happy with him; to be loved by him; and to bring others to know his love. That’s the glory of being alive. That’s the grandeur of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The task of preaching and teaching, growing and living the Catholic faith in *our* time, in *this* country, belongs to you and me. No one else can do it. The future depends on God, but he builds it with the living stones we give him by the example of our lives. ✠

Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, OFM, Cap. is the Archbishop of Philadelphia

Source: Catholic News Agency: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/column.php?n=2335&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+catholicnewsagency%2Fcolumns%2Fbishops%2Fcorner+%28CNA+Columns%3A+Bishops%27+Corner%29&utm_content=Google+International

2013 TRIPS OF A LIFETIME SILVER TOURS PRESENTS

Silver Tours is sponsoring 2 Sisters from the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, Poland in collaboration with St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo for a Spiritual Experience in Vancouver Island. Meet & Listen to Sr. Gaudia & Sr. Vianneya of the Divine Mercy Shrine, Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy (St. Faustina), visiting from Krakow, Poland.

They will speak of the Mercy & Love of Jesus at the following parishes:

07Dec.2012 – 9:00AM- Trinity Catholic, 3:00PM - St. Peter's Parish- Nanaimo B.C.
08Dec.2012 – 10:00AM Church of the Ascension, Parksville, Tel: (250) 250-248-3747
5:00PM St. Peter's Parish (250) 753 3570 & 6:00PM Trinity Catholic, (250) 390 2612
09Dec.2012 – 9:00AM – Trinity Catholic 8:30AM&10:30AM – St. Peter's Parish, Nanaimo
10Dec.2012 – 2:00PM – Cenacle & Divine Mercy Devotion – St. Peter's Parish, Nanaimo
11Dec. 2012 – 10:00AM – Queen of Peace Church, Esquimalt- Tel:(250) - 384 3884

Pilgrimage to the Child Jesus of Prague and to the Divine Mercy - September 17-27, 2013

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Highlights: Czech Republic: Prague: Our Lady of Victorious Church(Child Jesus of Prague) Charles Bridge, Old Town, Our Lady of the Snow, St. Vitus Cathedral, Our Lady of Loreto Church, Mala Strana, Brno(St. James Church). Poland: Krakow: Divine Mercy Shrine, PJPII Centre, Wadowice, Wawel Hill, Mariacki Church, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wieliczka Salt Mines. Auschwitz: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Czestochowa: Black Madonna, 14th Century Paulite Monastery at Jasna Gora.

With Extension to Lithuania, Vilnius 17Sep-01Oct, 2013 \$ _____ includes all of the above plus an overnight in Frankfurt on the return.

Highlights: Church of the Holy Spirit(Divine Mercy original Image), Vilnius Cathedral, Gate of Dawn Chapel(Ostra Brama), Hill of Crosses, Franciscan Monastery, Shrine of Our Lady of Siluva

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Island Catholic Schools



Victor Anderson Memorial

by Brenda Hennig

In July 2011, our school community lost a light that was precious to us. One of our previous students, Victor Anderson, was called home to be with our Lord at the age of eighteen. As a school community we came together to support the family and mourn. In memory of Victor the family is raising money to erect a basketball court in his memory. Victor loved the game of basketball, which he played at Queen of Angels and Brentwood College. His energy and enthusiasm was well known and he was loved by all who knew him as a player, and as a young man.

His legacy at our school will be the basketball court for generations of students to be able to enjoy. Situated under the trees on our upper field where Victor played as a child, the basketball court has been poured and the family is working to put up the basketball nets. In the corner of the court inset in the asphalt is Victor's number, eleven, which he wore as a player at Queen of Angels. Victor's love for life and his faith will never be forgotten.

You can still donate to the Victor Anderson Memorial Fund by sending a donation directly to Island Catholic Schools, 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, V8X 2A1 and indicate "in memory of Victor Anderson. You may also donate directly online at Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org, Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria #129848016RR0001. Under the dedication and gift option please indicate in memory of "Victor Anderson." ✕



St. Andrew's Regional High School

by Mary Kearsey

Life at St. Andrew's Regional High School has been very busy during the months of September and October. The opening school Mass was held on September 27 at Sacred Heart Church. On October 11, the Universal Church began The Year of Faith and it was agreed that each of our school Masses would introduce a "hero of our faith." Our first hero of faith was Mother Teresa. The theme of the homily was based on her poem, *Anyway*. Many staff members and students participated in the Mass by singing, reading and ushering. Thank you.

October began with the World Food Day food drive supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Each TAG (Teacher Advisory Group) collected food for a week. At the Thanksgiving Assembly students gathered to listen to Mrs. Angela Hudson speak about why food banks were created and the need to support the food banks within our community. On October 16th—World Food Day—students from the grade 9 religion classes went to St. Andrew's Elementary school to join the elementary students as they walk to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The grade 9 students then helped to unload and shelve all the food collected from Island Catholic Schools.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway."

~ Excerpt from Poem *Anyway* by Blessed Mother Teresa

To celebrate the beginning of the Universal Church's Year of Faith staff and students of SARHS gathered at Sacred Heart church to participate in the Living Rosary. Led by Fr. Paul Szczur, staff members from the Religion department and over 50 students from grades 8 – 12, the SARHS community meditated on the Luminous Mysteries. What a beautiful way to begin The Year of Faith.

The first retreat of the year was the Grade 8 retreat. Led by Mr. Brock and student retreat leaders, grade 8 students enjoyed a fun-filled day at Camp Pringle. Students enjoyed ice-breakers, personal and group prayer experiences, group discussions and a competitive game of Capture the Flag. The retreat ended with a lovely meal, reflection time, and Confession. Thanks, Mr. Brock. ✕

Kingdom of God

by Hannah Sullivan
Grade 6 St. Joseph's Chemainus

The kingdom of God is in all of our hearts.

*If you listen to these things
you shall love God with all your heart, soul
and mind.*

*Love your neighbour like yourself,
and love all the people around you,
and spread your arms wide.*

*Love all God's creation
and respect God's creatures.*

*Follow the Lord Jesus
and follow these laws.*

*If someone does something mean
do something good back.
Love your enemies*

and the Kingdom of God will be in your heart.

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Queen of Angels G.O.A.L.S

by Brenda Hennig

Queen of Angels is striving to create a safe and loving environment for our students. Our Positive Behaviour Philosophy is:

Through practicing Gospel Values we are committed to providing a quality education and the development of a safe, caring, dynamic and culturally responsible school environment. By teaching and modeling positive and respectful behaviours all students will have the opportunity to experience success and meet their G.O.A.L.S.

The first letter in the acronym stands for Gospel Values. Under Gospel Values we look at Jesus’ teachings about how we should treat others and ourselves. We need to focus on inclusiveness, making sure that all of the students in the school are active participants in the activities both in the classroom and on the playground.

- Students will strive to include everyone; in turn, they will feel like part of a strong school community.
- Students will learn about being patient with one another: this does not come easily to any of us, and the disciples in the scriptures also struggled with this. Jesus shows us everyday that he has patience for us and we need to strive to follow his way.
- Politeness is so important to building a strong community: it helps to break down barriers that may have been built up around students as well as teachers. We need to tear down the barriers with kindness to one another.
- Respect for Catholic Traditions is also a focus: biblical readings and traditions help to strengthen our faith. It is vital that students see that this is an important part of Catholic Education.
- Last but not least, is having respect for oneself, others and the school environment. When we show respect for ourselves and others we are honouring God as well. God created each and every one of us in His likeness with love: as God’s creations we need to show respect and be respected.

All of these items will be focused on and taught as important to our students. When students are seen honouring these Gospel Values with their behaviour they will be recognized for those actions.

The second letter of the acronym stands for Ownership. Ownership is taking responsibility for your actions and words. As followers of Christ we must be aware that what we say and do can affect others, so we need to understand it is our responsibility to be aware of what we say. How a student prepares for a class or activity can reflect how they feel about a situation. Respect for the dress code fits into ownership as well. Practicing healthy habits shows respect for God’s creations. In Hebrews, it says, “But Christ was faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house if we hold fast our confidence and pride in our hope.” (Hebrews 3:6)

The third letter stands for Attitude. Positive attitudes can increase the sense of community in the school. When students feel included their demeanor can change. We want our community to focus on being friendly, positive, willing to help, showing good sportsmanship and doing one’s best. These are aspects of the Christian journey that affect us on a day-to-day basis. We strive to follow Jesus’ example: this is not an easy feat, so a positive attitude from others and a willingness to help can share the load. In turn, a positive attitude can build a renewed sense of community that solidifies a sense of belonging.

The fourth letter stands for Leadership. Even though we may not feel equipped for this task, we are called to lead. Moses felt the same way. “Who am I that I should go to the Pharaoh, and bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11) Thus leadership needs to be nurtured in each student. Some areas to focus on to compliment students on the growth of leadership include looking out for one another, positive problem solving and participating in school opportunities. Moses led humbly and was a good role model for others; this is what is expected from our students as well.

The last letter stands for Safety. Personal safety is important in building a safe and caring environment. We all need to feel safe. Listening, following directions, watching for hazards and asking for help are all ways in which we can ensure safety in our community. Our personal safety is not the only safety we need to watch for; we need to look out for others as well. If someone is being bullied it is our responsibility to report it. Jesus has called us to be our brothers’ keepers. “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

Please help us to pray that this program helps to build our students a strong foundation in faith as well as a safe and caring environment in which each and every student will find success.

Revitalization to Athletic Success

Our school is very excited to have a new revitalized gym for our students. This will increase the positive opportunities for our students. Over the summer Mr. Hervieux, our school custodian, worked tirelessly to have the gym ready for the start of school. The gym looks amazing, with a new floor, glass backboards, a new paint job and a new state-of-the-art scoreboard. A new concrete subfloor was poured and new flooring put on top of it. Mr. Hervieux renovated the dressing room and entrance as well. He even painted the ceiling! Thank you, Mr. Hervieux, for all of your work—you make the school a better place!



Queen of Angels will now be able to host tournaments, games and events in a well-equipped and impressive facility. We were so overwhelmed by the difference; we are now able to provide a multi-functional surface for our students to participate in so many activities.

As a school we have a new project for which we are fundraising; we would like to update our playground for our primary students. The School Council, Parent Group and School are all working together to see that this project comes to fruition. When the whole community comes together with a common goal, we see a unity that is special in Catholic Schools, a small miracle of God’s people working together for the benefit of the community. To date we have raised \$25,000 towards the project. That is the greatest gift we could receive as a school. Thank you all!

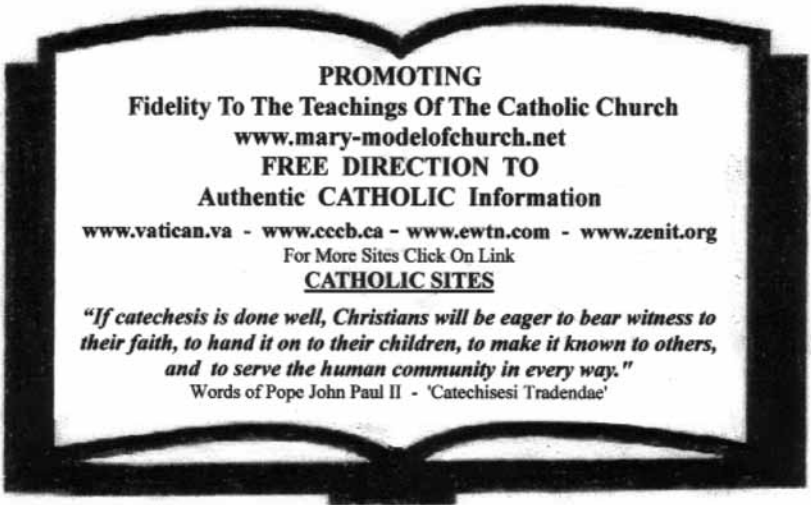
Healing the Hurt and Building Bridges Through Love

Queen of Angels has seen a number of changes throughout the last number of years. There have been staffing changes, changes to the structure and changes at the church. Through change we are able to learn and grow, and with prayer the school has been growing in the Lord’s love.

Father Alfredo has come to St. Edward’s Parish and with that we have seen a connection being solidified between the church and the school. He has been focusing on building a Friday-night youth group, using the school facility. The youth group has been running two years. All students are welcome to participate and there is a following that includes students of many denominations. Father’s ministry is growing, and is a real complement to our school. Father is also making frequent visits into the classrooms to answer questions and pray with the students, giving our students a understanding of the priest’s role in the church.

We have also seen a miracle start to happen within our families in the school. As the discussion of faith-based schools has been in the forefront this past year and the church is finding ways to start to heal the hurt that has occurred over hundreds of years in the First Nations Communities, Queen of Angels has seen a positive change start to happen. Our school has a close tie to the Cowichan community, and we are seeing healing happen as families experience the love and concern our staff has for the children. This gift of God’s love is manifested in the staff whose concern for all students prevails, and their dedication to students’ academic success is shown in everything that they do. The students are able to grow and learn in safe and loving classrooms. In the morning, many of our students come to the cooking lab to have breakfast and start their day with a sense of community as they eat their breakfast, all grades together as one family. Although this is a bit noisy at times, the smiles and laughter warms even the coldest day and students are able to start their days with their cups filled, both physically and spiritually. As we know communion happens when a group of God’s people comes together and this is the experience every morning at Queen of Angels.

We are thankful for the love and guidance that God has shown us, and we pray that He guides us in the work He wants us each to do. If we stay faithful to God, we can glorify Him in the work we do in His name. ✠



Open
Wide
the Door
of Faith

Catholic Schools Week
February 3 - 9, 2013



Steeped in the Light of Faith for 125 Years

by Members of the St. Francis Xavier 125th Anniversary Committee

The celebration of an anniversary reminds us that Christian people living in the midst of the world's history are like Janus of Roman mythology, who looked forward and backward simultaneously.

On Saturday September 8, 2012, that is exactly what happened, with thanksgiving for the past, joy in the present and hope for the future, St. Francis Xavier Church in Mill Bay celebrated its 125th anniversary. This celebration was aided by idyllic weather which afforded the perfect backdrop for a colourful procession where an enthusiastic crowd of current and former parishioners, historians, descendants of pioneer families, and representatives of local organizations, community and civic leaders had gathered for this momentous occasion.

Bishop Richard Gagnon was the principle celebrant along with four clergy, namely Fr. Joseph Wang (2001-2004), Fr. Vince Borre (2004-2008), Fr. Sean Flynn (2010-) and from St. Edward's, Duncan, Fr. Alfredo Monacelli. In addition, we warmly welcomed Rev. Scott Pittendrigh, Rector from St. John's Anglican Church in Cobble Hill.

A massive 100'x40' marquee which had been beautifully appointed for the occasion provided the near-capacity crowd with a splendid setting for the celebration of Mass. The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus formed an honour guard and two parish banners were proudly carried by long-time parishioners representing the Leask, Mudge and Simard families.

Following Mass, a catered lunch was served to guests who then reminisced with old friends, made new ones or strolled the grounds. More than ten historic displays depicting our church's history drew no shortage of visitors. A short DVD along with period music *Thanks for the Memories* and Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* was produced for the occasion. Featuring more than 70 pictures of the parish events, parishioners and clergy, it was a stroll through yesteryear showing us where we've been and where we are. Many found the section featuring a number of parish veterans particularly moving.

The Warmland Calligraphers, a Duncan organization, were on hand to present an outstanding display of calligraphy showcasing the strong connection between the church and this historic form of writing. The Mill Bay Malahat Historical Society provided displays depicting local history including Bamberton and the Malahat; several members were present to discuss various aspects of local history.

"What was the area like in 1887 when St. Francis Xavier was built? Along with First Nations villages, during the early years, except for a fringe of settlement bordering on Mill Bay, there lay an almost untracked wilderness," writes Mr. N.P. Dougan in *Cowichan My Valley*.

Such was the area when the DeLoume family arrived to settle these parts. Armed with little more than a song on their lips, a prayer in their hearts and axes on their shoulders, little by little they overcame the obstacles of nature and hewed their farm out of the wilderness. They built with the materials at hand, often Douglas Fir. A log shack was chinked against the cold with thick moss and roofed with rough split shakes. Great care was taken so that nails would be unnecessary. Nails were a luxury they could not afford. Their farm, "The Good Hope Farm," provided a bounty of vegetables, but not without great effort on their part—which included carrying water quite some distance. Timber was cut for their own use but the DeLoume family also made certain that there was wood cut and stacked for church use. Exquisitely decorated tabernacle veils were made without the aid of store-bought paints and the four male family members provided the church with an orchestra and a choir capable of singing in four-part harmony.

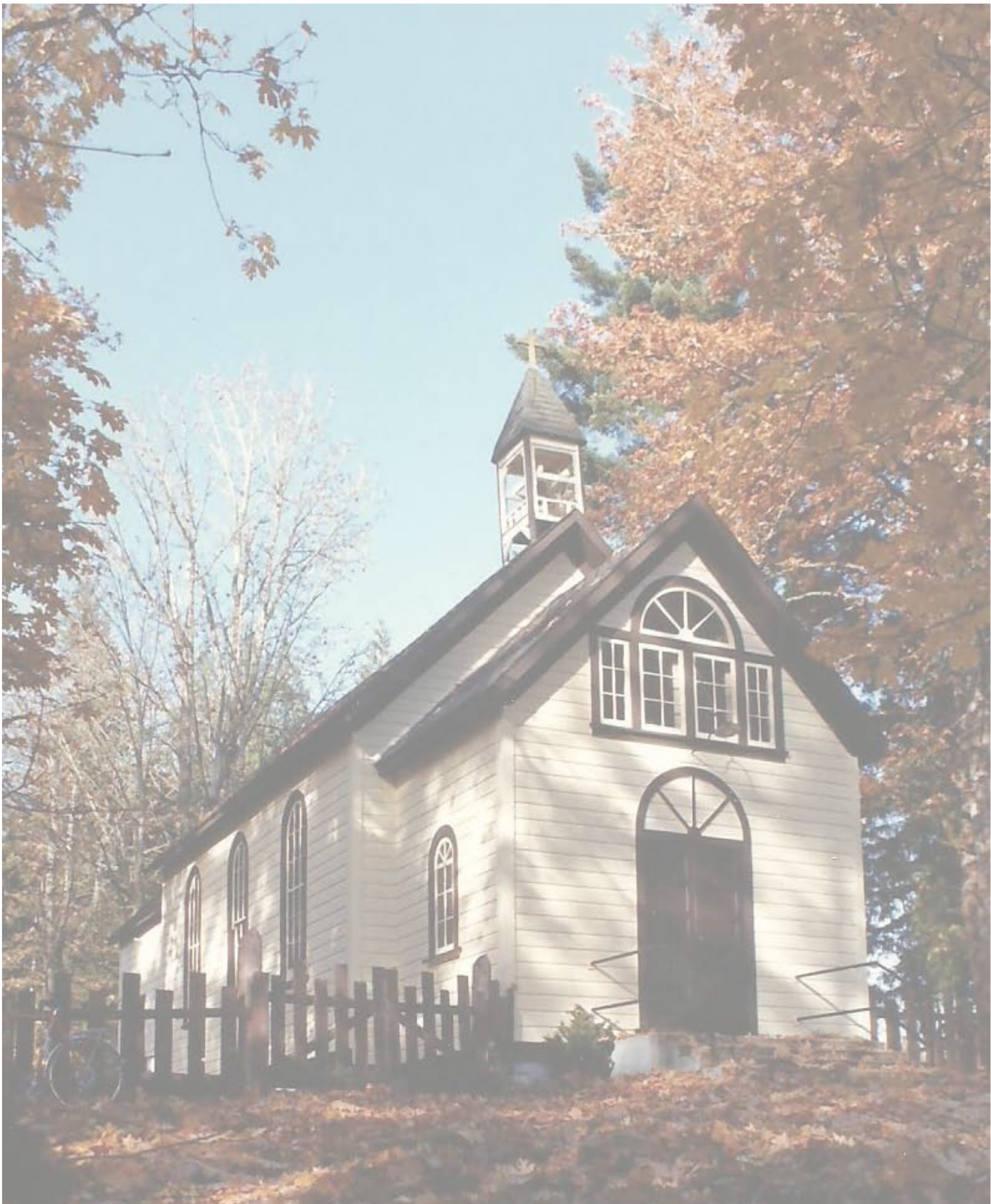
Of course, the world is a vastly different place from what it was 125 years ago. It is doubtful that Fr. Gustave Donckele and his congregation of 1887 could have ever conceived of a world of mobile phones, computers and flights into space so routine it barely makes the news any more. Between them and us there is a huge gulf, not just in years, but in events—two World Wars, and numerous other world conflicts, unimaginable technological and scientific achievements—theirs was a world of non-stop physical toil while ours is one of modern conveniences. To them, and all the other pioneers, we shall be forever indebted, for without their efforts to survive, we would not have our church or church community today.

Back in 2009, Bishop Gagnon wrote, "St. Francis Xavier Church is indeed a site of historic significance and a treasure for the Diocese and the community as a whole." The many who joined us for our 125th anniversary would agree. ✠

☪ How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, Mighty God"

~ Psalm 84





Student Retreat on Thetis Island

by Kayla Hart

Every year at the end of September, the Catholic Students' Association at UVic travels to Pioneer Pacific Camp on Thetis Island for its first retreat of the school year. It is an opportunity for the students—both old and new to the CSA—to get away from the world for a weekend and spend time with each other, and more importantly, with God. It is arguably the most important retreat the students take during the year, as it is crucial for building the foundation of a strong community.

The heavily scheduled weekend offers an excellent balance between social, recreational and spiritual activities, from a get-to-know-each-other mixer game on the bus ride, to a period of silent time and opportunity for Confession on a beautiful oceanfront property; from an energetic game of soccer, to solemn adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; from free time spent kayaking or hiking, to a multi-lingual rosary, morning prayer, and singing the Diving Mercy Chaplet; and from student testimonies and small-group sharing, to socializing over pub food before the ferry back. Between early mornings and late nights, the home-cooked meals, and moments of getting warm by the fireplace, friendships were formed, and the young adult Catholic community was strengthened.



Retreats of this nature are rarely cheap. Facilities need to be rented, food needs to be purchased, and transportation needs to be arranged, and unfortunately, the costs would often be beyond the reach of a starving university student. However, the Diocese knows how important it is to build up the young adult Catholic community, and the retreat ends up being heavily subsidized to make it affordable.

In light of this knowledge, one retreat evaluation form said: “I am so extremely grateful for the opportunity to come on retreats such as this one. They are such a blessing. I would not be where I am in my faith without this time to build community and grow closer to the Lord. So I am thankful for the donations from those who made this retreat possible.” Another said the opportunity for retreats like these “makes the rest of the semester survivable.” One even said, “These [retreats] change lives and you should know that.” Other general comments from the anonymous retreat evaluation forms spoke of a renewal of faith and thankfulness for the opportunity for some time away with God.

It is for these reasons that the fall retreat is so important. It ensures that the new students have an early opportunity to become part of the community and feel welcomed to an already-established faith group, while allowing the returning students a chance to reconnect with their faith after a summer away from the strong community they may have had to leave behind for their summers at home. As well, because everyone comes to university at a different stage in their faith journey, it offers a space for them to start to find themselves, find God, and all the glorious stuff in between. ✂

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises
to Our God;
For it is pleasant, and
Praise is Beautiful.


Psalm 147:1



Bishop Gagnon celebrated the Campus Mass on October 21 at Holy Cross Church and then Blessed Bethany House, a Catholic community of UVic/ Camosun women students on Feltham Rd. The Blessing was followed by a joyous pot luck with the five Newman House men and dozens of friends in the campus Catholic family.

L to R: Caitriona O’Callaghan (from Prince George), Marleis Bowering (from Vancouver), Hannah Frison (from Whitehorse), Bishop Richard Gagnon, Esther (Tesi) Wagner (from Mexico City), Lucille Schaubroeck (from Williams Lake). Missing from photo: Bronwyn Lawrie (from Prince George).

Catholics on Campus



Weekday Mass

Mon to Thu at 11:30am-noon,
UVic Interfaith Chapel

Adoration after Mass


Mondays: Benediction at 3pm,
UVic Interfaith Chapel

Sunday Mass

followed by **Soup and Soul**
4pm at Holy Cross Church, Gordon Head Road.

Meditate the Mysteries of the Rosary

Wed 5pm-6pm
UVic Interfaith Chapel



Scripture Study with Fr Dean


Weds, 4:30pm, MFS Office.

Faith Studies

Newman House and Bethany House.

Retreats

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Last weekend of Jan at Mt Washington
Advent and Lent Retreats.




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by Wendell Clanton, Special to the Diocesan Messenger

Since being appointed as Chaplain to UVic and Camosun College, daily Mass has been offered four days of the week during most of the year with the assistance of a sacristan/server, Wendell Clanton. Wendell is a professor of music, serves on the faculty advisory Board, and as an alumnus of UVic has a long perspective of the evolution of both the University and our Catholic mission to students, staff and faculty. I've asked Wendell to offer an article for this edition of the Diocesan Messenger in gratitude that the mission on Campus is a shared responsibility between priest and laity!"

~ Fr. Dean

In addition to the joy of teaching my students at UVic, I am blessed with the opportunity to volunteer as the sacristan for the UVic Daily Mass Mondays through Thursdays.

I wander into the UVic Chapel around 10:45 am most days to begin transforming the main hall for Mass at 11:30am. During preparation of the Chapel, I occasionally meet and chat with a variety of folk who stop and ask questions: the janitor who inquires as to the purpose of Catholic Sacramentals; a young couple looking for a location for their wedding; a lonely student looking for someone to talk with; the agnostic seeking coins for parking and who asks "You are Catholic? Why?" In response, 1 Peter 3:15 comes to mind: *Sanctify the Lord Christ in your hearts, being ready always to satisfy every one that asks you a reason of that hope which is in you.*

Frequently in attendance at Daily Mass are the male students from Newman House and the young women from the recently established Bethany House. These young people who have chosen to live in Community represent a wide variety of academic disciplines. A few of their professors attend Daily Mass. A brief chat with any member of this congregation will quickly dispel the popular myth that religion and science are incompatible.



Colouring Corner



For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

~ John 3:16

A few of the professors—a physicist, computer scientist, law professor, business professor, mathematician and yours truly the musician—have the privilege of sitting on the Chaplain's Advisory Board convened by Fr. Dean. We meet to pray and discuss important issues for Catholics on campus and to assist Fr. Dean in his ministry to students.

I have discovered in conversation that among students there is a strong desire to know and live without compromise the Apostolic Faith. They love Jesus and His Catholic Church. In an environment that can be antagonistic to religion and people of faith, perhaps adversity has bred in these young people a need for a clear and confident Catholic identity. Thanks be to God for Fr. Dean's efforts to nurture in us the Faith by faithfully preaching the Gospel and reverently celebrating the Eucharist.

Among the many blessings for which I am grateful is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament that follows Mass on Mondays, with Adoration continuing until Benediction at 2:50pm. Mass and Adoration offer me the opportunity to bring before the Lord the needs of my students and colleagues. In my experience, most teachers share the understanding that teaching can at times be draining because we love teaching and spare no effort to provide our students with the best possible education. The Eucharist on campus offers a wellspring of grace which I can draw upon to rejuvenate and reorient. Hearing Scripture proclaimed exposes one to the wisdom of God, and wisdom is something no teacher can do without.

If the campus community mirrors society in terms of the proportion of Catholics to the general population, then there are probably a lot of "incognito" Catholics on campus. If you are reading this article and you are one such Catholic, consider yourself invited to Daily Mass. Come hear God's Word and receive the Body and Blood of the Lord for, to paraphrase Holy Scripture (Deut. 8:3), man cannot live on the bread of math (or music or economics or athletics) alone. ✠

Wendell Clanton is a music performance instructor at the University of Victoria and writes his thoughts about life, liturgy and religion in the public square at his blog catholicsacristan.blogspot.ca.

Share the light of Christ across Canada!

Sister Fay Trombley, S.C.I.C., shares the Word of God at Our Lady of Grace Mission, in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SWAN

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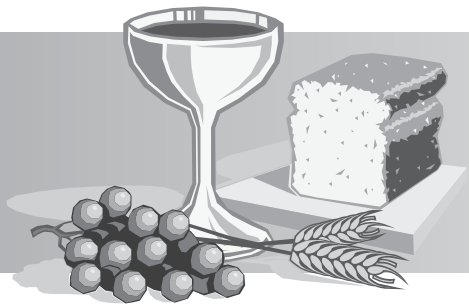
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Vocations



Discern This...

by Fr. Sean Flynn

I was very moved by the reading that was part of the Office October 1st about St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Virgin. Her plight was one I pray we all may have. She stringently struggled to know God’s will as to what role she may play in His Church. What part could her life play in communion with her brothers and sisters in Christ? What follows is her story. I hope you will find in it either affirmation for your vocation or a method to assist you to commit yourself fully to living for Christ and His Church.

The following is taken from *Manuscripts autobiographiques*, Lisieux 1957, 277-229:

“Since my longing for martyrdom was powerful and unsettling, I turned to the epistles of Saint Paul in the hope of finally finding an answer. By chance the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of the first epistle to the Corinthians caught my attention, and in the first section I read that not everyone can be an apostle, prophet or teacher, that the Church is composed of a variety of members, and that the eye cannot be the hand. Even with such an answer revealed before me, I was not satisfied and did not find peace.

“I persevered in the reading and did let not my mind wander until I found this encouraging theme: *Set your desires on the greater gifts. And I will now show you the way which surpasses all others.* For the apostle insists that the greater gifts are nothing at all without love and that this same love is surely the best path leading directly to God. At length I had found peace of mind.

“When I had looked upon the mystical body of the Church, I recognized myself in none of the members which Saint Paul described, and what is more, I desired to distinguish myself more favourably within the whole body. Love appeared to me to be the hinge for my vocation. Indeed I knew that the Church had a body composed of various members, but in this body the necessary and more noble member was not lacking; I knew that the church had a heart and that such a heart appeared to be aflame with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I saw and realised that love sets off the bounds of all vocations, that love is everything, that this same love embraces every time and every place. In one word, that love is everlasting.

“Then nearly ecstatic with the supreme joy in my soul, I proclaimed: *O Jesus, my love, at last I have found my calling: my call is love. Certainly I have found my proper place in the Church, and you gave me that very place, my God. In the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love, and thus I will be all things, as my desire finds its direction.*”

Just love and your vocation will give glory to God. Love calls us and strengthens us with the courage to do things we thought we never could. Love invokes love.

There are many needs and ways for people to fulfil God’s Will in the Church. Let us pray for numerous and holy priests that the gift of the Eucharist may never be lacking to God’s people. I hope, like St. Theresa, the word of God may move you to respond with joy to God’s Will. She discerned her vocation intently through the use of Scripture. You may find God with you through other means; nonetheless I hope your response will be as joyful as hers.

For inquiries into the priesthood and religious life call (250) 479-1331, and if you know of someone who is interested or wishes to make an inquiry, then please feel free to offer him or her this number. ✠

I THIRST FOR LOVE

In wondrous love Thou didst come down from heaven
To immolate Thyself, O Christ, for me;
So, in my turn, my love to Thee is given,
I wish to suffer and to die for Thee.

Thou, Lord, hast spoken this truth benign:
“To die for one loved tenderly
Of greatest love on earth is sign;”
And now, such love is mine,—
Such love for Thee!

Abide, abide with me, O Pilgrim blest!
Behind the hill fast sinks the dying day.
Helped by Thy cross I mount the rocky crest;
Oh, come, to guide me on my heavenward way.

To be like Thee is my desire;
Thy voice finds echo in my soul.
Suffering I crave! Thy words of fire
Lift me above earth’s mire,
And sin’s control.

Chanting Thy victories, gloriously sublime,
The Seraphim—all heaven—cry to me,
That even Thou, to conquer sin and crime,
Upon this earth a sufferer needs must be.

For me, upon life’s dreary way,
What scorn, what anguish, Thou didst bear
Let me grow humble every day,
Be least of all, alway,
Thy lot to share!

Ah, Christ! Thy great example teaches me
Myself to humble, honors to despise.
Little and low like Thee I choose to be,
Forgetting self, so I may charm Thine eyes.

My peace I find in solitude,
Nor ask I more, dear Lord, than this:
Be Thou my sole beatitude, —
Ever, in Thee, renewed
My joy, my bliss!

Thou, the great God Whom earth and heaven adore,
Thou dwellest a prisoner for me night and day;
And every hour I hear Thy voice implore:
“I thirst—I thirst—I thirst for love alway!”

I, too, Thy prisoner am I;
I, too, cry ever unto Thee
Thine own divine and tender cry:
“I thirst! Oh, let me die
Of love for Thee!”

For love of Thee I thirst! Fulfil my hope;
Augment in me Thine own celestial flame!
For love of Thee I thirst! Too scant earth’s scope.
The glorious Vision of Thy Face I claim!

My long slow martyrdom of fire
Still more and more consumeth me.
Thou art my joy, my one desire.
Jesu! may I expire
Of love for Thee!

When “No” Turned to “Yes”

by Alvin Matias

Reprinted with permission from *Catholic Missions In Canada Magazine*. (www.cmic.info)

Knowing Alvin Matias’s fondness for pranks in his youth, his friends joked that he was the least likely candidate to enter the House of the Lord.

My teachers, friends, and family all say that I have the gift of gab, a sense of humour, and in school, was known as the “bully.” When they learned that I had entered the seminary, some quipped, “Has the seminary run out of good candidates that they allowed Alvin to enter?”

Unknown to many, things had started to take a different course when I was 17 during my senior year in high school. I was in fourth year in high school. My friends invited me to go with them to write the entrance exam for the seminary. This idea was completely bizarre to me. My response to them was a “No.” However, I did go with them for support because they were my friends.

We went to see the parish priest for a recommendation to take the entrance exam. I told the priest that I had no intention of entering the seminary but was there for support. For some reason, he gave me a recommendation, too. A similar thing happened to me at the seminary. The deacon asked me the same question. To avoid further discussion, I just took the exam. Later, my friends found out that they had both failed the exam. I remember saying, “You want to become priests and you failed the exam, so for sure I will fail because I don’t even want to become a priest!” To my surprise, I passed the exam.

I was then expected to attend a week of orientation in the seminary. I decided to go and tell my parish priest that I did NOT want to do this. I even practiced these words to myself. But much to my surprise, I did not speak even a single word to our pastor when I met with him. He simply gave me money for the orientation fees, and again, gave me his blessing.

During orientation week, I started to feel that I wanted to stay there. I liked the life in the seminary! With this change of heart, I went to see our priest and told him about it. He told me that he had sensed this the first time I came to see him with my friends. At supper, that evening, I told my family about my plan to enter the seminary. There was dead silence. Then I heard my mother saying, “That is a good and noble vocation. I don’t have anything against it, but we can’t support you financially.” This was a long and troubling moment for me. I thought that maybe the priesthood was not really for me after all, so I didn’t push it.

Soon after, a former high school teacher heard of my situation. He told me that he had discussed this with the Third Order Discalced Carmelites, of which he was a member, and they agreed to support me financially, morally, and most especially, with prayers.

I finished my college degree and formation in the seminary, and taught at high school and university. In 2005, I was invited by Fr. Rectorino Tolentino, pastor of St. Joseph parish in Smithers, British Columbia, to become a priest in Canada.

With all that has happened and will happen in my life, I will always remember this quotation: “To find faith in everything I do,” and “Duc in altum: Plunge into the deep” Luke 5:4. I believe and hope that everything I do is for the greater glory of God. ✠

Alvin Matias, a seminarian from the Diocese of Prince George, is in his pastoral year at St. Andrew’s parish in Fraser Lake, British Columbia.

~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux, April 30, 1896.





Face the Day



by Bonnie Landry

Parents often hear this remark: “you have (fill in the blank) children? I could never do that! I don’t have the patience!” It doesn’t seem to matter what you fill the blank in with—one, four, seven, eleven children—we meet people daily who don’t have enough patience.

Heaven knows, I don’t have enough patience.

I don’t have enough patience to get through one day, let alone eighteen years and beyond. So what drives a couple, what motivates a couple to be open to another child when they don’t have enough patience? Babies are cute, my goodness. I like babies. But the cute stage, my friends, is short—way, way too short. Surely it cannot be the cuteness of a child that motivates the decision to have one. Or another one. Because once we have had one, we become profoundly aware of how much work it is—and how much patience is required.

Sadly, I was not blessed with a lot of patience. And while I could safely say that I am more patient than I was before I had children, I probably wouldn’t be classified as an individual abounding in the virtue of natural patience. So I am left, begging, to be sure, for some supernatural patience. Patience that goes beyond what I am able to summon up. Patience that comes from something ... Someone ... more patient than I. Someone who has patience to spare. Patience as a grace, something beyond myself that can only be availed by prayer—a gift.

I beg Almighty God daily for this virtue. I thank Him nightly for the patience He gives me everyday, although I often leave many crumbs of it lying about that might have been better used.

Here is a little prayer that might be worth memorizing and saying, in the heat of the moment, or the raging bonfire of all the moments, five, ten or fifty times a day:

My dearest Jesus, teach me to be patient, when all day long my heart is troubled by little, but troublesome crosses.

The practice of saying three Hail Marys is something I do when I’m at the top of my game. When I remember to do this before I let anything else come out of my mouth, it has saved my biting tongue from lashing some unsuspecting victim on many occasions.

Recently I came across the following prayer. While it is too long to say in a moment of frustration (my short wick would have been consumed after the first line), I thought it is a beautiful fortification to start the day, or to say as a family prayer. The line that particularly leaped out at me was this, “May no one be less good for having come within my influence.” This line caused me to reflect on

whether people walk away from me “less good.” Or, how many times has someone walked away from me more bitter, more hurt, more angry, more offended, more saddened, more burdened, by the words I said, by the example I gave. And how many times did someone walk away from me with the mark of Christ on them left there by my good words, my good deeds?

TEACH ME, O LORD

Teach me, my Lord, to be kind and gentle in all the events of life, in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others, to hide my pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path. Let me so use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me; that it may make me patient, not irritable; that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, proud and overbearing.

May no one be less good for having come within my influence. No one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow traveller in our journey toward eternal life.

As I go my rounds from one task to another, let me say, from time to time, a word of love to You.

May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity. Amen.

~ Fr. John Hardon

Do good, says the prayer, even when good comes difficult. Do good, even when others do not. Do good when life deals hard blows. Be the conduit of good as fully as possible.

Do good, even when natural patience is lacking. Do good, by drawing on the supernatural grace of patience there for the asking. Just as the habit of being irritable or impatient is reinforced day by day when it is practiced, the habit of patience is made possible through practice, too.

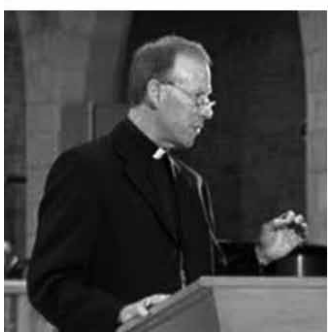
Patience isn’t something we just have. By its very nature of being a virtue, it is something we do, something difficult we must attain—something that must be worked towards and fostered in our lives.

“I am not patient enough!” I hear you. Neither am I. ✕

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Faith Matters



The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith

Presentation by H. Exc. Rev. Mons. Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham (Great Britain, England and Wales) at the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2012

The New Evangelization is not a strategy or programme, but an invitation to an encounter and life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. It involves falling in love with the person of Jesus Christ and his bride, the Catholic Church. This encounter with Christ takes place in and through the Church so as not to foster a false dichotomy between spirituality and religion. Encounters with Christ in the Church help the faithful to understand the need for salvation and forgiveness from sin. Following the initial encounter with Christ, the faithful desire to spend time with the beloved in prayer, sacrament and to contemplate the face of God (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*).

Hence, the Synod Fathers might propose a lifelong accompaniment of each Catholic on their journey of faith modelled on Christ's walk with the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. The faithful need the continued work of systematic, comprehensive and lifelong catechesis. Evangelization and catechesis should help the faithful know, understand, live and share the faith. A catechesis for youth and adults that is age-appropriate and presented in an appealing and apologetic manner that answers the genuine questions of those participating in their formation would enhance the New Evangelization. This basic presentation of the fundamentals of our faith, as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in an attractive and appealing manner, for example at World Youth Day, will help to revive a confidence in the faith and a greater ability to share it with others.

Fostering some practical initiatives would assist the New Evangelization and catechesis: *Lectio Divina*, teaching prayer, making the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacrament of Penance more readily available (perhaps through offering the Sacrament at new times and on a consistent basis during Lent or Advent), pilgrimages, sharing the stories of the saints and martyrs, and making known the excellent work and ministry undertaken by Catholic institutions and apostolates.

We discussed presenting the Sacraments in a new light aimed at reaching contemporary society. The preparation for individual sacraments should model the catechumenate and allow for personal encounters with Christ and the proclamation of the *kerygma*. Small Christian communities can help to connect people to one another, allowing for prayer and reflection on the Scriptures.

We encourage the Synod Fathers to pray for a New Pentecost for the whole Church and to better understand the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working in the Church and lives of Catholics and other Christians. We stressed the importance of Liturgy well-celebrated and homilies that inspire and share the faith in a compelling manner. This will require formation for the clergy in liturgy, homiletics, and the New Evangelization since they are formators for the new evangelizers.

In order to be effective evangelists, the laity need better preparation for evangelization. This should include doctrine, helping evangelists share the faith, perhaps through a wider use of images, suitable for the people they serve, some of whom may be illiterate; humility, acquiring the ability to articulate one's story of faith and testimony of Christ.

Our group would wish to encourage bishops, priests and permanent deacons to know the lives of the people they serve in a more personal way. The bishop is an evangelist who leads by example and shares with all the baptized the blessings of being called to evangelization. His ministry must have the characteristics of the shepherd (*ad intra*) and the fisherman (*ad extra*). Ongoing formation for clergy on the New Evangelization and methods for evangelization in the diocese and parish are needed.

“The family is a privileged centre for the new evangelization. Catholic families are in great need of regular support and direct assistance from the Church and parish to become witnesses to the faith. Continuing inculturation of the gospel could bring together the life of Christ with the life and culture of all people. The inculturation of the Gospel involves becoming more of a welcoming Church to immigrants and those in need.”

We also considered the contribution of Religious and the witness of consecrated life, the establishment of catechists as a stable ministry within the Church, the need for post-sacramental catechesis, especially following Confirmation, the wisdom of consulting our Canon Lawyers when formulating diocesan policy, the particular needs of the Deaf Community, and the management of natural resources in times of conflict or warfare. ✠

Courtesy Holy See Press Office www.vatican.va/news_services/press/sinodo/documents/bollettino_25_xiii-ordinaria-2012/02_inglese/b24_02.html

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For more information contact:
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Open Wide the Door of Faith

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a Year of Faith, October 11, 2012 – November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and Universal King.

... Christ, holy, innocent and undefiled knew nothing of sin but came only to expiate the sins of the people ... the Church ... clasping sinners in its bosom, at once holy and always in need of purification, follows constantly the path of penance and renewal. The Church, like a stranger in a foreign land, presses forward amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God, announcing the cross and death of the Lord until he comes. But by the power of the risen Lord it is given strength to overcome, in patience and in love, its sorrow and its difficulties, both those that are from within and those that are from without, so that it may reveal in the world, faithfully, although with shadows, the mystery of its Lord until, in the end, it shall be manifested in full light.

(Lumen Gentium #8)

When Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Faith on October 11, 2012, he did so for some very good reasons. October 11 corresponds to the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council as well as the 20th Anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a remarkable catechetical achievement stemming from Vatican II. The month of October in Rome also marks the convening of the Synod of Bishops in Rome to consider the *New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith*. All of these events have to do with the great project of authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world. The times in which we live are as challenging as they were in the 1960s when the Council was first opened, arguably even more challenging—so this Year of Faith comes at a very good time indeed; a spiritual help to us all. We have also celebrated the opening of the Year of Faith in our second annual Diocesan Conference.

Since October 11, I have been exposed to many different aspects of Faith within our Diocese. A few of them are:

- the many Baptisms that are occurring among our First Nations People who are coming to Christ;
- a powerful yet simple event on First Nations' Territory in Nanaimo when a beautiful wooden crucifix was presented to some elders by our RVM Sisters. The people were moved to tears in receiving this gift and I reflected on how we often take our Faith for granted;
- there have been anniversaries celebrated such as the 75th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League in Nanaimo—a 75-year story of faith;
- the blessing of the beautiful grotto in honour of our Lady at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria and the joyful support and celebration of the People of God there;
- I think too of the blessing of Bethany House for university students and the wonderful gathering of young adults who attended.

What is Faith?

Perhaps a simple definition would be *accepting of the word of another*. We trust that that person is telling the truth and is honest with us. The underlying motivation for faith could be described by the word *authority*; in other words, we trust that that person speaking to us knows what he or she is talking about and will not deceive us—we give them authority. This is human faith; and maybe the best example would be the faith and trust that is expressed in the marriage vows. We have faith in our spouse, that he or she will always be truthful and honest with us and will not deceive us—we give our spouse, in a certain sense, an authority of trust, of faith. The worst examples of human faith might be when we put our faith in people who manipulate and use us—there are many examples all around us, in advertising, propaganda and the like.

But there is also Divine Faith. Such Faith is the assent of our mind to God's revelation in Jesus Christ. It is a Faith which is only possible with the help of Grace; that is why we say Faith is a gift.

The People of God have a twofold Faith.

First there is the assent of the mind to what God is saying to us through His Word; and second, there is living it out in our daily lives. These two aspects cannot be separated; they both must be present for there to be authentic Faith."

The Letter of James is very clear about this: *What good is it, brothers and sisters, if you say you have Faith but do not have works? Can Faith save you?*

Today many people say that they are spiritual. Is this Faith? If so, in whom do we trust? In whose authority do we place ourselves under, other than ourselves? To be spiritual is really the condition of every human being, we have a spiritual aspect at our very core as do even the fallen angels. They, too, are highly spiritual but can we say that they have faith in God?

The Year of Faith comes at a very good time for us in our Diocese because we are in the middle of our five year Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The threefold title of our plan is: *Claiming the Past with Gratitude; Living the Present with Enthusiasm; and Looking to the Future with Hope*. Each one of these titles speaks to us during this Year of Faith.



To *Claim the Past with Gratitude* means to be aware in our lives of where we have come from. Every one of us might notice that, as Christians, we have lived lives containing a mysterious intermingling of sin and Grace. There are times when we have fallen, but at the same time, we have experienced God's saving help. If we go to family reunions we will experience a certain tension in meeting old relations and relatives we have not met before—getting reacquainted requires work. But after we leave, we also experience a certain fullness as we now know once again who we are, where we have come from, to which people we belong. It is the same in our Faith. We need to take the time to recollect our journey of Faith so that we do not forget to Whom we belong, who we are and where we are going. But we cannot stay in the past, we have to move on.

To *Live the Present with Enthusiasm* means that we must allow ourselves to embrace the gift of Faith today—ever more deeply; to move from the head to the heart. In the Apostolic Letter entitled *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith), which introduces the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict compares Faith to a great door through which we must walk, a door which is open for us, ushering us into a communion with God our Father. It is Jesus himself who waits for us on the other side of that door!

The Holy Father tells us in his Letter: "It is possible to cross that threshold when the Word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming Grace." If we recall the story of Samuel and Eli in the Old Testament, we remember that the boy Samuel was placed in the Temple under the mentorship of the old priest Eli. It was God who called Samuel as the boy was sleeping, but Samuel ran to Eli and asked if he had called him. Eli sent him back to bed. Three times God called Samuel; each time he ran to Eli and was sent back to bed. Finally Eli instructed Samuel, that if he heard the voice again, he should say: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." This is what Samuel did and he encountered the true God, the God who changed his life.

We are surrounded by God's Word, yet, like Samuel, it sometimes bounces off us and does not enter our hearts. We are given God's Grace in the Sacraments but often it seems to have little effect in our busy distracted hearts. And we encounter people, like Eli, who point us towards God through their example or by what they say or do, and yet we often do not notice. Pope Benedict has said often to us, *allow yourselves to be surprised by Christ!* The Pope is 85 years old and he is still telling the Church that the Door of Faith is always open to us—through the Word, through Sacrament, through people and events—allow your heart to be surprised by His presence in your life. He chose the example of the woman, Lydia, in the Acts of the Apostles: St. Paul was proclaiming the Gospel to a group of women and, "... the Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul." She went from hearing to truly listening—she heeded—she took in the Word to her heart and she acted on it! This is precisely what we are to do if we say we have Faith! There are many doors leading to Christ, who is the Way and the Truth and the Life.

To *Look to the Future with Hope* means that we are undertaking a journey that is going somewhere. There is a direction and a meaning to our lives. When we walk through the Door of Faith we undertake a journey, a journey of a new kind of life. The Holy Father reminds us that Faith is meant to be given away! We are sent out into the world empowered by the Holy Spirit—we are committed to Evangelize—to reach out to others and bring them to know Christ. Pope Benedict reminds us that when we share our Faith we rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the Faith:

“Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.”

I will soon be asking our parishes to participate in a new program called *Catholics Come Home*. Our parishes must be places where returning Catholics feel welcomed and affirmed—it is the responsibility of all of us to share the joy of our Faith with others.

As we move through this Year of Faith, let us entrust ourselves to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our model of Faith and the sure guide to her Son. It was her cousin, St. Elizabeth who said of Mary:

Blessed is she who believed. ✠

Faith “is the lifelong companion that makes it possible to perceive, ever anew, the marvels that God works for us. Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present of history, faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world.” Faith is both a personal and a communal act: it is a gift from God that is lived in the communion of the Church and must be communicated to the world. Every initiative for the Year of Faith should be designed to aid in the joyous rediscovery of the faith and its renewed transmission. The recommendations provided here have the goal of inviting all of the members of the Church to work so that this Year may be a special time in which we, as Christians, may share that which is most dear to us: Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of mankind, Universal King, “leader and perfecter of faith” (Hb 12: 2).

Given in Rome, at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on 6 January 2012, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.





Office of Justice & Life

by **Stuart Andrie, Ministry Coordinator**

A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person. The person represents the ultimate end of society. Hence the social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person.

(No. 132 *Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching*)

The Diocese of Victoria's Office of Justice and Life has as its mandate the promotion the Catholic Church's teaching on social justice relative to integral human development as a central aspect of the proclamation of the Gospel. The quote above reminds us of this core value: *respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person in our work towards a just society*. The Office of Justice and Life has been hard at work in our Diocese in the promotion and understanding of our human dignity. In this update, I would like to highlight four main areas of interest to you.

First of all, I had the pleasure of attending the Western Conference for Social Justice (www.wcsj.ca) this past month. On October 11 – 13 most of the Diocesan Social Justice Coordinators from across Western Canada were able to gather in Edmonton to discuss current social justice issues and to work collaboratively to share resources and ideas of approach. It was a tremendously enriching time to gather with my colleagues from across this part of the country. It was a source of hope to see all the social justice work happening in dioceses across Western Canada. Our Bishop, Bishop Richard Gagnon, is the Episcopal Liaison for the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops to this Conference and it was a pleasure to have him attend with me. Bishop Richard gave a very informative update as to what is going on in the CCCB and AWCB with regards to social justice currents and he provided us with an enriching and formative spiritual reflection to nourish our own faith as social justice coordinators.

It was encouraging to note that a lot of time and reflection was given to the nature of our Office of Justice and Life and the importance of these two ministries being promoted together, identifying the common thread between them, and how this can serve the greater good. Bishop Richard and I returned to our diocese filled with enthusiasm and ideas about how to move forward with some of the key topics discussed at this conference.

Secondly, on Respect Life Sunday, I was asked to speak to the Catholic Students Association at the University of Victoria. I reflected on the theme for Respect Life Sunday issued by the United States Conference of Bishops: *Faith Opens Our Eyes to Human Life in All its Grandeur and Beauty*. Using the idea that we are about to launch into the Year of Faith, celebrating the Second Vatican Council's opening fifty years ago, it made sense to me to introduce the students to the Office of Justice and Life and its mission by reflecting on this idea of bringing together Justice and Life is not entirely a new concept, and that faith (that which we are celebrating in commemoration of Vatican II) helps us see the true beauty of life in all its grandeur.

Using the Year of Faith and the Second Vatican Council's anniversary as a springboard, I was able to highlight how the Council spoke of this idea of justice and life and that by nature, they are inseparable. Blessed Pope John Paul II quoted this passage from the *Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, Gaudium et Spes* # 27 in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*.

“Coming down to practical and particularly urgent consequences, this council lays stress on reverence for man; everyone must consider his every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account

first of all His life and the means necessary to living it with dignity...

In our times a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbor of every person without exception and of actively helping him when he comes across our path, whether he be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign laborer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, a child born of an unlawful union and wrongly suffering for a sin he did not commit, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of the Lord, “As long as you did it for one of these the least of my brethren, you did it for me” (Matthew 25:40).

Furthermore, whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or wilful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison

human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator.”



Truly, if we are to work for a just society, the transcendent dignity of the human person must be understood and proclaimed so we can recognize it in every person we meet and treat them accordingly. This is the goal of the Office of Justice and Life.

Thirdly, during the summer we promoted a joint collection between the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). This collection went toward CCODP's works to help relieve the hunger crisis going on in the Sahel region of West Africa (for more information see the YouTube video *On the Brink: Hunger in the Sahel* to see the work CCODP is doing with your donations). I mention this because as a Diocese we have much to be proud of—we raised \$91,456! We were 6th in the country in terms of amount raised per diocese! We really should celebrate the generous hearts of our parishioners and those who worked hard “on the ground” for this joint campaign, because our Diocese is much smaller than many others. I am hearing from the Caritas network that these donations have helped stave off a much larger disaster of human suffering and death, and it looks like the region may get a decent harvest this year. Of course, internal politics and violence can also have an impact on the harvest and food supply; this region very much needs our continued prayers. Thank you to all who contributed, and please, continue your prayers.

Lastly, I want to draw your attention to the Justice and Life Workshops coming up in the first three Saturdays in November. Here we will have an excellent opportunity to learn what the Catholic Social Doctrine is and how it compels us to act. Our keynote speaker is a tremendously dynamic and engaging speaker and this promises to be a very formative and edifying experience. Please see the advertisement on page 29 or www.rcdvictoria.org for further information and registration. ✕

For feedback or comment, please email sandrie@rcdvictoria.org.



Participants in the Western Conference of Social Justice with Bishop Richard Gagnon, who is the episcopal liaison of the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops to the group





Vatican II: a council unlike any other - Cardinal Godfried Danneels

End of an era. A new breakthrough? Vatican II was a council unlike any preceding one. It was a special event for many reasons. Even though it stands in a long line of councils: it was in many respects a new kind of council. Vatican II began 50 years ago. The council fathers themselves have now for the most part passed on. Believers, who experienced it from the outside, remember above all the media excitement and the optimistic atmosphere in which this great church gathering took place.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21284>

Posted: Monday, October 22, 2012 9:20 pm

Seven new saints canonised on World Mission Sunday

In a joyful, colourful and memorable ceremony Pope Benedict XVI canonized seven new saints during a special Mass attended by more than 80,000 pilgrims in St Peter's Square, on World Mission Sunday, 21 October.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21282>

Posted: Monday, October 22, 2012 8:47 pm

Lourdes: flood update

After suffering severe flooding over the weekend, parts of the Shrine at Lourdes are gradually being reopened. When the river Gave de Pau overflowed on Friday and Saturday waves washed up a thick layer of mud and debris, creating a landscape of desolation in the Sanctuary. Thanks to the help of the Fire Department department of Hautes-Pyrenees and Lourdes municipal services, clearing-up operations began on Sunday afternoon around the Grotto of Massabielle and are now well underway.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21281>

Posted: Monday, October 22, 2012 11:20 am

Archbishop Longley: 'We encouraged Synod Fathers to pray for a new Pentecost'

The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, and Relator of the Synod of Bishops on New Evangelisation, English language Working Group B, gave the following report to the Synod Fathers last Friday, 19 October, in the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI: "The New Evangelisation is not a strategy or programme, but an invitation to an encounter and life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. It involves falling in love with the person of Jesus Christ and his bride, the Catholic Church.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21280>

Posted: Monday, October 22, 2012 12:02 am

Census shows growth in number of Catholics in Ireland

The number of Catholics in Ireland has soared to a record high according to official census figures. The Catholic Church in Ireland now has 3.86 million members, which is the highest number since records began, the Central Statistics Office said. However, the church's share of the population has fallen from a peak of 96% in 1961 to just 84% today, because other religions and atheism, are also growing. The number of non-religious people has soared by 400% over the past 20 years...

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21277>

Posted: Sunday, October 21, 2012 4:21 pm

Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada Recognizing the Canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement recognizing the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha:

“[On October 21] in Vatican City, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI, making her North America's first Aboriginal Saint.

Saint Kateri—also known as “Lily of the Mohawks”—was bestowed the highest honour of the Catholic Church in recognition of her remarkable virtue and determination, and her unwavering devotion to God.

Born in 1656 in what is now New York State, Saint Kateri was persecuted for the faith she held so tenaciously and relocated to a Christian Mohawk village in what is now Kahnawake, Quebec, where she perished at the tender age of 24.

Throughout her short life, Saint Kateri never abandoned her faith. She taught prayers to children, cared for the sick and the elderly, and often attended mass both at sunrise and sunset.

Today, a number of shrines in both Canada and the U.S. are dedicated to Saint Kateri, including the site of her burial at the St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake, Quebec.

The canonization of Saint Kateri is a great honour and joyous occasion for the many North Americans and Aboriginal peoples who cherish her witness of faith and strength of character. The Government of Canada stands with those who are celebrating her life on this day in Canada, the United States and throughout the world.”



Assembly of First Nations Celebrates the Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

(Ottawa, ON, October 19, 2012)—Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo joins First Nations citizens in celebrating the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Indigenous woman from North America to become a saint.

“This is an emotional occasion for all Catholics around the world, especially in the Indigenous community, as a sister of ours is bestowed with the highest honour given by the Catholic Church,” said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo. “Kateri Tekakwitha devoted her life to helping the poor and the sick. She is an inspiration for so many of our people who have gone through difficult times, including many who are still living with the trauma of residential schools. Many First Nation citizens have traveled to Rome to celebrate this momentous event and honour the Blessed Kateri, also known as the ‘Lily of the Mohawks.’”

Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in Ossernenon, New York and lived most of her 24 years in the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, Quebec. She was declared Venerable by the Catholic Church in 1943 and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. Follow AFN on Twitter at @AFN_Updates @AFN_Comms.



Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Text of homily by The Most Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, given at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, Rome on October 22, 2012

In these wondrous days here in Rome we are the blessed, privileged witnesses of an extraordinary event that brings great joy to the people of Canada, and to our sisters and brothers of the First Nations in particular. A daughter of the Mohawk and Algonquin peoples, Kateri Tekakwitha, has been canonized, raised to the glory of the altars, by Pope Benedict XVI, and by this all Native peoples are honoured. As Blessed John Paul II said of her, in a speech to Native Americans not long after her beatification, Kateri “stands before us as a symbol of the best of the heritage that is yours as North American Indians.” Now that she has been added to the canon of the Church’s saints, she also stands before the whole Church, indeed the entire world, as a reminder of the universal call to holiness and a model of cooperation with the mystery of grace.

In our first reading this morning, the author of the Book of Wisdom poses this question: “For who knows God’s counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?” He then proceeds to answer it. Although God’s mysterious counsels lie beyond the limits of human reason, nevertheless they are made knowable to us by the working of God’s Holy Spirit. God wants us to know His ways, indeed to know Him, and He has acted to enable us to know Him, so that we might respond in love and cooperate with His saving plan for us. This revelation of the wondrous truth of God has been given in His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sent the promised Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and hearts with divine wisdom, and grace us with the ability to respond in faith and love.

The meeting of God’s loving initiative with a grace-filled human response is on beautiful display in the life of Saint Kateri. The earliest intimations of the working of God’s grace in her life were given in the name assigned to her by her family: Tekakwitha. This name, derived from her diminished capacity for sight, is patient of a variety of interpretations: “she who feels her way ahead;” “moving forward slowly;” “one who bumps into things;” but also “one who places things in order” or “to put all into place.” This diversity of meanings has to do in one way or another with seeing what lies before. It is, of course, true that Kateri’s physical sight was seriously compromised due to the smallpox from which she suffered. What is equally true, however, and what is of far greater significance, is that her inner vision was clear. Deep within her heart she had received the gift of seeing clearly the truth of Christ and his Church. It is as if God, through the very name Tekakwitha and the life of the one who bore it, has drawn attention to the limits of human vision in order to point us to the true sight that comes from faith. In this Year of Faith, the life of Kateri demonstrates that the gift of faith carries with it the capacity to see clearly the beauty of God and His plan for us, which far exceed in grandeur the sensible realities of this earth.

Here we can appreciate how our sister Kateri serves as an instructive witness for the new evangelization. These days Bishops from around the world are gathered in Synod to reflect upon the call of both John Paul II and Benedict XVI to find new ways to announce the Gospel joyfully and intelligibly to the peoples of our day. Kateri reminds us that this new evangelization, to be effective, must not only be proposed anew but also find an open and ready welcome in the heart of the recipient. When the Jesuit missionary Father de Lamberville spoke of our Lord and the Christian faith, the Gospel message of life and hope found a home within

her. No words of hers are recorded that articulate her experience. But words are not necessary. We know that our response of faith to the call of the Gospel is itself the work of grace. Thus is the witness of Kateri an invitation to all of us, who will hear the beauty of the Gospel proclaimed afresh, to ask for the grace we need to receive it with joy and respond to its call to life and hope. Only with the help of God’s grace are we able, like Kateri, to make of our entire lives a living and pleasing sacrifice to God, as Saint Paul exhorts us to do. Only with divine assistance do we become, like Kateri, the mothers, brothers and sisters of Christ by doing the will of his—and our—heavenly Father.

Kateri also teaches us, in a unique way, that our response in faith to Jesus brings healing. Among the most striking aspects of her witness is the miraculous transformation of her face soon after her death. From the age of four terribly scarred by the smallpox, her face was restored to its original beauty only minutes after she had died. This was preceded by the words she spoke just as her life ended: “Jesus, I love you.” The love of Christ for us, and our answering love for him, heals. How greatly do we need this lesson from Kateri today! We may not bear physical scars, but so many today carry deep emotional and psychological ones. These are inflicted not by smallpox but by poverty, addiction, loneliness and betrayal. They are caused by the abuse suffered by Kateri’s modern-day sisters and brothers in their time at residential schools. So much pain, so many emotional scars! Yet Kateri teaches us that no wound, however deep, should leave us without hope. Let us remember her words: “Jesus, I love you.” These few words sum up her entire life. “Jesus, I love you.” Kateri’s facial healing is an outward sign of the interior transformation that is given to all who hand over their lives to Christ, and who do so in love.

This healing opens the way to reconciliation. Many have posed the question as to how Kateri can aid the efforts of the representatives of the Church and of our First Nations to overcome any remaining separation. Well, I believe Kateri herself would point us to her love for Christ. “Jesus, I love you.” Just as her expression of love was soon followed by a healing of external scars, so too is our loving relationship with Christ the balm that covers and cures our interior wounds. Before we can be reconciled with another, we must first be reconciled to the truth that we all need the healing that Christ alone can give. Then we are set free to turn toward the other, both to extend and to receive forgiveness, and thus truly to be reconciled.

Yes, we are, indeed, privileged to witness this event of Kateri’s canonization. We shall also be truly blessed if we learn from her example. So let us pray to our sister, our new saint, for this grace.

Dear Saint Kateri, please pray for us. Pray for your people, your sisters and brothers of the First Nations of Canada and the United States. Pray for all the people of our countries. Pray for the Church. By your intercession, may we receive with joy the word of Our Lord, and be faithful at all times to the will of our Heavenly Father. Help us with your prayers to make of our lives a spiritual sacrifice to God, just as you did. May we so live in love with Jesus that we will know within ourselves the healing, the hope and the joy that only he can bestow. Amen.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Religious Veneration

For some time after her death, Tekakwitha was considered an honorary yet unofficial patroness of Montreal, Canada, and Indigenous peoples of the Americas. 50 years after her death, a convent for Native American nuns opened in Mexico. They have prayed for her and supported her canonization.

The process for Tekakwitha’s canonization was initiated by United States Catholics in 1884, followed by Canadian Catholics. In January 3, 1943, Pope Pius XII declared her venerable. She was beatified as Catherine Tekakwitha on June 22, 1980 by Pope John Paul II.

On December 19, 2011, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints certified a second miracle through her intercession, signed by Pope Benedict XVI, which paved the way for pending canonization. On February 18, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI decreed that Tekakwitha be canonized. Speaking in Latin, he used the form “Catharina Tekakwitha”; the official booklet of the ceremony referred to her in English and Italian, as “Kateri Tekakwitha”. She was canonized on October 21, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. She is the first North American Native American woman to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

A statue of Tekakwitha is installed outside the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré in Quebec, Canada. Another is installed at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A bronze statue of Blessed Kateri kneeling in prayer was installed in 2008, created by artist Cynthia Hitschler, along the devotional walkway leading to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Another life-size statue of Blessed Kateri is located at the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Lewiston, New York. A bronze figure of Kateri is included on the bronze front doors of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City.

Reputed Miracles

Joseph Kellogg was a Protestant child captured by Natives in the 18th century and eventually returned to his home. Twelve months later, he caught smallpox. The Jesuits helped treat him, but he was not recovering. They had relics from Tekakwitha’s grave, but did not want to use them on a non-Catholic. One Jesuit told Kellogg that, if he would confess and embody a Roman Catholic, help would

come to him. Joseph did so. The Jesuit gave him a piece of decayed wood from Catherine’s coffin, which is said to have made him heal. The historian Greer takes this account to mean that Tekakwitha was known in 18th-century New France, and she was already perceived to have healing abilities.

Other alleged miracles were attributed to Catherine: Father Rémy recovered his hearing and a nun in Montreal was cured by using items formerly belonging to Catherine. In those times, such incidents were evidence that Catherine was possibly a saint. Sainthood is symbolized by events following the death of a person that show the rejection of death. It is also represented by a duality of pain and a neutralisation of the other’s pain (all shown by her reputed miracles in New France). Father Chauchetière told settlers in La Prairie to pray to Catherine for intercession with illnesses. His words and Catherine’s fame were said to reach even Jesuits in China and their converts.

As people believed in her healing powers, some collected earth from her gravesite and wore it in bags as a relic. One woman said she was saved from pneumonia (“grande maladie du rhume”), and gave the pendant to her husband, who was healed from his disease.

Tradition holds that Tekakwitha’s smallpox scars vanished at the time of her death in 1680. Pope Pius XII in 1943 declared this an authentic miracle. Pilgrims that attended her funeral reported healings.

On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI approved the second miracle needed for Blessed Kateri’s canonization. The authorized miracle dates from 2006, when a young boy in Washington state survived a severe flesh-eating bacterium. Doctors had been unable to stop the progress of the disease by surgery and advised his parents he was likely to die. The boy received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick from a Catholic priest. As the boy is half Lummi Indian, the parents said they prayed through Tekakwitha for divine intercession, as did their family and friends, and an extended network contacted through their son’s classmates. A Catholic nun, Sister Kateri Mitchell visited the boy’s bedside and placed a relic of Tekakwitha, a bone fragment, against his body and prayed together with his parents. The next day, the infection stopped its progression. ✠

Source: www.catholic.org/saints

The 65th Annual BC and Yukon Provincial Convention of the CWL

by Jean Wilson, BC & Yukon Provincial Communications Chair

The 65th Annual British Columbia and Yukon Provincial Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was held in Whitehorse, Yukon from June 14 – 16. The convention was hosted by the Whitehorse Diocesan Council.

104 people attended the Convention including the Bishop of Whitehorse, Gary Gordon and the Bishop of Nelson, John Corriveau OFM Cap.

The Convention opened with Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Whitehorse with the main celebrant and homilist, Rev. Roger Lavoie, Whitehorse Diocesan Spiritual Advisor.



On June 15 the business of the Convention began with the opening of the Bible followed by guest speaker Nancy Hadden from Rachael's Vineyard. Nancy told us of her experience of having an abortion and the pain she suffered and how through the workshops of Rachael's Vineyard, she has found healing and with the Rachael's Vineyard team has been able to help others, men and women, who have experienced abortion and shared with us how they are able to find forgiveness from God and themselves.

Sr. Edith Elder of Whitehorse gave a brief presentation on a book she has written, *Embracing the Spirit Within: Inspirational Stories and Reflections*. Sr. Edith stressed that God's spirit is in us all—the divine light is in all of us and love is the most powerful force we have.

The life of Therese of Lisieux was presented over the two days as a spiritual thread that joined us all together. A dramatization of St. Thérèse and Sr. Madeline was presented as if St. Thérèse and Madeline were with us. The spiritual presentation encouraged attendees to reflect on what "holiness" means and how we can be "holy." We were invited to walk St. Thérèse's *Little Way* by offering everything that happens, however minor, however momentous, whether a source of laughter or of tears, to God through love.

Charlotte Hrenchuk, representing the Yukon Ant-Poverty Coalition, spoke to us about women and poverty in the Yukon and reminded us that all women are at risk for homelessness.

Dawn Kobewka spoke to us about Maryhouse and how they reach out to the homeless and people with needs in Whitehorse.

Bishop Gary Gordon praised us for our work and reminded us that our work does make a difference. There are deep challenges in the Church, but people want to be in community. We need to keep the light on, plant the seeds and not worry about the results.

Betty Ann Brown Davidson, National President Elect, brought us up to date on the recent initiatives of the CWL—Velma's Dream, Catch the Fire and Leaders of Tomorrow. Her talk on *The Encounter* encouraged members to spend thirty minutes a day with Jesus. Breathe in and invite Jesus in; breathe out and he sends us out to be his vehicle, his tool, his amazing grace. We are God's organization: we will help him.

Bishop John Corriveau OFM Cap, from the Nelson Diocese, gave a presentation on his spiritual journey. His journey began being raised in a Catholic atmosphere. At fifteen, he realized that he wanted to be a priest and was accepted by the Capuchin Order of St. Francis. He held many positions in the Capuchin Order and travelled throughout the world visiting the members of the Order. He finds the Gospel comes alive in community and he encouraged us to preach the Gospel at all times—and if necessary, to use words.

Reports from all the six dioceses of Whitehorse and British Columbia were given. Also, reports from each standing committee were given. Elections were held and a new executive was chosen. Doreen Gowans is the new BC and Yukon Provincial President.

Two resolutions were passed at the Convention: *Protection and Care of Sexually Exploited Children* and *Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services* which [were] carried to the National Convention in August in Edmonton.

The Convention ended with closing Mass and the installation of the new Provincial Executive. ✠



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Knights Help in Mexico

by Wil Wilmot, State Deputy, BC and Yukon

In 2003 the Knights of Columbus partnered with the Global Wheelchair Foundation to provide mobility to hundreds of thousands of people around the globe. Since 2003 local Councils of the Knights of Columbus have been actively fundraising in support of this most important program. Here in Canada our efforts are channeled through the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, headquartered in White Rock, BC, which is affiliated with the Global Wheelchair Foundation.



When a sponsoring organization such as the Knights of Columbus in a specific jurisdiction is able to fill a container (approx 280 wheelchairs) that organization is given the privilege of designating the recipient country and it is possible to send personnel to assist with actual distribution of the wheelchairs. Such was the case recently for the British Columbia & Yukon Knights of Columbus. Thanks to the tremendous effort of Brother Knights from across the entire jurisdiction along with the support of groups like the Catholic Women's League (CWL), local businesses and generous individual donors, the dream of a wheelchair distribution tied to a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe was realized.

My wife, Val, and I arrived in Mexico City on October 11 and over the course of the next three days assisted in the distribution of close to 300 wheelchairs in three locations around the city. The first location was at the children's rehabilitation centre—Centro de Rehabilitación Infantil Teletón de México (CRIT). This world-class rehabilitation centre is supported principally through the annual nationwide "Teletón." According to one of the spokespeople they currently have 1,500 patients and have a wait list of another 1,200 children needing specialized care and treatment. It was here that we gave out the largest portion of our chairs, fitting children and young teenagers with their own means of mobility. The centre has a supply of chairs for use by patients while at the centre; however they are needed for other patients at other times. Therefore, outside the centre most of the young patients must be carried from place to place. One especially poignant moment proved to me just how vital our efforts are. It was at the end of the day and we were chatting with the Director and staff members near the front entrance. A young girl had just completed her therapy for the day and was heading home. Her mother had wheeled her to the area to leave the chair. The mother then produced a homemade cloth sling which she placed over one shoulder then fit her daughter into the sling and proceeded on the long walk home. How much more bearable both their lives would have been if we had been able to provide just one more chair!

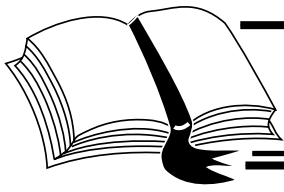
The next day was another early start with a tour of and a wheelchair distribution at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Following a very brief tour of most of the sites around the grounds of the shrine and a Mass celebrated by Msgr. Diego Monroy, Rector of the Basilica, another 80 chairs were presented to mostly adult recipients. Val and I were most privileged to be seated with the rest of our delegation in the VIP section for the Mass and thus were able to get the full visual impact of the beautifully appointed altar and sanctuary and to take in the tilma of San Juan Diego. Words cannot adequately describe the many emotions one experiences standing on that same hallowed ground where the apparitions appeared and miracles took place.

The final day of distributions was held in downtown Mexico City at the Catedral Metropolitana de la Asunción de María (Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary of Mexico City). This is the oldest and largest cathedral in the Americas. Again our delegation was seated in the VIP section. The principal celebrant for this Mass was His Eminence Norberto Cardinal Rivera Carrera. During the Mass Cardinal Rivera Carrera not only blessed one of the wheelchairs to be distributed, but he assisted the young man who was to receive the chair to the altar and then to be seated in the chair. Following the Mass the remainder of the chairs were given to the selected recipients outside the cathedral near the Plaza de la Constitución. This Plaza is one of the world's largest, and is bordered on three sides by the Catedral Metropolitana, the Presidential Palace and Federal buildings.

The presentation of the chairs to the individuals leaves one with a great deal of joy and a sense of having made someone's life better. There were two recipients who left a far greater impression on me. The first was a six or seven year old boy, Jesus, with quite severe physical limitations; however he was not willing to let life simply pass him by. He had a very infectious joy and he was determined to live life to its fullest.

The other was a young teenager, perhaps 12 or 13, but far more mature than his years. He gave one the impression that even at his young age he had come to grips with obstacles life had put in the way, but he was determined to push the limitations and perhaps by the grace of God and assistance from organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and the Wheelchair Foundation he can one day lead a life free of those restrictions.

We were happy to have the State Deputy of California, Raymond Warriner and Mrs. Perita Warriner along with State Deputy of Mexico South, Carlos Carrillo-Colorado and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation Director Christiana Flessner assisting with the distribution of the chairs. We also express our deepest gratitude to the Caballeros de Colon of Mexico City for their most gracious hospitality and assistance. It truly was an experience of a lifetime. ✠



Impressions



For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.
~ Hebrews 8:12

by *Connie Dunwoody*

When I was a youngster, I was often witness to a puzzling phenomenon involving my mother. She'd come into the room in which I was sitting (engaged in reading or some other such edifying activity, I'm sure), stop abruptly, and either put her finger to her lips and frown at the floor, shaking her head slightly, or scrunch her face, looking sideways up at the corner of the ceiling with one eye winked shut in amused concentration.

This was followed with a muttered *sotto voce* sentence: "Now *what* did I come in here for?"

Hands up if it's happened to you. Yup. That's what I thought. At some point, almost all of us have entered a room and completely forgotten what it was we went in for. For me, this usually involves a trip up or down stairs—frequently more than once. Recently I came upstairs from my basement office, having forgotten why I went down there in the first place, muttering "I just remembered what I went into the bedroom for." And when I got to the bedroom, I blinked in surprise and exclaimed, "I just remembered why I went downstairs!" and hastened back down before I forgot—again.

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly." The other man said, "Well, what's the name of the restaurant?" The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns." "Do you mean a rose?" his friend asked. "Yes, that's the one," replied the man, delighted. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Sigh. Yup, that listens. Unfortunately, these jokes often refer to "the elderly," but in myself I've usually interpreted this as a sign of an overloaded brain, and I don't believe it's a phenomenon limited to an "older" population. In defense of my preferred belief, in 2011 an article in *Scientific American* reported the results of a study conducted at the University of Notre Dame, which tackled the annoying problem of forgetting what you went into a room for, just after you enter the room.

The title of their study pretty much says it all: *Walking Through Doorways Causes Forgetting*. The researchers discovered that memory was worse after passing through a doorway than after walking the same distance within a single room. They dubbed this the "doorway effect."

☾☾ The doorway effect suggests that there's more to the remembering than just what you paid attention to, when it happened, and how hard you tried [to remember it]. Instead, some forms of memory seem to be optimized to keep information ready-to-hand until its shelf life expires, and then purge that information in favor of new stuff. [The researchers] call this sort of memory representation an "event model," and propose that walking through a doorway is a good time to purge your event models because whatever happened in the old room is likely to become less relevant now that you have changed venues."

(*Scientific American*, December 13, 2011)

I find this incredibly reassuring. Go through the door, change the venue, and forget.

Reassuring, you say? You bet. Wouldn't it be grand if you could walk through a door and all the things you *want* to forget are deleted? Some days I wish there was an "appforthat." You know, like: "Delete all messages..." *Click* "All messages deleted." "Delete every horrid thing you've ever done..." *Click* "All horrid things you've ever done deleted." Purge your event models, just-like-that.

But wait—as Christians, we don't need an "appforthat." We've got something that's so much more than Steve Jobs and his clever colleagues could conjure up. We've got grace for that ...

It's kinda like this: no matter how long I've been away, when I return home and activate the garage door opener, I know my dog is on the other side of the door to the house, waiting for me to return to him. If, in his tongue-panting-ear-perking-head-cocking-impatient opinion, I take too long to get out of the car and open the door to find him furiously wagging his whole body happily at me, he helpfully paws at it to remind me where I'm meant to be going. It's not that he needs to get out: it's that he knows the door will open to reveal *me*. He is so sure that I will be there, greeting him as joyfully as he greets me. It is a promised mutual exchange of love and joy that contains his certainty of my response. He has absolute faith that what the door conceals is so much better than what's in the room with him. And

when I enter, he forgets that his room was ever empty of me, and covers me with doggy delight and hair (a very personal gift that Golden Retrievers and such give freely).

And it's kinda-sorta how I like to picture meeting Jesus for the first time, only kinda-sorta in reverse.

Me, standing ...

... at that particular door of faith, eager to go in but so soundly steeped in my knowledge of *me* that I'm afraid of what awaits, terrified of receiving what I think I deserve ...

He, knowing ...

... that what awaits is so much better than what's out there with me, grander than anything I could imagine, patiently urging me to remember the grace that bids me go boldly before his throne, tenderly reminding me where I'm going ...

Me, teetering ...

... hesitantly on the threshold: memories, misdeeds, imagined faults and actual sins of a thousand-thousand years defeat my strength and prevent my hand from pushing the door further open ...

He, whispering ...

... "courage, dear heart," into my trembling soul, fanning my faltering flames of faith with his ineffable spirit ...

Me, pushing ...

... the door open just-so-much, peering in, temporarily blinded by glory as my face scrunches, looking sideways up at the corner of eternity with one eye winked shut in concentration ...

He, reaching ...

... a kindly hand for mine, a gentle smile dimming the hoveringly radiant angel hosts, with eyes only for desperately flawed *me*, calling this sinner to him forever, refusing to let me go ...

Me, melting...

... under such persistent promise, throwing open wide the door to step into undeniable certainty—and in a supernatural doorway moment, irrevocably change my venue, purging my earthly event models once and for all ...

He, hugging ...

... me in his arms, greeting me as joyfully as I greet him in a mutual exchange of love and joy—*this* door shutting irrevocably behind me to reveal something in *this* other room that is infinitely better than anything I could have imagined ...

Me, forgetting.

He, forgiving ...

And forgetting.

Click ✂

*Wake, the joy fore'er increasing,
On that blissful shore;
Give thyself in Jesus' keeping;
Open wide the door.*

*Hear the gospel message given,
Bar it out no more;
Christ will speak thy sins forgiven;
Open wide the door.*

~ Excerpted from hymn *Open Wide the Door*, Barney E. Warren, 1911





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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

Catch the Fire

by Evelyn Rigby, CWL BC & Yukon Provincial
Communications Chairperson

This logo, shortly
to appear in parish
bulletins, will herald
an invitation to all
Catholic women
across the province
to attend special
workshops. With
the help of Island
presenters, CWL members and non-members will
listen, learn and participate in activities that will
bring all women together in a day of faith, fun
and fulfillment while exploring the meaning of
leadership.



The coordinators of this program in the Diocese are
Kathy Weswick, Victoria Diocesan President, and
Maureen Ingram, Diocesan Education & Health
Chairperson. Together with a team of trained
presenters (currently being assembled) they will
celebrate the benefits of being part of Catholic
leadership, the united voice of Catholic women across
Canada.

This series of workshops will take place in parishes
throughout the Island, and all women age 16+ are
invited to attend. It is hoped that as part of the Year
of Faith Catholic women will bring their friends for
these days of fellowship and help them become more
informed about this special journey in a sisterhood of
faith, fun and fulfillment.

“If you are a woman wanting
to enjoy a life of faith-based
opportunities for social
interaction, personal development
and community service, then this
workshop is for you.”

A special presentation about Catch the Fire was made
to pastors at their meeting on October 31: details of
venues and times for the Catch the Fire workshops
will be posted in parish bulletins in the New Year. ✕



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The Pastoral Centre Staff—Here to Serve You!

The Bishop's Office Circle

Bishop Richard Gagnon – The Bishop was formally consecrated and installed as the 16th Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria at St. Andrew's Cathedral Victoria on July 20, 2004. His commitment to working with the clergy and laity of the Diocese over the last eight years has resulted in a clearer vision of the importance of parishes, schools and homes working together in response to Christ's call to proclaim and evangelize today.



Seated (L to R): Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins, Bishop Richard Gagnon, Connie Dunwoody.
Standing (L to R): Fr. John Laszczyk, Joanie Bidlake, Moira Gill, Isabel Harding

Fr. John Laszczyk – Our recently appointed Vicar General, Father John assists the Bishop in the governance of the whole Diocese, and, as Judicial Vicar he is responsible for the Marriage Tribunal. A full-time Rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral and Chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, he is often on the go; therefore, it is easiest to contact Father John at his Cathedral Office, (250) 388-5571.

Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins, Chancellor (Ext. 225) – Need to reach someone whose knowledge and experience makes her the centre spoke in the circle? The Bishop's Office operates smoothly because of Cynthia's charism for handling a myriad of daily demands with professional and personal integrity, and prayerful trust. She is responsible for Clergy and Curia records, the Archives and overseeing Diocesan communications to all our publics.

Moira Gill (Ext. 237) – Moira wore many different hats in her work at St. Andrew's Elementary School before joining the Pastoral Centre Staff. Her understanding of how to handle issues of confidentiality, her pleasant and practical nature and her common sense make Moira well suited to serve as Administrative Assistant for the Marriage Tribunal and Bishop's Office.

Isabel Harding (Ext. 221) – Isabel's is the first voice you'll hear when you call the Pastoral Centre. Our chief receptionist for all Diocesan and ICS Staff, Isabel will direct your call so that your questions or concerns are efficiently handled. Whether you wish to secure a Papal Blessing for someone; find a Catholic Church in an area, inquire about Diocesan baptismal records or any other question important to you, Isabel will serve you well.

Connie Dunwoody – A gifted writer, editor, musician, triathlon participant, mother, wife and genuine people-person, Connie oversees a team of people who produce many of the brochures and publications available for promoting Diocesan initiatives, programs and events. In her role as Communications Coordinator, Connie serves as Editor of this Diocesan Messenger and welcomes your stories and photos for consideration by the editorial board. You can contact Connie by email: editor@rcdvictoria.org.

Kathryn Fitzmaurice (Ext. 229) – Now in her third year at UVIC, majoring in primary education, Kathryn has worked part-time at the Pastoral Centre for the past couple of years. She filled in as receptionist, helped with the Diocesan Appeal, and generally assisted wherever she was needed. Her primary role at the moment is with archival material, computerizing baptismal records into the ChurchWatch Program.

The Pastoral Centre's Ministries Circle

Joe Colistro (Ext. 242) – In his 12th year serving as Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools, Joe is also now responsible for overseeing the work of the entire Ministries Circle. Questions related to Catholic education in the Province, our Diocesan Catholic Schools Plan, or inquiries about the operation of the seven Catholic Schools on the Island should be directed to him.



Seated, L to R: Jamie Zwicker, Joe Colistro, Char Deslippe, Mary Carmichael.
Standing, L to R: Jim O'Reilly, Stuart Andrie, Susie Nute.
Missing from photo: Father William Hann

Fr. William Hann – As newly appointed Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools and Evangelization, and pastor of St. Joseph the Worker parish, Fr. William wears many hats. In addition to shepherding the flock at the parish, he also serves as an advisor to those involved in Catholic education and engages in specific duties related to outreach to Catholics and those who have disengaged themselves from the Church.

Char Deslippe (Ext. 238) – Returning to the Pastoral Center Staff as Director of Religious Education for the Diocese and Schools, Char's part-time position involves overseeing the integration and smooth functioning of religious education programs and initiatives for people of all ages in both schools and in parishes.

Mary Carmichael (Ext. 240) – celebrating 25 years with Island Catholic Schools, Mary serves as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and assists others in the Ministries Circle with office procedures. She also provides financial support for accounts payable for Island Catholic Schools.

Jim O'Reilly (Ext. 236) – Jim accepted a position as Religious Education Coordinator for parishes in 2006. The role has changed as part of restructuring and those interested should contact him for help with all questions about school or parish Comprehensive Youth Ministry or Adult Faith Formation programs or initiatives.

Jamie Zwicker (Ext. 239) – In his third year at the Pastoral Centre, Jamie's focus has been the coordination of faith formation programs for ICS staff and students. His newly expanded role includes responsibility for both school and parish elementary level religious education and sacramental preparation programs.

Stuart Andrie (Ext. 244) – Stuart joined the Pastoral Centre staff in August 2011 as our Youth Ministry Consultant. In February 2012 he took on new challenges as the Coordinator of the Office of Justice and Life. He is in dialogue with numerous churches, civic organizations and ministries as part of his commitment to helping schools and parishes engage in works of justice and life.

Susie Nute (Ext. 249) – In her 19th year with Island Catholic Schools, Susie has developed the Media Resources Centre from scratch. She circulates numerous CDs, videos and other religion resources to schools and parishes. A St. Andrew's Cathedral soup-kitchen volunteer, Susie also volunteers at innumerable school functions including Friday night drop-in badminton at SARHS.

Finance and Stewardship Office Circle

Leah MacKenzie (Ext. 231) – In her fifth year as Chief Financial Officer, Leah works to ensure the financial health of parishes and schools in the Diocese. This involves working with various committees who deal with legal issues, financial reporting and auditing, banking, and the insurance of our buildings and/or properties. In addition, Leah oversees the work of office staff involved in financial stewardship.



Lise Derzaph (Ext. 241) – Having worked primarily with Island Catholic Schools for the past several years, Lise now takes on an expanding role and focus in her work as Financial Controller both for Island Catholic Schools and the Diocese.

Seated, L to R: Marie Sullivan, Sarah Fitzmaurice, Rita McNay.
Standing, L to R: Brian Fitzgerald, Joanie Bidlake, Jennifer Dela Vega-Meausette, Colleen Lauder, Leah MacKenzie.
Missing from photo: Lise Derzaph

Joanie Bidlake (Ext. 227) – After spending the past 11 years with ICS, Joanie is enjoying her new role as Administrative Assistant to Leah MacKenzie, CFO. Joanie is gaining skill and taking more responsibility for the many tasks being delegated to her, and she also assist in the Bishop's Office.

Jennifer Dela Vega-Meausette (Ext. 230) – In March, Jennifer will begin her fifth year of employment with the Diocese. She deals with inquiries from clergy and parish staff across the Diocese needing information on payroll, benefits, charity returns or parish financial questions.

Sarah Fitzmaurice (Ext. 232) – The past 12 years with Island Catholic Schools have gone quickly but Sarah's role as Payroll Administrator for schools has remained basically the same. In addition, she has committed herself to the Diocesan Youth Conference for the past eight years along with three very active young adult children.

Colleen Lauder (Ext. 243) – Colleen trains continually for triathlons and is equally fit for her role as an Accounting Assistant. She handles all accounts receivable for the elementary schools so questions about tuition payments are her forte. Other areas of responsibility include imprest and school petty cash accounts.

Maria Sullivan (Ext. 248) – Joining the Pastoral Center staff in 2012, Maria soon discovered how much she missed the staff and students at St. Andrew's Elementary where she had worked. In her new capacity as Accounting Assistant, Maria handles accounts receivable and payable for St. Andrew's Regional High School and the administration of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. She misses the staff and students at SAE but enjoys the new challenge.

Rita McNay (Ext. 224) – In her 4th year with us, Rita handles the accounts for St. Clare Villa, the Employee Pension Fund, accounts receivable for all parishes, and monies raised and distributed by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island.

Brian Fitzgerald (Ext. 235) – Brian worked at both Camosun and UVIC before he joined us at the Pastoral Centre. While it may be difficult to actually catch him in the office, as IT Manager for the Diocese and schools, Brian is quickly and continually in contact with those needing help with technology in whatever capacity they serve. ✂