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Nightfever
Event*



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*ICS Students
share the Love
and Light of
Christ*



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

April 2013

St. Francis Enters the Lateran

by Bishop Richard Gagnon

If you are a visitor to Rome and have a little time on your hands, you will probably find yourself standing in front of the Lateran Basilica or *San Giovanni in Laterano*, as it is called. Why would a Catholic tourist go there? Put simply, it is the Cathedral Church of Rome and since 312 AD has been the Episcopal Chair of the Popes as Bishops of Rome and where the Papacy was situated until 1377 when the Vatican became the Papal residence. St. John Lateran, however, remains the Pope's Cathedral Church, not St. Peter's Basilica.

On the great façade, which was slightly damaged after a bomb exploded following John Paul II's assertive preaching against the Mafia in Italy, you will find these words in Latin: *THE MOST HOLY LATERAN CHURCH, MOTHER AND MISTRESS OF ALL CHURCHES OF THE CITY AND THE WORLD*. It is not without significance for us Canadians that at the recent Canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John Lateran hosted a gathering for First Nations People at which the new documentary on her life, produced by Salt and Light Television, was premiered. St. Kateri was a simple and devout Mohawk woman who witnessed to the love of Jesus during the early years of contact between Europeans and the Indigenous Peoples of the New World—she is called the “Lily of the Mohawks.”

This now leads me to my topic for this article. Outside the Lateran Basilica is a great bronze statue of St. Francis of Assisi surrounded by some of his disciples. St. Francis has his arms raised in such a way that he seems to be embracing the basilica and by extension all the churches in the world. He had come to Rome in 1209 to speak to Pope Innocent III about approval for his new order. While Francis was waiting to see the Pope, Innocent had a vision in which he saw Francis supporting the Lateran, which was falling down. The Pope saw in this the role of Francis and his followers in reforming the Church which had become corrupt at that time.

Well, with the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope Francis, the first Pope to use the name of St. Francis of Assisi, and given the new Pope's love for the poor and his own humble way of life, one could, with a little imagination say, that St. Francis, waiting so long outside the mother of all churches, has now taken the Episcopal Chair inside! And he has caught the attention of the world by so doing. I saw this at close range with the numerous media inquiries that came in a frenzy starting on the day the white smoke was detected above the Sistine Chapel. A small group of us were travelling by car to Nanaimo for a Council of Priests meeting and we were privileged to hear of the white smoke almost immediately on the Catholic Channel on satellite radio. By the time we arrived at St. Peter's Parish, TV cameras were waiting for us and we invited them into the parish office as we waited for news on who the new Pope would be via television—the media were as excited as we were!

Immediately following his election, the new Pope spoke to the Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel without notes and what he said was something St. Francis himself could very well have expressed:

“We can journey as much as we want, we can build many things, but if we do not confess Jesus Christ, the thing does not work. We will become a welfare NGO but not the Church, the Bride of Christ.

When we journey without the Cross, when we build without the Cross and when we confess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord: we are worldly, we are bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord.

There are many other things he said immediately following his election and they are important for they show what is on his mind for the Church—they are words which challenge all of us.

Yes, it appears that Francis has entered the Lateran, but this is not in any way to lessen the importance of the good and holy men who were his predecessors. It is rather to say that something unique and special has happened to the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The election and installation of a Pope renews the life of the Church and begins a new chapter in its history, and we are part of that history and what it means to be Catholic! *Ciao and Benvenuto Francesco*—and do take your seat! ✠



Photo Credit: Andrea Sabbadini

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Read more about Pope Francis on Page 12





Forward with Courage

by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

What is Catholic Stewardship?

Stewardship is a complete lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all. Stewardship is responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent and treasure. It enhances our relationships with God and one another. Stewardship is living out a commitment to be Christ-centered rather than self-centered and involves a conversion of the heart. Stewardship is a lifelong journey with each person at a different place on the path.

Stewardship is not just a program, a fund-raising scheme, or about money and donations. But stewardship can have some programmatic elements. For example, the Diocese and parishes will be teaching about the stewardship way of life as they prepare the faithful for our Annual Diocesan Appeal. This opportunity allows parishioners to prayerfully discern and reflect on how much of their time, talents, and treasure they can commit to their parish and the Diocese over the next year.
~ with excerpts from *Our Sunday Visitor*

What do Good Stewards Do?

When God is recognized as the origin of all life, the giver of everything that we have and we are, the source of our freedom and our giftedness, the healthy person responds by thanking Him through prayer, by serving Him and His people through ministry, and by sharing our financial resources with those in need. Stewardship is a way of life based upon conversion of heart.

Stewards do four things:

- Receive God's gifts gratefully
- Nurture God's gifts responsibly
- Share God's gifts justly and charitably
- Return those gifts to God abundantly

Gratitude is the cornerstone of stewardship. All is gift for those who see life with the eyes of faith. God gives us our existence and talents, our time and our treasure, our family and our friends. Stewards express their gratitude by a life of generosity.

Stewards are serious about naming and developing the gifts and talents given to them for the sake of the community. As one poet asks: "What have you done with the garden entrusted to you?" (Antonio Machado)

Responsibility and accountability are part of our call as disciples.

~ Bishop Robert Morneau, Green Bay, Wisconsin

2012 Gifts/Pledges Compared to 2010 and 2011 Appeals

	2010	2011	2012
Number of Gifts	2544	2591	2340
Total Pledged	\$1,214,140	\$1,084,192	\$834,830
% of Diocese Goal	162%	145%	111%
Average Gift	\$477	\$418	\$360
Parish Share	\$488,062	\$346,299	\$221,408

Looking Ahead to the 2013 Appeal

- The Diocesan Appeal will continue in the fall of 2013 with a title of *Journey of Hearts & Hands: In Proportion to Our Blessings*
- Appeal 2013 Weekends
 - October 19/20 – introductory weekend
 - October 26/27 – video weekend
 - November 2/3 – stewardship education weekend
 - November 9/10 – commitment weekend
- Appeal elements planned include
 - Print Materials
 - Clergy Consultations
 - Parish Leadership Training
 - Mass of Thanksgiving & Dinner
 - Mailout from the Diocesan Appeal Office
 - Video
 - Diocesan website will continue to evolve

Stewardship in Scripture

No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.

~ Deuteronomy 16:16-17

So do not worry and say, "What are we to eat?" or "What are we to drink?" or "What are we to wear?" All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.

~ Matthew 6:31-33

Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

~ 1 Peter 4:9-11 ✠

Stewardship Prayer

Almighty and ever faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging Your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in You and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to Your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ.

We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts. As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavour.

Almighty and ever faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that You who have begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Pastoral Plan Update

Catechists Gather at Ascension Parish to Share Faith Journey

by Jamie Zwicker

When did you meet Jesus?

Upwards of 70 parish catechists and religious education coordinators gathered recently at the Church of the Ascension in Parksville. They were there to participate in a day-long retreat and workshop given by Bishop Richard on *Sharing our Faith Journey* in this Year of Faith.

“I have great esteem for the work that you do.” The Bishop himself knows of the challenges they face weekly, as he himself was a teacher prior to entering the priesthood, having graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in Education in 1976. Bishop Richard reminded those gathered that there is no greater work than to evangelize—sharing our encounter with Christ.

“The content of our faith is important, but it is secondary to the heart. The heart is vital!”

~ Bishop Richard Gagnon

“The content of our faith is important, but it is secondary to the heart. The heart is vital!” said the Bishop. He pointed out that even Pope Benedict XVI said, in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* that “knowing the content is not sufficient unless the heart is opened by grace.” And sharing that faith response involves a communal and personal response. “In the classroom setting,” he said, “you bring true happiness to your children and youth: in the proclamation of the Word, and in your visual, lived response to that Word.”

The Bishop reminded us that our Journey of Faith—like that of all of humankind—is connected to a spiritual reality that cannot be fully completed until you meet the person of Jesus. Some have described the encounter of meeting Jesus as “breathing fresh mountain air,” exclaiming, “it is tangible, and it is real!” Some have referred to meeting Jesus as “encountering a different kind of humanity, a divine presence.”

He urged the catechists to consider the following questions: When did you first meet Jesus? What had happened? Who introduced you to him? And how did you respond to the encounter?

Bishop Richard then brought to mind some of the ways women and men have responded to Jesus over the centuries: the development of hospitals, schools, churches and parish communities, religious communities (both female and

male), works with the poor and marginalized, St. Vincent de Paul organizations, the Sacraments, catechists, Development and Peace, ministry to the divorced, missionary organizations, Birthright—“The list could go on forever.”

The Journey of our lives take place within the context of recurring, habitual and ritual individual or family events: daily meal times, summer picnics, birthday parties, weddings and so on. Bishop Richard pointed out that our Journey of Faith also takes place within the yearly, naturally occurring events called seasons. Winter, the time we are in now, is generally regarded as a time of danger as the elderly and frail will remain inside, protected from the elements. Spring is a time of preparation and cleaning, of getting things just right. Summer is the time when we enjoy the plateau of growth. And autumn is the time of gathering the harvest, giving thanks, and preparing for winter and eventual dying.

Bishop Richard then compared these natural seasons with the liturgical seasons. The Church celebrates our time now with Lent, as a time of the promise of new life, often like that of a plant struggling through the soil; Easter is the time of the full flowering of this new life. Ordinary Time is next, reflecting the public life of Jesus, while Advent frequently focuses on preparing for the end: the end of time.

He urged those present to take full advantage of this season of Lent in this Year of Faith, and to learn from the experience of Lydia, that “knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart is opened... (Acts 14:14)” Faith comes from meeting the person of Jesus. The response to that meeting leads to charity—*agape*. “Faith comes before charity, but faith is genuine only if crowned by charity.”

There is no greater work of charity than evangelization, said Bishop Richard, likening the response to that of Francis of Assisi: *we are to proclaim the Gospel always, and use words only if necessary*. “We will evangelize by the lives that we lead and the works that we do. And we are not alone—the Holy Spirit will guide and continue the work” assured the Bishop.

The needs of those gathered were met by a dedicated—and extremely talented—group from the parish’s CWL, who provided the delicious snacks, meal and refreshments during the day. Said more than one smiling catechist rubbing their stomachs at the end of the day “it was fabulous today; gosh, were we ever fed!” Many thanks to Father Mel and his pastoral team for hosting this event! ✠

Porta Fidei:

www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/motu_proprio/documents/hf_ben-xvi_motu-proprio_20111011_porta-fidei_en.html

Benedict’s Letter for Lent 2013:

www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/len/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20121015_lent-2013_en.html

“knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart is opened... (Acts 14:14)”

2013 TRIPS OF A LIFETIME

SILVER TOURS PRESENTS

Pilgrimage to the Child Jesus of Prague and to the Divine Mercy

Chaplain/Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Glenn Dion

September 17-27, 2013 – 11 Days at \$3,688.00/person sharing, includes air fare from Vancouver, Fuel Surcharges, Hotel Accommodations with breakfast & dinners daily, sightseeing, entrance fees, tips & much more. Highlights: Infant Jesus of Prague, Krakow (Divine Mercy Shrine, St. Faustina, & PJPII Centre) Auschwitz, Wadowice, Salt Mines, Czestachowa (Black Madonna) Auschwitz.

With 5 days Extension to Vilnius-Lithuania, & Frankfurt

17Sep-01Oct, 2013- 15 Days at \$4,322.00 includes all of the above plus an overnight in Frankfurt on the return. Highlights for the Extension: Church of the Holy Spirit (Divine Mercy original Image) Gate of Dawn Chapel (Ostra Brama), Hill of Crosses, Shrine of Our Lady of Siluva. Sr. Gaudia & Sr. Vianneya of the Divine Mercy Shrine will join us to Vilnius from Warsaw.

Year of Faith Pilgrimage with Major Marian Shrines

Chaplain/Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Nilo Macapinlac

16 – 29 October 2013- 14 days at \$4,699.00/person sharing includes airfare from Vancouver, fuel surcharges & taxes, Hotel Accommodations with 32 meals (daily breakfast & dinner with 7 lunches, sightseeing, entrance fees, tips & more)

Our Lady of Good Counsel-Holy Land Pilgrimage

Chaplain/Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Mario Villaraza

29October – 10November 2013 at \$3,899.00/person sharing includes airfare from Vancouver, Hotel Accommodations with daily breakfast & dinner with 3 special meals, sightseeing, Entrance Fees, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, tips

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sheila Silverio ctc

Silver Tours, 2177 Michigan Way, Nanaimo BC

(250) 755-1981 | Toll Free 1-888-755-1988

Email Sheila – mssil@telus.net

SPRING WORKSHOP

Join us!

As a follow-up to the information presented by Bishop Gagnon on February 23, all Coordinators, Catechists and Sacramental Preparation Team members are invited to continue their journey. You will:

Review comprehensive outlines for Years 1 & 2
Receive your parish’s Year 1 (Cycle C/A) binder
Participate in the actual modelling of the lessons

Information and registration:

Jamie Zwicker

(250) 477-6853

jzwicker@cisdv.bc.ca

Please confirm
by April 12



St. Peter’s, April 20
Holy Cross, April 27

9 am - 2:30 pm

Lunch will be provided; please
indicate dietary concerns



Pastoral Itinerary
Calendar of Events

Bishop Richard Gagnon

All events are in Victoria unless otherwise noted

April 2013

- 1-3 Prince George: Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Stephen Jensen
- 5 Holy Cross, Victoria: 5 pm UVic Grad Mass and Dinner
- 7-9 Ottawa: National Liturgy Commission
- 11 Victoria: Blessing of St. Columba Church (7 pm)
- 12 Pastoral Centre/Sacred Heart: Parish Support Staff Retreat
- 13 Church of the Ascension, Parksville: Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- Christ the King, Courtenay: Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 14 St. Patrick's, Campbell River: Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- 21 Holy Cross, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (10:30 am)
- St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (2 pm)
- 23 Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria: Mass (10:30 am)
- 24 Victoria: Council of Priests
- 25-28 Richmond: Knights of Columbus Annual Convention
- 29- May 3 Diocese of Victoria Clergy Retreat

May 2013

- 4 Christ the King, Courtenay: SVDP BC/Yukon AGM
- 5 St. Andrew's Cathedral: Vocations Mass (11 am)
- 6-7 St. Peter's, Nanaimo: CWL Diocesan Convention
- 9 St. Andrew's Cathedral (12:00 pm) Mass and March for Life
- 10 Queen of Peace, Victoria: (7 pm) Diaconate Ordination
- 11 Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni: Confirmation Mass (1 pm)
- St. Peter's, Nanaimo: Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 12 Trinity, Nanaimo: Confirmation Mass (9 am)
- St. Edward's, Duncan: Confirmation Mass (1 pm)
- 13-15 Ottawa: National Liturgy Commission
- 15 Duncan: Council of Priests
- 18 Sacred Heart, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 19 St. Andrew's Cathedral: Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- 20-31 Vancouver: Retreat Master, Archdiocese of Vancouver Clergy Retreat

June 2013

- 1 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 2 St. Patrick's Victoria, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (2 pm)
- 3 Victoria: Canadian Catholic Historical Association Mass & Banquet
- 4 Victoria: Association of Catholic Leaders Breakfast, 7 am, Union Club
- Mass (10:30 am) Mount St. Mary Hospital
- 6-8 St. Patrick's Victoria: CWL Provincial Convention
- 8 St. Andrew's Cathedral: CWL Closing Mass, (5 pm)
- 9 Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake: Mass (9 am) DOV Family Marriage Conference
- St. Francis Xavier, Mill Bay: Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- 14 St. Andrew's Cathedral: Ordinariate Ordination
- 15 St. Rose of Lima, Sooke: Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 16 St. Joseph's, Chemainus: Confirmation Mass (10:45 am)
- 17 Christ the King, Courtenay: Mass (7 pm) l 50th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Joe Killoran
- 19 Victoria: Council of Priests
- 22-23 North Island Parishes: Pastoral visit
- 24 St. Jean Baptiste, Victoria: Mass (11 am)
- 26 St. Andrew's Cathedral: St. Andrew's Elementary School Closing Mass, (9:30 am)
- 26 St. Andrew's Cathedral: St. Andrew's Regional High School Grad Mass, (6:30 pm)
- 29 St. Andrew's Cathedral: Ordination of David Hogman (10 am)

April

- 20 Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Sacred Heart Christian Charities Spring Garage and Clothing Sale, Saturday, April 20 from 9 am – 2 pm. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact the parish office at sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca or phone (250) 479-1611.
- 27 Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: The Korean Community presents a Korean Culture and Food Bazaar on Saturday, April 27 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. Come and enjoy small crafts (quilted items) and experience the Korean culture and authentic Korean food: Kimchi, Bulgogi and BBQ to mention a few! For more information, contact Vivianne at viviannehjkim@msn.com or by phone at (250) 889-5080.
- 27 Church of the Ascension, Parksville: Vintage Fair celebrating 75 years 10:30 am - 3:30 pm; proceeds to the Building Fund. For more information contact Sandi Digras at sdigras@yahoo.com.

May

- 24-26 St. Andrew's Regional High School: Diocesan Youth Conference featuring guest speaker Jesse Manibusan from 2by2 Ministries. Open to all youth from grades 8-12 and recent high school grads. Registration forms will be available soon from your local parish and on the Diocesan website (www.rcdvictoria.org). Also be sure to look out for our Facebook event page. Hope to see you there! For more information contact the Conference Planning Committee at teamdyc@gmail.com. (See also ad page 23.)

June

- 8-9 Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake: Join us for Victoria's first Marriage and Family Life Conference featuring keynote speaker Bishop Gary Gordon. Other activities include Mass with Bishop Richard Gagnon, workshops, outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, sports courts, archery—and of course lots of good food and fellowship. Register now at www.rcdvictoria.org; there is limited space available. Cost is \$150/couple or family with children 2 yrs & younger, or \$250/family with children 3 yrs & older. Your registration includes an overnight stay, meals and snacks. For more information contact Reine Mykyte at (250) 884-7100 or via email at reine_and_ian@hotmail.com, or Jim O'Reilly at jeoreilly@rcdvictoria.org. Deadline for registration is May 10. If you would like to attend but are experiencing difficulties doing so, please contact Reine directly.
- 23 Church of the Ascension, Parksville: 75th Anniversary picnic 12 noon to 3 pm; admission is free. Join us for games, BBQ cooked by the Knights of Columbus, and a special double 75th birthday celebration for two of our CWL members! For more information contact Sandi Digras at sdigras@yahoo.com.

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).
- At the Cathedral: 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

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.

- At the Cathedral. 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

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



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Diocese of Victoria
1 - 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC,
Canada V8X 2A1
www.rcdvictoria.org

Circulation 6,600
2013 Publication Dates
February, April, June,
September, November & December

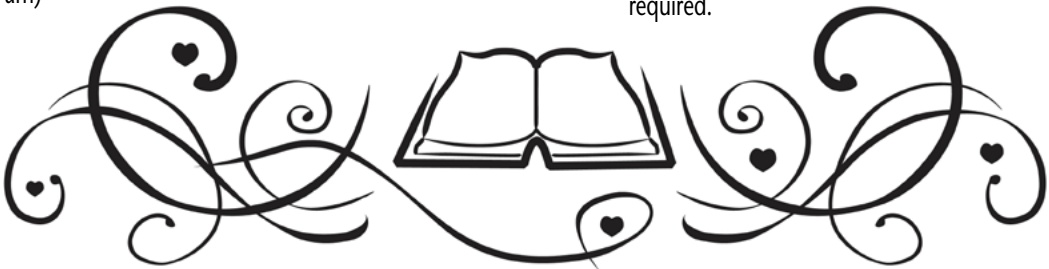
Articles submitted for consideration
must be received by the 5th of the month preceding
publication. Submissions should be no more
than 400 words in length, and those chosen for
publication may be edited for content or length.
Submissions and comments should be sent to:
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Island News & Events



Marian Pilgrimage

by Janet Campbell

Last fall, 12 Victoria Diocesan Pilgrims, grateful indeed to be off with Sheila of Silver Tours, joined with Fr. Mel of Ascension Parish and thirty others from across America to experience the Marian journey through Portugal, Spain and France.

From our first hotel in Fatima, we could see the beautiful Basilica and hear the Ave Maria church bells! How glorious was that sound! Within a few kilometres, we prayed the Way of the Cross on the sites of the apparitions of the Angel to the children in 1916, and of Our Lady which began May 13, 1917. We stepped into the childhood homes of the visionaries—Bl. Francisco, Bl. Jacinta, and their cousin Lucia. (Lucia became Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart and lived to be age 97, passing away in February 2005.) Lucia's niece talked to our group during our visit to the back-garden well!

What a Blessing to hold high the Nanaimo Cenacle Prayer Group banner, while participating in the Processions through the plaza to Our Lady of the Rosary Basilica—a place of Prayer for World Peace. It has been described as “one of the most important places of devotion in the world.” Earlier, at the opposite end of the plaza we toured a beautiful new church, Most Holy Trinity. Consecrated in 2007, it seats 8,633 people.

The next few weeks truly deepened our faith. We viewed the relic of the Most Holy Miracle of Santarem; we witnessed the swinging of the *Botafumeiro* (at the Pilgrims Mass in Santiago de Compostela); it weighs 80 kilograms and contains 40 kilograms of charcoal and incense! We followed the life of Bernadette—from her time in Lourdes, where she experienced the eighteen apparitions of Our Lady Immaculate Conception, to her life in the Convent of St. Gildard (where we stayed). This is where, as Sister Marie Bernard, from age 22, she devoted her life to nursing the sick and praying for sinners.

Another highlight was the Processions in Lourdes where over four million pilgrims a year continue to come to pray the rosary and sing the Hymn of Lourdes in a variety of languages *O Mary, our Mother, we come to this place, where you who are sinless appeared full of grace—Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!*

We learned so much from Sheila, our local guides, and from our knowledgeable bus owner/operator, Nigel, who was with us for the whole pilgrimage. On board the new big red bus time passed quickly as we discerned our daily experiences. We enjoyed “Catechism 101” with Fr. Mel, music, DVDs, prayer, reflection, sharing stories, laughter and snacks. Each day, Mass was celebrated in remarkable Basilicas, Chapels, and Shrines.

“A pilgrim does not content himself with only visiting the place where the message has been delivered, but in sustained prayer, he gets deeply involved in the message....”

Other local saints whose sites we visited are St. John-Marie Vianney, of Ars Sur Formans, “Patron Saint of Parish Priests”; St. Marguerite-Marie, in Parlay le Monial, faithful to the mission to love and show others how to love the Sacred Heart of Jesus; St. Therese of Lisieux “the little Flower of Jesus”; St. Catherine Laboure and St Vincent de Paul in Paris.

Indeed, we were deepened in our Faith and grateful to have experienced a trip of a lifetime! God Bless! ✠



Pope Bestows Papal Honor on Canadian Ordinariate Priest

(Houston, TX – Feb. 2, 2013) Monsignor Jeffrey N. Steenson, Ordinary of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, announced today that Pope Benedict XVI has named Reverend Peter Wilkinson of Victoria, British Columbia a Prelate of Honor. He will now have the title of Monsignor.

The surprise announcement was made by Msgr. Steenson during a symposium, *The Mission of the Ordinariate*. The event was sponsored by the Ordinariate and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas to mark the Ordinariate's first year.

Monsignor Wilkinson became Catholic in April 2012 and was ordained a Catholic priest on Dec. 8, 2012 at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. He currently leads the Fellowship of Blessed John Henry Newman (www.blessedjohnhenrynewmanfellowship.ca), which holds Mass on Sundays at St. Columba, 40 High Street, Victoria, BC.

A native of British Columbia, Msgr. Wilkinson is the former Bishop Ordinary of the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada (ACCC). He was ordained a priest for the Anglican Church of Canada in 1965. In 1977, he joined the ACCC and in 1999 he was elected Suffragan Bishop. Six years later, in 2009, he became Bishop Ordinary.

Prelate of Honor is the second level of Monsignor. The first is Chaplain of His Holiness and the highest level, rarely given, is Protonotary Apostolic.

The Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter was established on Jan. 1, 2012 to welcome former Anglican groups and clergy seeking to become Catholic. While fully Catholic, ordinariate communities retain aspects of their Anglican heritage and traditions. The ordinariate includes 30 priests and 1,600 people in 36 communities across North America. Two other ordinariates exist: Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom and Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia. ✠



Msgr. Peter Wilkinson



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250.246.3191 | www.stjosephselem.ca



Association of Catholic Leaders of Victoria: We Eat At Dawn

by Liz Boyd

On February 19, 2013, the Victoria Association of Catholic Leaders (ACL) held its second breakfast with Gerry Herkel, former CEO of St. Michael's Centre in Burnaby speaking on "Humility, Service & Leadership." Michael Pontus, former President & CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox, also contributed to the presentation though he was unable to attend due to illness.



Defining leadership as "the power to inspire others to act when not required," Mr. Herkel asked his 60 listeners: "What are the values or virtues that motivate your life?" He felt that strong leaders share a number of key characteristics such as being value driven, insightful, full of integrity and influential. He spoke of leadership in the Catholic tradition quoting Robert Greenleaf's book *Servant Leadership* in which the author said, "True leadership emerges from one whose primary motivation is to serve." Herkel reminded his audience that Christ came not to be served but to serve. He focused on servant leadership in health care though he felt there was a need for a similar type of leadership in such areas as education, the business world, and the church.

Drawing from James W. Sipe and Don M. Frick's *Seven Pillars of Servant Leadership*, the former CEO outlined these pillars as:

1. Being a person of good moral character
2. Putting people first before self
3. Being a skilled communicator
4. Acting as a compassionate communicator
5. Showing foresight
6. Being a systems thinker
7. Acting and speaking from a base of moral authority

To foster trust in one's work environment, Herkel said communication is important. "Keep people informed. We need to be skilled communicators who speak effectively and listen earnestly. Being attentive involves listening and being observant, courteous, patient, and showing genuine interest, sincerity, forgiveness, concern, trust, mercy and empathy."

He also urged people to practice the Principle of Subsidiarity, reaffirmed by Vatican II, which holds that decisions should be made at the lowest level possible in an organization—as close as possible to those who are directly involved or affected by the decisions.

He concluded by saying, "Jesus is present in each one of us this morning. He is present in all other persons. Our role is to see Christ in everyone we meet and be Christ-like to them"... as we go about being Catholic leaders in our chosen profession.

The next ACL breakfast is Tuesday, June 4 when the speaker will be Tom Smithwick, retired Kelowna attorney, former Kelowna City Councilor and recipient of the Governor General of Canada Caring Canadian Award and the topic will be "If being a Catholic were a crime, would I be convicted?" For more information, contact Tim Dumas at victoriabcaccl@gmail.com or (250) 857-5817. ✂

Fr. Charles Brandt Celebrates His 90th Birthday at St. Patrick's Church, Campbell River

From remarks made by Ted and Danielle Fortosky

Happy Birthday Fr. Charles, and greetings Bishop Gagnon, Father Shayne, family and friends.

[We] live near Comox now, but we have actually spent most of our lives in Saskatoon—so meeting Fr. Charles 18 years ago was quite unexpected. The story goes like this:

In the late 1980s, Ted started a Meditation group at our parish, so in 1995 when the national Conference on Christian Meditation was set for Winnipeg, we decided to attend.



Well-wishers gather to celebrate Fr. Brandt's 90th Birthday

When we arrived we saw that one of the speakers, a Fr. Charles Brandt, was from Black Creek on Vancouver Island. We had vacationed near Comox since 1990, and were somewhat familiar with the area so were eager to hear him.

As he began his talk, Fr. Charles radiated a warmth that was irresistible on that chilly weekend in Winnipeg. He talked about the wonder and delight of the natural world as a primary revelation of God. Against the expanse of prairie sky he challenged us to refresh our spirits in God's great love as expressed in all living beings.

We [were fortunate to] meet Fr. Charles after his talk in Winnipeg and he invited us to visit him on our next trip to the Island. Thus began a friendship we treasure to this day.

Fr. Charles [also lived in Winnipeg] for a short time. Because he is recognized as one of North America's most skilled conservators, the National Archives asked him to go there to conserve the papers of Louis Riel. What a wonderful contribution [Fr. Charles made] to this remarkable part of our history.

These glimpses of Fr. Charles barely scratch the surface of the vast web of inter connections he brings to all he encounters, be it rivers and steelheads or sand hills and watersheds; be it science and conservation or art and conversation. He has a universal quality that is grounded in his priesthood through faith, obedience and service. And at 90 years he continues to live his mission—to preserve and restore our spirits, to preserve and restore our earth.

Fr. Charles we wish you a wonderful, happy 90th birthday and many more. In the words of Julian of Norwich,

“we ask that you continueth—that God will knoweth you, loveth you and keepeth you, and all shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well. ✂

A Word of Caution

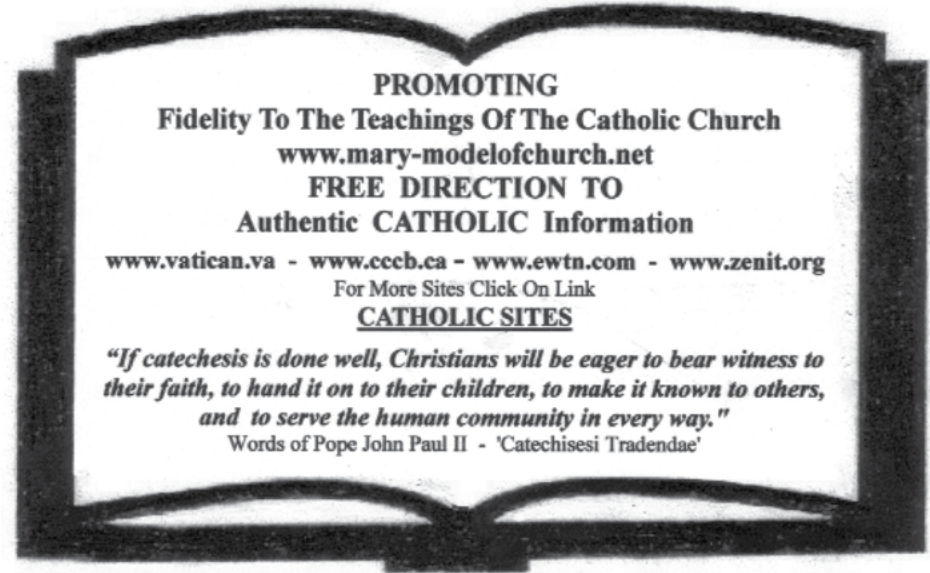
by Leah MacKenzie, CFO, Diocese of Victoria

We've all heard stories of fraudulent money scams when someone claiming to be in need seeks money from others, or perhaps promises that "you have been named in a will and if you only send a certain amount of money the funds will be released to you," or other similar, questionable statements.

For example, at one parish a parishioner emailed others indicating that she was marooned in Africa and "if only we could assist her with a few thousand dollars I would be able to return home." Someone had attained control of her email and, unknown to her, was sending out this request to everyone in her address book. Fortunately, no one was taken in by the scheme. Twice the Chancery office has been approached by "bishops" stranded at airports requiring funds to be wired to Western Union so they could buy a ticket back home. Upon investigation both these were scams and other dioceses were also approached.

In the same way, one needs to be prudent when it comes to responding to requests for money from people you know within the Church community, even if the need seems genuine and especially if the person requests that you keep the transaction secret. This applies equally to any such requests—by either laity or clergy. Common sense dictates that unless you are willing to lose your money, you ought not to lend it to anyone without acquiring the necessary guarantees of repayment utilizing the services of a lawyer, etc. In the same fashion, one should not act as the guarantor of a bank loan for another individual without the certainty that the person is able to repay the loan. Otherwise, you will be held responsible by the banking institution for the loan you have guaranteed. The same applies to allowing someone else access to your credit card—good reminders for us all.

If you feel that you have been the victim of a financial scam, you are encouraged to seek legal advice and to make a report to the police. In all financial matters, please act with caution and prudence. ✂



25 Year Reunion of St. Patrick's Moms & Tots

by Sarah Roberge

What better way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend than by reuniting old friends? The St. Patrick's Moms & Tots group is celebrating 25 years of service to the parenting community with a number of events to mark this commemorative day. This includes a dedicated Mass, a potluck lunch and a social gathering, all taking place on May 11, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

The St. Patrick's Moms & Tots group has set itself apart from other playgroups in the Victoria region by offering mothers the ultimate respite: a group of generous, caring "Grandmas" is available to provide nurturing childcare while moms socialize over tea. The shape of the mom's social hour has varied much over the past 25 years but one element remains constant—love—the supportive love of friendship, the unconditional love of family bonds and the mystery of love through faith.

It is a group that was founded by Nancy Stuart after she had attended a similar model through Capital Families Association of Victoria (CFAV), and followed their leadership development training which gave her the necessary skills to spearhead this initiative in her own parish. "We [the moms] thought we were doing it for ourselves, but it ended up helping everyone. The moms were bonding with the babysitters, often ladies whose own children and grandchildren were far away, and between the babysitters, fostering social involvement."

Indeed many lasting friendships have been formed at the St. Patrick's Moms & Tots group. Some of the "Grandmas" still babysitting today were among the first to volunteer 25 years ago. And while Nancy's family situation eventually outgrew the playgroup, she continued to meet weekly with other moms who found themselves in the same situation, continuing their fellowship even after their children had outgrown it.

Apart from fostering social involvement within her parish, Nancy hoped to and succeeded in fostering leadership development. Based on the model taught at CFAV, the leader/organizer of Moms & Tots changes every two years, with the incumbent mentoring the new leader in her last year. The changing leadership allows for refreshed ideas and provides a leadership opportunity for those who are willing to step up to the challenge.

So what will the 25th Anniversary celebrations look like? It will begin with Mass on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 12:10 at St. Patrick's Church on 2060 Haultain Street, followed by a potluck lunch and social in the hall featuring an open microphone and bulletin board outlining the history of the group. It will be a reunion of old friends, the parents, Grandmas and children who have attended Moms & Tots for friendship, love, play, escape, prayer, sharing, teaching, leading and generally enriching the St. Patrick's community.

St. Patrick's Moms & Tots hopes to get in touch with as many alumni as possible to assemble a collage of photos and stories looking back into the group's history. If you have any information or photos to share, for further details on the event, to RSVP or to volunteer, please contact Bonnie, 250-213-4984 or koalabear_writer@yahoo.ca or Laura, 250-370-2736 or lauravpearse@gmail.com. ✂

New Executive Director for The Society of Friends of St. Ann's Academy

The Society of Friends of St. Ann's Academy welcomes its new Executive Director Julie Cormier. As the former Community Development Coordinator of the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, Julie has a solid background in office administration, volunteer management, project coordination, event management and fundraising. Julie is a graduate student at the University of Victoria enrolled in the Studies in Policy and Practice program. Her significant experience combined with her youthful energy will help carry our Society into its next phase of awareness-building, community engagement, and fundraising.

The Friends say goodbye to Executive Director Theresa Vogel, who was the mainstay of the Society's operation for the past eight years. Theresa received an offer to work for the Diocese of Whitehorse in the community of Telegraph Creek, BC. Her remarkable achievements with the Society included spearheading the sesquicentennial celebrations of the arrival of the Sisters of Saint Ann on the West Coast. Theresa's work and vision allowed the Society to grow into an organization committed to carrying the legacy of Saint Ann's Academy into the future. We wish her all the best in her new endeavour.

The mission of the Society is to honour, celebrate and preserve the spiritual, social, cultural and historical legacy of St. Ann's Academy. For more information on the Friends of St. Ann's Academy or to become a member, contact Julie Cormier at 250-953-8820 or email info@friendsofstannacademy.com. Visit the Society's website at www.friendsofstannacademy.com ✂

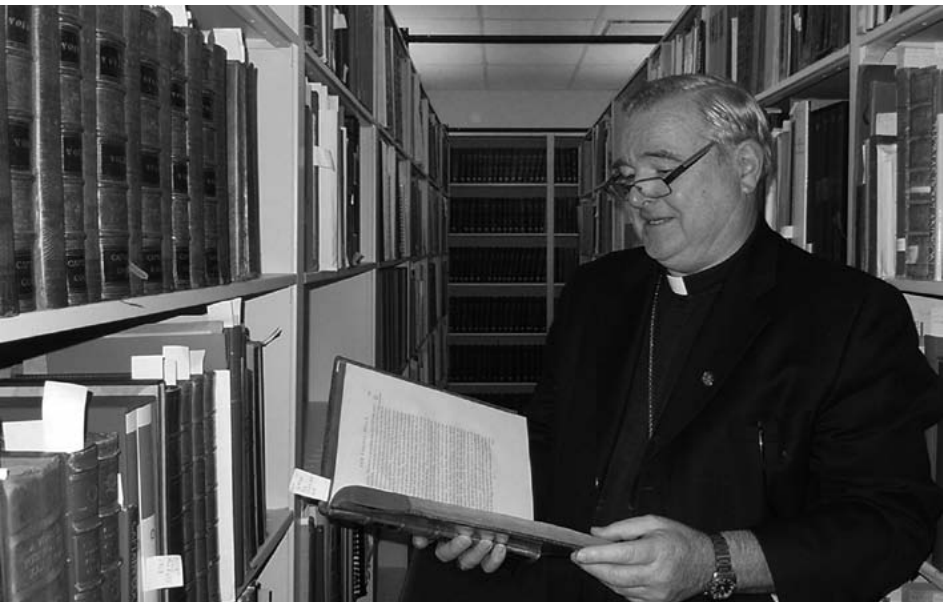


UVic 50th Anniversary Community Seminar: Catholic Legacies in Victoria

by Leslie Kenny

The history and legends of Victoria's early Roman Catholic missions and parishes will be brought to vivid life in a special event this May 28-29, 2013 at the University of Victoria. "Catholic Legacies in Victoria," a collaboration of the UVic Centre for Studies in Religion and Society with the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning, the UVic 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, the UVic Faculty of Humanities, St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site, the BC Royal Museum, and the Sisters of St. Ann, will highlight treasures contained in two of Western Canada's most extensive and impressive religious archives: the Seghers rare book collection at UVic Library Special Collections, and the Archives of the Sisters of St. Ann, now housed with the Provincial Archives at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

This free two-day seminar will include mini-lectures by scholars and archivists from around the Pacific Northwest, a tour of the famous Seghers books at UVic Special Collections, and field visits to St. Ann's Academy and the Royal BC Museum.



Bishop Gagnon reviewing the Seghers Collection. Photo credit: Terry Marner

Gathered from booksellers and book fairs in Europe and North America, the library now named for Seghers comprises 3500 rare and precious religious books, many brought to Victoria around 1864 by the Belgian priest Charles Seghers, who served two terms as the second and fourth bishop of the Diocese of Vancouver Island, as well as archbishop of the Oregon region. Over 100 years later in 1976, having increased in size through additions made by later generations of missionaries and priests, the collection arrived at UVic on permanent loan from the Diocese of Victoria.

During the same period of 1850-60, the Sisters of St. Ann arrived in Victoria from their Quebec motherhouse and soon established an extensive network of schools and hospitals that were to have a defining influence on the development of the Pacific Northwest. In 2012, the Sisters gifted their entire collection of photographs, letters, documents, works of art, vintage textiles and other artifacts to the care of the Royal BC Museum. This is the largest private collection and the first religious archive donated to the BC Museum.

A featured highlight of the Catholic Legacies event will be UVic professor Hélène Cazes's dual keynote address (in French and English), "The Bishop's Books: The Seghers Collection Then and Now," May 28 at 6:00 and 7:00 pm in the Harry Hickman Building, room 105. An accomplished scholar of Renaissance literatures and cultures, Prof. Cazes will share stories and histories of the books and insights into the origins of the collection and its continuing importance for future generations.

All of the community are invited to take part in "Catholic Legacies in Victoria," a featured event of UVic's 50th Anniversary Celebrations. For more information or to register, please visit the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society website at www.csr.uvic.ca, or phone 250-721-6325. ✂



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The Sisters of St. Ann extend
a warm welcome to Julie Cormier
who will help carry out the legacy of
The Sisters of St. Ann

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CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA—CATCH THE FIRE!

by Kathy Weswick, Victoria Diocesan President

On February 16, 2013, Sacred Heart parish was host to the CWL’s *Catch the Fire* event. This was well attended, with 36 ladies from the Victoria area including 19 from Sacred Heart parish. There were also attendees from Esquimalt’s Queen of Peace parish, the Chaplaincy Council at UVic, St. Elizabeth’s in Saanich, St. Patrick’s Victoria and Holy Cross parish.

Those are the numbers, but it doesn’t begin to describe this experiential and informational event that the ladies attended because they were curious and supportive of the Catholic Women’s League.

Their response to the day of prayers, information and music generated a feeling for the sisterhood of the League, renewed purpose, and enthusiastic evaluations. Many ladies who attended wished that more of their members and parishioners had attended, and said they would come back to another workshop like this. We hope to need the nametags that we missed for this meeting even more!

Joanne Olson from Saanich Peninsula Parish had this to say:

Just a short note to say a huge “Thank You” to you and the other presenters/organizers for this most illuminating workshop. I am new to the CWL and newer still to the position of Communications in our Council, so for me, this workshop was quite an eye opener, and made me realize the value of this organization for women the world over. I shall certainly try my best to be a worthy member of our Council. Once again, my sincere thanks. ✂



Participants at the Sacred Heart Catch the Fire workshop



Comox Valley Celebrated St. Joseph’s General Hospital Centennial

On February 22, 2013, St. Joseph’s General Hospital opened its doors to the public and unveiled two significant commemorative projects.

Jim Bennett, Hospital Board Chair, led the proceedings followed by Jane Murphy, President and CEO, before revealing a life-size wall mural collage depicting a century of Care with Compassion through images of the past and present.

“We are very grateful and appreciative of the invitation the Comox Valley has extended to St. Joseph’s over the decades; an invitation to provide health care to meet the needs of this growing population,” said Jane Murphy. “We thank the community for entrusting your care to us for the past 100 years.”

A century of health care service over the generations could not be more appropriately depicted than in the special commemorative video montage, which premiered as the finale to the Open House. Filmed and produced by local videographer Zac Whyte, the video montage personifies St. Joseph’s mission of Care with Compassion.

The commemorative event was attended by several municipal and provincial dignitaries including Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of BC; Don McRae, Minister of Education and MLA for Comox Valley; and the three municipal leaders of the Comox Valley, Mayors Paul Ives, Larry Jangula and Leslie Baird.

Fr. Marek Paczka from Christ the King parish, representing Bishop Richard Gagnon, had this to say:

I am pleased to be here with you today, to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of St Joseph General Hospital.

Those 100 years of health care represent the lives of tens of thousands of people who have been medically attended to, physically cared for, comforted in their distress, nursed back to health, or eased in their passing on from this life.

Those 100 years represent thousands of staff and volunteers who have generously given of themselves to ease the suffering of countless patients, and their families.

On behalf of Bishop Richard, I would like to recognize those who have gone before us, and to thank each one of you who continue to invest yourselves into the various facets of this hospital.

May the spirit of gratitude for the past and present be part of our celebration and give us hope as we look into the future. God bless you all. ✂





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St Patrick’s Council 7934 serving Oak Bay and Saanich East
Langford Council 8394 serving Western Communities and Sooke
Saanich Peninsula Council 9703 serving Saanich Peninsula & Gulf Is.
St. Joseph the Worker Council 13356 serving Saanich West
Sacred Heart Council 15445 serving Sacred Heart Parish—Saanich North and East
Fr. Brabant 4th Degree Assembly serving Greater Victoria
Bishop Demers 4th Degree Assembly serving Greater Victoria

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

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Reading Successes Celebrated at St. Joseph’s School in Chemainus

by Gwen Jahelka, Principal

Four years ago St. Joseph’s School staff restructured timetables to ensure solid, focused blocks of small-group reading instruction tailored to meet the specifically defined needs of students. Since our *Love to Read* groups began we have tracked student growth and witnessed a positive change of students’ abilities and attitudes when it comes to reading. Our reading journey has always included the opportunity to celebrate student success. This is a core element of the program and I believe also core to what it means to be a Catholic school

Celebration is key to the life of a Catholic school. To quote Blessed John Paul II, “We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.” As spiritual leader of a school I believe this attitude of celebration must permeate who we are a Catholic school community. It is important to celebrate the high points of our human journey and to model this with our lives. At St. Joseph’s reading is of course, just one part of our educational journey that should be celebrated.

It has now become tradition at St. Joseph’s to have *Love to Read* celebrations during which we have a whole lot of fun and share the joy of reading with our students. This has taken many forms over the years: we have had visits from “Dr. Reads-A-Lot,” tips from or very own “Reading Leprechaun,” and last year belted out our praise for reading with our “Reading Rocks” celebration.

This year’s theme was “Reading Fun Under the Big Top” and our staff did not disappoint. Students were welcomed with our very own Ringmaster Bernardo and his large entertaining family of clowns, acrobats and popcorn sellers. They enjoyed reading group skits of favourite novels, silly stunts from sidekick Robin, and joined in a lively game of “name that book” as staff dressed as mimes acted out a few reading classics. Our staff modeled their love for reading and it was contagious. Students were delighted and so excited to pick books to read from our free book exchange.

One Reading Circus observer summed it up perfectly:

“I know why I send my children to St. Joseph’s: the teachers are willing to go that extra mile to encourage and celebrate with the students!” ✂

Staff mimed favourite stories for the students



Ringmaster Bernardo led the celebration of reading success.

Ground Breaking Ceremony at St. Joseph’s Elementary School

Bishop Richard Gagnon of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce construction has started for the expansion of St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Saanich.

The Diocese did an extensive review of its Greater Victoria schools and created a long-term Catholic Schools Plan. The review was prompted by the need for seismic upgrades and other building improvements at all schools, as well as insufficient capacity for current and future enrolment.

Today’s Ground Breaking Ceremony celebrates the beginning of construction to amalgamate two Island Catholic elementary schools: St. Joseph’s and St. Andrew’s. The student population from both schools will be accommodated at the expanded St. Joseph’s school or St. Patrick’s school

The Ceremony was attended by Diocesan staff, co-principals Simon Di Castri and Keefer Pollard, children and teachers from both schools, student representatives from St. Andrew’s Regional High School, parents, representatives of the Sisters of St. Ann, who helped provide funding, as well as many others involved in the projet.

“As the Catholic Schools Plan evolved, we formulated a vision that included amalgamating St. Andrew’s Elementary with St. Joseph’s School. This vision has become a reality. With this amalgamation comes renewal. We will be doubling the size of St. Joseph’s to accommodate the amalgamation, and upgrading the current school to meet seismic standards,” said ICS Superintendent Joe Colistro in his opening remarks.

“We work towards a new future on this site; we thank the Lord for his many blessings and we ask for his continued blessings on this project. This marks a big step forward in “building strong foundations for a bright future,” said Bishop Gagnon in his remarks earlier today.

Catholic schools follow the curriculum established by the BC Ministry of Education, within a Christian context, plus a full range of electives in fine arts, sports, technology and more. “Catholic schools help students excel by providing exceptional learning opportunities that stimulate knowledge, skills, attitudes, and Christian teachings and values,” said Bishop Gagnon.

For more information visit the ICS website at www.cisdv.bc.ca/catholic-schools-plan.php. ✂

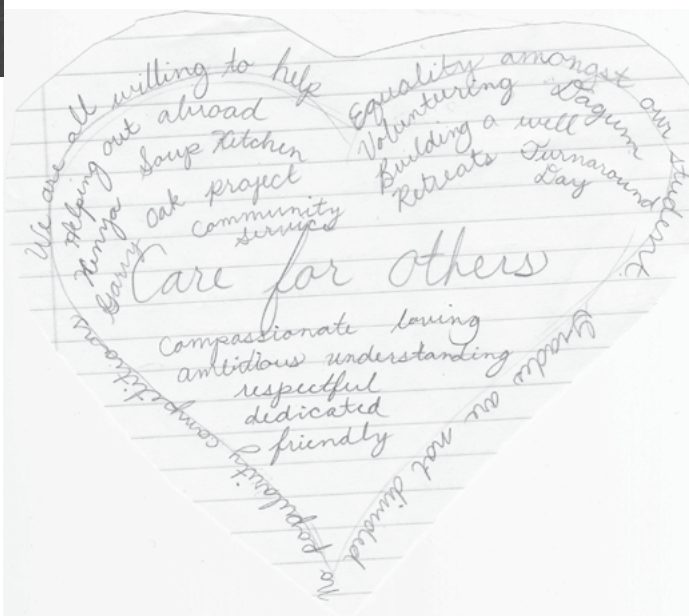
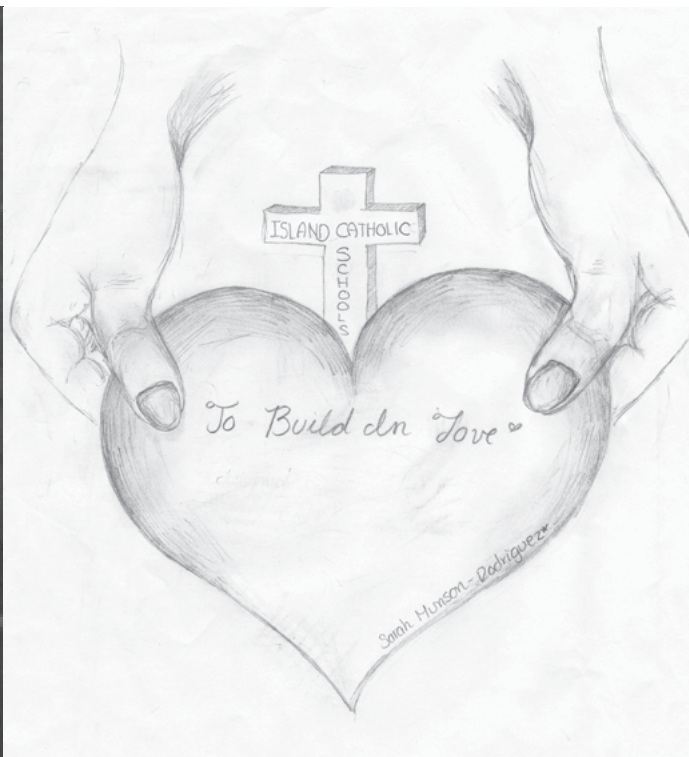


Island Catholic Schools



Taking Love & Light Into the World

As a student at St. Andrew's, I discovered that it is by our choices that we bring love and light into this world; if these choices are formed by the intellect, influenced by love and guided by faith.



You may say you're Catholic, but are you really?
Do you show leadership like God wants you to?
I may say I am Catholic but I don't show it.
Most people fall into the habit of it.
In order to be fully Catholic, be the person God wants you to be.

You can pray and encourage other people to pray
If you talk to God, He is listening and knows what's happening in your life.
You will be closer to God even if he doesn't respond

You can help serve churches, schools or any other public club
People will see you help the community and that you are a helpful person
God will see you are trying to live your faith.

Not only do you say it, you must do it!
And you then will open the doors of faith

~ by Addison, St. Joseph's School, Chemainus, Grade 7

I want to learn how to open the door of faith by worshipping God, reading the Bible and community service. Praying is a good way to start and end your day because you are both listening and having a conversation with God. Reading the Bible and understanding what it means without falling asleep is also a good way to open the doors of faith. Serving my community in ways such as going to Church and participating in the community is a vital way to put my life on the line.

~ by Haley, St. Joseph's School, Chemainus, Grade 7

In our prayer we can commit with faith and trust that God is there for us no matter how many times we fall.

In our service we can help others in various ways with kindness and love for all God's people.

In our community we can share God's love by attending our churches and building a loving community.

In the words of the Bible we can find ideas and how to be good, kind Christians.

If you can stick to your faith and believe the world will flourish with faith.

~ by Hannah, St. Joseph's School, Chemainus, Grade 7

I will open the door of faith by going to Church, reading the Bible and praying, I will go to Church often and listen to the priest. I will read the Bible and be interested in it too. I will pray at school, at night, in the morning and other times as well. I wish could do more.

~ by Rachel, St. Joseph's School, Chemainus, Grade 7

I can open the door of faith by praying, reading the bible, serving, or helping and participating with the community. I can pray more by doing it at home and not just at school. I can read the Bible more often. I can open the door of faith by learning more about God. Giving and serving can also help by helping the elderly and sharing the talents by babysitting or providing daycare. Another thing that can help is participating or helping in the community more like going to church or picking up garbage. Those are ways to open the door of faith.

Ways to share light with others:

Even when asked to do things you don't like doing, be cheerful.

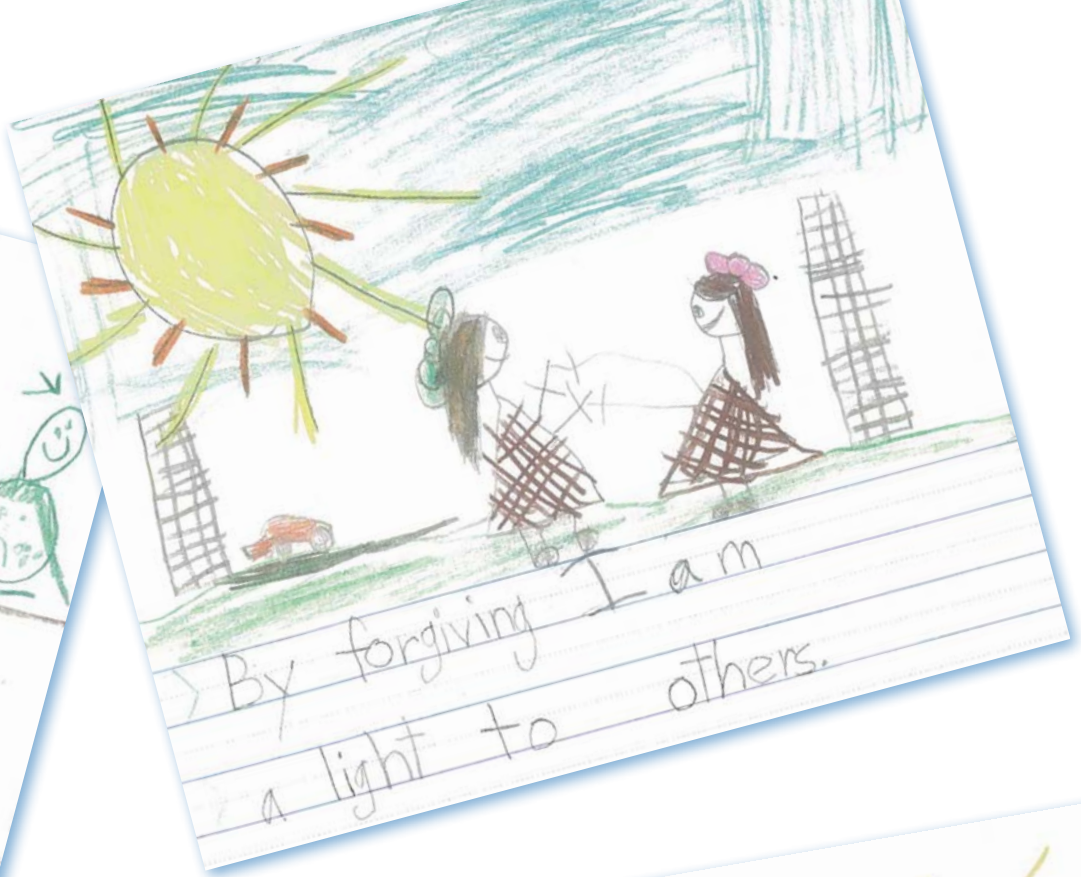
~ Chelsea

When called to do something of help someone respond immediately and without question.

~ Lavi

Pray for someone you heard about in the news who has suffered in some way.

~ Emma



Lily 2G
I may be little but I am big in my own way. Jesus wants us to spread his message... I did that by cutting off my hair for kids for cancer. When I don't fit my clothes I always give it to my cousin because some of her clothes don't fit her. We did world food day for people who need food.



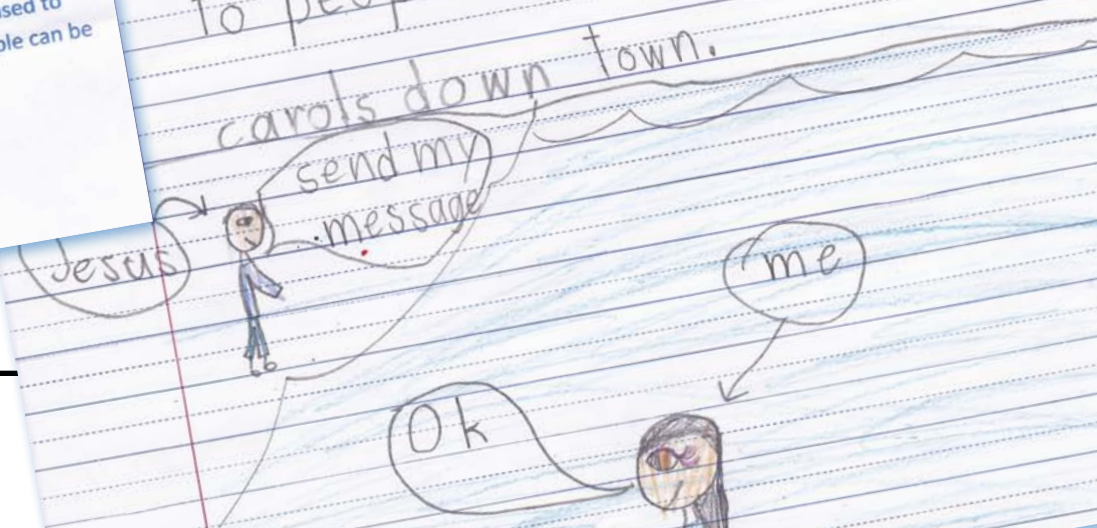
Shaw. 2G
I may be little but I am big in my own way. Jesus wants us to spread his message. I spread his message by giving clothes to kids that need them. At school we did the penny drive. We also did world food day. We donated food to people that need it. We sang carols down town.

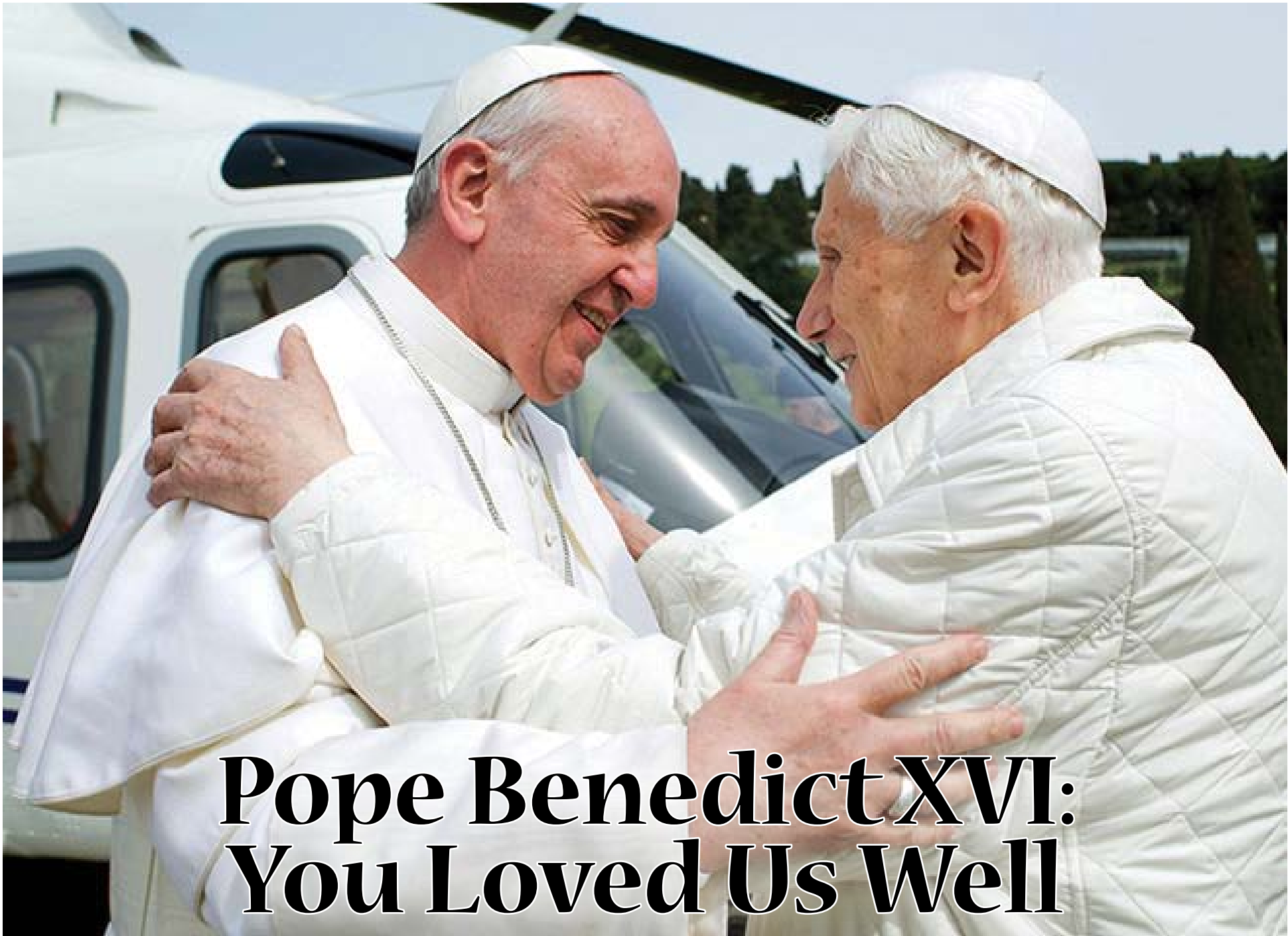
Did you know that St. Joseph's is Love?
Right now there is a huge bull dozer in front of our school. It might not look very nice from the outside but once you come inside the building you will see that St. Joseph's School is very welcoming. You will see lots of smiles.

If you are a student here, you will learn about hope, and acceptance. If you mess up on a test, your friends will always make you feel better. Your teacher will show you how you can improve for next time. Also, your friends and your teachers will see what you are great at and they will encourage you to keep at it.

People in our school work together to help others in different places. In October, we always collect lots of food for World Food Day and on Valentine's Day, we always raise money for the people of Haiti by going on a hike. We also gather together in the gym or in the church and we pray for peace for all around us.

Are you still wondering why we have a bulldozer in our school where the playground used to be? It's because we want to make our school bigger and even more welcoming, so more people can be a part our loving community. That's why St. Joseph's is love.





Pope Benedict XVI: You Loved Us Well

Photo credits: L'Osservatore Roman / Getty Images

(Source: A&E Biography)

Joseph Ratzinger was born on April 16, 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany, the youngest of three children. His father was a policeman and before their marriage, his mother worked as a hotel cook. Joseph grew up under war reparations from World War I, as Hitler and his regime was gaining power.

Young Joseph threw himself into the Roman Catholic Church, describing it as “a citadel of truth and righteousness against the realm of atheism and deceit.”

At the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) he served as chief theological expert to Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, Germany. In 1972 he helped found the theological journal *Communio*, which became one of the most important journals of Catholic thought. In March 1977 he was named Archbishop of Munich and Freising; three months later he was named a Cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1981 Pope John Paul II named Ratzinger prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In 1998, he became Vice Dean of the College of Cardinals and was elected Dean in 2002.

He was elevated to the papacy on April 19, 2005, upon the death of Pope John Paul II and celebrated his Papal Inauguration Mass five days later.

Pope Benedict XVI became the first pope in centuries to step down from his post, resigning in February 2013 at the age of 85, serving his final day as pope on February 28, 2013.



One of his final acts as a pope was to send a message to the faithful via his Twitter page: “Thank you for your love and support. May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the centre of your lives.”

He will continue to be known as Benedict XVI in his retirement and has been given the title of pope emeritus.

A parishioner remembers ...

I first saw him about a month after he was elected in 2005. 40 of us, who were just finishing the “Footsteps of St. Paul,” had just walked from our residence to St Peter’s Square in a deluge of driving rain like I hadn’t seen since living on the Prairies many years ago. We were drenched and looked like drown river rats!

However, when the Holy Father came out for the audience in his Popemobile, the clouds literally parted—and he looked absolutely amazing! He was enthusiastic, looked rested, and was without a doubt made for the white vestments he wore!!! It was such a blessing to be so close...and a memory none of us will ever forget.

We saw him again in Rome in the summer of 2012. Although he seemed tired, he still had that unmistakable aura you experience when you find yourself in his presence. He was such a blessing, such brilliance!

Benedict XVI has been a gift to the Church and to each of us! He truly brought the Light of Christ everywhere he went and to everyone he saw. God bless him always!

~ Denise Buckley, Christ the King Parish





Habemus Papam Franciscum

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ

(Source: Catholic News Agency, Year of Faith website)

Photo credits: Alberto Pizzoli/AFP/Getty Images; RNS; Andrea Sabbadini

Born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires. His father was a railway worker who immigrated to Argentina from Italy; Bergoglio is one of five children.

After earning a secondary school degree as a chemical technician, Bergoglio felt a call to the priesthood. He joined the Society of Jesus, entering the novitiate in 1958. He received a philosophy degree in 1963 and spent the next three years teaching literature and psychology. He was ordained a priest on December 13, 1969.

He was elected provincial for Argentina in the Society in 1973, and afterwards served as rector of the seminary in San Miguel, a Buenos Aires suburb from 1980 – 1986; he was also pastor of a parish in the city during that time.

In 1992 he was consecrated auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires and given the titular see of Auca. He became Buenos Aires' coadjutor bishop in 1997 and succeeded as the see's archbishop the following year. His role as Archbishop of Buenos Aires made him also the Bishop of the ordinariate for Eastern rite Catholics in Argentina (except those of the Armenian Catholic Church in Argentina, who have their own bishop).

Bergoglio was elevated to cardinal in 2001 and was appointed cardinal-priest of San Roberto Bellarmino, a Roman parish associated with the Jesuit order. He served as an official of the 10th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2001 and was for a time the president of the Argentine bishops' conference.

He was elected Pope on March 13, 2013, on the fifth ballot of the conclave, during its second day, taking the name Francis after St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis is noted for his humble demeanour and simple lifestyle. He has urged that evangelization must be done "by going to meet the people, not by waiting for the people to come to us ... the sacraments are for the life of men and women as they are."



Pope Francis has chosen the motto *Miserando atque eligendo* ("By having mercy on him and choosing him," or "lowly, but chosen"). His coat of arms features a blue field surmounted by the miter as Bishop of Rome and the keys of St. Peter; the Cross at the centre is the symbol of the Jesuits; the flaming sun with the letters IHS are the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek; the star represents the Blessed Virgin Mary; and the flower of the spikenard or nard is used in Spanish iconography to represent St. Joseph. ✠



Focus on Youth

Catholic Students Association Winter Retreat

by Kayla Hart

At the end of January, approximately 30 students and young adults went up to Courtenay for an annual Catholic Students' Association winter retreat. For two nights, the students slept in sleeping bags on the floor throughout Christ the King Parish, listened to talks by Chaplain Fr. Dean Henderson and Christ the King's Pastor Fr. Marek Paczka, as well as testimonies from a few of their peers. Talks included Relationships, Discernment, The Year of Faith, involvement in ministry, and of course personal faith stories. There was also time for small-group discussions, praying the daily offices, a multi-lingual rosary, and of course an evening of Eucharistic Adoration with an opportunity for Reconciliation.

The retreat lasted from Friday night until early Sunday morning when the students headed up to Mount Washington. Unlike last year's retreat, where a near-blizzard kept all but the toughest students confined to the lodge the whole day, this year's beautiful weather allowed the students to spend the day doing what the mountain is meant for: skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and tubing. Of course, a lot of community-building also happened in the lodge for those who chose to stick around to socialize or study.

In more recent news, the CSA hosted its fourth Coffee House/Talent night on March 10. What began almost two years ago as a venue to showcase the CSA's talented singers and songwriters has evolved into a variety show of talents and abilities. The evenings still include singers, but the most recent two have also included tap and ballet dancers, a poet, an actress performing a monologue written by a fellow student, a clarinet quartet, and a cellist. Others showcased their talents by providing baked goods or decorating the hall. Students have come to enjoy these evenings of supporting each other's talents, and will hopefully host many more in the future.

As the semester begins to come to a close, the CSA had its annual grad banquet on April 5 in the hall of Holy Cross Parish, where the students—especially this year's graduating class—were able to celebrate the end of term with a Mass celebrated by

Bishop Richard Gagnon, followed by a catered dinner and dance. The following morning, those who weren't too tired from all the excitement took part in another annual opportunity for retreat by driving up to Duncan to spend the day with the Poor Clare Sisters.

Overall, it's been an exciting and fruitful year for the CSA. Reflecting on the past year, newly elected CSA president and former Outreach Coordinator Greg Van Dyk feels the group "has grown immensely, both in size and quality." Looking toward the upcoming year with optimism, he says, "I know that the future council will continue to build on this solid foundation." ✕



PHOTO CREDIT: Hailey Cleaves



Connections

by Greg Van Dyk

"Nightfever" Brings Evangelization to the Streets

A young man hops off his bicycle in front of St. Andrew's Cathedral on a cold February evening, his attention clearly caught by a large sandwich board advertising something called *Nightfever*. Two university students standing outside the downtown Victoria church approach him with a simple invitation, no strings attached.

"Would you like a free candle?" they say. "The cathedral is open tonight if you'd like to come inside and light it."

After a few seconds of thought, the man accepts the offer, asking the students to mind his bicycle while he heads into the open door of the cathedral, candle in hand. After a number of minutes the young man returns with a smile beaming from his face. While remounting his bicycle, he turns to the university students with a look of surprise and contentment. "You know," he says, "I really needed that."

Whether he knew it or not, this young man had just participated in the first Nightfever ever in Victoria, held on Saturday, February 2. What was inside the beautiful cathedral that night? It was Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, present on the altar for all to adore.

For those who aren't in the know, Nightfever is an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, where teams of student street missionaries offer passers-by a candle, inviting them to come inside and light the candle as a prayer. For some, it was their first time in a church, while others had not been inside in years.

If people chose to enter the cathedral, volunteers encouraged them to place their lit candle in front of the altar, where Christ awaited them inside the Monstrance. Students played beautiful live music, filling the enormous sanctuary. A basket to the right of the altar held Scripture verses for visitors to take, perhaps inspiring prayer. A sign to the left of the altar pointed to a box in which people could place their written prayer intentions, all of which the nuns of St. Clare's Monastery in Duncan are now specifically praying for. At the back of the church, priests were available for confession, conversation, or blessings.

When I originally decided to spearhead the organization of Victoria's first Nightfever, I knew that even if one person had an encounter with Christ because

of our efforts then the evening would be a success. In the overwhelming busyness of our lives, we need time for quiet, for peace, and for prayer. And sometimes, like at Nightfever, we need someone to reach out to us, to stop us as we rush past, and to extend an invitation.

Of course, many different people said "yes" to our invitation that evening. A young couple out on a date stopped by, the man leaving his two cases of beer at the door as he entered the cathedral. A group of teenagers out at the movies caved to curiosity, accepted candles and came inside. A homeless man in a wheelchair lit a candle for a loved one. A group of young Muslim men said that although they couldn't approach the altar they wanted us to place candles there for them, as they still wanted to support the Church.

The idea of Nightfever began in Germany after the 2005 World Youth Day in Cologne, where over a million Catholics joined in celebration of their faith. After the event had ended, young German Catholics wanted to keep the spirit of evangelization going, and decided to open the doors of a cathedral, inviting people in to experience peace and prayer in the presence of Christ.

Since the first Nightfever eight years ago, the evening of Eucharistic Adoration and evangelization has spread to 15 countries around the world, most recently making its way to the UK and North America. Although all Nightfevers share the same theme and format, they are almost all independently organized.

Nightfever will definitely continue in Victoria, with plans already in the works for another to occur this summer. The evening provides a unique opportunity for young people to take evangelization to the streets, and to offer the peace and beauty of our faith to those in our community who may not be familiar with the Church. Victoria's first Nightfever was a great blessing not only for the visitors, but also for all the volunteers who participated.

Nightfever is only one exciting initiative of the 'new evangelization' that seeks to bring Christ to all people, and its growing popularity should provide encouragement for Catholics everywhere. In the words of one volunteer at the end of the evening, "seeing people in front of the Blessed Sacrament gives hope for the world." ✕





by Fr. Dean Henderson

Popes, Enclaves and the Church of Wild Truth!

It is always easy to be a modernist; as it is easy to be a snob. To have fallen into any of those open traps of error and exaggeration which fashion after fashion and sect after sect set along the historic path of Christendom—that would indeed have been simple. But to have avoided them all has been one whirling adventure; and in my vision the heavenly chariot flies thundering through the ages, the dull heresies sprawling and prostrate, the wild truth reeling but erect.

~ G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*, in *The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton*, vol. 1 (Ignatius, 1996), pp. 305-6.

Chesterton's vision of the Church as a battered heavenly chariot, reeling but erect, comes to mind in light of the past few tumultuous weeks. On Tuesday, March 12, I celebrated a Mass at the UVic Interfaith Chapel for the Electoral Conclave and God's guidance in the selection of our new Holy "Papa." On Thursday, March 14, our campus community gathered to pray the Mass for our new Pope Francis. Even with my limited experience as a Catholic priest, the privilege of leading youth pilgrimages to the Quebec Eucharistic Congress, the Beatification Mass for Blessed John Henry Newman in England, and World Youth Day in Toronto and Madrid, have helped me realize the Church's hierarchy as more familiar and friendly than faceless or fearful. Heck, I know a few of those 115 Cardinals who sent white smoke up to the roof of the Sistine Chapel and I was more than happy to joyfully pray for them as I would for my own family—because we are family.

Not only is the process and selection of the first Jesuit and first "American" Pope in history of keen interest to my campus flock, it's been a surprisingly hot topic amongst many who wouldn't ordinarily comment on things Catholic. We've been chased by journalists eager to get the "youth" perspective on Benedict XVI's resignation, and their hopes and dreams for the leadership of their Church. One student interviewed on CBC radio expressed her hope the new Pope would be *bold*. She's not eager for a reform that breaks from the Great Tradition of Christ but a renewal and passion that implements the fullness of our faith that is already there... sort of Vatican II with more muscle! With Pope Francis from Argentina and his bold defense of the poor in harmony with his bold proclamation of the Christocentric moral teachings of the Church, young Catholics might have just what she's praying for.

Comparing the Conclave to a political campaign or gambling at a horse race, the media questions presume that the Church must conform to our prevailing and dominant secularized culture, or be irretrievably lost to the dust bin of history. I've been struck by the "evangelistic" approach in inviting us [the Church] to conform to their image of contemporary Canadian culture. Ho hum... been there and done that! It's hardly the vision of the young Catholics engaged in the chaplaincy, the Campus CWL, the Pro Life YPY or the Catholic Student Association! To be sure,

we suffer from internal and external challenges, even scandals at the local level, revealing that reform into that most perfect reflection of Jesus Christ is always necessary. Undeniably radical repentance and courageous witness to the love of God for the world needs fortification, the very thing that our season of Lent is meant to foster.

This is an exciting time for the Church, and youth committed to their faith recognize that we're always living the tensions and trials between the Passion and the Resurrection of our Lord. This was taught so thoroughly by Pope Benedict XVI whom I honour just as did Pope Francis in praying for him from the balcony of St. Peter's. Of all his teaching through homilies, lectures, books and encyclicals, I think I was most inspired by a written account of a six hour interview he offered with a German journalist Peter Seewald. *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times* is an amazingly frank set of questions, and even more stunning set of answers from our former Holy Father. In responding to questions about the clergy sexual abuse crimes and failure of Church leadership he said: "I had called for them (Bishops of Ireland) to bring the truth to light, to take whatever steps necessary to prevent such egregious crimes from occurring again, to ensure that the principles of law and justice are fully respected and, above all, to bring healing to the victims."

Bringing the truth to light is the mission of the Church founded by the incarnate Creator and for 2,000 years inspired by the Holy Spirit's leadership through weak and willing human beings. Yes, we're "battered," as one newspaper describes us, but so was our Lord who looked pathetically weak upon the Cross. And yet we know that death does not have the final say and that Cross was the most powerful event in the history of the cosmos, giving way to history's most glorious event on Easter morning! Easter faith, my faith, the faith of the Church is the truth that's come to light. And the Church of that faith, under the new Pontificate of Francis, will continue to be a heavenly chariot thundering through the ages... the wild truth reeling but erect! ✠

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Photo: Bishop Gary Gordon with First Communicants at Church of the Apostles mission in Faro, Yukon. Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Whitehorse, Yukon and Northern British Columbia.

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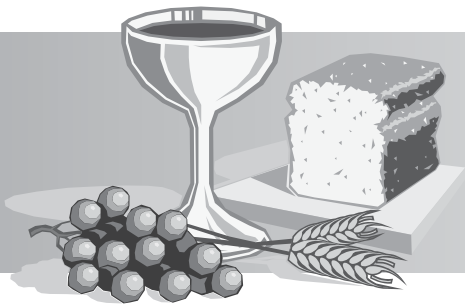
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Vocations



Discern This...

by Fr. Sean Flynn

How deep did you go? Lent was a time of deep preparation for the joy that comes in the realization of the love of Almighty God at the Easter celebration. That preparation is in our examination of our relationship with God on a personal level. Through Lent we pray for God's grace to desire even greater intimacy. Depending on how deep we look into ourselves we find new spiritual life nourished through reconciliation and the celebration of the Easter Mass.

At this point I hope we can rejoice in the love that others show for the greater Glory of God like that of our new Pope. Thank God for the courageous men and women who answer God's call. May their relationship with God forever affirm for them His abundant love, and that they have a role to play in His church.

So back to the question. "How deep did you go?" Today is a good day to evaluate "what's next?" I have found that most testimonies say God's call to consecrated life is usually strongest when the checklist is in good shape. Prayer life—check. Regular attendance at Mass—check. Frequent visits to Reconciliation—check. Community work—check. Family life—check. Check, check and check—but yet still wanting. What is missing?

The challenge of God's call may seem daunting, as when God called upon Moses to face Pharaoh and say, "God says, let my people go!" Now that was a tall order. It took courage for Moses to believe that God would be his partner and his sure hope that whatever might occur would be made great for the Glory of God.

It is courageous for any man to accept God's call to be Pope, to be so essential to the good of the Church. The "church" in this context is God's Faithful. It is no less courageous to commit to loving some one so deeply that matrimony is the only way to fully express that love. Religious life is also a public expression of one's overwhelming commitment to trust and love God. So, too, the single life has a role in the church. When we are committed to respond to God our status in life will be a means, not a hindrance, to respond wholeheartedly. Nothing less will do.

So we have come through Lent moved that we are so important to God that the Easter Passion has become personal and forever pinnacle in our lives, but ... what's next? Share the joy of course, but how do we make that sharing meaningful for ourselves? It would have to be a sharing that involves suffering if we are to be true to what allows us to proclaim one self "Christian."

To go beyond hearing God's call is to respond to it. Perhaps it is time for a courageous response: one that is beyond one's image of oneself. It will be a response that will take complete trust and love to fulfill. Hmmm. Discern this... is God calling you to the priesthood? Discern this; do you know some one who would make a good and holy priest? Encourage them to take part in the day of the reflection on the priesthood.

There will be a "day of reflection on the priesthood" held at Sacred Heart Parish on May 11. Register and listen to Seminararians tell their stories of God's call. To register call Fr. Sean at (250) 743-1688 or Fr. Alfredo at (250) 732-7380. ✠

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your Son as priest, brothers, sisters and deacons. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so they may understand with you the joy and duty that awaits when the Lord calls them. Make them witnesses of His love, enable them to inspire the Church with their holiness. May your all-power intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord's call. Repeat to them within the depths of their hearts what you said to the servants at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you (John 2:5)." To Jesus, your son, honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

What is an Ordinariate?

by Msgr. Peter Wilkinson

On May 10th, at Queen of Peace Parish, three men will be ordained to the diaconate for the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. These same three men, (Michael Birch, Don Malins and Peter Switzer) will be ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 2013 at St. Andrew's Cathedral. This begs the question: *what is an Ordinariate?*

There are now three of them: in the UK (England, Scotland and Wales) there is the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham under the patronage of Blessed John Henry Newman; in North America there is the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter under the patronage of Our Lady of Walsingham; and in Australia there is the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross under the patronage of St Augustine of Canterbury.

Anglicanorum coetibus ('Groups of Anglicans', Nov. 4, 2009) is the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Benedict XVI that establishes "Personal Ordinariates" for those of the Anglican heritage entering full communion with the Catholic Church while maintaining distinctive elements of their theological, spiritual, and liturgical patrimony.

On January 1, 2012, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter was established. Equivalent to a diocese, an Ordinariate is composed of parishes, groups, religious communities, and individuals of the Anglican heritage gathered around the Ordinary.

The Ordinary (Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson) serves under the direct authority of the Pope, in partnership with the bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to build up the Church through mutual mission and ministry while retaining elements of the Anglican patrimony. The Ordinariate in Canada is called the Deanery of St. John the Baptist, and the Dean is Fr. Lee Kenyon of St. John the Evangelist parish in Calgary.

Members of the Ordinariate include "those faithful, of every category or state of life, who, originally having belonged to the Anglican Communion, are now in full communion with the Catholic Church, or who have received the sacraments of initiation within the jurisdiction of the Ordinariate itself, or who are received into it because they are part of a family belonging to the Ordinariate" (*Decree of Establishment*).

The key to understanding the essential purpose of the Ordinariate is to be found in the preface to *Anglicanorum coetibus*. In those opening paragraphs, there are no fewer than nine references to the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

Here the one Church of Jesus Christ is said to "subsist in" the Catholic Church: although many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its visible structure, these elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity. There is an inner dynamic in the life and teaching of much of Anglicanism which continues to draw Anglicans to its source, the Catholic Church. The Personal Ordinariate is Pope Benedict XVI's response to "this holy desire." It is his gift to us—he will always be our father and we are his children.

These are still early days in the life of the Ordinariate and are full of exciting challenges. The lay faithful have been engaged in, or are in a process of, catechetical formation, following the Catechism of the Catholic Church—the Ordinariates' primary statement of faith—to prepare them for reception and full communion. The clergy are enrolled in an intensive programme of priestly formation, based at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, that runs concurrently with the Spring academic semester.

Something that can come as a shock to some Catholics is the reality that clergy from the Anglican Church who become Roman Catholic priests and function within the "Latin-Rite" Church or within the Ordinariate Church may remain married if they enter the Church as married men. This is done on the understanding that if their spouse dies and they are widowed, they are to remain in the single state for the remainder of their lives. The reason for this must be left to a future article.

The local Ordinariate community worships at St. Columba Church in View Royal (Victoria) with Msgr. Peter Wilkinson as their pastor. Msgr Wilkinson was ordained on December 8, 2012 and eagerly awaits the ordination of Michael Birch and Don Malins who will assist him in his small parish as well as provide assistance to local Catholic clergy in replacement ministry. Peter Switzer resides in Port Alberni and will be available to assist in the northern part of the Diocese. ✠





by Bonnie Landry

I write to you today in the form of an infomercial.

You hardly ever see commercials on TV reminding us to have a baby. We're encouraged to have a holiday, have a car, have a beer, have a dinner out at Wendy's or Boston Pizza, have a coffee, have a Botox treatment, have clean floors or have happy kids 'cause you feed them something cute.

Have a baby? I've never seen a commercial for that. Babies are becoming a hard sell these days. Babies cause discomfort. Truth be known, relationships cause discomfort; loving others causes discomfort. Love makes us uncomfortable because as soon as we love another, we become vulnerable—we must give of ourselves, we must put the needs of others before our own.

And nobody is making money from that.

But God is love, and He's a little tricky because He gives us little glimpses of His great love by loving others and having them love us. Then we want more love, even at the price of discomfort and vulnerability. And the more love we give, the more we get back, and the more we want to give until we start seeking the ultimate love of God—and the ultimate discomfort of growing in holiness, of being vulnerable and of exercising humility.

But back to babies and the infomercial—which is really an infomercial for NFP, Natural Family Planning. There are ways and means of spacing babies through an understanding of biology, by the natural cycles of fertility and infertility that occur for women.

The premise for NFP is really very simple. If a woman has a healthy reproductive system, she is normally able to conceive during a fertile period or three to five days that occurs about every four weeks. If a couple learns and understands the signs of fertility during this time, they are able to avoid or achieve a pregnancy. Learning NFP is not difficult.

Natural Family Planning is an effective means of spacing babies. The effectiveness of NFP for avoiding or postponing pregnancy is estimated at 96% – 99%, rivaling the effectiveness of chemical birth control.

WAIT JUST A COTTON PICKIN' MINUTE ... Hey, Bonnie, don't you have seven children!? Who are you trying to kid,? NFP is clearly *not* working.

It's an excellent point. We *do* have seven kids. But its okay! We wanted seven kids. Well, we didn't exactly set out to have seven; I believe the exact number we were aiming for was "a bunch."

And it's like this. For most couples who practice NFP, the connection between union and babies is really clear. Really natural. Our culture and the views taken on pleasure and self fulfillment have left babies so far out of the picture that we are hardly aware that our actions have results—such as babies. For NFP couples, babies are the very natural outcome of union. Practicing NFP lays a foundation for openness to babies.

Natural Family Planning is a healthy option. No chemicals, no side effects and a raised awareness of what normal reproductive health should look like. It is immediately reversible, is virtually cost free and you can even get "apps" for charting the cycle of fertility. Seriously.

Couples take responsibility together for family planning. It requires communication, discipline, cooperation and love.

So why don't we see more information on NFP? Why no commercials, no billboards, not one pop-up ad? Why no flyers in the mailbox? Why no telephone solicitors calling you up during the dinner hour to ask you if you are interested in Natural Family Planning, and offering you a week for two in Cancun if you just let them send you some information?

Why? I'll tell you why. Nobody gains.

Nobody makes money. Nobody gets money from a couple in charge of their own fertility. Nobody makes money sharing this information with you, including me. No kickbacks here, my friends. Just want to make sure you know about the best-kept secret on the planet.

Nobody gains except you. And God, who likes babies too. ✂

CWL Celebrates Birthright in Parksville

by Sandi Digras

Pink and blue were the colours of the Birthright Shower held at our church on Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 11 am – 2 pm.

Heather Schneider and her talented team turned our hall into a baby-friendly space with balloons, pink and blue tablecloths and napkins. Even the flowers coordinated.

The Pregnancy Crisis Centre was the recipient of the long table of gifts and donations that their director Bonnie Moody said "helps new mothers for the first 2 years." She added, "the focus of the Centre is to educate young people about the responsibilities of pregnancy and to offer support in those critical times."

Parishioner Felicia Kerr works with the centre but stole the show with her adorable 5-month-old baby daughter Adrina as guest of honour.

A lovely lunch prepared by CWL president Tina Hanlon and her team offered sandwiches, garnishes and tiny cupcakes as well as a perfectly decorated baby cake.

Coordinator of the event Heather Schneider commented, "we had ladies from many churches in the area joining us. It was a lovely way to come together as Christian women." ✂



Felicia Kerr holds her daughter, Adrina

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Faith Matters



Why Having a Pope Matters

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

Maybe it was the boredom, borne of the steady news feeds of violence, terrorism, war and famine, or maybe it was the sharks circling—the unholy quest for the holy grail of news stories, the prurient hope that the Church will provide the mother of all scandals, one that's been there all along, hiding in some secret Vatican broom closet. Or maybe it was a genuine curiosity about the ancient ritual of selecting a successor to Peter. One thing is certain; the media was all abuzz over the papal conclave.

In the drama generated in the media the clash of cultures was quite stark. On one level it really was quite amusing to hear the questions interviewers posed as they politely danced around, but ever so eagerly probed cardinals for “the human side of the story.” One can't help but be left with the impression that the popular assumption is that the human side of the story is about personal aspirations and jockeying for position to score the top job.

This media build-up set us up for a letdown when we realized the reality is a bit less sensational—and yet we discovered quite a poignant twist. This “secretive” conclave drama on one level is actually more personal than political. The truth strikes deep . . . knees are shaking more than heads are swelling. This event revolves more around the humbled human soul encountering the Divine Presence, a mixture of awe and terror, a type of “Moses-on-Mount-Horeb” experience.

“He who enters the conclave as pope, leaves it as a cardinal.”

The conclave process is a type of reckoning, the sudden and sobering realization that this could be “the moment”—what one's entire life journey has been leading up to. In this moment one will be required to make a life-altering response to a profoundly raw reality: to carry the weight of 2,000 years and 1.2 billion souls; to shoulder the burden of ministering to a broken, grasping humanity; to be subjected to being misunderstood; to be distrusted; to having one's failings exposed mercilessly, or to merely be dismissed as irrelevant—and all of this with the full realization that, in the final analysis, one is not only unworthy, but also inadequate.

And yet, as with all turns on life's journey, those entering the conclave know that along with the weight of the Cross comes the commensurate grace to carry it—the Crucifixion after all is not the end of the story.

The media understands human glory very well; after all, people everywhere relate to the struggle for success and achievement against the odds: the Olympic Gold, the Stanley Cup, the Oscars, the Nobel Peace Prize. In this regard a conclave presents a bit of an anomaly. This is not a popularity contest, this is not a political rally, this is not the arena. The challenge to Peter's successor is not to triumph above the rest, to run ahead of the pack, but to make sure everyone in the race makes it across the finish line.

Why do we need the papacy? One clue perhaps lies in the post-Resurrection account in John's Gospel (Chapter 20: 1 – 10). The morning of the Resurrection after Mary Magdalene raises the alarm, John, (“the one whom Jesus loved”), the one closest to Jesus, races to the tomb with Peter, the one who denied Christ three times. When they get to the tomb, John, despite his great love for the Lord, does not go in first; he defers to Peter, letting him go in first. This gesture is very significant. John acknowledges Peter's primacy. The sincere, intuitive, “heart-centered” mystic, John, makes way for the headstrong, impulsive, “unfaithful” Peter, establishing Peter as the Church's prime witness to the Resurrection.

How do we make sense of John's gesture, this apparent favouring of the flawed? On the one hand John's natural sensitivity and perception dispose him to be in deep spiritual relationship with Jesus. As well, his faithfulness is demonstrated by his being the only one of the twelve with the courage to be present at the Crucifixion, and significantly, is the one to whom Jesus entrusts the care of his mother. On the other hand we have Peter, the gravity of whose three-time denial of Christ is only eclipsed by Judas' betrayal. The stark contrast between Peter's election by Christ and his emphatic rejection of Christ is heart wrenching.

We can't make sense of this contradiction if we focus on personalities instead of the Person, because it is not about either John or Peter, it is about Christ and his prodigal forgiveness and the power of his love. In a tender, post-Resurrection scene on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias, Christ meets Peter and does not condemn or rebuke him, he does not even challenge him; he merely asks Peter a question, “do you love me?” A simple question yet profound in its implications. In light of his abandonment of Christ, this question must have seared in Peter's conscience and progressively burned in his heart and in his soul at each reiteration, deepening the awareness of the infinite chasm between Peter and Christ who reached out in love to him. Such was the measure of Christ's love for Peter that his questions also embodied a threefold blessing, absolving Peter's threefold denial.

Peter's encounter with Jesus on that shore was totally life-changing. This was Peter's reckoning, his moment of truth: the humbled, human soul encountering the Divine Presence—a mixture of awe and terror, knees shaking and heart sinking. What Peter discovers is Jesus' forgiveness, Jesus' love for him despite his past, his self-inflated ego, his attempts at self-preservation at the expense of the truth, at the expense of God's love. This would have had a profound impact on Peter—the stark terrible truth of his utter worthlessness and helplessness without the love of God. Peter's attitude toward leadership would never be the same. Christ's working in Peter, with Peter's “yes,” would transform history and establish the Church—an historical reality, a divine treasure founded on human frailty transformed by grace.

This is the stage on which the drama of a conclave is played out. The leader is not “the best,” beating out the competition, winning a contest of political power, prestige or popularity, but “the least,” the one who recognizes his sinfulness, his limitations, his utter worthlessness and helplessness apart from the love of God. This is the one who is called to serve the rest, who must be prepared to die to self, to follow and obey the Master, the Good Shepherd, who by example, laid down his life for the sheep.

It's not about eliminating the losers, but illuminating the lessons. Leadership starts with discipleship. We hold a treasure, a divine treasure, in fragile and even cracked earthen vessels. It isn't about us, it is about the One we have met and have committed our lives to follow—of what we are all called to be: Christ bearers to a broken, hurting world—and what we are called to do: lay down our lives for love of others.

This is why we need the papacy; it's a visible reminder to us and to a confused world just who we are and what we are called to be. The Barque of Peter, the Church, must have someone to read the winds and the currents, to navigate the shoals and the reefs, and to safeguard the cargo in stormy seas. Peter is that one with his hand on the tiller, but he knows God steers the boat. ✠



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Bursary Committee

The Sisters of St. Ann are offering a Bursary for the formation of women. This bursary named in honour of their foundress, Blessed Marie Anne Blondin, offers financial assistance to women seeking formation in theological and ministry studies that promote justice, peace, integrity of creation, healing, holistic living and a healthy life style.

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Office of Justice & Life

Unpacking Catholic Charity & Justice

by Yvonne Zarowny

“To believe in human dignity is to be convinced that poverty is not simply a material problem to be solved. Poverty instead is a call to journey together with the poor in search of the Kingdom of God – where justice and peace reign.”

~ Archbishop Richard Smith, President of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops

On February 2, 2013, 45 people gathered in Parksville’s Church of Ascension’s hall to learn about, explore and deepen their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and its relevance to how each of us is called by our Church to “live our faith.”

The day was structured as an extended prayer, with Scripture readings, invocations and invitations to reflect as well as music that began and ended each session.

Thanks to the breadth and depth of knowledge brought to the day by the Archdiocese of Edmonton’s Bob McKeon Ph.D., as well as his wealth of experience in living out the Church’s teachings in his own life, Bob was able to meet the participants “where they are” in a highly interactive day.

What became clear was that a number of participants did not understand the “Catholic” notion of charity and its relationship to our Church’s call to engage our societies to transform them, so that “peace and justice reign” enabling all God’s children to enjoy life with dignity through the full continuum of their lives. That is, we are to apply a pro-life ethic where the sanctity of life is authentically honoured in lived reality throughout the full continuum of life from conception to natural death. We were challenged to understand the relationship between the sanctity of life, life with dignity for the full continuum and just social structures that enable both.

By working through examples of food banks in Canada as well as some international examples from the work of the Canadian Organization for Development and Peace, Bob helped participants appreciate that what we commonly understand as “charity” (handouts to the poor in moments of need), while important, is not enough for us to be living our Catholic faith.

The basis of Catholic Social Teaching is that each and every one of us has a right to human dignity as we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Similarly, our Church teaches that the gifts of Earth are entrusted to us for use in a manner that enables all of God’s children to flourish.

Because of this, how we go about “charity” matters. For us to be consistent with our Church’s teaching, we must respect the dignity of each person, including them in the decisions of how we walk with them, no matter their station. In situations which become chronic such as with our current “perpetual war” on poverty, homelessness and lack of effective access to adequate medical treatment persisting amongst immense wealth; in these situations we are called to ask critical questions about and take effective reflective action to correct social arrangements that perpetuate war as well as deny so many of God’s children life with dignity.

Due to a significant portion of the participants wanting and needing to engage around these relationships, Bob and I decided not to go forward with what we had planned for the afternoon.

Given the overwhelmingly positive response to the day the possibility of a Living Our Faith II in the fall is being explored. There is obviously a need for people to have opportunities to explore, in a safe and prayerful environment, the Church’s official teachings on the relationship between the sanctity of life with dignity throughout its full continuum and its call for us to engage our societies to transform them so that social structures generate a variety of authentic cultures of life.

Given we are in the Easter season, there is no better time to be reminded the Spirit of the Resurrected Jesus acts through us. As St. Teresa stated many centuries ago:

“Christ has no body here on Earth but ours ... Ours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world. ✠

Go and Make Disciples

Stuart Andrie, Ministry Coordinator for the Office of Justice and Life



In his keynote address to the youth of the world, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that “Proclaiming Christ is not only a matter of words, but something which involves one’s whole life and translates into signs of love. It is the love that Christ has poured into our hearts which makes us evangelizers. Consequently, our love must become more and more like Christ’s own love.” (Pope Benedict XVI’s *Message for the 28th World Youth Day*).

Our Catholic Social Doctrine helps us to find ways to proclaim Christ with words, but with our actions. “In effect, to teach and to spread her social doctrine pertains to the Church’s evangelizing mission and is an essential part of the Christian message, since this doctrine points out the direct consequences of that message in the life of society and situates daily work and struggles for justice in the context of bearing witness to Christ the Saviour” [89]. This is not a marginal interest or activity, or one that is tacked on to the Church’s mission, rather it is at the very heart of the Church’s ministry of service: with her social doctrine the Church “proclaims God and his mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being, and for that very reason reveals man to himself” [90]. This is a ministry that stems not only from proclamation but also from witness.” (*Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine* #67) This is the heart of the Easter message, to go forth in the light of Christ making disciples of all nations.



There are four fundamental principles of the Catholic Church’s Social doctrine that give us a foundational understanding of what it means to do what Benedict XVI calls us to do, to go beyond words, to involve one’s whole life translating it into signs of love.

- 1. Human Dignity:** “God created us in his own image ... male and female he created us.” (Genesis 1:27)
Because of this understanding we must have respect for all human life from conception to natural death. In a world that does not appreciate the deep value and dignity of every human life, we must proclaim this inherent value and dignity and live it as a witness to all nations.
- 2. The Common Good:** “To each person is given the gifts of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)
We are called to care for each other, to see to it that our neighbor’s needs are taken care of in love and truth. Not just in words or intention but with our actions, we must be responsible stewards of the gifts God has bestowed upon us.
- 3. Subsidiarity:** “For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so too, we though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5)
In our contributions to the common good, we have to be sure to allow everyone to fulfill his or her proper function. This means that every group or body must have the freedom and the means to do what is best for itself without its activity being taken over by a higher body. This principle allows each to thrive with the talents and gifts God has given them to use each according to his measure.
- 4. Solidarity:** “God has arranged the body ... so that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:24-26)
We are all our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers. We are one family. This leads us to choices that promote and protect the good of all.

In *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI stated: “Charity is at the heart of the Church’s social doctrine. Every responsibility and every commitment spelled out by that doctrine is derived from charity. It is the principle not only of relationships between family members and friends but also of social, economic and political relationships;” and, “Everything has its origin in God’s love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it.” (*Ency.* 2) “Love is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for generous and courageous engagement in the fields of justice and peace.” (*Ency.* 1)

We are an Easter people called to bring the light of Christ’s Resurrection, the love which he has for us, and share it with all nations. Living these core principles of our Catholic Social Doctrine helps us bring Christ’s light and love to all people. It is how we take our words and make them actions of love. These small acts, insignificant as they may seem, with the grace of Christ, can transform the world. ✠



National & International News



Pope Francis Calls for Halt to Violence in Central African Republic

After the catechesis of this morning's General Audience, the Holy Father called for an immediate end to the violence in the Central African Republic. "I am attentively following what has been happening in these hours in the Central African Republic and I wish to ensure all those who are suffering—especially the relatives of the victims, the wounded, and those who have lost their homes and been forced to flee—of my prayers," Pope Francis said.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22247>

Posted: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 5:39 pm

Pope Francis Gives up Papal Apartment

Pope Francis has decided to live in two rooms in the Domus Santa Marta residence, next to St Peter's, instead of the grand papal apartment on the top floor of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi confirmed yesterday. For more than a hundred years, every pope has occupied the palatial penthouse which has more than a dozen rooms, staff quarters, a terrace and extensive views over the city of Rome. (According to unconfirmed reports circulating around the Rome press, when Pope Francis first saw the apartment, he said: "you could fit 300 people in here!")

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22241>

Posted: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:07 am

Addresses by Pope Francis on Humility in the Church and Fight against Corruption

Two books written by Pope Francis when he was Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires were launched in the Civiltà Cattolica offices in Rome yesterday. Both in Italian, they are a collection of addresses he gave in 2005. They draw on the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola and deal with humility in the Church and the fight against corruption in the Church and society.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22232>

Posted: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 12:19 am

Kenya: Urgent Appeal for Project

Building Peace through Education

Fr Steven Ochieng, a priest from Kenya was in London recently to describe a radical new project that his mission has begun, in order to bring together the children from warring tribes, in a boarding school, where they will live, learn and play together together. The St Paul's Missionary Community has been developing water, health, agricultural, fishing and other community projects in northwest Kenya for several years, among the nomadic people of the Turkana desert.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22236>

Posted: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 3:37 pm

Vatican calls for stricter arms trade controls

Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Holy See permanent observer to the United Nations in New York, has issued a statement calling for the adoption of a treaty banning the transfer of arms when violations of humanitarian or human rights are taking place. The statement was read during the Final Conference of the UN's Arms Trade Treaty, which is taking place in New York until 28 March.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22237>

Posted: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 11:34 pm

A New Leaf

by Stuart Andrie

On Thursday March 3, 2013, Development and Peace hosted a premiere screening of the documentary *A New Leaf* in Victoria at the Vic Theatre.

The film, which chronicles the food crisis that put 18 million people at risk of hunger in the Sahel region of West Africa this past summer, was produced by Salt+Light Television in collaboration with Development and Peace and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Screenings were held in Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Victoria, and were followed by a panel discussion about the documentary, food security, development issues and the impact of the conflict in Mali on the region. The panel featured special guest Fr. Isidore Ouedraogo, Secretary General of Caritas Burkina Faso, a local organization supported by Development and Peace that is responding to the needs of the population in the country, including refugees from Mali. Bishop Richard Gagnon was also a member of our local panel discussion alongside Kelly Di Domenico, the Communications Officer for Development and Peace who facilitated the panel and Kris Dmytrenko, Director of the documentary.

The reason Victoria was chosen to host this event was because of the great contributions we made as a Diocese to the emergency appeal that was collected in the summer. Our small Diocese ranked as one of the highest in Canada in terms of monies collected!

The event was a great success with about sixty people attending. ✂



Photo caption: L to R, Nancy Stuart, John Gabor, Margie Noonan, Sr. Marina Smith and Katrina Laquian at the screening of *A New Leaf* in Victoria.



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YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Year of Faith

Pope Francis and the Year of Faith

March 21, 2013

The Holy Father Francis spoke also about the Year of Faith in the Meeting with representatives of the Churches and Ecclesial Communities, and other religions. The following is an excerpt from his speech.

“ [...] I begin my apostolic ministry,” he continued, “in this year that my venerated predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, with a truly inspired intuition, proclaimed the Year of Faith for the Catholic Church. With this initiative, which I wish to continue and which I hope serves as a stimulus for each of us in our journey of faith, he wanted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, proposing a type of pilgrimage to what is essential for every Christian: a personal and transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died and rose again for our salvation. The heart of the Council’s message lies precisely in the desire to proclaim this ever-valid treasure of the faith to the persons of our time. [...]”

(Pope Francis, Audience with representatives of Churches and Ecclesial Communities and of other Religions, Wednesday, 20 March 2013)



Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.

May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the earth and a light of the world—worthy missionaries and faithful to You.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church, and inspire us to speak the truth with love.

Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have received.

Permit us to be united, but not closed; humble, but not fearful; simple, but not naïve; thoughtful, but not overbearing; contemporary, but not superficial; respectful of others, but boldly Your disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord, who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Pray for us!

St. Peter and St. Paul, Pray for us!

St. Thérèse, Patroness of Missionaries, Pray for us!

St. Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us!

www.CatholicismSeries.com

YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013
PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

THE GREAT EVENTS IN THE YEAR OF FAITH WITH POPE FRANCIS

2013

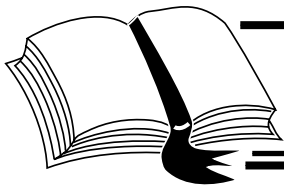
- 25 JAN** Ecumenical Celebration
Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls
- 2 FEB** World Day of Consecrated Life
Basilica of St. Peter's
- 7 FEB** The Inauguration of the Year of Faith
Art Exhibit: "On the Path of Peter"
Castel Sant'Angelo (February 7 - May 1)
- 24 MAR** Day for Youth in Preparation for Palm Sunday
St. Peter's Square
- 27-28 APR** Day for those to be Confirmed and for those already Confirmed
St. Peter's Square
- 3-5 MAY** Day of the Confraternities and of the Popular Piety
St. Peter's Square
- 18-19 MAY** Day for the Movements, the Associations, and the Lay Associations
St. Peter's Square
- 2 JUN** A Worldwide Solemn Eucharistic Adoration
The Solemnity of Corpus Christi
Basilica of St. Peter's
- 15-16 JUN** Day Celebrating the Evangelium Vitae
St. Peter's Square
- 22 JUN** Great Concert of classical music
St. Peter's Square
- 4-7 JUL** Day for seminarians, novices, and those on a vocational journey
Basilica of St. Peter's
- 28-29 SEP** Day for Catechists
St. Peter's Square
- 12-13 OCT** Marian Day
St. Peter's Square
- 26-27 OCT** Day for the Family
St. Peter's Square
- 16 NOV** Great Concert of classical music
Aula Paolo VI
- 24 NOV** Concluding Celebration of the Year of Faith
Basilica of St. Peter's

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Impressions

There is a sin of fear, that when I have spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore; But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy Son shall shine as He shines now, and heretofore; And having done that, Thou hast done—I fear no more.

~ John Donne, 1621

by Connie Dunwoody

I had a little trouble this year deciding what to give up for Lent. I think there is value in spending a period of time experiencing discomfort for the sake of penance; while the several hours I spend participating in long-distance sporting events might seem to some to qualify, Lenten practice is actually a bit different.

Over the years I’ve denied myself many of the “usual” things: wine, chocolate, dessert, chocolate, sweets, chocolate, (do you sense a theme?) and mostly, it just made me cranky and inclined to drool when passing a Purdy’s store.

So I thought I’d do something different this year. It occurred to me that forgoing something I’d simply pick up again as soon as the chimes of midnight died away early on Easter morning was less productive than doing something that would change *me* in some way.

I chose to give up sleeping in.

Go ahead, laugh, especially those of you who know me well. My friends and family expressed their disbelief in a variety of ways that included, but were surely not limited to, shocked facial expressions, derisive snorts, uncontrollable laughter and general incredulity. The thing that drew my friends and family together was their relative certainty that I’d never be able to see it through.

I admit the potential.

While I will, on occasion, hoist my protesting form out of bed in an untimely fashion for things like races, a road trip to Colorado, an early flight to Maui and from time to time for the Association of Catholic Leaders of Victoria breakfasts (we eat at dawn) it is well known I generally prefer to arrive, blinking owlishly, directly at the afternoon without encumbrance of the morning. But this was a choice I made freely, and one that I have fully embraced. In fact, I’m taking a perverse kind of pleasure in startling my friends by sending emails at 6:45 am or popping up on Facebook Chat at 7 am.

After all, life’s a matter of choice.

Some are small: “What should I wear; what should we have for dinner tonight; where should we go on vacation?” Some are large: “Where should I go to university; whom should I marry?” Some are enormous. “Who should be pope?”

And some seem insurmountable, unanswerable, seemingly impossible: “What do I do, now that I’m facing death?”

My grandfather, Orville S. Walters, was an extremely capable psychiatrist, medical doctor and ordained minister, highly respected and deeply loved by those who knew him. He was a strong Christian and when faced with his own mortality through cancer, wrote a paper in which he demonstrated clearly that his absolute faith in the Father was much more than his fear of what was to come. It moved me to tears the first time I read it. He posited that death is not merely an inevitability of life, it is a opportunity to witness a victory of grace—a grace in which Christ’s power releases us from all fear of death (*A Psychiatrist’s Approach to Death*, Orville S. Walters, February, 1975).

Let’s admit it: we tiptoe around this thorny issue. We fear it; we ignore it; we screw up our eyes, draw the covers over our heads, and hope the monster isn’t still under the bed when the night vanishes and dawn comes tiptoeing in. We are sidlingly euphemistic: we say he or she has “passed on,” “gone home,” or “the time had come.” It is only when we are whacked out of our commonplace existence by the reality of our forthcoming or someone else’s sudden demise that we are forced to deal with it—and maybe we find we are unprepared, then, to make good choices. We instinctively react in so many ways: shock, disbelief, fear, denial.

And occasionally with determination, courage and faith.

You see, my grandfather chose to meet his death head-on. He was not Catholic but in early 1975, just before his death, he chose to put into his doctors’ hands and on his clinical file at the hospital where he received treatment a statement slightly modified from the Catholic Hospital Association’s *Christian Affirmation of Life*. This in itself is a remarkable statement of belief:

I believe that God our Father has entrusted to me a shared dominion with him over my earthly existence so that I am bound to use ordinary means to preserve my life but I am free to refuse extraordinary means to prolong my life.

I request that, if possible, I be consulted concerning the medical procedures that might be used to prolong my life as death approaches. If I can no longer take part in decisions concerning my own future, and if there is no reasonable expectation of my recovery, I request that no extraordinary means be used to prolong my life.

To be sure, this is a bit of a dicey line. The Catholic Church values all life, from birth to natural death. But the Catechism is fairly clear on this: if an individual does not want extraordinary measures taken to prolong his or her life, he or she has that choice (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2278). What is “ordinary means” and when is something considered “extraordinary?” I don’t have enough space or theological prowess to address that here, and it’s not really the point of this article, but Pope John Paul II addressed it in his Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (n.65).

Here’s the point, for me: what follows these two initial paragraphs of his *Affirmation of Life* is my grandfather’s personal statement of faith and it is this, made in ineffable humanity and unquestionable Christianity, that causes tears to well in my eyes and a humble gratitude for this man to swell my heart. He used his

courageous life as witness to Life—his absolute belief in an eternity secured in the love and light of Christ. I am unbelievably moved by the choice of the man I loved very much as a child, whose blood runs in my veins and whose courage flows in my adult heart.

I am ready to give up this life with awareness of my own defects and inadequacies, but with confidence in a loving personal God, who cares for individuals as well as worlds. I face death with faith in a living Christ who came to reconcile us to God; who, by his own atoning death on the cross enables us to become sons of God and joint heirs with himself. I approach death with a deep sense of gratitude for the abundant life that has been mine through grace ministered by the Holy Spirit and through the fellowship of God’s people. “Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Oh, Grandpa!

I read these words again, and my face crumples. My breath catches in my throat and I melt into a teary puddle, overwhelmed with emotions, of which the most easily identifiable is *certainty*.

I need not fear death.

Nor do I, and not just because of astonishing ancestral genes of courage and conviction: I am reminded of another who sought no extraordinary measures; who chose absolute faith in his Father over fear of what was to come. Every time I read it, tears well in my eyes and humble gratitude swells my heart. I am unbelievably moved by the choice of a man I loved very much as a child, whose blood flowed for me and whose courage runs through my adult soul.

O, Jesus, O my God!

My breath catches in my heart and I dissolve into a teary puddle of gratitude, of certainty.

As for my Lenten choice: I have followed through. Now I am gifted with the memory of when I used to get up at 5:45 am to run 8 –10 km before work. I really do love the early mornings, especially in spring: the air smells fresh, the light slants through budding leaves *just so*, and somehow you can more easily believe in miracles.

And perhaps—just perhaps—each early morning offers the same possibility for renewal and resurrection as did Easter morning two thousand years ago when a man whose courage extended beyond fear changed our lives. For good.

After all, Life’s a matter of choice. ✂



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DYC 2013

The Diocesan Youth Conference is a great place for young Catholics to meet new people, hear some inspiring talks and testimonies, grow in faith and fellowship, and join our favourite band West of Eden in Praise and Worship. Our guest speaker this year is Jesse Manibusan from 2by2 Ministries!

When: May 24th – 26th, 2013

Where: St. Andrew's Regional High School
880 McKenzie Ave., Victoria

Who: All youth from grades 8-12, and recent high school grads

Registration forms will be available soon from your local parish and the Diocesan website. Also be sure to look out for our Facebook event page. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact the Conference Planning Committee at teamdyc@gmail.com



A "DAY OF REFLECTION" ON THE CALL TO PRIESTHOOD

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To live in the midst of the world with no desire for its pleasures...
 To be a member of every family, yet belong to none...
 To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds...
 To go daily from men to God to offer Him their petitions...
 To return from God to men to offer them His hope...
 To have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity...
 To teach and to pardon,
 console and bless always.
 O God, what a life, and it is yours,
 O Priest of Jesus Christ!

THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER
- J.B. Henri Lacordaire, OP

The day at a glance:

- 10:00am - Gathering
- 10:30am - Morning prayer and a talk by Fr. Alfredo
- 11:30am - Silence
- 12 noon - Lunch
- 12:30pm - Rosary
- 2:00pm - talk by Fr. Sean

Special guests, two of our seminarians

- 3:00pm - assembly with questions and answers

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

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Bishop Richard Gagnon and the Diocese of Victoria extend warmest congratulations and blessings to Bishop Stephen Jensen on his appointment to the Diocese of Prince George

.... and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

~ 2 Corinthians 3:3-4



