**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 1219 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 Nanoaimo 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 we were! He ended his speech with these words:

"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! F"
Hearts & Hands
Journey of
Hearts & Hands
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.

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

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Gifts</td>
<td>2544</td>
<td>2591</td>
<td>2340</td>
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<td>$1,214,140</td>
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<td>Average Gift</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Share</td>
<td>$488,062</td>
<td>$346,299</td>
<td>$221,408</td>
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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

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.
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—sharaging 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, male), works with the poor and marginalized, St. Vincent de Paul organizations, the Sacraments, catechists, Development and Peace, ministry to the divorced,

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.

Faith also takes place within the yearly, naturally occurring events called seasons. 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 responsibility 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 for 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!

Many thanks to Father Mel and his pastoral team for hosting this event!

Porta Fidei:


Benedict’s Letter for Lent 2013:


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

SUNRISE RIDE 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 (Cyle C/AA) binder Participate in the actual modelling of the lessons Information and registration: Jamie Zwicker (250) 477-6853 jzwicker@csidy.bc.ca

Please contact by April 12

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sheila Silverio ctc
Silver Tours, 2177 Michigan Way, Nanaimo BC
Email Sheila - mssil@telus.net
**Pastoral Itinerary**  
**Bishop Richard Gagnon**

*All events are in Victoria unless otherwise noted*  

**April 2013**  
1-3, Prince George: Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Stephen  
5, Holy Cross, Victoria: 5 p.m. UVic Grad Mass and Dinner  
7-9, Ottawa: National Liturgy Commission  
11, Victoria: Blessing of St. Columbia Church (7 p.m.)  
12, Pastoral Centre/Sacred Heart: Parish Support Staff Retreat  
13, Church of the Ascension, Parksville: Confirmation Mass (11 a.m.)  
Christ the King, Courtenay: Confirmation Mass (3 p.m.)  
14, St. Patrick’s, Campbell River: Confirmation Mass (11 a.m.)  
21, Holy Cross, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (10:30 a.m.)  
St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (2 p.m.)  
23, Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria: Mass (10:30 a.m.)  
24, Victoria: Council of Priests  
25-28, Richmond: Knights of Columbus Annual Convention  
29-30, May 3, Diocese of Victoria Clergy Retreat

**May 2013**  
4, Christ the King, Courtenay: SYDP BC/Yukon AGM  
5, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: Vocations Mass (11 a.m.)  
6-7, St. Peter’s, Nanaimo: CWL Diocesan Convention  
9, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: (12:00 p.m) Mass and March for Life  
10, Queen of Peace, Victoria: (7 p.m) Diaconate Ordination  
11, Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni: Confirmation Mass (3 p.m.)  
St. Peter’s, Nanaimo: Confirmation Mass (5 p.m.)  
12, Trinity, Nanaimo: Confirmation Mass (9 a.m.)  
St. Edward’s, Duncan: Confirmation Mass (1 p.m.)  
13-15, Ottawa: National Liturgy Commission  
15, Duncan: Council of Priests  
18, Sacred Heart, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (5 p.m.)  
19, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: Confirmation Mass (11 a.m.)  
20-31, Vancouver: Retreat Master, Archdiocese of Vancouver Clergy Retreat

**June 2013**  
1, Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (5 p.m.)  
2, St. Patrick’s Victoria, Victoria: Confirmation Mass (2 p.m.)  
3, Vancouver: Canadian Catholic Historical Association Mass & Banquet  
4, Victoria: Association of Catholic Leaders Breakfast, 7 a.m., 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 p.m.)  
9, Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake: Mass (9 a.m.) DOV Family Marriage Conference  
St. Francis Xavier, MBB: Confirmation Mass (11 a.m.)  
14, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: Ordinariate Ordination  
15, St. Rose of Lima, Sooke: Confirmation Mass (3 p.m.)  
16, St. Joseph’s, Chemainus: Confirmation Mass (10:45 a.m.)  
17, Christ the King, Courtenay: Confirmation Mass (7 p.m)  
50th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Joe Kiloran  
19, Victoria: Council of Priests  
22-23, North Island Parishes: Pastoral visit  
24, St. Jean Baptiste, Victoria: Mass (11 a.m)  
26, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: St. Andrew’s Elementary School Closing Mass (9:30 a.m)  
26, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: St. Andrew’s Regional High School Grad Mass. (6:30 p.m)  
29, St. Andrew’s Cathedral: Ordination of David Hogman (11 a.m)

**Calendar of Events**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Sacred Heart Christian Charities Spring Garage and Clothing Sale, Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact the parish office at <a href="mailto:sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca">sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca</a> or phone (250) 479-1611.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: The Korean Community presents a Korean Culture and Food Bazaar on Saturday, April 27 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Come and enjoy small stalls (pulled items) and experience the Korean culture and authentic Korean food. Kimchi, Bulgogi and BBQ to mention a few! For more information, contact Vivianlei at <a href="mailto:vivianlei@kimun.com">vivianlei@kimun.com</a> or by phone (250) 889-8877.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24-26</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Regional High School: Diocesan Youth Conference featuring guest speaker Jesse Manibusan from 20/2 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 (<a href="http://www.rcdvictoria.org">www.rcdvictoria.org</a>). 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 <a href="mailto:tnsandy@gmail.com">tnsandy@gmail.com</a>. (See also ad page 23.)</td>
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| June 6-9 | 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 or younger, or $250/family with children 3 yrs or 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 joreilly@rcdvictoria.org. Deadline for registration is May 10. If you would like to attend but are experiencing difficulties doing so, please contact Reine directly.  
Church of the Ascension, Parksville: 75th Anniversary picnic 12 noon to 3 p.m. 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. |

**Miscellaneous**

**Wednesdays**  
St. Patrick’s Victoria: Moms & Tots group. Come join with the moms of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church for friendship, support, prayer and fun. Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Religious Classes  
for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Confirmation Mass (5 pm)  
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria: 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 Confirmation and Confirmation for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.  
9:40 a.m – 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 issues in an authentic Catholic setting. And there’s a potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 745-1962 or email bonnie.l@shaw.ca.  
At the Cathedral, 4th Saturday of each month from 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.  

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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 Church of Canada (ACC). He was ordained a priest for the Anglican Church of Canada in 1965. In 1977, he joined the ACC and in 1999 he was elected Suffragan Bishop. Six years later, in 2005, 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 ordinaries exist: Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom and Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia. 

Mr. Greg Steenson

Silver Tours Canadian Marian Pilgrimage 2012
**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 we require,” 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, and empathy.”

He also urged people to practice the Principle of Subsidarity, 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. 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.

**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.

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The next ACL breakfast is Tuesday, June 4 when the recipient of the Governor General of Canada Caring Attorney, former Kelowna City Councilor and Christ-like to them”… as we go about being Catholic leaders in our chosen profession.

He concluded by saying, “Jesus is present in each one of us this morning. He is present in all other persons. 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.

For example, at one parish a parishioner emailed others indicating that she was marooned in Africa and “if money the funds will be released to you, “ or other similar, questionable statements.

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” asking for them to control of her email and, unknown to her, was sending out this request to everyone in her address book.

For example, at one parish a parishioner emailed others indicating that she was marooned in Africa and “if money the funds will be released to you, “ or other similar, questionable statements.

The next ACL breakfast is Tuesday, June 4 when the speaker will be Tom Smithwick, retired Kelowna attorney, former Kelowna City Councillor 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 Duman at victoriachd@gmail.com or (250) 857-5817.

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 lay or clergy. Common sense dictates that unless you are willing to lose your money, you ought not to lend or 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.

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.

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 lay or clergy. Common sense dictates that unless you are willing to lose your money, you ought not to lend or 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.
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, event coordination, and fundraising. Julie is a graduate student at the University of Victoria and has a strong passion for 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 St Ann on the West Coast. Theresa’s work and vision allowed the Society to grow into an organization committed to carrying the legacy of St 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 250-955-8620 or email info@friendsofstannsacademy.com. Visit the Society’s website at www.friendsofstannsacademy.com.

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

by Sarah Robeye

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 life 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 (CFAW), 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 CFAW, 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, 250-213-4904 or koalabear_writer@yahoo.ca or Laura, 250-370-2736 or lauravpearse@gmail.com.
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 experimental 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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Put your trust in our professional service
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 project.

“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.
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 wishes us to spread his message. I told him by writing a story and sending the message. I also told him to wear the clothes I always give. I told him to spread the message to children because some children don't have food. If we need food, we will need to give clothes and we don't want a bad day to equal to what we need food.

Did you know that St. Joseph's is Open?

Right now there is a huge bull down 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 like lots of animals.

If you are a student here, you will learn about plants, animals, and many many more. Jesus will take care of you. Your teachers will show you how you can improve for next time. Also, your friends and your classmates will see how you are grown up and they will encourage you to keep it up.

People in our school work together to help others in different ways. In October, we always collect toys or clothes for Hand in Hand 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 building in our school where the playground used to be? It's because we want to make our school bigger and each one welcoming so more people can be a part of our learning community. That's why St. Joseph's is Open.

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 work food day. We donated food to people that need it. We sang carols down town.

Ok
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

Pope Benedict XVI: You Loved Us Well

Photo credits: L’Osservatore Romane / Getty Images
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 Argentinian 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.
Nightfever, I knew that even if one person had an encounter with Christ because available for confession, conversation, or blessings. Their written prayer intentions, all of which the nuns of St. Clare's Monastery in prayer. A sign to the left of the altar pointed to a box in which people could place a lit candle in front of the altar, where Christ awaited them inside the Monstrance. If people chose to enter the cathedral, volunteers encouraged them to place their Adoration, where teams of student street missionaries offer passers-by a candle, encouraging 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.

Were people 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."

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."

Connections

by Kayla Hart

Focus on Youth

Catholic Students Association Winter Retreat

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 King's Pastor Fr. Marek Paczka, as well as testimonies from a few of their peers.

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."
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.


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 and his bold defense of the poor in harmony with his bold proclamation of the Gospel: “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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What is an Ordinariate?

By Mgr. 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 (Mgr. 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 to be found 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, are forces impelling toward catholic unity. There is an inner dynamic in the life and teaching of Church—the Ordinariates’ primary statement of faith is to prepare those of the Anglican heritage gathered around the Ordinary for the transition to 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 Mgr. Peter Wilkinson as their pastor. Mgr. 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 other show for the greater Glory of God like that of the love of Almighty God at the Easter celebration. 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 that his hope that what 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 marriage 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 be 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. Hmmmm. Discern this… is God calling you to the priesthood? Discern this; do you know some one who would be 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 lister’s overwhelming will tell their sons of the call of God’s call. To register call Fr. Sean at (250) 743-1688 or Fr. Alfredo at (250) 732-7380.

Diocesan Messenger – April 2013

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. This 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 recojoice 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 sustain them in their work and their love for 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?

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. Hmmmm. Discern this… is God calling you 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 marriage 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.

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O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your Son in 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 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
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 kids? But its okay! We wanted seven kids.

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

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Nobody makes money from a couple in charge of their own fertility. Nobody makes money sharing this information with you, including me.

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.

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.


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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. 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.

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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," that 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 the Church 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. 

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 we yet 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 Magdalenraises 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 stared in Peter's conscience and progressively burned in his heart and in his soul at each repetition, 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.

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Given we are in the Easter season, there is no better time to be reminded the Spirit throughout its full continuum and its call for us to engage our societies to official teachings on the relationship between the sanctity of life with dignity have opportunities to explore, in a safe and prayerful environment, the Church's Our Faith II in the fall is being explored. There is obviously a need for people to Given the overwhelmingly positive response to the day the possibility of a Living planned for the afternoon. 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 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 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 “permanent 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 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.’
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.

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!”)

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.

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. 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.

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.

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

A New Leaf

by Stuart Andrie


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.


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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 naive; 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.

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, desserts, chocolate, sweats, 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 family and friends 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.”

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 by birth, 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 what of fear 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.
**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

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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 man to God to offer Him their petitions....
To return from God to man to offer them His hope....
To have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for charity....
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

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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**

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**Diocesan Messenger – April 2013**
We May be different... But we love each other Anyway!

Melanie

we care for the sick

Judging The Earth with Equity!

Respect the right to be different

respect the right to be different

We Are The Light To Others