



See Page 2

Appeal in Action



See Page 20

St. Ann's Youth Ministry



See Page 5

March for Life



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

June 2013

St. Andrew's Elementary A Part Of The Fabric Of Who We Are

by Joe Colistro, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

St. Andrew's Elementary School, central to the history of Catholic Education on Vancouver Island, was originally built as St. Louis College (1864) and provided a solid and foundational Catholic education for boys. In 1968 St. Andrew's Elementary opened its doors providing Catholic schooling rooted in Gospel values to students in Kindergarten through grade 7, and for a time, grades 8 through 10.



It is with the fondest of memories, with smiles and tears, that we bid farewell to St. Andrew's Elementary.

Community has always been at the heart of why St. Andrew's Elementary existed. Centrally located in downtown Victoria, it brought parents and children together from all parts of the city and from many ethnic backgrounds. The staff welcomed all who entered its doors. One could always sense a feeling of warmth and caring throughout the building. This was not accidental; the feeling of belonging was purposeful. The parish, St. Andrew's Cathedral, and the pastors that served over the years have provided formation through spiritual support and guidance.

St. Andrew's leaves a legacy rooted in our Faith. It is part of the tapestry we call Island Catholic Schools. The many colors of the tapestry that have been woven so beautifully over the years will always be a part of this beautiful fabric. Schools and buildings close, but the memories and the impact the people within the walls have on our lives do not, they become part of our fabric, our being. As a Catholic school St. Andrew's enriched the lives of many, focussing on Christ as guide and role model. Catholicity is not a strand of material dangling alone, it is faith that permeates the whole school, the entire tapestry.

St. Andrew's Elementary has been a part of the lives of many people; those privileged to work there, those who attended the school, volunteers and the general community. Our lives are touched in many ways but none more powerful than by people who share common values and beliefs. Staff members have been at the school for many years. It will be a sad departure but also a moment of grace, a time of new beginnings.

Is this the end of an era or is it just a part of the journey? The community we call St. Andrew's will live on in the hearts and minds of those who are part of the fabric of who we are. ✠

Diocesan Youth Conference a Huge Hit

by Elizabeth Fitzmaurice

*"Who is the Church? WE ARE! Where is the Church? RIGHT HERE! And? EVERYWHERE!
How do we live our faith? FAITH-IN-ACTION!"*

This year's Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) was filled with joy, music, games, fellowship, sharing and prayer. We were blessed to have Jesse Manibusan as our guest speaker. Through his humour and music, and the sharing of his personal experiences, Jesse encouraged us to take that leap of faith and to say yes to God—even when what He is telling us does not appear to be what we want to do.

Jesse shared about how he had dreamt to become the next member of the Beatles, but God had used his talent for music to lead others in worship at Mass and to touch the lives of those he performed for at senior centres and even at a juvenile detention centre. We have dreams for our lives, but God's dream for us is greater still. All we need to do is say yes to Him, just as our Mother Mary said yes.

Along with Jesse, we were also blessed with the talented band *West of Eden*. This group of young adults led us in praise and energized us throughout the weekend. Our theme song, written by band member Phil Le Ross, reminded us that God is looking for us to react to His call in our lives and that our *fiat*, our total surrender and trust, can help us to become the people God calls us to be.

The youth showed an openness to speak about their faith, and a willingness to try to hear God's call in their lives. We saw new friendships formed, seeds of faith planted and lives changed. It was hard to say goodbye to all of the friends made this weekend but we look forward to see what next year's DYC has in store! ✠

“Jesse was inspiring and amazing.”



Inside

Appeal in Action	2
Calendar of Events	4
Catholic Schools	10
Connections	15
Face the Day	17
Impressions	22
Island News and Events	5
National/International	20
Pastoral Itinerary	4
Vocations.....	16



SPECIAL PULLOUT CENTRE SECTION: ST. ANDREW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Pages 11 - 14





In Proportion to Our Blessings

by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Diocesan Appeal 2013—Journey of Hearts & Hands: In Proportion to Our Blessings

☺ In Proportion to Our Blessings ...

The theme for the 2013 Appeal is a message about our stewardship responsibilities. We are being asked to contribute from blessings bestowed. The theme is taken from Deuteronomy 16:16-17:

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.

We are all being called to be good stewards of God's gifts to us. Stewardship is the conducting, supervising or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We believe that God entrusted all of us with resources and talents. Therefore, Catholic Stewardship is not only a matter of believing the practices and principles of Catholicism, but also a matter of living a life of stewardship by using the gifts God has entrusted to us to serve Him and share His love with others. This means that Catholics should use the resources, talents, monetary means and opportunities available in the world in a Christ-centered manner rather than a self-centered manner. Different people may have different talents and resources and thus may demonstrate different ways of serving God. At its core, stewardship involves a conversion of the individual's heart resulting in deeper knowledge of how God wishes His people to use the various gifts He has given them.

A steward in the Catholic Church can be defined as a disciple of Jesus who receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others and returns them with increase to the Lord. True stewardship is proactive, not reactive. It is a call to both a deepening conversion, and a stronger commitment to following Jesus as his disciple.

Stewardship Thought: We Are Not the Owners—We are the Tenants

In a parable about poor stewardship, Jesus speaks about the landowner—God—who leases his vineyard to tenants and expects something productive from them. And once again, who are the tenants? Surely, you and I ... we are the tenants. Stewardship is the recognition that God is the giver of all gifts, and it is about having an attitude of gratitude! We act as tenant stewards of the vineyard of God's Church, preserving and growing it for ourselves and generations who will follow us.

Appeal 2013 at a Glance

Theme: In Proportion to Our Blessings

Annual Goal

Remains at \$750,000 divided as:

Parish Projects	\$150,000
Parish Outreach	\$25,000
Justice & Life and Youth Ministry	\$25,000
Up-Island Schools	\$25,000
First Nations Support	\$50,000
Appeal Expenses	\$50,000
Retired Clergy: Pensions Supplement	\$100,000
Island Catholic Schools Plan	\$325,000

Appeal Elements

- Appeal materials mailed to all parishioners from Appeal Office
- Messages from pastors and lay leaders at Sunday Mass
- Video of Bishop Richard Gagnon shown in every parish
- Appeal messages in Sunday Bulletins
- Pledge materials used in every parish
- Appeal news in the *Diocesan Messenger* and on the Diocesan website (www.rcdvictoria.org)

Important Dates for Appeal 2013

October	
1st	Appeal materials distributed to parishes
4th	Mass of Thanksgiving and Dinner - Nanaimo
12th	Mail-out to all parishioners from Appeal Office
19th/20th	Kick-Off Weekend
26th/27th	Video Weekend
November	
2nd/3rd	Education Weekend
9th/10th	Commitment Weekend

Stewardship Prayer

*Heavenly Father, Your Son ascended in great triumph to sit at your right hand.
You sent your Spirit to watch over us, guide us
and teach us to be better stewards
of your abundant gifts.*

May this Spirit of wisdom make us better stewards of our planet.

*May your Spirit increase our awareness of the
dignity of every human life,
and show us the way to be better stewards of our neighbour.*

*And through your Spirit, may we be inspired
every day to live in accordance with the Gospel,
and to give witness to our risen Lord.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.*

Amen.

Stewardship and Being on Fire to Know Jesus

On May 19, we celebrated the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples to bring fire and flame to their hearts' commitment to Jesus. Do we sense the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Do we allow the Lord to inspire us to burn with a desire for greater intimacy? Good stewards balance their everyday lives with their outpouring of love in their deeds and in their prayer lives as they grow closer to Christ.

In the mystical writings of St. Teresa of Avila, this doctor of the Church tells a beautiful story that underscores her relationship with Jesus. Teresa would often engage in conversation with the Lord, and one evening, Teresa heard Jesus ask her name, to which she replied with her religious name, saying, "I am Teresa of Jesus." Teresa was heartened to inquire of the Lord, "And who are you?" to which she heard Jesus respond, "I am Jesus of Teresa."

What beautiful intimacy Teresa felt with the Lord! It is to this intimacy, this deeply personal relationship, that each of us is called. St. Francis of Assisi, whose name our new Pope Francis has chosen, was said to have prayed simply by asking repeatedly of the Lord, "Who are you, and who am I?" It was from the depths of the answers he received, and the questions he continued to ask, that Francis drew his strength to renew Christ's church.

To lead a life filled with contemplative moments is the call given to each Christian steward. St. Ignatius of Loyola called us to "contemplation in action," that combination, that holy amalgam of prayer in our life that inspires the good things we do each day, which in return deepens our commitment to prayer. As Christian stewards, we know that our good works become hollow when they are done without a relationship with the Lord Who inspires us. By the same token, a prayer life can become rote and sterile if we leave it behind when we set out into our workaday world. We must be committed to a balance, a blend in our lives of the intimacy with Christ which enables us to do the good work to which we aspire.

May the spirit of Pentecost inflame our hearts with the desire to know Jesus and to live our lives in His service.

-Excerpted from *The International Catholic Stewardship Council*

Stewardship in Scripture

BE A LIGHT TO THE WORLD

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*

(From Jesus' Sermon on the Mount—Matthew 5: 14-16)

GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

*How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good he has done for me?*
Psalm 116: 12 ✠





Pastoral Plan Update

Our Parish Pastoral Planning Journey St. Joseph the Worker Parish

by Moira King, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Parish Planning

The St. Joseph the Worker Parish planning process is an exercise in collaborative ministry with the entire parish community.

“Pastoral planning seeks to create opportunities for pastoral leaders and all members in each parish to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the local Church through the lens of mission,” said Fr. William Hann. “As pastor, I see my role as calling forth the gifts of parishioners to provide many opportunities for them to be church.”

Our Council members have been accountable for parish survey feedback and implementing the parish pastoral plan for the past four years. How is this accomplished? With survey results, goals are developed, Council members offer their support for the goals, names are assigned, and they act as liaisons to other ministries in the parish.

Our Parish Mission

We are a pilgrim people of diverse backgrounds united by God through the Gospels, the teachings of the Church and the pursuit of common goals. We strive to deepen our personal union with Jesus Christ and to grow as a faith community. We seek to enrich our heritage of care and concern for all, especially for those in need, by being instruments of God’s love and healing to the world around us. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to pursue this mission by participation in the liturgical, educational and social ministries of the Church. We recognize that to be effective, these ministries require spiritual, physical and financial resources, and we accept our responsibility as Christians to provide them.

2013-2014 Planning Goals

Knowing that all we are flows from our liturgical and sacramental life and our rich Catholic tradition, we will endeavour to achieve the following goals, objectives and strategies over the next year.

All goals for the following priorities have or will be created in union with the Diocese of Victoria (Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2010-2015) and in consultation with our parishioners, opportunities and programs.

FAITH FORMATION AND VOCATION

Objective

We will invite, engage and empower participation of the people of God to live out our baptismal vocation by collaborating with new and existing ministries.

Strategies

We will achieve this objective by providing faith formation and opportunities to serve such as:

Children and Youth

- Children and Youth
- Liturgy of the Word for children (Grades 1–3)
- Parish Summer Camps (Grades 1–6)
- Catechism (Grades 1–7)
- Sacramental Preparation and Confirmation (Grade 2)
- Monthly Mass for St. Joseph School (Grades K–7)
- Ministry of Service (Comprehensive Youth Ministry Model)
- *Edge* (Grades 6–7)
- *iGNight* (Grades 8–12)

Adults

- *Great Adventure* Bible Series
- Adult Faith Formation Programs. We are fortunate to have so many sessions to offer.
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
- *Come Back Home*—This program helps those on their journey back to the Catholic Church.



St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council members gather “to be Church” at their planning meeting in the parish Community Room on May 30, 2013

Photo credit: Stephen Steffler

- *New Start, New Hope, New Life*—Offered to those who are separated and/or divorced.
- *Healing in the Church*—Lenten Mission sessions.
- *Lectio Divina*—The ancient art of contemplative praying the Scriptures enabling the Bible, the Word of God to become a means of union with God.
- Benediction and Adoration
- Ministry Fair (Fall 2014)

PARISH OUTREACH, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE AND ECUMENISM

Objective

St Joseph the Worker Parish embraces all people.

Strategies

Educate our SJTW parish family about ministries by 2015 by providing the following:

- Produce and provide a parish and ministry information brochure.
- Newsletter: promote ministry events, news and support requirements.
- Greeters: provide training and offer opportunities to assist.
- Bulletin: include regular information of ministry requirements and volunteer needs.
- Ministries: host regular coffee after the 10 am Mass.

Objective

Deepen our Parish commitment to pastoral outreach as an expression of our Christian Faith.

Strategies

- Tap into existing ministries’ work: Social and Ecological Justice such as the Development and Peace campaign, Diocesan Appeal, World Food Day, support Thembaletu orphanage and other outreach fundraising initiatives.
- Plan for implementation of the *Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Outreach Training Program*, possibly in conjunction with other greater Victoria parishes.
- Review and evaluate our Parish outreach initiatives and efforts in relationship to the needs of our parish and the wider community
- Recruit and train teams.

Objective

Based on the Gospel, strategize, advocate and promote ecological justice within the parish especially with youth engagement including connections with the greater world community and environment.

Strategies

- Assist in the promotion of parish-related educational workshops, retreats and programs with other communities.
- Implement the “Greening our Parish” Plan
- Strategy to establish a Third World Sister Parish to be consistent with Pope Francis’ stated wishes.

Objective

Increase Ecumenism by inviting and collaborating other Christian faith communities at home and abroad.

Strategies

- Identify opportunities for Ecumenism.
- Continue to celebrate the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*.

Youth & Young Adults

Objective

Identify opportunities for youth to participate in all ministries.

Strategies

- Determine present involvement and future needs in liaison with Diocesan Youth
- Support the Diocesan Campus Ministry at St. Andrew’s High School and Ministry at St. Joseph the Worker Parish including *Edge* (grade 6 and 7) and outreach ministry to other parishes with *iGNight*
- Distribute schedule of youth events on a monthly basis.

Objective

Plan for and engage young adults in church programs and events.

Strategies

- Mix and Mingle
- ‘Theology on Tap’ ☒



Pastoral Itinerary

Bishop Richard Gagnon

Calendar of Events

June 2013

- 1
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 2
- St. Patrick’s Church, Victoria:** Confirmation Mass (2 pm)
150th Anniversary of Congregation Emanu-El Gala Dinner (6 pm)
- 3
- St. Ann’s Chapel, Victoria:** Canadian Catholic Historical Association Mass & Banquet
- 4
- Victoria:** Association of Catholic Leaders Breakfast, 7 am, Union Club
Mass (10:30 am) Mount St. Mary Hospital
- 6-8
- St. Patrick’s Church, Victoria:** CWL Provincial Convention
St. Andrew’s Cathedral: CWL Provincial Convention Closing Mass (5 pm)
- 9
- Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake:** Mass (9 am) DOV Family Marriage Conference
St. Francis Xavier, Mill Bay: Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- 14
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Priestly Ordinations of Michael Birch, Donald Malins and Peter Switzer of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter (7 pm)
- 15
- St. Rose of Lima, Sooke:** Confirmation Mass (5 pm)
- 16
- St. Joseph’s, Chemainus:** Confirmation Mass (10:45 am)
- 17
- Christ the King, Courtenay:** Mass (7 pm) 50th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Joe Killoran
- 19
- Pastoral Centre, Victoria:** Council of Priests
- 21
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Mass (12 pm) 60th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Andre Dion
- 22
- Our Lady of the Assumption, Alert Bay:** Mass (10 am)
St. Theresa’s, Port Alice: Mass (5 pm)
- 23
- St. Mary’s, Port McNeill:** Mass (9 am)
St. Bonaventure, Port Hardy: Mass (11 am)
- 24
- St. Jean Baptiste, Victoria:** Mass (11 am)
- 26
- St. Andrew’s Elementary, Victoria:** Closing Mass (9:30 am)
St. Andrew’s Cathedral: St. Andrew’s Regional High School Graduation Mass (6:30 pm)
- 29
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Priestly Ordination of David Hogman (10 am)

July 2013

- 2
- Victoria:** Mass (10:30 am) Mount St. Mary Hospital
- 5
- Comox:** St. Joseph’s Hospital AGM
St. Joseph’s Hospital Centennial Gala Dinner
- 20
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Mass (9:30 am) Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination
- 21
- Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria:** Mass (10:30 am) 50th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Manuel Cardoso

August 2013

- 5-9
- Texas:** Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention
- 13
- Victoria:** Mass (10:30 am), Mount St. Mary Hospital
- 27-1
- Edmonton:** Preach Retreat, St. Joseph’s Seminary

September 2013

- 12
- General Clergy Meeting
- 23-27
- Mont-Gabriel, Quebec:** Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops Plenary Meeting

June

- 15
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Esquimalt:** 9th Annual Lobster Dinner at 6:15 pm following 5 pm Mass. Lobster \$25 or Ham for \$15. Children under 12 dine free! Tickets are available through the office at (250) 384-3884.
- 23
- Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** 75th Anniversary picnic. 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.

July

- 8
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford:** Summer Camp from July 8 – 12 for children aged 6 – 13, from 9 am – 2 pm daily. This year’s theme: A Week of Faith in the Year of Faith. Cost is \$70 per child. The camp will feature Mass, music, field trips, acting, prayers, crafts, games and lots more—come and see! Volunteers are also needed to help run the camp (at least 14 yrs of age...no maximum!). To register or volunteer, please contact the parish office by email olor@shaw.ca or phone (250) 478-3482.

August

- 6
- Sacred Heart Summer Camp, Victoria:** Join us for Walking With Moses, a summer camp for children in grades K to 7. The camp runs from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm from Tuesday, August 6 through Friday, August 9. Cost is \$50 per child; registration forms are available from the Parish office. For more information call (250) 744-1174 or email lidiarmoodie@gmail.com.

September

- 7/8
- St. Mary’s High School, Calgary:** Did you attend St. Mary’s High School in Calgary, around 1953? The class of 1953 is celebrating 60 years since High School and invites those who attended St. Mary’s Girls and Boys Schools, in the years around 1953, to join us. We will be on Saturday, September 7 at the Calgary Golf and Country Club at 4 pm for visiting and pictures, followed with dinner at 6:30 pm. On Sunday, September 8 we will meet at 11:30 am at the FCJ Centre (Convent) for Mass (Fr. Ray Lowing) and breakfast. Cost is \$100 per person. For more information contact Donna at (403) 243-0577 or email dmstemp@live.com.

Miscellany

- Wednesdays
- St. Patrick’s Victoria:** Moms & Tots group. Come together with the moms of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (2060 Haultain Street, Victoria) for faith, fellowship and laughter. We discuss everything from two-year-old tantrums, to the dignity of women, to faith in our families and back to potty training. We meet at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings; childcare is provided. Contact Bonnie at (250) 213-4984 or koalabear_writer@yahoo.ca for more info.

Fridays

- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** 9:30 – 11 am, Moms & Tots Group. All mothers with children 6 years and under are welcome. For more information contact Rosemarie Urbanson at (250) 391-6618; no registration is required.

Saturdays

- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 10 am (except December 24).
- At the Cathedral:** 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

Sundays

- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 12 noon with Gregorian Chant and Sacred Hymns.
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Religious Classes for Children and Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. 9:40 am – 10:25 am every Sunday. For more information contact Marie Peeters at (250) 542-4483.
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Holy Families Group on the last Sunday of every month. This is an opportunity for married couples to share their faith and discuss marriage and family concerns in an authentically Catholic setting. And there’s a potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email onthisrock@shaw.ca.

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

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



The Diocesan Messenger

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

Circulation 6,600
2013 Publication Dates

February, April, June,
September, November & December

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

Editorial Board

Bishop Richard Gagnon, Chair
Connie Dunwoody, Editor
Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins
Char Deslippe
Leah MacKenzie
James O’Reilly

Contributors

David Baanstra, Proofreader
Joe Colistro, Superintendent
Fr. Sean Flynn, Contributor
Fr. Dean Henderson, Campus Chaplain
Bonnie Landry, Contributor
Raya MacKenzie, Youth Representative
Gordon Reilly, Proofreader
Jamie Zwicker, Island Catholic Schools
Knights of Columbus, Distribution

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

Effective June 30, 2013

- Rev. Luyen Dau C.Ss.R, will leave St. Andrew’s Cathedral Parish as he has been reassigned by his Redemptorist community to serve a parish in New York State.

Effective July 21, 2013

- Rev. Waldemar Podlasz SDS, will leave St. Peter’s Parish in Nanaimo as he has been reassigned by his Salvatorian community to serve a parish in Ottawa.
- Rev. Piotr Lapinski SDS, appointed Pastor of St. Peter’s Parish in Nanaimo.

Effective September 2, 2013

- Rev. Anthony Gonsalves OFM, will leave Holy Cross Parish in Victoria as he has been reassigned by his Franciscan community to serve as the Chaplain to the Franciscan Poor Clare Sisters of Duncan.

Effective September 14, 2013

- Rev. Jan Grotkowski SDS, appointed Pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish in Campbell River.
- Rev. Dino Villadiego, appointed Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Victoria.
- Rev. Roger Poblete, appointed Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Ucluelet and St. Francis of Assissi Parish in Tofino, with outreach ministry to the First Nations communities on the West Coast.
- Rev. Scott Whitemore, appointed Pastor of the North Island Parishes, serving the communities of Alert Bay, Port Alice, Port Hardy, and Port McNeill with outreach ministry to the First Nations communities in the North Island.

Other

- Monsignor Michael Lapierre will retire effective July 1, 2013. The Diocese of Victoria is most grateful for Monsignor Lapierre’s pastoral ministry over the years and we wish him well in his retirement.
- Upon Ordination to Holy Orders on Saturday, June 29th, Deacon David Hogman will be assigned to serve at St. Andrew’s Cathedral Parish, effective August 1, 2013.



Island News & Events



Victoria March for Life: End Female Gendercide

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

Pro-lifers from across the province have once again shown that abortion is an issue that we will not—that we cannot—ignore. Each year the BC March for Life attracts larger and larger crowds. Almost half of the over 1,600 participants were under the age of 25, bearing witness to the fact that the Pro-Life Movement is getting younger and more energetic; these youth are dedicated to the cause and determined to end abortion in their lifetime.

The theme of this year's March, *End Female Gendercide*, reflected recent evidence about female feticide here in Canada. Last June, a CBC undercover investigation found that sex-selective abortions were being performed in Canadian clinics. This investigation was done just two months after the Canadian Medical Association Journal published a study confirming that gendercide is occurring in numbers large enough to distort the sex-ratio of males to females at birth in some regions of the country.

This human rights issue is one that many Canadians are determined to address. Langley MP Mark Warawa recently brought the concern to parliament with his *Motion 408*, asking that the House condemn sex selective pregnancy termination. Unfortunately the motion was deemed non-votable, but MP Warawa

has indicated his continuing commitment to end this discrimination. This year's March for Life was not just an opportunity to educate the public about the issue of gendercide; it was once again a way to unite pro-life advocates, inspiring participants to continue together in their pro-life efforts, and show them how progress is being made.

The rally speakers spoke from different experiences and walks of life, reflecting the diversity of the Pro-Life Movement. Natalie Hudson-Sonnen (Executive Director of Life Canada) gave her heart-warming testimony as a mother, while Rev. Rob Fitterer (lead pastor, The Place Church) gave his own energetic witness to the pro-life cause. Mike Schouten (Executive Director, WeNeedALaw) enlightened rally participants through his narrative on the issue of gendercide, while Alexandra Jezierski (age 18, founder of Letters for Life) witnessed to the youthfulness of the Pro-Life Movement. All of these pro-life advocates demonstrated how everyone can bring their interests, strengths and gifts to the cause for life. It is only by uniting our resources, passions and talents that we can successfully build a culture of life in Canada. ✕



"Nightfever" to Return to Cathedral This Summer

by Greg Van Dyk

After hosting the first Nightfever in Victoria this past February, Catholic students at the University of Victoria are planning to repeat the successful event this coming July. 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 is their first time in a church, while others may not have been inside in years.

If people choose to enter the cathedral, volunteers encourage them to place their lit candle in front of the altar, where Christ awaits them inside the monstrance. Students play beautiful live music, filling the enormous sanctuary. A basket to the right of the altar holds Scripture verses for visitors to take, perhaps inspiring prayer. A sign to the left of the altar points to a box in which people can place their written prayer intentions, all of which the nuns of St. Clare's Monastery in Duncan will specifically pray for. At the back of the church, priests are available for confession, conversation, or blessings.

The event presents an exciting and unique opportunity for evangelization, and event organizers are encouraging everyone to come and see what Nightfever is all about this July. Organizers are also suggesting that people invite friends and family—Catholic or not—to check out the evening at St. Andrew's Cathedral in downtown Victoria.

For more information on the event, and for the exact date and time, visit www.catholicvic.webs.com and click on the Nightfever link. ✕



Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism



These lofty values are those on which every Knight of Columbus models his life.

If you are a practicing Catholic man in union with the Holy See who has attained the age of 18 years or older,

The Knights of Columbus of District #1 cordially invite you to join their ranks.

Greater Victoria Councils

Victoria Council 1256 serving Victoria and Esquimalt
St Patrick's Council 7934 serving Oak Bay and Saanich East
Langford Council 8394 serving Western Communities and Sooke
Saanich Peninsula Council 9703 serving Saanich Peninsula & Gulf Is.
St. Joseph the Worker Council 13356 serving Saanich West
Sacred Heart Council 15445 serving Sacred Heart Parish—Saanich North and East
Fr. Brabant 4th Degree Assembly serving Greater Victoria
Bishop Demers 4th Degree Assembly serving Greater Victoria

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

www.kofcvictoria.bc.ca



The Sexual Abuse Crisis: Why Talk About It?

by Jean Allen

Why talk about it, indeed? This question was in the minds of many of the thirty people who gathered Tuesday evenings at St. Joseph the Worker Parish during the six weeks of Lent to study and discuss Sr. Nuala Kenny’s book, *Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating The Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

The sessions, led by Fr. William Hann, Sr. Joyce Harris and myself, followed a format of large and small group discussions centered around each of the six chapters in Sr. Nuala’s book which she wrote in a format designed to facilitate group discussion. Each chapter explores an aspect of the abuse crisis and is followed by scripture meditations and questions.

The question of why we should talk about the crisis is one that would cross most people’s minds. Naturally, there is a concern that much anger may be released, anger that has nowhere to go and can only leave people stewing in useless negativity. However, psychologists would agree that anger that is left unexpressed is anger that causes deeper wounds that fester and become harder and harder to heal. The process of talking things out in a safe environment is a healthy process.

The connections participants had to the sexual abuse crisis covered a broad spectrum. There were a few who had personally experienced abuse and some who had family members who had been abused. Some had been concerned about the issue for a long time. A number who came were shocked by how widespread the crisis really is as attested to by statistics in Sr. Kenny’s book. No matter what their initial experience was, by the end of the sessions all the participants were in agreement that even though some of the sharing was painful to hear, talking it out was a very healthy process. The following excerpts are typical of comments written by those who attended:

I feel: ... enlightened and informed ... hope as we talk about the issues ... gratitude and hope for this opportunity ... in awe of the honesty, openness, commitment and courage of the facilitators and participants ... this has been an eye-opening journey ... my wounds have been heard ... as though the air has been cleared and something new could happen ... I’m no longer alone in being wounded ... there’s been a decrease of the anger that has held me down ... that my heart is awakened and on fire ... this journey is the heart of gospel living ... there is a positive force flowing forward ...

Many echoed this opinion: “What we have started can’t stop here. We have to find a way to get this out to everyone. This experience needs to happen in every church.” One woman shared that she had stopped attending Mass because of her frustration with the Church but because of the sessions, has now decided that she will start attending again. The most often repeated words in the last few sessions were *hope* and *gratitude*.

In this Year of Faith, the Church recognizes its need of a healed people who have been renewed in hope and gratitude.

That’s a very good reason to talk about it. ✠

*Praise the Lord!
O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; for his
steadfast love endures forever!*
~ Psalm 106:1

Society of Saint Vincent De Paul British Columbia And Yukon Regional Council—Annual General Assembly

by J. Claude Bédard

Nora Criss, Regional Council President put out the call in May 2012 for a council or conference to host the 2013 BC and Yukon Annual General Assembly (AGA). Bill Duncan, North Vancouver Island Particular Council President immediately accepted the challenge. Thanks to the organizational skills of the four northern conferences with the assistance of the administration office we managed to stage a very successful AGA for the 81 registered delegates.

Honoured guests included Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria; Penny Craig, President SSVP National Council of Canada; Jean-Noël Cormier, President Elect, SSVP National Council of Canada; Nora Criss, President British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council accompanied by her husband Ron; Morag Mochan, President, Victoria Particular Council; Fr. Jim Bekkema, Spiritual Advisor Victoria Particular Council; Fr. Marek Paczka SDS, Pastor Christ the King Parish; and Fr. (Captain) George Helou, Military Chaplain Canadian Forces Base Comox; George Affleck, Maintenance, St, George’s United Church; Rachelle Affleck, President, Catholic Women’s League; Don MacMahon, Deputy Grand Knight and his wife Cheryl; Rosemarie Reisinger and Gela Pisto; past members and Soup & Sandwich Club volunteers.

Penny Craig presented a Certificate of Appreciation to St. George’s United Church for their 17-year partnership in serving the poor in partnership with the Society. Christ the King Conference has been serving soup and sandwiches from the United Church Hall since June of 1996. George Affleck accepted the award on their behalf.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference, Campbell River prepared the registration kits, door prize and the wine and cheese reception. St Peter’s Conference, Nanaimo was responsible for the keynote speaker, inviting the Most Rev. Richard Gagnon Bishop of Victoria to preside at the closing Mass, and the workshop presenters. Notre Dame Conference, Port Alberni was responsible for sending out the registration packages and registering the delegates for the assembly. Christ the King Conference, Comox Valley hosted the event at Christ the King Church and The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160 Comox Hall. They also looked after transportation, billeting, closing Mass and food service.

Thank you to all the Vincentians and volunteers who helped to make this assembly the great success that it was. We all hope and pray that the Society in BC and Yukon will continue to flourish and grow to the benefit of the Society and the people whom we serve.

The following comments were written by Jean-Noël Cormier, President elect, SSVP National Council of Canada:

What a great weekend. The British Columbia and Yukon Regional Council AGA held on May 3 and 4 in Comox, BC was very well attended, thereby offering me a great opportunity to meet a good number of Vincentians from throughout the region. Family reunions are always very significant to me. My first British Columbia and Yukon Regional AGA is one to remember.

Over and above the scenery, which was breathtaking with flowers everywhere and snow on top of the mountains, our Keynote Speaker, Fr. Shayne Craig delivered a very motivating and inspirational address on the theme The Light of Christ. He talked about the impact on our lives of Christ’s influence through Frederic Ozanam and Saint Vincent de Paul.

He reminded us that through our spirituality, we are in communion together as a family in the church. It made me realize just how close we all are through our faith.

Fr. Shayne’s address was followed by four workshops entitled: The Succession Dilemma, The Vincentian, The Four Fundamental Principles of Catholic Social Teachings and Outreach through Retail. To choose two of the four was not easy. From the comments I heard afterwards, I believe that they were all excellent.

The Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria, celebrated Mass. His exceptional homily concluded our workday very well.

There were approximately 100 Vincentians and guests attending the closing banquet. As family, we gather to enjoy each other’s company and to eat and celebrate. It was a real family reunion with excellent ambiance. We all benefit from such gatherings. It was a very pleasant way to conclude my visit.

I sincerely thank the Vincentians from BC and the Yukon for inviting me to their Regional AGA and I say “Bravo” to the organising committee for a job very well done.

Thank you, Jean-Noël for your very kind words. ✠



L to R: Claude Bédard, President Christ the King Conference; Jean-Noel Cormier, President-Elect SSVP National Council of Canada; Fr. (Captain) George Helou, Military Chaplain Canadian Forces Base Comox; Penny Craig, National President SSVP National Council of Canada; Fr. Marek Paczka SDS, Pastor Christ the King Parish; Bill Duncan, President of North Vancouver Island Particular Council; Fr. Jim Bekkema, Spiritual Director Victoria Particular Council; Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria

We Did It!

by Sandi Digras, Recently Retired Chair of the Fundraising Committee, Church of the Ascension, Parksville

In 2005, Fr. Josef Kobos had a dream to expand our outdated parish hall and add a new kitchen, classrooms and washrooms to our existing building. Needless to say there is a long way from a dream to reality. The first step is to assemble a strong vision-oriented team otherwise called a Building Committee. This team was headed by Gord Johnston and Gloria Ash who represented the interests of the Catholic Women's League particularly in the expanded kitchen design. The project got the approval of Bishop Gagnon in 2009.

At that time the Building Committee decided they needed a dynamic Fundraising Committee and asked me to chair that group. We started with a goal to raise \$500,000 dollars for the first phase. On December 13, 2009, Bishop Gagnon took part in a sod-turning party with our then-pastor Fr. Jozef Kobos in front of the old parish hall. We were on our way. Needless to say, a few hiccups existed during the construction phase. In the end it would take over \$1.2 million to complete. To save money and time it was decided to complete both phases simultaneously, which of course added a much larger fundraising target but with the grace of God, all good things come to completion.



We Did It! Sandi Digras and Father Mel celebrate the end of our debt

On September 4, 2011 Bishop Gagnon returned to cut the ribbon and bless our newly renovated hall and addition which included a state-of-the-art kitchen, classrooms, library, handicapped-accessible washroom, modernized men's and women's washrooms and showers.

We promised the Bishop we would have the entire project paid for within 4 years. This was a brave promise but one both Fr. Kobos and Bishop Gagnon were confident we would fulfill.

During those years we staged many fundraising events. The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League donated generous cheques for our kitchen and the project in general. The returns from the Bishop's Appeal were applied to our debt and finally on April 14, 2013 we were pleased to announce to our parish: *We have discharged that debt and fulfilled our promise!*

This could not have happened without the generosity of all our parish family and particularly our hard-working Fundraising team: Noreen and Rod Morrison, Tess and Alan Cormack, Gloria Ash, Eloise and Russell Morrison, Jerry and Nancy Loughhead, Helen and Brendan O'Keeffe, Carol Low, Gord and Terry Johnston and former parishioner Peter Horsfield—all of whom made this goal a reality.

Today I am pleased to say all these new facilities have been well used. We have hosted Diocesan training sessions, CWL and Knights events, Youth lunches and parties and so much more. It is hard to believe it was just a few years ago that Fr. Kobos had his dream, and our present Pastor Fr. Mel Bayron has had a chance to see the fruits of that dream come to life.

At our Annual General Meeting held April 21 we celebrated with cake and coffee and a great feeling of relief. Our Treasurer, Dave Walters, is probably one of the happiest to see our bottom line out of the red.

What is our next big dream? Perhaps an expanded Church since we now seat about 150 parishioners in our parish hall for Sunday 10:30 am Mass and on all holidays. We shall see—with the blessing of God—when that might happen! ✂

Columbian Squires Update

by Philip Yuson (Pope Pius XII Circle Chief Counselor)

Spaghetti Night Fundraiser

The Pope Pius XII Circle 1169 of the Columbian Squires held a sold-out fundraising Spaghetti Night on April 13, 2013 at the St. Andrew's Elementary Gym. The aim of the event was to raise funds for the seminarians and also for initiatives of the Squires' Circle. The event raised \$370 for seminarians from the fifty-fifty draw. The Squires decided to top it up to a total of \$500 to be donated to the seminarians. The Squires also decided to give Deacon David \$100 as an Ordination gift.

The Circle planned this for months and the sponsoring Knights of Columbus Victoria Council # 1256 provided some financial as well as manpower support for the event. The Langford Council #8394 also provided some financial support to cover food costs. Other Greater Victoria councils and the Legion of Mary helped sell tickets for the event.

The Squires set up the venue and were responsible for ticket sales, entertainment, decorating the hall and the fine details that made the evening successful. Also present were the Diocesan Vicar General and Rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Fr. John Laszczyk; Circle Father Prior, Fr. Benoit Laplante; Sacred Heart Parish Priest, Fr. Alfred Alilio; and Sr. Josephine Carney SSA.

Since it was rainy, the Squires had umbrellas ready to escort guests to the door. They also checked the wet umbrellas of guests. Squire David Boyd was the emcee during the dinner. He came up with questions about the faith that attendees had to answer before their table could line up for food. Entertainment was provided by Daphne and Jacob Vandersloot; Matthew Moodie and Justin Underhay; Dr. Oscar and Belle Perez de Tagle and the Filipino traditional dancers.

A big thank you to those who supported the event.

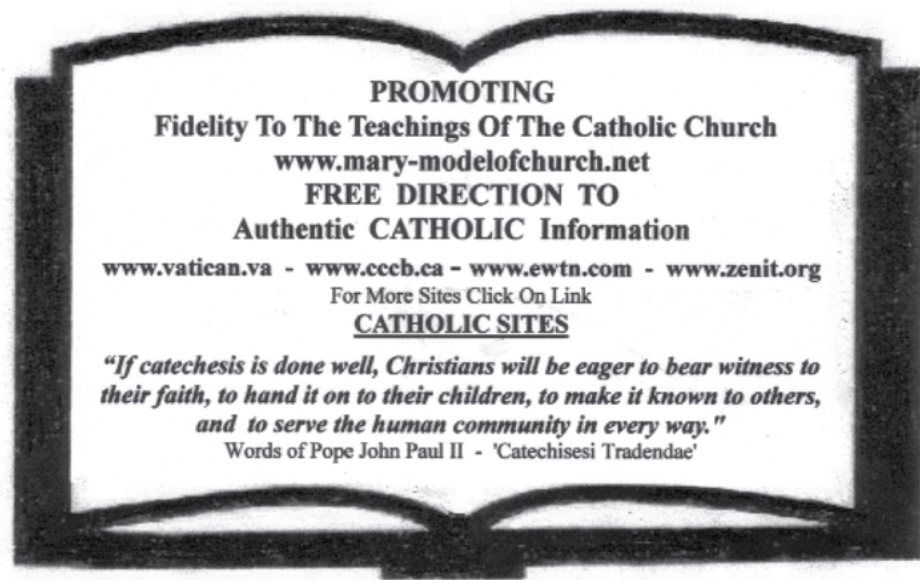
State Convention

The Circle sent five delegates to the annual State Convention at White Rock BC on April 5 – 7. They led the spiritual activity at the convention. The delegates presented a summary of the life of St. Faustina and led a fun game in which participants answered questions about her life. They then taught the delegates how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and led them in praying the Chaplet.

Two of our squires were elected to the State Executive. Duncan Love was elected as the State Deputy Chief Squire and Michael Gingras was elected as the State Sentry. Larson Tan was awarded the State Squire of the Year for all his hard work and commitment to his circle, faith, community and family. The Pope Pius XII Circle also won the Circle Spiritual Award for the second year in a row for their regular confessions and bible teachings/sharing at their meetings. They also won the Circle of the Year and membership awards. It was an inspired fun and faith-filled convention enjoyed by all that attended. ✂



The Squires present Bishop Gagnon with the \$500 donation raised at the Spaghetti Night fundraiser. Photo credit: Larson Tan





250-480-4000
www.scribegraphics.ca

Graphic Design • Marketing
Printing • Promotional Products



Knights of Columbus Deliver the Gift of Mobility

By Jeff Fillipone

The Knights of Columbus (KofC) was founded in 1882 on four basic principles: *Charity, Unity, Fraternity* and *Patriotism*. These principles continue to guide the activities of the Order today as we carry out our work in service of the Gospel.

An example of the principle of *Charity* in action was recently demonstrated by a fundraising initiative undertaken by KofC Council 1256 (Victoria). The Knights of Columbus held Latin and Filipino-Canadian themed fundraising dinner dances in December and January, followed by a series of car washes to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs for those in need in Mexico and the Philippines. The wheelchairs were purchased through a partnership between KofC and the Global Wheelchair Mission (www.kofc.org/un/en/service/affiliate/wc/index.html). An inspiring video about the Global Wheelchair Mission's activities through KofC can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVB_67XloXk.

Since 2003, this program has delivered 35,000 wheelchairs to those in need in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the United States and Vietnam. For every donation of \$150, the Global Wheelchair Mission can purchase a new wheelchair that would normally cost over \$500 in a medical supply store. Each wheelchair that is delivered to a person in need improves the quality of life for the entire family. It is estimated that 10 or more lives are positively impacted through the donation of each wheelchair.

The dinner dances and car washes were very successful because of the participation and generosity of parishioners from our Diocese. The culmination of the fundraising efforts took place in April 2013 at the Knights of Columbus BC and Yukon State Convention held in Surrey, where KofC Council 1256 presented a cheque for \$6,000 to the Global Wheelchair Mission for the purchase of 40 wheelchairs, which drew tremendous applause from the delegates. This donation represented the largest amount raised this year among the 135 Councils in BC and the Yukon.



Mexican dancers in traditional costumes performed as part of the evening's entertainment

We wish to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all who attended these fundraising events. KofC Council 1256 also wishes to thank the Columbian Squires, Pope Pius XII Circle #1169, who helped organize and serve during the dinner dances. To all who contributed to the success of the wheelchair fundraising event—you can be proud of the hope, freedom and independence you have helped provide to those who lack the gift of mobility. Your actions truly reflect God's love for His precious children, especially those who rely on His mercy to live with dignity in a world that too often turns its back on those without access to the basics. Thank you and may God bless you. ✠





CASA NOVA CATERING

Bakery, Café and Catering
Featuring Portuguese breads and goodies

492 Esquimalt Road
Tel: (250) 385-8242 or (250) 884-5747
Fax: (250) 385-8246

Put your trust in our professional service

CWL Provincial Resolutions—Annual Meeting at the Legislature

by the BC & Yukon Provincial Council

A delegation from the BC and Yukon CWL Provincial Council presented seven resolutions to 30 government officials in Victoria in 2013. Ministers of Health, Justice, and Children and Family Development were in attendance. One of the four meetings took place with the NDP.

During two days of meetings, president Doreen Gowans led her team of Pat Deppiesse, Gisela Montague and Agnes Geiger in explaining the concerns of over 9,400 CWL members, and distributed packages containing briefs and research to the MLAs for their further study.

Resolutions presented were:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2012.01 | Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services |
| 2012.02 | Employment Insurance Benefits for Adoptive Mothers |
| BC 2012.01 | Protection and Care of Sexually Exploited Children |
| 2011.01 | Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material |
| BC 2010.01 | Strategies for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias |
| 2009.01 | Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons |
| 2009.02 | Protection and Support Services for Foreign Victims of Human Trafficking |

Members of the delegation felt that the ministers were attentive and were pleased that these issues had been drawn to their attention.

Please read the related materials and support the action plans featured on the CWL provincial website at www.bcyukoncwl.com. ✠

Knights of Columbus Annual Convention

by Bishop Richard Gagnon, as featured on the Bishop's Blog (www.rcdvictoria.org)

This year I travelled to Richmond, BC to attend the 102nd State Convention for British Columbia and the Yukon, held on April 25-28 at two large hotels; hundreds of delegates and guests attended.

It began with a day given over entirely to the annual 4th Degree gathering and ended with Sunday morning Mass on the 28th. Saturday evening featured the State Banquet with at least 400 in attendance.

As State Chaplain, I was active both in the Liturgical life of the Convention and involvement with the business sessions. I was most pleased to see so many Knights from Vancouver Island in attendance as well as clergy from our Diocese. It was also good to see Bishop Ken Nowakowski from the Eparchy of New Westminster, as well as Bishop Stephen Jensen and Archbishop Michael Miller as participants in the Convention.

There were many highlights; perhaps mention could be made of the many charitable causes the Knights support such as supplying wheelchairs to people in need around the world.

One business session saw the Knights raise over \$22,000 among the 119 Knights in attendance. Many awards were won by Councils from the Diocese of Victoria—too numerous to cite here!

However, I should mention that the new Bishop Demers 4th Degree Assembly walked away with many awards, including one recognizing the most membership growth in this past year. As well, the Boyd Family from St. Andrew's Cathedral won the *Family of the Year* award.

It was also wonderful to see participation from the United States, particularly from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There was also a Supreme Director bringing greetings from Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson in New Haven, Connecticut.

Job well done, State Council for BC and the Yukon with State Deputy Wil Wilmot from the Diocese of Victoria! ✠



Master of the 4th Degree Tony Pimentel, BC & Yukon State District # 20 (L) and Roland Wauthy, Faithful Navigator of Bishop Demers Assembly #3364 (R)



CWL Mid-term Meeting

by Evelyn Rigby, Communications Chairperson, BC & Yukon Provincial Council

Victoria Diocesan President Kathy Weswick was present at a Provincial Spring Mid-term meeting when plans for three levels of conventions were discussed. Sandwiched between Diocesan and National gatherings is the Provincial Convention, June 6 – 8 in Victoria, which is expected to draw more than 200 members from all parts of British Columbia and the Yukon.

Provincial President Doreen Gowans has organized an exciting array of guest speakers for the Victoria-based Convention. These include Archbishop Michael Miller CSB, presenting *Challenges Facing our New Pope*, and Bishop Richard Gagnon exploring the CWL national and provincial themes. Keynote speaker Pat Nichol’s presentation entitled *Living with Joy* will enlighten attendees while her active and fun-filled workshop *Ten Steps to Happiness* will entertain. Sonia Lamont will address cancer prevention. Bishop Gary Gordon (Diocese of Whitehorse) is expected to attend the Spiritual Advisors’ luncheon. There will also be an opportunity to hear reports from the provincial chairpersons and the diocesan presidents of Kamloops, Whitehorse, Prince George, Nelson, Victoria and Vancouver. In addition, at the Closing Mass retiring provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. Tran will install his successor, Fr. Edwin Kulling.

Fr. Tran was present throughout the mid-term business sessions, celebrated Mass and led the council in the Liturgy of the Hours. On the second day he concelebrated Mass with Fr. Kulling who, in the final social session, spoke eloquently of his journey to Catholicism and the priesthood.

Other business included the unveiling and approval of the new provincial website accessed at www.bcyukoncw.com. Attendees were informed that the campaign to fight pornography would be spearheaded by a new national subcommittee, and in the next issue of the *The Canadian League* magazine members will be supplied with materials and a fact sheet to take action. President-elect Pat Deppiesse reported the progress of *Catch the Fire* events across the province and territory. Gisela Montague described a recent fruitful meeting in Victoria during which her delegation discussed a series of CWL resolutions with government officials. The council was disappointed to learn that CRTC had ruled that the offensive portrayal of the Blessed Virgin Mary in a Christmas special (aired 2011 and 2012) had not contravened the present broadcasting codes. (To view this ruling and related correspondence, go to Bell Media’s Website.)

Members warmly greeted the new Whitehorse diocesan president, Carol Vanderbyl, and bid a fond farewell to retiring presidents Lucille Wallace (Kamloops), Lorraine Thibeault (Prince George) and Jenny Shaw (Vancouver).

Coastal representatives drove home in sunshine, while their interior and northern counterparts faced difficult driving conditions, but all agreed that the time spent in this committed sisterhood working for God and Canada was well worth the time and effort. ✂

Editor’s Note: the June Provincial Convention will have occurred as of press time but unfortunately, was not in time to be included as a past event. This is the report from the Spring meeting.



Photo credit: Gisela Montague

Provincial Council at Spring Mid-term, Rosemary Heights

Back row (L to R): Sandra Stajduhar, Dianne Barker, Kathy Weswick, Evelyn Rigby, Jenny Shaw, Jeanne Wilson, Gisela Montague,

Middle Row (L to R): Linda McClinton, Alice Hallgren, Carol Vanderbyl, Agnes Geiger, Nancy Simms, Lorraine Thibeault, Lucille Wallace, Pat Deppiesse, Sharon Geiger

Front Row (L to R): Caroline Ann-Alter, Fr. Tran, Doreen Gowans, Fr. Edwin Kulling



The Gift of a Lifetime

by Joan Ripley

The recent gift of the replating of a treasured chalice and paten set have brought back fond memories of priestly camaraderie for Fr. Dean Henderson, the Catholic Chaplain to UVic and Camosun College, formerly the Pastoral Care Coordinator at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Victoria.

“The gift of the replating of the set here at the UVic chapel is fantastic—it’s beautiful,” said Fr. Dean, explaining that its presence is a source of strength to a new generation of Catholics on campus. “We’ve got such a faithful sacramental community here that appreciates the presence of a priest. The students are fortified and less intimidated in the secular environment by the presence of the Eucharist on campus.”

The chalice and paten were given to him on the occasion of his priestly ordination on April 15, 2007 by the late Msgr. Philip Hanley and his brother, the late Fr. Bernard Hanley, and the Hanley family who got to know Fr. Dean during the years that Msgr. Phil and Fr. Berny were residents at Mount St. Mary’s. This spring an anonymous donor gave the gift of replating and regilding parts of the set, expertly done by Victoria Plating, all of which was arranged by the UVic sacristan, Wendell Clanton.

“They really blessed me in my ministry and affirmed that I was meant to be ordained.

Fr. Dean said, “My deep, immense gratitude for the gift of that chalice [is because] it connects me to the legacy of the Hanley priestly service to this Diocese.” Msgr. Philip Hanley’s brother, Dom Hanley, explained how the gift came about. “The chalice and paten had been given to our brother (Msgr. Phil) by the Family on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary of Ordination in May, 1976. Monsignor felt a warm connection to Fr. Dean from his early years with the Diocese and this affection was shared by our brother, Fr. Berny. The family later became introduced to Dean (as we knew him at the time) and when Msgr. Phil asked us for our permission to gift his chalice and paten to the new celebrant, we all agreed that it was a wonderful gesture. Fr. Dean has been an inspiration to us and we consider him a true friend.”

Fr. Dean recalls that once Msgr. Hanley moved into Mount St. Mary’s in the early 2000s, a steady stream of visitors started coming, family members including Fr. Berny, but also several other elderly members of the clergy, especially Msgr. Michael O’Connell, Fr. Bill Hill and also Bishop Remi de Roo as well as lay people such as Pat O’Neill of St. Patrick’s parish. “Sometimes we would have three priests concelebrating,” Fr. Dean said, “with Msgr. Hanley celebrating from his wheelchair and I was assisting on a regular basis. Wonderful, often rambling, coffee conversations,” would ensue after Mass, said Fr. Dean, noting that “... they (the elderly priests) represent a half century of the history of the Diocese.” Gradually Fr. Berny Hanley’s condition declined and he also made the transition to Mount St. Mary’s.

“These guys had no hierarchical responsibility or authority but their spiritual authority was fantastic—they were all 50+ years ordained. They really blessed me in my ministry and affirmed that I was meant to be ordained. Their affirmation and support was terrific,” said Fr. Dean, adding that it was especially meaningful during the long, eight-year process from the time he entered the Catholic Church in 1999 until his priestly ordination in 2007.

One especially poignant memory stands out for him. “I’ll never forget having to bear the story of the death of Msgr. O’Connell to Msgr. Hanley. I said, ‘I hate to bring this news to you—Fr. Mike died in Comox. He fell down stairs where he was staying for a pro-life conference.’ A tear slipped down Msgr. Phil’s cheek then there was a smile and he said, ‘God bless him; he died with his boots on!’”

The set was re-consecrated in March 2013 during a daily Mass at the UVic chapel. “The donor who funded the work called it ‘our gift to a good priest,’” said Wendell. ✂



Fr. Dean Henderson, Catholic Chaplain at UVIC and Camouson College and Esther Dujela, Eucharistic Minister, hold the recently replated chalice and paten set given to Fr. Dean by the late Msgr. Philip Hanley and family on the occasion of his priestly ordination on April 15, 2007. Fr. Dean holds a weekly Scripture study at his office in the Multifaith Services building next to the book store and the bus stop at UVIC on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 6:00 pm while Esther leads a meditated Rosary at the Multifaith Chapel at UVIC on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. All are welcome!

Island Catholic Schools



St. Andrew's Regional High School Awash with Honours

by Joanie Bidlake

Poetry Star

Sarah Gibbs, a grade 12 student at St. Andrew's Regional High School (SARHS), recently participated in a poetry reading competition held during Catholic Schools Week in February at St. Andrew's. Judges—including the Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria; Joe Colistro, Superintendent, Island Catholic Schools; and Barbara Pelman, an award-winning and widely published local poet (and a former English teacher), who currently works at University of Victoria as a lecturer and supervisor for the Education Department—awarded Sarah with first place honours. After winning this competition, Sarah's English teacher, Ms. Michele Sanders, submitted a video of Sarah's reading to a panel of Canadian poets, journalists and writers. As a result, Sarah was selected as one of 18 students from across Canada to participate in a national poetry reading competition held in Toronto in May! Sarah and Mrs. Sanders travelled to Toronto; it was a great experience!

St. Andrew's Rowing Academy

Ms. Alia Zawacki, Head Rowing Coach and Teacher at St. Andrew's Regional High School, serves as both leader and inspiration of the Rowing Academy, as well as Head Coach for the regular high school rowing team that participates in the Fall season. Members of the Academy trained hard—both on and off the water—in preparation for their trip to St. Catharines, Ontario to compete in the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Championships held May 29 to June 3. They were among 2000 rowers from all over North America who participated in this prestigious Regatta. After weeks of disciplined and intense workouts they entered the competition with their sights set on the podium. Of the fourteen rowers who competed, nine came home with medals: St. Andrew's placed first in the Junior Girls Double (Cecilia Fillipone and Rayna Stuart), Junior Boys Single (Patrick Keane) and the Junior Girls Quad (Cecilia Fillipone, Rayna Stuart, Jocelyn Mihalynuk and Drew van Bourgondien). Two of these rowers, Rayna Stuart and Cecilia Fillipone, are double gold medalists.

In addition, Patrick Keane won Silver in the Senior Boys Lightweight Single; and the Junior Girls Lightweight Four, comprised of Jocelyn Mihalynuk, Emma Alvernaz, Emily McCart, Grace Neeson and Ania Zapotoczny placed third—taking the Bronze. This is an amazing accomplishment for our school!

Three of our Sabres Rowers competed in the Junior National Team Western Trials during the weekend of April 20 in Burnaby. Patrick Keane raced in the Junior Single—and won! Although he is in Grade 10 Patrick competed against rowers up to 19 years old. Jacob Barker raced in the Junior Pair and placed 2nd! Gemma Kerr raced in the Junior Girls Single and placed 10th! Both Patrick and Jacob travelled to Ontario in June to compete for a spot on the Junior National Team. These are amazing results for our rowers and we are very proud of them.



Members of the St. Andrew's Rowing Academy for 2012/13

Good News from St. Andrew's Fine Arts Department

St. Andrew's Regional High School Choir standing with their proud Music Director, Mr. Philip O'Reilly, on the occasion of their performance at the 86th Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival held at First Metropolitan United Church, Victoria, Aril 16 – 17. Based on the choir's performance, Mr. O'Reilly was selected by the visiting adjudicator, Dr. Giselle Wyers, Conductor of the University Chorale, and Associate Director of Choral Studies and Voice at the University of Washington, Seattle, to receive a special Adjudicator's Choice Award, the Choral Music Education Award. Dr. Wyers noted she was particularly impressed with the Choir's developed tone quality (unusual for this age group) and the fact that she thought this group must have come from a much larger school with an auditioned program. ✂



Members of the St. Andrew's Regional High School Track Team for 2012/13

Track and Field

Once again this year, St. Andrew's Regional High School Track and Field Team is fortunate to have Mrs. Angela McLeish as Head Coach, along with the support and management skills of Ms. Nicole Carvalho, teacher at St. Andrew's. They are the heart of this team's coaching staff. Saturday, April 6, saw the Sabres athletes competing for the first time at the Gran Forza V meet at the Richmond Olympic Oval (a beautiful venue used for the 2010 Winter Olympics), with great success! The kids experienced an indoor track—some for the first time.

We have some fabulous runners, jumpers and throwers. Our Bantam girls team came away with a bronze medal win, along with a \$500 bursary given to our track team from Telus. We are planning to subsidize team jackets for everyone this season and are grateful for the hard work that resulted in this bonus. Congratulations to the girls who won, and our thanks to Telus!

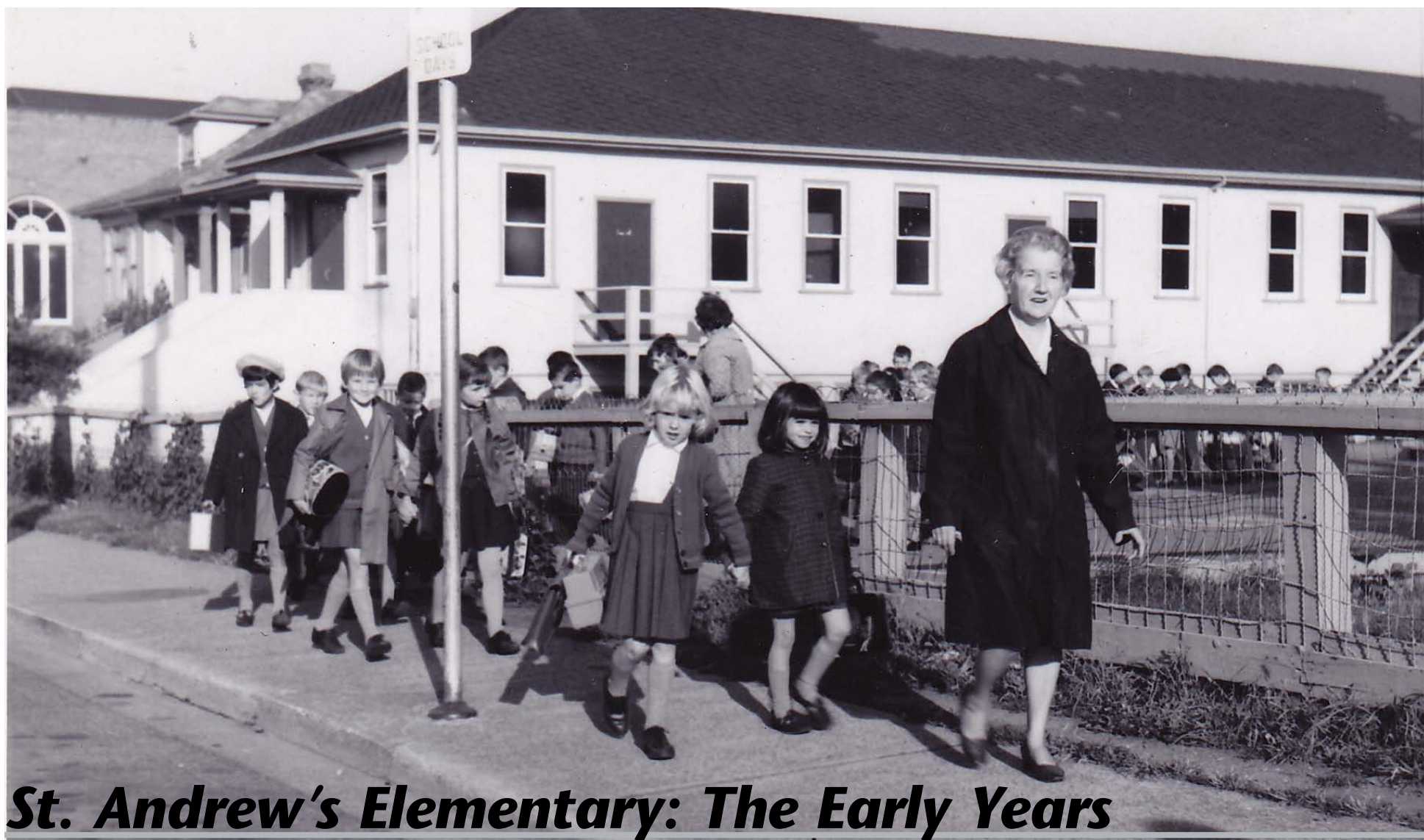
Everyone at the meet knew who St. Andrew's was by the end of the day. The officials commented on our unending spirit and cheer, and we look forward to seeing lots of cheering support from our St. Andrew's family community at future track meets.

Sabre Spirit and Soccer in Shanghai: Update from Mr. Kevin Mennie

As many of you know, one of our high school teachers, Mr. Kevin Mennie, is on a one-year leave of absence teaching at the Nanyang Model High School in Shanghai, China. Recently he sent an update describing how he has formed the first ever school soccer team—a boys team. After obtaining uniforms (tailored after Manchester United pro team, of course), he began their season by setting up a game against another nearby team. The boys were very excited and even though they didn't have all the customary equipment such as shin pads and soccer boots, and the "field" wasn't exactly regulation, they played with real heart & enthusiasm! Prior to the start of the game, they shared a moment of silence honouring all those who died in the terrible earthquake in China earlier in the week.

After some intense play that saw Coach Mennie roaming up and down the sidelines barking orders, the game was tied at the half 0-0—and the kids were pumped! They went down 1-0 off a header in a corner but scored with 5 minutes left to tie it 1-1. The boys held the fort and ended with a tied game on home turf; they were as excited as if they had just won the World Cup! A definite, positive moment for both the boys and Mr. Mennie—who continues to carry the spirit of soccer (The Beautiful Game) to places afar. Well done!

Athletics and Fine Arts help bring out the best in our kids, and foster our Sabre community. Thank you for all your continuing support. ✂



St. Andrew's Elementary: The Early Years

by Elson Morgan, Teacher, 1977 - 2013

My first day at St. Andrew's Elementary school was exciting. I had the task of teaching Grade 8, 9 and 10 PE and Religion 8, 9 and 10 for a new high school. Classes were located on the second floor of the building. We had around 60 students enrolled. The school also had K – 7 classes as well as a pre-school.

With regard to my Religion teaching assignment—there were no text books, so I developed a course around “social work.” We got involved with the extended care homes and the children's clinics. Our students visited, decorated and enlivened the lives of those less fortunate. The students especially enjoyed visiting pediatric wards and were impressed with the fortitude shown by the young patients. Humility was the lesson of the day.

In time, numbers grew and St. Andrew's increased to a double-stream school. The numbers of students attending high school became so numerous that they left the facility and moved over to the old St. Ann's Academy on McKenzie Avenue. Eventually the high school built a gym and a new wing and students were able to have PE at their own facility, instead of going to SJ Willis. I chose at that time to teach K – 7 PE and remained at the Pandora Avenue campus until today.

In my time at St. Andrew's Elementary, I worked with no less than 10 different principals and countless staff members. It has been a remarkable experience for me, seeing how I was only going to stay here for a year—and ended up staying for 36!

The school, despite the situations happening all around it, has continued to operate and propagate the message of valour and love to all those who were lucky enough to pass through its doors. ✂





Celebrate - St. Andrew's

1968 -

Reflections on St. Louis College and St. Andrew's School: Lessons for a Lifetime

by James E. O'Reilly, Acting Principal/Principal, 1988 – 2002

My 28 years of service as teacher and administrator in Island Catholic Schools had its roots at St. Ann's Academy on Humboldt Street and then at St. Louis College on the corner of Vancouver and Pandora, nurtured by the example and the guidance of the Sisters of St. Ann and then the Christian Brothers of Ireland.

It was a different world for a student in the late 1950s and early 1960s. I learned to take the bus home from school by myself in grade two, and also walked the two kilometres home from school, on my own. Training to be an altar server began early at the College (in grade three) and soon after pairs of us would delight in being freed early from class to walk to the Cathedral to serve noon Mass. Walking back always seemed to take longer!

Elementary school aspirations to pursue archaeology soon faded with the realization that I was not genetically disposed to maths and sciences. Over time, writing and music came to the fore, but career ideas didn't. Completing a wonderful high school experience with the Basilian Fathers in Toronto was followed by a disastrous year at the University of Victoria.

Five years of odd jobs and drifting were brought to a head with a moment of pure grace and a dilemma. Having worked as an electrician's helper and intrigued by the emerging electronics field, I had actually completed two years of night school, and to become certified would have to attend BCIT on the mainland.

In the meantime a life-changing spiritual experience convinced me to seriously discern a vocation to the priesthood. One door opened and another closed—I was tentatively accepted as a candidate by Bishop Remi De Roo, subject to returning to the university to complete my Philosophy studies. Following an interview with the university's registrar, I was conditionally accepted—one door closed, and another had opened.

However my studies were to be undeniably influenced by the presence of a young lady who worked in the English and Philosophy departments. Before long I was at the Bishop's door explaining my dilemma, leaving with his blessing and yet another direction. Pursuing a career in teaching now became my focus, as a vocation and a pastoral ministry in its own right, but also through the realization of the gift of my education under the Sisters, the Brothers, the Basilian Fathers, as well as the example of members of my extended family, many of whom were teachers. A happy married life was soon to become part of the journey, with five beautiful children to follow.

Having volunteered at St. Andrew's School the year prior to completing my degree, upon graduation I applied to teach at the school, and was hired. This was the beginning of twenty-plus years of service in the school. It was very special to return to my roots, particularly as then-Principal of the elementary division, Sr. Carmelita MacKenzie SSA, took this green high school teacher under her wing to eventually become her Head Teacher.

Within five years, during two other administrations, I was appointed Acting Principal, and then, finally, Principal. A particularly poignant moment occurred as I attended my first administrators' retreat and realized that across from me sat my teacher and high school principal, the former Bro. John Clarkson, who at the time had returned to be principal of St. Andrew's Regional High School. John had been a true inspiration to me as a boy, and now I was in the surreal position of being his colleague!

I never dreamed that my journey would bring me back to my roots. I had been blessed with wonderful teachers, who as members of religious communities we held in awe—for most it was well deserved because of their example. Naturally some were more gifted and some more compassionate than others. In the final analysis, what was clear to me was the witness to a set of ideals which have stayed with me: a love for God and the Church, a sense of being blessed with the gift of faith, a delight in learning, and an awareness of the duty to develop one's gifts for the sake of others.

At this time of transition, it is both humbling and a privilege to be counted among those who for 150 years have guided the lives of young people in Victoria through their service to Catholic Education on the site of St. Andrew's. Ironically I feel I have been the one who has benefitted the most—from the fine lay colleagues I have known, and whose friendship I have been blessed with, to the many children and parents who have taught me so much, to the Sisters of St. Ann and the Irish Christian Brothers who inspired and guided me along the way. The Lord certainly works in mysterious ways; I came to the School as a pupil and returned to become a principal. It was a journey I never could have imagined—the journey of a lifetime—a journey to last a lifetime! ✕

At this time of transition, it is both humbling and a privilege to be counted among those who for 150 years have guided the lives of young people in Victoria through their service to Catholic Education on the site of St. Andrew's.



St. Andrew's Elementary School

2013





St. Andrew's Elementary: The Final Years

by Keefer Pollard, Principal 2004-2013

I must start my reminiscences of St. Andrew's by acknowledging the wonderful work done by my predecessor, Mrs. Dianne Wilson. Dianne worked tirelessly as principal for St. Andrew's from 2001 – 2004. During this time, she oversaw the completion of *The Field of Dreams*—a massive campaign, spearheaded and funded by parents, to install a sand-based soccer field on the property, which could be used by students right through the rainy winter months. She also continually worked to raise standards and beautify the school. During my first year as principal, 2004 – 2005, I phoned her daily for information and advice.

As I look back on the final years of St. Andrew's Elementary, I can't help but notice that although it has been a time full of struggle and challenge it has also been a great period of growth and accomplishment. The school year of 2004 – 2005 saw the beginning of a long period of declining enrollment, which necessitated moving from a double stream (two classrooms of each grade) to a single stream (one classroom of each grade) format. Each year we were forced to lay off teachers and reconfigure our teaching assignments and grades.

A proposal by Vancouver Island Health Authority to place a Needle Exchange kitty-corner to the school created great concern among parents, who rallied to make their voices heard and stop the proposal in its tracks. Continuing problems with street people who sometimes engaged in undesirable behaviours troubled our neighbourhood.

The challenges among the street population were met with prayer, kindness and actions by our school community who held food collection walks for St. Vincent de Paul every fall, created a Family Choir who helped CBC radio and *Our Place* street mission raise money for the needy every Christmas, and collected toiletries and socks, toques and mitts every year. The challenges of the neighbourhood became a field experience in social justice for all of us. We know many of the poor and needy by name as they are literally at our front door. Many times, our parents have included some of our street family in coffee and muffin mornings, children have requested birthday party guests bring a food item for the needy, and the children, worried the needy might not have anyone to care about them, have made valentines, called "street hearts" on February 14th.

Finally, the decision in 2010 to amalgamate our school with St. Joseph's challenged our school spirit and progress. However, even though we laid off half of our staff during these years, we were able to place every single continuing contract teacher in one of our Island Catholic Schools—not one teacher was out of a job.



In the midst of our difficulties, we have survived and thrived. We have become a resilient and dedicated community of believers and continually strive for excellence. During our final years, we have become one of the academic elite of Victoria, consistently ranking in the top five schools in the area. A massive dance program of Jazz, Ukrainian and five different Irish Dance troupes have kept us entertained and won several awards at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival. Also festival award winners are our Intermediate Choir who, along with our primary choir, keep the joy of music and the practice of community singing a St. Andrew's Elementary tradition. Instrumentally, our students have had the opportunity to take piano lessons on site after school, learn to read standard notation on a musical staff through the study of recorder, and the last two years have finally seen realization of a long held dream of mine: the creation of a school band.

We have been no slackers on the athletic front either—annually we have offered Gymnastics, Karate, Curling, Cross Country, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Swimming and Track & Field. Truly an amazing slate of extra-curricular offerings has been available to our students each year.

It is with great sadness that we see the closure of our school, which has been an institution on this corner since 1863. Although we move forward in faith and prayer to our new amalgamation as part of St. Joseph's Victoria, and many of our students will join our educational "cousins" at St. Patrick's, the memory of St. Andrew's Elementary and St. Louis' College will forever remain bright in our memories. To echo our Intermediate Choir's rendition of *Camelot*, we hope that we won't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as St. Andrew's Elementary! ✕





Connections



by **Raya MacKenzie**

As one of my many jobs this summer, I am working as Assistant Curator for the synagogue’s 150th anniversary exhibit. My history professor, a member of the synagogue’s Congregation Emanu-El, asked me to help him and the Head Curator sort through archival material to prepare a historical display for the Jewish community and the general public. The exhibit will open on Sunday, June 2 and remain open for viewing throughout June.

Congregation Emanu-El is the oldest synagogue in Canada. It was built by the first Jewish immigrants to Victoria who arrived from California during the Fraser River Gold Rush. When I read the list of the first donors to the synagogue’s building fund, I was surprised by how many people with non-Jewish names provided money to help the Jewish community. The account of the citizens’ parade at the laying of the synagogue’s cornerstone on June 2, 1863 describes a multi-ethnic celebration including First Nations, Chinese-Canadians, the Free Masons, and the St. Andrew’s Society. With this long heritage of diverse support for the Jews of Victoria, perhaps it is more fitting than it first appears for a young Catholic woman to work as Assistant Curator. Researching the history of the synagogue has certainly prompted me to consider the challenges both Jews and Catholics of Victoria have faced in the past and in the present.

Working as a Curator has given me a unique opportunity to examine the gears and wheels in the everyday mechanics of another faith community. I have read all the committee meeting minutes from 1863 to 1970 and most of the Hebrew Ladies’ Auxiliary minutes. I found the conflicts discussed in these minutes surprisingly recognizable.

In the 1880s, members of the committee argued about how to define Congregation Emanu-El. Were they a more conservative community or more liberal one? The members of the committee varied widely on how each saw their own faith and the faith of the Congregation. In the end, they agreed to dismiss their Reform rabbi and hire a more moderate spiritual leader. Not everyone was happy about it. In the 1970s, the same issue came up as the committee considered how to maintain a traditional faith in increasingly modern and secular times. This time, the committee voted to exchange their more orthodox rabbi for a more “modern” one. Once again, many members of the Congregation welcomed this change while others expressed their outrage.

Sound familiar? We Catholics may not control the hiring or dismissals of our priests, but parishes in this diocese do continually struggle with these same kinds of terms: liberal, conservative, reform, modern. And, like the members of Congregation Emanu-El, we hardly ever arrive at a simple definition of our ideals that pleases everyone. In both communities, it is impossible to define a congregation as one set of ideals over another because faith communities are not made up of premises or politics. Instead, they are built out of people celebrating faith and also struggling with it each day of their lives. Though both Judaism and Christianity honour the Ten Commandments carved in stone, the living out of those Commandments occurs in our softer, vulnerable, living flesh. Faith lives in the member of the Hebrew Ladies’ who relied on sister societies

across the country to find her wayward husband. It lives in the Catholic who finds it difficult to pray and yet kneels down each Sunday whether he thinks he can find the words or not. At St. Joseph the Worker, Father William often says, “Make your mess your message.” The Jewish community is very good at sitting with the contradiction of conflict and conviction.

I think we have all had the sense at some point in our lives that God has abandoned us. We want to rail and rant and tell God to start showing up on time. Sometimes I have done this, but I’ve always felt guilty afterwards. Who am I to tell God what to do? So I was surprised in my first year of university when my new Jewish friend told me that Jews are encouraged to argue with God. “He can take it,” she explained. Then she told me this story, which I think beautifully demonstrates the turmoil and devotion of religion:

During the Holocaust, the Jews in Auschwitz put God on trial for violating the covenant with Israel. They tried Him precisely according to Hebrew law and found Him guilty. And yet, as soon as they left the trial, the Jews immediately gathered together again. This time they prayed.

This story shows so simply the power and mystery of faith. Despite all human conflict, despite all human logic and law, we are drawn back again and again to God. In our greatest desperation when we fear God will not listen or is not there at all, He makes Himself present to us in the faces of our friends and in the unexpected endurance of our own love for Him. This little story shows the Jewish people in their darkest hour of faith, but it also shows the miraculous glimmer of light that burned within the darkness.

When I was a child, I used to love entering St. Joseph’s before any of the lights were turned on. I had many opportunities to do this because my mother was the Parish secretary and would often have to run to get something from the church or let someone in. I loved the soft, gray, darkness and the quiet I described then as “the sound of God when He’s alone.” Most of all, I loved to see the dim halo of the tabernacle light glowing by the altar. That light told me that God was at home, the same way the sight of my grandmother’s porch light signaled love and food. As long as God’s light burned, I knew that I was safe and loved. Even as an adult, I feel a little pinch of fear when the priest snuffs the tabernacle light out on Holy Thursday. Relief washes over me again when I see it lit again on Easter Sunday.

Inside the synagogue, another tabernacle light burns. While ours hangs over the Body of Christ, theirs hangs over the Torah, the Word of God. Like our light, it burns in the quiet stillness of the warm sanctuary, but it also shines amid the conflicts of everyday. I remember arguing with my sister while altar serving one time and, in my guilt, nervously checking to make sure my bad behavior hadn’t caused God to leave home and turn the light off. The tabernacle light still shone. In the synagogue, the tabernacle light glows bright even as the Head Curator and the Bar Mitzvah Coordinator give each other a sharp tongue lashing over who should have primary use of the hall. Throughout our debates, our disputes, our debacles, it is comforting to know He is there. He is at home with all His people. ✠

UVic Mission Trip

by **Bronwyn Lawrie**

While other students were taking a hard-earned break after exams, six young adults associated with the Catholic chaplaincy at the University of Victoria (UVic) served on a 10-day mission trip to Ahousaht and Port Alberni.

Led by UVic chaplain Fr. Dean Henderson, Fr. Scott Whittemore in Ahousaht, and Fr. Stephen Paine in Port Alberni, the mission built on the success of the Catholic Students’ Association’s 2012 mission to the Yukon Diocese. The trip began with a small team in Ahousaht, a First Nations community accessible only by float plane and boat. The priests and young people visited the sick and some of the Elders of the community.

“For me, the highlight of the trip was sitting around the table with the First Nations lady we were staying with in Ahousaht, Veera Little,” said Jose Mendez, 21, a biology student. “It was pretty moving to listen to her stories and wisdom. One of the things that really touched my heart is how a lot of their values were very similar to Mexican culture. Family is a big thing. It really hit home with me that this is a universal church.”

After Ahousaht the mission was joined by the remaining young people, who had been finishing final exams. After a day of surfing at Long Beach, the students drove to Port Alberni to meet their host families. In Port Alberni, the young people worked alongside parishioners to clean up the grounds of Holy Family Notre Dame Parish, lay dirt in the Mini Miracles playground at John Paul II Elementary School and tidy the tombstones at St. Peter’s Cemetery.

“Serving in the community reminded me how many people there are just living out their lives, doing their thing, serving God in their own way,” said Eric Kyfiuk, 23, a recent graduate from the UVic Engineering program. “Everyone has a story and you need to slow down to realize that. You don’t know people until you spend time with them.”

The manual labour was interspersed with daily Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours and social occasions with parishioners. On Friday night, the young adults

and parish members attended a screening of the *Catholicism Project*. This was followed by a panel discussion about the students’ experiences as young people of faith in the Church and on campus.

“Unfortunately, many people have seen their kids and grandkids exit the practice of the faith,” said Fr. Dean. “That’s one of the real sources of grief and mourning people carry in their hearts. For those people, coming in contact with young people who have either maintained their faith into their college years or been reintroduced to that faith in those years, gives them a great deal of encouragement.”

Planning for a 2014 mission trip is already in the works, although a location has not yet been selected.

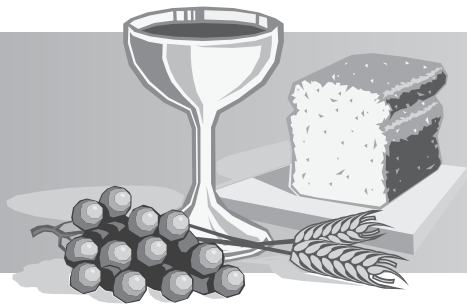
“Come!” said Fr. Henderson. “It doesn’t require a ton of skill; you just have to be open and willing to be used in new ways. You’re going to bear witness in just serving people, but you’ll also discover ways that you can share your faith that you never thought could. You’ll grow. It’s fantastic. And it’s fun!”

“You go to these communities as a student, not as a teacher,” said Mendez. “You learn a lot, not only about your faith, but about yourself and about other people. Come on this trip. You won’t forget it.” ✠

The mission team enjoys the sun and natural beauty of Tofino. Photo credit: Daniel Mantecon.



Vocations



Discern This

by Fr. Sean Flynn

I was one of the speakers at the first Catholic school gathering of Grade 6 students from the Diocese for testimonies by an assortment of people living out their vocation as a married couple, a single person, a nun (monastery), a sister, a priest and a young person still discerning God’s call.

I was given three questions to ponder and share my responses to the children. The following is what I shared with the children.

1. The positive and challenging aspects of the call.
2. The experience of being called and knowing that the call was for you.
3. Qualities needed to answer the call.

The first positive aspect is *being able to celebrate the Eucharist as a priest*. It gives great purpose to one’s life.

The second positive aspect to priestly life is *there are so many opportunities to meet Christ profoundly* and continually in a way that only a priest can. People like to have a priest present when times are tough. Don’t we turn to God in prayer when we are in great need? We find comfort in being able to do that. We may not see immediate results to our prayer but we do feel a bit better that we have put some of the load on to God. Similarly, we can share our burdens with a priest. He may not be able to do much about them but it is comforting to know someone cares. He will probably help you with prayer. After talking and praying with him you may feel you have a friend you never knew you had.

Thirdly, *being a priest makes a difference*. It means so much to people that someone who can administer God’s love through the Sacraments is present and willing to listen.

One of the challenges is to deal with feeling you are not being worthy to be a priest. Another is to be focused on doing things for people at times that are extremely inconvenient until you learn it is never inconvenient. Imagine nothing being inconvenient. If that were true to have patience would become easy. If that were true, understanding would also become easier; not that life would be any easier as a priest. Rather, being a priest provides a very different perspective. Suffering would be a blessing that enhances prayer; prayer brings one closer to God, being close to God brings about many good virtues; kindness, generosity and charity, for example.

Another challenge is to give up one’s identity so Christ can be lived for the benefit of others. That means not doing something that may be very joyful but would cause others to think poorly of the priesthood. Peter ran across that problem when he ate food that others considered forbidden. Their belief had little to do with Peter but still he did not eat for the sake of those weak in their faith. Once a man becomes a priest, nothing is done for himself. All is for the glory of God. All the challenges only add to the joy.

Now imagine dedicating all of one’s life to God for the wellbeing of His faithful; not for one’s own sake but for the sake of others. I wear this collar for people who want to know that the Lord cares. When you see a crucifix you may not see Christ but you do see his love. You can feel it. When you see a man with a Roman collar you may not see Christ but you do realize his presence in the world. The Roman collar sparks awareness in the love of God with us.

Rooted deep within God’s call for me was an overwhelming need to do more for God. We have one life to live and I wanted to have no regrets. God can use anyone to bring glory to the Father especially if they are open to receiving His love. God has a purpose for each of us. We have our mission and we may never know it until we meet God face to face in Heaven. Never doubt that with His grace, life will be fulfilled—if you can do that, then any choice becomes God’s call and not just “something I would like to do.” If it is God’s will, I shall be happy. The universal call to vocation is a call to holiness. In holiness one finds happiness. The challenge here is to never become complacent (self-satisfied). Never think yourself holy and therefore believe your mission to be complete—remember it is not about your own happiness; that is just a spinoff from being a good and faithful servant.

The quality needed to answer the call is *utter and complete trust in God*. In a practical sense one needs the ability to study theology (study of God) and to implement its roots into a service for the faithful. Bishops were constantly asking their seminarians, “How’s your prayer life?” Not, “How are your grades?” In prayer, one grows in relationship with God and through that relationship great service is to be offered to this world.

☪ In prayer one grows in relationship with God and through that relationship great service is to be offered to this world.

Whatever your vocation is to be, if you use faith as the primary component to living out that vocation then you need not be afraid. Mary put her trust completely into God’s hands and you will recall things happened that were difficult for her to bear. But can you even imagine her joy? Tremendous suffering and pain, yes—and also unimaginable joy. ✠

Year of Faith: Easter Mission at Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria

by Fr. Al Alilio

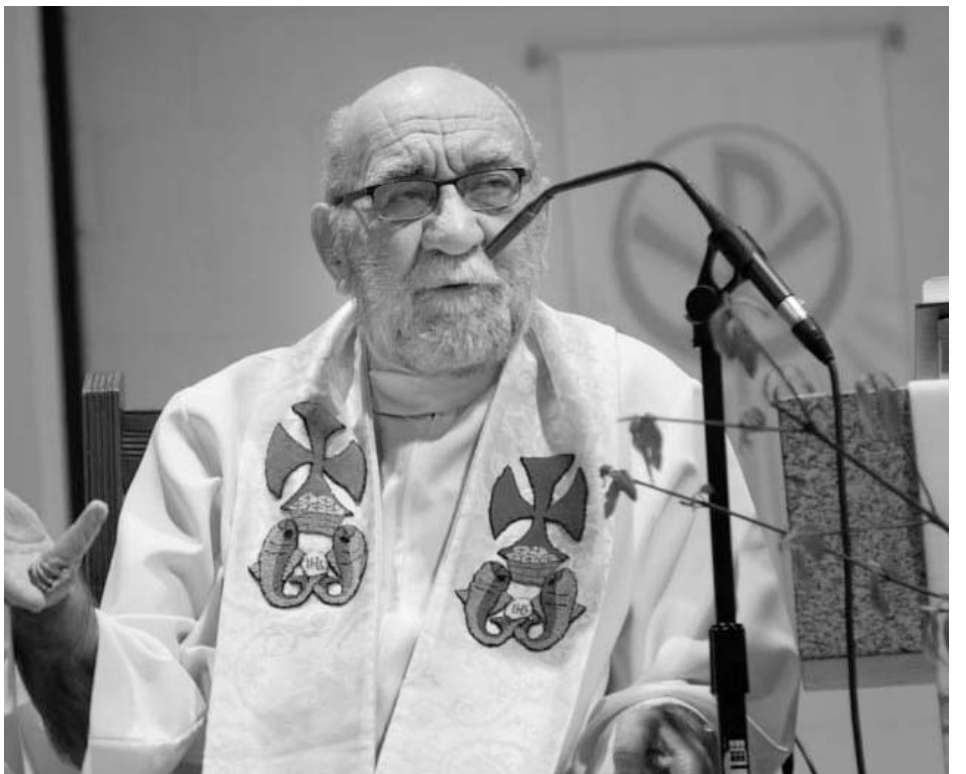
From Sunday, April 28 to Tuesday, April 30, 2013 Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria welcomed Fr. Patrick A. Martin, who led a well-attended Easter Mission on the theme *God’s Love in our Broken Lives*. An eloquent speaker with a compelling personal history, Father Martin has conducted over 1,000 missions all over North America and also in Europe, helping others find God’s love in the midst of their own imperfect lives. The mission program at Sacred Heart began with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a mission talk; the first day ended with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evening. There was a Mass and a mission talk on the following two evenings. Father Martin also made himself available for Reconciliation and for opportunities to talk with those who wanted to meet him one-on-one.

Throughout the mission, Father Martin talked movingly of his own remarkable faith journey. One of 22 children, he grew up in the small community of Limestone, Maine, where he became ill with meningitis at the age of nine and was not expected to survive. Defying the odds, he became well enough to leave the hospital and return home, but as a result of his illness he could neither see nor walk. His siblings taught him to walk again and he eventually regained the “pinpoint vision” which allows him to read one letter at a time. Far from considering his own legal blindness something to regret, Father Martin called it a gift from God for himself and for others.

Father Martin overcame many obstacles to take religious vows as a Brother of Christian Instruction. After being rejected by a number of religious orders on the grounds of his blindness, Father Martin entered the Brothers’ school in Alfred, Maine as a teenager without revealing that he was blind and then found himself expected to play baseball and football! Despite his physical limitations, he earned a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature and a Master’s in Library Science. After spending a number of years ministering to the disabled in New York City, helping them find resources to support them in their needs, Father Martin felt the reawakening of his childhood dream of serving God’s people as a priest. The Brothers of Christian Instruction helped him transfer to the Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut, where he was ordained a diocesan priest in 1978. Since then he has often travelled over 500,000 miles a year bringing a message of complete confidence in God and in His love for us.

Parishioners at Sacred Heart and neighboring parishes responded with enthusiasm to Father Martin’s message of God’s love in a broken and suffering world, which, as he put it, “takes the crooked lines of our lives and forms them into His perfect circles.” Copies of Father Martin’s books, *Speaking God’s Love to a Broken World, Called... At Home on the Road and Come Full Circle*, disappeared quickly, as many of those who attended the mission took them home. For the books and for his mission work, Father Martin asked only for a free will offering, never wanting, as he explained, financial need to be a barrier to his mission work.

Writing about Father Martin in 1984, then-Bishop of Norwich Daniel P. Reilly noted that “the handicap of blindness is a gift of God that makes him an extraordinary person of very special vision.” Those who were privileged to attend Father Martin’s mission at Sacred Heart would surely agree. ✠



Fr. Patrick A. Martin at Sacred Heart Parish for the Easter Mission





by Bonnie Landry

This past weekend I gave a talk at a conference. The topic was, *Why Does Education Matter?* I'd like to share it with you here.

What is your most important task as parents?

For most Christian parents, the answer to this question is really clear. *To help our children get to heaven, to desire heaven.* It is the job of Holy Mother Church to get us to heaven, and it is the task of parents to bring salvation into family life.

If formation in the faith is our primary goal, why does education matter? *An academic education.* Forming our children spiritually and morally takes a fair bit of time and energy, both of which are seriously limited commodities! So why is so much of their day, and ours, spent on an academic education?

I think it's a point worth pondering, for sure. In my own pondering, I have come to believe that academics is a path to holiness. Just as any of us have a way we have to spend our day, mothers and fathers, lawyers, waiters, athletes, teacher, bakers ... case in point ... a *student*, must find holiness in that which is before them.

But I don't think that path is the main reason we educate our children.

We also want them to have good jobs, to be able to support a family, to be functional members of society. These, too, are good reasons to educate, but still not the main reason. I think these things are, to some degree, the byproduct of a good education, the accidents, so to speak.

In fact, we are raising witnesses. We are raising children to be leaven in the world and the salt of the earth. Pope Paul VI wrote an Apostolic Exhortation named *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (*Evangelization in the Modern World*). In this document, he says:

“Evangelizing all people is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is, in fact, the grace and vocation proper to the Church, Her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.

Her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.

We are the Church! Therefore *we* exist in order to evangelize! And the *family*, being the primary cell of society, *must* have a very special role in evangelization.

The broader base of knowledge we have, or more to the point, the stronger our desire to learn and know will ultimately make us better evangelists. Better witnesses. An understanding of the world affords us a better reference point to engage the culture.

What is a good education? One could probably define a good academic education as “a broad understanding of many things.” According to the Greek and Roman traditions, the liberal arts were considered the knowledge of a set of subjects or skills with the aim of forming people to be virtuous, knowledgeable and articulate. As Christian families, we need to add to that goal of education. To form children who are virtuous, knowledgeable, articulate and who *will share his or her deep faith with the world.*

Knowledge is important, but not on its own; it is the key to witnessing. What we have, including what is in our brains (or our children's brains) needs to be used for the purpose of sharing our faith, wherever our life takes us. The deeper we go into knowledge and understanding of any given subject, the greater our appreciation of the beauty of it. Beauty is a reflection of God and brings us into deeper understanding of Him.

The closer we live to God, the better witnesses we become.

A real education involves a lot of questions. From the time children are very small, they bombard us with questions: *why why why why why why why why??!*

Why, indeed? Because they need to know, because we are the conduit to the answers. If we don't stop to answer their myriad questions, at any age—they will stop asking. Answer them with joy and excitement. Know that wanting to know *why is the sky blue?* will one day turn into questions that lead them into a sharp mind that answers someone else's questions—maybe about God, maybe about why abortion is wrong. Maybe about what they can do to make a difference in the world.

If we stop answering their questions—we don't have time, we don't know the answer, we stall, we brush them off—they will stop asking. Even if we have to answer with, “let's find out together” they will learn how to answer their own questions eventually through example.

Give them passion and fill their minds with good things. Your car can't run on Tang®, and neither can their brains. Own a set of encyclopedias. When your children want to know things about the natural world, about other countries, about other cultures, about how the world works—find these things out with them. A great resource for questions about the faith is of course the *Catechism*, but Father John Hardon's *Pocket Catholic Dictionary* will provide the “short, go-to answer” for some immediate information. Show them how to learn and where to learn.

Teach them how to communicate well. There are basically two modes of verbal communication, writing and speaking. Both require a little skill—a lot of passion, and a little skill. The skills can be easily learned in many ways. Naturally some people will take those skills further, or will have a natural propensity towards them. But anyone can learn to write or speak with some level of efficacy or eloquence. Passion, however, is what will draw in the audience, the ardour is what will make great witness, and these things will come from parents. Ardour is compelling, passion is persuasive, and these things are “caught” not taught.

I think an analogy could be made with *knowledge and witness to faith and works.*

We must use what we have been given. Knowledge is to be fostered, in love, in the family, just like faith. Witness is the works made fuller by knowledge.

Through the grace of the Sacrament of marriage, we can do all this and more. Pray for your marriages, pray for the grace that the Father promised you in the covenant He made with spouses in the Sacrament. We can do all this—and more.

We can lay the foundation for our children to get to heaven. It is our vocation. ✠

Holy Cross Catholic Parish Bursary Available

Joseph B. Jackson Bursary (2nd revision) – 2007

One or more Bursaries are awarded to full or part-time undergraduate single parents who are members of Holy Cross Parish studying at the University of Victoria. If there are no single parent applicants from Holy Cross Parish, the Bursaries may be awarded to students who are members of Holy Cross Parish. If there are no students who meet the previous criteria, the award may be given to any single parent student. Application for the Joseph B. Jackson Bursary may be made online to Student Financial Aid Services at the University of Victoria. Selection will be made by the Senate Committee on Awards. Further information may be found at www.registrar.uvic.ca or from the Parish Office (250.477.5321, email office@holycrossvictoria.org) or write to: Holy Cross Catholic Church, 4049 Gordon Head Road, Victoria BC, V8N 3X7

Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Jawl & Bundon, Barristers & Solicitors

Bursary

The Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce the Jawl & Bundon \$2500 Bursary for a graduating Catholic student in the Diocese of Victoria.

Criteria:

- A grade 12 Catholic student from the Diocese of Victoria
- Acceptance in a post-secondary institution
- Demonstration of good citizenship
- Preference will be given to students who live outside of Greater Victoria and Nanaimo
- Preference will be given to First Nations students

Items to Complete & Submit:

- Jawl & Bundon, Barristers & Solicitors, Bursary Application form (available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org)
- Letter of recommendation from your parish priest
- Certification of Post Secondary acceptance or registration
- An application letter explaining how you meet the criteria, including:
- your community involvement and service activities
- your accomplishments, awards and relevant activities
- your post-secondary plans
- a brief explanation of your (or your family's) financial needs

Additional Information:
Please submit the above, by July 15th to:

Catholic Diocese of Victoria
1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Catholic Diocese of Victoria at (250) 479-1331.

Faith Matters



Why Catholic Education Matters

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

Education could be placed in the same category as religion and politics when it comes to opinion—venture out and you're bound to get an earful. It's one of those topics that everyone has a strong opinion on, and in the public arena, when it comes to changes to educational policy or curriculum, it is sure to be a news headliner.

Ask anyone *why* we need education and you're bound to get a variety of answers: "to help people attain a better standard of living," "to increase our productivity," "to form good citizens." As to what ought to be the priority in education, people also differ widely: "the sciences," "literacy," sports, "the arts."

From the state's perspective there's a vested interest in an educated populace—educated citizens are healthier, are more productive, and an educated workforce guarantees a competitive edge in the marketplace. Sliding national ratings in literacy and numeracy have result in much hand-wringing, blame and debate.

We tend to forget that the Church has quite a track record when it comes to education. The Church essentially gifted the world with what we know in the West as education. Christ's Gospel imperative, "Go, teach all nations," inspired such varied educators as St. Benedict, St. Dominic, St. Ignatius Loyola, Blessed Edmund Rice, St. Angela Merici, the Ven. Mary Ward, St. Elizabeth Seton—and Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin, whose spiritual children continue to educate minds and hearts down to our present day. The Church gifted the world with the monastic schools and the medieval system of education which gave us the universities. These institutions and orders have a long tradition of inspiring enquiry, openness of thought, dialogue and debate. Ironically, in our current culture, for some the Church is perceived at best as an irrelevant medieval relic, and at worst as meddlesome, somehow attempting to curtail personal expression, growth and freedom. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Fr. Andrew Pinsent in a recent article in the *Catholic Herald* (May 6, 2013) presents a fascinating list of what the Church has contributed to western civilization in such varied areas as optics (Franciscan Roger Bacon); astrophysics (Fr. Georges Lemaître, the *Big Bang Theory*); scientific exploration and cartography (Marco Polo, Henry the Navigator, Dias, Columbus, Magellan, and Ribeiro); geology (Fr. Nicholas Steno, founder of stratigraphy); evolution and gene theory (Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, the first theory of evolution, and Gregor Mendel is known as the father

of modern genetics); philosophy (Augustine and Aquinas to Elizabeth Anscombe and Alasdair MacIntyre); art and architecture (da Vinci, Michelangelo, Bernini) law and jurisprudence (Pope Gregory VII, Gratian); language and literature , music, as well as the status of women:

Catholic civilisation also produced many of the first women scientists and professors: Trotula of Salerno in the 11th century, Dorotea Bucca (d 1436), who held a chair in medicine at the University of Bologna, Elena Lucrezia Piscopia (d 1684), the first woman to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree (1678) and Maria Agnesi (d 1799), the first woman to become professor of mathematics, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XIV as early as 1750.

(www.catholicherald.co.uk/features/2011/05/06/what-the-church-has-given-the-world).

In light of all this, one can only be struck by the value the Church has placed and continues to place on education. The spiritual giants, the venerable institutions and the vast contributions to the culture reveal some very basic values which the Church has been eager and tireless in promoting through the ages. This is reflected in the frequent practice that schools and churches often shared the same property and in some cases the same building.

Focussing on the origin of the word "education" reveals much about the nature of education in the eyes of the Church. "Education" comes from the Latin verb *educere* "bring out" or "draw out" and is itself a composite of ex- "out" and *ducere* "to lead". Education therefore implies something in the person is there to be brought out or drawn out. This is a much deeper understanding than the common utilitarian views of education. When we consider the definition of education in light of the Church's view of the human person, the depth of God's love, and the purpose and meaning of our existence, we get a better appreciation for something of the critical and high importance the Church places on education.

It starts with God's revelation to humanity in Sacred Scripture, our story—a love story. In Genesis 1:26 we discover the Church's fundamental understanding of the dignity of the human person—as made in the image and likeness of God. Throughout the rest of Scripture we have story after story of God's unrelenting love constantly being offered and repeatedly rejected by humanity, as a subplot to the great story of Salvation.

The story of Salvation reaches its climax on Calvary, that pivotal point in history where a new reality, life profoundly and utterly transformed through true union with God, was made possible through Christ's selfless example of sacrificial love for us. Suddenly life has new meaning and purpose, it isn't all about us!

The true meaning and purpose of life is to become who we are meant to be by responding to God's love, by returning that love through deepening our walk with God, developing our gifts for the glory of God, and continuing God's work of salvation by manifesting the love of God for all humanity through our service to others. This is what it means to be "e-ducat-ed".

This is the essence of a Catholic Education—an Education in Life, for Life! ✠



AVAILABLE AT ST. CLARE VILLA

2045 Carrick Street at St. Patrick's Parish

1 bedroom plus den suites starting at \$215,000

2 bedroom plus den suites starting at \$259,900

Visit www.stclarevilla.ca for more information

Or contact Tony Joe 1-800-663-2121 or tony@tonyjoe.ca

Unique Life Lease arrangement offers peace of mind with guaranteed buy-back ability.



RE/MAX
Camosun

RE/MAX Camosun OAK BAY
2239 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, BC

250-370-7788

tony@tonyjoeandassociates.com

Holy Cross Catholic Parish Bursary Available

Holy Cross Catholic Church Bursary (revised – 2011)

The Parishioners of Holy Cross Catholic Church established this Bursary Endowment Fund in 1994.

The recipients(s) of this annual bursary will be enrolled full time in a Diploma or Credit Program

at Camosun College maintaining a satisfactory academic standing.

The recipient(s) should be a resident of Greater Victoria or the Southern Gulf Islands.

Preference will firstly be given to single parents who are members of Holy Cross Parish. Secondly, other Roman Catholic Parishes in Greater Victoria or the Southern Gulf Islands. If there are no successful applicants the bursary will be awarded to any student in any program on the basis of financial need and satisfactory standing. Application should be made online directly with the Financial Aid office in September or January. Click on the Holy Cross and/or other Roman Catholic Parish checkbox. The web site is: camosun.ca/services/financialaid/bursaries-info.html, or e-mail: financialaid@camosun.bc.ca.

Information is also available from the Parish Office (250.477.5321, email office@holycrossvictoria.org) or write to: Holy Cross Catholic Church, 4049 Gordon Head Road, Victoria BC, V8N 3X7



Spring Catechist Workshop a Huge Success!

by Jamie Zwicker

Coming from across the Diocese, parish religious education coordinators, catechists and priests entered into discussion and study at their *Spring Catechist and Coordinator Workshop* held at St. Peter's (Nanaimo) and Holy Cross (Victoria). They were discussing programs of children's religious education—and more specifically, sacramental preparation.

Picking up on the comments made by Bishop Richard during February's Catechists and Coordinators Retreat in Parksville about the distinction of the "head knowledge and the heart knowledge," the Diocesan Religious Education Team developed even further what was entailed in this new initiative.

"This new initiative should not be seen as top-down initiative," said Jim O'Reilly, Religious Education Coordinator for the Diocese of Victoria, "but is really a bottom-up approach." Over the years, catechists and Parish Coordinators have commented that there is not enough time to teach the children they do have. "So we have taken and consolidated the approach of a number of parishes across the diocese, and shared this information—our "Best Practices," if you will—containing all our collective wisdom, with you."

Participants listened intently as Jim O'Reilly and Char Deslippe briefly reviewed and entertained questions about the *Our Faith Journey* program, and then participated intently in the roles of parent, catechist or child during the following sessions held later during the day.

Needless to say, there was much laughter—and a lot of learning—as the registrants followed the lead of Master Catechists Marie Corish (Duncan) and Kathy Fadum (Nanaimo), who expertly modelled a variety of introductory lessons necessary to the program. This program is really a continuation of the superb work of the late Muriel Loftus, as well as Margaret Craddock, and further undertaken by the *Bishop's Advisory Committee for Children's Catechesis*.

The program is based upon the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCCB) work and reflection on catechesis. After exhaustive study and analysis, the CCCB released the Canadian approach to Evangelization in the document *On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults*. Now, with the release of the *Criteria for Catechesis: from Infancy to Age 18*, we are given a framework in which we rediscover our own faith with our children.

"This program offers fantastic springboard opportunities," commented one participant. Said another, "This new approach of the initial Parent Meeting really helps us change the focus for our parish, from content to that of the heart—or the relationship with the person of Jesus. I guess that is what the Bishop told us in February." In both cases, catechists were very appreciative of gathering together to share and learn of each other's situations.

Further preparatory Workshops are planned for early September in various locations. Contact your local Parish Coordinator, or the Diocesan Religious Education Offices for more information. ✂

The *Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation* are available on the Diocesan Website, www.rcdvictoria.org.



Catechists gather in Nanaimo for spring workshop on new Sacramental Program



Passing the Candle



"Child" Tara Wild being presented by "parent" John Bartle Clay for a blessing



"Older sibling" Rosemary Fontenla antagonizing her younger brother during one of the sessions

South Island:

Saturday Sep 28

St. Patrick's Victoria Parish Hall

8:30-2:30 pm

North Island:

Saturday Oct 5

Christ the King Parish Hall

8:30-2:30 pm

Diocese of Victoria's

Diocesan Liturgical Commission presents

Finally -

A Music Workshop

for the

Whole Parish

Singing the Psalms?

- Discussion of the Psalms
- Tips for Cantors
- Translations

Choosing Appropriate Music for Liturgy

- Who decides?
- Guiding Principles
- Pastoral Considerations

Come for the period of learning and music making

Watch your bulletin for registration details, and...

make a 'note' of the dates!

Diocesan Messenger – June 2013

Page 19

National & International News



Caritas Provides Emergency Aid to those Affected by Floods in Central Europe

Floods across central Europe continue to devastate parts of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. Cities in southern and eastern Germany are on high alert as heavy floodwaters swell rivers. Passau is one of the worst-hit cities in the country, with water levels the highest they have been in 70 years. Dresden is preparing for water levels 5m higher than normal. The last time central Europe saw similar floods was in 2002, when 17 people were killed in the Czech Republic, and damage estimated at \$26bn was inflicted.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22701>

Posted: Thursday, June 6, 2013 8:49 pm

Pope Francis to Spend Summer at Vatican

Pope Francis plans to remain at the Casa Santa Marta residence in the Vatican, even during the summer months. Previous Popes have usually left Rome for Castel Gandolfo or the mountains during August. The Director of the Press Office of the Holy See, Fr Federico Lombardi, SJ made the announcement after presenting the Pope's summer schedule today. Fr Lombardi also announced that that the public celebration of morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus will be suspended from 8 July.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22700>

Posted: Thursday, June 6, 2013 6:34 pm

Central African Republic: Church Vows to Stay on After Diocese is Ransacked

The Bishop of the devastated Diocese of Bangassou in the Central African Republic has promised to stay in the country, together with the priests and religious, even though their homes and possessions have been ransacked. Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Muñoz said: "I am walking as usual. We have no other means because all the vehicles available to the diocese and the missionaries were stolen...everything: 28 cars, three motorcycles, all medicines in the pharmacy, the home of the Franciscan Sisters, that of the Holy Ghost Fathers were lootedthe list is long."

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22696>

Posted: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 10:43 pm

Pope Francis: 'Human Ecology and Environmental Ecology Walk Together'

In his most powerful environment-themed address to date, Pope Francis issued a sober challenge during his general audience today. Noting that 5 June is also World Environment Day, Pope Francis said: "We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation. The implications of living in a horizontal manner is that we have moved away from God, we no longer read His signs." Pope Francis issues a profound challenge to rethink the culture of waste; to contemplate seriously and act with conviction against the dynamics of an economy and finance that lack ethics.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22695>

Posted: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 9:22 pm

Ninety-five Catholics Killed During Spanish Civil War Declared Martyrs

On Monday Pope Francis recognized a total of 95 new Spanish martyrs who were killed because of their faith, during Spain's Civil War. He also gave the title of 'venerable' to four founders of religious congregations. The group of martyrs include 66 Marist Brothers and two laymen, as well as 17 Benedictines, led by Abel Angel Palazuelos; a group of five Discalced Carmelites and a diocesan priest. A group of nuns and three Servants of Mary, who served as Ministers to the Sick were also named.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22690>

Posted: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 10:27 pm

First Nations Children and Youth Ministry at St. Ann's, Duncan

by Connie Dunwoody with Sr. Ma. Vinda Ochoa RVM

It was a joyful and simple start for the volunteers and participants of the new First Nations Children and Youth Program run by St. Ann's in Duncan. Tables and chairs under awnings welcomed the five children who came to participate. But more than that, they were welcomed with acceptance and love at every turn.

Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM, Fr. Jose Prakash, Parish Pastoral Council and Legion of Mary members have worked tirelessly have worked tirelessly to launch this initiative, which seeks to attract young people between 7 and 16 years of age. Located at Corner Boys and Statlou Roads in Duncan, the program offers "friendship in community, the value of prayers and Elders' teachings and sharing gifts and talents in arts and music." The program runs every Thursday from 3 pm – 5 pm. Says Sr. Vinda, "the program came about because I observed through more than a year of mission work that the children and youth have minimal participation in Church activities because they have less accessibility to rides."

During the regular Friday Elders' Lunch, First Nations adults shared that they are happy the Church is focusing on this because they could hardly find this spirit anymore among the youngsters. They recalled times in their youth when they attended Church even in the midst of winter, and offered to help in any way they can. They are grateful to St. Ann's for helping to revive their culture for their young people.

For more information, please contact Sr. Vinda through St. Ann's Church in Duncan at (250) 710-7819. ✠



Water in the Desert

by Fr. Jai Joseph

Greetings from Kottur Mission, India. This little note comes to say thank you for your prayers, support and good wishes. Recently on a Sunday morning we drilled a bore well at Kottur Mission, in a place called Ayyanahalli; it is nearly 8 kilometres away from Kottur.

We drilled down to 330 feet and were blessed with nearly 2 inches water. That is good news! Village people can use this well for drinking water. Now it is easy for me to go ahead with the construction of a small multipurpose hall.

This small multipurpose hall will be used for Sunday worship, tuition class for village school-going children, as a night school for the children who go to graze cattle and sheep during the day, as a gathering place for women, self-help groups and so on.

This village has nearly 700 families, and all of them are Hindus. Lately ten families of this village are showing an interest to become Catholics in this virgin soil.

It makes me very happy in this Mission station, because I am not alone here—you are all with me through your prayers and support. May God bless you, and please continue to keep me and my mission in your prayers.

With every good wish and gratitude, Fr. Jai ✠



Village people were there to help. We drilled 330 feet.



This is the Man who donated a piece of Land to drill the Bore well. He was a Hindu man; after trusting in Jesus and believing in our Lord, the whole family turned towards Christ. They are the First Catholics (to-be) for my Kottur Mission. He has very little land, yet he donated a small piece of 90' by 55' to our Church. I am edified by his family donation!



Devotion to a Life of Service

by John Handerson Sihune Ushihua, Special to the Diocesan Messenger

In the February 2013 issue of the Diocesan Messenger, Nancy Stuart told us about two young men who would like to be priests with the Oblates in Lima, Peru, but lacked the funds to do so. Your generous response has helped us near our goal of \$14,000 to fund two seminarians for a year. What follows is a letter from one of the candidates, which has been translated from Spanish, thanks to a parishioner.

My name is John Handerson Sihune Ushihua. I'm 22 years old, and I come from Huitoto Murui De Negro Urco Rio Napo—Loreto, a native community in Peru. As an indigenous young man, I want to share with you a little bit of our history, the Huitotos, so that you know where I come from. We, the Huitoto, lived in the western jungle of Peru, near the Putumayo River; at the tributaries of the Igará-Parana and Cara-Parana Rivers. We lived in the middle of the jungle in order to avoid contact with people from other areas. We lived in harmony, in a peaceful and quiet way, surrounded by everything we needed. We didn't lack anything, because for the Huitoto the market was the jungle and we had a beautiful life.

When the white people started to come close to the area where we lived, it was kind of threatening. They brought goods to barter with us; their goods had nothing to do with the indigenous people, but they forced us to do it. They bartered a mirror for a young girl and an axe for a young boy. The white people started to take over our families and we ended up working for them.

The rubber era was a good time for the *mestizos*, but was a time of suffering, punishment and death for the indigenous people. Once they conquered a group, the men and women were moved away from their territories and brought to work in the rubber station, called the *Chorrera*; the children were left in their campsites without parents.

The indigenous people worked in the middle of the jungle for about six months, and were exposed to many dangers while they were taking out the rubber from the trees. This part of the history is not found in books, and we know about it by word of mouth because some of our grandparents lived in that time. The natives started to begin their families there, without knowing what the future was bringing for them. The men who took care of the natives had machine guns and they could kill anybody, even their own family. In the Catholic Church, this abuse was called social sin.

Something that makes me proud about my people, mainly the *Huitoto*, is that even though they were slaves, they never gave up their traditions. They kept practicing them wherever they were and the whites couldn't make them lose their identity.

Many communities were conquered and some disappeared completely, but others escaped and moved deeper into the jungle in order to be out of the reach of the conquerors. As I said at the beginning, I come from a native community and since my childhood I have been surrounded by nature. I feel it inside of me and it teaches me the spirituality that was taught by our grandparents and parents. We come from the mountains, the jungle, and it is there where we live; it is our home and we won't go out of there.

Nowadays our native community is changing and we are losing our identity, which makes me sad. We are losing our culture and we ourselves are not taking care of what our ancestors fought for a long time ago. We are allowing globalization and western traditions to take over ours, and we believe that this is not better for us. I'm not saying that our traditions are better, but I think that we should keep a balance without forgetting our roots.

I come from a poor family but rich in keeping the indigenous and religious traditions from the *Huitoto Murui*. It is there where I keep growing and learning about the traditions and history of my culture. I am the fourth child in my family, and I have been interested in learning a lot from our culture, in order to know where I do come from and what my people have gone through. Looking for many answers, I have felt a vocation call to which I have to give an answer. Maybe I have always been called, but I never pay attention to it. Although I attended a lay school, since I was a child I have expressed my desire to become a priest. Searching for the past of my culture didn't allow me to listen to the call. In 2010 I met an Oblate Priest and he invited me to live a missionary experience, and it is there where I clearly heard the call to live a religious life and serve the indigenous communities. I believe that God put me among my people, to show me the perfect way to become the bridge between my town and God, and help them deal with their sufferings and the injustice that they have lived.

Since I have joined the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, I see the culture of my people in a different perspective. I have always asked the question, *What can I do for these people who are victim of injustice and who are losing their cultural identity?* There is injustice not only in the indigenous communities but also in other places, and I am sure that something could be done to help them. I am getting the necessary education and training to help people who suffer in these days. These problems give me the strength to keep going, because I know that there are many injured communities that want and need to be healed; there are still people who suffer. I give thanks to God and to the Oblates who are giving me the opportunity to work for the people who need me and who are waiting for me.

It is for them that I keep learning. ✠

Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministration. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.
~ A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God



Victoria Diocesan Development & Peace delegates attended the Regional BC/Yukon Regional Assembly in Prince George April 19 – 21. L to R: Bishop Jensen (Diocese of Prince George); Marion Simpson (St. Joseph the Worker); Sr. Marina Smith (Diocesan Chairperson); Paul Aussenegg (Diocesan Youth Representative); Nancy Stuart (St. Patrick's Parish); Dick Mynen (National Council Representative, Prince George); and Katrina Laquian (Regional Youth Representative)

Koinonia Christian Books

Come browse our large selection of Bibles, books, jewelry and giftware.

Please Note:

- We are still open and carrying all the same products as Judy carried before!
- Website: www.koinoniachristianbooks.com

Special Orders Welcome!

Open Monday to Saturday 9³⁰ to 5³⁰

1119 Blanshard St.
Between View and Fort

1-Hr Free Parking in City Parkade

Tel: 250-382-5814

Because you give...

The Good News of Our Lord is shared with our brothers and sisters in remote and isolated missions across our vast land.

‘Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.’
Psalm 25:4

Photo: A young boy's prayer; St. Theresa of Avila mission church in Tulita, N.W.T. Photo by Michael Swan.

Yes, I want to help our Canadian missions!

Here is my gift of : ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

☐ Cheque, made payable to Catholic Missions In Canada

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Credit Card No. _____ Expiry _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

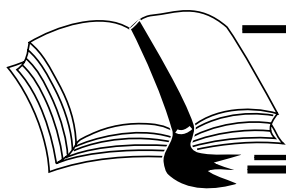
City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone () _____ Email _____

Please give generously to support the ministries of Catholic Missions In Canada.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA
201-1155 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4T 1W2
www.cmic.info | 1-866-YES-CMIC (937-2642)

DM062013



Impressions

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.”
~ John 14:1



by Connie Dunwoody

I have never been that mad. Not ever. I have never been that distressed. Not ever. I’ve stoically borne a myriad of surgeries, absurd injuries, childhood trauma, turncoat friends, cruel partners, untimely and tragic family deaths and, from time to time, a complete lack of chocolate in my house. As far as I know, and within the context of “me,” I think I’m pretty good at coping.

But on that fateful day in early May 2013, I was, in no order of preference, irritated with the wind, rude Harley riders who crowded the cyclists, an older male athlete whom I could barely pass, a flag girl, a random cow, my garments, my Garmin, the never-ending hill and my bike’s “bento box,” which contained nutrition and electrolytes I steadfastly ignored because “if I slow down to eat something, that old guy I passed a few km back will catch up.” Safe to say I was irrational.

I’ve experienced my share of difficulties during races in the last 30 years: the Sprint triathlon that should have been a breeze—except I couldn’t catch my breath during the swim and did the whole thing on my back, rendering my legs fairly useless on the West Saanich Road hills; the Half Marathon I ran barely 3 months after surgery to re-attach my dangling hamstring. And others, less dramatic but still traumatic. Never before had I reached the point of feeling like I never wanted to race again.

I just wanted to quit. My coach wouldn’t let me. “You’ll thank me later,” he said, and in my head I shouted “no, I won’t!” My hamstring hurt, my inner thigh was spasming and I was hot and crabby. It wasn’t just the extreme heat, it wasn’t just the windy conditions, it wasn’t just the “perfect storm” of exhausting “Half Iron Camp” workouts before a race, rather than rest—it was more than that.

My spirit was thoroughly broken. I don’t know how else to explain the utter despair, the sobs that wracked my body and tears that blurred my vision. I don’t know how else to explain the monumental amount of anger that erupted like a nuclear detonation, making perpetually optimistic me rebelliously determined to throw in the towel.

Still—in the minuscule bit of my mind that was still in some semblance of control of my body, I knew my coach was right. That didn’t prevent me from ignoring advice about ice and nutrition, and it didn’t keep me from stomping belligerently away like a petulant two-year-old banished to the corner for bad behaviour. Which I should have been.

I finished the *expletive deleted* run even though I didn’t want to, and, somewhere in the back of my mind, I was pleased that my technique held up enough for me to kick it up a tiny bit at the end. But after it was over, things got even worse—I couldn’t catch my breath and ended up sitting in my friend’s car, sobbing inconsolably, unable to do anything but weep and gasp for air, unable to behave like an adult—utterly lost. No one had ever seen me like this. I had never seen me like this.

“What can I do?” my “Bestie” asked desperately. “Can you find my hairbrush? I need my hairbrush!” I wailed. Yup, pretty much irrational.

I could blame the lack of water and electrolytes and a host of other things. But actually, when I examine this dispassionately what I find is this: *I was captive to my doubting mind.*

Despite my Celtic genes, one of which is surely the “*alwaysrightgenome*,” I found myself debilitated by uncertainty. Later, with the clarity of hindsight, I realized at no time was my body unable to do what I asked of it. I wasn’t injured, and despite the lack of electrolytes, I could still run at pretty much my normal pace. It was metaphysical, not physical. I was imprisoned and kidnapped to the dark corner in my mind in which Doubt lurks—cunningly feeding itself on my spirit and siphoning my will, writhing evilly into substance and threatening my whole sense of self.

Doubt is so much a part of who we are as human beings. We know ourselves well, we think, but at the same time the parasite malevolently whispers “you can’t do this” or “you’re not smart enough” or “you’re not pretty enough” or “what if your best isn’t good enough?” or “you’re such a loser.” The hissing whisper is insidious; it gets under our skin and exhausts our muscles and breaks our heart and destroys our spirit before we’ve even acknowledged it’s there. It abrades our glittering self confidence and replaces our will with a wall that stops us, confused and shaken. We hold ourselves back from the possibility of fully being who we are meant to be, perhaps because we fear reaching the outer limits of our ability and realizing our edges cannot expand anymore. What if it’s all dénouement after this?

We doubt, perhaps, those things which are most important to us, that most define us and that are thus most vulnerable to failure. Yet even as doubt fuels our negative self-perception, we admire what others do, sometimes a bit enviously. Why is it we find it so much easier to believe in others than we do in ourselves? Why do we assume they are not wrestling with the same feelings of inadequacy? Why do we give others permission to be great even as we limit our own potential by heeding the Whisperer? I know why we are called to encourage others, but what purpose does it serve to minimize ourselves?

Actually, I think doubt is a necessary part of growth. Every time we push through the wall with our will, we learn something valuable. Doubt is where spiritual development can occur: part of faith is trusting that the shaking confusion of the moment will prove to be what you believe it can be. Maybe the breakdown of my spirit was something I needed to experience in order to be better, to have a fuller

understanding of myself and my potential and realize I have not even come close to colouring to my edges. Pushing through the wall is not comfortable, but it is necessary in order to grow. I realized I have more, I *am* more than the Whisperer would have me believe. I *am not* a loser.

Perhaps most importantly, I did not break through my doubt on my own strength of will, but on the faith that someone else had in me. My coaches, my teammates, my best friends all believed in me when I couldn’t. Sometimes you just have to listen to your coach when you are not able to think clearly. I said to a new triathlete once, “If you’re not sure, then believe *me*; trust *me*. I believe in you.” She did, and went on to accomplish amazing things—and she isn’t anywhere near her edges. Never underestimate the faith of those who believe in you even when you can’t see them, those who pray for your journey; they have eyes that penetrate your questioning surface and see your potential. A little *palanca* for the road never hurts.


The truth is, Doubt accompanies our Faith whether we will it or not; the sin occurs when we° allow it to make our decisions, trusting the wrong voice. Courage is hearing that seductive, internal “you can’t” and shoving the words and their source confidently aside in faith, making decisions that permit possibility rather than limits, moving forward into the fullness of life that He wants us to have.

Fast forward to the Oliver Half Ironman race three weeks after the dreadful duathlon. A much more gruelling event, I sailed through it with my customary wide grin on my face. 7 hours and 39 minutes of swimming, cycling and running, and I loved every minute. Why? Because I’d already hit the wall and blasted it apart, even though I wasn’t very pleasant about it. I chose, on the critical teeter-totter of that life decision, to believe those whom I trusted, and finish my race. Going into the Oliver event, I *knew* I could blast through any wall the sibilant parasite put in my way. Doubt made me stronger, because I chose Faith over fear, Peace over petulance.


I have also chosen, on the teeter-totter of life’s decisions, to trust Someone else more than myself, and believed what He told me. He said, “When you’re not sure, believe in Me; trust Me. I believe in you.” And with the unshakeable faith my eternal Coach has in me, I move through Doubt, shattering the wall and replacing it with a determined will and peaceful spirit. I am no longer captive to my mind because my heart has chosen Faith.

The Whisperer has been banished, and I doubt the sibilant sycophant will be back. But even if he is, we’re ready for him, Jesus ‘n me. ✕


This **Father’s Day** say ‘I love you Dad’
with a gift that provides a new lease on life
to a struggling family in the developing world.




The Chalice Gift Catalogue



This father in Africa was thrilled to be able to replace an old, leaky roof with a brand new metal one. Now his family will have a safer, more comfortable home, protected from the elements.



A father in Latin America was given these tools as a gift from the Chalice Gift Catalogue, to start a new business. He is now better able to care for his family.



A new hand plow gives this father in India the means to improve his farming methods, meaning a better yield and more food for his family’s consumption and to sell.

dm0613

TO ORDER YOUR FATHER’S DAY GIFT, CALL OR GO ONLINE TODAY!
1.800.776.6855 **www.chalice.ca**



Graduation

The Diocese of Victoria congratulates the 2013 Graduates of St. Andrew's Regional High School

Simon Avila
Rhianna Bella
Tarnvir Bhandal
Chelsea Black
Breanne Blanchard
David Boyd
Marko Bratanovic
Anthony Buljat
Alexander Butters
Robert Camilleri
Mahisha Canagasuriam
Madoma Candler
Samara Carty
Jamie Christie
Nykolai Coffey
Zakery Davis
Marcin Deron
Peter Dodds
Lucy Doyle

Alexander Duke
Anneke Feuermann
Cassie Froh
Ciara Gallacher
Mariana Gallegos Dupuis
Sarah Gibbs
Chanpreet Gill
Cecelia Golding
Shamile Gondal
Rebecca Groves
Leah Henderson
Jennifer Huerta
Minseok Jang
Leah Jenkins
Hyungseok Kim
Brian Kung
Paulina Lapinski
Thomas Leckie
Rupinder Longia

Christopher Machek
Maria Mendez
Brendan Mihalynuk
Hiroyoshi Minakawa
Yasu Minakawa
Sarah Isabela Munson-Rodriguez
Melanie Narciso
Geraldyn Nones
Kristi O'Flynn
Calvin Paterson
Cody Pellow
Patrick Piekarz
Grace Pomponio
Danielle Porteous
Kaede Povilaitis
Alexander Prins
Chelsea Purych
Katie Renko

Soraya Rizzo
Ben Rizzuto
Alexa Robinson
Amy Sam
James Saville
Matthew Schlatter
Olivia Scholes
Mikaela Sibbald
Brendan Smith
Nicolas Starkes
Christian Tervo
Quyen Tran
Anthony Trannguyen
Kate Turner
Micaela Twaddle
Ibrahim Vajgel-Shedid
Mariaye Vickery
David Wei
Natalie Wilson
Leon Yan



First Communion at Our Lady of Grace on Saltspring Island



Fr. Frank J. Franz with the children on the occasion of their First Communion on May 5

Mount St. Marythons Celebrated



Rob Reid, Race Director of the Goodlife Fitness Victoria Marathon and Veronica Osborn, Mount St. Mary Hospital Fundraising Coordinator of Pledge Collectors, celebrated donors at the April 23 Hospital Foundation Tea. Fitness, prizes and supporting vulnerable community members are the benefits to being part of Veronica's pledge collecting team (captained by Sister Lucy Dumont). To register visit www.msmfoundation.ca or phone Veronica at (250) 888-8839.

Russ Hay's The Bicycle Store
650 Hillside Avenue
Victoria BC V8T 1Z2
(250) 384-4722

9781-A 2nd Street
Sidney BC V8L 4P8
(250) 656-1512

LIVE TO RIDE TO LIVE

Russ Hay's knows bikes ... from high-end mountain and racing bikes to commuting, touring and cruising bikes—or your child's first bike, the Russ Hay's staff can find the right fit for you.

Our experienced mechanics are known for custom wheel building, and have knowledge and skill in every aspect of bicycles past and current. Whether it's time for a tune-up or you're looking for your special Next Bike ... you can trust your cycling to us.

Interested in riding with a group? Join us: Tuesdays (intermediate) and Thursdays (advanced) at 6 pm, or Saturday mornings (novice, intermediate and training) at 10 am, all leaving from the Victoria location.

Russ Hay's: we've got a ride for you!

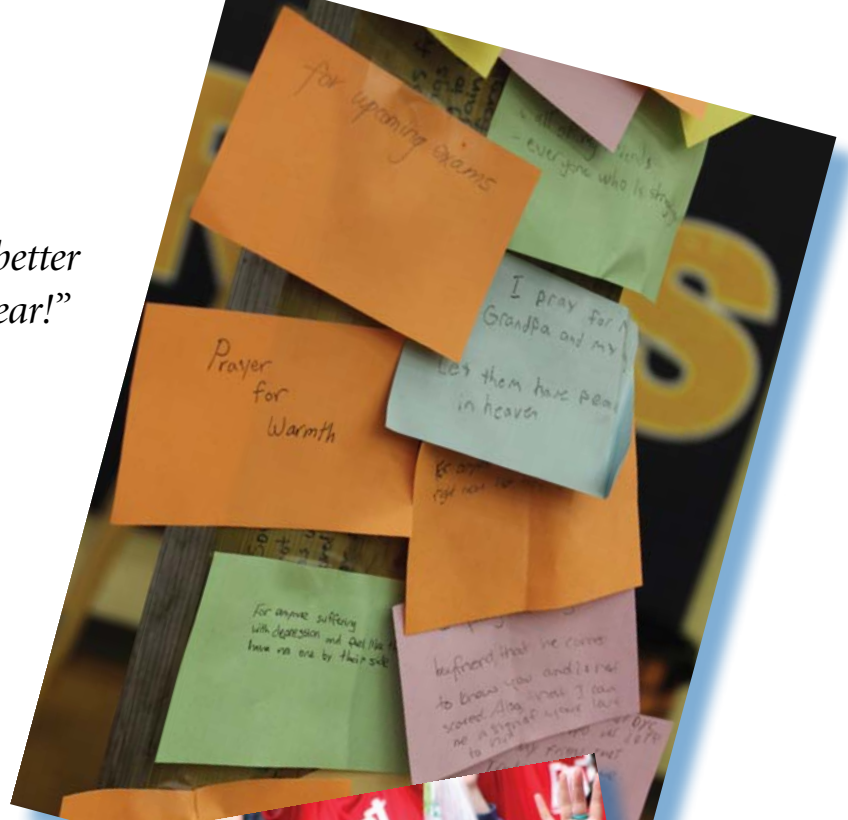
Ordination

You are invited to attend the Priestly Ordination of
Deacon David Hogman
St. Andrew's Cathedral
Saturday, June 29 at 10 am





"It gets better every year!"



"Have DYC on the May long weekend so that we can have more time together."



"All in all, the weekend defined fun."

"This year was the best for me personally! Thank you!"



"Jesse was an amazing inspirational person, funny and wise."



"I really liked my small group this year - we had some good conversations."

