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Ordination of David Hogman



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First Nations Ministry at St. Ann's, Duncan



See Page 23

Appeal in Action

Diocese Holds First Family Conference

by Bonnie Landry

Our Diocese held its first Marriage and Family Life Conference this past June 2013. At Camp Pringle on beautiful Shawnigan Lake, Catholic families gathered and cavorted, prayed and shared meals together. Fellowship happened. All ages from babies to teens, young adults, parents and grandparents spent a weekend being nurtured in their vocation of marriage.

“Very meaningful and practical tips and examples to help marriage and family life. Keynote Speaker Bishop Gary Gordon from the Diocese of Whitehorse was central to the faith formation and the building up of our marriages and families. I felt so ... revered. I felt like my own marriage mattered in the big picture and the opportunity to witness within the school of love, and as a school of love to the larger community was both a blessing and an apostolate.



“I really enjoyed the socializing and sharing of the meals.
“The atmosphere of holiness and God’s presence ... permeated the event.
“Keynote speaker was great and we loved meeting other families just like us ... great fellowship.

The Church upholds and defends marriage and family. We have the Church urging us on to grow in holiness as couples and families. In a recent letter to the Knights of Columbus, Pope Francis commends the mission of faith of the Knights of Columbus, urging each Knight to “bear witness to the authentic nature of marriage and the family, the sanctity and inviolable dignity of human life, and the beauty and truth of human sexuality.”



“I felt like my own marriage mattered in the big picture ... Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI provided some beautiful thoughts on marriage family at World Day for Families in Milan in 2012: “This joyful international gathering was an inspiring witness to the rich and varied identity of the family as a communion of love, based on marriage, a sanctuary of life, a domestic church and the primary cell of society.” The same could be said for our local Diocesan gathering of families. It was a small reflection of that massive event. Our families are an inspiring witness, rich and varied, sanctuaries of love, the primary cells of our society—here, right here at home in our Diocese, our parishes and our neighbourhoods. Our families, our own families, can set the world on fire. It all starts at home. ✂

Our Participants say...

“There is much hope for our church thanks to Catholic families.
“Please consider making this an annual event.

Pope Francis on marriage...

“How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!
“Some are called to holiness in family life through the Sacrament of Marriage.

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Financial Overview- Year ended December 31, 2012

by Leah MacKenzie, BBA, CGA, Chief Financial Officer, Diocese of Victoria

The Financial Overview provides a summary of the activities of the Diocese and the *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Annual Appeal for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. The Financial Statements of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre are audited annually by the external firm of KPMG LLP. The Audited Financial Statements are reviewed by the Diocesan Audit Committee and the Diocesan Finance Committee and are available for review upon request.

Diocesan Operating Revenue

Parish Assessments

Parishes are assessed on the basis of their annual collections and other income. Assessment income is a major revenue item that funds the operating services of the Diocese of Victoria. In 2012, parish assessments totalled \$1,047,345 and remained very consistent with assessments in 2011 of \$1,130,234

Donations

As a Registered Canadian Charity, The Diocese of Victoria receives donations from individuals and organizations. Regular donations were very comparable between 2012 and 2011 with donations of \$166,278 and \$163,975, respectively.

Administration Fees

The Diocese charges related parties for administration and accounting fees for services of the Diocesan Finance Office. These fees remain relatively constant from year to year.

Ministry and Program Revenue

Ministry and program revenue is comprised of parish levies, grants, donations and program fees related to the various program and ministries that the Diocese runs or coordinates. These programs include the Hospital Chaplaincy, Office of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, University Chaplaincy, Marriage Tribunal, Social Justice and Reverence for Life Office, First Nations’ Ministry, Vocations and Seminarians.

The *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal donations of \$1,012,969 were included as revenue to offset programs and ministry expenses incurred in 2012 that were specifically identified as initiatives for the Annual Appeal. Appeal donations from 2011 of \$37,630 and \$616,059 from 2012 remain as deferred revenue on the Statement of Financial Position until the related expenses are incurred.

Please see the separate *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal Activity schedule and chart for the direct funding of expenses associated with the Appeal programs and ministries.

Investment Income

Investment Income represents interest earned in bank accounts, investment holdings and on parish loans. The Diocese makes capital loans to individual parishes, with surplus funds placed on deposit with the Diocese. These funds are loaned out to parishes at a low fixed interest rate for special building projects or other capital needs. The Diocese earned a total of \$163,197 in interest revenue during 2012 compared to \$107,096 in 2011.

Property

The Diocese of Victoria manages a few rental properties from which it derives income. In 2012 revenue on these properties was \$213,501 with expenses of \$113,454 for a net income on \$100,047.

Diocesan Operating Expenses

Chancery Salary and Benefits

Includes salary and benefit expenses for the Chancery offices for both clergy and lay employees. For 2012 Chancery salary and benefit expenses totalled \$155,836 compared to \$158,818 for 2011.

Island Catholic Schools Subsidies

An annual subsidy of \$147,768 is paid to Island Catholic Schools through parish assessments and direct funding.

Other Diocesan Expenses

Other expenses include the Bishop’s travel and residence, CCCB annual fees, The *Diocesan Messenger*, website, legal and insurance costs, donations to other charities and special Diocesan events.

Pastoral Centre

Expenses in this category include the costs of maintaining the Pastoral Centre building and grounds.

Ministry and Programs

This includes expenses of the Hospital Chaplaincy, Office of Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry, Marriage Tribunal, Social Justice Office, First Nations’ Ministry, Vocations and Seminarians and Retired Clergy expenses.

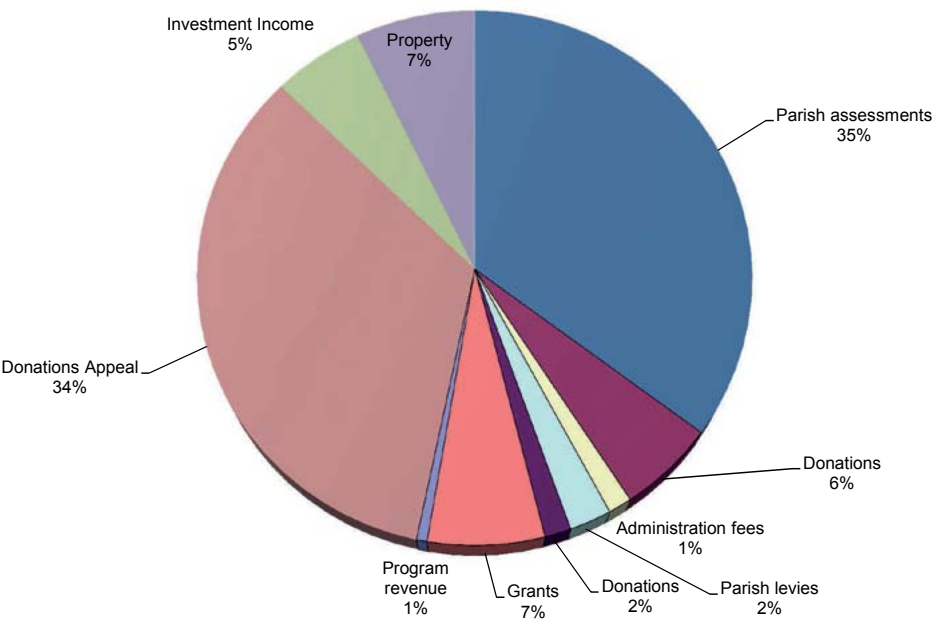
Administration

Diocesan Administration includes salaries and benefits for personnel in the Finance Office, archives, professional and auditing fees, special projects, consultant fees, general office expenses and amortization.

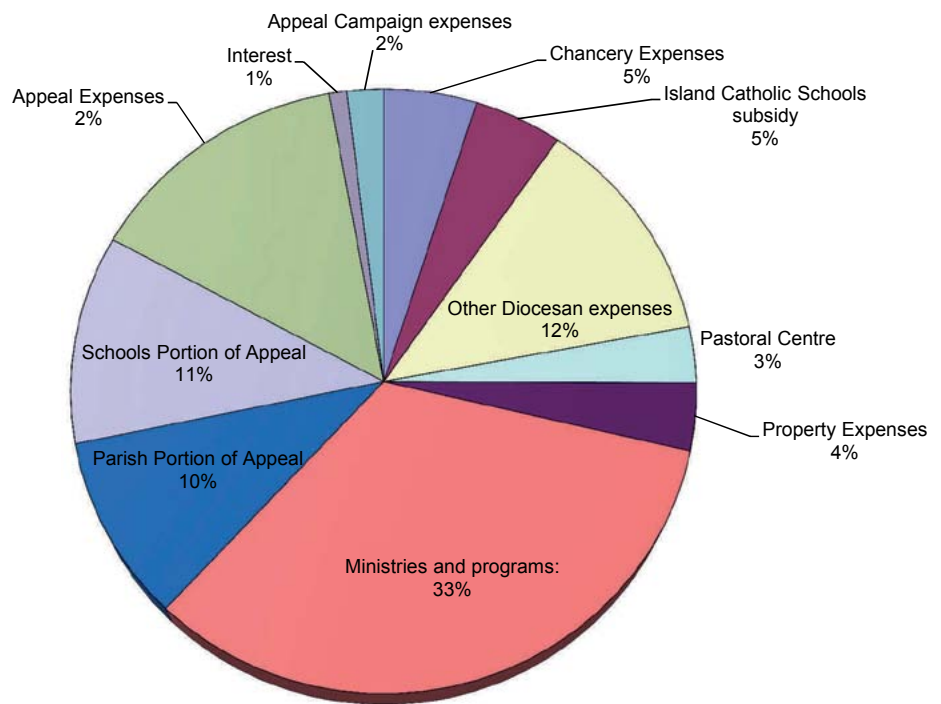
Interest

The Diocese has interest expenses for bank loans incurred on behalf of parishes and pays interest to trust funds held for parishes and schools. In 2012 the interest expense was \$29,560.

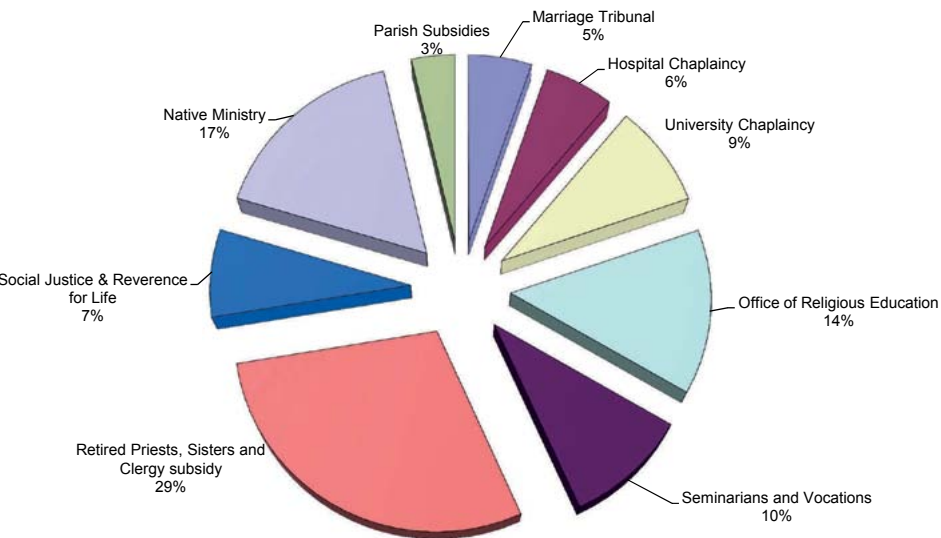
Diocesan Pastoral Centre Operating Revenue 2012



Diocesan Pastoral Centre Operating Expenses 2012



Ministry and Programs 2012



Appeal Campaign Expenses

For 2012 Appeal campaign expenses were \$61,258 compared to \$58,194 in 2011. Expenses include the Appeal coordinator and support staff expenses, materials, printing, postage and other related costs.

Operating Surplus

The normal operating deficit of \$164,784 was realized in 2012. In 2011 we recognized an operating surplus of \$190,895 which offsets this year’s loss.

Bishop of Victoria, Corporation Sole Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2012 with comparative figures for 2011		
	2012	2011
Assets		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash	1,042,906	1,114,545
Term Deposits and accrued interest	298,072	1,149,679
Accounts receivable	289,470	409,181
Prepaid expenses	14,554	7,398
	1,645,002	2,680,803
<i>Loans and investments</i>	3,539,075	2,765,395
<i>Capital assets</i>	7,216,627	7,280,797
	12,400,704	12,726,995
Liabilities and Net Assets		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	357,811	125,954
Demand bank loans	44,682	131,682
	402,493	257,636
<i>Deferred revenue and contributions</i>	2,828,178	3,029,433
	3,230,671	3,287,069
<i>Net Assets</i>		
Invested in capital assets	5,702,360	5,733,730
Restricted for endowment purposes	373,326	376,435
Internally restricted	703,468	882,860
Unrestricted	2,390,879	2,446,901
	9,170,033	9,439,926
	12,400,704	12,726,995

National Collections

During 2012 there were six sanctioned collections through which parishioners gave over \$210,000 to support national and international causes. Second collections are held throughout the Diocese on the designated date and then the parish forwards the total to the Diocese, who in turn sends the funds directly to the designated recipient charity. Please note that these totals reflect funds donated through the parishes and the Diocese and do not include donations sent directly to the charities by individual parishioners or directly by the parish.

Development & Peace – Share Lent and disaster relief	\$113,698
Needs of Church in the Holy Land – Good Friday	\$34,709
Pope’s Pastoral Works – Peter’s Pence	\$14,410
Needs of the Church in Canada – Mission Sunday	\$15,816
Evangelization of Nations	\$18,914
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$13,495
Total National Collections	\$210,772

Diocese of Victoria Schedule of Activity <i>Journey of Hearts & Hands</i> Annual Appeal Period Ending December 31, 2012		
	2012	2011
Appeal Revenue	\$ 1,012,969	\$ 1,199,142
Appeal Expenses	\$ 61,257	\$ 58,194
Parish Portion	\$ 308,520	\$ 443,159
Schools Portion	\$ 351,000	\$ 397,751
Parish Outreach	\$ 26,000	\$ 30,000
Native Ministry	\$ 96,207	\$ 32,064
Retired Clergy	\$ 100,000	\$ 118,831
Justice and Life	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,708
Youth Ministry	\$ 19,985	\$ 29,708
Religious Education	\$ 25,000	\$ 29,708
Seminarian	\$ 0	\$ 30,020
Total - Appeal Expenses	\$ 1,012,969	\$ 1,199,142

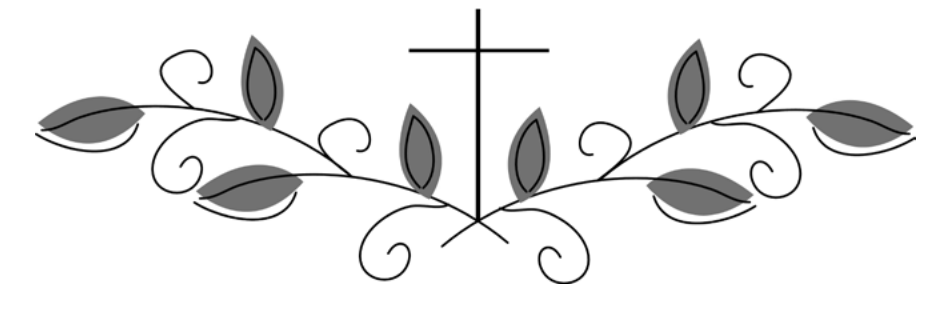
Bishop of Victoria, Corporation Sole Statement of Operations December 31, 2012 with comparatives for 2011		
	2012	2011
Revenue		
Parish assessments	1,047,345	1,130,234
Donations	166,278	163,973
Administration fees	40,208	41,710
Ministries and programs:		
Parish levies	71,064	71,064
Donations	44,336	169,172
Grants	196,972	109,763
Program revenue	17,593	3,082
Donations Appeal	1,012,969	1,199,142
Investment Income	163,197	107,096
Property	213,501	213,167
	2,973,463	3,208,404
Expenses		
Chancery Expenses	155,836	158,818
Island Catholic Schools subsidy	147,768	147,768
Other Diocesan expenses	389,159	180,967
Pastoral Centre	93,474	67,607
Property Expenses	113,454	119,916
Ministries and programs:		
Marriage Tribunal	54,706	62,742
Hospital Chaplaincy	60,254	54,821
University Chaplaincy	90,345	87,308
Office of Religious Education	143,350	211,023
Seminarians and Vocations	102,662	76,625
Retired Priests, Sisters and Clergy subsidy	303,138	278,375
Social Justice & Reverence for Life	76,257	31,072
Native Ministry	174,125	164,347
Parish Subsidies	37,768	30,000
Parish Portion of Appeal	308,520	443,159
Schools Portion of Appeal	351,000	397,751
Administration	445,613	440,076
Interest	29,560	6,943
Appeal Campaign expenses	61,258	58,194
	3,138,247	3,017,512
Normal Diocesan Operations	(164,784)	190,892
Extraordinary expenses (income)	102,000	20,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(266,784)	170,892

The Diocesan Finance Committee

On behalf of Bishop Gagnon and members of the Diocesan Finance Committee, I wish to thank you for your support for the Diocese over the past year. Your weekly parish collections, contributions to the Journey of Hearts and Hands Appeal, direct donations, prayers, and donations of talents and time all make the pastoral and administrative works of the Diocese possible. You are the Body of Christ, and we recognize that your participation allows us to take steps forward in providing programs and ministries on the Island. We strive to lead the financial projects of the Diocese with clear direction, strong Catholic values, and deep respect for the gifts you have entrusted to our stewardship. As one Church community, we celebrate our accomplishments over the year and look forward to our future. ✠

Current Members of the Diocesan Finance Committee

Bishop Richard Gagnon	Fr. John Laszczyk
John Anderson	Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins
Fr. Frank Franz	Colleen Kovacs
Leah MacKenzie	Mary McCaffrey
Mike Mills	Art Paulo
Diane Savard	John Shenton



Calendar of Events

September

- 7 **Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria:** The Victoria Chinese Catholic Community will hold gatherings on the first Saturday of each month from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, starting September 7. Meetings will include Bible study, faith sharing, talks, prayers, singing and Chinese Mass (in Cantonese and Mandarin whenever a visiting priest is available). Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information contact Ben Chow by email to benchow@shaw.ca.
- 22 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** Sacramental Prep Information Session will be held starting at 12 noon. For more information contact the office at 250.479.7413 or visit the website at <http://stjosephtheworkerparish.com>.
- 26 **Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** Vintage Tea & Fashion Show will be held from 2 – 4 pm. The tea is sponsored by the Ascension CWL, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and features vintage fashions from 1938 to current day, presented by Close to You Boutique in Parksville. In addition, the event will include door prizes and a raffle! Tickets are \$15 per person. For more information contact Sandi Digras at sdigras@yahoo.com.
- 27-29 **Catholic Students' Association Fall Retreat:** *Theology of the Body* will be presented at the CSA's Fall Retreat, to be held at the Pioneer Pacific Camp on Thetis Island from September 27 – 29. Guest speakers are Felipe and Veronica Grossling. Cost: \$50 per person. For more information contact Fr. Dean Henderson (catholic@uvic.ca, 250.721.8339) or Hailey Cleaves (hailey.cleaves@gmail.com) or visit www.catholicuvicwebs.com.
- 28 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** Sacramental Prep Parent Retreat will be held from 9 am – 12 noon. For more information contact the office at 250.479.7413 or visit the website at <http://stjosephtheworkerparish.com>.
- 28 **St. Patrick's Parish, Victoria:** *A Music Workshop for the Whole Parish* is presented by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. For more information or to register visit www.rcdvictoria.org/blog/post/en/fall-music-workshop-registration-available-now or contact your parish office.
- 29 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** Catechism Start-up, 11:15 am. For more information contact the office at 250.479.7413 or visit the website at <http://stjosephtheworkerparish.com>.
- 30 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** The Great Adventure—Bible Timeline (24 sessions) begins Monday Sept. 30 from 7 – 9 pm. The Bible study, presented by Jeff Cavins through a series of DVDs, covers Biblical history that will be followed by group discussion and assignments for home Bible study. For more information contact the office at 250.479.7413.

October

- 3 **Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria:** *Contemporary Spirituality* course with Dr. Les McKeown will begin on October 3 and run through November 14. For more information or to register call the Sacred Heart office at 250.479.1611. This course is co-sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart parishes.
- 4-5 **St. Patrick's, Victoria:** Annual fall Good Used Clothing sale and Bazaar will be held Friday and Saturday from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm in the church hall at 2060 Haultain Street in Victoria.
- 5 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria:** *Living the Gospel, a call to Eco-Justice* with Mary Rowell, CSJ PhD, from 10 am – 4:30 pm. Cost: \$55 Please bring your lunch, refreshments are served. Location: TBA. The workshop will include prayer, presentations, opportunities for reflection and discussion on this urgent topic facing our local communities and world. This workshop is presented as a partnership program with Canadian Religious Conference and St. Joseph the Worker Social & Ecojustice Committee. To register email earthliterations@gmail.com, phone 250.220.4601 or visit www.earthliterations.org. For confirmation of the event location, please check the website or via phone (see above).
- 5 **Christ the King Parish, Courtenay:** *A Music Workshop for the Whole Parish* is presented by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. For more information or to register visit www.rcdvictoria.org/blog/post/en/fall-music-workshop-registration-available-now or contact your parish office.
- 22 **Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** The CWL's *Catch the Fire* program will be presented to coincide with the anniversary of the date the Ascension CWL received its Charter in 1938. The event will begin with Mass and conclude after the presentation with a small reception. For more information contact Sandi Digras at sdigras@yahoo.com.
- 29 **Bishop's Lecture, UVic:** Featuring Mary Anne Waldron QC, this year's Bishop's Distinguished Lecture will be held in Room 159 of the Fraser Law Building at the University of Victoria. Admission is free; use parking lots 4 and 8. Mary Anne Waldron, author of *Free to Believe: Rethinking Freedom of Conscience and Religion in Canada*, will examine how the law has developed in the way that

it has, the role that freedom of conscience and religion play in our society, and the role it could play in making it a more open, peaceful and democratic place. Response will be by Earl G. Phillips. For more information email catholic@uvic.ca or visit <http://bishopslecture.webs.com>.

November

- 1-2 **St. Andrew's Regional High School, Victoria:** ICS Day of Reflection and Third Annual Diocesan Conference. Theme: *You have been told what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8). Keynote speakers Kirby Kranabetter, Ottawa ON; Kathy Korman, Principal, John Paul II Port Alberni; and Bishop Richard Gagnon. Detailed registration information coming soon. For more information contact Jim O'Reilly (jeoreilly@rcdvictoria.org) or Char Deslippe (cdeslippe@rcdvictoria.org) or call the Pastoral Centre at 250.479.1331.
- 9 **St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria:** *Advance Care Planning: A Catholic Faith-Based Perspective* will be presented by facilitators Gerry Herkel and Rose Marie Hague, from 10 – 11:30 am. We will review Catholic teachings on end of life issues. Participants will receive the booklet *Advance Care Planning: A Catholic Faith-Based Perspective*. To register call 250.479.7413.
- 23 **St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria:** School and Parish Gala *Swing into the Future*. Swing dance lesson from 7 – 8 pm; open floor dancing from 8 – 11 pm. Also featured: a Silent Auction ... and Appetizers! A cash bar will be available. Tickets are available November 1; for more information contact the office at 250.479.7413.

Upcoming Events

- January 31 – Feb 2, 2014 **Camp Homewood, Quadra Island:** *iBelieve* featuring Ken Yasinski and Face to Face Ministries will be held on Quadra Island. See article on page 11 of this paper.
- February 13 – March 14, 2014 **St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria:** A study on *The Gospel of John* led by Dr. Les McKeown. For more information or to register email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or call 250.479.7413. This course is co-sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart parishes.

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.

Pastoral Itinerary

Bishop Richard Gagnon

September 2013

- 12 **Trinity Parish, Nanaimo:** Appeal and General Clergy Meeting
- 17 **Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria:** Mass (10:30 am)
- 22 Montreal, Quebec: National Liturgy Commission
- 23-27 **Mont-Gabriel, Quebec:** Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops Plenary Meeting

October 2013

- 1-2 **Providence Centre, Edmonton:** Western Conference for Social Justice
- 4 **St. Peter's, Nanaimo:** Mass and Annual Appeal Dinner (5:30 pm)
- 5 **Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni:** Mass and Annual Appeal Reception (5 pm)
- 6 **Christ the King, Courtenay:** Appeal Mass (10:30 am)
- 9 **Pastoral Centre, Victoria:** Council of Priests (12 pm)
- 22 **Union Club, Victoria:** ACL Breakfast (7 am)
- 30 **St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria:** 121st Anniversary Mass (12 pm)

November 2013

- 1 **St. Andrew's Regional High School, Victoria:** ICS Day of Reflection, Mass (9 am)
- 2 **St. Andrew's Regional High School, Victoria:** Diocesan Conference
- St. Patrick's, Campbell River:** 50th Anniversary Knights of Columbus Bishop Hill Council (5 pm)

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



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Island News & Events



Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Spain & Portugal a Huge Success

by Denise Buckley

Pilgrims from Comox, Victoria, Vancouver, Skidegate and Kelowna as well as Brooks and Standard, Alberta left May 24, meeting in Barcelona, Spain!!! There were 38 of us in total and, along with our very capable Chaplain Fr. Shayne Craig, our professional tour guide, and our coach driver, we were on our way to places we had only dreamed of and read about.

Barcelona was, to say the least, a joy to behold! *Sagrada Familia* by Gaudi, the beautiful Barcelona Cathedral, the Bullring, the famed *Las Ramblas* and Güell Park were only a smattering of sites this city of saints and soccer players provides. A trip to Montserrat was also a joy to experience. Before long we were on our way again, making a stop in Castellon for a Mass in the beautiful and most welcoming *Our Lady of Lledó Basilica*. Everyone fell in love with this place—one we will never forget.

Then it was on to Valencia, which is emerging as one of the nation's most progressive cities. Spain's third largest, it continues to reinvent itself at a heady pace, and is well on the way to equaling the cosmopolitan vitality of Barcelona and the cultural variety of Madrid. In the last decade or so, the vast, iconic City of Arts & Sciences has emerged injecting new life into the historic centre. We explored the maze-like streets of the Old Centre and were privileged to celebrate Mass in the Cathedral Basilica where viewing the famed *Holy Grail Chapel* was amazing.

We moved westward to the country's thriving capital of Madrid where we enjoyed a marvelous tour and got to experience some of the sights, sounds and tastes of this vibrant city! Then it was to the ancient and beautifully walled city of Avila, where the tombs of St. Teresa and St. John are located—and where we were treated to walking and coach tours of all the holy sites (and there are many!). Then we were able to relax on our “day of rest” in Sanabria, a quaint village where we could all relish the beautiful surroundings & each other. This is a place worthy of return!

Santiago de Compostela was our next stop—and what an experience we had! We were privileged to have our Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Pillar inside the Cathedral as well as being in attendance at the pilgrim Mass when the great *Botafumeiro* (thurible) was swung in the cavernous Cathedral, which houses the tomb of St. James. Hundreds of pilgrims, weary from their “Camino” walk were limping into this amazing city as we joined them in thanksgiving for the joy of just being here!

Then it was on to our first glimpse of Portugal and the famous old city of Porto. Of course, a visit here wouldn't be complete without a tour of a Port House, which we thoroughly enjoyed—and some free time to scour the shops of cork, silver, and ceramics!

Our pilgrimage reached a distinct peak with our visit to Fatima and Aljustrel where Our Lady appeared to three children in 1917. The Sanctuary of this very famous holy site is so peaceful and perfect. The Mass we shared with other English-speaking pilgrims was beyond our wildest dreams. The evening candlelight procession allowed the opportunity for four of our men to take their turn to carry the famed statue of Our Lady—an honour they will never forget!

Our pilgrimage concluded with two final days in Lisbon and the pristine Portuguese Riviera. We were delighted to experience the joy of the city as it prepared for the feast of its patron, St. Anthony of Lisbon (Padua). He was actually born there and we were happy to be able to have Mass in the Cathedral (Largo Santo António da Sé), which is also the place of the great Saint's birth.

Before long we were on our way back to Canada—and looking forward to our next adventure ... stay tuned—you may be interested!! ✂



St. Joseph's General Hospital Centennial Celebrations

By Jane Murphy, President & CEO, St. Joseph's General Hospital

2013 marks the 100th Anniversary of St. Joseph's General Hospital. A variety of activities and events have been held throughout the year to honour this centennial.

In February, St. Joseph's unveiled a beautiful commemorative mural in the hospital lobby.



Artist's rendering of Healing Gardens

Two special commemorative videos have been produced, capturing the compassionate care provided by staff, physicians and volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital. They are available for viewing on YouTube:

1. Video montage portraying a century of health care service over the generations. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXy5jGWm-6g>
2. Celebration of 100 years of service; paying homage to the Sisters while reflecting on their accomplishments and spirit, as exemplified today in care with compassion at St. Joseph's. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvqhKUxya4k>

An informative newspaper insert was produced in June, and on July 1 the hospital participated in the Canada Day Parade in Courtenay.

On July 5 the Hospital held its Annual General Meeting and a Gala Event, themed *An Evening in the Garden*.

A celebratory Mass was held at Christ the King Parish on July 7 in honour of the Hospital's centennial anniversary, followed by a celebration on the grounds of St. Joseph's. The Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Bishop of Victoria and five Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto participated and the weekend events were even more special because of their presence.

A commemorative book is in production and is anticipated for release in the fall. Additionally, the proceeds from the St. Joseph's Hospital Annual Golf Tournament will support the creation of a commemorative Healing Gardens on the grounds of St. Joseph's with anticipated completion late Fall 2013.

St. Joseph's General Hospital is honoured to have served the communities of the Comox Valley and surrounding region for 100 years. When the Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph's responded to the call to establish a hospital in the Comox Valley in 1913 they began a tradition of serving by invitation. We are grateful and appreciative that this invitation has extended over the decades and St. Joseph's has evolved to meet the needs of the growing population of the Comox Valley and region. ✂

Diocesan Messenger Readership Survey

The Board of Directors for the Diocesan Messenger believes it is appropriate at this stage in the life of our Diocesan paper to get some feedback from our readers, and to that end we have created The 2013 Readership Survey. If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey—there's still time!

This survey is available for completion in a number of ways including online, on a fillable PDF file, or by hand. Options are:

1. Complete the survey online here: <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/2013-reader-survey.php>.
2. Download the PDF from the website (<http://www.rcdvictoria.org/2013-reader-survey.php>), complete it on your computer and then either submit it by clicking on the “submit” button on the form or email it to editor@rcdvictoria.org.
3. Print a hard copy and complete it by hand. You would then give this to your parish office or forward it directly to: Editor, Diocesan Messenger, 1– 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC, V8X 2A1, or fax it to (250)479-5423.

The Survey is anonymous unless you wish to provide your email address for further communication; information will be tabulated and shared in the November edition of the paper. The survey will be available for completion until September 30, 2013. We estimate it will take between 10 and 20 minutes to complete, depending on the level of detail you wish to provide.

As we move forward with our communications plans in the Diocese, it's important that we understand the preferences and needs of our community of faith. Thank you so much for helping with this survey; we look forward to continuing to serve you in the years to come! ✂

Sister Pat Macaulay Mission Award

by Dale Jeffrey, Christ the King, Courtenay

Each year in June, St. Joseph's Hospital makes a presentation of the Sister Pat Macaulay Mission Award. Steve Hill, Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, coordinated this presentation. One of the highlights of the 100th Anniversary Celebrations at St. Joseph's Hospital was Sr. Pat Macaulay's presence to help Steve Hill present this year's awards.

Fr. Marek Paczka thanked each recipient for their good work, saying they serve as the voice, the helping hands and the heart of compassion of the Good Samaritan today. Each recipient also received a personal letter of appreciation from Bishop Richard Gagnon.

St. Joseph's Hospital mission is *Care with Compassion*; Sr. Pat Macaulay exemplified this mission statement. The establishment of the Sr. Pat Macaulay Mission Award was a perfect fit for the Hospital and a way to honour Sr. Pat. Mission Award recipients are nominated by their peers; this Award presentation is respected and admired by all the hospital staff. The recipients model the mission statement of *Care with Compassion* in each of their areas of employment in the hospital. This year being the 100th Anniversary of the Hospital there were fifteen recipients who were nominated from many diverse areas of the hospital:

- Janice Wagemann, Telehealth/Education/Volunteers/Colonoscopy
- Kelly Viklund, Diagnostic Imaging
- Carol Tinga, Nurse Educator
- Gino Tancon, Physician
- Joycelyn and Joe Richard, Lay Ministers, Christ the King Parish
- Brenda Phillips, The Views Activity Director
- Ron Philip, Volunteer (Board & Foundation)
- Barb Paulson, Nurse Educator
- Joan McGrath, Lay Minister, Christ the King Parish
- Sharon McEwan, Nurse
- Cori Knudsen, Patient Placement
- Pat Fish, Volunteer (Auxiliary)
- Brian Ducedre, Patient Care & Ethics
- Craig Dickson, Respiratory Therapist

Christ the King Parish Archivist Tess Dennis coordinated a photographic display of the History of the Hospital and the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto founded the Hospital in 1913. The Hospital has grown and is now a 241 bed facility (116 acute care and 125 complex care beds) serving a population of more than 65,000 residents of the Comox Valley and surrounding communities.

Parishioners of Christ the King Parish who attended included Joycelyn and Joe Richard, Joan McGrath, Brian Ducedre and Kelly Viklund. ✂



Back, L-R: Fr. Marek Paczka, Steve Hill
Front, L-R: Brian Ducedre, Joan McGrath, Joseph and Joycelyn Richard

Legacy of The Sisters of St. Ann Celebrated at the Art Gallery of Victoria

Excerpted from a July 2013 Press Release

The role of the Sisters of St. Ann as pioneering artists and art educators in Victoria will be commemorated in a new exhibition, which opened this summer at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV).

Nurturing the Creative Spirit: The Sisters of St. Ann runs through December 8 in the AGGV's Drury Gallery and celebrates the 2011 deposit of eighteen paintings from the Sisters' art collection at the Gallery. The works include important historic scenes of early Victoria, inspiring religious works, and Emily Carr's painting, *Wild Lilies*, which is currently on display in the AGGV's feature exhibition *Emily Carr: On the Edge of Nowhere*. Carr gave the painting to the Sisters of St. Ann in appreciation for the care they provided to her sister Elizabeth, who died in 1936.

"The Sisters of St. Ann can be credited with making a significant contribution to the visual arts in Victoria, both as teachers and artists," said Michelle Jacques, Chief Curator, AGGV. "This exhibition will provide an opportunity to appreciate and reflect upon the artistic legacy of the Sisters in our community."

In 1858, a small group of Sisters—the Sisters of St. Ann—traveled from Quebec to establish a convent in Victoria. They also established institutions of education, notably St. Ann's Academy, which is recognized as one of the first schools in BC to offer an art program. The Sisters recognized the potential of art education to ready students for both the spiritual and practical aspects of life, for 103 years, from 1873 until the Academy closed in 1973, the Sisters offered classes to students and the broader community.

"In Victoria, art bridged religious, social, racial and age divides as well as linking a community of religious women to the larger secular community," said guest Curator and Archivist, Sisters of St. Ann, Carey Pallister. "The Sisters' and student art was sold at annual bazaars to raise money, and the Sisters taught art not only to their students but the women of Victoria as well. These external relationships encouraged a legacy of art education that is still recognized today."

For more information about the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, visit www.aggv.ca.

For more information about the Sisters of St. Ann in B.C., visit www.sistersofsaintanne.org/bc. ✂

Nurturing the Creative Spirit: The Sisters of St. Ann

Remarks made by Sr. Marie Zarowny SSA, Province Leader, at the opening of *Nurturing the Creative Spirit: The Sisters of St. Ann* at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Creativity appears to be a uniquely human characteristic that can bring joy, beauty, challenge and progress to our human existence ... not only to the one who creates but to all of society.

When has the world been in greater need of creativity? Of the impetus to view situations and people from other perspectives; to see those who are different from us not as "other" but as "one with"; to discover non-violent means of resolving conflict; to not accept the either/or ways of thinking that are so much a part of this culture?

The arts *nurture* this creative spirit and we thank the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria for making art available to the public in a way that educates, delights, challenges, uplifts and inspires. Thank you for highlighting the need to nurture the creative spirit ... especially during this Exhibition by sharing with the public the role the Sisters of St. Ann have had in the nurturing process.

We delight in our partnership with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and look forward to future opportunities for continuing collaboration. ✂

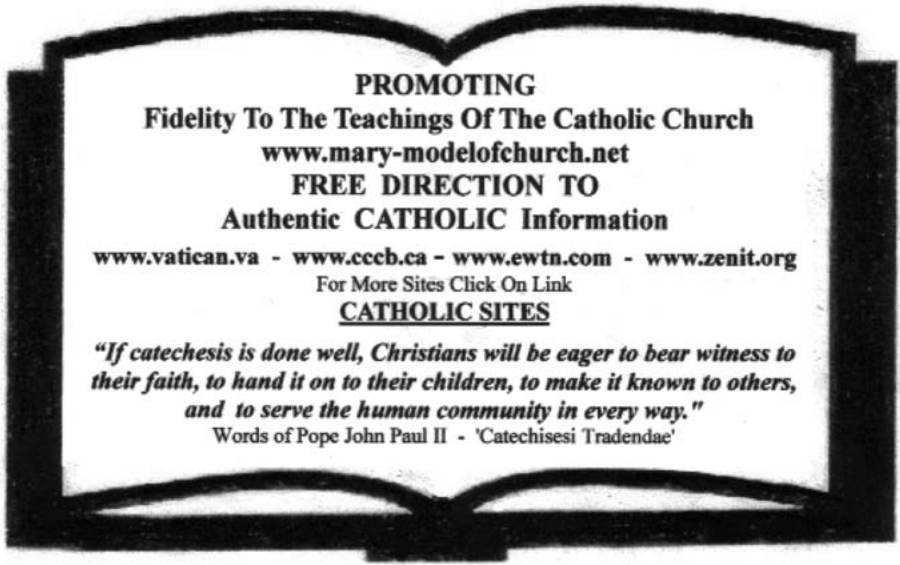
CWL Initiates Anti-Pornography Campaign

by Evelyn Rigby, CWL BC & Yukon Communications Chair

At the National Convention of the Catholic Women's League held recently in Regina, plans for a new anti-pornography campaign were unveiled. Formulated by a sub-committee of the Communications Standing Committee, these include the sending of postcards to the Minister of Justice and all Members of Parliament, and the inclusion of a fact sheet in the Fall League magazine educating members about the ever-present evil effects of pornography on society.

In her Oral Report, Cecile Miller, National Communications Chairperson, encouraged members to send the postcards in October. There will also be a designated month for each province to send letters. As before, it is hoped that members will wear white ribbons throughout October, and will be ready to respond to any queries.

For more information visit www.cwl.ca. ✂



In Memoriam

Sr. Debra Frances Freeman SSA

Sr. Debra Frances Freeman SSA was born April 13, 1957 in Cold Lake, Alberta; she died August 27, 2013 at Hospice in Victoria, B.C. Beloved daughter, the eldest of three children of George and Norma Freeman (Harris), Debra entered The Sisters of St. Ann in 1986. She pronounced her vows on August 16, 1988.

During her childhood years, Debra lived in Europe, Ontario and Quebec due to her father's service with the RCAF. The family later settled in British Columbia and Debra graduated from Similkameen Secondary School, Keremeos in 1975 and from St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Victoria in 1979. Prior to entering The Sisters of St. Ann, Debra ministered as a registered nurse at Prince George Regional Hospital and Cowichan District Hospital; after entering she nursed at Victoria Hospice.

Following clinical pastoral training, Debra served as Chaplain and Coordinator of Volunteers at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver on the palliative care unit (1990-1993). She was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the nursing program at New Caledonia College in gratitude for her support and contribution to the program. In 1997, Debra changed ministry paths and obtained a Master's Degree in Ministry and Spirituality from Regis College, Toronto and a Diploma in Spiritual Direction from Mercy Centre in California.

After her studies, Debra returned to minister at Queenswood Spirituality Centre in Victoria as Program Coordinator, Spiritual Director and Retreat Director. She also served her Community as a member of the Provincial Council.

In 2005, Debra chose, for a short time, to embrace the life of The Poor Clares Community in Duncan. When she returned to Victoria and The Sisters of St. Ann, Debra assisted our senior Sisters at St. Ann's Residence until she herself needed care. From her earliest years, Debra's creativity flourished through her art and while at St. Ann's Residence and Camelot she gave herself increasingly to the ministry of art. Especially during these last two years she strove to live life fully, graciously and sensitively, inspiring many as she faced the challenges of aggressive cancer.

Predeceased by her brother, James ("Jimmy") (1988) and her father, George (2004), Sister Debra is survived by her mother, Norma; sister, Colleen Hackenberg (Steve); nieces, Celeste and Erin; aunts, uncles, cousins, many friends and her religious community of The Sisters of St. Ann.

The Sisters express profound gratitude to Debra's very close friend, Joy Zwicker and her family; to the James Bay Home Care staff; Doctors Truong, MacPherson and Battershill; and the amazing staff and volunteers at Victoria Hospice. ✕



Sr. Marie Sylvia Wrubleski SSA (Sr. Mary Lucille)

Sr. Mary Lucille SSA was born Marie Sylvia Wrubleski on a farm in Kuroki Saskatchewan on July 30, 1921. Marie died at Mount St. Mary Hospital on July 23, 2013.

Born at home, she was the seventh of nine children born to Michael Wrubleski and Apalonia Zgoda. Although her mother died when she was only ten years old, Marie experienced a close-knit, loving family that fostered growth in faith.

Marie entered the Novitiate of The Sisters of St. Ann on August 20, 1938, in Victoria, BC, receiving the name Sr. Mary Lucille and pronounced her vows on September 8, 1940. A dedicated teacher, Sr. Mary Lucille delighted in seeing her students achieve their goals. She taught students from grades one through eight in Victoria, Mission City, New Westminster, Duncan, Kuper Island, Prince George and Vancouver. First Nations children had a special place in her heart and she fostered their education and belief in themselves at the Kuper and Kamloops Indian Residential Schools and for 17 years at St. Mary's Mission Residential School; she also helped their transition to public schools as a home-school coordinator.

In later years, Sister Mary Lucille provided Pastoral Care Ministry at Mount St. Francis in Nelson and in St. James Parish in Vernon. In 2001 she became Coordinator of the Sisters at St. Ann's Residence in Victoria. Suffering a stroke in 2003 she was a witness to us of patience in suffering and trust in and longing for God.


The Sisters are deeply grateful to the staffs of both St. Ann's Residence and Mount St. Mary Hospital for their attentive care to Marie.

Marie is predeceased by her parents and seven siblings. She is survived by her sister Jeanette McKinnon (Stanley-deceased), nephew Allan Ottman and numerous nieces and nephews as well as her own community of The Sisters of St. Ann. ✕



“In God's great plan, every detail is important, even yours, even my humble little witness, even the hidden witness of those who live their faith with simplicity in everyday family relationships, work relationships, friendships.


~ Pope Francis, *Homily*, April 14, 2013




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66th CWL Provincial Convention—“Let Your Faith Shine”

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

The successful passing of three resolutions was just one of the many highlights of the 66th BC & Yukon CWL provincial convention held from June 6 – 8 at Harbour Towers and Suites in Victoria.

The host planning committee, ably led by Sheila Quinn and Betty Hoskins, had prepared a comfortable setting for two hundred CWL delegates to delve into the responsibilities and rewards of being active women of faith in service to God and Canada. Graced with the attendance of Archbishop Michael Miller CSB along with Bishops Richard Gagnon, Stephen Jensen, and Gary Gordon, President Doreen Gowans welcomed Life Members and many first-timers including representatives from the University of Victoria Council.

The first resolution entitled: *Uninterrupted Services for Disabled Youth to Adult Services* will be formally presented to members of the provincial legislature in the fall. Formulated by a Powell River member, it addressed the troublesome wait period during the transition from childhood to adulthood, when various kinds of support are no longer available to our special needs citizens and their families. At the resolutions dialogue which traditionally precedes the Opening Mass, members learned of many instances where the present practices have caused hardship to all concerned.

The other two resolutions from Kamloops dealt with live births from late-term abortions and concerns about the lack of a regulatory framework for assisted human reproductive technologies. These two resolutions have been forwarded to the National Committee. If approved and passed, they will be taken by our national representatives to the annual fall meeting with federal members of parliament.

The varied presentations were thought provoking, challenging and uplifting. Archbishop Miller spoke of the circumstances leading up to the election of Pope Francis, and enlightened attendees about the internal and external challenges now facing our Holy Father. He encouraged attendees to pray for the success of this papacy, and to be vigorous and joyful in proclaiming the gospel. Bishop Gagnon, expounding on the national and provincial CWL themes *We have Seen the Lord* and *Let our Faith Shine* spurred members to contemplate and give witness to their encounter with Christ while addressing the big questions about the meaning and purpose of life, why we believe and why we are practicing Catholics. Pat Nichol's presentation and workshop further explored the place of joy in our lives, with practical ways of recognizing and conveying the happiness in our lives, even through suffering. Halla Elmobayad from BC Cancer Prevention Agency gave many practical examples of effective measures to reduce the risk of cancer. Susan House, Catholic Health Association, invited the CWL to support plans to honour the legacy of the congregations of religious women who worked in BC's education, social services and health care since 1858. Roxanne McDonald stirred up interest in the 2015 National Convention to be held in Vancouver. The interview with Fr. Tien Tran revealed a vocation grounded in the love of a Vietnamese Catholic family upbringing, and tested and brought to fruition through adversity and adolescence in an alien culture.

Each day included a planned social activity. The Wine and Cheese reception following the Opening Mass was generously hosted by the Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council 7934, and gave members and clergy from six dioceses an opportunity to mingle, renew old acquaintanceships and form new friendships. Friday's International Night featured a fun-filled musical tribute from the provincial executive to departing Fr. Tran, followed by members young and old singing and dancing to the easy-on-the-ear ethnic music of the Gypsy Rovers. Many national costumes were proudly worn, with the Dutch contingent being the largest. At the banquet, newly installed Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. Edwin Kulling traced his story from conversion to priesthood. Winners of the Life Members Arts and Culture Award—Vincent Plana, and Mollie Boucher Bursary—Leandra Hooker Armstrong—were announced. Both were unable to attend owing to a clash with graduation ceremonies, so each will receive their award in their own diocese at a later date.

The Opening Mass took place in St. Patrick's Parish in Oak Bay beginning with the procession of Canadian, BC, Yukon and CWL flags. The main celebrant and homilist was Archbishop Michael Miller CSB, who spoke of the two great inseparable commandments of love. Victoria Diocesan President Kathy Weswick chaired the official opening ceremony in which civic dignitaries including Acting Mayor Chris Coleman and Andrew Weaver MLA brought greetings. On Friday Bishop Jensen concelebrated the feast day of the Sacred Heart in which homilist Fr. Tien Tran referred to the perfect love of Christ as manifested in the Gospels. Victoria Diocesan President Kathy Weswick participated in the memorial ceremony for the deceased CWL members of 2012. The proceeds of the collection taken at this Mass were for the Medical Mission to Vietnam. At the Closing Mass, held in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Bishop Gagnon was the main celebrant and homilist. Fr. Edwin Kulling was installed as the new Provincial Spiritual Advisor, and the Provincial Officers re-affirmed their commitment to serve.

Instructed votes approved the raise in provincial per capita fees and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Next year's convention is set for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Kamloops June 4 – 8. For those unable to attend this year's convention oral reports are being posted on the provincial website: www.bcyukoncwl.com. ✂



Fr. Joseph Killoran:50 Years of Priestly Service

by Marilyn Simpson

The ten year old boy turned to his mother and said: “Mother! When I grow up I’m going to be a priest!”

Not only did his prediction come to pass in Belledune, New Brunswick on June 16, 1963 as he was ordained into his calling as a priest, but on June 17, 2013, Fr. Joe Killoran's colleagues, friends and parish supporters gathered to celebrate with him 50 years of service to God.

Fr. Joe was ordained for the Archdiocese of Edmonton following many years as a teacher and administrator.

Teaching, although satisfactory, never gave him the fulfillment he sought, and acknowledging that he was being called to serve in a different capacity, he began his studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton in 1958. His continuing appetite for learning led him to accomplish his BE, BA and Bachelor of Theology degrees including time for study in Israel. Thirty-three of his years of priesthood have been served here on Vancouver Island.

Fr. Joe planned all aspects of this celebration and included many of his long time acquaintances from New Brunswick. Prior to the evening celebration, a collegial dinner was shared at the parish rectory with Bishop Richard Gagnon, Fr. Marek Paczyk, Pastor of Christ the King, Fr. Gerry Veilleux and Fr. George Helou, past and serving pastors at CFB Comox.

The celebration of the Mass for which Fr. Joe had long prepared began at 7 pm with the church filled with long time friends and parishioners. An honour guard of the Dr. Briggs Council of the Knights of Columbus preceded Fr. Joe Killoran and Bishop Richard Gagnon and the visiting priests. The Homily was offered by Bishop Gagnon on *The Calling of the Priesthood*. He reflected on Fr. Joe's choices for the readings, all of which dealt with the call to serve, from Abraham to Paul, and to the calling of the twelve Apostles.

The Catholic Women's League had prepared a beautiful array of food that was a feast for the eyes and the palate. The excitement of the new Hall and old friends reconnecting was felt throughout the space. At Fr. Joe's request, some musician friends had put together a sing-a-long of old favourites as well as a slide presentation to entertain the crowd. Fr. Joe being a “down homer” loves an old fashioned sing-a-long! Eating and visiting and recollections of days gone by were the intent of the evening and were well met.

90 years as a child of God! 50 years as a servant of God! What a legacy and it continues today. Fr. Joe lives in his own home with its beautiful gardens, cares for himself, cooks and entertains friends, celebrates daily Mass either in his home, at the Hospital chapel on Thursday Mornings or Mondays at Christ the King, visits the sick in Hospital and generally continues to serve the Lord in every way he can, even to filling in for our pastor from time to time. Fr. Joe is happy in his calling and honoured to have the ability to continue to serve. What a blessing to have him in our midst.

Congratulations, Fr. Joe, on reaching a significant milestone in your life and God bless you for your willingness to share it with us. ✂



“There are the saints of every day, the “hidden” saints, a sort of “middle class of holiness”, as a French author said, that “middle class of holiness” to which we can all belong.

~ Pope Francis, *Homily*, April 14, 2013

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L'évêque Richard Gagnon a célébré son 30e anniversaire de sacerdoce à l'Eglise St-Jean-Baptiste

by Dr. Réal Roy, Co-président, Conseil de pastoral paroissial

Le lundi 24 juin, la petite église St-Jean-Baptiste sur la rue Richmond à Oak Bay recevait la visite de notre évêque Richard Gagnon venu célébrer l'Eucharistie en français en l'honneur de St-Jean Baptiste, avec à ses côtés le père Ho, remplaçant le père Benoît Laplante en son absence.

Connaissez-vous la seule paroisse francophone de Victoria? La paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste fut fondée par des francophones de Victoria il y a plus de 50 ans. Certains de ces paroissiens de la première heure sont encore avec nous et sont présents lors des célébrations dominicales. La paroisse regroupe environ 300 fidèles avec une soixantaine qui participent plusieurs fois par mois à la messe dominicale.

Cette année, notre évêque Richard Gagnon est venu célébrer avec les paroissiens de St-Jean-Baptiste la fête du saint patron des Canadiens-français. L'homélie de notre évêque, prononcée en français, nous rappelait d'ailleurs non seulement le rôle de St-Jean Baptiste comme premier témoin de la mission divine de Jésus de Nazareth, mais aussi le rôle des premiers missionnaires et colons français venus apporter dès le 17e siècle la bonne nouvelle aux habitants de cette grande terre d'Amérique qu'est devenu le Canada. À la suite de la célébration, notre évêque s'est joint à un petit groupe d'une dizaine de fidèles qui ont partagé un repas fraternel à un restaurant du quartier. C'était aussi une façon de célébrer un autre anniversaire important. Il s'agissait du 30e anniversaire sacerdotal de l'évêque Richard la même journée!

C'était le deuxième anniversaire sacerdotal que la paroisse célébrait cette année! En effet, il y avait eu la célébration du 50e anniversaire de sacerdoce du Père Benoît Laplante le 9 juin 2013. Le père Laplante est responsable de la Paroisse depuis la fin des années 1990 et les paroissiens sont heureux de pouvoir compter sur un curé francophone polyglotte.

La paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste se sent aussi privilégiée de pouvoir compter sur un évêque aussi dévoué qui s'exprime tout aussi chaleureusement en français qu'en anglais. Nous lui souhaitons de continuer à servir si bien le Seigneur pour les trente prochaines années.

Si vous passez par la rue Richmond un dimanche matin à 10 :00, n'hésitez pas à venir célébrer avec nous. Après chaque célébration dominicale –c'est-à-dire à 11 :00, il y a un partage fraternel de café, thé et biscuits et parfois de gâteau. Même si vous ne parlez pas français, nous serons heureux de vous accueillir en anglais. ✂

“We are not the expression of a structure or of an organizational need: even with the service of our authority we are called to be a sign of the presence and action of the Risen Lord; thus to build up the community in brotherly love.

~ Pope Francis, *Profession of Faith with the Bishops of the Italian Episcopal Conference*, May 23, 2013

Bishop Richard Gagnon's 30th Anniversary Celebrated at St. Jean Baptiste Church

by Dr. Réal Roy, Co-Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

On Monday, June 24, the small St. Jean Baptiste Church on Richmond in Oak Bay welcomed Bishop Gagnon who came to celebrate in French the Eucharist on the feast of St. John the Baptist with Fr. Ho while Fr. Benoît Laplante was traveling.

Do you know the only Francophone parish in Victoria? The St. Jean Baptiste Parish was founded, by a group of Francophone Catholics living in Victoria who wanted to worship in their mother tongue, more than 50 years ago. Some of these founding parishioners are still with us and often come to Sunday Mass. The Parish counts about 300 faithful with about 60 coming several times a month to the Sunday Eucharist.

This year, Bishop Richard Gagnon came to celebrate with St. Jean Baptiste parishioners the feast of the Patron Saint of the French-Canadian. The homily of our Bishop, delivered in French, recalled not only the important role played by St. John the Baptist as the first witness of the divine mission of Jesus of Nazareth, but also of the role played by the first French missionaries and colonists in bringing—as early as the 17th century—the Good News to people of this vast North American land that has become Canada. Afterward the Bishop joined a small group of faithful who shared a meal at a local restaurant. It was a good way to celebrate another important anniversary: it was the 30th anniversary of priesthood of Bishop Richard the same day.

Earlier in the month we had also celebrated 50 years of priesthood of Fr. Benoît Laplante, who has served as pastor of St. John Baptist Parish since the late 1990s.

The St. Jean Baptiste Parish feels privileged to be able to count on a Bishop as devoted, and who can express himself as warmly in French as in English. We wish him to continue to serve so well the Lord for the next 30 years.

If you ever pass by Richmond Street near Gonzales Bay on a Sunday morning around 10 am, don't be shy and come celebrate with us. After Sunday Mass at 11 am we always invite everyone to share coffee and tea, and cookies—and sometimes, cakes! Even if you don't speak French, we will be happy to welcome you in English. ✂



Bishop Gagnon concelebrating with Fr. Ho

Environmental Stewardship in Churches

by Peter Daniels

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria is piloting the application of a software system that guides pastors and church administrators through the process of developing a Green Church Plan.

The system will be tested and refined in the process of undertaking this pilot project. On completion, the system will be available, at a nominal cost, for distribution to all churches.

Green Churches—Moral Imperative

The moral imperative for stewardship of the environment has been on the agenda of the Catholic Church for decades, but is particularly relevant right now!

- **Pope Francis' Inauguration Homily:** *The vocation of being a “protector”, however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live.*
- **USCCB 2009 Earth Day:** *As Catholics, we are called to renew the earth, not escape its challenge.*
- **The Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, April 2001:** *The principle of the common good must today be enlarged not only to accept the stewardship of the earth, but to include all forms of creation.*
- **Pope JPII 1990 World Day of Peace:** *Today the ecological crisis has assumed such proportions as to be the responsibility of everyone... I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue.*

Green Churches—Financial Incentive

In addition to the moral considerations, there is the financial incentive of potentially achieving large cost savings through the reduction in energy consumption that results from the implementation of Green Plans.

Scope of System

The software system—*Our Green Church*—focuses on the development of a Green Plan for the church building and its operations. It currently includes the considerations of Energy Savings and Waste Management. Subsequent topics will cover Water, Food, Supplies and Transportation considerations.

As part of a Green Church initiative, an accompanying module—*My Green Plan*—is made available, free of charge, to individual parishioners to help them develop sustainability plans for their households.

How it works

The process applied within *Our Green Church* is designed to lead a “Green Team” through the process of considering the merits of a comprehensive menu of potential environmental improvements.

It concludes on a detailed Green Action Plan, with features for assigning responsibilities and monitoring progress.

The goal is to help parishioners change attitudes and behaviours towards energy savings and waste reductions, enhance operational efficiencies of churches, and carefully undertake capital investments that have short simple paybacks for the Diocese.

For more information, please contact me at (250) 589-6782 or by email to southerncross@telus.net, or visit www.greenchurches.ca. ✂

Fr. André Dion Speaks of 60 Years of Service

Excerpted from Fr. Dion’s Homily, St. Andrew’s Cathedral, June 21, 2013

When we get older like me, wanting to say too much becomes the main temptation for us. I would like to start, however, with three stories about my Guardian Angel who must have been so busy protecting and guiding me during my years in the north of Vancouver Island.



L to R: Fr. André Dion with Bishop Gagnon and Vicar General Fr. John Laszczyk

The first time was during one of those long Sundays. After a 9 am Mass at Port Hardy, 11 am Mass in Port Alice, a monthly meeting there in the afternoon, the 5 pm Mass in Port McNeill, and Prayer Group in the evening, I was finally on my way home to Port Hardy. The car was running well and nice radio music was playing; no wonder I went to sleep ...

But what a strange wake-up! The car was still going through an opening in the forest on some kind of heavy grass with holes and big branches all around. Stopping the car, I found I had gone through a “trail road” with mountain precipice on one side and a lake on the other side. Yet I was safe; thank you my Guardian Angel!

The second time was on a Saturday afternoon. I was painting the church building, an old Army H. Hut, and was using old pieces of wood and planks to create scaffolding. Suddenly I found myself sinking down and down more and more every minute as the scaffolding collapsed from 35 feet in height to the ground. Yet I was safe and sound; thank you Guardian Angel!

The third incident occurred when I was building a Steeple near the church to support a huge Cross and maybe a special bell; the whole steeple was to be about 40 feet in height. The main support for the steeple was made of three huge pieces of wood about 35 feet in height and measuring 10x10 inches. These were already installed on the ground on a big square of cement.

One morning, even though it was raining, I decided to go up on the scaffolding and start the installation of the Cross. It was then that I slipped and fell. Going down fast toward the cement below with my legs breaking through parts of the scaffolding, I grabbed one of those big 10x10 pieces of wood with my hands. Both hands became filled with sharp pieces of wood and also full of blood. Yet I was still alive; thank you Guardian Angel!

Close now to 90 years “young,” once in a while I do wonder why our God is keeping us alive. Is it “coincidence” or God’s coincidence? Yet we know that we have a God who loves us, all of us, so tenderly. We have a God who loves us so much. How come it took me so long to find this? How come it took me so many years to find out we have a God who loves us tenderly? He is waiting for us at the door watching and wondering: “Is my son coming today? Is my daughter coming today?” He is waiting for us; it will be an embrace. It will not be whether what we did might be wrong; rather it will be an embrace of love from a loving God.

This is why the mystics say often that the name of God is *Love* as does Scripture (1 John 4:8). Some of the mystics say we are in God and God is in us. St. Teresa of Avila and Karl Rahner mention this. Those of us who were baptized received the Christ, the Spirit. Later we were Holy Spirit filled. A bit later we were fed at Mass by the Bread of Life, the bread and wine, fed by the Holy Eucharist. God is in us and we are in God. Teilhard de Chardin wrote: “God is in the Universe, and the Universe is in God”.

Bishop Richard Gagnon, it is Love that brought us together today. It is your love that invited me to concelebrate the Eucharist with you, and all my Brother Priests, and this whole Assembly of the Faithful. God bless you all. ✠

Fifty years ago, Fr. Benoit Laplante Became a Priest

by Dr. Réal Roy, Co-chair, St. Jean Baptiste Parish Pastoral Council

In June of this year, St. Jean Baptiste Church was in a festive mood! Parishioners and Fr. Benoit Laplante’s friends had gathered for a very special dominical Mass followed by a warm celebration.

Fifty years earlier, on June 8, 1963, a young man—Benoit Laplante—was ordained a priest to preach the Word of God and serve Christ. He had been born 25 years earlier in Sainte-Hélène de Kamouraska, a beautiful area in the Lower St. Lawrence River where fresh water coming from the interior of the continent meets the vast sea: an image that illustrates well the 50 years of priesthood of Fr. Benoit.

After graduating from the Faculty of Theology at the French Laval University in Quebec city, and serving few years in Lapocatière, Québec, he went to Nicaragua to serve as a missionary. Over a period of 15 years he built several churches and schools, founded cooperatives for peasants, and was evicted twice from the country: the first time by the conservative Somoza regime and after his return, by the communist Sandinista regime. Since 1999 he has been not only leading, in French, the Francophone Catholic community at St. Jean Baptiste Church, but also celebrating Masses in English at the Cathedral and Masses in Spanish at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Esquimalt.

The Banquet in the parish hall was a wonderful opportunity for all participants to express their gratitude to Fr. Benoit to have served so well and so generously in the name of God. Congratulation to the organizing committee: Pierre Dupuis, Louis-Philippe Fortier, Claudette Lake, Gérald Moreau and Jean-Claude Vincent, for a wonderful celebration. ✠

A Revitalized Chinese Community Reaching Out!

by Benedict Chow

The Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC), in a renewed effort to reach out and evangelize, will be holding gatherings on every First Saturday of each month, from 3:30 – 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church, located at 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria (Near Royal Oak Exchange off Highway 17, across from Commonwealth Pool).

Starting September 7, 2013, the meetings will include Bible study, faith sharing, talks, prayers, singing and Chinese Mass (in Cantonese and Mandarin whenever a visiting priest is available). Reconciliation is available before Mass and each gathering will be completed with a potluck dinner.

Missions of this basic ecclesial community include helping the elderly and newcomers to the city (foreign students and new immigrants, for example) who may have difficulties in practising their faith in English, and ultimately bringing all members closer to the faith communities within the Diocese and beyond.

Full support and encouragement has been received from the Diocese as well as Fr. Manuel Cardoso, Pastor, and Mr. Arthur Paulo, Chair, Parish Council, of Our Lady of Fatima Church where activities will be held. We were ecstatic to have our Most Rev. Bishop Gagnon attend our June meeting to offer valuable advice and guidance. Until such time a multi-lingual priest knowing the language can be found, the Community is most happy and grateful that Fr. John Mak, a retired priest from Calgary, has agreed to visit and celebrate Mass with us on regular basis, starting November 2, 2013.

Tentative activity dates for 2013 and 2014 are:

2013

- September 7—Faith Sharing by Master Composer Zhao-Feng Zhong, no Mass
- October 5—Welcome Newcomer Day, no Mass
- November 2—Chinese Mass celebrated by Fr. Mak
- December 7—Advent Retreat and Chinese Mass

2014

- January 4—New Year Chinese Mass
- February 1—Chinese Mass
- March 1—Chinese Mass
- April 5—Lenten Retreat and Mass
- May 3—Chinese Mass
- June 7—Chinese Mass
- July 5—No Chinese Mass
- August 2—No Chinese Mass

You and yours are cordially invited to share the fellowship! For further information or to confirm date and time of activities, please call (250) 893-9938 (English), (250) 298-7926 (Cantonese), or (250) 507-8985 (Mandarin). ✠



Most Rev. Bishop Richard Gagnon with the Chinese Catholic Community during a recent visit by Fr. John Mak, a retired priest from Calgary.

維多利亞天主教華人團體更新外展事工！

維多利亞天主教華人團體為更新外展與傳教事工，於二零一三年九月七日起逢每月首星期六下午三時半至六時半在花地瑪聖母堂舉行定期聚會。花地瑪聖母堂地址：Our Lady of Fatima Church, 4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria (近 Royal Oak Exchange 出十七公路口, Commonwealth Pool 英聯邦泳池對面)。

聚會活動包括信仰生活分享、專題講座、聖經研討、祈禱、歌詠、中文彌撒 (粵及普通話在每逢有神父到訪之日)。修和聖事將於彌撒前進行。每次聚會皆有聚餐 (自攜食物) 作結。該致力為基層基督徒信仰團體之任務包括協助英語有困難的年長教友及新移民、留學生等能用母語實行信仰, 使教友與教區內外團體更密切交流。

於此特別感謝 域多利教區及花地瑪堂卡多素本堂神父暨堂委會主席保祿之鼎力支持與鼓勵。大會對基隆主教於六月初蒞臨參加麥振群神父彌撒後之聚會並提供寶貴意見及建議深表興奮及感激。在教區未找到會說中文神父之前, 我們十分開心及感謝已退休之卡加利 麥振群神父 慨允由二零一三年十一月二日起定期到訪並舉行彌撒及修和聖事等。

二零一三、一四年活動日期暫定為：二零一三年九月七日 (鍾肇峰先生信仰分享, 無彌撒); 十月五日 (迎新日, 無彌撒); 十一月二日 (中文彌撒); 十二月七日 (將臨期退省及彌撒); 二零一四年一月四日 (新年彌撒); 二月一日 (中文彌撒); 三月一日 (中文彌撒); 四月五日 (封齋期退省及彌撒); 五月三日 (中文彌撒); 六月七日 (中文彌撒); 七月五日; 八月二日。

誠邀您和您的親友同來分享共融之樂!

如有其它疑問或核實活動日期及時間, 請致電 (250) 893-9938 (英文), (250) 298-7926 (粵語) 或 (250) 507-8985 (普通話) 查詢。

Vacation Bible Camp in Port Alberni

by Terri-Ann Wynans

Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni recently hosted a week-long summer Vacation Bible Camp for children.

The children enjoyed learning about living as God’s family through stories told by St. Luke in the book of Acts. The SonCreek Junction theme reminded the children that they must Start Up!, Open Up!, Listen Up! and Speak Up! to grow in the family of God.

The children enjoyed the songs, games, crafts, Bible stories and snacks very much. The leadership shown by the Parish youth was appreciated as well; they were wonderful role models for the younger children. ✂



Awesome teen helpers! L to R—Jonah Wynans, Drew van Bourgondien, Nate Wynans, Rachel VanViegen, Claudia Noel and Tim Wynans



More than 200 guests were served by the Knights of Columbus at Church of the Ascension’s CWL 75th Anniversary celebratory picnic. Pictured: Fr. Mel with Executives of the CWL.



Chemainus students and staff share their enthusiasm for St. Joseph’s School in the Ladysmith Days Parade. Seated on the hood: Taylor and Madison Ruckemesser.

Commemorating First Holy Eucharist with the First Nations Community in the Field: St. Ann’s Church, Duncan

by Sr. Ma. Rosviminda Ochoa RVM

The flicker of hope is gradually becoming a beacon of light to the First Nations—especially the children who are bringing the torch to their families.

At 3 pm on August 11, 2013, Bishop Richard Gagnon celebrated First Holy Eucharist with the First Nation community in the same field near the junction of Boys and Statlou Roads where the children and youth gather every Thursday afternoon. Fr. Jose Prakash concelebrated. Conferring baptism on the ten children made it more significant.

The families were indeed grateful for bringing back the community spirit through these events. Children are the seeds of hope, and so are the families who are supporting them to nurture the seedbed of faith.

Our gratitude is extended to Sr. Maria Elisa Lavarias who went out of her way to do the Sacramental preparation both in the homes of the children and in the field. Thanks also for the incessant dedication of the Legion of Mary and other volunteers to keep the Children and Youth Ministry a venue of faith formation. To the Cowichan Tribes Band Office, our heartfelt thanks for getting involved with the program and helping us journey with the children, hand in hand with the support of the Diocese of Victoria. ✂



iBelieve—Save the Date!

by Terri-Ann Wynans

iBelieve, a song recorded by Ken Yasinski, is the inspiration for the 2014 Camp Homewood youth retreat theme. All teens in grades 7 – 12 are invited to join us, so mark the date: January 31 – February 2, 2014 at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. Returning this year as retreat leaders are Ken Yasinski and the FacetoFace Ministry Team (www.f2f.ca).

Bonni Roset (St. Patricks, Campbell River, broset@telus.net) and Terri-Ann Wynans (Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni, wynans@shaw.ca) are once again coordinating this event. If you have any questions, please contact them. Registration packages will be delivered to parishes and youth leaders in early October. ✂





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*It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives
faith in the Son of God, who love
~ Galatians 2:20*

A Servant of the Lord

by Fr. David Hogman

On June 29, 2013, a decade-long journey of discernment, formation and education transitioned into my new life as a member of the ministerial priesthood. I say “transitioned” because although I am now Father David Hogman, everything that I was, I continue to be. In the same way that we all became a new creation with our Baptism and Confirmation, I became a priest to offer sacrifice for the glorification of God and for the sanctification of His people. For myself, one of the most touching signs of the celebration were the people who attended. It was my life in synopsis; it was my life in offering.

As I mentioned in my thank-you speech at the end of my ordination, a majority of a vocation is established by the age of 15. Before I thought of seminary, before I even became a Catholic, I am the son of the Revs. John and Michelle Hogman and that fact is one of the principal blessings of my life. My parents even pointed me towards the studies that would lead to my conversion and vocation. It was fitting therefore that the very Gospel passage that prompted my reception to the Catholic Church would be the Gospel proclaimed at my priestly ordination: “And you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”

From the moment my conscience was convicted of the nature and the identity of the Church, I was focused on becoming a priest. My vocation became the reason I studied, travelled and worked. After a few years, I entered the seminary and began my formal studies at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta. During my years as a parishioner at St. Andrew’s Cathedral, my studies at St. Joseph Seminary and my internship at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, the relationships that developed helped define the priest I have become and will shape my choices in the future. When I saw these people gathered in the pews as the procession began at the back of the Church, I knew it was real and I knew I wanted this with my whole heart.

Fourteen of my brother seminarians either flew or drove from Edmonton to serve at my ordination at a tremendous sacrifice of their own time and finances—both of which are limited. Even the retired seminary secretary made the journey. Several brother priests from all over Western Canada, members of the St. Joseph Seminary formation team and many of the priests from all over the Diocese came to welcome me into the fraternity of the priesthood. It was a lovely testimony to five years of seminary formation.

A little closer to home, I was delighted to see parishioners from all over the Diocese. It was a particular joy for me to see people from both St. Andrew’s Cathedral and Our Lady of the Rosary Parishes participating in the Liturgy, serving at the altar, singing in the choir and preparing those hidden details that made the Liturgy special. We even had volunteers from St. Andrew’s Regional High School usher for the celebration.

There were also many of my non-Catholic and non-Christian friends who took the time to share in the celebration. Members of Fairfield United Church, where my parents served as ministers for over twelve years, attended. I have not forgotten the positive influence that they have had in my life and it was a special blessing for me to give them a blessing on that day.

However, some the most special attendees were my family. My aunt came from Vancouver, my mom, sister and brother-in-law flew in from Toronto and my brother travelled from New York. What was of particular significance to me was that mom participated in the vesting rite during my ordination. Although we do not share the “what” of ministry, we certainly share a “why.” My parents taught me that ministry is always for the People of God. If God loved the world and gave us His only Son for our sake, the only proper response for me was and is to respond to God’s call by giving my life for the Church on Vancouver Island.

It goes without saying that the greatest participant in the celebration was Christ himself. For me, it was the fact that I was now wearing the stole and acting in Christ’s person. Even stranger still was how natural it felt to celebrate the Mass—as if I was made for it. The final piece of my life fell into place, and I am at home.

It has been an interesting time since my ordination praying the Mass, hearing confessions and simply being a priest in the day-to-day life of the parish. I ask for your prayers: that you pray for me and for our Diocese. Pray for our Diocese that more young men may be attentive to God’s call to the priesthood. Pray for me that I continue to be formed according to the heart of the Good Shepherd. It is only appropriate that those who helped begin God’s work in my life should be to help bring it to fulfillment. ✠

Photos: Andrew Waring



in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by
ved me and gave himself for me
ions 2:20



Faith in Action at John Paul II Catholic School and Mini Miracles Family Centre

by Kathy Korman, Principal

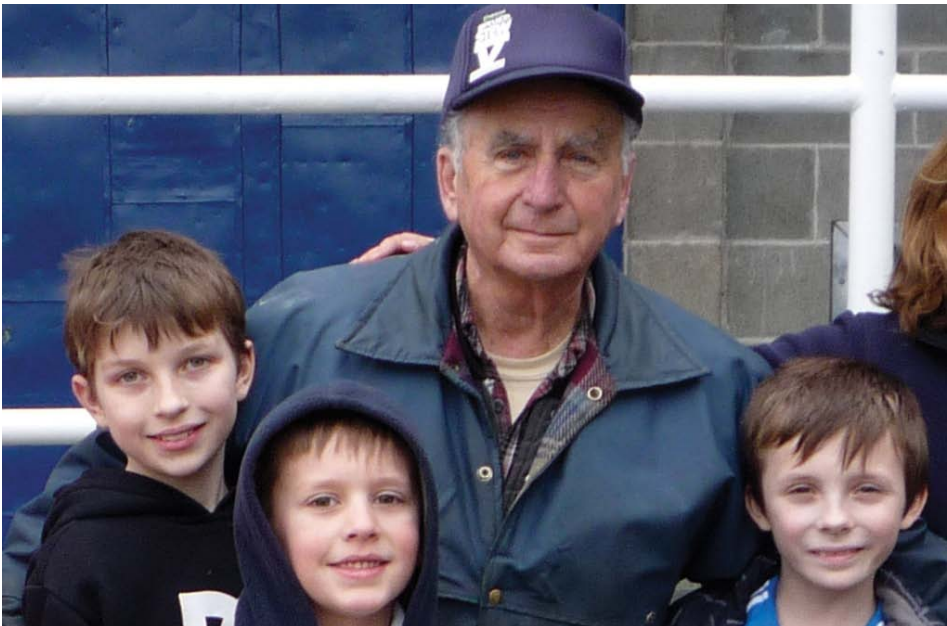
The doors of faith were wide open in Port Alberni during the 2012-13 school year. Fourteen students and siblings were baptized last spring and fifteen students received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. When asked how she felt after her First Reconciliation, one student remarked, “You know how you know we are happy when we skip in the hallway Mrs. Korman? Well, if I was at school, I’d skip in the hallway.” The sessions leading up to the celebration of the Sacraments provided many moments of grace for the parents and their children. The loving sense of community created through these events was heartwarming and strong. Staff members, school families, the CWL, the Knights of Columbus, parishioners and the sacramental team were all involved in some way for these special events. Everyone felt these sacramental moments deep in their hearts.

Another special event started with the blessing of our new chapel by Bishop Richard. The school chapel was renovated by Marge Norell and Joe Dol. It was decorated by Fr. Stephen Paine and his sister. Gilda Baron-Toaldo sewed new altar linens and a sanctuary light was donated in memory of Gertrude Nygaard. After the blessing, Marge Norell and Joe Dol were presented with a papal blessing in recognition of their tremendous volunteer work at JP II since April of 2005. Their hard work and many hours at the school are most appreciated. They are well known within the school community and much loved by the staff and students.

“Together we continue to make a difference in the Alberni Valley.

Other events this year that created community included a Gala and Silent Auction sponsored by the School Council. The staff spearheaded a Fun Fair which was a huge success. Some of the proceeds from these fundraising events enabled School Council to construct several new playground pieces of equipment. Mr. Joe Colistro was on hand to help cut the ribbon at our playground opening. Gilda Baron-Toaldo and Carlo Nichele also sponsored two Italian pasta dinners during the year. Their team of dedicated volunteers prepared wonderful food and enabled the school to benefit financially and spiritually through more community building.

School spirit is alive and well in Port Alberni! Thank you to all of the people who have contributed in so many ways to another successful year for our students and families. On behalf of the students and staff of JP II and Mini-Miracles, gratitude is extended to the volunteers, Fr. Stephen, School Council, Parents’ Auxiliary, Parish Council, the CWL and Knights of Columbus in both Church of the Ascension parish and Holy Family/Notre Dame parishes. Together we continue to make a difference in the Alberni Valley. ✂



Island Catholic Schools



Walk Humbly With Our Lord

by Joe Colistro, Superintendent

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

Island Catholic Schools is a community of six schools striving to help students reach the highest levels of development they can achieve by providing them with exceptional learning opportunities that stimulate growth in knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours and personal values in line with our Catholic beliefs.

In June we said farewell to one of our longest-standing schools, St. Andrew's Elementary. Centrally located in downtown Victoria, it brought parents and children together. One could always sense a feeling of warmth and caring throughout the building. This was not accidental; the feeling of belonging was purposeful. Many of the families and students from Saint Andrew's elementary will be moving to St. Joseph's, Victoria, this September where this strong sense of community will continue to be fostered. New friendships and relationships will be formed that allow God's grace to work within each of us. We look forward to these two schools forming one family and sharing both their gifts and traditions to create a vibrant new Catholic educational community. You can close a building but you cannot close a community.

As we look ahead to the new school year there is great excitement and anticipation. Construction has moved at a tremendous pace this summer, and the new St. Joseph's school building has progressed significantly. As one drives past the construction site on McKenzie Avenue one cannot help but sense the feeling of hope and excitement. The Catholic Schools Plan, once a vision, is now becoming a reality. The new building will be truly beautiful—but it is just a building. It will be the people who pass through its doors that make it a home, a community, a place of Catholic learning.

The theme for the coming year is *Catholic Schools: Walk Humbly with Our Lord*. The theme speaks to our role as Catholic educators as we walk and journey with students, parents and our faith community. The theme provides a focus for each of us, a reminder of our calling and vocation to Catholic education. During the coming year, as a faith community, we must be ever mindful of the scripture, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). The Scripture gives us the opportunity to do what the Lord asks of us. Let Scripture guide us in our daily actions.

As we begin a new school year we are filled with hope and optimism. Through the cooperation and collaborative efforts of all who are part of our faith community, we strive to live out the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord, and participate in the Church's evangelizing mission. ✠



St. Joseph's Chemainus Bids Farewell to a Beloved PrincipAL

Remarks made by Bern Muller at the 2013 Strawberry Tea

Good afternoon parents, friends, boys and girls, and thank you for coming to our Strawberry tea—an annual event at which we like to acknowledge people who make the amazing contributions of time, treasure and talent to help our school thrive and be a wonderful place for our community to grow, learn and celebrate together.

As you know, this year we have chosen to focus our attention on a particular individual, Mrs. Gwen Jahelka, who has been an integral force in the fibre of our school culture, and who has tirelessly invested herself in her time, her many gifts, and in the leadership she has provided to our school as Principal for the past four years.

Mrs. Jahelka possesses some very unique qualities. She is a hard worker and is generous with her time. She is compassionate and demonstrates a sincere desire to help others become the best people they can be. She is supportive of her teachers and is receptive to new ideas and approaches to education. Many times we have heard Mrs. Jahelka assess newly proposed ideas by one of her favorite maxims: "Show me; if it is good for kids, let's do it." She is unwaveringly determined to provide the best she is capable of—to the benefit of the people in her charge.

She is generous. To be sure, washing dishes in the staff room and handing out Band-aids® isn't a glamorous part of Mrs. Jahelka's work at our school; nor was planning, setting up and cleaning up after the many events hosted at the school the main focus of her job as Principal of St. Joseph's. But Mrs. Jahelka exercises a style of servant-leadership that is contagious to those around her. People like being part of that creative and generous energy and it feels great to work with her.

On the playground and in the school hallways, students of all ages brighten to see her, know that they are important to her, and respond by loving her. Even when providing correction and discipline as necessary, she always makes sure that there is dignity and room to make a fresh start. She tries to help staff and students see the possibilities that can happen next—and then she tries to be supportive of the next steps.

Mrs. Jahelka models for us all a life perspective that is characterized by gratitude for our lived experience; that celebrates opportunities in the present; and that looks to our potential to build a strong future. We are grateful for these gifts that she has shared with us during her time at St. Joseph's School.

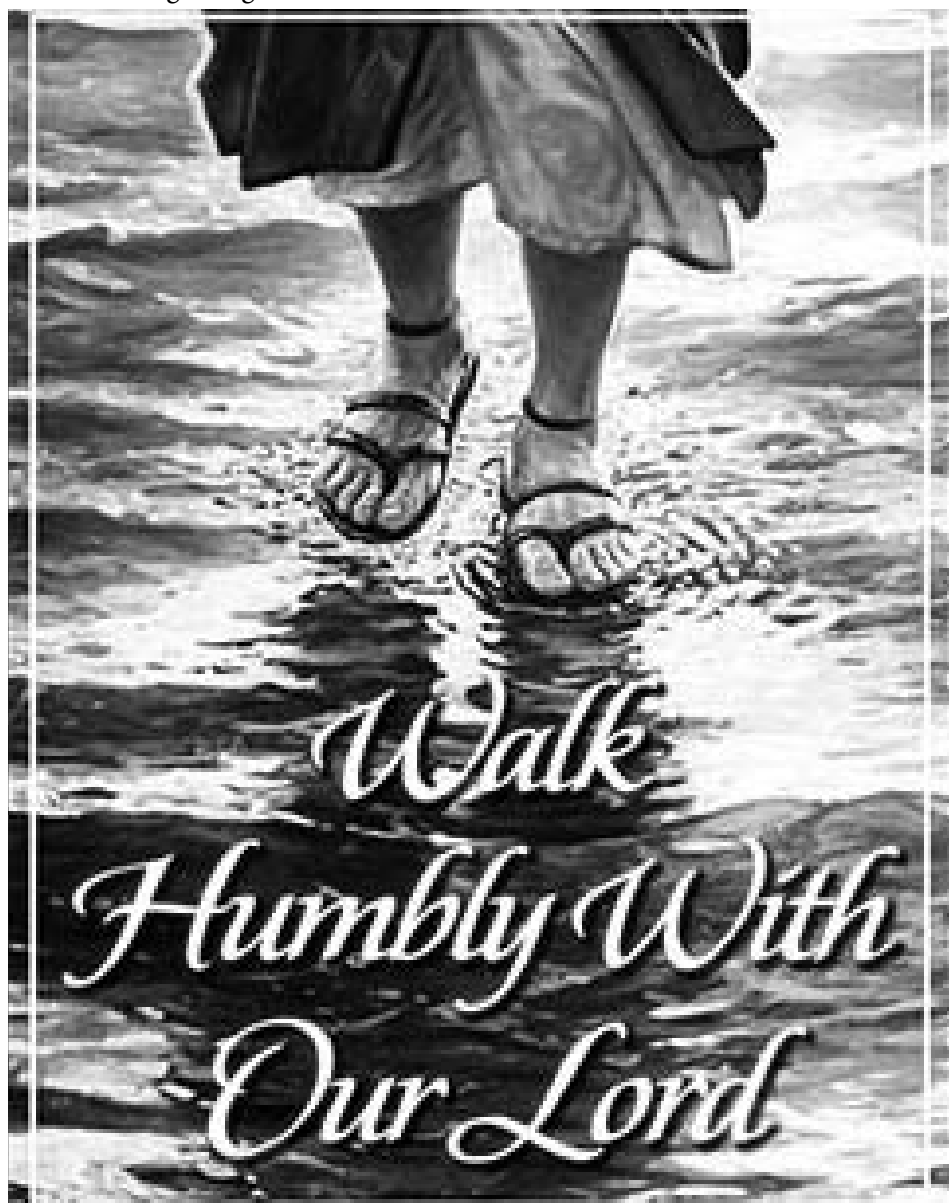
So, we say "thank you" for authentically sharing your faith with us: for your kindness, generous leadership and for having courage to encourage us; for leading us in prayer, helping with bazaars, concerts, school spirit days, sports, music and arts; for supporting computer projects; for including people; for your generous listening capacity; for sound gentle advice; and for sharing with us your best—day after day.

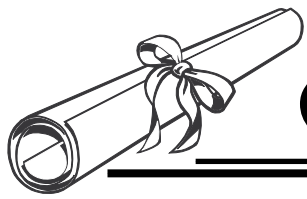
When she moves to Calgary in a few weeks*, Mrs. Jahelka will take on a new challenge as chaplain of a very large high school of almost two thousand students—there are almost as many teachers at that school as all the students in our school—and we know that her new school, the students and their families will quickly learn to appreciate and to love her just as we do, because quite frankly, Mrs. Jahelka is one of those people who is approachable, comfortable, and easy to feel connected with. We wish her and her family the very best in the new chapter of their journey. Thank you for everything you've done: we treasure the ways in which you have changed our lives, and we will miss you tremendously. Thank you, God bless you—we're thankful for the love you shared with us. ✠

* Gwen Jahelka relocated to Calgary in August, 2013. The Diocese wishes her the very best in her new endeavours and know that God goes with her, as do our hearts.



Mrs. Gwen Jahelka with several St. Joseph Chemainus students





On Campus



by Fr. Dean Henderson

“That we might present everyone mature in Christ”
~ Col. 1:27

I’m not sure how I feel about the fact that summer ministry responsibilities failed to include trekking with Diocesan World Youth Day pilgrims to join Pope Francis with some 3.7 million people on the shores of Rio’s Copacabana beach. Not for lack of enthusiastic effort—we simply didn’t get a registration. Too much money, too far away and too close to the previous and highly successful WYD pilgrimage in Madrid in 2012 explains it, I guess. If it’s any consolation, I’m certain we’ll have a healthy contingent for Krakow in 2016.

So instead, I simply looked after a fairly quiet campus chaplaincy, filled in for holidaying priests in a few parishes, served as chaplain to our first Family Life conference, and found time for what St. Paul beautifully described as “Christ’s peace which passes all understanding.” A little relaxed time with family and friends; O what an amazing grace.

In the midst of a glorious stretch of sunshine, the Diocese seems to have enjoyed a vocational thaw with four new priests and one new Deacon ordained to serve our Island family. All I can say is *Praise God*; we could use the help! On the marital vocational front, I’ve been happily involved with a number of student and alumni weddings where couples intentionally are transcending the culture of non commitment in order to be the sacramental expression of Jesus’ love for his Church. All I can say is *Praise God*; we could use the help!

With a little extra time for prayerful reading and reflection on the mission of the Church, the Student Association president, vice president and I have been reading a highly inspirational book given to me by a priest friend in Vancouver. *The Story of a Catholic Parish Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making the Church Matter* by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran. Simply put, it’s the best treatment of parish leadership for the New Evangelization I’ve ever read.

Three “7-am-power-breakfast” meetings with my student leadership has us motivated to offer more intentional and faithful campus mission this year, a mission that will be shared at a September CSA council leadership retreat. (The meetings were “power” breakfasts because for some, divine power was required to get up that early). The thesis is reasonably simple; rather than coddle consumer Catholics who attend Mass, and appear to care less about those who don’t, the New Evangelization requires that every Mass-going Catholic become a disciple of Jesus committed to his or her mission to seek and save the lost. I know: easier said than done. But we are going to say it, and by God’s grace we’re going to do it—and here’s a sneak preview.

- Once again, our Newman House of male Catholic students will be a hub of social and spiritual activity. We are seeking two more men for that house currently and unfortunately had to shut down the Bethany House after a great year but too many transitions and departures. We hope for a Bethany resurrection in the future.
- Our fall retreat at Pioneer Pacific will feature a Vancouver married couple who both have grad degrees in Theology of Body. This will help students know the beauty and power of Christ-centered sexuality and defend their faith in a culture of sexual superficiality and hedonism.
- Our October Bishop’s Lecture will highlight Prof. Mary Anne Waldron’s newly published book on erosions of Religious Freedom in Canada, something we experience firsthand on campus.
- In December, some of us will head to Ottawa for the annual “Rise Up” conference of Catholic Christian Outreach as we anticipate their arrival in Victoria in May of 2014.
- Our January Winter Retreat in the Comox Valley will provide the mission leadership perspective of Dr. Christine Jones, President of Redeemer Pacific College. After a year of worship, studies, service and community building, a team of students will head out to the hinterlands of our Diocese on a mission of service, witness and First Nations dialogue.

And yet much will look familiar as students arrive in September:

- Masses begin in the UVic Interfaith Chapel September 3 at 11:30 (Every Monday through Thursday)
- Sunday Mass with a Welcome BBQ sponsored by Holy Cross Church September 8 at 4:00 pm. The Soup and Soul ministry commences each Sunday with an impressive lineup of speakers who will witness to the mission of the Church. Among them will be a number of our own Catholic professors, the Dominican Sister of Nashville, a priest with Scarborough Missions, and the President of St. Mark’s College—just to name a few.
- New students to the CSA will be welcomed at a pizza night on September 17. CSA President Greg Van Dyk (gvandyk@uvic.ca), Vice President Hailey Cleaves (hailey.cleaves@gmail.com) and I (catholic@uvic.ca) welcome all referrals and would like to be in contact with those arriving at UVic or Camosun this month.

Please pray for our success in student ministry, that we may present every student mature in Christ! ✠



Connections



by Bethany Price, Grade 7 St. Joseph's Student

Why I Actually Want to Go Back to School

Summer is always an exciting time for elementary students, but this summer was even more exciting than usual for students at St. Joseph the Worker Elementary School

At the end of the last school year, I was looking forward to the break. I was excited about travelling with my family, camping and relaxing. But I was a bit sad too because our school was changing very dramatically. A giant concrete foundation had been poured over what had once been our playground and field. Noisy trucks and bulldozers were driving back and forth while we tried to concentrate on our last few lessons. When the time came to say goodbye, we all knew that our class and our school would be very different when we returned in September.

I guess we have been really lucky at St. Joe’s because we have not seen a lot of changes. Our class has not really changed since Grade 3. We would always know who our next teacher would be and we counted on being together. But, sometimes things you think will never change suddenly do. This fall, we will have nine new students in our grade. And some of the friends I have known since Kindergarten will be in a different class, with a new teacher.

It has been impossible to forget that St. Joe’s is changing because, every week at Mass, we have seen more progress being made on the new school. There is a brand new enormous building with an interesting roof; there is a big flat space that will one day be a soccer field; and there are portable classrooms at the front and the back of the school. Our first day back in September will be chaotic, confusing, and very different.

I have had a great summer but (secretly) I am looking forward to the new school year, mostly because of the surprises it is going to hold. It will be so much fun to

see all my friends and to hear the stories of their summer adventures. It will also be exciting to meet all my new classmates. I am sure they are feeling excited and nervous too but they should know that the school will feel new to all of us.

Nothing really stays the same. Sometimes I wish things would not change—but if nothing changed, we would all be very bored and sad. The changes at St. Joe’s will be sort of crazy, but crazy can be fun too. ✠

We are pleased to welcome Bethany Price as a guest writer for the Connections column. Stay tuned for more contributions from our Diocese’s younger writers in editions to come! Raya MacKenzie and Greg Van Dyk will also be regular contributors to this column.

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Face the Day



by Bonnie Landry

We use this phrase “when I *get* married.” That language reveals, perhaps, why marriage is so compromised these days. A forty-percent divorce rate in Canada? Surely, most of those people getting divorced intended to stay married. But we are not supposed to enter marriage with the idea of what we are *getting* on the forefront of our brains.

Marriage is for *giving*. And *forgiving*. We give ourselves in marriage. We become one.

Marriage can’t be self-serving. Marriage must be an outpouring of self. And it would appear that we are learning how to do that our entire married lives. I have yet to meet a couple who, even after thirty or fifty years of marriage, sits back on their laurels and says, “Yep, we’ve figured it out.”

In marriage, we become one, and as one, we limp along, bumbling our way through new situations and unforeseen trials—regularly.

“The whole pleasure of marriage is that it is a perpetual crisis.”
~ G.K. Chesterton, Introduction to *David Copperfield*, 1911

We aren’t called to marriage with our “perfect match.” The “perfect match” is not the one with whom we walk perfectly in step, the one whose actions and ideals never challenge us. We will be challenged, frustrated, disappointed and sometimes even angry during the course of marriage—sometimes every day. We are called to a higher level of humility, patience and understanding.

Marriage is perpetual formation. It is not a “getting,” a “having,” or a “place of arrival.” Marriage is a place of letting go, of giving and a place of departure. A beginning—not just of a new couple, but of a new relationship with God, and with a husband or wife.

Who answering, said to them: Have ye not read, that he who made man from the beginning, made them male and female? And he said: For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be in one flesh. Therefore now they are not two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

~ Matthew 19: 4-6

It is a new relationship, even, with one’s own nuclear family. Our position has shifted, our loyalties, really, have shifted. Everything has changed. I have found that the very best way for me to have a lousy day and make oatmeal out of my marriage and make all of my relationships within my family difficult is to wake up in the morning and think thoughts along the lines of “what’s in it for me?”

Marriage is a vocation

A vocation is “a call from God to a distinctive state of life, in which a person can reach holiness.” (John Hardon’s *Catholic Dictionary*) Father Hardon continues to define marriage in this way: *Christian spouses signify and partake of the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and his Church, helping each other attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children.*

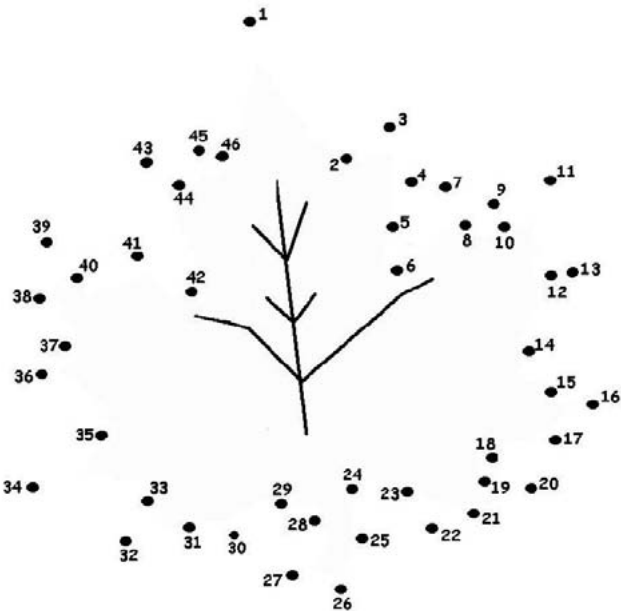
Marriages need support

Couples can’t live out the natural challenges that marriage presents all alone. We need peers and mentors to guide us along the way, sharing joys and difficulties, solutions and resources.

We need to be held up by Holy Mother Church. This summer our Diocese held a Marriage and Family Conference. It was a weekend during which marriage was valued and its inherent dignity made known. It was a weekend of marriages being acknowledged and nurtured. It was a great blessing to those who attended.

There are two family groups that meet for a potluck supper and discussion in the Victoria area. One is a Family Group discussion and potluck at St. Patrick’s Parish, held on a Sunday from 4 – 8 pm (dates to be determined for this year). For more information, contact Steve or Laura Pearse at spearse@shaw.ca or lauravpearse@gmail.com.

Connect the Dots ...



The other group, open to all families, but focusing on topics of the first ten years of marriage, is *Holy Families*, meeting in Langford at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church Hall, usually on the last Sunday of the month, from 3 – 7 p.m. Please contact Bonnie Landry at onthisrock@shaw.ca for information, or, to be put on the email list for *Holy Families*, contact Megan at aphriel@hotmail.com.

Holy Families is now a Knights of Columbus program, and it would be a beautiful thing to see other family mentorship groups in other areas in our Diocese supporting families.

We’ve come across some great marriage resources over the years that we have used personally, and in marriage preparation and *Holy Families* discussions. Three books that stand out are:

- *The Temperament God Gave You (and the Temperament God Gave Your Spouse)* by Art and Laraine Bennett
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- *For Couples Only* (set of two books, one for men and one for women) by Shaunti and Jeff Feldhan

These are three books that help spouses and families understand each other and communicate love more effectively.

Pray for marriages—our own, and the marriages of our family and friends. Pray for Christian marriages all over the world—marriage is under spiritual attack.

It is in the *giving* that we find happiness in marriage, and in the *forgiving* that we help ourselves to grow as Christians. When we forgive, we do the will of the Father. If we live out marriage as a vocation, to its fullest, it will be a sure path to heaven. ✕

I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love. ~ Mother Teresa



‘Prepare timber for me in abundance, for the house I am about to build will be great and wonderful.’
2 Chronicles 2:9

Photo: Our Lady of Grace mission church, Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Photo by Michael Swan.

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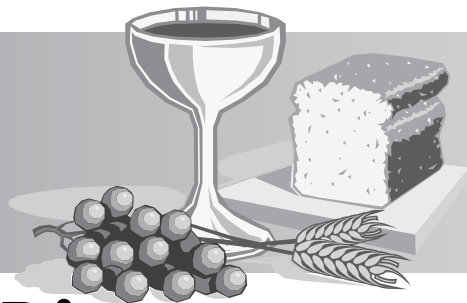


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Vocations



The Permanent Diaconate

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Richard Gagnon

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Victoria,

“Those who serve well as Deacons gain good standing and much confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus...(they) must hold fast to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience.”

The Pastoral Epistles of St. Paul are not only of great historical interest in relation to the Early Church, but like all Scripture, they reveal the Word of the Holy Spirit in which we can hear the voice of the Lord himself and perceive his abiding presence in the Church. These short and perceptive letters, addressed to Timothy and Titus, two of St. Paul’s disciples and close collaborators, reveal to us not only the inner life of the first generation Church but connect us to the Church as it is lived today in the Third Millennium.

Initially these Pastoral Epistles were written by Paul to encourage and affirm his collaborators in their ordained ministry and to strengthen the primitive Church against certain erroneous and false doctrines which had arisen within the early Christian community. We can see in this a similar situation with our own day and Paul’s insistence that Sacred Scripture be accepted as truly inspired by and proceeding from the Holy Spirit is most helpful in the New Evangelization of today. Paul refers to the “good deposit” of Faith handed down by the Apostles, which must be safeguarded with the help of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. There can be no doubt that these brief Letters from Paul to Timothy and Titus, in spite of their down to earth and practical application to Church life, are also very universal in scope. God is described as the Lord who desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth.

It is within these Pastoral Epistles that we learn of the role of Holy Orders in meeting the threats to Faith in the early Church and for the first time in Scripture the threefold orders of Bishop, Priest and Deacon are presented to us as a pastoral and administrative structure rooted in the ministry of the Apostles as witnesses to the Resurrected Lord and proclaimers of the Good News. Just as Paul presents the basic elements of Catholic belief, namely Scripture and

Tradition, as a doctrinal unity, so too the threefold orders of Bishop, Priest and Deacon are presented as a unified pastoral ministry.

It is within this sense of unity in Holy Orders that I wish to address the need in these days to activate the Permanent Diaconate within our Diocese. This third order within Holy Orders will open up further possibilities of pastoral service within our local Church.

The Permanent Diaconate Program

The decision to move forward with a program of studies and formation for the Permanent Diaconate is the result of a number of years of discernment and discussion among clergy and laity during the period of preparation for our Diocesan Pastoral Plan which was inaugurated in 2010. During the many months of preparation for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, in surveys and in the focus groups, a desire for the Permanent Diaconate was expressed and, indeed, individual men approached the Diocese about discerning this vocation. Although not stated explicitly in the finished report on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan that the Permanent Diaconate would be a goal, there was much said about expanding vocational outreach and furthering the new ecclesial structures advocated by the Second Vatican Council. As discernment continued in our Diocese, other dioceses in British Columbia were also bringing the question of the Diaconate forward as a possibility. During this Year of Faith (2012-2013), concrete proposals for such a program were formulated through our Council of Priests and a small committee was struck to guide the process under our Vicar General.

It soon became evident that certain challenges relative to the Diaconate would need to be met in our Diocese. First of all, even though there have been a few Permanent Deacons working in the Diocese in years past, there has not been a strong tradition of Deacons as such, nor has there been a Diaconate Formation Program in our Diocese. Another concern is the lack of resource capacity for such a program in our local Church. Furthermore, both clergy and laity would need catechesis on the Diaconate itself and how it would function within our community and what pastoral tasks it would undertake.

I am very grateful that our Diocese has found a way to meet these and other challenges by designing a program that is modest in scope and cost effective. Information on the Permanent Diaconate Program including application forms have been distributed to parishes. A Discernment Committee will review the applications and make recommendations to the Bishop for acceptance. A Formation Team in the Diocese will oversee the spiritual formation component of the program and a four year academic program available on line from Newman Theological College in Edmonton will be undertaken in the Diocese. Since the Permanent Diaconate is also open to men who are married, wives are encouraged to participate in the program to the degree that they are able. There can be no doubt that married men, living their marriages as a Sacrament, bring the gifts of fidelity and permanency to the Diaconate, much to the benefit of the Church.

Pope John Paul II has stated: *By facing in a spirit of faith the challenges of married life and the demands of daily living, they strengthen the family life not only of the Church community but of the whole of society.*

Vocation of the Diaconate

Turning now to the vocation of the Permanent Diaconate itself, we must remember that, as the third tier of Holy Orders, it was restored to the Church by the Second Vatican Council after nearly 1500 years of slow decline, then absence. Pope Paul VI responded to the recommendations made by the Council to restore the Permanent Diaconate, and established the general norms governing the Diaconate and approved the Rite of Ordination.

In essence, the Order of Deacons was given to the Church under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so as to serve the People of God and assist them in fulfilling their Baptismal commitment. Just as Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve”, so the Deacon embodies the ideal of every follower of Christ, to be “one who serves”.

The beginnings of the Diaconate can be found in the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6 where the Apostolic Community selects seven men from among the Baptized, formed in wisdom by the Holy Spirit to serve the needs of the community in practical ways. In St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy we read that Deacons ...*must be dignified, not deceitful, not addicted to drink, not greedy for sordid gain, holding fast to the mystery of Faith with a clear conscience ... Thus those who serve well as Deacons gain good standing and much confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

The Ministries of the Diaconate

To say that Deacons are called to witness to, and to embody the Christian life, means that they are called to further the pastoral mission of the Church as are all the Baptized, by participating in: *Koinonia* (community), *Liturgia* (worship and Sacraments), *Kerygma* (proclamation and teaching), and *Diakonia* (pastoral care and Christian social engagement). The Deacon is to build up the community in love; to assist the priest in Liturgy and undertake the specific Liturgical roles assigned to him; he is to teach the Faith and Evangelize; and he is to serve those in need. This last role, the *Diakonia*, is central to the vocation of the Deacon from which the title itself is taken. We learn from the Pastoral Epistles and from the Acts of the Apostles that Deacons had an important role of Service in the early Church. Indeed, the Deacon shares in the Sacrament of Holy Orders and is therefore a Sacramental sign of Christ the Servant.

Specifically, the Deacon participates in the Church’s mission by fulfilling three *munera*, Latin for works or responsibilities: the *munus docendi* which is Evangelization and instructing the people; the *munus sanctificandi*, namely the life of prayer, the administration of Baptism, the custody and distribution of the Eucharist, the assisting at and blessing of marriages, presiding at funeral rites and the administration of sacramentals; and the *munus regendi*, the work of charity and assistance and guiding the Church’s charitable activities. Of course, the particular way these *munera* are enacted, depends on the particular situation and needs within the local Church.

Since the Permanent Deacon is ordained and is a sign of Christ the Servant, he must serve in close collaboration with the Bishop and all members of the Presbyterate. Through his ordination he is brought into a new relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit and is meant to perform his duties within the context of the whole Diocese and in close association with the Baptized as they fulfill their rightful place within the mission of the Church both at the Diocesan level and in the local parish.

In fraternity with the Bishop and Priests and in communion with the whole People of God, the Deacon has many areas of ministerial involvement, depending on his gifts and talents and with the specific needs of the Diocese: Outreach Ministry; Catechesis for both adult and children; Marriage and Baptismal Preparation; Chaplaincies for prisons, care homes, universities and colleges; Youth Ministries; Ministry to First Nations; Outreach to the disadvantaged and marginalized.

The Call to Discernment

In conclusion, I am deeply grateful to the clergy and lay people who have assisted in establishing the Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Victoria. Applications will be received during the summer and fall of 2013 and the program will begin in January 2014. We are planning a single class for the Permanent Diaconate, therefore the current timetable will be the only one available in our Diocese for the foreseeable future. I invite men between the ages of 35-60 who are discerning a call to the Diaconate to enter a period of prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit to bring clarity of heart in this matter, and to begin a dialogue with one’s family and pastor as well as seeking an objective and balanced approach to the process of discernment.

May God enlighten you and strengthen you during this Year of Faith. ✠



Discern This

by Fr. Sean Flynn

You will enjoy this spontaneous address by Pope Francis on the afternoon of Saturday, July 6 in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. The Pope met with seminarians, novices and young people who are discerning their vocations in celebration of the Year of Faith. This was reported from Vatican City, 9 July 2013 (VIS)

Pope Francis: Be fearless, humble and joyful witnesses to the Gospel

Pope Francis recently told future nuns and priests and consecrated laypeople to keep “freshness” and “joy” in their lives, as he said: “There is no sadness in holiness.”

Speaking to participants in a four-day international event for Seminarians, Novices and those on a vocational journey, Francis gave an off-the-cuff lecture to seminarians and novices from across the globe, gathered in the Paul VI Hall.

In his remarks, the Pope urged those present not to be tempted by a culture that exalts provisional values, and he told them to avoid trappings like the latest smartphones and expensive cars so they can devote more resources to help the poor.

“It is not you that I reproach” said the Pope, and he specified that it is today’s culture of the provisional of which we are all victims that does not help us: “because in this day and age it is very difficult to make a definitive choice.” He pointed out that when he was young it was easier because the culture of the time favoured definitive choices, be it a conjugal life, in consecrated life or in priestly life. “But today,” he said, “it is not easy to make a definitive choice. We are victims of this culture of the provisional.”

And then Pope Francis took seminarians and novices to task for being “too serious, too sad.” “Something’s not right here,” Francis told them pointing out that,

“Draw always from Christ, the inexhaustible wellspring; strengthen your faith by attending to your spiritual formation, to personal and communitarian prayer, and to the liturgy. [...] Advance with determination along the path of holiness; do not rest content with a mediocre Christian life, but let your affiliation serve as a stimulus, above all for you yourselves, to an ever greater love of Jesus Christ.

~ Pope Francis, *Homily, Holy Mass on the Occasion of the Day of Confraternities and of Popular Piety*, May 5, 2013

On Praying for Priests and Promoting Vocations

by Archbishop José H. Gomez, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, November 2012

“The family is always the first seminary.

I am writing you from Baltimore, where I gathered with my brother bishops for the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This is an important time each year for us as leaders of the Church to talk about the issues that face us in our mission. In light of last week’s national and state elections, this year’s meeting is especially important.

Many of the issues we are discussing have direct relevance for our local Church in Los Angeles and California - such as the need to strengthen our witness to the sanctity of marriage, to reform our nation’s immigration policies, and to find new solutions to our ongoing economic crisis.

In his address to the bishops, the conference president, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, reminded us that as pastors of the Church, we are first disciples in need of the same conversion of heart that we proclaim to others.

He called for a new emphasis in the Church on the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the “Sacrament of the New Evangelization.”

“When it comes especially to the new evangelization, [we] must first be filled with the spirit of interior conversion born of our own renewal,” he told us.

So this has been a good chance for me to reflect on the needs of our great Archdiocese and to draw on the wisdom of my brother bishops.

In my columns recently, I’m explaining the pastoral priorities I set out in my pastoral letter *Witness to the New World of Faith*. And this week I want to talk about promoting vocations to the priesthood.

Every priest is a sacrament—a sign and instrument that brings men and women to the encounter with the living God.

So in this Year of Faith, we need to refocus ourselves, especially in our families, on helping men to hear this beautiful and noble calling from Jesus.

The family is always the “first seminary.”

In the family, children learn about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They learn the teachings of Jesus and especially his commandment of love. In the family, children learn how to practice their faith - by going to Mass every week and going regularly to Confession. Ordinary family life teaches them that their faith should make a difference in how they live.

In this Year of Faith, one practical thing we can do is simply to talk more in our families about the service of love that the priest offers to the family of God.

“there is no sadness in holiness,” and adding that such clergy lack “the joy of the Lord.”

“To become a priest or a religious is not primarily our choice: it is our answer to a calling, a calling of love.”

“If you find a seminarian, priest, nun, with a long, sad face, if it seems as if in their life someone threw a wet blanket over them,” then some should conclude “it’s a psychiatric problem, they can leave—*buenos dias*.”

And he highlighted the fact that he wasn’t talking about superficial joy—“the thrill of a moment doesn’t really make us happy,” warning against the temptation to seek “the joy of the world in the latest smartphone, the fastest car.”

“It hurts my heart when I see a priest or a nun with the latest model of car,” he said. And Francis continued saying “cars are necessary. But take a more humble one. Think of how many children die of hunger, and dedicate the saving to them.”

Urging all those with vocations to be authentic and true, the Pope also reminded them never to be afraid to recognize their own sins. And speaking of their formation, Francis said there are four fundamental pillars: spiritual formation; intellectual formation; apostolic life—during which one must go forth and announce the Gospel; and community living. “On these four pillars,” Pope Francis said, “you must build your vocations.”

During his remarks, Pope Francis also praised the late Mother Teresa, who cared for the most impoverished sick of Calcutta, India, and held her up as a courageous example. “I would like a more missionary church,” the Pope told the young people. “Not so much a tranquil church, but a beautiful church that goes forward.” ✠

In our family prayer, we should make it a special point to pray every day for our priests and seminarians and for vocations. This will also instill in our children a sense of the beauty and value of priesthood.

We should make new efforts to reach out to our priests. Make it a point after every Sunday Mass to greet them and thank them for the Eucharist. We can invite them to spend time with our families. We can encourage our boys to participate in parish life and help them to find many opportunities to learn the joy of serving others in works of charity.

I also think it is important for us to teach our young men - and all our children - how to “unplug.”

... many graces would flow if [we] would commit ourselves to regular adoration of the Eucharist and holy hours to pray for vocations.

We need to help our children develop habits of prayer and meditation. And this begins by simply getting them to be comfortable without distractions, so they can listen to the silent voice of God in their hearts.

So maybe in this Year of Faith, we can ask our children to make some time each day to turn off their smart phones and their electronic games and devices. To just be quiet with God.

In this Year of Faith, I am also encouraging our priests to do more to help promote vocations. The greatest thing a priest can do is to simply live his vocation with enthusiasm.

The example of happy priests, who have strong friendships with their brother priests and good relationships with their parishioners - this is immensely inspiring and attractive.

Let’s make sure that every parish this year begins to do something special to promote vocations. As I suggested in my pastoral letter, many graces would flow if many of us would commit ourselves to regular adoration of the Eucharist and holy hours to pray for vocations.

Through our Blessed Mother Mary, let’s remember to give thanks for our priests - who bring us the most beautiful thanksgiving of all, the holy Eucharist. ✠

Reprinted with permission from the Tidings, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, November 16, 2012.

Faith Matters



Our Faith Journey: Sacramental Preparation

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

“Let the little children come to me.”

This Fall the Diocese of Victoria officially introduces a new Sacraments of Initiation formation programme for Children, *Our Faith Journey: Preparing Young Children for Celebrating the Sacraments*. It is quite fitting that the introduction of a formation programme which not only taps into our Diocesan but also our roots as Church should coincide with our recent celebration of the Second Vatican Council.

Historical Development

Our Faith Journey builds on over 30 years of catechetical experience in the Diocese of Victoria starting with the work of noted Catholic religious educator Dr. Christiane Brusselmans who was invited to present catechetical workshops in the Diocese in the 1980s. Her gift to the Diocese was sharing the fruits of her work with the “ever-old, ever-new” principles of Christian formation developed by the early Church. These principles, embodied in the catechumenal model (cf. *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*), enjoyed a renewal as a result of the Second Vatican Council.

“The Baptismal Catechumenal is the model for all catechesis... [and] should inspire the other forms of catechesis in both their objectives and in their dynamism” (Vatican, *General Directory for Catechesis*, 59). The aim of catechesis is not simply to tell people or instruct them about Jesus Christ. Through catechesis people are invited into *relationship*—communion with Christ—for it is being in this relationship, this communion with Christ that we are united with the love of the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. The goal of catechesis is to live the fullness of the Christian life; it is to embody Christ.

Brusselmans was an advocate for children’s catechesis and a pioneer in the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Born in Belgium, she taught at the Catholic University of Leuven, in the United States at Fordham University, Union Theological Seminary, Boston College and Harvard Divinity School. She authored several innovative Roman Catholic religious education programs for children and families: *We Celebrate the Eucharist*; *We Celebrate Reconciliation*; and *Sunday: Celebration of the Word*.

Canadian catechetical pioneer Muriel Loftus, who contributed to catechetics on the national level for over 50 years, hosting the first RCIA Institute in North America and developing the *Born of the Spirit* series as Diocesan Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Victoria, built on the work of Brusselmans.

In 2006, Bishop Gagnon’s Sub-committee on Children’s Catechesis was tasked with essentially reviewing current practice and materials with a view to developing a model for preparing children to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation that was:

- rooted in community;
- provided for parent involvement;
- “parent friendly;”
- provided preparation for and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- consistent though the Diocese; and,
- flexible enough to be adapted to a wide variety of parish realities.

Quite a tall order! The Bishop was also very clear that the approach had to integrate “intellectual growth and spiritual growth through delivering solid content and meaningful prayer experiences.”

The result, *Our Faith Journey*, represents seven years of analysis, research and development. Piloted by a number of local parishes, the programme represents our experience in the Diocese in light of current catechetical realities, and best practices in catechesis as identified by the Canadian Conference of Bishops’ extensive analysis of international catechetical experience and practice. The programme is based on the *Criteria for Catechesis: Infancy to Age Eighteen*, the national catechetical curriculum for children www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Criteria_for_Catechesis.pdf. Underlying fundamental principles include the belief in the vocation of the laity and the importance of the family in the mission of the Church.

Our Faith Journey is an adaptation of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) for children (the catechumenal model) blended with the Canadian Bishops’ *Criteria for Catechesis*. The *Criteria* provides the theological foundation for the programme as part of the national curriculum of life-long catechesis. The *Criteria* also incorporates specific cognitive, affective and practical skills expectations. *Our Faith Journey* dovetails nicely at the grade two-level (ages 7 – 8), and can be effective in the sacramental formation of children up to age 11.

Practical Considerations

Parents choosing to have their children celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion or to celebrate Confirmation and First Holy Communion in the Diocese of Victoria are invited to join their pastor and parish catechists for a two-year journey of discovery and encounter, following the completion of at least one year in the parish or school catechetical programme.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we come to know Jesus?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that, “The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life’” (C.C.C. #1324). After hearing the readings proclaimed at the Sunday Eucharist, families are guided in recognizing the same presence of Jesus working in their lives as he does in the lives of those they meet in Scripture. Building upon this, families are introduced to the Church’s tradition, her teaching and wisdom—learning to recognize and walk with Jesus Christ each day.

Year One offers the remote preparation for the Sacraments, an immersion in the Word of God and a marking of the liturgical seasons with ritual experiences. For most, this journey is a continuation of the journey which began at Baptism, exploring and understanding the Catholic Faith’s rich heritage of Scripture and Tradition. For others, it is a beginning—discovering and recognizing the mystery of God’s Love, how we encounter that Love, and how to respond to that Love in our daily living. Preparation for and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is provided and encouraged during Lent of Year One.

What does it mean to be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church?

Year Two continues to explore Christian practices through following the ritual rhythm of the liturgical year and reflecting on our relationships with God and the faith community. The child will deepen his or her experience of God’s Word, deepen his or her prayer life, and celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Year Two continues the weaving together of the threads of the child’s experience and understanding. The child has begun to recognize God’s presence and His Love. Now the child will be nurtured in a foundational understanding of Confirmation and Eucharist as the path for exploring the life-long journey with God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Again a review of the Sacrament of



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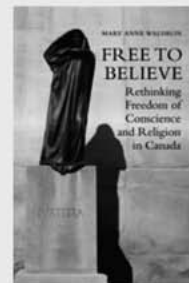


FREE TO BELIEVE

RETHINKING FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION IN CANADA

Mary Anne Waldron, QC

Mary Anne Waldron, QC, Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, has twice received the Faculty of Law’s Terry J. Wuester Teaching Award. For nine years she was Associate Vice-President Legal Affairs for the University of Victoria. Mary Anne Waldron is the author of *Free To Believe: Rethinking Freedom of Conscience and Religion in Canada*.



In *Free to Believe*, Mary Anne Waldron examines how the law has developed in the way that it has, the role that freedom of conscience and religion play in our society, and the role it could play in making it a more open, peaceful, and democratic place.

Free to Believe widens the debate about a fundamental freedom and the influence of public opinion on what is often a misrepresented and misunderstood issue.

Response by Earl G. Phillips

Copies of FREE TO BELIEVE will be available for purchase 30 minutes prior to the lecture. Book signing at conclusion.

catholic@uvic.ca • <http://bishopslecture.webs.com/>



Reconciliation and the opportunity to celebrate it is provided in Year Two.

Who should enrol in the Our Faith Journey program?

Parents of children who are starting the second year of their parish or school faith formation programme (typically grade two) begin sacramental preparation by enrolling with their children in Our Faith Journey. Again, the programme is appropriate for children up to age 11. Parents of older children should consult with their pastor or parish religious education coordinator for age-appropriate sacramental preparation materials.

Why two years?

Faith, another word for our loving relationship with God and each other, sustains and strengthens us throughout our whole life. It requires a foundation of good spiritual and intellectual formation. This begins, but does not end, at a very young age. None of us can expect to discover the richness of our faith in a few short weeks, or even a year; it truly is a life-long journey that begins with this initial step.

Supportive feedback from catechists and parents regarding the pilot *Our Faith Journey* material has affirmed the need and the value of allocating two years to prepare families for the foundational Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

When will the new programme begin?

The *Our Faith Journey* programme will be launched in all parishes and schools this Fall. Following the launch of Year One, Year Two will commence in September of 2014. Parents should check their bulletins for more detailed parish programme information and plan to enrol in their parish programme in early September. Catholic schoolteachers will support parish sacramental preparation coordinators in offering the parent/child sessions.

Where will the new programme be offered?

Programme materials along with supplemental resources have been provided to parishes across the Diocese. Orientation workshops have been offered for all parishes in the greater Victoria area, and in Nanaimo for the parishes in the Diocese north of the Malahat. Additional workshops have been planned to support parishes as they implement Our Faith Journey over the next two years.

How will I know my child is ready (understands enough) to receive the Sacraments?

Some indicators of a child's readiness:

- a desire to grow in relationship with God;
- an ability to nurture a personal faith;
- an interest in growing beyond a foundational understanding of the faith, with the guidance of family and community;
- an ability to receive the Eucharist with faith and devotion; and,
- a desire to regularly attend Sunday Eucharist.

Can I view the new programme materials?

Year One of *Our Faith Journey* is available on the Diocesan Website: www.rcdvictoria.org/sacramental-preparation. There you will also find a link to download the brochure.

Year Two of *Our Faith Journey* will be available online in the Spring in anticipation of the next year. *Our Faith Journey* is a "living document" in the sense that it is a roadmap building on the current good work that is being done; refinements will be incorporated as we go along to address local needs.

What are Catechists saying?

- Like the new direction/Love the program/Very practical/Importance given to the liturgical year
- Asking parents to participate in their children's classes is so very important/ giving responsibility to children
- Really "shows" the faith, not what you know but who you are!
- Allows for a lot of variability in terms of running the program
- Symbolism and visuals speak louder than words and are remembered more easily and more fondly
- We are breaking open the Word so that children will come to know of a loving God
- I see great strength in our Diocese helping catechists to teach children not only about the heart of Jesus, but also about the beautiful teachings of the Church as the Magisterium delivers them.

What are Parents saying?

We have enjoyed...

- "... a sense of community developed over the course of the year"
- "... explanations of the Gospel Reading at a child's level"
- "... the purity of the child's prayers"
- "... meeting with the children and parents every week. This was a great idea."

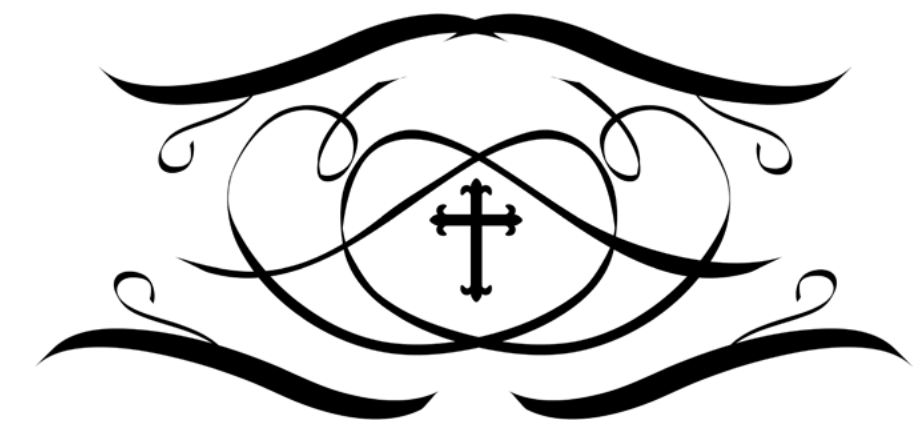
We have found the program...

- "very child-friendly ... simple and easy to do: concrete learning."
- "has allowed both my husband and me time to sit with our son and share our faith together."

For all of us the journey of faith begins with our encounter with the Person of Jesus, or in terms of our children's reality, becoming friends with Jesus. This is the same Jesus proclaimed and revealed through Sacred Scripture, whom we meet at the Sunday Eucharist, and who is revealed in the Church's rich teaching tradition: 2000 years of reflecting and sharing wisdom on how we live out these realities. Throughout the ages the handing on of this experience and understanding of Jesus has been both a joy and a challenge; it is no different for us.

Faith matters because faith is the energy that activates our belief in the meaning and purpose of our life; it activates awareness of our being loved, loving, of our life direction and destiny—it keeps dynamic the fullness of life for our entire life! The life-long Faith Journey begins with small steps. Parents, pastors and principals—together as Church—all have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to our "little children," the future Church, to continue the work of the Church, the Journey of Faith—walking with Jesus. ✠

The list of mentors and contributors is great (we know how graciously you contributed to this work and seek forgiveness should we have inadvertently omitted you). We acknowledge: Bishop Richard Gagnon, Marilyn Bojko, Margaret Craddock, Char Deslippe, Kathy Fadum, Laura Gerlinsky, Fr. Anthony Gonsalves, Fr. William Hann, Bernadette MacIsaac, Joan McKinley, Miriam Podmoroff, Barb Shenton, Lorraine Van Dyk and Jamie Zwicker, as well as many catechists who assisted with piloting the programme.





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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



Remains of ancient Christian hospital discovered in Jerusalem

A recent finding in the Old City of Jerusalem has unearthed the ruins of what is now considered to be the Order of St John's first hospital, dating back more than 900 years. "This was where the members of the St John's Hospital order lived. This is where it started. This was the first place where they used an ambulatory service to bring in sick and wounded people to the hospital. They had riders on camels and horses" said Amit Re'em, excavation co-director for the Israel Antiquities Authority. The hospital is the largest of its era to be discovered in the Middle East region.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=23114>
Posted: Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Confessions of St. Augustine in new translation

'A canticle to God, full of psychological insights that might have been written yesterday, the Confessions is the story of a soul, and also the story of God, and how he is constantly at work seeking us'. Augustine of Hippo's Confessions is perhaps the most important spiritual autobiography of all: it chronicles Augustine's wild and dissonant youth and subsequent conversion to Christianity, as well as providing significant divine and spiritual insight. Best-selling author Fr Benignus O'Rourke delivers a new, accessible translation of Confessions, his eloquent and contemporary writing shedding new light on the various shades of meaning in Augustine's meditations and stories. Books 1 – 9, translated here for first time and familiar readers, young and old, can help us reconsider our own strengths and weaknesses, as well as past events and the people present in our lives. In doing so Confessions compels us toward hidden wisdom and truth. And toward God.
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=23112>
Posted: Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Remembering John Paul I

Thirty-five years ago Aug. 25-26, Cardinal Albino Luciani, Patriarch of Venice was elected Pope after the death of the Servant of God Pope Paul VI. The conclave of 101 cardinals lasted two days and he was elected on the fourth ballot. Luciani took the name of John Paul I – the first pope to have two names. He wanted to continue the work of Pope Paul VI and Pope John XXIII.
<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/remembering-john-paul-i>
Rome, August 26, 2013

Statement of the Catholic Church in Egypt

Cairo, August 19, 2013 (Zenit.org)

Here is translation of the statement made by Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac, president of the Assembly of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Egypt, on the violent situation in Egypt.

With pain, but also with hope, the Catholic Church in Egypt is following what our country is experiencing: terrorist attacks, killings and the burning of churches, schools and state institutions. Therefore, out of love for our country and in solidarity with all lovers of Egypt, Christians and Muslims, we are trying to do our best to communicate with friendly organizations around the world to clarify for them the reality of events taking place in our country. We would like to express the following:

Our free, strong and conscious support for all state institutions, particularly the Armed Forces and the police for all their efforts in protecting our homeland.

Our appreciation of sincere nations to understand the nature of events while flatly rejecting any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Egypt or to influence its sovereign decisions whatever the direction might be.

Our thanks to all Egyptian and international media that report the news and events objectively and impartially while condemning those media that promote lies and falsify the truth in order to mislead world public opinion.

Our thanks to our honorable Muslim compatriots who have stood by our side, as far as they could, in defending our churches and our institutions.

Lastly, we address the international conscious and all national leaders that they understand and believe that what is happening in Egypt now is not a political struggle between different factions, but a war against terrorism.

In conclusion, we express our condolences to all families and relatives of the victims. We ask the Lord to heal all the injured.

+ Ibrahim Isaac

Patriarch of Alexandria of the Copt Catholics

President of the Assembly of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Egypt ✠

Pope Francis' Encyclical Lumen Fidei for Reading Lists

Excerpted from 2013-07-31 Vatican Radio

Summer may be over, but according to Vatican Radio, Pope Francis' first Encyclical letter, *Lumen Fidei* or *Light of Faith*, published in July, is an essential staple for any Catholic's summer reading list. Begun by Benedict XVI and finished by Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei* is a key tool for understanding our faith, ourselves and these two popes of the second millenium.

Speaking to pilgrims in Rome just days after the release of the Encyclical, Pope Francis said, "For the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI had started this Encyclical, which follows on from those on charity and hope. I picked up this project and I have finished it. I offer it with joy to the whole People of God: in fact, especially today, we need to go to the essentials of the Christian faith, to deepen it, and to measure current issues by it. But I think that this encyclical, at least in some parts, can also be useful to those who are searching for God and for the meaning of life. I put it in the hands of Mary, the perfect icon of faith, that it may bring in the fruits that the Lord wants."

Vatican Radio has a five-part series featuring Monsignor John Kennedy, an official at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In the series, Msgr. Kennedy breaks down the encyclical in easy to understand segments. For more information, or to listen to or read transcripts from the series, visit <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-encyclical-lumen-fidei-for-summer-rea>. ✠

Argentinian Woman Receives Surprise Call from Pope Francis

Vatican City, August 28, 2013 (Zenit.org)

“He told me that I was not alone.”

A 44 year old woman from Argentina, who recently denounced a policeman for sexually assaulting her, received a surprise phone call on Sunday by Pope Francis. The Holy Father heard about her situation through a letter she sent him several weeks earlier.

“Yesterday the phone rang and once I answered the person asked if I was Alejandra Pereyra and I said yes and once I asked who it was he said it was Pope Francis. I was completely stunned by the call,” she said, adding that the phone call gave her back her faith and confidence. Pereyra also said that she will continue to look for justice for what happened to her.

“I am happy. It was as if I was touched by the hand of God,” Pereyra told local news station Canal 10, from the Argentinian province of Cordoba.

Pereyra explained that she wrote a letter to the Pope to ask for help due to her concern that the local Justice department was covering for the police she denounced for sexually abusing her. She added that the telephone call allowed her to stand tall again.

During the phone call “he told me that I was not alone” and that despite receiving thousands of letters, it was hers that touched his heart. She added that she would like to visit him, since Pope Francis told her that he would like to personally greet her. ✠



In Proportion to Our Blessings



by Mike Patterson, Appeal Coordinator

Journey of Hearts & Hands: In Proportion to Our Blessings

The theme for the 2013 Appeal is a reminder of the stewardship responsibilities we all share. The 2013 Appeal asks us to contribute from blessings bestowed. We are being asked to balance contributions of our time, our talent, and our treasure. This year's theme is 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.

Why is it important to foster the practice of stewardship?

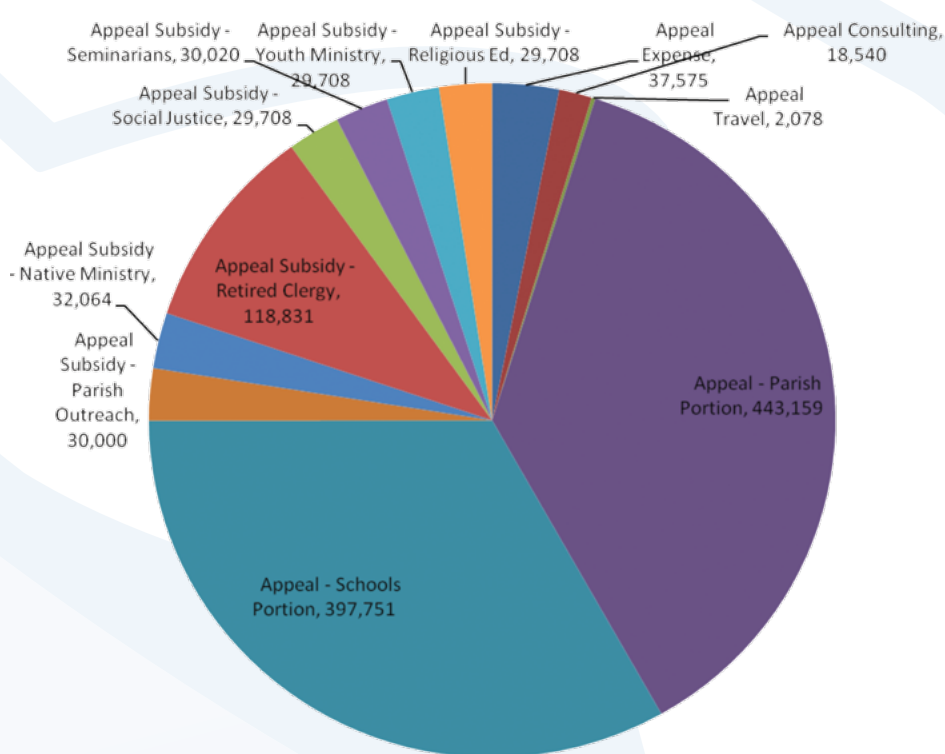
By baptism, each person is called to be a disciple. Stewardship is an expression of who we are as disciples of Jesus, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. The people of God see themselves as stewards of God's gifts. We know both from what Scripture tells us and the examples of many, that those who choose to put their trust in God and live their lives as Christian stewards live life to the fullest. Through the practice of stewardship, the Church is strengthened and built up. And through the Church, the world is transformed.

Stewardship in Scripture

“As each one of us has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
~ 1 Peter 4:10

How was Appeal money spent in 2012?

Below is a summary chart showing how the 2011 Appeal income totalling over \$1,000,000 was spent in 2012. Gifts and pledges were received up to the end of the calendar year 2011 and then placed in trust to be expended in 2012. In 2013 the Diocese will be supporting programs with the 2012 Appeal resources. As is clear from the graph, the largest portion of the Appeal income was returned to parishes for their own projects and programs.



Appeal in Action: First Nations Ministry, St. Ann's, Duncan

The pastoral team and key community volunteers work in a number of pastoral areas at St. Ann's in Duncan. Through the Appeal, the Diocese provides support for these efforts. One of their important programs is their work with children and youth within the Cowichan culture. The goals of this program include:

- Enhancing knowledge of self, family, community and love of God through prayers, Elders' Teachings, Liturgy and the Sacraments
- Developing leadership skills and strengthening community building
- Promoting the value of sharing one's gifts and talents



The pastoral team and key volunteers work in a Talking Circle with children from the community learning about their faith and prayers.

Good Stewards Avoid "Compassion Fatigue"

One of the spiritual maladies Christians face today is "compassion fatigue." The media inundates us with details of disasters, natural and man-made, far and wide. We can't turn on the television without being assailed by news stories of another event that cries to us for help, and our mailboxes are full of pleas from worthy charities.

We try to give out of a sense of compassion, but the needs of the world overwhelm us. Generous givers become "fatigued" and grow weary. We can't respond to all the problems and crises in the world, can we?

Of course we can't respond to the cries of a suffering world with our comparatively meagre resources. If we try to respond to every crisis, to say yes to every loud or consistent plea for help, it is no surprise that we feel tired and discouraged. Our efforts to respond generously can become scattered and not well thought out, and sometimes our giving becomes motivated by guilt rather than compassion. Eventually, we may stop giving.

Christian stewards prayerfully discern how they are able to respond to the needs of the world. They budget their time and resources so that their response can be generous but focused, sacrificial but not overwhelming. They begin with a prayerful commitment to their immediate family of faith. Being generous to one's faith community can go a long way toward meeting the needs of others. Their response to the Diocesan annual Appeal and to special collections also makes them part of a larger faith community's response to the poor and marginalized. For some, this focused generosity may be the extent of their ability to give financially. The decision to give is made prudentially and without guilt. For others, a well-thought-out approach to supporting other charitable causes can be part of their stewardship planning as well. But for Christian stewards the giving does not stop there. Good stewards realize that the greatest gift they can give is the gift of prayer. Compassion, in its Latin roots, means "suffering with," and through prayer we can be drawn powerfully into solidarity with those who suffer.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of St. Luke is often seen as Jesus' example of compassionate giving. The Samaritan saw the man near death lying at the side of the road not just with his eyes, but with a compassionate heart. It is the kind of compassionate heart good stewards seek to cultivate within themselves through prayer, planning and focused generosity; ready to respond, without experiencing fatigue or weariness, to the cries of the world.

Excerpted from *The International Council of Catholic Stewardship*

More Stewardship in Scripture

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

Stewardship = Life

Stewardship is a way of life which is deeply rooted in scripture, and in particular, in the teaching and life of Jesus Christ. It is a spirituality founded on gratitude, a deeply Eucharistic spirituality. It addresses our profound inner need to give thanks to God for his abundant blessings. It recognizes that all that we have and all that we are is God's gift to us. It impresses upon us that we are administrators, stewards of the many gifts that God has entrusted to us. We do not own them for ourselves but for use in the building and strengthening the Church.

~ Sourced from the Archdiocese of Ottawa





Participants at the First Diocesan Family Conference gather to share a meal

Save the Dates!

Island Catholic Schools Day of Reflection

November 1, 8 am – 3 pm

Third Annual Diocesan Conference

November 1, 6 – 9:30 pm

November 2, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

*You have been told what is good,
and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.*
(Micah 6:8)

Keynote Speakers

Kirby Kranabetter, Ottawa, Ontario
Kathy Korman, Principal, John Paul II Catholic School, Port Alberni
Bishop Richard Gagnon

Location

St. Andrew's Regional High School, 880 McKenzie Avenue, Victoria

More information

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