



See Page 3

Appeal Update



See Page 12

Through the
Eyes of a Child



See Page 9

Bishop's
Distinguished
Lecture



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

December 2014

The Joy of "No Room"

by Bishop Gary Gordon

*Jesus was laid in a manger because there was
no room for them in the inn.*

~ Luke 2:7

The joy of the Christmas season gives us a beautiful time in which to recall the birth of Jesus, a name that means *God saves* – and He is called Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Emmanuel, God with us.

God is with us and His presence among us continues to be a knock at the door looking for a place to call home, a place to be born, a place of safety and security for his parents, Joseph and Mary.

'There was no room in the inn' turned out to be a good thing for shepherds who were visited by an angel on that holy night in Bethlehem and heard the news of great joy for all the people.

The shepherds knew where the manger was, and they knew the way to get there. Even today it is often the poorest who know where the manger is, and they know the way because God reveals the way to the humble of heart.

It is a good thing for all of us that there was 'no room in the inn' because it puts God's Son at the very centre of history in a place that is open – with no reservations required, no check-in, no surveillance cameras, no security systems and no locked doors.

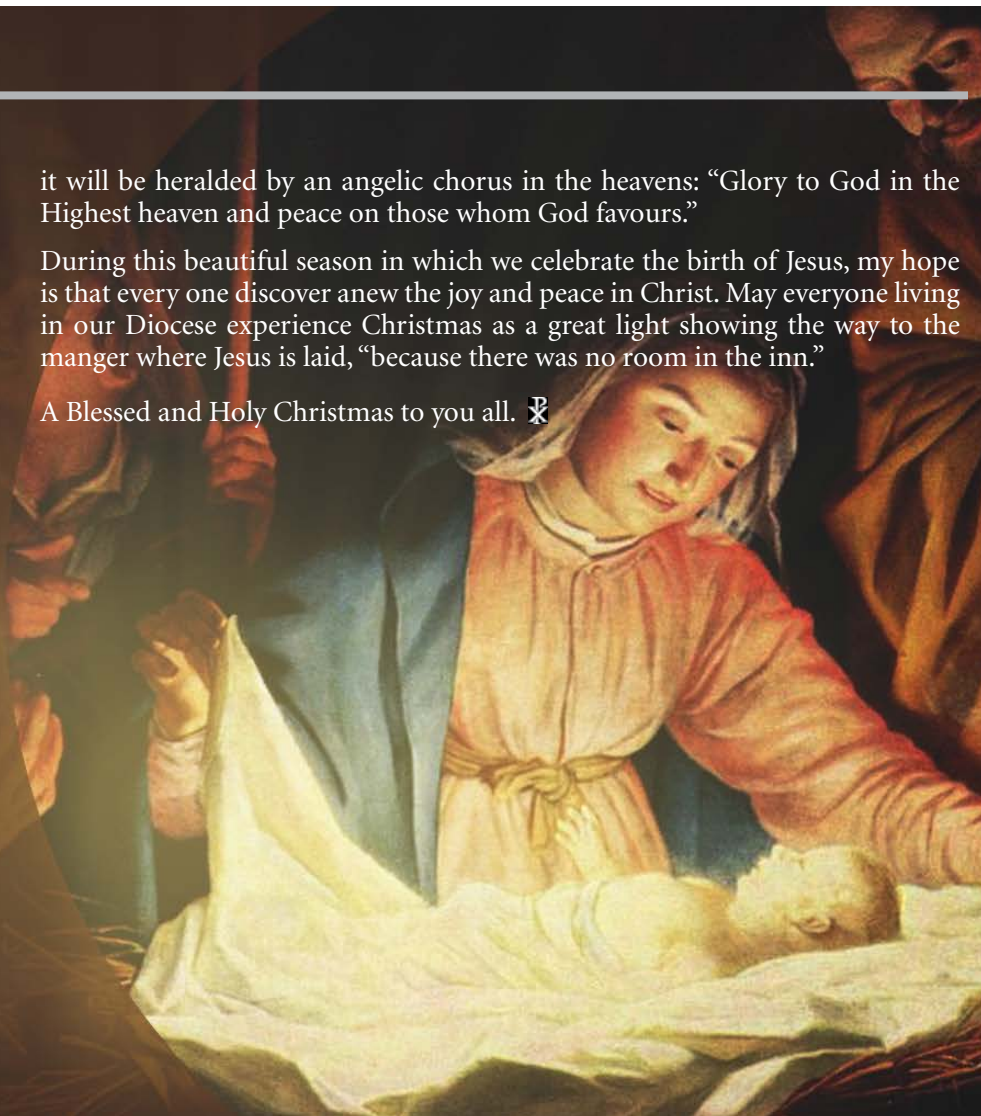
For those of us accustomed to security in every aspect of life, the birth of our Saviour outside the inn may be challenging and unnerving; it is also a profound invitation and the gift of real security and true freedom to become fully alive and let our hearts be open to all the great gifts God wants to give us this Christmas.

Every time we open the door of our hearts individually and as a nation in a *Yes* to life, for hundreds of thousands of people who today find 'no room in the inn'

it will be heralded by an angelic chorus in the heavens: "Glory to God in the Highest heaven and peace on those whom God favours."

During this beautiful season in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, my hope is that every one discover anew the joy and peace in Christ. May everyone living in our Diocese experience Christmas as a great light showing the way to the manger where Jesus is laid, "because there was no room in the inn."

A Blessed and Holy Christmas to you all. ✠



The Year of Consecrated Life

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa

The Year of Consecrated Life was inaugurated on November 29, 2014, with a Prayer Vigil in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, Rome. The Year will end on February 2, 2016, with the celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life.

The opening of the Year marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Perfectae Caritatis*, the Second Vatican Council Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life, promulgated on October 28, 1965. The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has released a logo and theme for the Year. Pope Francis announced in November 2013 the Church will have a special year of 14 months dedicated to the consecrated life, extending throughout all of 2015.

To mark its beginning, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has released a letter to consecrated men and women entitled *Rejoice*. Dioceses and religious communities in Canada and throughout the world are organizing

events and initiatives as part of the year, in addition to the international celebrations and meetings which will be held in Rome.

In the Diocese of Victoria, the Poor Clares will host a meeting for religious to gather and plan an initiative for our Diocese.

The Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) has posted on the home page of its Website a new section entitled "Year of Consecrated Life". The first news posted is the Message from the Most Reverend Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, to the consecrated men and women of the country. In the new section of the CRC Website there will be news, videos, a bibliography, and reports on religious life. The video message of the current Executive Director of the CRC, Fr. Yvon Pomerleau OP, is available, as well as the video message of Sr. Rita Larivée SSA, President of the CRC. Both discussed the importance of celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life and present the principal activities which are planned by the CRC.

The CCCB has invited the CRC to establish a joint

committee that will recommend possible ways to celebrate the Year for Consecrated Life in Canada. The CCCB has also created a special section in the home page of its Website to offer news on the work of the joint committee and to provide links to the websites of the Holy See, the CRC and religious communities in Canada, as well as to help publicize diocesan celebrations from across Canada. Among those are pastoral letters by the Most Reverend Anthony Mancini, Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth and CCCB Co-Treasurer, and the Most Reverend Dorylas Moreau, Bishop of Rouyn-Noranda, for the opening of the Year of Consecrated Life. ✠

Links to the logo, letters, Sr. Larivée's video and other resources can be found on the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org/blog/post/en/the-year-of-consecrated-life.



Inside

Calendar of Events	4
Connections.	15
Diocesan Appeal	3
Diocesan News & Events	5
Face the Day	17
Faith Matters.	18
Impressions	22
Island Catholic Schools	10
National/International	20
Out of the Archives	2
Pastoral Itinerary	4
The Campus Mission	15
Vocations.	16

Read more about The Year of Consecrated Life on page 19



Out of the Archives



by Theresa Vogel, Archivist, Diocese of Victoria

November's Answers

Thank you to all who submitted responses to the November *Out of the Archives* column. Many people shared memories, and most had correct guesses on the items. Here is a little insight into the pictures from November's *Out of the Archives*.

The cabinet depicted is a holder for the Holy Oils used in the rites of the Church. Faintly etched on the door panel are the words *Olea Sacra*. The oils held in the cabinet are: Oil of the Sick (*Oleum Infirmorum*), Oil of Chrism (*Sanctum Chrisma*), and Oil of Catechumens (*Oleum Catechumenorum*). All of these oils are blessed during the Mass of Holy Chrism each year, and conveyed to parish communities to be used in rites and blessings. Oil has great historical and functional significance, and the notion that oil is used to "... sweeten, strengthen, and render supple" harmonizes with the blessings and beliefs in the Church. There was no note or indication of where this cabinet came from ... does anyone remember it?



The distinguished-looking cleric is Reverend (Dr.) Alexander J. McDonald. Fr. McDonald was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and ordained June 3, 1939. Like many, he responded to a call from Bishop John Cody to come to Vancouver Island, and held assignments in Victoria, Nanaimo and Ladysmith. In 1944, he undertook studies in Canon Law at the University of Ottawa, and received his Doctorate in Canon Law in 1948.



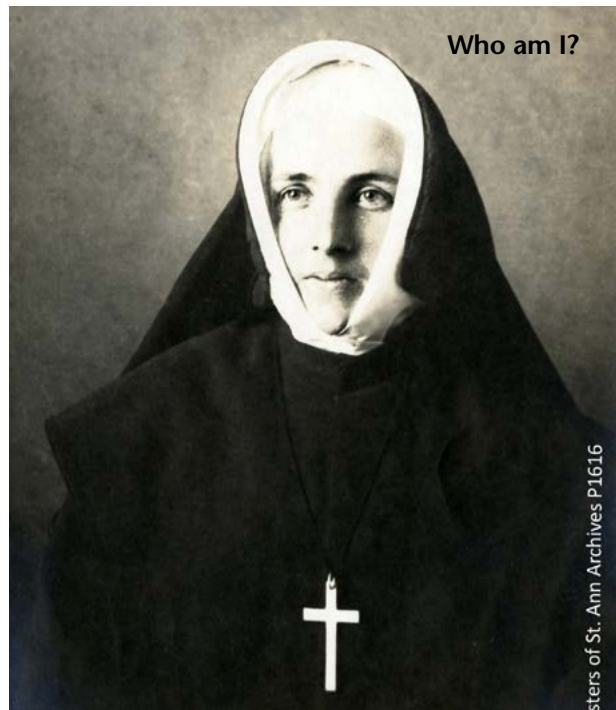
In the early 1970s, Fr. McDonald returned to Ontario, and died there July 14, 1976.

Rev. Dr. McDonald was pictured in November for a couple of reasons – he served locally with the Canadian Army Chaplain Corps until 1965, and parts of his uniform (tunic, belt and hat) are in the Diocesan Archives. And, he is depicted with his mother and father on the cover of the October, 1965 *Torch* magazine, as his parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at St. Andrew's Cathedral parish. ✂

December's Query

For the December edition, let us think about Bishops past and present. In the colourful Christmas department, have a look, and perhaps offer some insight into which of our Diocesan bishops had such a good understanding? A little clue: most likely, these 'what am I?' objects have not been seen for 50 years.

In the 'who am I?' section, this Sister of St. Ann has a strong connection to the current Diocesan Bishop. Many thanks to the Sisters of St. Ann Archives for permission to use this photo to test your memory of history and puzzle out the family tree of Most Reverend Gary Gordon. ✂



What am I?



Christmas 2014

Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child



This Christmas, give a gift from the

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Chalice has a variety of gifts, including animals, household items, health & nutrition gifts, livelihood and small business gifts, and gifts for community improvements.

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GIVING AND RECEIVING,
A TIME TO REMEMBER
THOSE LESS FORTUNATE
THAN OURSELVES, A TIME
FOR FAMILIES TO COME
TOGETHER AND A TIME
TO CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.



'People in Wheelchairs CAN Dance'
A Self Portrait by Resident & Artist, Suzy Restino

YOU can help People in Wheelchairs Dance

Call 250.480.3138 to donate today or visit www.msmfoundation.ca

Page 2

Diocesan Messenger – December 2014



As a Family, As a Church

The Power of “Patrimony”

by Patrica Rooke

I have been a teacher in the Adult Education Program at St. Andrew’s Cathedral and at times for the Diocese for the last thirteen years. I have been asked to add my voice to those who have already supported the Diocesan Appeal for 2014. I realize many of you have responded already so these few words are for those who are still pondering whether they will participate. The Appeal, as you know, returns a generous portion of its donations to your home parish.

For those of you who have been my students, you may remember my saying that any public speaking skills were honed in my childhood and youth by a Communist (indeed, a Stalinist) father and it is to him I owe so much in this area. However, I doubt very much that he ever dreamed – let alone approved – of his efforts being used in a *Catholic* cathedral appealing for funds for a *Catholic* cause! Such is one of life’s ironies. Just as it is that I do this on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Paradoxically it is partly because of his belief that his generation owed the next generation a new world order, and that no effort was too little for him to bring about this transformation of a whole society, that I stand here today. Our Diocesan Appeal, named this year *As a Family, As a Church*, in fact would appeal to him in a certain sense because it speaks of the human family, our family, this family of diocese and parishes – and what we owe the next generation. He was zealously committed to that extended sense of community. And not just for the next generation, but those that follow – even to our grandchildren’s grandchildren.

The Church from her beginnings handed over what we call the “tradition” of our faith, generation to generation, and it is because of the sacrifices, not just of our parents and grandparents, but from the first centuries, that we sit here today, listen to the Word of God, worship in comfort and freedom, and receive the Living Bread. All of us wish no less for those who follow us. In a hundred years there will be others sitting in the very pew we occupy today celebrating Holy Mass because we made that possible for them and their Masses will include prayers for those faithful departed who have gone before them. Us. We pray for those in the past and the future will pray for us in turn.

My father’s vision was limited to the present and future. He had no time for a worn out past and did not honour those who had gone before whom he thought could offer us nothing for the present except ‘pie in the sky’. We are the very opposite – from the blood of the martyrs, the saints, the ordinary holy men and women who have sustained churches, built schools, cared for the sick and the poor, evangelized isolated missions, and frequently given ‘the widow’s mite’ despite past deprivations, large families, and little income without any government aids – *we thank God for the past and identify with it.*

The Church is past, present, and future until ‘thy Kingdom Come’. We call this by a special name, *Patrimony*: that which we owe the future because we are part of the past; the past of a universal church, a parish, *and a diocese.*

The diocesan structure is the organizational genius of our faith. It enables us to share our good fortune with the more isolated and poorer parish churches. We who enjoy daily Masses, will never be without a Cathedral priest, therefore never have to hunger for the Sacraments, faith formation, or the material things that sustain our journey as ‘a church’. But our brothers and sisters in the isolated parish do hunger for these things.

We are asked to give so that we might share this patrimony by supporting Catholic education which struggles to transmit the faith in schools in the midst of secular values; adult formation programs; encourage vocations so that there will be priests for the Sacraments and provide them with salaries – a pittance compared with many protestant ministers – and give security to our elderly priests who have served us with love and devotion for many years. These are just some of the gifts the Diocesan Appeal distributes to us all.

Patrimony: a powerful and beautiful word. It reminds us we have a contract with our beloved dead and with those yet unborn. It recognizes the future in the present and all who have gone before us.

Some of us can give little while others can give more. In this we all play our part as members of Christ’s Body. For the sake of those grandchildren’s grandchildren, for the sake of those who have walked before us over the centuries, for the sake of those who built what we enjoy – in gratitude for the past and with hope for the future let us all give something. ✠

GOAL ACHIEVED!

\$754,500 has been received as at press time.

Congratulations to parishes who exceeded their goals,
and thank you to all!

For 2014, funds are to be apportioned over three broad categories: *Parish Share, Outreach, and Education*; as well as direct costs.

Parish Share

\$150,000

Funds are used by parishes to support local initiatives. This includes parish renovations and repairs, youth retreats, creation of gardens and grottoes and repayment of parish debt.

Outreach

\$175,000

Retired Clergy Pension Support

- Contributes additional funds necessary to provide retired clergy with an adequate pension

First Nations Support

- Sponsor a youth and breakfast program for First Nations Ministry in the Cowichan Valley
- Provide travel and support payments for the RVM Sisters’ ministry to First Nations communities

Parish Mission Outreach

- Assist small parishes with funds for basic operations, including heat, light, insurance and priests’ travel.

Education

\$375,000

Up Island Schools

- Support general operating expenses including the purchase of textbooks
- *Island Catholic Schools Capital Plan*

- Expand and seismically upgrade Island Catholic Schools.

Religious Education

- Provide education and training to parish catechists for the new Children’s Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation

Youth Ministry

- Support of the Office of Youth, Youth Camps and the Diocesan Youth Conference

Appeal Direct Costs

\$ 50,000

- Mailing, print materials and administration.

There is still time to help; donations received at the Pastoral Centre by December 31 will receive a tax receipt. Appeal brochures (with donation form) are available at your parish. You may also visit www.rcdvictoria.org and click on the Annual Appeal quick-link on the left-hand side for more information.



December

- 13 **Tofino:** St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mass (5:30 pm) and Pastoral Visit
- 14-15 **Ucluelet:** Holy Family Parish, Mass (10:00 am) and Pastoral Visit
- Ahousaht:** Mass (7:30 pm) and Pastoral Visit
- Esowista Ty-histanis:** Pastoral Visit
- 16 **Opitsaht:** Mass (2 pm) and Pastoral Visit
- 20 **Duncan:** St. Edward’s Parish – Mass (5 pm) and Pastoral Visit
- 21 **Lake Cowichan:** St. Louis de Montfort – Mass (8:00 am)
- Duncan:** St. Edward’s Parish – Mass (10 am)
- 24 **Penelekut Island:** Christmas Eve Mass (3:30 pm)
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Christmas Eve Mass (11 pm)
- 25 **St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Christmas Day Mass (11 am)
- 27-28 **Port Alberni:** Holy Family/Notre Dame, Mass (5 pm, 10 am) and Pastoral Visit

Calendar of Events

December

- 13 **The Horseshoe Club (620 Kenneth Street), Victoria:** St. Joseph the Worker Men’s Breakfast, 8 – 10 am. Guest speaker: Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Victoria. To register call the parish office at (250) 479.7413, email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or visit the Men’s Breakfast website at www.mfaff.org.
- 13 **Church of the Ascension, Parksville:** The Church of the Ascension Catholic Women’s League Council will hold the annual Mass for the deceased members of our Council. More info: (250) 248-3747. *See story on page 5.*
- 15 **Theology on Tap:** Irish Times Pub, 1200 Government Street, Victoria, 7 – 9 pm. *Now is the Time for a Catholic Revolution* with Fr. Dean Henderson, UVic and Camosun Chaplain.
- 20 **Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC):** regular meeting on third Saturday at Our Lady of Fatima Church (4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria) from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm includes faith sharing and a presentation on *Give Back to Caesar Caesar’s* (Income Tax) by Mrs. Nora Leung, CGA, followed by potluck dinner. All are welcome! For more information, please e-mail Ben at benchow@shaw.ca.

Upcoming Events

- Tuesdays
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass, 9 am.
- Wednesdays
- St. Patrick’s, Victoria:** 9:30 am, Moms & Tots group. Come together with the moms of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church for faith, fellowship and laughter. Contact Bonnie at (250) 213-4984 or koalabear_writer@yahoo.ca for more info.
- Fridays
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass, 9 am, first Friday of the month only.
- 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.
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** *YDisciple* is a Catholic program to help teenagers take ownership of their faith. We meet from 7 – 8:30 pm in the parish hall. Youth leader is Jose Mendez. More info: olor@shaw.ca or call (250) 478-3482.
- Saturdays
- St. Joseph the Worker Parish:** 3 – 4:30 pm, Jesus Youth at SJTW Parish invites youth in high school to come out to the Jesus Youth Prayer meeting! Jesus Youth is an international Catholic youth movement with a charismatic spirituality. For more information contact: mr.georgephilip@gmail.com.

- At the Cathedral:** 4th Saturday of each month the 9:30 am 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.
- Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria:** Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC) regular meetings with faith sharing, prayers, potluck, Mass or special presentations by expert speakers, 3:30 pm. Please note meeting dates may not fall on First Saturdays of the month; please contact Ben for more information. Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information phone (250) 893-9938 or email Ben Chow at benchow@shaw.ca.

January 2015

- 1 **St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** New Year’s Day Mass (10:30 am)
- 7-11 **Mission:** Association of Western Catholic Bishops Retreat
- 18 **Victoria:** Sacred Heart Parish, Mass (8:30 am and 10 am) and Pastoral Visit
- St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Communal Prayer Service – Week of Christian Unity (2:30 pm)
- 22 **Nanaimo:** Clergy Day of Reflection – Trinity Parish (11:30 am)
- 25 **Victoria:** Ecumenical Dialogue Prayer Service, St. Stephen’s Anglican, Saanichton (2:30 pm)
- Ecumenical Service, Christ Church Cathedral (4:30 pm)
- 30-Feb 1 **Quadra Island:** Camp Homewood, Diocesan Youth Conference

January

- 17 **Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC):** regular meeting on third Saturday at Our Lady of Fatima Church (4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria) from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm includes faith sharing and a presentation on *Property Maintenance, Management & Assessment* by Mr. Benedict Chow, AACI, P. App. (Retired) followed by potluck dinner. All are welcome! For more information, please e-mail Ben at benchow@shaw.ca.
- 維多利亞天主教團體* - 定期聚會活動包括信仰分享, 祈禱, 彌撒或專題講座。每次聚會皆有 potluck 聚餐作結。日期暫定為每月第三個星期六, 而時間則為下午三時半至六時半。地點在花地瑪天主堂 (4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria) 舉行。二零一四年十二月二十日專題講座「是凱撒的歸凱撒 - 入息稅與您」主講者Nora 梁女士為退休注册會計師。二零一五年一月十七日專題講座為「物業維修、地稅及管理」。主講者周剛先生乃退休物業評估顧問。誠邀您和您的親友同來分享共融之樂。查詢及核實活動詳情, 請電 250-893-9938 或電郵 benchow@shaw.ca。

- 維多利亞天主教團體* : 定期聚會活動包括信仰分享, 祈禱, 彌撒或專題講座。每次聚會皆有 potluck 聚餐作結。日期暫定為每月第三個星期六, 而時間則為下午三時半至六時許。地點在花地瑪天主堂 (4635 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria) 舉行。請電 (250) 893- 9938 或電郵 benchow@shaw.ca 查詢及核實活動日期等詳情。

- Sundays
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass, 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, with potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email onthisrock@shaw.ca.

- 2015 March
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Spring Break Camps! **Monday, March 9 to Friday, March 13, 2015,** 9 am – 1 pm, Youth Camp for children aged 12 – 15. Cost: \$20. We invite teenagers to join us for this camp, so they can volunteers at the kids’ camps. **Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20, 2015,** 8:50 am – 2 pm, Children’s Camp for kids aged 7 – 11. Cost \$60. **Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 20, 2015,** 8:50 am – 12:30 pm, Young Kids Camp for kids aged 4 – 6. Cost \$60.Registration and information: email olor@shaw.ca or phone (250) 478-3482.

- Nov 2 - 20 Mary Hof, parishioner of St. Edward’s Duncan is inviting members of parishes who would like to come on a cruise. We begin with three nights in Fort Lauderdale then board Celebrity and cruise through the Panama Canal, ending in San Diego. Cruises are a good way to build community, and share in some fun as a group. It’s also a good way for those who would like to travel but do not want to go on their own. There is one opportunity for sharing a cabin with a lady parishioner from St. Edward’s. Space is limited. For more information contact Mary at mhof126@gmail.com or call (250) 743-4074.

February 2015


- 7 **St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Harrison Ayre (10 am)
- 8 **Victoria:** Holy Cross Church, Mass, UVic Catholic Students Association (4 pm)
- 14 **Victoria:** Celebration, Downtown Churches’ Association 25th Anniversary (5 pm)
- 15 **Duncan:** St. Ann’s Church, Confirmation Mass (11 am)
- 17 **Victoria:** Speaker, ACL Breakfast, Union Club (7 am)
- 18 **Victoria:** Sacred Heart, St. Andrew’s Regional High School Ash Wednesday Mass (11 am)
- Victoria:** St. Andrew’s Cathedral, Ash Wednesday Mass (7 pm)

- 31 **Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Squires Spaghetti Dinner following 5 pm Mass; dinner after 6:30 pm. Non-alcoholic beverages, entertainment, 50/50 draw. Children aged 7 – 12, \$10. Adult, \$15. Family, \$30. Proceeds to Bishop Gary Gordon’s Catholic Missions, Support of Marriage and Family and Squires’ initiatives. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Chief Squire Larson Tan: (778) 440-4991 or email larsonltan@live.ca; or Joseph Yuson: (250) 381-2425 or email jpyuson@gmail.com.

February

- 7 **St. Andrew’s Cathedral:** Ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Harrison Ayre, 10 am.

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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Diocesan News & Events



Joyful Anticipation ...

by Bishop Gary Gordon

Advent is the season of joyful news and anticipation of Christmas. Advent is also a time to reflect on the eternal unchanging covenant and promises of God, and the surprises that God sends to keep us awake.

The call from the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada last June informing me that Pope Francis wanted me to be the Bishop of Victoria, was one of those big surprises out of the blue, but it was also confirmation of God's providential care of the covenant with His people to provide shepherds.

The move south from Whitehorse did raise the anxiety levels in my heart and soul. Of course, Merlin seemed to take it all in stride, simply viewing all change as an opportunity for new adventures. In fact I must say the dog was a calming influence for me. The other calming influence is the grace and presence of so many gifted and generous staff at the pastoral centre and very wonderful clergy and lay ministers I have met throughout our Diocese.

The surprise of waking up on the first weekend of Advent to a snow-covered Victoria landscape was an unexpected early Christmas present for Merlin and me. Advent is indeed the season of surprises as God so often breaks into the busyness of life and gives us new and wonderful gifts for our pilgrim journey.

The pilgrim journey of the ministry of Bishop for eight years in the Diocese of Whitehorse, and now in the Diocese of Victoria, does bring to mind and reflection the meaning of being a pilgrim and the beautiful security of being a child of God, chosen and loved. Merlin and I are off on another adventure in our Diocese, where the intersections of life mixing with God and all people of goodwill is creating more stories of grace and love. It is true my soul is in the sole of my feet and Merlin's paws are a peaceful pause, for all we meet on the trail in our new homeland.

Advent is such a graced time to recall God's faithfulness and incarnate presence in Jesus, Emmanuel. Even Merlin sometimes demonstrates a kind of 'paws for reflection'. I hold you and your family in my prayers and thoughts this Advent and Christmas season, and hope your health and strength are blessed by the Lord. May you, too, be surprised by God along your pilgrim way. ✂



Welcome, Fr. Al and Deacon Harrison to St. Patrick's Parish

by Shannon Turner

St. Patrick's has been blessed by the arrival of our new Parish Priest, Fr. Alfred Francis M. Alilio (August 1, 2014) and Deacon Harrison Ayre (September 1, 2014). Our new clergy came with a great willingness to make friends and serve the spiritual needs of our community. A welcome coffee was held in the summer hosted by parish volunteers, so that our new clerics were met with warmth and appreciation by our community.

More formally, Parish Pastoral Council sponsored a lovely welcome reception on Thursday, October 9, 2014, in the early evening. We also welcomed new families and members to our parish and we hope that our commitment to hospitality makes all feel welcome. The Hospitality Ministry, St. Patrick's School, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus pulled together a lovely gathering with appetizers and refreshments. Once again Tony Joe did a fabulous job as Master of Ceremonies and Fr. Al gave a beautiful blessing to all who attended. It was a community-building event and we have already experienced a number of benefits from having two full time clergy to serve our growing and vibrant parish. ✂



L to R: Fr. Al, John Mochrie and Tony Joe

Thinking Now About the Future

by Marian Thibault

St. Patrick's Parish in Campbell River recently hosted a two-day workshop entitled *Advance Care Planning – Thinking Now About the Future*. Popular presenters Gerry Herkel and Rose Marie Hague were guest speakers for the first session, and gave an excellent presentation of the Catholic Health Association's *Advance Care Planning – A Catholic Faith-Based Perspective*. Other presenters included parishioners Brenda Merk Hildebrand, who outlined local community resources for home and community support for the aging, and Dr. Kathleen McFadden, who answered questions regarding medical issues such as types of care available and how or when to access them.

The second day focused on financial and legal aspects of advance care planning from parishioner Brook Kiddle and Knights of Columbus financial planner Shaun Fetter, as well as funeral advice from local funeral director Kent Roduck. Parishioner Laurel Phyll explained what is available in our parish for a Catholic funeral, including the rental of a parish casket for use at a funeral Mass, and CWL participation in hosting a reception.

Since the second day was on November 1, Fr. Jan celebrated Mass for All Saints prior to the workshop, and also wrapped up the session at the end, thanking all the presenters and the participants. Our Lady of Guadeloupe Hall, where the workshops took place, was packed to overflowing with parishioners who benefitted from the experience and expertise of the very knowledgeable and interesting presenters. ✂

Fr. Marek Paczka SDS becomes a Canadian Citizen!

by Dale Jeffery

On Monday, September 29, 2014, Fr. Marek Paczka SDS travelled to the Citizenship court in Vancouver to attend the Citizenship Ceremony. Fr. Marek along with 30 other immigrants became a Canadian. Upon his return to Christ the King Parish, the parishioners held a celebration to commemorate this occasion. ✂



Wing Commander (Ret'd) James "Stocky" Edwards (WW II Ace) Appointed as a Knight of the French Legion of Honour

DND Press Release, November 28, 2014

Wing Commander (Ret'd) James Francis "Stocky" Edwards CM, DFC & Bar, DFM, CD, was named as a Knight in France's Legion of Honour by French Consul General Jean-Christophe Fleury at a ceremony at 19 Wing Comox [on November 28, 2014].

Her Honour, the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, also attended the ceremony. To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, the French government is bestowing awards upon all of the living Canadian veterans who participated in D-Day operations. The Legion of Honour has been in existence since 1802, during the reign of Napoleon. It rewards the outstanding merits of individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their respective social, economic, hereditary or even national backgrounds.

"I am very grateful to the French President for the Honour," said Edwards, who completed three combat tours during WWII and fought over the deserts of North Africa, the beaches of Italy and the farmlands of France and northwestern Europe. "Even though it was a long time ago, it is nice to know that the people of France are still thinking of us. I want to share this honour with all of my friends, which is why I requested to have the ceremony here in Comox, so that we can all have it together."

"The accomplishments of Canadians during the Second World War are a vibrant reminder of the profound and historic friendship that bound France and Canada," said Fleury, Consul General, Consulate General of France, Vancouver. "Our two countries owe each other their very existence as free nations and this indeed creates a special relationship. The French people will never forget the acts of bravery that accomplished Canadians, like Stocky Edwards, performed during D-Day to help restore our freedom."

Edward's Spitfires escorted heavily laden gliders and tow planes in the vulnerable cross-channel flight. From Normandy, 274 Squadron fought the Luftwaffe and harassed German ground forces in their final retreat east of the Rhine. By the end of the war, Edwards was credited with 19¾ enemy aircraft destroyed, 6½ probably destroyed and 17 damaged in air-to-air combat. He had destroyed or damaged another 14 on the ground. Most remarkably, he was still just 24 years old.

Returning to Canada, Edwards remained in the RCAF and continued to make history. He commanded his nation's first jet unit, a flight flying the DeHavilland Vampire. In November 1951, he took command of the first squadron to employ the Canadair F-86 Sabre. In 1953, as commander of 2 Wing, Edwards led the first RCAF wing to deploy to Europe. In 1972, after more than 30 years of military service, Wing Commander "Stocky" Edwards retired.

His decorations include Member in the Order of Canada, Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar, Distinguished Flying Medal, Canadian Forces Decoration and Mention in Dispatches.

Colonel Tom Dunne, Commander, 19 Wing Comox, responded. "It was an honour for 19 Wing Comox to be able to host this very special day for WCdr (Ret'd) Edwards. We are extremely fortunate to have Stocky as part of the 19 Wing family, and humbled that he chose to receive this honour among us today. He is an incredible person who has achieved extraordinary things throughout his career in the RCAF. It is a real pleasure to have the opportunity to learn from him." ✂



"Stocky" Edwards (R) with fellow parishioner Lief Wadelius. Photo credit: André Melançon, Knights of Columbus Dr. Briggs Council #4597 Grand Knight

Rosalie's Village for Women and Children

by Margaret MacIntyre, Member & Volunteer Services, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

It is anticipated that after almost seven years of planning, Rosalie's Village, a Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) housing project for homeless women and children located in Royal Oak, will begin construction in the spring of 2015. Inspired by the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," and named after Blessed Rosalie Rendu, the concept of this project is to provide housing and accessibility to the many services the CRD offers to vulnerable women and children. Working with many partners builds community and the confidence to move forward.



The vision is twofold: to make available safe, affordable housing for young mothers with small children on their journey to independence and the transition into market rental housing; and to offer a home to older women coming out of various homeless/at risk situations until they qualify for appropriate seniors housing. Needs assessments reveal that this type of housing is much needed in the CRD. It is estimated the region needs at least 250 supportive housing units and 1,500 affordable/low-market units.

Rosalie's Village will be a 42-unit housing project which will include an infant/toddler daycare with capacity for 37 children, with priority given to residents of Rosalie's Village. This daycare, Mary's Place, will provide secure childcare so that their mothers can focus on bettering their lives and those of their children through education and employment. It is difficult to break the cycle of poverty, but it has been identified that finding a home is integral to success along with access to childcare, education and employment. Giving young mothers a 'hand-up' will affect subsequent generations in achieving a good standard of living. The children of Mary's Place will be able to attend free of charge through the federal day care subsidy and a top-up provided by Saint Vincent de Paul. The Society has taken on the task of fundraising \$1.2 million dollars for Mary's Place, the community kitchen, Social Concern office and the community gardens. To date the Society has raised \$650,000.

Funding provided for the project has been accessed through the District of Saanich, Capital Regional District, CMHC and The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness with SVDP donating the land. BC Housing has provided preliminary project approval. Other partnerships include, Pacifica Housing, M'akola Housing and Joe Newell Architects.

In order to achieve the goal of transitioning to independence, several programs will operate from Rosalie's Village. There will be resident support workers who will develop a plan with each tenant to map out a road to independence. This will be a case-managed agreement between the Society and the tenant and may involve attending high school or college or beginning a career path. Placement and the transition to seniors housing for the older women will also be done with the assistance of the resident support workers. As well there will be a Social Concern Office in the building where tenants can access services include work training programs, women's day programs, life skills training, an income

tax program and so on. All of the foregoing services are already funded by the Society through donations and sale of goods at the six Victoria area thrift stores.

The Society has almost 100 years of experience providing support to those in need through home visits throughout the Capital Regional District. In fact, SVDP is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service on Vancouver Island in 2015. Our home visitors would extend this support to assist the tenants of Rosalie's Village, offering a variety of supports including the donation of food and clothing and advocacy in accessing local services.

The Society is counting on the support of Victoria residents and accepts donations in person, by phone, by mail, or over the Internet. More information is available on the Rosalie's Village website: <http://www.rosaliesvillage.ca/>, or call us at (250) 727-0007. Spreading awareness also really helps and "I Support Rosalie's" buttons are available and can be ordered at 4349 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC Canada. ✂



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Icon Writing on Vancouver Island

by Mike Edley

A Catholic church is usually adorned with statues of Jesus, Our Lady or a particular Saint, and is specific to the Latin Rite of the Church. Eastern churches, however, are adorned with sacred icons. This form of art dates back to the early years of Christianity and has been used as a “tool” for prayer and devotion up to the present day.

Icons were originally used to assist the clergy in explaining stories relating to the Old and New Testaments to the newly converted who, for the most part, were illiterate. These icons became not just religious art but instruments of devotion and are looked upon as ‘Windows into Heaven’.

There has been a keen interest by some of the faithful of the Latin Rite to learn this form of art and two workshops, taught by Kathleen van der Sande, were held on the Island this year. Some of the students attended a special Eastern Rite blessing that was held at the Poor Clare Monastery in Duncan on November 19, 2014. The blessing was given by Fr. Steven Basarab of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy assisted by Fr. Alfredo Monacelli from St. Edward’s Parish. ✂



Fr. Alfredo (R) with Fr. Steven (far R) and several workshops students at the Blessing at the Poor Clare Monastery in Duncan

CWL Past Members Honoured

by Sandi Digras

Carol Low (pictured below, L, Diocesan Spiritual Director, CWL) and Penny Cowan (pictured below, R) coordinated the November 13, 2014 Mass for deceased members of Church of the Ascension CWL. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mel Bayron. During the service roses were placed into a vase on the altar while Carol read the names of deceased members. ✂



Get a Whiff!

by Kathleen Burton, Executive Director Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation

Feast your eyes and nose on creative inspirations – among them Mount St. Mary Hospital – constructed from gingerbread at Canada’s National Gingerbread Showcase. You will see more than just houses; your eyes will delight at the detailed sculptures and exceptional works of art created by professional and amateur chefs. Vote for your favorite, and make a donation to Habitat for Humanity Victoria.

As participants, Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation was asked to dream up our best interpretation of *Where Things Live*. Life most certainly takes place at the “Mount” and as such we wanted to create an entry that would be spirit inspiring. So we built a gingerbread hospital complete with chapel and the fountain in the Blondin Green. We believe our Mount St. Mary gingerbread entry will leave your “mouth watering and your eyes wanting more.”

The Foundation has the recipe for that too, as more you shall have. This time your eyes will be filled with joy as you take in the cuddliest ‘Bearythoner’ in town. That’s right; mischief is a bruin as Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation is taking part in *Bear Wear*, a beloved Greater Victoria holiday tradition. Bearython Bear is just one fun, festive display amongst the lovable teddy bears that will be dressed up in fabulous costumes by local sponsors, businesses, organizations and individuals. Funds raised through the public voting and sponsorships supports kids on the Island with special needs through the Children’s Health Foundation of Vancouver Island. With the GoodLife Fitness Marathon ‘bear’ly over, we chose a ‘Bear’athon entry to represent the Mount St. Marythoners as an entry in honour of, and recognizing Sr. Lucy and our cheering station volunteers, for all of their dedication to Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation.

You can view Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation’s entries into these two wonderful and heartwarming events and their wonderful, creative displays through January 4, 2015.

National Gingerbread Display
Laurel Point Hotel, 680 Montreal Street, Victoria

Bear Wear
Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville Street, Victoria

On behalf of the Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. May God bless you, and may peace be with you this holiday season. ✂



Merry Christmas

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Peace

De Egipto llame a mi Hijo

Relexion por Marimar Campos

Después de la Adoración de los Magos al Nino Jesus, era de esperarse que la Sagrada Familia regresara a Nazaret porque fue en Nazaret donde había sucedido la Anunciación, segun el evangelio de Lucas. El viaje a Jerusalén era nada mas un cumplimiento del deber civico, el censo.

La visita de los Magos había desencadenado los celos de Herodes. Herodes envidioso de su poder y de su trono decreto la matanza de los ninos menores de 3 anos, conocida ahora como “La matanza de los inocentes”.

José tuvo que huir urgentemente e irse al extranjero. “El ángel del Señor se apareció en sueños a José y le dijo: ‘levántate y toma contigo al niño y a su madre y huye a Egipto; allí estarás hasta que te avise, porque Herodes va a buscar al niño para matarle. Y segun sabemos por la lectura del evnagelio, Jose se levantó, tomó de noche al Niño y a su Madre, y se retiró a Egipto: y allí estuvo hasta la muerte de Herodes; para que se cumpliera el oráculo del Señor por medio del profeta: de Egipto llamé a mi hijo’” (Lc.2,13-5).

La historia de la huida a Egipto se parece a la de tantos perseguidos politicos y/o religiosos, a la historia de las personas que viven en un pais en guerra o con guerrillas, a los que viven en un pais donde no existe un estado de derecho. Hay que abandonar todo, casa, familiares, negocios, hasta su propio idioma. Hay que volver a empezar desde el principio.

Esta situacion ciertamente se aplica a nosotros, los inmigrantes. Nosotros sabemos bien lo que es vivir sin el apoyo de nuestra familia, con el reto día a día de hablar una lengua extranjera, vivir en un lugar donde tal vez algunos quieren tomar ventaja de nuestra “ignorancia” de muchas leyes, costumbres y beneficios publicos. Donde somos objeto de criticas y burla muchas veces por no ser nativos del idioma o por nuestra apariencia fisica, por el color de nuestra piel, cabello y ojos.

Cuando la Sagrada Familia se fue a Egipto vivieron como refugiados, como imigrantes, como extranos. Parece que Jesus nos quisiera decir que El tambien es uno de nosotros, un inmigrante, un nuevo ciudadano en una tierra extrana. Jesús ha querido experimentar el rechazo total: “Vino a su casa, y los suyos no lo recibieron” (Jn 1,11). Este es un hecho considerado en su desarrollo histórico.

Al vivir Jesus en Egipto, santifico Egipto con su presencia y vivio el plan de salvacion para el que habia venido al mundo: liberarnos de la escalvitud del pecado y abrirnos las puertas del cielo.

Como muchas cosas que no comprendemos en nuestras vidas cuando nos suceden, así de igual manera en aquel entonces Egipto, había sido el refugio de los patriarcas, de Moisés y del mismo Jesús. Y despues de transcurrido el tiempo, Egipto era donde habia mucha opresion y exclavitud, y el lugar de donde surgio la salvacion.

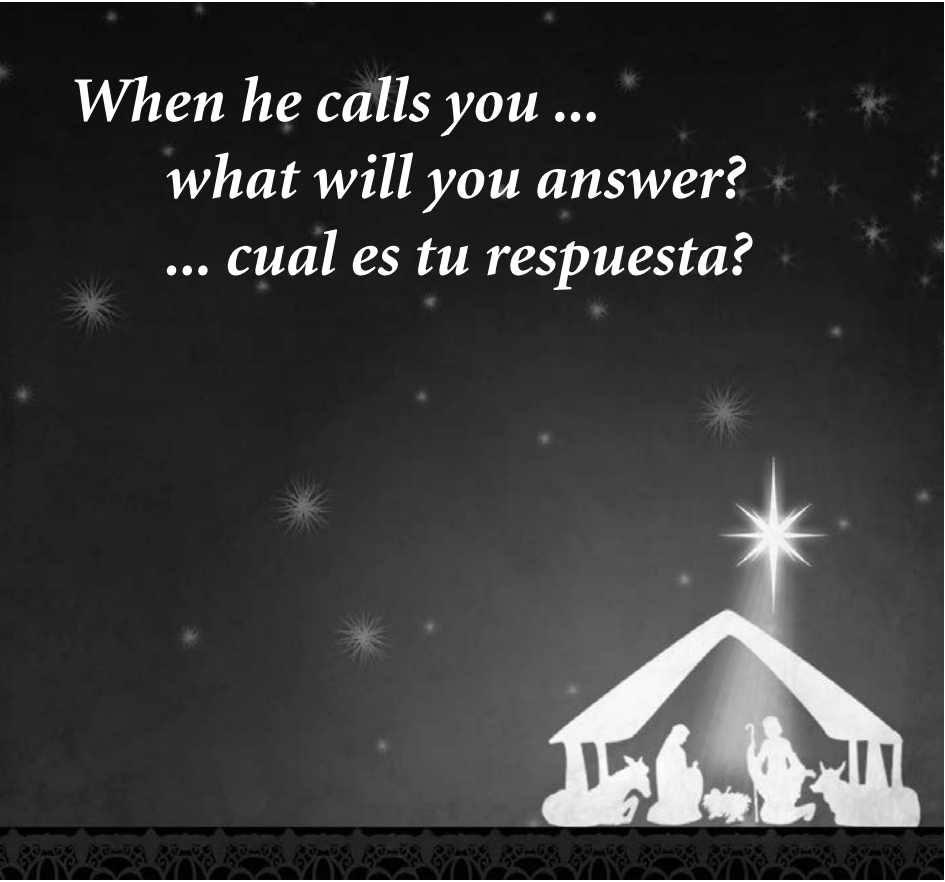
Es un misterio salvifico para toda la humanidad, y de la misma manera, Dios en su plan salvifico que tiene para cada uno de nosotros, nos ha dado el privilegio de vivir la misma experiencia que el vivio al ser inmigrante, ser un reciente ciudadano en una tierra por conocer.

En la Biblia, cita el profeta Oseas 11:1 “De Egipto llamé a mi hijo”.

En esta jornada, el angel le confia a José, la custodia del nino y de su madre y asi lo hace cooperador del misterio providencial de Dios. Asi tambien Dios nos ha traído a una tierra, Canada en donde el santo patron es San Jose. Jose es nuestro custodio también en este exilio.

Jose tambien nos ensena la importancia de la absoluta obediencia a los planes divinos. Dios manda y José obedece. Dios sabe con quién puede contra y por eso te ha llamado a ti (pon tu nombre) a esta tierra para enseñarles el amor salvifico de Dios.

Cual es tu respuesta? ✠



From Egypt I Called my Son

by Maria M. Campos

After the Magi had gone and adored the Child Jesus in the manger, it was expected that the Holy Family would return to Nazareth, where the Annunciation occurred, as described in the Gospel according to Luke; the Holy Family’s journey to Bethlehem was nothing more than a civic duty regarding the Emperor’s census. However, the Magi’s visit had unleashed a jealous rage in Herod. Filled with jealousy for power and influence, he decreed the murder of all children under three years of age in his jurisdiction. This came to be known as the Massacre of the Holy Innocents.

As a result, Joseph and his family were forced to flee to foreign lands. Joseph was directed by an angel of the Lord in a dream to “rise and take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt;” he was told to wait there until further notice that Herod’s massacre in search for the King of the Jews had ended. According to scripture, we know that Joseph took mother and child and fled in the night to Egypt where the family remained until Herod’s death. This was to fulfill the prophesy of the Lord that “he shall call his son from Egypt.”

Through Jesus, we too can ensure that our burdens and our struggles become something holy and beautiful.

The story of the Holy Family’s journey to Egypt parallels many contemporary narratives, particularly those of people escaping political or religious oppression, war, or violence in many regions of today’s world. Like the Holy Family who escaped leaving everything behind, today’s refugees and immigrants have left their entire lives behind including jobs, houses, relatives and reputations, in countries and cities that could no longer offer them the security that is needed to achieve self fulfillment. These people have had to root themselves out and start over again in foreign lands from nothing, just as Joseph, Mary, and the Child Jesus did when they fled into Egypt.

Immigrating is often seen as a new beginning; one is full of hope and looks towards the future with youthful promise. Arriving in a foreign land means new opportunities and new experiences, but it also means new challenges. And it is these challenges that have allowed me to see both the good and the bad of an immigrant’s journey.

In my experience, leaving careers and reputations is overshadowed by the almost emotionally insurmountable task of having to leave family members and friends with whom refugees and immigrants have spent years building relationships. I have felt the loneliness of having to go through life without the support of my family; I have experienced the overwhelming task of learning a new language and interacting daily in a foreign society replete with new laws, customs and traditions. I have also had the unfortunate experience of dealing with individuals who attempt to take advantage of newly landed immigrants’ ignorance of their new home’s laws, traditions, and government-provided services. I have experienced ridicule at the hands of many individuals who saw my struggle with their language, my ethnic physical traits, or my unfamiliarity with their customs as reason for critique and shame. All of these have shaped my experience as an immigrant.

I know I am not alone in my struggle. I am not the first nor will I be the last to confront the ignorant, the racist, the xenophobic or the uneducated. There are many like me and, though I cannot speak for them, I can say that in a general sense we are engaged in a common struggle.

Moreover, I feel comforted in my struggle when I reflect on the Holy Family’s exile in Egypt; they went there as refugees, foreigners ignorant of the land’s customs, laws, and traditions. Joseph, Mary and Jesus most likely felt the struggle that modern day immigrants feel, and it is through this experience that we connect with Jesus and his family. He, like so many of us, was a foreigner in a new land. It is as if Jesus were telling us that he understands our struggles and our pain; he has felt it also.

Yet, while living in Egypt, Jesus sanctified it with his presence after a painful history with the Jews and fulfilled the Lord’s plan through his life of redeeming us from our sins and leading us to salvation; Jesus began his life as the Saviour of Humanity in the same place where his people had been enslaved for generations. This points to a renewal of all things, be they tainted by oppression or apparently unsalvageable in sin, through Jesus Christ into holiness, peace, and fulfillment.

Through Jesus, we too can ensure that our burdens and our struggles become something holy and beautiful. Specifically, immigrants’ struggles and pain can become something beautiful, just as Jesus’ exile in Egypt symbolises. We have been given the privilege of living a similar experience to his and we must make the best of it, through him.

In the Bible it is written that the Lord called his Son from Egypt. The angel put Mary and Jesus in the custody of Joseph during their exile in Egypt. Symbolically, all of us immigrants in Canada take Joseph, the patron Saint of our adopted country, as our custodian during our trials and daily struggle; he is our source for courage and inspiration.

Joseph shows us that we must trust in God, no matter how perilous the journey ahead may seem; God called and Joseph obeyed. Similarly, God calls us all to follow the lives he has planned for us. He has called us to live according to His plan to free us from a world of sin into a life of eternal love. We must be open to His call until we can hear it clearly. It may take some of us away from our homes and our comforts, but if we want true freedom, we must listen and obey. God called – and I followed His Word to Canada.

Listen and be attentive. When he calls you, *what will you answer?* ✠

John the Baptizer, the Advent Prophet

by Fr. Thomas Rosica CSB, Chief Executive Officer, Salt & Light TV
Reprinted with permission

One of the great stars of the Advent and Christmas stories, John the Baptizer, makes his appearance on the biblical stage [on the second Sunday of Advent]. Let us consider some of the details of John's life and see how he is such a good model for us.

John the Baptist didn't mince words. He got right to the point and said what needed to be said. He would speak with equally straightforward words to us — words that would zero in on the weak points of our lives. John the Baptist was a credible preacher of repentance because he had first come to love God's word that he heard in the midst of his own desert.

He heard, experienced and lived God's liberating word in the desert and was thus able to preach it to others so effectively because his life and message were one. One of the most discouraging things we must deal with in our lives is duplicity. How often our words, thoughts and actions are not coherent or one. The true prophets of Israel help us in our struggle against all forms of duplicity.

The Desert Wilderness

Throughout biblical history, leaders and visionaries have gone to the desert to see more clearly, to listen intently for God's voice, to discover new ways to live. The Hebrew word for wilderness *midvar* is derived from a Semitic root that means, "to lead flocks or herds to pasture." *Eremos*, the Greek word used to translate *midvar*, denotes a desolate and thinly populated area and, in a stricter sense, a wasteland or desert.

“We may not have the luxury of traveling to the wilderness of Judah, nor the privilege of a week's retreat in the Sinai desert this Advent. However, we can certainly carve out a little desert wilderness in the midst of our activity and noise this week. Let us go to that sacred place and allow the Word of God to speak to us, to heal us, to reorient us, and to lead us to the heart of Christ, whose coming we await this Advent.

The term "wilderness" has two different but related meanings, referring to something judged to be wild and bewildering. It is probably the unknown (bewildering) and uncontrolled (wild) character of the place that earned it the name "wilderness." There is also another way of understanding the meaning of desert or wilderness.

A careful look at the root of the word *midvar* reveals the word *davar* meaning "word" or "message." The Hebraic notion of "desert" or "wilderness" is that holy place where God's word is unbound and completely free to be heard, experienced and lived. We go to the desert to hear God's Word, unbound and completely free.

The Spirit of God enabled the prophets to feel with God. They were able to share God's attitudes, God's values, God's feelings, God's emotions. This enabled them to see the events of their time as God saw them and to feel the same way about these events as God felt. They shared God's anger, God's compassion, God's sorrow, God's disappointment, God's revulsion, God's sensitivity for people, and God's seriousness. Nor did they share these things in the abstract; they shared God's feelings about the concrete events of their time.

John the Baptist is the Advent prophet. His image is often portrayed in the finger pointing to the one who was coming: Jesus Christ. If we are to take on John's role of preparing the way in today's world, our lives also will become the pointing fingers of living witnesses who demonstrate that Jesus can be found and that he is near. John gave the people of his time an experience of forgiveness and salvation, knowing full well that he himself was not the Messiah, the one who could save. Do we allow others to have experiences of God, of forgiveness and of salvation?

John the Baptist came to teach us that there is a way out of the darkness and sadness of the world and of the human condition, and that way is Jesus himself. The Messiah comes to save us from the powers of darkness and death, and to put us back on the path of peace and reconciliation so that we might find our way back to God.

The late Jesuit theologian, Father Karl Rahner, once wrote: "We have to listen to the voice of the one calling in the wilderness, even when it confesses: I am not he. You cannot choose not to listen to this voice, 'because it is only the voice of a man.' And, likewise, you cannot lay aside the message of the Church, because the Church is 'not worthy to untie the shoelaces of its Lord who goes on before it.' It is, indeed, still Advent."

We may not have the luxury of traveling to the wilderness of Judah, nor the privilege of a week's retreat in the Sinai desert this Advent. However, we can certainly carve out a little desert wilderness in the midst of our activity and noise this week. Let us go to that sacred place and allow the Word of God to speak to us, to heal us, to reorient us, and to lead us to the heart of Christ, whose coming we await this Advent. ✠

Hope

Bishop's Distinguished Lecture

by Joan Ripley

On Thursday, November 27, 2014, Dr. Charles Taylor of Montreal, Professor Emeritus of McGill University, gave the 5th Annual Bishop's Distinguished Lecture at UVIC. The topic for 2014 was *Secular Futures*. The David Lam Auditorium filled quickly in anticipation of the talk which was co-sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Victoria and the University of Victoria Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Dean Henderson.

Dr. Taylor is a Companion of the Order of Canada, a Catholic, a Rhodes Scholar, and author of *Secular Age – Secular Futures*. His talk was introduced by last year's speaker, Professor Mary-Ann Waldron, and was responded to by Dr. Christine Jones, President of Redeemer Pacific College.

Victoria's Bishop Gary Gordon thanked Dr. Taylor saying, "The most beautiful thing about your presentation is that you have opened the possibility of dialogue with fresh respect for people's consciences." His remarks were received with thunderous applause.

Noting that Christians are becoming disenchanted with the new secular age which pushes religion to the margins, Dr. Taylor said that people are less and less sure this makes sense and the question of what our secular age consists of is still not clear.

Taylor said he understands the present world as the unmasking of past ages when everyone was a member of political society and a member of the Church, sharing common morality and the view of where we are going. All our different 'belongings' were bundled.

"However, society today has become very unbundled. Now there are differing views of civilization and modes of commitment. We find ourselves with fragmentation, unbundling. No more are we of the same church with the same sense of civilization – that has been dissolved.

"This is all leading to the crumbling of Christendom. Christendom as we know it in the west was the ideal of a society, a culture, a civilization which reflected Christian values. Some magnificent things came out of it, such as Chartres Cathedral.

"A lot of people after WWII returned to their roots after the devastation of Nazism and Communism and continued in the movement wanting to restore Christendom. This debate is going on in all churches, especially in the Catholic Church.

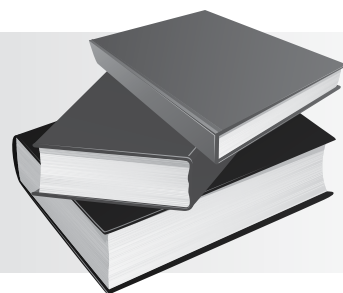
"Some Christians desire to reach back to their roots and sources. They no longer defend against others but open out to others. The switch is seen in recent pontificates and is going out all over Europe as people are seeing how they can reach out. A new kind of ecumenism is emerging; not just that we aren't going to fight, but we need a more interesting search. That kind of respectful approach creates friendships.

"I have tried to trace the nature of change in our secular age as this is a crucial issue. Something is crumbling and something new grows out of this as people are drawn or not drawn to the faith. Much depends on whether we go for more polarization or for reconciliation.

"Within Islam there is much fragmentation which is negating some of Islam's spiritual riches. We could do the same thing in Christianity unless we learn how to heal the breaches." ✠



Island Catholic Schools



Learning to Wait

by Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Victoria

Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

~ Isaiah 40:30,31

Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life.

~ Simone Weil

Advent is a special season that values and encourages us to learn the art of waiting with hopeful expectation in God's Promised Comings; past, present and future. Waiting is not an easy thing to do. There is often an experienced tension, discomfort and frustration within the act of waiting which reveals something important about our nature needing attention and healing. When we wait we soon grow impatient and our impatience focuses a spotlight on our egotistical self – the self that says, “I want what I want when I want!” – not exactly the definition of love. To grow in love is to de-center ourselves towards the other – God and neighbour. Advent helps us to de-center by reminding us that God is at the center and can be fully trusted. Advent reminds and challenges us to wait; the Christmas Season is still to come; it is not yet time to feast.

Teaching ourselves, our kids and our students to wait patiently is a gift so important today. Imagine how much healthier we'd be if we waited for main meals instead of snacking. Imagine how relations between our spouses would be radically bettered. Most of the squabbles in life are connected to impatience. The virtue of truthfully living out of the sexual language of our bodies, *chastity*, is intimately dependent on a person's ability to wait. Advent's call to wait patiently is also healthy medicine for our “impulse buy” consumeristic society. It comes at exactly the time people are buying and consuming the most!

We can be helped with our impatience and inability to wait by thinking of special people who knew about waiting and trusting. Mary waited nine months for Jesus to be born and then another 33 years for him to fully redeem the world. John the Baptist, along with Anna and Simeon, waited their whole lives for the Messiah to be revealed. Isaiah, Job, Abraham and Sarah are other models of patience for us. In the world of nature we see amazing examples of waiting patiently. Some Cicada insects wait 17 years beneath the ground to be born for one day and some Madagascar Palm trees flower only after 110 years! Think of the patience of God who waited some 13.8 billion years for creation to be as she is now! God knows how to wait.

If the entire age of creation was reduced to one calendar year, Jesus Christ and the Church wouldn't arrive until December 31 at 11:59:55 – five seconds before midnight on the last day of the year. God doesn't just *have* patience; God *is* patience!

Happy Advent Waiting. ✂

Students Go to the Polls

by Crystal Salmon, Educational Assistant, Grade 7/8 Class

In November the students in the Grade 7/8 class at John Paul II Catholic School in Port Alberni learned, first-hand, what it means to live in a democracy. Students in the class began asking their teacher questions about the upcoming municipal elections in Port Alberni. They were curious about the campaign signs that were riddling the lawns, buildings, and street corners around their city. They wanted to know about the policies each candidate stood for, especially with issues concerning the youth in our city.

Noticing their enthusiasm, their teacher, Mr. Dan Oliver, quickly jumped on board to facilitate their quest to find the answers they were seeking! The class attended an all-candidates forum at the local high school where many of them posed their questions directly to the candidates. They were able to listen to each candidate's answer and formulate their own opinions based on their responses. As a follow-up to their experience at the forum, they invited the youngest candidate running for city council to come speak to their class. This well-spoken, twenty-six year old, young professional inspired the class to get involved in their community and got many of them excited about the possibility of a local youth council. Several of the budding young leaders in this group perked up at the mention of such an opportunity and asked how they could go about joining if one ever came to be.

To conclude this unit the students created a voting station in their classroom and conducted a class vote to see whom they would have chosen for mayor and city council. The class results varied from the actual municipal election results, which lead to some interesting debates about why the people of Port Alberni likely voted for the mayor they did. *See picture, right.* ✂

What a Blessing

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

With the Advent Season, I have the wonderful opportunity to attend school celebrations and concerts. It is times such as this that I get to reflect on what a blessing it is to have Catholic Schools in operation so that families can choose a faith-based education for their children. Through Advent celebrations and concerts, the students force many of us to slow down and focus on the true meaning of Christmas. No matter how the schools present the Christmas story it is always a joy to watch the children. Rumor has it that some of the themes this year are: Happy Birthday to the King, Jesus: the Joy of Christmas, Miracle on Bethlehem Street and a Christmas Medley. These Advent celebrations help us to wait for the biggest celebration of all – the birth of Jesus.

In today's culture and climate, it is so important to pass on and celebrate our faith and the six Catholic schools in the Diocese do that daily. Whether starting the school day in prayer, celebrating Mass as a school community, preparing for receiving the Sacraments, learning about Catholic faith in religion classes, or reaching out to others in need, the children are gaining a better understanding of our faith and journeying with Jesus along the way.

What a blessing that students in our Catholic schools can talk openly about Jesus. Children are so open to the message of Christ and it is often the children that bring us adults along in our faith journey. What a blessing that schools, families and parishes can work together to instill the Joy of the Gospel in the adults of tomorrow! ✂

Update on the Federation of Independent Schools

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

The Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) BC, a 15-member Board, is the voice for independent school members, and acts as a liaison between the schools and the provincial government and other educational institutions. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group, represented by three elected members, is one of the five associations within the FISA. Having been recently elected as one of the members, I attend monthly meetings and together with the other CIS representatives make every effort to ensure that the “Catholic” voice is heard.

Recent statistics published in the November 2014 Report from the President of the FISA indicate:

- There are 348 independent schools in BC of which 289 are FISA member schools.
- 12.3% of the students in BC attend independent schools.
- Independent schools receive 5.3% of the overall provincial education budget.

By doing the math, one can see that independent schools continue to save the government money.

“The FISA Board of Directors adopted a new mandate that set three priorities for the Federation in the next few years. This mandate directs FISA to seek to:

- Improve access to unused public property.
- Access low interest loans from the government for capital projects to improve safety and develop trades skills/training programs for high school students.
- Secure legislation to exempt independent school properties wholly used for education from local municipal permissive property taxes.

The Board has been diligently working with appropriate government ministries and agencies to pursue these goals.”

~ FISA BC President's Report, Nov 26, 2014 ✂



Thriving at St. Joseph's Elementary School, Victoria

by Simon DiCatri, Principal

We made it! We survived the perils of construction, the parking lot chaos, the disruptions of drilling, sawing and hammering! For a while it looked doubtful whether we would open on time for September 2, but open we did ... and what a change! The new wing is beautiful and the old wing is fresh and sparkling. With all the educational infrastructure in place, the question arises: what's next?

Happily, we are back to being preoccupied with education – Alleluia! St. Joseph's is indeed a dynamic educational facility with a wide variety of programs, enrichment and extension activities. After all, it's what happens *inside* these walls that is important!

Much of education takes place outside of the classroom, and field trips are an integral part of that learning. Primary students went to Goldstream Park to explore the life cycle of salmon; and grade six students participated in the Estuary Espionage Program, examining the characteristics of estuaries. Other classes travelled to Swan Lake and the Hartland Landfill to explore different ecosystems, with grade six participating in the Microscope Discovery Program.

Sometimes it's easier to bring the experts to the classroom, and with this in mind, grade six students will have three one-hour presentations on "financial sense" put on by Junior Achievement specialists – students need to be financially savvy in the twenty-first century! Grade seven students will have three ninety-minute sessions on financial literacy put on by the folks at Coast Capital Savings. The whole school will learn about the various instruments and their musical role in an orchestra, with a presentation and performance by the Victoria Conservatory of Music strings section lead by Michael van der Sloot.

Grade 4 students enjoyed a presentation on our new weather station by its creator, Dr. David Anderson. They learned about graphing weather, viewed slides of a weather station he created in Alaska, and observed and examined various pieces of weather-related equipment. The weather station is part of the Vancouver Island School-Based Weather Station Network, which is designed to increase science education. (To get directly to St Joseph's Weather Station visit www.victoriaweather.ca/station.php?id=215). Our participation will continue to develop as the year goes on. The Mad Science Program to be offered in the spring invites students to further explore and experiment in a number of specific scientific areas. Primary students hosted "Scientists in the Classroom" to look at structures, with a hands-on demonstration using a thousand building blocks.

Students experience leadership opportunities through our Leadership Team, which organizes spirit days and other student-focused activities, and the Green Team, which will be involved in the launch of our recycling program. Students also have informal leadership opportunities with various special responsibilities for particular school tasks – Kid Leaders on the playground assisting with supervision, looking after the flag, and so on.

Several classes will be putting their Faith in Action by creating Aids Angels, a fundraiser for Aids orphans in Africa, and another class is raising money by doing chores at home in support of an orphanage in Limpopo Africa. We

continue our thirty-plus years of "Hiking for Haiti" in February in support of a Catholic orphanage there. The school is partnering with the parish in support of the Masathuthukisani Project to assist in providing sustainable farming practice and food production. A number of classes attended a showing of *Jerusalem* at the IMAX Theater as part of their Religion class, making the abstract concrete for them, bringing faith alive.

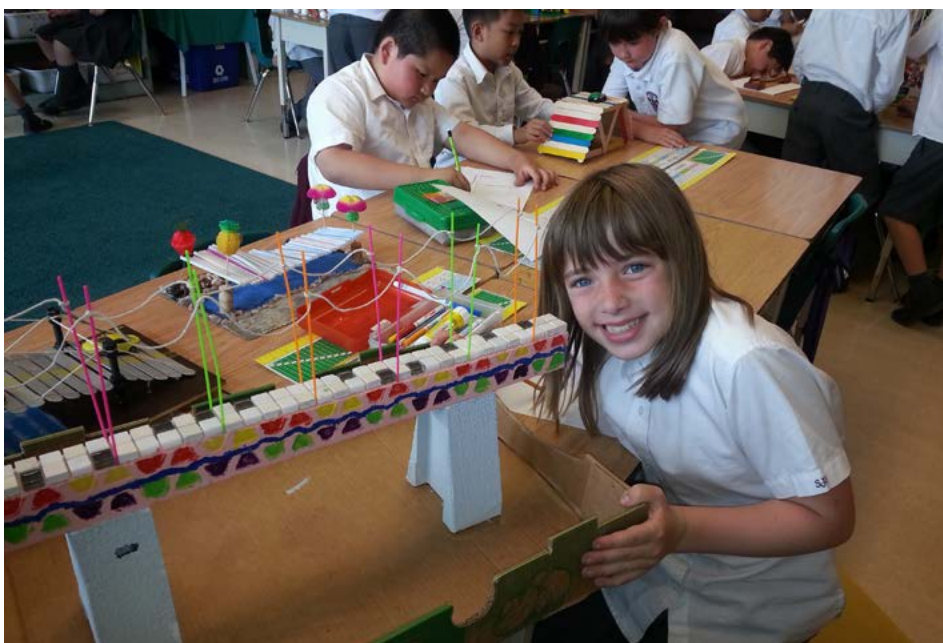
St. Joseph's students in grades five through seven participate, with St. Patrick's students, in grade-wide Retreats that examine issues relevant to their age and development – topics such as genuine friendships, the popularity trap, finding their God-given gifts and talents, sharing those gifts and talents with the community as their gift back to God, and the fact that the people in their lives *are* God's gift to them. We are blessed to have a number of grade 10 students from our high school, each an alumnus of St. Joe's or St. Pat's, who assist us as Retreat Leaders, helping with icebreakers and games, but much more significantly, sharing their experiences and faith development in talks they give to our students. One can clearly see the power of the Holy Spirit in action at these retreats as students learn from students and broaden the experience of their Faith.

As well, we have moved our celebration of the Eucharist to every Monday morning, starting the week with an infusion of God's healing grace, with students filling all ministry roles. As a school, we celebrate a parish/school community Mass every third Saturday at St. Joseph the Worker Parish at 5 pm, again, with students filling all ministry roles.

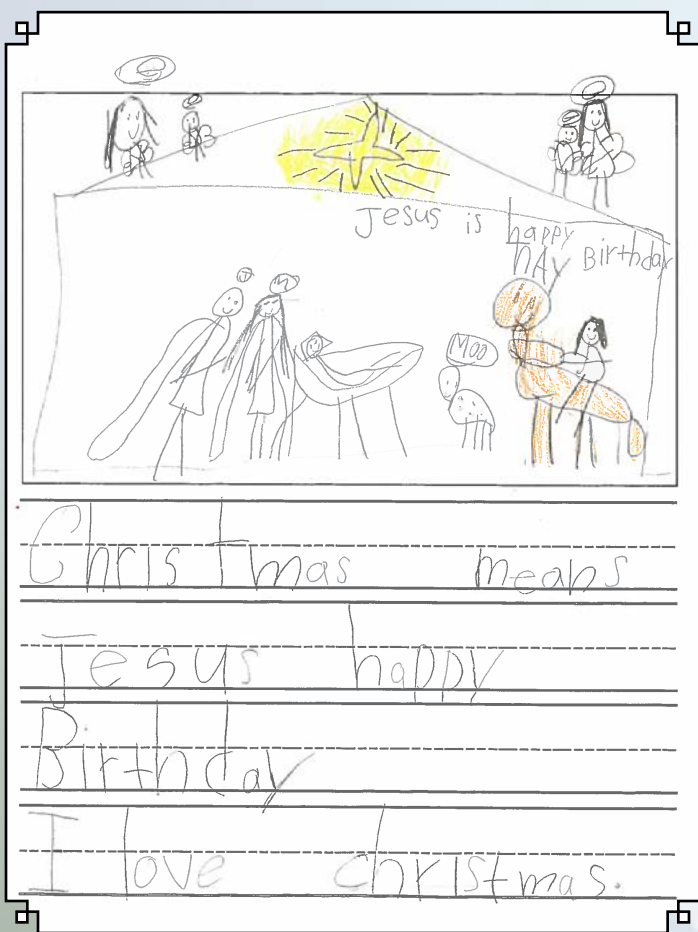
St. Joseph's has become a Peace Quest School, an initiative brought to us by the Sisters of St. Ann, for whom we have dedicated and named our new Learning Commons. Students participated in building a peace puppet and featured the puppet in the peace parade in mid-September. Students are now working on a Peace Play developed from writing activities about peace. Both of these projects involve partnering with Arts in the Classroom, and specifically with Tim Gosley (*Sesame Street*, *Fraggle Rock*) and Lina De Guevara, a theater expert, storyteller, actor and director who will assist in writing and staging the play. In keeping with the peace theme, grade 5 students wrote letters of gratitude to our veterans at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Royal Canadian Legion, thanking them for their sacrifice in the cause of freedom. These letters are presently on display at the Legion.

These enrichment and extension activities are on top of our usual yearly activities such as St. Vincent De Paul seasonal food drives, Coats-for-Kids campaign, Socks, Toques and Mitts Drive, Cops for Cancer fundraising (\$5,850 this year), World Food Day, and more.

We are grateful to the Catholic community in general, and the Sisters of St. Ann in particular, for their direct support in building the new wing and refurbishment of the old – without the backing of these dedicated people the project would not be complete. Now, our focus is on providing a top-notch Catholic education that prepares our students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes, as well as a deep-rooted faith that informs their choices and decision-making, so that they may be full participants in building the Kingdom of God, and active contributors to the society in which they live. ✠



Through the Eyes



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

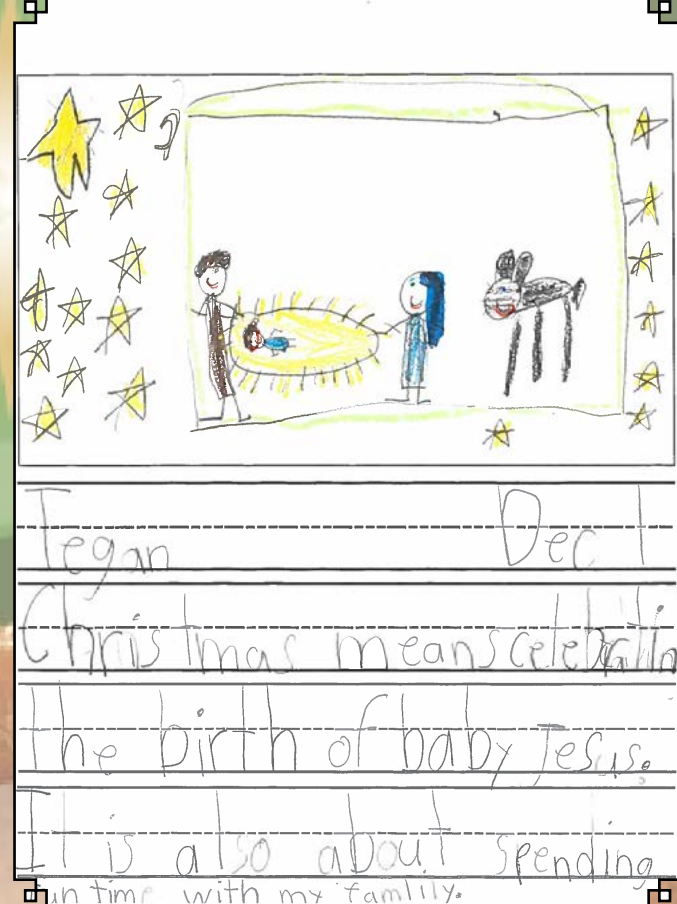
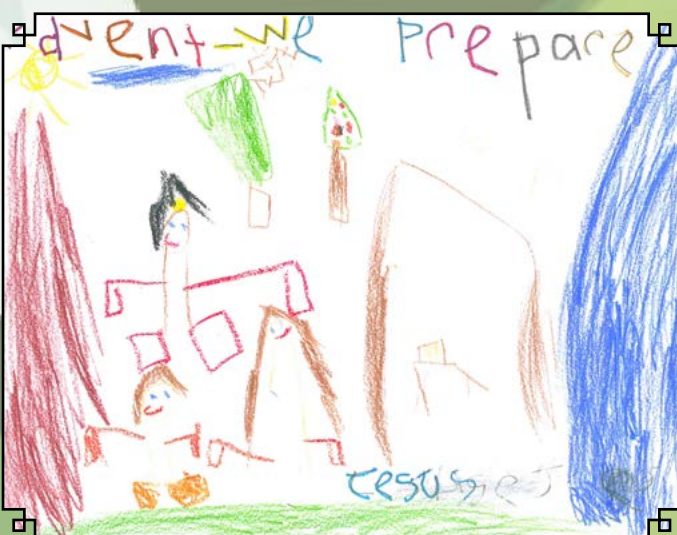
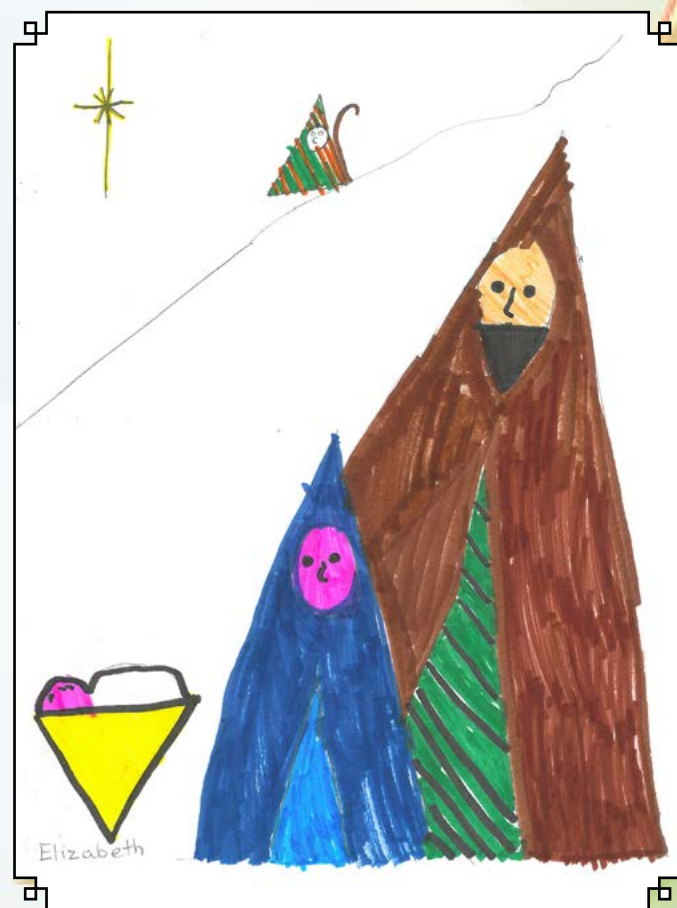
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

~ Selections from Luke 2:1 – 20



es of a Child ...

“The Story of Jesus Being Born”

by Rebecca Wall

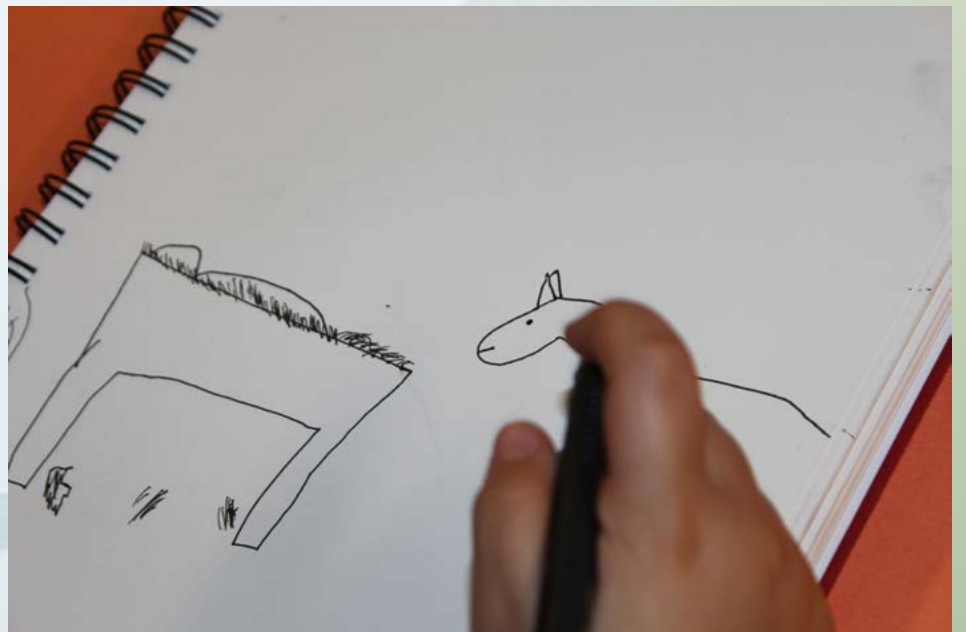
So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born ...

The clear young voice of a young boy rings out from the MacBook computer as three grade one students gather round a table at the back of their classroom. They look on as the narrator pauses the recording and says, “I think I read that part wrong.” Another student chimes in, “I like how you stopped at the period, but I think you need to go more slow when you get to that part with the manger.” With the help from their teacher these students at St. Joseph’s school in Chemainus are preparing a reading of the Gospel of Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus to include as part of a shadow puppet production that they have been preparing for part of their presentation at the school’s Christmas Concert. This project also combines the class’ learning through the Arts Infusion: Arts In Education Program offered through BC ArtStarts.

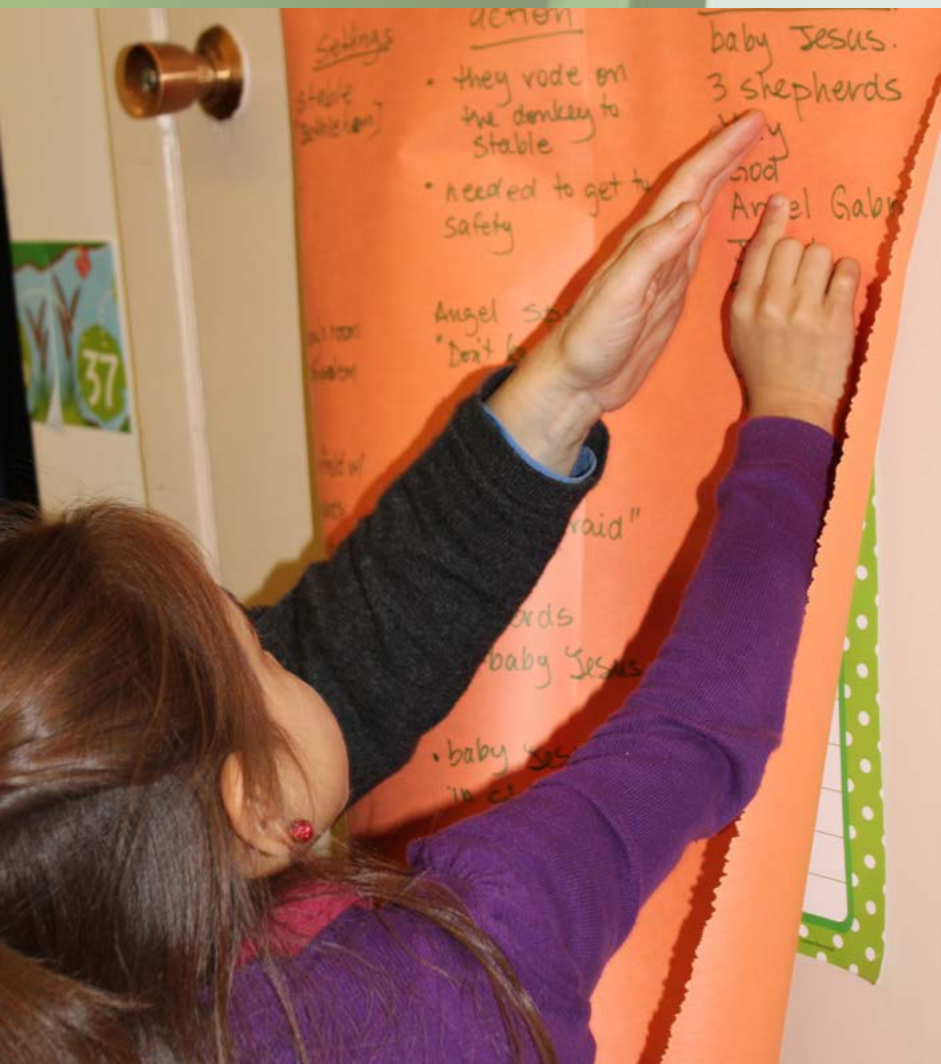
As one of six schools across British Columbia now participating in the Infusion professional learning program, participating teachers from St. Joseph’s School have worked with artist Ewa Sniatycka to integrate art learning opportunities across other curricular areas. In this unit, students combined their learning in Religion, Reading, Speaking & Listening, Mathematics, Visual Arts and Drama to present their version of the first Christmas or, as they have dubbed it, The Story of Jesus Being Born. Much work has been done in all curricular areas to help students gain a deeper understanding both of Luke’s account of the events leading to Jesus’ birth, the elements of the story, the 2-D shapes needed to build silhouette pieces, and how to work with a sheet, work lamp, and video recorder to document their work. The three students working with a computer have also completed extension activities learning to use GarageBand Applications to record, edit, and present an audio recording of the story with adult mentorship. For them, repeated reading of the story has helped them to develop greater fluency when reading orally. ✂



Leading up to this project, students completed a series of activities to build their understanding of characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end in a story. They also listened and explored several versions of the story including the account from Luke and several trade children’s books.



Students were asked to sketch and write about their favorite setting and event from the story. Some of the favorite events of these students were the visitation from the angel, Jesus’ birth, and the angels appearing to the shepherds



Then, during Ewa’s first visit, students were divided into two groups and asked to brainstorm some of the key parts of the Gospel story. Their thinking was included on two poster-sized papers. Here, a student points to the characters that she felt were the most important in our story.



Finally, students were taught to sketch and cut geometric shapes during Math. Later, they used these shapes, along with free-form sketches, to create their shadow puppets. Here (above, and L), they used an overhead projector to test what their shadow puppet and set pieces would look like behind a screen.



Gather on Friday at the Multifaith Services Offices (not the Chapel) at 2:30pm for 3:00pm. departure.
Those who would like to leave vehicles at the Holy Cross Parking lot must arrange to get to UVic before 2:45pm.
Return to the Multifaith Offices by APPROXIMATELY 9:00pm on Sunday evening (We recommend contacting by cell phone for exact arrival times).
In the case of emergency, you can reach Fr. Dean at 250-882-2151.

Cost \$50.00 for transportation, and food on Saturday and Sunday breakfast.
Mountain activities on Sunday include Alpine Boarding or Skiing, tubing, and Snow-shoeing. **Please check prices on the website.** www.mountwashington.ca
To reserve one of 30 spots, make cheques payable to "Diocese of Victoria" **no later than January 19** (first come first served)

If financial restrictions are a problem, speak with the Chaplain to discuss possibilities.

YOUR WEEKEND CHECKLIST:

- ☐ sleeping bag or sheet/blankets, pillow (floor mats provided)
- ☐ **W**arm winter clothes
- ☐ Snow boots
- ☐ swim suit and towel (for optional swim on Saturday)
- ☐ toothbrush/personal items, towel, flashlight
- ☐ Bible, Rosary, prayer journal, etc. if desired
- ☐ Money



Catholic Students' Association

Wild + Free

Romans 6:4 - walk in the newness of life

January 23 to 25, 2015
Comox Valley

Speaker: Chantal Castelino, CCO Team Leader

For more information email Fr. Dean Henderson catholic@uvic.ca

REGISTRATION FORM

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Any dietary allergies? Vegetarian? _____

Any particular medical needs we should know about? _____

Emergency Contact, Name and Phone Number: _____

Coming for 2015 ... Merlin's Musings!!

by *Connie Dunwoody*

Are you searching for just the right stocking stuffer for a loved one this Christmas? Perhaps a gift that gives to others even as it delights the recipient? Look no further!

Available for 2015 is the first-ever Diocesan Dog fundraising calendar: *Merlin's Musings*! All proceeds from sales of this fabulous calendar will be used to expand the mission and ministries in the peripheries of our Diocese. We'll also be recreating this calendar in 2016, with a different charity as the recipient of the funds. We *may* even include animals other than the Diocesan Dog ... stay tuned for further details, and tune up those cameras!! *Hint: take photos of your pet this Christmas ...*

To reserve your copy of the 2015 Calendar, visit www.rcdvictoria.org's home page and click on the Order Form. Meanwhile ... enjoy a sample of Merlin's Musings! ✂





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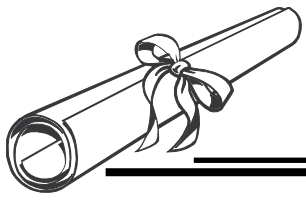
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The Campus Mission



by Chantal Castelino, CCO Team Leader, University of Victoria

Right now at Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) we're reflecting on how we have seen the Lord working in the souls on campus. As CCO missionaries, we witness this work often at UVic. Throughout this fall term, we have been leading CCO's *Discovery* faith study with many students. This small group discussion has involved both Catholics and non-Catholics. It's a six-week program that presents the basic Gospel message (the *kerygma*):

1. God is love and created us for relationship with him.
2. Our sin has broken that relationship.
3. Jesus restores that relationship through his death and resurrection.
4. We are all invited to accept this gift of salvation.

It is important that both Catholics and non-Catholics have the opportunity to understand who Jesus is.

All should have the chance to hear the truth of the Catholic faith and freely respond to it. Anybody can pass on a clear and simple message to another.

My team and I have been so privileged to share this message with students. God is changing lives right before our eyes! The great activities of the UVic chaplaincy – including *Discovery* – are building God's kingdom on campus. One student, although she grew up Catholic, shared that she had never heard of "placing Jesus at the center of her life". She didn't know about the possibility of having a personal relationship with Christ. She said that since she made the commitment to place Jesus at the center of her life, "everything has changed." Her faith has brought her new meaning, and Jesus has become more relatable and real to her. She expressed joy and gratitude for *Discovery*.

Many people have not heard our faith presented in a clear and simple way. Many have not had the opportunity to make an adult decision to respond to it. Many of these people are Catholic.

Dr. Alan Schreck, in his book *Catholic and Christian*, writes:

[S]ome Catholics have neglected the importance of this conscious, personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Catholics sometimes assume that persons who are baptized, attend Mass, and receive the sacraments regularly have obviously accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of their lives ... This is often not the case, many Catholics have not yet made a deliberate, adult decision to believe in Jesus Christ and give their lives fully to him.

It is important that both Catholics and non-Catholics have the opportunity to understand who Jesus is. All should have the chance to hear the truth of the

Catholic faith and freely respond to it. Anybody can pass on a clear and simple message to another.

Discovery is a great tool for transmitting this message. By training our students to lead it, our hope is that they will go forth and invite their friends to take it with them. The faith study does not attempt to teach comprehensive theology, but to present the basics of the Catholic faith. *Discovery* challenges participants to greater holiness by means of group discussion.

Before I learned how to share the basic Gospel message, I didn't know how to answer the basic question of what it means to be Catholic. I would sputter a complicated response involving Mass, the Saints, the Pope, the Bible. To understand the beauty and richness of our Catholic faith, a clear grasp of the basics is necessary. Accompanying that must be the important invitation to respond to the Gospel message. Just as a marriage begins with the free choice of the bride and groom, our relationship with God starts with a decision. For many of us, the gift of salvation was first received at our Baptism through the faith of our parents. They did this in the hope that we would one day make it our own.

So how does one begin or renew a relationship with Jesus? As mentioned above, it is a lot like exchanging marriage vows. You begin by saying "yes" or "I do" to Jesus, recognizing that He is your means to salvation. *Discovery* contains a prayer that articulates this decision to follow God:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you know me and love me. I have not always chosen to love you, and have broken my relationship with you through my sins. Thank you for proving your love for me on the cross so that our relationship can be restored. I open the door of my heart and I invite you to be at the centre of my life — to be my Saviour and my Lord. Direct me and help me to live the Gospel with my whole life. Amen.

Following this, we always encourage our students to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This concrete action is a way of affirming their decision to place Christ at the centre of their lives. Chaplaincy activities and CCO's other faith studies help students to continue to orient their lives to Christ.

We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for the campus next semester! ✠

Glory to God in the
highest, and on
earth peace, good will
toward men.

Luke 2:14



Connections

by Amber Santorelli, Grade 8 student, John Paul II Elementary School



Yay!! Christmas is coming! A list, a list, that's what I need, a list. There are so many things to do so that Christmas is just perfect!!

Okay ... so there are the presents to buy. Oh my, what to get Aunt Daisy? She is the worst to buy for. She has everything. Now what about the food? I need to think of what to make, munchies to buy, what should I bake? Oh no!!! Wrapping, I need wrapping paper!! Oh, but the turkey, how big should it be? Cards??? CARDS!!! I forgot to make the deadline to send the cards overseas. I really need to make up the menu. Oh my what about the tree? That is important!! Should it be cultured or a Charlie Brown tree? Golly, oh no!! The lights, I forgot last year they blew up. Shoot, the special pudding for dessert, is it too late to order it? What about decorating the house? Breathe slowly, in and out, in and out. I can do this. Okay the list; make the list. Carrots, yams, icing sugar, peas, Brussels sprouts, stuffing, tinsel ... I forgot the tinsel. Beverages, I haven't even thought about those. I think I am going to cry. I am soooooo verrry stressed!!!! And if I have to listen to one more Christmas carol I am going to SCREAM!!!!

Does this sound the slightest bit familiar? Is this the sound of Christmas? Should it be? Where is Christ in all of this?

Let's just try this again.

Getting ready for Christmas starts with Advent. This year the first Sunday in Advent was November 30. The first Sunday in Advent should be the start of our Christmas preparedness.

What is Advent, you ask? Advent is a time of preparation and waiting, a time to stop and listen to our inner voice, the voice of God. It is the time to hear of the joy and light to come. One of the ways this is done is by the journey of the four Sundays of Advent. During each of these Sundays a new candle is lit.

The first purple candle is the candle of Hope. The second purple candle is the candle of Peace. The third candle, which is light pink or rose, represents Joy. The fourth candle, also purple, is the candle of Love. These are the candles of Advent.

The colour purple is used to signify royalty and dignity, to provoke the mood of holiness. The pink reminds us there is an appointed time for everything. It is the time to rejoice the coming of the Lord.

There is no sense of going through Advent if it is not in our hearts. This should be a prayerful inward time, a time of remembering God's great gift to us. The gift of His Son.

In the 1300 – 1400s Advent began to change and it became a time of personal preparation, of devotion and of joyful, thoughtful spirituality. As a wise friend of mine said to me, "we are privately creating a manger in our hearts for Jesus."

A 12th Century monk stated, "If Christ was born a thousand times in Bethlehem but not in our hearts then we are forlorn."

If our preparations for Christmas look like what is written at the beginning of this article, then we are forlorn. We are bombarded, saturated and consumed with what commercialism tells us this season is about. If we are suffering from sensory overload and despair, then we are forlorn.

This should be a season of waiting, anticipation, a sense of wonder, trust and expectation for the Greatest Gift of All.

It is not where or whom you are with; it is the deepening of your understanding of the wonder and miracle of Christ's birth.

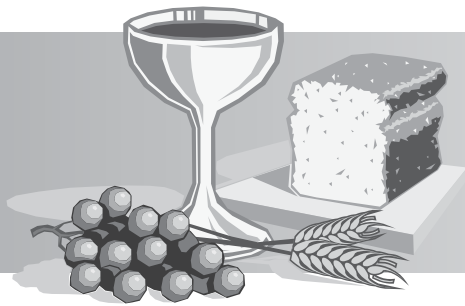
So as we have journeyed through Advent to the birth of Christ, we are now ready – for the lighting of the Christ Candle.

As Christians we need to surround ourselves with the light of the Advent candles, the sounds of joy in song, the time to listen to our inner selves and to remember what we already have, to keep the focus where it belongs, on the gift of Christ.

My wish for all is that your journey through Advent and into the Christmas season brings you to the peace and joy of Christ. ✠



Vocations



Jesus: The First and Greatest Evangelizer

by Greg Van Dyk

In Advent we wait patiently (or maybe less patiently) for the arrival of our Saviour, seeking God's face revealed to us through His Son born in a manger. As Pope Francis put it, "Christmas is God's meeting with His people."

On December 25, we celebrate this mysterious and joyful entrance of God into our world, when mankind first meets Christ. "It is the encounter Jesus," said Pope Francis of Christmas. "God has always sought out His people, led them, looked after them and promised to always be close to them."

This promise unsurprisingly remains true today. Christ is always present in the world, and it is often through you and me (his Body, the Church) that not-yet-evangelized people have the opportunity to meet Jesus. These people will likely not spend time in personal prayer, in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or in deep study of Scripture this Advent – but they may spend time with you.

We are often that kind of "encounter" for others that Pope Francis speaks about. During this particular season, we have a unique chance to share Jesus with the people around us – through our individual vocations – as we anticipate Christmas. But do we follow the model for evangelization that Christ presents to us in the Gospels?

"Jesus himself, the Good News of God, was the very first and the greatest evangelizer; He was so through and through: to perfection and to the point of the sacrifice of his earthly life," wrote Pope Paul VI in his 1975 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (*Evangelization in the Modern World*). Jesus models for us the universal mission of the Church: to evangelize. No matter our vocation, we share in this important calling.

Especially during the Advent season, the secular world tries to define who Jesus is for us – and to be honest, they usually do a less-than-admirable job. The same tired stories come out in an even greater number each Easter, too. To combat this trend effectively, and to accurately present Jesus as the model of evangelization, the Church must work to reveal who he truly is to the confused modern world.

So how did Jesus evangelize? Let's take a look at three ways.

By Witnessing to a Deep Communion with the Father

This one might seem like a no-brainer. Jesus spoke often of the Kingdom of God, and showed those around him that his love for the Father was profound (even that might be an understatement!). In Advent, we seek closeness to God to prepare ourselves for the celebration of his arrival at Christmas. Like Jesus in the Gospels, we must also witness to this intimate relationship with God in order to evangelize.

By Calling People to Repentance


The modern world loves to theologize, and this one is often a spot where people get tripped up. Jesus didn't evangelize by saying what people wanted to hear, by being nice, or by trying to please everyone. Although these may be modern 'virtues', they aren't ones Jesus followed. He definitely had a lot of enemies! Although we certainly focus first on getting ourselves spiritually 'up to snuff' during Advent, evangelization of others doesn't rule out speaking tough truth in charity.

By Spending Time in Small Community

Jesus spent a lot of time with a small group of people: his disciples. Yes, he performed miracles for large crowds of people, but he also knew that evangelization happens one-on-one and by investing deeply in a few individuals. We are called to mirror this model by making a point of evangelizing both through close friendships and by fostering small communities that will eventually become evangelizing forces themselves.

During Advent, we must be ready to joyfully proclaim Jesus to the world. Pope Francis notes that, "Christmas is joy, religious joy, God's joy, an inner joy of light and peace." The Church's mission, of course, is to follow Christ in his model of evangelization. This continues to be our vocational call, and in preparing for his arrival on December 25 the Church reminds us that we continue the evangelization that Christ began with his initial presence on Earth thousands of years ago.



As Pope Paul VI states in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, the Church "remains as a sign – simultaneously obscure and luminous – of a new presence of Jesus, of his departure and of his permanent presence. She prolongs and continues him. And it is above all his mission and his condition of being an evangelizer that she is called upon to continue." ✠




Catholic Underground is an initiative which engages youth in both their culture and their faith. Located in the basement of St Pat's Victoria.

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by Bonnie Landry

Christmas is coming. Have you noticed? I have a couple of options I could consider here, one being freaking out. But ... Advent is not liturgically the season of freaking out. It is a season of preparation, so ... I guess will prepare.

Preparation, for me always starts with a list. Yes, even spiritual preparation. I do not feel I can adequately prepare my heart for the Feast of Christmas without preparing my temporal world to some degree. In the quiet making of a list, in the quiet preparation of home for the dizzying festivities of Christmas, I can prepare both my home and my heart.

Go wild and take care of yourself. Indulge yourself by eating well and getting lots of rest so you can enjoy the 'busy' more. Overextend your thoughtfulness. Go over budget – way, way over budget – on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Be recklessly Catholic this Advent and Christmas.

Advent need not be frantic. Busy, yes. But we tend to accomplish our to-do list whether we are anxiously coursing from job to job, activity to activity, and store to store or quietly and steadily getting things done with a smile on our faces and charity in our hearts.

There is a lot to be done.

I need to get our Advent wreath out and decorate it. I need to get some poster board to make our Jesse tree. I need to make certain that I am ready with some appropriate Advent drinks (Christmas teas, hot apple cider, hot chocolate) to consume while we do our Jesse tree readings at night.

I do my spring cleaning in Advent. I like it better that way so that I can spend spring cleaning time in the garden instead. So, it's list time for me:

The house needs to be cleaned and decorated. The bedrooms need to be ready for company. The baking needs to be done, the pantry and freezer stocked. Gifts need to be made or purchased, wrapped and mailed. I need to write the Christmas Letter. Plan a dance. Do some schoolwork. Bake some ginger shortbread. Clean the oven. Tree. Eggnog. Costco. Post Office. Groceries.

That's a lot of stuff. Wait. Forgot something. What am I doing all this for? The BABY! Oh, yes, THE baby. How clever God was to adorn Earth with a baby. Nothing transcends hype like an infant. Oh, yeah. I remember now. Pray. Breathe. Smile. Be nice to my kids. Yes, I do put that last one on the list.

Make 'busy' happy. Open doors for people. Help them with their packages. Practice being a Christian; it's a great time of year for it. When you catch yourself thinking ill of someone, say a quick prayer for them instead. If you feel like complaining, scolding, criticizing or ranting say, "You rock!" instead. Be busy, in fact, 'man up' in the busy department. Make yourself extra busy by adding Advent prayers to your night time routine. Go wild and take care of yourself. Indulge yourself by eating well and getting lots of rest so you can enjoy the 'busy' more. Overextend your thoughtfulness. Go over budget – way, way over budget – on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Be recklessly Catholic this Advent and Christmas.

Throw yourself into this season of preparation. Yes, prepare the house, the baking, the meals. But more, prepare your heart for the coming of the Lord, and in that preparation, remember why. Experience the peace that all humankind was waiting for, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of good will."

Be busy, and with peace in your heart. Have good will. Get peace. ✕

Color by numbers

1 - pink

2 - blue

3 - yellow

4 - red

5 - green

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

Colour in Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, and cut out carefully. If you want to stand them up, cut out the rectangle below, wrap it into a circle, and tape to the back of the picture just above the bottom edge.

If you would prefer to hang the picture up, attach a loop of ribbon to the back.

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Faith Matters



Stop, Look and Listen

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

For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity.

~ C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

Prudence and Promptness, those two virtuous sisters who rightly had a place of privilege down through the ages seem to have become orphans of late. When was the last time you heard, *An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today; A stitch in time saves nine; or Make hay while the sun shines?*

Instead it seems a certain edginess has crept into our collective lives; perhaps you have noticed it. More people seem to be in a rush, being more aggressive in their driving, with more honking, more impatient passing, less willingness to let a car into the lane. Perhaps more concerning, that American phenomenon, road rage, has definitely moved north.

So too in the market place – there's an undercurrent of pressure, an urgency, to have the latest and the newest, with weekend sales events becoming almost as numerous as the merchandise. Consumerism is not only alive and well, but thriving! Megastores are slowly edging out specialty stores in every area from bookselling to green grocery.

Admittedly, it is hard to resist the lure of bargains borne of volume purchasing, but one of the subtle results is that 'more' has suddenly become synonymous with 'better.' On top of it personal service is now virtually non-existent, staff are sometimes poorly informed, and no one seems to have time or the inclination for exchanging pleasantries – get in, get what you're after and get out ... and you don't even have to encounter another human being if you use the self-check-out! There are casualties of course: small business owners, their employees, a certain quality of life and the addition of more stuff to an already crowded life.

It is hard not to get caught up in the swirl of busy-ness and business that we find ourselves in; it's a driven culture, but there is also a certain adrenalin rush associated with 'the hunt'. Pervading it all are the various forms of media competing for and constantly demanding our attention. As well, the great tools of computing and communications technology, if not managed prudently, will enslave us rather than serve us.

The gradual cultural shift, the underlying urgency, seems to have been developing for a while and has even been reflected in our language: *Time is of the essence; Time waits for no one; Time is money; It's a race against time*, and perhaps the most telling, *It's a fight against time!* The 'immediate' seems to have pushed the concept of 'long-term' to the temporal margins, in a creeping tyranny of time.

We can get so caught up in the daily frenetic activity that we don't question, we don't even see what we are doing. We can be so focussed on *doing* that we can begin to fall into the trap of valuing people only for what they are capable of doing. We can be so focussed on *wanting* that our very fundamental needs are not met.

There is a better way! Just as we learned how to cross a road as little children, success in this journey of life is greatly enhanced, and in fact only really possible, when we "stop, look and listen." This is where Advent is such a gift, one which the Church gives us and which brings real balance to our lives.

Stopping requires an intentional decision to 'put the brakes on' and an implicit letting go of our intended course of direction. In terms of our spiritual journey, stopping our personal path for the purpose of looking and listening for God cannot result in anything but being honoured by God. We came into this world with nothing and we'll be leaving with nothing. Everything we have materially and temporally has been given to us. By God.

He, then, ultimately is our true and final destination regardless of how important whatever is in front of us on the road may seem. *Waiting*, a fundamental theme of the Advent Season, is something we need, a focus all the more important because it is so lacking and so difficult to do in our busy lives.

So, God and the Church offer us a wonderful opportunity during this Season to find real peace, the Prince of Peace who waits in the midst of all the hectic chaos, if we only "stop, look and listen!" ✠

Seeking A New Nazareth

by Jean Allen

*Wild air, world mothering air,
Nestling me everywhere ...
I say that we are wound
With mercy round and round
As if with air, the same ...
And makes, O marvelous!
New Nazareths in us.*

~ Excerpts from The Blessed Virgin Compared To The Air We Breathe by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nazareth: a village of no importance, a place of no status, a setting with seemingly little potential. A simple woman dwelled in this simple town living an unpretentious and simple life with no expectations whatsoever of anything beyond the norm. All she expected was more of the same. It was in this normality that God chose to be manifested and Mary's Nazareth became utterly new. What if we were to seek a new Nazareth in our lives this Advent? What would that look like?

'Waiting' is a word deeply associated with Advent, but waiting can be empty or it can be full. Waiting for something different and something better than what we have in the present moment is empty waiting. It's when our eyes are fixed on the future because the present seemingly holds nothing of value for us. Mary's waiting was not empty even though she was looking forward to the birth of Christ. Her waiting was full; it was gestational waiting. In every moment of every day, there was development within her. She could not see any outward manifestation of the Lord but she could feel the stirrings of newness within her.

It's those stirrings, those small, almost intangible, flutterings of the Spirit moving in deep creativity which indicate a New Nazareth and those profound stirrings are often missed because we are in 'empty waiting' mode. We look ahead for future fulfillment and don't realize that the Kingdom is gestating right now and that we have been invited by the Spirit to not only wait, but to pay attention and watch and experience, "wild air, world mothering air, nestling me everywhere ..."

The new Nazareth contains the poverty of not knowing exactly what the future holds and we need to wait like Mary who simply said, "Let it be done unto me

according to your will." From that Yes moment on, all that was done unto Mary was done continuously, for Nazareth is profoundly inclusive of the stages of creation between the "Yes," and the birth. Mary had no way to envision fully what the future would bring and she had no spiritual tools that could make it happen. She had no precedents to fall back on. No one could say to her, "Well, whenever I'm in your position I always ..." Nothing. She had nothing except the fragile signs of a present new life within and the trust that the future was in God's hands.

Being in Nazareth is not easy but our needs are few. Within the New Nazareth, there's actually nowhere to go and nothing to attain, so getting somewhere is not as important as just being there. A New Nazareth is embracing Christ's words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God." In other words, blessed are those who have not taken on the heavy burden of a self-created future kingdom and so are free enough to sense the subtle movements of the Kingdom of God right where they are, right in the midst of their present waiting. Theirs is the Kingdom – to behold, cherish and nurture.

It's Advent. In the simplicity of a new Nazareth, we need nothing except holy receptivity to the stirrings of flow and movement in every moment. Like Mary, we only need to breathe the wild, world mothering air.

New Nazarenes can live on that merciful air. ✠



Year of the Consecrated Life: The Logo

from www.vatican.va

Consecrated life in today's Church: Gospel, Prophecy, Hope

A dove supports on one wing a polyhedral globe, and while resting on the water, it safeguards with the other wing three stars that arise from the water. The Logo for the Year of Consecrated Life expresses through symbols the fundamental values of consecrated life. In it we recognize the “unceasing work of the Holy Spirit, who in every age shows forth the richness of the practice of the evangelical counsels through a multiplicity of charisms. In this way too he makes ever present in the Church and in the world, in time and space, the mystery of Christ” (VC 5).

In the lines that outline the form of the dove one can intuit the word ‘Peace’ in Arabic: this is a reminder that consecrated life is called to be the model for universal reconciliation in Christ.

The symbols of the Logo

The dove on the water: The dove is the classical symbol of the action of the Holy Spirit, who is the source of life and the inspirer of creativity. This is a flash-back to the origin of history: in the beginning the Spirit of God moved on the waters (cf Gen 1,2).

The dove, gliding above a sea swollen with yet unexpressed life, symbolizes a patient and hope-filled fecundity, while the symbols around it reveal the creative and renewing action of the Spirit. The dove also evokes the consecration of the humanity of Christ through baptism.

The waters are made of mosaic fragments; they indicate the complexity and the harmony of the human and cosmic elements that are made to “groan” by the Spirit according to God’s mysterious plans (cf Rom 8: 26-27) so that they may converge into the hospitable and fruitful encounter that leads to a new creation. The dove flies among the waves of history, above the waters of the deluge (cf Gen 8: 8-14). The men and women, whose consecration was marked by the Gospel, have always been pilgrims among the nations; they live their various charismatic and diaconal presence like “good administrators of the multiform grace of God” (1Pt 4,10); they are marked by the Cross of Christ, even unto martyrdom; they journey through history equipped with the wisdom of the Gospel; indeed, a Church that embraces and heals all that is human in Christ.

The three stars: These stand for the identity of consecrated life as *confessio Trinitatis, signum fraternitatis e servitium caritatis*. They express the circular relationships found in the Trinitarian love, which consecrated life is called to live daily in the world. The stars also hint to the triple halo used in the Byzantine iconography to honor Mary, the Mother of God, the first Disciple of Christ and model and patron of every consecrated life.

The polyhedral globe: The small polyhedral globe symbolizes the planet with its myriad variety of nations and cultures, as explained by Pope Francis (cf EG 236). It is the breath of the Spirit that sustains it and leads it towards the future: an invitation to all consecrated persons “to become bearers of the Spirit (*pneumatophoroi*), authentically spiritual men and women, capable of endowing history with hidden fruitfulness” (VC 6).



praying sentries on the peak of history, and to become one with humanity in its anxieties and in its silent search for the Spirit.

The artist that designed the Logo for the Year of the Consecrated Life

The creation of the Logo for the Year of the Consecrated Life was entrusted to the artist Carmela Boccasile of the Dellino Art Studio, founded in 1970 (Bari – Rome, Italy) by Lillo Dellino and Carmela Boccasile.

For these artists, painting is an ‘icon’ both in the formal and in the original sense; that is, it is an invitation, an encounter and a dialogue. Every artistic symbol is intended and lived as a window on the visible that intuitively introduces to the invisible: an icon that as a symbol transcends the idol and opens up to the divine. This is a concept that follows closely the indications that the Fathers of the Church, during the II Council of Nicaea (787), gave regarding sacred art.

Carmela Boccasile is an expert icon painter; she manages to interpret attentively the traditional concepts in a new and modern manner. She is famous for her attention to detail and for what one can dub as ‘a scruple for color use’: it is a scruple that seems to be a response to the icon’s invitation, and is made up of an attentive listening and of a search for the internal sound of colors. Apart from the work at the Studio, Carmela Boccasile dedicates much of her time to the elaboration of sacred icons that are inspired by the Catholic and Greek-Orthodox traditions; in particular she prefers to produce icons of Mary and St Nicholas. Carmela Boccasile’s artistic trait can be defined as one of “matter that bears the Spirit” and as a ‘tonal counterpoint’.

Lillo Dellino, painter, graphic, photographer, and scene designer (Bari, 1943 – Paris, 2013) – was a disciple of Maestro Nicola La Fortezza, the winner of numerous artistic prizes, the artistic director of exhibitions and art galleries, and a collaborator in scientific projects with Silvio Ceccato, Pino Parini and Maurizio Calvesi. He married C. Boccasile, and with his intelligence and forceful creativity, became her life companion as well as her art companion; together they kept searching for the Spirit. As a team, they acted for decades as consultants at the International Study Center of the St Nicholas Basilica in Bari, at the Petruzzelli Opera Theatre and other cultural and musical entities. They were invited by the Italian Episcopal Conference to embark on a pilot project intended to build new Churches. They made up an exceptional artistic tandem. Their son Dario is now following in their footsteps; apart from the artistic trait that his parents handed down to him, he is well prepared as a writer and scholar.

Through its work that was the fruit of a unique vital unity, this married couple, both artists, has contributed to an overhaul of the contemporary painting and graphic art in Italy, as well as to a search for the Transcendental, always faithful to the Christian tradition. Advent is the season of joyful news and anticipation of Christmas. Advent is also a time to reflect on the eternal unchanging covenant and promises of God, and the surprises that God sends to keep us awake. ✠

Source: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccsrlife/anno-vita-consacrata/logo_anno-vita-consacrata_en.htm

The Headword

“Vita consecrata in Ecclesia hodie: Evangelium, Prophetia, Spes

(*Consecrated life in today's Church: Gospel, Prophecy, Hope*)

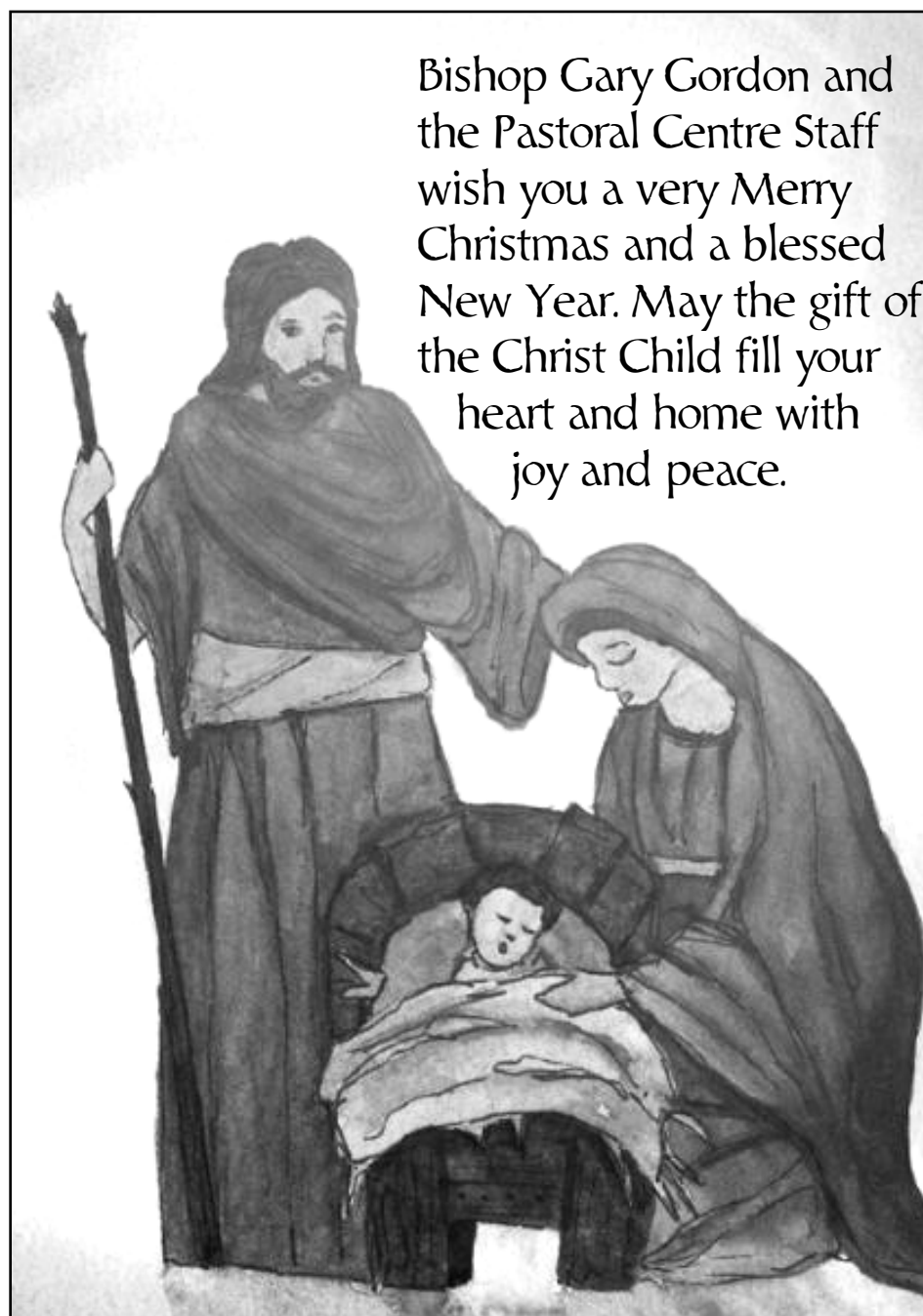
The headword provides a further highlighting of the identity and prospective, experience and ideals, grace and journey that consecrated life has lived through and is still living within the Church as people of God, as it journeys together with the different nations and cultures toward the future.

Evangelium: this indicates the fundamental rule of consecrated life, which is the “sequela Christi as taught by the Gospel” (PC 2a). First of all as “a living memorial of Jesus’ way of living and acting” (VC 22), and then as vital wisdom in the light of the multiple counsels that the Lord gave to his disciples (cf LG 42). The Gospel shows the way ahead and is a source of joy (EG 1).

Prophetia: reminds us of the prophetic character of consecrated life, which “takes the shape of a special form of sharing in Christ’s prophetic office, which the Holy Spirit communicates to the whole People of God” (VC 84). This is an authentic prophetic ministry that is born from the Word and is nourished by the Word of God when this is welcomed and lived out in the various circumstances of life. This function is carried out through courageous denunciation and in announcing new ‘visits’ by God; also, “through the exploration of new ways to apply the Gospel in history, in expectation of the coming of God’s Kingdom” (*ibid.*).

Spes: reminds us of the ultimate fulfillment of the Christian mystery. We are living through an era that is characterized by widespread uncertainties and a lack of projects with a long-term vision: hope is needed in a context of cultural and social fragility, at a time when the horizon is dark because “it often seems that the signs of God’s presence have been lost from sight” (VC 85). Consecrated life is permanently projected toward the eschatology: it witnesses that every hope will eventually have its definite fulfillment, and transforms the waiting “in work and mission, that the Kingdom may become present here and now” (VC 27). As a sign of hope consecrated life needs to be close to people and to show mercy; to be a paradigm of a future free from all kinds of idolatry.

“Encouraged by the charity that the Holy Spirit pours in our hearts” (Rom 5:5) the consecrated persons are therefore called to embrace the universe and to become a memorial of the Trinitarian love, catalysts of communion and unity,





Cardinal Recalls Gaza Visit in Opening Mass for Year of Consecrated Life

On Saturday, Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrated the opening Mass for the Year of Consecrated Life at Westminster Cathedral. In his homily, Cardinal Vincent recalled his visit to the Parish of the Holy Family in Gaza the previous week and paid tribute to the work of the 12 sisters from three religious congregations who do much to bring hope in the midst of devastation.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26159>

I Have Been a Hermit Now for Eight Years

Eddie Mair from the BBC's PM programme goes to a windswept place in North Wales to visit a listener in his hermitage to find out about his life and what he's searching for. Fr. Bruno Healey said he always had a yearning and a longing for God. He tried to be a hermit at the age of 20 but says he didn't have enough life experience in his rucksack at that time - so he left and went on to become a priest. Fr. Bruno worked for the diocese for Westminster for 20 years before he asked permission to live as a hermit again.

Listen to the interview on iplayer here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04pr5gf. More info: www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26154

Kenya: Bishops Say State of Insecurity is 'National Disaster'

Kenya's bishops have called for the state of insecurity in different areas of the country to be declared a "national disaster" and the sale of ammunition to ordinary citizens to be regulated. These are some of the demands made by the Kenya Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission in a declaration entitled 'Kenya, a nation in mourning ... act now', presented during a press conference by Mgr. Zachaeus Okoth, Archbishop of Kisumu, and President of the Commission. Mgr. Okoth has urged the government to strategically place the military special forces at border points, to stem the flow of al-Shabaab Somali militiamen in the country.

www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26152

Caritas Internationalis: Message for World AIDS Day

"Every person is worthy of our giving." With these words, Pope Francis called on all Catholics, and other people of faith and good will, to open their hearts to all in need and to treat them as sisters and brothers. He then assured those willing to sacrifice their own comfort, time, wealth, knowledge and skills for the good of others, "We achieve fulfillment when we break down walls and our heart is filled with faces and names!" The story of Caritas' response to the HIV epidemics in different parts of the world goes beyond abstract strategies and policies, as important as they may be.

www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26150

Pope's Address at the Patriarchal Church of St. George, Istanbul

November 30, 2014

Your Holiness, beloved brother Bartholomew,

When I was the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, I often took part in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox communities there. Today, the Lord has given me the singular grace to be present in this Patriarchal Church of Saint George for the celebration of the Feast of the holy Apostle Andrew, the first-called, the brother of Saint Peter, and the Patron Saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Meeting each other, seeing each other face to face, exchanging the embrace of peace, and praying for each other, are all essential aspects of our journey towards the restoration of full communion. All of this precedes and always accompanies that other essential aspect of this journey, namely, theological dialogue. An authentic dialogue is, in every case, an encounter between persons with a name, a face, a past, and not merely a meeting of ideas.

This is especially true for us Christians, because for us the truth is the person of Jesus Christ. The example of Saint Andrew, who with another disciple accepted the invitation of the Divine Master, "Come and see", and "stayed with him that day" (Jn 1:39), shows us plainly that the Christian life is a personal experience, a transforming encounter with the One who loves us and who wants to save us. In addition, the Christian message is spread thanks to men and women who are in love with Christ, and cannot help but pass on the joy of being loved and saved. Here again, the example of the apostle Andrew is instructive. After following Jesus to his home and spending time with him, Andrew "first found his brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus" (Jn 1:40-42). It is clear, therefore, that not even dialogue among Christians can prescind from this logic of personal encounter.

It is not by chance that the path of reconciliation and peace between Catholics and Orthodox was, in some way, ushered in by an encounter, by an embrace between our venerable predecessors, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI, which took place fifty years ago in Jerusalem. Your Holiness and I wished to commemorate that moment when we met recently in the same city where our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose.

By happy coincidence, my visit falls a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Christian Unity. This is a fundamental document which opened new avenues for encounter between Catholics and their brothers and sisters of other Churches and ecclesial communities.

In particular, in that Decree the Catholic Church acknowledges that the Orthodox Churches "possess true sacraments, above all – by apostolic succession – the priesthood and the Eucharist, whereby they are still joined to us in closest intimacy" (15). The Decree goes on to state that in order to guard faithfully the fullness of the Christian tradition and to bring to fulfilment the reconciliation of Eastern and Western Christians, it is of the greatest importance to preserve and support the rich patrimony of the Eastern Churches. This regards not only their liturgical and spiritual traditions, but also their canonical disciplines, sanctioned as they are by the Fathers and by Councils, which regulate the lives of these Churches (cf. 15-16).

I believe that it is important to reaffirm respect for this principle as an essential condition, accepted by both, for the restoration of full communion, which does not signify the submission of one to the other, or assimilation. Rather, it means welcoming all the gifts that God has given to each, thus demonstrating to the entire world the great mystery of salvation accomplished by Christ the Lord through the Holy Spirit. I want to assure each one of you here that, to reach the desired goal of full unity, the Catholic Church does not intend to impose any conditions except that of the shared profession of faith. Further, I would add that we are ready to seek together, in light of Scriptural teaching and

the experience of the first millennium, the ways in which we can guarantee the needed unity of the Church in the present circumstances. The one thing that the Catholic Church desires, and that I seek as Bishop of Rome, "the Church which presides in charity", is communion with the Orthodox Churches. Such communion will always be the fruit of that love which "has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (cf. Rom 5:5), a fraternal love which expresses the spiritual and transcendent bond which unites us as disciples of the Lord.

In today's world, voices are being raised which we cannot ignore and which implore our Churches to live deeply our identity as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first of these voices is that of the poor. In the world, there are too many women and men who suffer from severe malnutrition, growing unemployment, the rising numbers of unemployed youth, and from increasing social exclusion. These can give rise to criminal activity and even the recruitment of terrorists. We cannot remain indifferent before the cries of our brothers and sisters. These ask of us not only material assistance – needed in so many circumstances – but above all, our help to defend their dignity as human persons, so that they can find the spiritual energy to become once again protagonists in their own lives. They ask us to fight, in the light of the Gospel, the structural causes of poverty: inequality, the shortage of dignified work and housing, and the denial of their rights as members of society and as workers. As Christians we are called together to eliminate that globalization of indifference which today seems to reign supreme, while building a new civilization of love and solidarity.

A second plea comes from the victims of the conflicts in so many parts of our world. We hear this resoundingly here, because some neighbouring countries are scarred by an inhumane and brutal war. I think in a particular way of the numerous victims of the grotesque and senseless attack which recently killed and injured so many Muslims who were praying in a Mosque in Kano, Nigeria. Taking away the peace of a people, committing every act of violence – or consenting to such acts – especially when directed against the weakest and defenceless, is a profoundly grave sin against God, since it means showing contempt for the image of God which is in man. The cry of the victims of conflict urges us to move with haste along the path of reconciliation and communion between Catholics and Orthodox. Indeed, how can we credibly proclaim the Gospel of peace which comes from Christ, if there continues to be rivalry and disagreement between us (cf. Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 77)?

A third cry which challenges us is that of young people. Today, tragically, there are many young men and women who live without hope, overcome by mistrust and resignation. Many of the young, influenced by the prevailing culture, seek happiness solely in possessing material things and in satisfying their fleeting emotions. New generations will never be able to acquire true wisdom and keep hope alive unless we are able to esteem and transmit the true humanism which comes from the Gospel and from the Church's age-old experience. It is precisely the young who today implore us to make progress towards full communion. I think for example of the many Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant youth who come together at meetings organized by the Taizé community. They do this not because they ignore the differences which still separate us, but because they are able to see beyond them; they are able to embrace what is essential and what already unites us.

Dear brother, very dear brother, we are already on the way, on the path towards full communion and already we can experience eloquent signs of an authentic, albeit incomplete union. This offers us reassurance and encourages us to continue on this journey. We are certain that along this journey we are helped by the intercession of the Apostle Andrew and his brother Peter, held by tradition to be the founders of the Churches of Constantinople and of Rome. We ask God for the great gift of full unity, and the ability to accept it in our lives. Let us never forget to pray for one another. ✠



The Pope’s 10 Tips for a Happier Life

Courtesy of the Catholic News Service

Live and let live. Everyone should be guided by this principle, he said, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, “Move forward and let others do the same.”

Be giving of yourself to others. People need to be open and generous toward others, he said, because “if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid.”

Proceed calmly in life. The Pope, who used to teach high school literature, used an image from an Argentine novel by Ricardo Guiraldes, in which the protagonist — gaucho Don Segundo Sombra — looks back on how he lived his life.

A healthy sense of leisure. The Pope said “consumerism has brought us anxiety”, and told parents to set aside time to play with their children and turn off the TV when they sit down to eat.

Sundays should be holidays. Workers should have Sundays off because “Sunday is for family,” he said.

Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people. “We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs” and be more vulnerable to suicide, he said.

Respect and take care of nature. Environmental degradation “is one of the biggest challenges we have,” he said. “I think a question that we’re not asking ourselves is: ‘Isn’t humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?’”

Stop being negative. “Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. That means, ‘I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down,’” the Pope said. “Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy.”

Don’t proselytise; respect others’ beliefs. “We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes: ‘I am talking with you in order to persuade you,’ No. Each person dialogues, starting with his and her own identity. The Church grows by attraction, not proselytising,” the Pope said.

Work for peace. “We are living in a time of many wars,” he said, and “the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive” and dynamic.

Christmas Message: CCCB

The Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

As I write this Christmas message, barely a week has gone by since Remembrance Day, a day marked by the still fresh memory of the recent assassinations of two members of the Canadian Armed Forces. This year, Christmas in Canada will take on a different shading, muted and somber, because of these events which have saddened our hearts and our spirits. Many voices proclaimed that Canada “lost its innocence” in October 2014. I understand and sympathize with that feeling. However, we should remember that our country’s history has been scarred by many episodes of sporadic violence: the kidnapping of Chief Donnacona by Jacques Cartier, the assassination of Member of Parliament Thomas D’Arcy McGee, the violent death of demonstrators during the Winnipeg general strike, the assault on the Quebec National Assembly, the Montreal massacre at the École Polytechnique. These examples, among many, should dispel our illusions. And it’s not just our past. Our present also confronts us with gang crimes, sexual assaults, family violence and workplace harassment. All of this convinces me that, sadly, we are not as innocent as we like to believe.

The good news is that Christmas carries with it this marvellous, nearly unbelievable hope: *that innocence can be recovered*. In a world marked by violence, disfigured by the scars of wars, of murders, of exploitation and injustice, a Child is born to whom has been given the unexpected title of ‘Prince of Peace’. Newborn children make us dream of innocence. Faced with a defenceless child, our hearts are softened, our passions calmed, our fantasies made warm and loving. But the Child of Bethlehem is not only a source of dreams: he calls us to decision, to a foundational commitment in favour of truthful love. He himself would grow up to become the Prophet of a new world where justice, peace and joy would reign. On the Cross, he confronted human violence at its worst ... and responded with mercy and forgiveness, thus uncovering for the world new ways to reconciliation and freedom. His Resurrection revealed to his friends the ultimate meaning of life, woven through with surprising grace and life-giving Spirit. This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas.

For in Jesus, innocence can be recovered, healed and renewed. Each of us is invited to open our hearts to this Good News, to make it our own, to share it with family, with friends, with an entire country. We celebrate Christmas at the time of year when nights are longest. Is this not a sign that innocence can surge forth at the very moment we believed it lost? Let us therefore not be afraid to wish each other a joyful Christmas. Let us especially not be afraid to live it! ✠



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Photo: Sister Sheila Fortune, C.S.J., with Charlotte Gregoire and grandson Atenam Toma.
Photo courtesy of Sister Sheila Fortune, Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.

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Impressions



by Connie Dunwoody

*The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes;
so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.*
~ John 3:8

It started as a breath. A whisper of a lullaby lost in time, swept on a swirling breeze. It was a maiden's prayer, a mother's hope. It was a young man's relief, a father's trust. It was anguish redeemed.

It moved, swooping low and soaring high, touching all who felt its magical dance with a feeling that curled the edges of mouths into small smiles of recognition. It fluttered a lock of hair here, cooled a brow there, stroking creatures great and small, divine and pedestrian, softly amused and indiscriminating in its joy. It whirled through an unlikely palace, quieting beasts and reviving humans, and on its way stopped to caress a tiny face swaddled in slumber. It murmured "thank you" in a confused and terrified father's heart and "I love you" in a tired mother's soul.

Cold was the night but this breath was warm, infused with glory and hope and compassion and love. Dark was the sky but bright was the light in her eyes, this new mother, this faithful vessel of His.

The breath scented the air like blossoms: an offering. Straw poking through folds of fabric were pinpoints of pain unnoticed in bliss; a child wrapped in rags no finery could surpass looked up with eyes that pierced the soul with knowing wisdom, his night-shattering cries a tiny foretaste of suffering to come. Cold water sluiced reality away; a mother and baby rested in husband's tender arms, pain forgotten in a heart-rending gasp of love ...

And the breath smiled, and swirled. It dipped and wove over hills and rivers and plains, past churches and synagogues and into unlikely temples. It skidded into the rigid and opened their hearts, leaving a puzzling remnant of peace unasked, unexpected and in some, unwelcome.

Some tried to capture it, to examine and understand the wonder it held. Some tried to sell it for pieces of silver and it drove them mad. Its crystal laugh resounded off mountains and plunged into the depths: it breathed life. The lame ran with it, the blind cried for its beauty and the damaged became whole.

Decades away where the breath began, the chill dawn of a winter day tiptoed in and threw a shadow across the future. A foul penumbra cast hardened wood and prickly crown behind a sleeping baby. A stench rose like evil, and grasping, wraithlike hands reached to pluck the child from protective arms. Her heart suddenly and painfully fragmented into shards for this tiny, squalling newness; she writhed, crying out in mortal agony. Weeping, she traced an unblemished brow and relinquished to Him the soft vulnerability of untouched skin. Her new-mother tears dissolved in the limitless comfort of eternity and unfathomable gift of love, her breath a soft sigh of acceptance even as she strove to understand.

It watched her struggle.

Then inhaling, it gained an angry strength. It moved, borne on sorrow and fuelled by rage, swooping low and soaring high, carried in the voices of those who called "crucify!" and those whose souls yelled "no!" and all were powerless to stop its exhalation.

It charged over hills and rivers and plains, past churches and synagogues and exploded against hearts. It barrelled into the darkness of a daylight night then paused, gathered power and leapt into the gale. It stormed through eons, tumbled demons, blasted apart the wicked and defied the stench with blossoms. Those who tried to contain it were swept away, and those who received it were filled with passion and all were driven to their knees in the unstoppable maelstrom.

Trembling, it wailed, and tears covered the earth, melting ice and nourishing fields white for the harvest. As the sun rose in the cool dawn of an early spring day, a gilded penumbra cast multicoloured shadows of hope across waters as deep as death ...

It ended as a breath. A whisper of a lullaby lost in time, swept on a swirling breeze. It was a maiden's prayer, a mother's hope. It was a young man's relief, a father's trust.

It was anguish, redeemed. ✕



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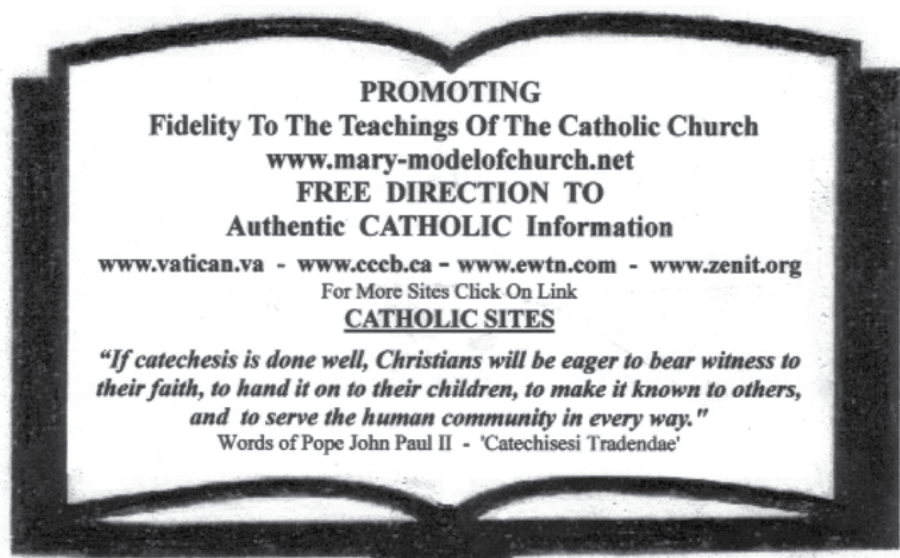


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Words of Pope John Paul II - 'Catechesi Tradendae'



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Mass Schedule

Parish	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day	December 31 New Year's Eve	January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria Please note: the 11 pm Christmas Eve service will be very full; please arrive early to ensure you get a seat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:45pm doors open for 4:40pm Carols and Children's Pageant; 5pm Mass• 7:30pm Carols; 8pm Mass• 10pm Carols; 11 pm Solemn Mass of Christmas Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30am Mass of Christmas Dawn• 10:30am (Mount St. Mary Hospital)• 11am Mass of Christmas Day (Incense)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass (Incense)• 10:30am (Mount St. Mary Hospital)
À l'Église St-Jean-Baptiste (St. Jean Baptiste)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 pm Messe de minuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Messe de Noël		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Messe du Jour de l'An
Christ the King, Courtenay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4:30pm Carols; 5pm Mass• 7:30pm Carols; 8pm Mass• 11:30pm Carols; 12am Midnight Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 am Carols; 10:30 am Mass• 2 pm Mass (Hornby Island)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass
Church of the Ascension, Parksville	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass• 7:30pm Mass• 10pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass
Holy Cross, Gordon Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Family Mass• 8pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30am Mass		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30am Mass
Holy Family/Notre Dame, Port Alberni	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass• 8pm Mass• 12am Midnight Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass
North Island (Our Lady of Assumption, Alert Bay; St. Bonaventure, Port Hardy; St. Mary's, Port McNeill; St. Theresa's, Port Alice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4pm Mass (Alert Bay)• 8pm Mass (Port Hardy)• 10pm Mass (Port McNeill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (Port Alice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass (Port Hardy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (Port McNeill)
Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8pm Mass (English)• 12am Midnight Mass (Portuguese)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 658-1587 or email olfvictoria@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 658-1587 or email olfvictoria@shaw.ca
Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford Incense will be used at all Christmas Masses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:30pm Children's Mass• 10:30pm Mass (Parish Hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Esquimalt Hypoallergenic incense will be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Family Mass• 12am Latin Midnight Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass• 12pm Traditional Latin Mass
Sacred Heart, Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Children's Mass• 8pm Mass (English)• 10:30pm (Korean; Incense)• 12am Midnight Mass (Polish; Incense)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass (English)• 3pm Mass (Korean)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass (English)• 10pm Mass (Korean)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass (English)• 12:30pm Mass (Polish)• 3pm Mass (Korean)
Saltspring Island (Our Lady of Grace, Ganges and St. Paul's, Fulford Harbour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Carols and Mass (OLOG)• 11pm Carols and Midnight Mass (St. Paul's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Carols and Farmily Mass (OLOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11pm Vigil Mass (OLOG) followed by NYE Gathering in Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8am Mass (St. Paul's)• 10am Family Mass (OLOG)
Shawnigan Lake (Our Lady Queen of the World and St. Francis Xavier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:45pm Carols; 7pm Mass (OLQOW)• 11:45pm Carols; 12am Midnight Mass (SFX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am Mass (SFX)• 11am Mass (OLQOW; Incense)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am Mass (SFX)• 11am Mass (OLQOW; Incense)
Sidney (Services are at St. Elizabeth's unless otherwise noted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Carols; 6:30pm Mass• 8pm Carols; 8:30pm Mass (Our Lady of the Assumption)• 10pm Carols; 10:30pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass
St. Columba's (Ordinariate Parish), Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Matins of Christmas Day• 8pm First Mass of Christmas Day (Incense)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30am Second Mass of Christmas Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:55am Sung Matins• 9:30am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:30am Sung Matins• 9:30am Mass
St. Ann's, Duncan Incense will be used at all Masses at St. Ann's. December 14, 3pm, Christmas Mass at Snuneymuxw Longhouse Kitchen, Nanaimo Reserve 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:30pm Mass, Baptism & Confirmation (Penelakut Elementary School Gym, Penelakut Island)• 10:30pm Carols; 11:45pm Mass (St. Ann's Church)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (St. Ann's Church)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (St. Ann's Church)
St. Edward's, Duncan	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 746-6831 or email ed123a@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 746-6831 or email ed123a@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 746-6831 or email ed123a@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 746-6831 or email ed123a@shaw.ca
St. Joseph the Worker, Saanich	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Family Mass• 8:30pm Vigil Mass• 12am Midnight Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass
St. Joseph's, Chemainus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass
St. Leopold (Various Locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12am Midnight Mass (Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (Nanaimo, Trinity)• 2:30pm Mass (Port Alberni)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Mass (Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12pm Mass (Victoria)• 5pm Mass (Nanaimo, Trinity)
St. Louis de Montfort Church, Lake Cowichan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:30pm Carols; 12pm Midnight Mass		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass	
St. Mary's, Ladysmith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8pm Carols; 8:30pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am Mass		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9pm Mass
St. Patrick's, Campbell River	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 287-3498 or email stpatricks-cr@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 287-3498 or email stpatricks-cr@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 287-3498 or email stpatricks-cr@shaw.ca	CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (250) 287-3498 or email stpatricks-cr@shaw.ca
St. Patrick's, Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:30pm Carols; 6pm Pageant and Mass• 8:30pm Carols; 9pm Mass (Incense)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass• 1pm (Vietnamese)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass
St. Peter's, Nanaimo Carols before 8pm & Midnight Mass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Family Mass• 8pm Mass• 12am Midnight Mass (Incense)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:30am Mass• 10:30am Mass
St. Rose of Lima, Sooke	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 pm Youth and Family Mass• 7:30pm Carols; 8pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass
Trinity Catholic Church, Nanaimo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3pm Mass• 5pm Children's Pageant• 9:30 pm Carols; 10 pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30am Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6pm Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10am Mass
West Coast (Holy Family, Ucluelet; St. Francis of Assisi, Tofino; St. Lawrence, Ahousat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7pm Mass (Tofino)• 7:30pm Mass (Ucluelet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (Ucluelet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm Mass (Tofino)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am Mass (Ucluelet)