

# The The A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria June 2014

### **A Bishop for Victoria!**

Release from Fr. John Laszczyk, Diocesan Administrator and Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins, Chancellor, Diocese of Victoria

Early on June 14, 2014, it was publicly announced by the Vatican that Pope Francis has appointed Most Reverend Gary Gordon as Bishop of Victoria.

Bishop-Elect Gary Gordon was born on June 10, 1957, in Vancouver, British Columbia and attended Christ the King Seminary in Mission BC, and St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario where he graduated in 1982. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1982 for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Bishop-Elect Gordon was appointed Bishop of Whitehorse on January 5, 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI, ordained and installed as the 5th Bishop of Whitehorse on March 22, 2006.

As prescribed in the Code of Canon Law, Bishop-Elect Gordon will take canonical possession of the Diocese of Victoria within two months of receiving the apostolic letters. The Diocesan Consultors will meet with Bishop-Elect Gordon on Wednesday, June 18th and details pertaining to the installation will be announced after that meeting.

As members of our Diocesan family we look forward to welcoming Bishop-Elect Gordon with open arms and loving hearts and we wish him many graced years of health and happiness in our midst.



Read more about Bishop-Elect Gary Gordon on page 3

### **Dear People of God...**

#### Greetings and Peace.

My heart is filled with joy in the expectation of meeting you and getting to know you personally.

As I have traveled over many years throughout the Diocese of Victoria, usually fishing or kayaking, I have always been amazed at the incredible way the Creator has blessed your land and sea.

But also in more recent years I have had the privilege of meeting many of the people of the different First Nations and all the other cultures and faiths that make up God's lovely Island garden. I was also privileged to meet the Catholic faithful in your communities while on a speaking tour for Catholic Missions in Canada. Indeed the natural beauty of the Diocese is magnified in the beauty of God's grace in the hearts of God's people, clergy, religious sisters, and lay faithful.

The history of the Church of Victoria is part of the missionary dynamism of Christ on the Pacific Coast stretching from the Strait of Juan de Fuca all the way to Alaska and the Yukon—an amazing grace and foundation for the new evangelization that Pope Francis is inviting the whole Church to embrace.

I look forward to our moving ever forward together as missionary disciples to participate in some small way to renew the face of the earth as the kingdom of our gracious God, in the mercy, peace and justice of Jesus, with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In the mystery of our Triune God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, I hold you in prayer and ask your prayers for myself and the Diocese of Whitehorse in this time of transition.

In Communion, +Gary Gordon Bishop-Elect of Victoria 🐰

### St. Andrew's Regional High School Celebrates 30 Years

#### by Suzannah Goldsack

n May 31, 2014, 150 people celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of St. Andrew's Regional High School. The evening was emceed by current principal Andrew Keleher and current graduate Celina Yousief. The evening was filled with music performed by our Jazz Band, and solos by Andrew Greenwood (Class of '85) and Philip O'Reilly (Class of '96 and current Music Director). A few guests offered remembrances from the early years of the school. Some alumni came from as far away as Hawaii to share their stories of how St. Andrew's taught them to love and help others as much as you can. They shared stories of the first principals and how the school was just one hallway with all assemblies having occurred in what is now referred to as 'the old wing'.

the alumni spoke of coming into the building, some having not been back since graduation and sensing that they had returned 'home'.

There is one teacher at St. Andrew's who has been at the school from its beginning in September of 1983, and that is Mr. Erich Munzer. Erich is retiring after 33 years of teaching and 30 years at St. Andrew's. As a current staff member and running mate—of Erich's, I was privileged to offer a heartfelt and warm tribute to Erich for his dedication, commitment and love of St. Andrew's Regional High School.

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The joy and love that came from those early graduates through the 80s, 90s, and up to and including 2014 reinforced what a special place St. Andrew's really is. Kathy Do, a member of the current graduating class, spoke on behalf of the Class of 2014, echoing for them what generations had already experienced. Kathy offered a heartfelt appreciation for our history and an optimistic look for the future.

St. Andrew's provides a superior education, but more than that, it provides a foundation for faith, love and life. It will always be 'home'. It is a great gift to be able to have a school that provides this sense of community and love. Many of All who attended were so grateful to Joanne Côté and her kitchen crew, and to the Knights of Columbus, for the wonderful meal that was provided. They were grateful also to the Catholic School Teachers Association for the provision of two wonderful cakes to mark the occasion.

Simon Di Castri, one of St. Andrew's favourite 'sons' and former teacher/principal for nearly 25 years, led alumni and guests in toasting outgoing ICS Superintendent Joe Colistro for his 26 years in ICS, the last 15 years as Superintendent.

The St. Andrew's Alumni Dinner was a great success! Members of the Class of 2014 were inducted into the St. Andrew's Alumni Association and we hope to be able to build on events like this one to continue to build a healthy and thriving alumni association.

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See Page 11 for more pictures from the St. Andrew's 30th Anniversary Celebration



### The Diocese of Victoria Congratulates the 2014 Graduating Class of St. Andrew's Regional High School

**Keisha Andrade** Erika Bajwa **Zachary Bird** Jennifer Boomer **Camille Brinas** Payal Chandel Amber (Hsien-Ya) Chou **Neil Croswell** Shaun Cuglietta Sophie De Boever Fabian De La Fuente Olivas Matthew Den Boer Vijaivir Dhaliwal Jasleen Kaur Dhatt Alan Dick Jr. Derek Dimock Kathy Do Sai Doppalapudi

Hailey Fantetti Daniel Fratczak Juan Carlos Gallegos Dupuis Annastasia Goodfellow Cassidy Graham Alana Grohovac Jordan Henneberry Brian Hinds

**Chad Morgan Isabel Neeson Tiffany Ng Rebecca Nguyen Michael Nolin** Jessie Ogden **Stephen Olmos** Jordyn Piercy **Megan** Poulin Sunil Rahl **Erin Reder** Emil Rehak Brody Hamilton Reid Kisha Roxas Peter Savage Jared Saxby Julia Searle Johnathan J.A. Sheffar

**Jae Min Song** Hannah Taft **Kristian Tanguilut** Jessica Tonkin **Graydon Turner** Yuki Uei **Emily Vaughan Michael James Webb** Eric White Ryan Wilson Sumi Yadav Celina Yousief Griffin S. Yundt Katherine Zeng Shenming Zhang Stephen Zhu

Ryan Howe Gemma Jean Kerr Chloe Kersen Manphie Lai Sabrina Lai Jason McCracken Emily McDonald Evan McKinnon Marcus Merryfield Aiko Mollard

### Island News & Events

### Noteworthy Musicians at St. Andrew's High

by Philip O'Reilly, Music Director, St. Andrew's Regional High School

This Spring, our own St. Andrew's Regional High School Music department has recently experienced some noteworthy success (pun intended!) both at home and outside the local community:

St. Andrew's Singers recently gave a fantastic performance at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, earning the Gardiner Shield for top performance by a secondary choir while competing against such strong schools as Brentwood College and Oak Bay Secondary, among others. In addition to winning the award for top secondary choir, the singers also received the Victoria Choral Society Award for most outstanding choral performance and a cheque for \$250. Our choir has also been recommended to go on to compete in provincials. This tremendous accomplishment is a first in the thirty-year history of St. Andrew's High School and a wonderful testament to the dedication and hard work of our students!

In addition to the Choir's success, our bands have also experienced triumph at the recent Con Brio Whistler Music Festival, where 83 of St. Andrew's young musicians (almost a third of the school) performed from April 24 - 27. Both our Concert and Jazz Bands received silver medals for their performances in Whistler, where as many as 20 other schools were also participating. In addition to performing on their own, our students also had the chance to play with over 1,000 other young musicians from British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario in one of the largest massed band performances held at the Whistler Conference Centre. Students also participated in workshops with first-rate clinicians, allowing them to further their musicianship in a way that they greatly appreciated.

Our music students have been excellent ambassadors for our school and have certainly helped identify St. Andrew's Regional High School as a school that strives for excellence! R



## "Wonder Women" of the 1850s

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

### In Profile: Bishop-Elect Gary Gordon

#### by Patria Rivera, Editor of Catholic Missions in Canada Magazine

For a priest who, growing up in Burnaby, British Columbia, only wanted to play hockey, play baseball and go camping as a kid, Fr. Gary Gordon, [now the Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Victoria], has had a wonderful and remarkable journey of faith.

The young Gary Gordon had always loved the outdoors. And his parents encouraged these healthy pursuits. "We had very few rules," he recalled in a phone interview from the Diocesan office in Whitehorse, Yukon [in 2009]. However, he and his brother Brian were taught early on that 'Mass was non-negotiable.' "It didn't matter where we were—camping or in the bush—we had to go find the nearest church and attend Sunday Mass. And that was what we did. My father would wake us up, even at five o'clock in the morning, in time for Mass in whatever town we were near."

As a teenager, he says, "My father cautioned me: If you can't give one hour of your whole week for the Lord, then you've got a problem. It makes so much sense now," he laughs, "to think how little the Lord asks from us."

### Faith-filled family

The Gordon brothers grew up in a faith-filled household. Dad Hugh, who worked for the Burlington Northern railroad, was a daily communicant; their mother Denise was just as devout in all the practical ways as a mother, as well as working as a bookkeeper and taking care of the Gordon household.

"My Mom and Dad worked their hearts out to give us a good Catholic education. In those days, there was no funding for Catholic schools." Bishop-Elect Gordon went from St. Francis de Sales Elementary School on to St. Thomas More High School in Burnaby, BC.

They also had an uncle, Fr. George Gordon, who was a priest in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and two aunts who joined the Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary and the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria, respectively. "I knew the priesthood from behind the scenes," Bishop Gordon says, "I knew the life of the priest from observing my priest-uncle and the priests who came to the house to visit my father and mother. They were there from the very beginning: talking to parishioners, helping the poor, visiting the sick."

Their pastor at St. Francis de Sales parish in Burnaby, Msgr. Edward Brown, was an early influence, and so were assisting priests Fr. Tritchler and Fr. Chang.

But the one missionary who inspired him the most was the late Fr. Raymond Campeau, a White Father from Africa, who came to their school when the young Gary was in Grade 3. "Fr. Campeau spoke about his missionary work in a far-flung area, in an unknown part of the world. It gripped me, something deep inside me was touched. It was a foundational moment," says Bishop-Elect Gordon. "He taught me that every possible sacrifice is worth it. Working with people, touching their hearts where it's most important."

As a young priest, Bishop-Elect Gordon was posted by his bishop, Archbishop James Carney of Vancouver, as a missionary priest among the *Sto:lo* people in the Fraser Valley and St. Mary's parish in Chilliwack. For 25 years he was immersed in a native community that many Canadians then did not know about.

When his father visited him, the older man wondered aloud about how many Canadians do not realize the rich spirituality and faithfulness of the First Nations peoples.

### Keeping the pipes of faith open

As fifth bishop of Whitehorse, Bishop Gordon recalls that one of his most memorable incidents was when he slid off the roof while cleaning the rectory chimney. In hindsight, he says, it brought home to him that his role as bishop was similar to a chimney cleaner's. "Keeping the pipes open so the fire of Christ's love could burn brighter. A bishop has a similar role: he's someone who's tasked with the responsibility to give direction to his flock."

Foundation

The Sisters of St. Ann arrived in British Columbia to begin teaching and caring for the people of the territory on June 5, 1858. They established the tradition of care that became the gold standard for schools and hospitals throughout the province. In 1941, they established Mount St. Mary Hospital, a long-term care facility for adults of all faiths. The residents of the Hospital have varying degrees of dementia, complex behaviours and physical disabilities. The Hospital, while now relocated to 861 Fairfield Road from its original site on Burdette Street, continues to carry on the Sisters' legacy providing care and compassion to 200 residents, offering quality of life or a peaceful and dignified death.

Nearly 156 years later, the work and institutions established by the Sisters of St. Ann have improved the lives of thousands of British Columbians. The Sisters themselves chose Mount St. Mary Hospital as their legacy to our province. Their hope is that the standard of spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual care they have provided will always continue for Mount St. Mary residents. To ensure that vital programs like pastoral care and art and music therapy continue to enrich the lives of residents, the Mount St. Mary Foundation established a fund to ensure that the Sisters' plans are fulfilled—the Sisters of St. Ann Legacy Fund.

The Sisters of St. Ann: A proud Catholic heritage. A promise for the future and wonder women to Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation.

See advertisement page 14 🦹

He says if God would give him 25 years to build enough bridges, plant some seeds, and nourish communities of faith, he will have succeeded in his task.

"Remember the trillium, Ontario's official flower? The seeds take seven years to germinate. I see my work as planting a few seeds of faith. God will water those seeds and someone else will come to harvest."

#### Incredibly blessed by God's call

Everyone, he says, has to be prepared to plant a few seeds of faith, and embrace the crosses that come our way. "When we have the Cross we are already entering into glory." He inscribed this motto for his ordination prayer [as Bishop of the Diocese of Whitehorse] on May 22, 1982. His friend and mountain-climbing mentor, the late Fr. Damasus Payne OSB, wrote it for him.

Overall, says Bishop-Elect Gordon, "I've been incredibly blessed by God's call to priesthood, a wonderful family and great friends. There's no retirement for me. Yup, I hope to see myself at 95, still working, still serving in some capacity as a priest."

### **Calendar of Events**

#### June

**28** Our Lady of Grace, Saltspring Island: *Holodomor: Murder by Starvation.* This is a one-person play performed by Fr. Edward Evanko as a benefit for Philippine Typhoon Relief. It is about the Ukrainian Famine / Genocide of 1932-1933. Those who attend the preceeding 5pm Mass are invited to an austerity supper before the performance. Tickets: \$15, free admission for children. For more information contact the parish secretary at (250) 537-2150.

July

**4**-6 **Camp Barnard, Sooke**: 2nd Annual Diocesan Family Conference: *The Body of Christ—Building Each Other Up In Love.* Cost is \$140/couple with children two years old or younger, \$240/family with children three years and older. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis—watch your parish bulletin for more information. See story on page 8 of this paper.

**1 4**-18 **Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria**: Our Lady of the Rosary presents its annual Summer Camp. 9am – 2pm daily, for ages 6 through 12. Ages 13 and older are welcome as volunteers. The theme for this year's camp is *Ball of Saints*. Cost is \$60 per child. For more information contact: (250) 478-3482 or olor@shaw.ca.

**28**-Aug1 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: Vacation Bible Camp, 8:30am – 12 noon, for children aged 6 – 12. Cost is \$60 per child. For more information contact the parish office: sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or (250) 479-7413.

### **Upcoming Events**

### October

**3** Used Clothing Sale on Friday Oct 3 and Saturday Oct 4, 2014. Bazaar only on Saturday. 2060 HaultainSt. Ample parking and wheelchair accessible. For more information contact the office: (250) 592-7391 or parishsecretary@telus.net.

4 **St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: 9 – 11am, Men's Breakfast at the new Westshore White Spot on the Langford Parkway. Guest speakers: Fr. William Hann and Christopher Burke. To register call (250) 479-7413 or email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

**6 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: Soul Searching: The Spiritual Journey of Thomas Merton begins October 6 and runs Monday nights (except Oct 13) through November 10. Presented by Dr. L. McKeown. To register call (250) 479-7413 or email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

### Miscellany

#### Tuesdays

**St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: CCO's Faith Studies Program for all ages. 6:30 – 10pm in the SJTW Community Room.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

**St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: CCO's Cornerstone Program for ages 16 – 35. 7 – 9pm in the SJTW Church Hall.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria: Traditional Latin Mass at 10 am.

**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 a.m. Mass is offered for the sanctity of human life and for the intentions of those who support Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome to participate.

**Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria:** The Victoria Chinese Catholic Community will hold gatherings on the first Saturday of each month from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, starting September 7. Meetings will include Bible study, faith sharing, talks, prayers, singing and Chinese Mass (in Cantonese and Mandarin whenever a visiting priest is available). Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information contact Ben Chow by email to benchow@shaw.ca.

### **Clergy Appointments**

Please note that Reverend John Laszczyk, Diocesan Administrator has, in consultation with the Diocesan Consultors, made the following pastoral appointments:

- Upon the recommendation of his Religious Superior, **Fr. Krzysztof Pastuszka SDS** has been appointed Administrator of *St. Peter's Parish*, Nanaimo, effective July 12, 2014.
- **Fr. Piotr Lapinski SDS** has been assigned, by his Religious Superior, to the Formation Team at the Salvatorian Seminary in Poland.
- Fr. William MacDonald OMI, having served
- **Deacon Harrison Ayre** has been appointed to *Holy Family/Notre Dame Parish* in Port Alberni from July 25 to August 30, 2014 and then is appointed to *St. Patrick's Parish*, Victoria, effective September 1, 2014.
- **Fr. William Hann** has been granted an extended vacation period from June 23 until September 15th, to allow him an opportunity to spend time with his elderly mother in Newfoundland. **Fr. Jim Bekkema** will serve as the replacement priest at St. Joseph the Worker Parish during Fr. William's absence.

#### Sundays

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria:** Traditional Latin Mass at 12 noon with Gregorian Chant and Sacred Hymns.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Religious Classes for Children and Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. 9:40 am – 10:25 am every Sunday. For more information contact Marie Peeters at (250) 542-4483.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria:** Holy Families Group on the last Sunday of every month. This is an opportunity for married couples to share their faith and discuss marriage and family concerns in an authentically Catholic setting. And there's a potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email onthisrock@shaw.ca.

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

**St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria**: CCO's EPIC (Every Person In Christ) Program for children in grades 5, 6 or 7. 9pm in the SJTW Church Hall.

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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as an Oblate priest for almost 50 years and a priest in our Diocese since 2002 will retire from active ministry on July 31, 2014. The Diocese is most grateful for Fr. Bill's pastoral ministry in the parish communities of Our Lady of Grace (Salt Spring Island), Sacred Heart (Victoria), St. Patrick's (Campbell River), and St. Patrick's (Victoria). Fr. Bill will move to Vancouver and we wish him well in his retirement.

- Fr. Alfred Alilio has been appointed Administrator of *St. Patrick's Parish*, Victoria, effective August 1, 2014.
- With the consent of his Religious Superior, Fr. Dan Gurnick OFM has been appointed Administrator of *Sacred Heart Parish*, Victoria, effective August 30, 2014.
- **Fr. David Hogman** has been re-appointed Associate Priest at *St. Andrew's Cathedral*.

### **Retired Accountants Have**

### **Our Best Interest at Heart**

The Diocese of Victoria Finance Department is seeking accountants (retired or otherwise) to assist with internal audits throughout the Diocese.

For more information please call

Leah MacKenzie (250) 479-1331 ext 231 leahm@rcdvictoria.org.

### **Editorial Board**

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### L'Angelus: Ca C'est Bon!

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

*a c'est bon* simply translated means *That's Good!* or *It's good, that*! and Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation believes both are true of the group *L'Angelus* and the music they effortlessly create. Residents and staff of Mount St. Mary hospital were recent benefactors of a live performance at the hospital when the group was in town performing as part of a "Tribute to Nashville" series organized by the Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

The band is made up of the eldest of four siblings from the Rees family of ten children. They began performing in the mid 1990s. The group consists of Katie who plays guitar, Paige on the bass, Johnny on the drums and Stephen, or 'Stevie' as his siblings affectionately refer to him, plays the fiddle, saxophone and accordion.

Residents were delighted to have lively, energetic music being performed for them live in the Village Square. L'Angelus amazed us not only with their musical talent but in how they took the time to get to know their audience, addressing residents by name and even dedicating to some a few special songs. Of note was a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday to resident—and former Miss Esquimalt—Sr. Helen who was celebrating her 98th birthday the day of the L'Angelus performance; and the beautiful songs dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Christ and to their own grandmother Mary Lough as well as to Sr. Assunta who works at the hospital. They explained to the audience that *Assunta* is a beautiful prayer and an important part of the "Assumption (of the virgin Mary into Heaven)." It was heartening that the group would take the time to get to know their audience so personally. Their performance was nothing but brilliant.

The Foundation was honoured to have a group the caliber of L'Angelus performing at the hospital. The band had been selected by Billboard Magazine in 2006 as one of the six finalists in the Independent Music World Series and were later a featured guest at the World Youth Day with the Pope in 2011. They have been gaining international attention ever since, and on Saturday, April 26, 2014 the group certainly gained the attention of residents and staff at Mount St. Mary Hospital.

The four are incredibly talented and quite funny; they have a stage presence that is a joy to watch and quite fun. Paige is a delight as she beams a cheerful smile while tossing her hair about when she starts to groove on her guitar. Katie has the voice of an angel and had many in the audience in tears with her rendition of *Amazing Grace* and *Ave Maria*. While Johnny may have been hiding in the back with his drums, he in no way took a back seat to his siblings while performing. And Stephen, where does one start? He plays a mean fiddle, can channel an accordion like no other and has a way of expressing himself through his saxophone that is truly mesmerizing. Their voices harmonized beautifully as they wrapped things up with the *Waltz of St. Cecilia* and *Ca C'est Bon*!

L'Angelus, ca c'est bon! Thank you for filling our hearts with music, joy and your generosity.

In the spirit of L'Angelus's brilliant performance and in honour of the Music Therapy program at Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation, we'd like to share this musician's prayer with you:

- Oh Lord, please bless this music that it might glorify your name. May the talent that you have bestowed upon me be used only to serve you.
- Let this music be a witness to your majesty and love, and remind us that you are always watching, and listening, from your throne above.
- May your presence and beauty be found in every note, and may the words that are sung reach the hearts of your people so they will draw closer to you.

May your Spirit guide us through every measure so that we might be the instruments of your peace, and proclaim your glory with glad voices.

Amen 🦹



### **D&P Rally for Mining** Accountability

### by Margie Noonan

n May 14, 2014, Canadians gathered in large numbers on Parliament Hill to call for the creation of an impartial and independent ombudsman for responsible mining abroad by Canadian mining companies. With over 85,000 signatures collected in favour of this call, Development and Peace is hoping the government will take urgent action on this issue.

A crowd of nearly 300 people from all parts of Canada gathered on the steps of Parliament Hill. I was privileged to be there representing the BC/ Yukon D&P members. Many members of the CNCA



(Canadian Network of Corporate Accountability) were also there supporting our rally. We are working together to ask the government to consider enhancing the Office of the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Counsellor for the Extractive Sector with an ombudsman with power to address the complaints of communities in the South negatively impacted by some Canadian mining company practices.

Several MPs joined in the noon-hour rally to address the crowd and show their support for Development and Peace's *A Voice for Justice* campaign. Speakers included MPs Ève Péclet (NDP – Pointe-de-l'Île), Irwin Cotler (L – Mont-Royal), Jean-François Fortin (BQ – Haute-Gaspésie-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia) and Green Party representative Lorraine Rekmans.

"We have to stay mobilized so that millions of victims in Africa, Asia and South America will no longer have to experience the violation of their rights or the pollution of their environments," said Josianne Gauthier, Director of In-Canada Programs at Development and Peace.

Throughout the day, delegations met with MPs to present them with signed cards from their constituents. I was part of three member delegations that met with Irwin Cotler, Liberal, Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, and Mounia Lahbabi, Parliamentary Assistant for Peter Julian, NDP, House Leader of the Official Opposition. Delegations met with over 20 MPs, and generally our debriefing session indicated the meetings were positive and encouraging.

Thank you to all for signing the Action Card supporting this D&P call for an ombudsman. We are truly a Voice for Justice for our partners in the Global South. R

### Mother's Day Tea a Lovely Afternoon for Guests of the Ascension CWL

#### by Sandi Digras, Event Coordinator

The Hall of Ascension Parish was the scene of our Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show held Friday May 2, 2014. Chairs were covered in white and tied with blue and gold bows. The tables were decorated with white linen with blue centres and lovely fresh flowers prepared by Eloise Morrison.

Mothers of all ages were guests, with daughters and moms celebrating time together. Our lovely CWL models showed spring fashions from the store Close to You in Parksville. Sandy Herle, the store's owner, was the coordinator and commentator for the fashion show.

The delicious tea sandwiches and desserts were prepared by our President Tina Hanlon and her very willing team of volunteers. Twelve members of the Knights of Columbus, many 4th Degree, were dressed in their tuxedos to escort the ladies to their tables, serve sandwiches and pour tea as well as escorting the models during the finale of the fashion show.

L to R: Katie, Paige, MSMH Hospital CEO Sara John-Fowler, MSMH Foundation Executive Director Kathleen Burton, Johnny and Stephan of L'Angelus

For he who sings praise, does not only praise, but also praises joyfully; he who sings praise, not only sings, but also loves Him whom he is singing for ...

~ Cf. Sanctus Augustinus, Enarratio in Psalmum 72, 1: CCL 39, 986 (PL 36, 914)

Since this is the month of our Lady we closed the show with soprano Skye Donald

singing *Ava Maria*, which brought many in the hall to tears. "What a lovely way to pay tribute to our blessed mother and all mothers," commented many of the guests.

We welcomed ladies from the St. Peter's Council as well as guests from St. Mark's Anglican Church and other special guests invited by members of the CWL.

"Proceeds from the raffle and ticket sales will assist the CWL in their charity work in the Oceanside Community," commented Tina Hanlon, President of the Council.

According to everyone who attended, the Mother's Day Tea was a great success.



### Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Welcomes New President

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

t the Annual General Meeting on March 29, 2014, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island installed the youngest president ever elected in the region. Megan Misovic is mother to Claire, a lively oneyear-old, who is the pride and joy of Megan and Ian; Megan also works as an epidemiologist.

She brings a fresh vision to the role of president while having a sensitive respect for the traditions of the Society. Megan feels that Vincentians can offer a variety of services in the community whether that means home visits or volunteering in the major works the Society operates on Vancouver Island. Some members prefer to offer emergency services—especially food to the many who require it—while others are interested in addressing the root causes of poverty and developing programs aimed at alleviating it. Poverty has a broad definition including loneliness, isolation and spiritual impoverishment, as well as financial need. Megan feels there is room for everyone to follow their preference and calling. She would like to see the Society develop its advocacy wing and get more involved in campaigns aimed at poverty reduction. Megan likes the growing trend within the Society toward sponsoring a limited number of families that can be given more in-



depth, long term assistance along with the emergency services the Society offers on a regular basis through the Social Concern Office and home visitation. While her priority is her family, Megan offers as much time as she can to the Society.

The AGM was a lively gathering where business was taken care of in a timely manner, leaving space for education and socializing. Two speakers addressed the members providing inspiration and encouragement. Sr. Marina Smith spoke passionately about the need to balance charity with social justice and led the assembly through an exercise of connecting situations of poverty with the causes behind them. The second presenter Bernice Kamano, a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, spoke movingly about her experience of being a First Nations child raised in a foster home and drew attention to the long term problems this causes. Bernice linked this fostering practice with the residential school experience and helped members understand the ongoing identity and family crises brought about by these policies.

As volunteer coordinator, I decided to experience firsthand all the work done by the Society. Recently I went on two trips into the community with participants and staff from our Frederic Ozanam Centre. This is a day centre providing a communal environment for adults with physical and cognitive disabilities. It offers a range of programs which provide opportunity for growth, independence, self-fulfillment and integration into the community. The program is funded by Community Living, BC. On my first day out I accompanied a group which volunteers at the Beacon Hill Park Petting Zoo. We went there on a sunny but still brisk April day and rubbed feathers with peacocks displaying for all they were worth to the uninterested peahens. Jonathon\*, Keith\* and Bernard\* obviously knew the work well because as soon as we arrived behind the scenes at the goat barns, they started to perform their tasks very efficiently. They were supervised by Abigail, a staff member who ensured that they did a first-rate job. As the duties involved "mucking out" the goat barns, we had to wait for the "goat stampede" to happen. When the sign was given and we were all safely out of the way, the barn door was opened and the goats poured out and were led to the visiting area where an excited group of children was already gathered. For the next two hours the Ozanam participants did an excellent job of cleaning the barns and providing fresh hay and water.

### Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation Welcomes new Executive Director

ount St. Mary Hospital Foundation is delighted to welcome Kathleen Burton as its new Executive Director. Kathleen's varied career has provided her extensive experience in both the private and public sector, which offers a unique understanding of Victoria's complex business and not-forprofit community.



Kathleen has held senior level

positions over the course of her career, the most recent being Director of Development at Victoria Hospice. Kathleen's previous roles include Director of Marketing & Communications to WildPlay Element Parks, Director of Development at The Land Conservancy of BC and Campaign Director at United Way of Greater Victoria and the YM-YWCA of Greater Victoria.

Kathleen serves on the Board of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and the Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society, and volunteers with both the Saanich Police Community Team and the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association's Night Market Committee.

Kathleen studied Non Profit Management at Algonquin College in Ottawa and the BC Centre for Non Profit Development at Vancouver Island University. For the last two-and-a-half years Kathleen has been a business mentor to a young professional with The Prodigy Group— a program of the Chamber of Commerce.

Kathleen has two teenage sons, Jacob, aged fourteen and Jess, aged eighteen. When not spending time with her boys, she enjoys being in, on or around the water. She also loves performing on stage or in front of the camera. Kathleen can often be found singing the national anthem at various sporting events such as the Peninsula Panthers, Victoria Royals hockey clubs or Harbour Cats Baseball. She can also be found performing with various theatre groups including the Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

Please join us in welcoming Kathleen to the Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation and the Mount St. Mary Hospital family. R

### ICS Public Speaking Competition

### by Jamie Zwicker

hat happens when you get busloads of students from different grade levels, coming from a variety of communities across the island? Why, they talk, naturally! And talk they did on a wide range of thoughtprovoking topics at the ICS Public Speaking Competition on May 14, 2014!

For the past seven years, the ICS Public Speech Competition has been held at St. Andrew's Elementary. Even given the extra demands of construction and amalgamation with St. Andrew's, St. Joseph's jumped in along with the Staff of St. Andrew's and agreed to act as host.

These 24 students had already presented their speeches in their own classrooms, then divisionally at their school, and were finally able to represent their respective school at this district-wide competition. Some speeches were humorous, some were serious, yet each was thought provoking, and delivered in a style that left a distinct mark on those gathered.

The winners of this year's competition were: in the Grade 4 - 5 Division, Tion McLeish of St. Patrick's speaking about Olympic athlete *Usain Bolt*. The Grade 6 - 7 Division saw Bethany Price from St. Joseph's Victoria win, speaking on the *Insanity of the English Language*. Both winners received a personal keepsake trophy, and brought a larger trophy home to their school for the year.

My second outing was accompanying a crew of workers who were employed by a local gas station to clean up the car wash and gas pump stations. It was a beautiful morning and we enjoyed being out in the sunshine, although Jerry and Susannah told me it was a lot less fun doing this job in February! Again a staff member was on hand to offer encouragement and ensure a high standard was maintained. It was great to experience firsthand how the Frederic Ozanam Centre fulfills its mandate to integrate participants into the local community through volunteering, employment and recreation.

\* Names of Frederic Ozanam Centre participants have been changed to protect their privacy.

As in previous years, students were present from all of our Catholic elementary schools, including Port Alberni, Chemainus, Duncan, Greater Victoria, as well as Christ Church Cathedral School in Victoria.

Kudos are extended to Fr. William Hann and the administrative staff of St. Joseph the Worker parish for providing us with the venue and hospitality. Thank you! R

## St. Andrew's Rowers Strike Gold—and Silver!

#### by Joanie Bidlake

St. Andrew's Rowing Academy members won Gold and Silver at the 69th annual Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Regatta *Schoolboys* held in St. Catharines, Ontario! A Silver medal for The Senior Girls Coxed Four: Emily McCart, Rayna Stuart, Cecilia Fillipone, Emma Gibbs and Hannah Taft; and Gold for Patrick Keane in the Senior Boys Lightweight Single.

Congratulations to all!

### Two Popes, Two Saints

#### by Reine Mykyte

In the Jubilee year, at the age of 19 and by God's grace, I attended World Youth Day in Rome with a group of youth from my parish—there, I met my spiritual grandfather, Pope John Paul II. He told all two million of us gathered at a vigil with him to "confirm our faith in Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, present in the Eucharist and loves us so very much and will always do so."

Again at World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, I met up with my spiritual grandfather, this time a much frailer pope but with the same youthful and loving spirit. Again he assembled youth from all the corners of the earth. At the Vigil, it rained overnight and it continued to rain until Pope John Paul II began the Sunday Mass. In the rain, he raised his arm and motioned it across the crowd, saying, "Let your sins be washed away." It poured on us, then the clouds moved apart, and as the sky cleared, rays of sunshine broke through. When Pope John Paul II passed away, it felt like the loss of a dear grandfather.

This year, on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27), my family and I attended a most memorable event at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver—the Canonization Celebration: Two Popes, Two Saints. There was a strong sense of connection with the rest of our Catholic family, not just at a local level but an international one. We were celebrating this special day with people all around the world. It is rare to celebrate a Mass with 20,000 people in one place, with people of all ages. There

were those who connected with Pope John XXIII, now Saint John XXIII and those who connected with Pope John Paul II, now Saint John Paul II.

Some highlights for me were visiting the relics on site with my family, hearing the First Nations prayer chants for the opening ceremonies, witnessing the parade of ministries from all of the parishes, receiving Communion with such a large congregation, visiting with long time friends following the celebration and throughout the ferry ride back home.





### **PeaceQuest Victoria**

by Julie Cormier, PeaceQuest Victoria Coordinator

### A Project of the Social Justice Committee, Sisters of St. Ann

How do we remember war? How do we do it well? Where do reflections of peace fit in?

While war is part of the Canadian story and world story, how can we grieve the

tragedy of war and remain committed to the promise of peace? How we remember and tell the stories influences how we understand ourselves and the world around us.

These are the questions being asked this year since 2014 marks the 100th Anniversary of World War I (WWI). While many heritage organizations and museums are pursuing events and activities that recreate a day in the life of a soldier or the home front experiences of war, PeaceQuest Victoria seeks to take up the theme of peace-building, a topic that is often polarized within discussions about war. A great peace movement grew during WWI which coined the term 'The War To End All Wars'. PeaceQuest Victoria, a project led by the social justice committee of the Sisters of St. Ann, is ensuring these efforts are not forgotten, and that a commitment to building a culture of peace continues.

### D & P Regional Meeting

*by Nancy Stuart, Communications Coordinator, Development and Peace Victoria Diocesan Council* 

The Victoria Diocese hosted the Development and Peace BC/Yukon Regional Meeting at the University of Victoria on May 2 – 4, 2014. There were 27 people participating from the Dioceses of Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Kamloops and Prince George. We were very fortunate to have the Development and Peace Executive Director, Michael Casey, attend along with Elana Wright, the D&P Materials Coordinator at the Montreal Office.

Friday evening reports from the various dioceses illustrated that there is a lot of activity and work going on at the grassroots level. There were presentations to parish groups on our Fall Action campaign and visits to BC Members of Parliament to advocate for an ombudsman for people impacted by Canadian mining companies operating in the Global South. Share Lent activities included *ThinkFast* events, Stations of the Cross and showing the Haiti documentary *On the Road to Food Sovereignty*.

## **C** It is through [Caritas Internationalis] that we are able to respond so quickly to disasters when they occur anywhere in the world.

On Saturday Michael Casey spoke of the work of Caritas Internationalis. Development and Peace is a member of Caritas Internationalis and is also called Caritas Canada. It is through this Caritas partnership that we are able to respond so quickly to disasters when they occur anywhere in the world. When the Philippines typhoon struck, we at Caritas Canada were able to respond with money immediately through Caritas Philippines.

Elana Wright gave us a sneak preview of the upcoming campaigns which will continue the theme *One Human Family, Food for All.* This is the campaign Pope Francis launched last December with a wave of prayer, calling on the world to end world hunger.

These annual regional meetings are a wonderful opportunity for members to meet others from around the province and learn more about the work of Development and Peace. Late Saturday afternoon Fr. Dino celebrated Mass for us at Holy Cross Church, followed by a lovely social time at the home of one of the local members. Sr. Marina Smith and Sr. Joyce Harris showed us their pictures of their recent trip to Haiti. The food we enjoyed was prepared by William Goldiet, a South Sudanese parishioner of Sacred Heart parish. William told us of the heartbreaking civil war going on in his country and we signed a petition to our MPs on this issue.

Sunday morning was the business meeting, where the 11 delegates voted on various resolutions brought forward by the various dioceses. Our animator, John Gabor, and National Council representative, Dick Mynen also contributed much to the success of the meeting. Next year we will meet at Rosemary Heights in Vancouver.

### Let's Talk

### by Sandi Digras

*Let's Talk* was the theme for our celebration of Pope Francis' World Day of Communication on Sunday, June 1, 2014. It was also Ascension Sunday and our Parish feast day at the Church of the Ascension in Parksville.

As Communication Chair of the Catholic Women's League I suggested we host an Open House with all our wonderful Ministries, to communicate to our parish family what excellent work each ministry does and more importantly, how parishioners can volunteer their time and talents.

The CWL offered refreshments after each of the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses. Everyone felt it was a great opportunity to meet and greet many new members of our parish and to introduce them to our ministries: Library, Baptism team, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Social Justice, Pro-Life, Basic Communities, Adult Faith Formation, Bible Study, RCIA, Newcomers, Flower committee, Youth and Children ministries, The Knights of Columbus, Parish Council and the Catholic Women's League.

Our Pastor, Fr. Mel, suggested in his homily, "Jesus ascended but we can continue his work on earth by sharing our talents and time with others." He invited everyone to come and find a way to do that by talking with all the ministries assembled. We will definitely do this again next year!

Peace has to be created, in order to be maintained. It is the project of Faith, Strength, Energy, Will, Sympathy, Justice, Imagination, and the triumph of principle. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism.

~ Dorothy Thompson

In fact, peace is work. According to PeaceQuest, peace is an active way of living, seeking to resolve conflicts cooperatively, respecting the wellbeing of the earth and all peoples.

PeaceQuest Victoria, an affiliation to the PeaceQuest initiative in Kingston, Ontario, is working to reaffirm peace as a core Canadian value and to stimulate conversations amongst faith communities and Catholic schools about peace, nonviolence, and reconciliation, while collaborating with Victoria-based peace organizations and activists.

*For more information or to become involved, visit www.peacequest.ca, or contact Julie Cormier at jcormier@ssabc.ca.* 



L to R: Diane Langdon, Communications, CWL St. Peters Council; CWL Ascension Council Vice President Nancy Horsfield; and CWL Diocesean Communications Chair Christa Grillmair



### **CWL Spring Interim Meeting**

#### by Caroline Keller, Victoria Diocesan Communications Chairperson

n Monday, March 3, 2014, Christ the King Parish of Courtenay was the site of the Catholic Womens League Victoria Diocesan Spring Meeting. Executive met at 9 am in the brand-new hall, completed in 2013, which features an elevator—much appreciated by some of the 'older' members.

At 10 am the General Meeting began with an excellent turnout of approximately 80 members. Twelve of the fifteen Councils were represented as well at the Military Ordinariate from CFB Comox. Fr. Mel Bayron presented a spiritual program and gave a new definition of CWL: 'Called to Witness the Light'.

Guest Speaker Christina Aislabie, a member of Christ the King CWL, spoke on her chosen topic *You Have the Power*, a history of the voting rights and constitutional freedoms of women in Canada.

After Mass presided by Fr. Mel Bayron, and a business lunch, Presidents' reports followed. The Diocesan Council will keep in contact with the Chaplaincy Council of UVic which has chosen to be inactive because of unforeseen circumstances.

Thirteen of sixteen Councils have had sessions of *Catch the Fire*. There will be follow up *S'mores* workshops to 'keep the fire burning'.

Provincial Legislation Chairperson Agnes Geiger; Life Member Ann Devlin; Edna Lorenzen, Past President of Whitehorse Diocese; and new President Diane Plamondon of CFB Comox were introduced and welcomed by President Kathy Weswick.



Victoria Diocesan Life Members (L to R) Ann Devlin, Margaret Beardon and Sheila Quinn

### **Development and Peace Garage Sale to Benefit Syrian Refugees**

by Sr. Marina Smith SSA, Diocesan Chair, Development & Peace

n Saturday, May 10, 2014, Development and Peace (D&P) held a garage sale for the Syrian refugees. When we heard of the terrible conditions in which they are living, and the struggles they are having, we wanted to do something to help.

St. Patrick's parish in Victoria loaned us their hall, and we are grateful to the many people who donated items. The sale itself brought in just over \$1,600, and with donations that came in afterwards, we will probably be able to send \$1,800 to D&P for the refugees.

### **CCFA Delegates Visit Victoria**

### by Leah MacKenzie, CFO, The Diocese of Victoria

The Diocese of Victoria, the Diocese of Prince George and the Diocese of Nelson were pleased to welcome over 50 delegates to the Canadian Catholic Financial Administrators Annual Conference to Victoria from May 25 – 29, 2014. The Conference attracted financial professionals from Roman Catholic Dioceses and Ukrainian Eparchies stretching across Canada from Victoria to Halifax.

### Sefer Emanu-El

#### by Michael Hemmings

*Tefer Emanu-El* is an illustrated history of Victoria's Jewish community and Canada's oldest surviving and operating synagogue. During its 150 years, Congregation Emanu-El has experienced ups and downs, and now has a bright future. Intrepid Jews first arrived in Victoria during the 1858 gold rush, quickly integrated into the city and its politics, and built an imposing 350seat synagogue when the Congregation only had about fifty active members. This book describes the Congregation's handsome Romanesque-style synagogue, its unique architectural features, its decline and eventual restoration. It also introduces basic Jewish concepts and traditions, Jewish recipes, and profiles some community members who have helped make it the dynamic, progressive, haimish (Yiddish, 'warm and friendly') congregation that it is today.

*Sefer Emanu-El* is a book for readers interested in Victoria's history, its Jewish community, and its heritage restoration. It also makes a perfect gift for anyone who simply enjoys a good story.

*Sefer Emanu-El* is available for \$36 at the synagogue during office hours (Tues-Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm) and at various Congregation events. You may also have it sent to you for \$50, including shipping costs. For more information visit their website: www.congregationemanuel.ca.

### The Body of Christ; Building Each Other Up in Love

by Marnie Wynans

#### 2nd Annual Diocesan Catholic Family Conference

This July 4 - 6, 2014, plan to join families from all across the Diocese to relax, play and grow closer to God and your family—all in one weekend!

Camp Barnard in Sooke, where the Conference will be held, is a 250-acre Scout camp featuring a 14acre lake with canoe rentals, an around the lake trail and full kitchen facilities and bathrooms. Cabins are available, or bring your own RV or tent. Meals are provided, but please bring your own dishes and utensils.

Pavel Reid, Director of the Office of Life, Marriage and Family in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is our Keynote Speaker. Catholic Christian Outreach Youth (see story, page 1) have planned a great time for the kids and teens while the parents are nurtured in their own faith. Fr. Dean Henderson will be Chaplain for the weekend to celebrate Mass, hear Confessions and will also be one of the speakers. The food will be delicious—not 'Camp Food'—as we will have our own professional chef from the world-renowned Bear Mountain Golf Course!

Catholic Financial Administrators rely on this Conference as an important event to gather together to learn and compare notes on many topics such as insurance, legal, property, investments, governance and accounting standards to better serve their respective Catholic (arch)dioceses. This Conference provided an opportunity for financial administrators to meet and share ideas with colleagues from across the country and to hear expert speakers on these topics.

Next year the conference will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Gatineau.  $mathbb{R}$ 



The cost for the Conference is \$140/family with children 2 years of age or younger; \$240/family with children 3 years of age and older. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to renew your faith and friendships—and make new ones!—as well as making lasting memories with your family. Parishes will be receiving registration forms in the near future. For more information go to www. rcdvictoria.org.

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See advertisement page 24 in this paper.

### "Free to Believe" Receives 2013 Book Prize

#### by Fr. Dean Henderson

ary Anne Waldron's book *Free to Believe* has just been awarded the 2013 Book Prize from the Canadian Law and Society Association! Their letter says, "Of the many exceptional publications this year, the Committee found your work to be the most outstanding contribution to the study of law and society." Bless the Lord, and heartiest congratulations to Mary Anne!

# Le plan de pastoral adopté à l'AGA de la Paroisse St-Jean Baptiste

by Réal Roy, Co-président, Conseil de pastoral Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste

e dimanche 25 mai dernier, après la célébration eucharistique, plusieurs paroissiens se sont réunis pour tenir l'Assemblée générale annuelle (AGA). Avant l'AGA, les paroissiens ont pu partager un repas léger de soupe, pain, viandes froides et salades préparés par Mme Jay Côté.

Par la suite, vers 12 :30 a débuté l'AGA avec les éléments habituels comme l'adoption du procès verbal de la dernière AGA tenu le 19 mai 2013 et les rapports du Père Benoit Laplante, du co-président Réal Roy, de la secrétaire Isabelle Boutin et du comptable de la paroisse M. Douglas Smibert. Par la suite la paroisse a finalement adopté tardivement-mais mieux vaut tard que jamais- son plan de pastoral 2010-2015 publié l'an dernier en juin et juillet 2013. Ce plan comporte une mission : Créer un milieu propice pour tous ceux qui veulent vivre librement leur foi Catholique en français à l'Église St-Jean-Baptiste dans le diocèse de Victoria en Colombie-Britannique. Cette mission s'accompagne de trois enjeux : 1) vivre et transmettre en français la foi Catholique par la liturgie et les sacrements, 2) participer en anglais à la vie du Diocèse de Victoria et au dialogue œcuménique, et 3) continuer la vision des fondateurs par une saine gestion financière des biens immobiliers pour permettre le rayonnement en français de la foi dans le diocèse de Victoria. Naturellement le plan est beaucoup plus détaillé avec des objectifs et des indicateurs mesurables. Ce sont d'ailleurs ces indicateurs qui serviront à l'évaluation du plan de pastoral au cours de la prochaine année.

Lors de son rapport, Réal Roy a aussi mentionné les préparatifs pour la célébration de la fête du Canada qui aura lieu le premier juillet et surtout de la fête de la St-Jean-Baptiste, le saint patron de la seule paroisse francophone de Victoria, qui se tiendra le 24 juin pour une messe et le 29 juin pour une célébration dominicale avec un gâteau de circonstance. N'hésitez pas à venir célébrer avec nous. Nous vous attendons. 🦹



Paroissiens lors de l'AGA de la Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste. De g à d : Gérald Moreau et Jean-Claude Vincent. Le comptable de la paroisse, Douglas Smibert

Parishioners attending the AGM of St. John the Baptist Parish. From L to R : Gérald Moreau et Jean-Claude Vincent and accountant, Douglas Smibert

### St. Jean Baptiste Parish Adopts its Pastoral Plan at the Annual General Meeting

by Réal Roy, Co-president, St. Jean Baptiste Parish Council

n Sunday May 25, 2014, after the Dominical Eucharistic Celebration, many parishioners met to hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for St. Jean Baptiste parish. Before the AGM, parishioners shared a light lunch of soup, bread, cold cuts and salads prepared by Jay Côté.

### **BC & Yukon Catholic** Women's League Visit the Legislature

#### by Gisela Montague

n March 25 and 26, 2014, a delegation from the BC & Yukon Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) met for the eighteenth time in Victoria with government officials to present and discuss CWL resolutions. Doreen Gowans, President from Kamloops, Agnes Geiger, Legislation Chairperson from Nanaimo, and Gisela Montague, Resolution Chairperson from Chilliwack discussed with Teresa Chiesa, Director of Women and Maternal Health and Lauren Syverson of the Senior's Health Promotion Directorate the following: 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices Re Human Reproductive Material, BC2011.02 Respect and Protection for Human Embryos and Human Reproductive Material, 2007.02 Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System and 2004.01 Protection of Human Life.

**C**Of special interest ... were two resolutions (written by BC members) that were sent from the national CWL executive to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) to be voted on at their national assembly in Fatima in October 2014 ...

This was followed by appointments with members of the NDP and Liberal caucuses when additional resolutions concerning uninterrupted services for disabled youth to adult services, the protection and care of sexually exploited children, the criminalization of the purchasing of sexual services and protection and support services for foreign victims of human trafficking were also discussed.

Mike Morris, MLA for Prince George-MacKenzie, an RCMP officer for 32 years before becoming an MLA, was interested in the Human Trafficking Resolution. He thanked the CWL for speaking up for those who are disadvantaged and don't have a voice or are too afraid to speak to people in positions of authority. Carole James, the critic for Children and Family Development was very interested in the disabled youth transition funding. Ralph Sultan, longstanding MLA from West Vancouver-Capilano and a member of the Legislative Review Committee stated that guidance was needed on moral authority on end-of-life issues.

Of special interest to all government officials were two resolutions (written by BC members) that were sent from the national CWL executive to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) to be voted on at their national assembly in Fatima in October 2014: Prohibiting the Practices of Alteration, Manipulation and Treatment of Human Reproductive Material; and Criminalizing the Purchase of Sexual Services.

If these resolutions are passed 132 countries will be requesting their governments act on them. Also, since WUCWO is a Non-governmental Organization at the United Nations, these resolutions will be brought forward for discussion at their conference in the United Nations Assembly.

The following month the resolutions dealing with disabled youth and sexually exploited children were also presented to the Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation who had been unavailable for the previous presentation. He and his assistants were very receptive to the presentation. The CWL delegation later attended the Speaker's Gallery, where Jackie Tegart, MLA introduced them to the House.



Following lunch, the AGM started by the usual adoption of the minutes of the last AGM held on May 19, 2013, and the presentation of reports from Fr. Benoit Laplante, Co-president Réal Roy, Secretary Isabelle Boutin and the parish accountant M. Douglas Smibert.

The parishioners adopted belatedly—but as we say, "better late than never"—the Pastoral Plan 2010-2015 which had been published in the Parish Newsletter last June and July 2013. This plan has a mission: *To create an appropriate environment* for all who want to live freely their Catholic faith in French at St. Jean Baptiste Church in the Diocese of Victoria in British Columbia. This mission is defined by three main objectives: 1) to live and to transmit in French the Catholic faith through Liturgy and Sacraments; 2) to participate in English in the life of the Diocese of Victoria and in the Ecumenical dialogue here in Victoria; and 3) to continue the Founders' vision through good financial and real estate management to allow in French the fervour of the faith. Obviously the plan is more detailed and includes many objectives with measurable indicators that will help the evaluation of the plan in the coming year.

In his report, Réal Roy mentioned the preparations of Canada Day on July 1 and especially the St. Jean Baptiste celebration on June 24 with Mass, and on June 29 for a dominical celebration and a cake. Do not hesitate to come and celebrate with us: you are welcome! 🦹

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

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

#### Greater Victoria Councils

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

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

www.kofevictoria.bc.ca



"I am leaving, feeling I am the beneficiary of a relationship where many individuals have helped shape who I am."

#### by Joe Colistro, Superintendent of Schools

Tn July of 1988 Claire and I arrived in Victoria for our new adventure. With two young children, aged one and three, and with a third on the way, we L made the trek to beautiful Victoria. I had just been appointed the principal of St. Patrick's School. I was excited and thrilled at the opportunity of this new challenge. The next 26 years would be spent creating great memories as we made many friends, raised our children, and as they completed their formal education within the Island Catholic school system, watched them grow into fine young adults.

Let me take you back ... Our first experience upon arriving in Victoria was with Bruna, the Head Caretaker at St. Patrick's School, who greeted us at our house with a large welcome basket. Bruna would play a prominent role in our lives as she went on to become a close friend teaching us many lessons in life, most importantly, unconditional love. Bruna treated everyone as family and worked tirelessly to see St. Patrick's grow and prosper.

In my early days in Victoria the Sisters of St. Ann were also prominent in my life. They, like Bruna, contributed so much to who we became, the fabric that made our school such a wonderful place. The Sisters left an indelible mark on me and were a constant reminder of the sacrifices made for our Catholic Schools.

The concept of building community and treating everyone as family is what I hope I will be remembered for. Community is at the core of why we exist and has always been central to how I sought to provide leadership. I recently read about the most successful barber shop in the United States. When asked why it was so successful the owner said, "When a child came in I treated him like my son, when a lady came in I treated her as my wife, and when a senior came in I treated them as my mother or father." I have tried to live that example. When students were sent to see me in the office as principal, I treated them the same way I would have wanted my own children treated. I treated staff and parents as I would my family. The job was not always easy but the importance of relationships, caring for and valuing others, served me well through both good and difficult times.

I loved my time as principal of St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's High School. I never lost sight of the vocation I chose and often reflect on how much I enjoy being part of a Catholic Education. Every day was a gift and I headed to school each morning with the joy that comes with knowing you can make a difference. I loved the people I worked with and always strove to see our schools be not just good, but great. Success is not measured in how much we accomplish on our own but in what we do collectively for those around us. One's life will not be measured in what we have accumulated, but what we have given away. I believe as a faith community we built something special, something students will reflect on and cherish for years to come.

Eleven of my last thirteen years have been spent as Superintendent of Schools. I have always felt privileged to be the Superintendent and done my best to move our schools forward. The first few years were a time of growth. We became a community of schools as we built upon the dedication and good work of those who had come before us. Enrolment was up and we opened a new school in Port Alberni that prospers today.

In the last few years we initiated the Catholic Schools Plan amalgamating St. Andrew's Elementary with St. Joseph's, where we are in the progress of constructing a new building and completing a seismic upgrade. This was simultaneously a sad and exciting time in our history. Catholic Education is constantly being challenged but as faithful followers, as a people of hope we remain committed to providing and fostering a Catholic faith community rooted in the Joy of the Gospel.

I have been very blessed to have worked with many individuals who have a passion for Catholic education. I extend my sincere appreciation to the current Board of Directors as well as its past members, and to Local School Councils with which I had the opportunity to be associated. I also extend my appreciation to the Central Office staff, past and present, and to the teaching and support staff in each of our schools whom I have had the privilege to serve. To those I have had the opportunity to work with, a heartfelt thank you for your service, cooperation and commitment to Catholic Education.

## Be Say Farewell.

"Respecting the developmental stages of any learner and beginning where they are ... is the key to handing on a faith that becomes an integral part of our lives."

#### by Char Deslippe, Director of Religious Education

T think the best definition of retirement I've heard is captured in the words of a friend who sent a card the first time I tried it. It went something like this: Retirement is simply getting 're-tired' for the next phase of the journey! I guess that summarizes my take on retirement—this is the sixth time I've tried it.

It's not about the farewell parties, cards and gifts, for sure! I guess I must have some form of dyslexia for my driver's license says (nearly) 75 but my mind and body still think and generally feel 57! I realize that I've been particularly blessed with good genes and high energy and I also believe if God gives those gifts, they are meant to be used for others.

Bob and I moved to Victoria twenty years ago when I began teaching English and Religious Studies at SARHS. I am finishing my working days at the Pastoral Centre having served in various capacities there since 2000. What a story of change! I have had the privilege of working with three Bishops (DeRoo, Roussin and Gagnon); three ICS Superintendents (Hobbs, Chaland and Colistro); and I've occupied six different offices in the building! I've worked with a dozen or more school principals, hundreds of teachers and catechists in parishes giving retreats, workshops and courses, and I can honestly say there haven't been more than a handful of days when it wasn't a positive experience.

**C** My advice to others comes from what is happening in our own times and is modeled by Pope Francisnot to fear change, but to embrace it. We must trust that Divine Providence is at work, and recognize that results don't depend on us, but on Him.

#### Looking Back

When I was invited to reflect on those years, I hardly knew where to begin. I think, looking back, it's the people I've worked with I always miss. Too numerous to name, they truly inspire and motivate me by their commitment to a vision we share.

In this Diocese, I am proud of the contributions we have made to develop a strong faith formation program for children in the area of their sacramental preparation and general religious education programs. This didn't happen overnight. In fact, it's been a ten-year process! While I did bring experience working with the National Office (NORE), Alberta Catholic Bishops and school trustees, the BC challenges were a whole new ball game. Both of those programs are in the infancy stages and will be improved by the contributions of those catechists and teachers actually implementing them.

Opportunities to work with a variety of personalities have taught me a lot about trust. A recurring concern is often expressed—that we are missing the mark by not aiming to instill the whole deposit of the faith in minds too young to understand much more than God's love for each of us. Respecting the developmental stages of any learner and beginning where they are-rather than where we want them to be—is the key to handing on a faith that becomes an integral part of our lives. I've truly come to understand and trust that God works in God's own time!

#### Looking Ahead

My successor, Mr. Glen Palahicky, will bring a breath of fresh air to this work, building on the foundation we have provided. The Church is living in interesting times. Each day I reflect on the message Pope Francis shares with the world through his words and actions. Having been involved in Church work, including Catholic education for over half a century, I've seen lots of criticism of the Church, some healthy and other bits downright mean-spirited. What the Pope models is simplicity of spirit. We see a man who places trust in God for his life and his place on the world stage as an effecter of change. My advice to others comes from what is happening in our own times and is modeled by Pope Francis-not to fear change, but to embrace it. We must trust that Divine Providence is at work, and recognize that results don't depend on us, but on Him.

In life we make decisions and they are not always easy. It is important that we continue to grow and challenge ourselves. As you are aware, I have accepted the position of Deputy Superintendent with Medicine Hat Catholic Schools. God guides us in mysterious ways and I feel that this is where I am meant to be. Victoria will always be home, but for now the future will bring new challenges.

I am leaving, feeling I am the beneficiary of a relationship where many individuals have helped shape who I am. I wish each of you, whether pastor or parent, student or staff member, God's blessings as you continue to provide dedicated service to Island Catholic Schools. In particular I would like to thank the Sisters of St. Ann for their unfailing commitment to Catholic Education and for the support they provided me over the years. I leave you with a quote from the prayer A Future Not our Own, by Archbishop Oscar Romero:

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

The future of our Catholic schools is you.  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

So what's on my 'bucket list'? Many plan exotic vacations to celebrate the change in life, but we've been to most of the places on earth that I'd like to visit. That includes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with my parish, and several visits to Rome as well as a host of other sites around the world, so I think that staying home in Victoria preparing to walk the Camino to Santiago for the fourth time next September will be my number one priority this summer! I've never had difficulty keeping busy, so I'm sure that won't change.

The twenty years have passed all too quickly. I still know retiring is the right decision and I will certainly treasure happy memories of time spent with the Diocese of Victoria and Island Catholic Schools. I would be remiss if I were not to mention that the understanding and support of my husband, our two daughters and their families as well as colleagues whom I have had the privilege of knowing and working with have been a life-giving gift.

May God continue to bless each of us as we continue the journey.  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

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## ST. ANDREW'S 30th Anniversary















SARHS: A "Wetland Center of Excellence"

#### by Annie Ingraham Photos by Erich Munzer

n Tuesday, May 13, 2014, St. Andrew's Regional High School was officially inaugurated as a *Wetland Center of Excellence*. Over the past year-and-ahalf, with the expertise of Swan Lake environmentalists, the enthusiastic support of Ducks Unlimited Canada and the financial backing of Talisman Corporation, the Science Department at St. Andrew's has started a journey to become environmental stewards of Swan Lake.

The Grade 10 Science and Grade 11 Biology classes were the first of our students to be involved in this undertaking. The Grade 10s did research on bats and birds that use Swan Lake as a home or feeding ground. Next on the agenda was construction of nesting boxes for Violet Green Swallows, and bat boxes as summer roosting sites for some of the smaller bats. To date seven bird houses and two bat boxes have been completed.

Meanwhile, the Grade 11s began learning about invasive species in this wetland. With clippers, loppers and protective gloves, they set out to do battle with Himalayan Blackberries and English Ivy.

On May 13, the two groups of students met with officials from Swan Lake, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Talisman to celebrate this new initiative.

Future plans involve enhancing turtle nesting sites, monitoring water quality and helping to develop a sense of awareness and appreciation of our wetlands. Many thanks go out to our sponsors in these endeavours.







### Making Noise at DYC

by Olivia Pearse Photo credits: Kelly Bourke and Mariana Gallagos Dupuis

### **(** Have courage. Go forward. Make noise."

These words of Pope Francis echoed throughout the gym of St. Andrew's Regional High school at this year's annual Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) setting teens' hearts on fire with their joint love for Christ. For the past eleven years DYC has brought together youth from all over Vancouver Island and has given them inspiration and passion about their Catholic faith. In the words of this year's theme, they are encouraged to make noise and go forward with Jesus Christ.

The noise was heard all over the weekend. Enlivening songs of praise and worship were always heard rising from the gym. It was heard in our Jesuit speakers from 'Hearts on Fire' who spoke to us about the prayer life and how we can set our hearts on fire with love for Christ. Eager cries carried down from the yearly massive soccer game on Saturday. Whispers of this noise were heard during Reconciliation and Adoration. The noise further

continued to our dance on Saturday night from which laughter and singing came forth. Lastly, on Sunday.

This conference has continued to inspire teens about their faith and give them courage to live is something. It's a place I won't be judged; I can be myself," says Jordon Henneberry who has just often it appears so few share your Christian views and many will tease you for holding such on attended DYC for two years now, said, "In Port Alberni, there are just a few [people who share For teens, it is especially important to have a community where they can freely, without fear, ex offers just that and more.

When asked what DYC meant to them, teens replied: "It means that I can catch up with friends through this mutual understanding and sharing of our faith." As another simply stated: "DYC j

The noise made at this DYC will surely continue to echo beyond St. Andrew's High School, as Diocesan Youth Conference is an event that teens always remember as part of their high schoo they get to take home but further upon their hearts. It is an event that will continue to give the





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but certainly not least, the source of this noise came present among us as we celebrated Mass

t out: "I'm reminded there's something bigger out there to know. It makes me feel a part of at attended her fifth DYC. Teens inevitably meet face to face with conflict in their faith lives, for es; it can be easy to forget you're not alone in this struggle. Mackendrick Hallworth, who has the Christian faith] and it's discouraging. Here, there are a lot of people with the same faith." apress and learn about their faith with people who share it, and DYC, as youth have told us,

s, make new ones, and it increases my faith," and, "I've been able to get to know people closer just makes me happy!"

it was heard and seen in the laughter and smiles of teens as they left the conference. The l experience; the memories and life-long lessons are not only imprinted upon the DYC shirts m courage to *go forward* and *make noise*.



me to.



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### **Evidence** of God

#### by Madlen Anderson

That is a mission trip? I didn't know the answer to that question as I clung to the side of a water taxi with eight other UVic Catholic students and Fr. Dean Henderson, zooming away towards isolated Flores Island off the west coast of BC.

Cared for wonderfully by the parishioners of Tofino and Ucluelet, our team was recharged and ready to face our first destination: Ahousaht, the largest Nuuchah-nulth Nation with over 2,000 members.

The Ahousaht portion of the mission trip was, in two words, wonderfully unorganized. Our team rose each morning with no definite plan, instead trusting that we would simply walk out and discover God's presence in the community-and boy, did we ever. Within steps we learnt that Ahousaht is home to a warm, welcoming, fun-loving and deeply spiritual people.

Everyone stopped to say hello. Elders gave constant invitations to share in community meals at the hall. Spontaneous after school programs were a hit—every day we were overrun by 40 or so ecstatic kids. Playing, running, singing, piggyback riding and making crafts with the children of Ahousaht left a profound mark of tenderness and hope in all of our hearts.

Even more amazing were the many spiritual connections between Ahousaht tradition and the Church. We experienced that there is no one way to pray, to turn our hearts toward our Creator. Four members of our team experienced this in a particularly special way. They were invited to participate in a purifying sweat lodge with some of the Elders. It was an incredibly holy moment to stand by the beach under the stars, listening to the traditional voices of First Nation chants resounding together with the ancient Salve Regina.

Of course, the Holy Spirit was at work too. Every evening we had Mass in the small church on the hill and each night the congregation grew: first from our team and a few Elders, then to a sudden eruption of children and dogs swarming every inch



of the building from sacristy to altar, and finally on our last night we were shoulder to shoulder, children on our knees, every pew filled with parents, teachers, and adults alike. Everyone participated in the healing Anointing of Oil and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that followed. It was a tremendous celebration and affirmation of God's abounding love and grace.

After three days in Ahousaht, I still had not formed the meaning of 'mission' just yet. But my heart knew that love was there and fighting. A love that was raw and warm and more hopeful than I had ever seen before in my life.

Our second half of the trip was spent with Fr. Stephen and the Holy Family/Notre Dame Parish in Port Alberni. We were again welcomed, abundantly fed, and quickly embraced by the faith community. We spoke to classes at John Paul II Catholic School, painted the parish hall, cleaned up the cemetery, and spent an evening of fellowship with the youth group. Here our team was especially blessed with many moments to grow in closeness with one another through sharing our faith journeys, praying, relaxing by Sproat Lake, and endlessly singing, singing, singing praise. We were truly showered with God's amazing grace and our team left feeling that we had been served more than we served.

I am sincerely grateful for all the communities we met, for the growing friendships of my dear fellow missionaries, and for the generosity of all who supported our journey. I pray that this week of service may continue for many years to come.

This trip has opened my heart for mission. I was shown that God is truly everywhere and that He forgets no one. I pray for the grace to always see His presence at work wherever I am and that I may continue to serve with love and with joy what is already good and holy in every person I meet.

### Young Student Missionaries Make Big IMPACT

#### by Greg Van Dyk

**C** I really felt the Lord calling me to go on a mission and when I was discerning which mission, he made it clear to come to Victoria," said Anika Dilawri, one of 27 student missionaries taking part in IMPACT—a summer mission project organized by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), a growing lay movement committed to evangelization.

"There was a strong desire to share my faith," said Dilawri, who came to Victoria from Ottawa, Ontario. "I've seen first hand the Impact that God's love has and how His love is transformative, and I had this strong desire to be a witness to that and to help others find that."

**C** Seeing 27 students from across Canada give their 'Yes' to the Lord to be here in Victoria this summer, all feeling the same call and desiring the same thing, means to me that Jesus is alive and at work.

studies held in the five different IMPACT parishes on Tuesday evenings.

"I've always felt a pull towards ministry and bringing others to Jesus," said Rob Koechl, a CCO staff member working with Germaine in leading the summer mission. "I want to share the Joy of the Gospel, because Christ has asked his disciples to tell the world about Him and I want to do what He asks."

Koechl will be one of four full-time CCO missionaries that remain in Victoria after IMPACT ends in August and the 27 student missionaries return to their home cities.

"CCO will be beginning a new campus expansion at the University of Victoria by sending 4 missionaries there to help evangelize and spread the Gospel there as well," said Koechl, who has previously worked as a campus missionary at Queen's University in Kingston and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

The work of IMPACT has not only been a blessing to parishes, but to the student missionaries themselves as well.

"I can already tell this is going to be the best summer of my life thus far," said Dilawri, who is serving on the IMPACT team at St. Joseph the Worker parish. "It is so evident that the Lord is at work in the city of Victoria and lives are being changed."

"Seeing 27 students from across Canada give their 'Yes' to the Lord to be here in Victoria this summer, all feeling the same call and desiring the same thing, means to me that Jesus is alive and at work," she said. "This is a message of hope; the Lord is pursuing His people and is patiently knocking at the door to their hearts."

For more information about Catholic Christian Outreach and the IMPACT summer mission in Victoria, visit www.cco.ca. 🐰



The IMPACT missionaries are serving on teams of five or six in five different parishes around Victoria. You will find them at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Holy Cross, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph the Worker and Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Langford.

"The purpose of IMPACT is to invite the people of Victoria to encounter Jesus as a person, as 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' in their lives," said Nicole Germaine, a CCO staff member leading the summer mission.

"I want others to experience the same freedom I have experienced in giving my life over to God and putting my confidence in Him and the very personal love I know He has for me. My hope is that many people will come to experience Christ the way I have in my life this summer through the IMPACT mission," she said.

Germaine and the mission team evangelize through a variety of initiatives including Adoration nights, 'The Cornerstone', a weekly guest-speaker night for young adults (aged 16-35) held at 7 pm on Thursday nights at St. Joseph the Worker parish hall, and weekly faith





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> DID YOU KNOW: The Sisters played an instrumental role in founding health care and education in **British Columbia?**

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## The Campus Mission

#### by Fr. Dean Henderson

he ordinarily abrupt transition from the frenetic final term to the more serene spring scene on campus did not happen this year. Our year-end banquet and dance, a great annual celebration in which we honour our grads, paved the way for the departure of nine students and me for the West Coast and a week-long third annual mission trip (beautifully described in another article by Madlen Anderson on page 14 of this paper). Upon return from encouraging the faithful and reaching the lost, it was straight into the pastoral work that supplants some of my campus mission for the summer: weekend Masses at Our Lady of Fatima as they transition between pastors (and where processions and extra liturgical rituals are enthusiastically celebrated), marriage preparation course oversight, and the commencement of witnessing wedding nuptials. That same weekend of mission return coincided with the advent of the Catholic Christian Outreach student missionary arrival. Twenty-seven enthused Catholic students and staff have flown and ferried onto our fair shores to share 'The Joy of the Gospel' with five parishes and the wider city of Victoria. Add to the mix the abundance of life in our domestic Church (the home), and I have more than enough evidence of what Pope Francis says is a fruit of missionary discipleship in Jesus, a life that is "wonderfully complicated!"

*Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel*, will provide the theme and marching orders for the mission on campus this next year. Amongst the multitude of exhortations the Holy Father recommends in our Church's transition to being in a 'permanent state of missionary readiness' is the reminder that the Gospel

is essentially and irreducibly relational. He says, "the Church will have to initiate everyone, priests, religious, and the laity into the art of accompaniment ... which heals, liberates and encourages Christian growth." He recently provided evidence of this friendship-



based 'accompaniment' in his visit to the Holy Land with two Argentinian companions—one a rabbi and the other a Muslim scholar. Powerful witness of peaceful dialogue if ever there was one! Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, a Franciscan physician philosopher, said once, "When one arrives at the particle level, a fundamental rule emerges that is true about everything ... all is a set of dynamic relationships. Whether a thing is a quark, a virus, a patient, or a galaxy: being is relationship. For the Christian, this truth is pre-eminently understood as the very nature of the Triune God who is relationship: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

The Pope's apostolic exhortation emphasizes the relational dimension of the Church's mission. Without denigrating dogma or morality, Pope Francis seeks to move the Church in the direction of relational mercy because "when all is said and done, *we are infinitely loved.*" At the heart of the missionary transitions that must motivate our whole Diocesan Church is the inspiration that "while we were [and are] yet sinners Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) He loved us before we could ever love him in return. As our parishes, chaplaincies, administration, schools, health care, publications, and families transition into a missionary movement, the heart of our motivation and message will be the centrality of God's abiding presence and love.

Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good. In this sense, several sayings of Saint Paul will not surprise us: "The love of Christ urges us on," (2 Cor 5:14); "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel." (1 Cor 9:16).

~ Evangelii Gaudium, 9





It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our newest Connections contributor. Thirteen-year-old Amber is a Grade 7 student at John Paul II school in Port Alberni. She recently participated in the ICS Speaking Competition, which is where we met her. Please join me in welcoming Amber to The Diocesan Messenger. ~ Editor

by Amber Santarelli, John Paul II School, Port Alberni

### The Past, the Present, and the Future

Travelling and being among the Seven Wonders of the World (whether they be of ancient or modern times)—have you ever been there yourself? To stand in awe in the presence of the Taj Mahal or at the base of the Great Pyramid.

Have you ever imagined what the 8th Wonder of the World would be?

Today I come here to share with you my thoughts of what some people believe about the concept of time: the past, the present and the future.

I have been reading a series by the author, Katherine Roberts. Each book is set in

An interesting and thought provoking quote is from *Alice in Wonderland* as it speaks to the past. "I can't go back to yesterday because I was a different person then."

This is it, isn't it?! We become different as we travel through life.

In what terms do you label time? Is it the past, the present, and the future; the before, the now and the yet to come; or yesterday, today and tomorrow?

The present is a gift. Take care of today and let tomorrow worry about itself. Isn't

one of the ancient wonders of the world. For example, the pyramids appeared in *The Great Pyramid Robbery* and the hanging gardens of Babylon were in *The Babylon Game*. At the end of the last book, Ms. Roberts had a contest challenging the reader to answer the question "What do you think the 8th Wonder of the World is?"

The winner of the contest, Aysha Rasid, answered: the 8th Wonder of the World is The Future. She wrote it would be perfect as the final Wonder because it is something secretive and unknown; the Future is faceless.

This started me thinking about time. In what terms do you label time? Is it the past, the present, and the future; the before, the now and the yet to come; or yesterday, today and tomorrow?

The past comes to us in memories, some good and some not-so-good. For me the smell of baking is Uncles Dal's cookies, a jar of Caf-Lib is Uncle Gary bringing Auntie Marie and myself our special 'coffee' in bed on a Saturday morning. Hearing the theme to Midsomer Murders still gives me shivers.

The past is where all the building blocks come from to help form who we become. All experiences, good and bad, are how we learn and hopefully gain wisdom. These help us grow stronger. We always have the choice to do good. We can make the journey easier if we listen to God's voice leading us with open hearts. that what the Bible tells us to do? Leave the unknown in God's hands. I believe that God's plans are probably better and much more satisfying than we can imagine. Let us enjoy each moment as it comes. Try not to be the person so busy looking through the lens of the camera that you miss the bigger picture. Be happy and content with where you are. Be present in the present.

Hmm, the future, now there is a big question. Do we approach it in fear, uncertainty, or in trepidation? Or do we open our arms and greet it with acceptance and wonder? C.S. Lewis is quoted as saying "the future is something everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour whatever he does, or whoever he is."

It doesn't need to be something we fear or rush. It is not the destination as much as the journey that is important. Enjoy and marvel at it. In those moments of fear remember that God is always with us and we don't need to be in the driver's seat. Let us go on the adventures of which we cannot see the ending, on unknown paths and trails, praying for faith and courage to follow God with wonder.

I leave you with what I think is a very wise thought spoken by Gandalf the Grey in *The Lord of the Rings*: "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

So seize the moment, press 'play', not 'pause'. 🐰

### **Discern** This

#### by Fr. William Hann

When Pope Francis called on the world's priests to bring the healing power of God's grace to everyone in need and to stay close to the marginalized and to be 'shepherds living with the smell of the sheep...' I was moved to tears. Why? For ten years I have walked with the faithful on all their journeys and the invitation to bless, comfort and console is ever ancient and ever new. Pope Francis in a humble and engaging way is rebranding the Church to get in touch with Her missionary spirit and live the Gospel in relationship and with joy. *The Joy of the Gospel* resonates deeply with my pastoral persona and as I look back at my ten years of priesthood I am still in awe of this invitation and will strive to embrace the "smell of the sheep" entrusted to my care.

## Jesus said, 'without me, you can do nothing.' ... Will you be His missionary disciple? Will we together be His light to the world?

In this article, I would like to point out how Pope Francis is inviting all of us to reflect on what it means to be a 'priesthood of all believers'. In doing so, I would like to refer to the missionary spirit found in Acts 8:5-8, 14-17. In this reading, Peter uses an image to describe the reality we are as Church. We are a house of living stones. The foundation of the community is Jesus, the living stone. He is the foundation, the very center of our faith; he is the cornerstone of us as Church. Peter summons us to keep coming day after day to Christ, the living stone, so that we ourselves may become living stones and share the life of Jesus. He invites us, in turn, to continue in joyful hope the ministry of Jesus for humankind. In the words of Pope Francis: "By works, desires and prayers we are disciples striving to become better human beings to serve the Church and world."

What does it mean to become 'living stones'? It means that we do not become isolated, petrified, and dead. Rather, we are made alive, built into a house, which is enlivened by the Spirit. And it is as such that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation, God's own people. Pope Francis wants us to rediscover the freshness of the original Gospel. He writes, "There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved."

Peter seems to get that and what he suggests is that, to the extent that we cling to Jesus and go his path, we are in the process of becoming the true human race made in the image of God. Ultimately, it is Jesus Christ who is the measure of our being the Church. We let our lives be permeated by him living in us. It is only in him that we will be built into a house of living stones. It is only in him that we can become the humanity that God intends us to be. "We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart; we are living stones making a spiritual house built on the living and precious cornerstone Jesus Christ."

C The Gospel still needs to be preached with greater enthusiasm, with greater relevance and with greater integrity. As in Jesus' day, the masses are calling out to be fed and we, the friends and companions of Jesus, have been called to continue to bring the Bread of Life to the world.

May we one day wake up to the true meaning of these words. It seems to me that we and our Church could be more intentionally aware of our baptismal consciousness. Perhaps we have less understanding of our own baptisms, and so don't fully comprehend the sense of our baptismal dignity and what it means to be amongst a community of baptized men and women. Put another way, and oversimplying it, it is possible that in many ways we have become a church and culture that focuses more on the institution than our combined and united strength as a royal priesthood, a chosen race, a people set apart. Have we stifled our baptismal dignity by attributing that dignity more to priests and bishops, by virtue of their being ordained? At times I do feel we have put too much emphasis on persons being ordained at the expense of embracing our own baptismal consecration. And we recover thus: through our own baptism we make common cause with what Jesus lived and died and was raised from the dead for-namely, the Kingdom of God of which the risen Jesus is the precious Cornerstone. In our being baptized in Jesus' name, we let ourselves be infected by what I would like to call the 'kingdom-virus'.

### **Vocations Education Day**

### by Char Deslippe, Director of Religious Education

n Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6, 2014, Island Catholic Schools hosted our annual Vocations Education Day in Victoria and Duncan. It was an exciting and informative day for nearly 140 students who traveled from St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Catholic Schools in Victoria; John Paul II, Port Alberni; St. Joseph's School, Chemainus; and Queen of Angels Catholic School, Duncan.

The Planning Committee acknowledges and thanks Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Pastor of St. Edward the Confessor, Duncan, for his leadership in organizing the day which focused on education about our call, through Baptism, to live as Catholics/ Christians embracing the single, married, or consecrated life of a religious brother, sister, or priest; or responding to God's plan for them as ordained diocesan priests.

After opening prayer and a get-acquainted activity, the morning was structured around panel presentations by the following:

- *The Single Life and Discerning God's Call*: Lucille Schaubroeck and Kathryn Fitzmaurice, Victoria
- *The Single Consecrated Life*: Br. Jean Louie Brusset, Franciscan, Nanaimo, and Br. Carlos Ona, Franciscan, Victoria
- *Married Life*: Laura and Steve Pearse, Victoria, and Charlene and Jim Phelan, Duncan
- *Religious Life of a Sister or Brother*: Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM, St. Ann's, Cowichan Valley
- Contemplative Life: Sr. Monique Simpson OSC, Duncan
- *Life of Priest belonging to a Religious Order*: Fr. Dan Gurnick, Franciscan Priest, Victoria; and Fr. Piotr Lapinski, Salvatorian, St. Peter's, Nanaimo
- Diocesan Priesthood: Fr. Mike Favero, St. Rose of Lima, Sooke
- Missionary Life: Fr. Joe Prakash, St. Ann's, Cowichan Valley

The presentations were followed by an opportunity for the students to ask questions of any panel members. A great barbeque lunch prepared by the Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph's Parish, Victoria and St. Edward the Confessor, Duncan, added to the fun. Parent volunteers made sure the day went without a glitch.

Monday afternoon the students in Victoria had a 'sit-down tour' of St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Victoria. Fr. David Hogman, assisted by Jurik Romaniec, shared prayers and information about the structure of the Cathedral and its beautiful sanctuary windows. Unfortunately, the basement of the Cathedral is undergoing renovations so a trip to the crypt was not possible this year.

What struck us most were the great questions the students posed to the panelists both days. It confirms our belief that we are planting seeds which the Holy Spirit will grow in the minds and hearts of our children.

Bouquets to the following school administrators, staff and parents for their support of the grade six ICS Vocations Education Day 2014.

**St. Joseph's School, Victoria** Principal: Simon DiCastri Teacher: Grace Higgins Gary Skabeikis and his Knights of Columbus Barbeque Team Parent Volunteer: Wendy Weber St. Patrick's, Victoria Principal: Deanne Paulson Teachers: Lisa Hoffner and Jody Fallow Parent Volunteers: Naomi Melo, Trish Philpot, and Siobhan Gramlich

#### John Paul II, Port Alberni

Principal: Kathy Korman Teachers: Colleen Duncan and Tanya Irg St. Joseph's School, Chemainus Principal: Mr. Bern Muller

With that in mind, how can we become once again a vibrant community of baptized men and women? How can we be Church today? What a different Church we would be if we all took up the challenge. My dear friends, whether we are father, mother, pope, bishop, priest, parish coordinator, minister of the cup, minister of lector, teacher, real estate agent, office worker, truck driver or plumber—our duty is the same: to lead the people we come in contact with along the Way of Jesus, the Way of Truth and Life. By working together, we can do more as Jesus works through us individually and in communion with each other.

The Gospel still needs to be preached with greater enthusiasm, with greater relevance and with greater integrity. As in Jesus' day, the masses are calling out to be fed and we, the friends and companions of Jesus, have been called to continue to bring the Bread of Life to the world. Jesus said, "Without me you can do nothing." It is important for us to realize that the opposite is also largely true: without us without us, it is harder for his work to be accomplished.

Will you be his missionary disciple? Will we together be his light to the world? I look forward to being that missionary disciple together with you as we bring forth the Kingdom.

#### Queen of Angels, Duncan Principal: Mr. Art Therrien Teachers: Amelia Mann and Amber Wauthy Frank Enns and the Knights of Columbus Barbeque Team Parent Volunteers: Diane Butcher, Marilyn Hird, Julie Prystupe, and Lynn Norton

It is no small task organizing such an event and equally challenging to speak in a meaningful way about a topic that is generally 'off the radar' of most eleven and twelve year olds. What struck us most were the great questions the students posed to the panelists both days. It confirms our belief that we are planting seeds which the Holy Spirit will grow in the minds and hearts of our children.







#### by Bonnie Landry

When reading the book of Colossians, I'm frequently moved by Saint Paul's loving call to action—he speaks to me as much as to them. Here is just one example of his power of persuasiveness, his great evangelical heart and his ability to relate to people:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

I ponder what Saint Paul means by 'clothe yourselves'.I'm guessing he doesn't mean 'be compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient when it is convenient or strictly to people who don't share the same home with you.' I'm thinking he means something more along the lines of 'clothe yourselves' in a sort of, well, clothed way. All over, as in 'cover yourself with these things. Have this thing I'm talking about be your outer bearing'.

#### Even when you don't feel like it.

There's nothing particularly theological or metaphorical going down here. When I say to my kids (and I do about thirty times a day), "clothe yourselves with kindness to your siblings," I actually mean it. When I say "clothe yourselves with kindness to your siblings," in those exact words, not even yelling nor even gritting my teeth, what I mean is:

It doesn't really matter how you feel: speak and act with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. If you don't feel that way, act that way and it will make you feel more compassionate, kind, humble, meek and patient.

It would be fair to say, here, it isn't always effective. Sometimes my children don't clothe themselves in this manner as St. Paul and I suggest. But on close scrutiny, I noticed that St. Paul actually prefaces his comment to 'yourselves' with this line: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved ..."

Paul is a master of relationships. See what he is doing here, folks? He is priming the relationship. Prime the relationship, establish the connection, build the other up in love. Let the other know how you feel about them, then lay out clearly what must



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be done. This is an effective relationship tool. For our children, spouses, coworkers, parents. And it's just good practice. Let others know of our love and respect, call them to a higher standard simply by letting them know they are chosen ones, holy and beloved.

You slay me once again, St. Paul

And he doesn't stop there. What he says next is, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

#### And be thankful."

The thing I like about Paul is that he writes in sentence fragments. Like me. And he's a great saint. So there's hope. For me.

I write in sentence fragments to make a point. Not because I'm lazy. Truth to tell, it is actually more difficult to write in sentence fragments because you have to punctuate and capitalize more frequently.

But I digress. Note Paul's well placed sentence fragment: And be thankful.

It's very important. I can tell, because it is a fragment, and Paul is actually employing a clever grammatical misuse of language as a literary device for the purpose of catching our attention.

And be thankful. You Colossians. You moms and dads. You working people, you students, you children. You have food on your table. You, Bonnie, who needs to know that everything is a gift from God.

To paraphrase, Paul says, "If people are bothering you, just man up. You are a Christian and you are supposed to see Christ in others. So get to it. And be thankful. Be thankful that you have a God who is so merciful. And be thankful that you can't hear everything other people are thinking about you. Be a Christian on the outside. And oh, guess what. Be one on the inside, too."

Remember that "peace of Christ rule in your heart" thingy? Yeah. I want some of that. 🦹

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### Faith Matters



### **Experiencing Our Faith Journey**

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

ay 3, 2104, saw an enthusiastic gathering of 25 Pastors, Coordinators and Catechists from Campbell River to Victoria gather at the Church of the Ascension in Parksville for a workshop introducing the second of three cycles of the Sacramental Preparation Programme for Children in the Diocese of Victoria.

A repeat workshop opportunity for catechists was held May 21 in Victoria. At both sessions the parish catechetical teams received complementary copies of the 291-page Year One and the 359-page Year Two binders which will soon be available on the Diocesan website.

*Our Faith Journey* was over six years in the making. It is a marriage of the *Sunday Lectionary*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCB) national curriculum, *Criteria for Catechesis from Infancy to Age Eighteen*. This programme was piloted by several parishes and officially launched in 2013. Experienced local catechists then submitted recommendations from Liturgical Cycle C/A which have been incorporated in the 2014–2015 curriculum for the Liturgical Cycle A/B. The third Liturgical Cycle, B/A, will follow in the Fall of 2015.

The workshop afforded the opportunity for catechists to gather and become familiar with the new programme binders. After beginning the day with Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Mel Bayron, participants joined right in with feedback: concerns, questions, and suggestions. Their sharing emphasized the great level of support which parishes are willing to offer each other. Char Deslippe, Director of the Office of Religious Education, then outlined the main features of the programme that were a review for those familiar with the Guides, and enlightening for those new to the ministry.

Suzette Gibson and Peter Orme of St. Peter's Parish, Nanaimo, then shared their experience—a very practical and prayerful approach to introducing and adapting the Year One programme to their particular parish situation. This generated much interest and was particularly helpful for those who had not been able to introduce the programme to date. A hearty lunch prepared by Laura Gaetz and her Ascension Parish Team followed.

Following lunch, Kathy Fadum, one of the key developers of *Our Faith Journey*, introduced a ritual focusing on Baptism. Ritual is a significant element in the movement of Year Two; and Baptism, of course, is the 'door' to all the Sacraments.

### Moving Right Along...

#### by Jean Allen

Retirements, sabbaticals, classes winding down, new jobs starting up, a Diocese still waiting for a bishop ... it's a season of change and transition, a time of preparations to leave something behind and wonderment about what's to come.

All this made me think about the disciples of Jesus listening to him speak about the new kingdom order. To us, his words are utterly familiar. We're so accustomed to phrases like, 'love your neighbor', 'forgive as you have been forgiven' and 'blessed are the poor' that we almost have to struggle to pay attention. But to Christ's disciples, his words were radically shocking theology. The more they listened to Jesus the more they were thrust into a challenge of immense transition where they suddenly had no maps to guide them. They only had Jesus. What kind of shock waves did they experience as they went through this time of shifting from one spiritual home to another? Were there moments when they were filled with homesickness for the familiarity of the old ways? Was it tempting for them to go back to a life where they knew the traditions and understood what was expected of them? *Our Faith Journey* was developed using the *Rite of Christian Initiation* model which fully engages families in their child's faith formation. Catechists have noted the benefit of introducing the liturgical and catechetical elements to children with their parents. Adult family members appreciate reviewing essentials of the faith in simple terms, as it further develops their own understanding and provides an open forum for asking questions.

Beginning with the child's experience, the programme starts with what the child already knows ('where they are'), builds on that experience through inquiry and dialogue, introduces and connects new faith concepts, and through reflection and practice, establishes an understanding that is practiced ('lived out'). This approach, formally known as the "Shared Christian Praxis model" focusses on all aspects of the person's understanding and relationships; it involves life experience, familiarity with the Christian Story and Vision, critical reflection/prayer, and integration through intentional response. It is the fundamental educational principle underlying such documents as Rome's *General Directory for Catechesis* as well as the aforementioned CCCB's *Criteria for Catechesis*, and the CCCB's adult catechetical document *On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults.* 

Having families experience this natural process of learning the faith together strengthens and broadens individual understanding as well as providing some basic tools for mutual support and growth. The two-year journey also contributes to developing close bonds with other families and the community as a whole. As a result, Mass and the parish community become a natural, integral part of family life.

We would like to thank Fr. Mel, Laura Gaetz, Jackie Shaddock and Rosemary Blank, along with others behind the scenes for their particularly gracious hospitality in Parksville. As well, we applaud all those who presented so passionately and all those in attendance who contributed to sharing *Our Faith Journey*.

Questions about the two-year programme for children's completion of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) as well as children's preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation may be addressed to Jim O'Reilly at (250) 479-1331, ext. 236 or jeoreilly@rcdvictoria.org.

words were just too radical. "Will you also go away?" he asked the twelve. "Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We don't understand what you're talking about or where this is all going to end up but we have to trust that you're taking us where we should go."

Every one of those disciples always had a choice. They could move forward with Christ into the confusing landscape of new ways, thoughts, perspectives and relationships or they could run back to what was safely familiar: the comfortable old life. We, too, are constantly faced with this same choice. What seems safe because of its familiarity can honestly feel like the best place simply because it is known and understood. However, when God is moving us through transition, he won't allow us to stay in our comfort zones if we are slowly atrophying and aren't

### **C** Being willing to move forward is not rejecting the past; it is recognizing the maturing process.

Transition from the known to the unknown can be exciting but it can also be difficult. There's no easy way through transition because transition often brings with it an inability to pray and God can seem confusingly distant, as if He's just an idea with no real meaning. Spiritual precepts that were once comforting seem more like brittle twigs than supportive, life-giving branches.

The disciples must have struggled terrifically with how they should be praying and acting as Jesus unfolded a completely new life to them. There must have been times when the temptation to run back to the familiarity of the old law was overwhelming. Some followers succumbed to this temptation and left when Jesus' even aware of it.

Being willing to move forward is not rejecting the past; it is recognizing the maturing process. As we grow, our needs change. It's as simple as that. Are you still praying the same prayers as you were ten years ago? Do you pray more often? Has your image of God changed over the years? Has your image of yourself changed? Are you growing more compassionate and less judgmental? Do you pay attention to your spiritual desires or know what they are? Are you growing more grateful and graceful? Are you afraid of God or are you discovering the supreme joy of His companionship?

Often we don't seek opportunities to move forward because we can't fathom what we could be doing differently. We need to reflect on the fact that from one day to the next, the disciples had no idea what Jesus was going to say or do next. We need to consider how crucial it was for them—and ultimately for us—that they struggled through their confusion, accepted the risks and didn't run back to old familiarities. They were constantly called to radical change and so are we.

C.S. Lewis wrote: It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.

Hatching time! 🦹

### Coming Soon To A Parish Near You: The Pastoral Care Outreach Sessions

by Jean Allen

Recognizing the need to create a training program for people who felt called to minister to the hospitalized, homebound, and those in long-term care facilities, then-Bishop Richard Gagnon established the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee in 2007. After a few years of consultation with Diocesan parishioners to determine priorities, this training program was included as an initiative featured in the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Plan (2010 - 2015), and with prayerful planning and pilot presentations, the Pastoral Care Training kits were provided to parishes in November 2013.

Immediately, Fr. Alfredo and parishioners of St. Edward's in Duncan began holding the first two sessions of four before the end of 2013. (See article from St. Edward's below.) Then Victoria's St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart parishes jointly offered the training from February to June 2014.

Other parishes throughout the Diocesan regions are also moving ahead with the training program. Gerry Herkel, a Pastoral Council member from the Church of Ascension in Parksville, who also serves on the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee, reported that on May 15, 2014, he met with an excellent group of Pastoral Care volunteers from Trinity and St. Peter's Parishes in Nanaimo. They agreed that they would hold their four sessions this fall beginning in September to also include the Church of the Ascension in Parksville and Notre Dame/Holy Family Parish in Port Alberni. Said Herkel, "Given our aging population, and the need for support as we age with our chronic and terminal diseases, there is going to be a greater assistance for parish communities to provide support for these people, many of whom have no family reinforcement nearby. To fulfill this Ministry, and to respond to God's love, volunteers need to be properly trained."

Marian Thibault reported that St. Patrick's Church, Campbell River, has established a Parish Pastoral Plan team in consultation with Fr. Jan Grotkowski SDS and PPC members. She confirmed that, while still to be approved, the Pastoral Care Outreach Training Program is a priority for their Parish Pastoral Plan for 2014 – 2015. They hope to be able to run the four sessions in 2015.

Fr. Marek Paczka, SDS, Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Courtenay said, "Our parish has a long history of both parish and hospital pastoral care visiting. We enthusiastically endorse and are pleased to provide the Pastoral Care Outreach Training developed by the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee. Sessions will begin in the fall and are open to all parishioners and those interested in Pastoral Care."

Pastoral care communicates Christ's healing love and compassion to all, especially those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Can your parish become part of the answer to the great need that is out there?

As Fr. William Hann, Pastor of St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Victoria and a member of the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee has commented, "Priests can't do it all. Now we need the support and skills of people trained in Pastoral Care Outreach. By virtue of your baptism we need you to help us in the ministry of healing as we visit those in need of God's presence."

*For any questions, or assistance with planning these sessions, please contact Moira King, Chair of the Diocese of Victoria Health Care Committee: moiraking@shaw.ca.* 



Participants representing six parishes in the Cowichan Region at the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Care Outreach Training Session 4 – Who Am I as a Pastoral Care Outreach Visitor? held at St. Edward's Parish, Duncan on Saturday, May 24, 2014

### **Building Communities of Care**

by Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Pastor of St. Edwards Parish, and Parish Members Marilyn Klizs and Ro deBree, Duncan, BC

ur community started the Pastoral Care Outreach training program last November, meeting at St. Edward's Church in Duncan. Other parishes represented were St. Joseph's, Chemainus; St. Mary's, Ladysmith; St. Louis de Montfort, Lake Cowichan; St. Anne's, Duncan; and St. Francis Xavier, Mill Bay. Fr. Joe from St. Anne's and Fr. Alfredo from St. Edward's both participated in three of the four sessions. Each session began with Mass in the church and then moved

We were asked to fill in an evaluation after every session. Some comments:

Good input from many different people and perspectives; This session helped me get in touch with my own experiences; This will be beneficial when journeying with others; The roving microphone is an excellent idea; and Let's have Session # 5!

downstairs to the hall for the rest of the day. We brought our own lunches, with coffee, tea and cookies provided.

We studied a spectrum of Pastoral Care Outreach, learning that it can be much more than bringing Holy Communion to the sick and the shut-ins. As Fr. Alfie told us during one of his opening remarks, "The reality always presents itself as needs right in front of us!"

Our sessions included: 1) *The Healing Ministry of Christ*; 2) *Listening & Communication*, and *Mental Health*; 3) *Ministering to Families* and *The Grieving Process* and 4) *Who am I as a Pastoral Care Outreach Visitor*? Two DVDs featuring Fr. Mark Miller bookended the training and generated much valuable discussion: *The Healing Ministry of Christ* and *The Healing Ministry of Christ in the Care of the Dying*.

Attendance was good and, as the sessions progressed, we all got comfortable with each other. We learned listening skills, building trust and community as we went along so that people felt safe about sharing their own experiences. The sharing of experience was also an essential teaching tool.

At the end of the last session we were asked to consider the question: "Where do we go from here?" Some participants will join the group that visits and brings Communion to hospitals, care homes and private homes. Others will work towards developing outreach ministry around bereavement support, telephone ministry, respite to caregivers and communication. Finally, Fr. Alfredo Monacelli had this to say: "These sessions can be helpful for parishioners and pastors to increase the sense of mission and deepen the understanding of our belonging to Christ."



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## National & International News



### Italian Nun is the Voice of Italy

Sister Cristina Scuccia, who became a global sensation after one appearance on Italian television in March, singing Alicia Keys' *No One*, has won the 2014 edition of *The Voice Italy*. The 25 year-old Ursuline Sister of the Holy Family performed several songs during the finale, including one by her mentor J-Ax before being announced the winner. On hearing the news, she told the audience, "I want Jesus to enter into here," and led the crowds in praying an *Our Father*.

http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.

### USA: Fairfield University hosts Receptive Ecumenism Conference

Church leaders, theologians, ecumenists from different denominations and six continents are gathered at Fairfield Jesuit University in Connecticut this week for the third International Receptive Ecumenism conference which is organised by Fairfield and Durham Universities. Their goal is to show how this particular method of strengthening relations and deepening dialogue between the different Christian churches and communities has brought new seeds of hope to what was once despairingly described as 'the ecumenical winter.'

http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.

#### EU Religious Leaders Call for Action in Wake of Far-right Election Victories

The results of the recent European elections, growing Euro-scepticism, the economic crisis, and the attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels a few days ago, were all high on the agenda of the tenth summit of religious leaders meeting in Brussels this week. Cardinal Reinhard Marx led the Catholic delegation, which comprised Jean-Pierre Grallet, Archbishop of Strasbourg and COMECE member, and Professor Margaret S Archer, head of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.

#### Under-nutrition: Everyone's Problem and No One's Responsibility

On World Food Day in October 2013, Pope Francis sent a message to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization about the 'scandal of hunger and malnutrition. "One of the most serious challenges for mankind is the tragic condition in which millions of starving and malnourished people, among them many children, live," the Pope said. He called society and governments to "face together" this problem in order to reach a "fair and lasting" solution adding that, "hunger and malnutrition can never be considered normal, something that we must get used to, as if was part of the system. Something must change in ourselves, in our minds, in our societies." Pope Francis' comments are especially pertinent this week when we are marking the first anniversary of the Nutrition for Growth summit in London which took place on 8 June 2013. http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.

### Bishops Say Plight of Child Immigrants Must Be Addressed

#### Washington, D.C. (Zenit.org)

Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, called upon the Obama Administration and Congress to protect unaccompanied children from Mexico and Central America crossing the border and to respond to the root causes of poverty and increasing violence as a long-term solution to the issue.

"This is a very complicated problem, but its roots must be addressed, both by our government and governments in the region," said Bishop Elizondo in June 4 remarks. He added that the recent announcement by the Administration of an interagency task force headed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was a 'good first step'.

"These children are extremely vulnerable to human traffickers and unscrupulous smugglers and must be protected. Over the long term, the increasing violence from gangs and organized crime in their home countries must be addressed and controlled so they can be secure in their homes."

"This is an issue which should not become politicized or give cause for negative rhetoric," said Bishop Elizondo. "It is truly a humanitarian crisis which requires a comprehensive response and cooperation between the branches of the US government. Young lives are at stake."

In November, a delegation from the USCCB Committee on Migration, led by Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, Texas, visited Mexico and Central America to examine the push factors driving child migration to the United States.

Their report and policy recommendations can be found at: www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/upload/Mission-To-Central-America-FINAL-2.pdf.

### Go Forth in the Power of The Name

### by Flo Reid, CCRS Chair of BC

• *o Forth in the Power of The Name* will be the theme of the sixth annual Our Lady of Pentecost Summer Institute in Kelowna. Featured speakers will be Franciscan priest Fr. Pierre Ducharme of Edmonton and seminarian Sylvester Ibekwe, originally from Nigeria but now studying in Edmonton.

This year the Institute will be held at St. Charles Garnier Parish from August 10 - 15. It is sponsored by the Nelson Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Committee, and is endorsed by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of BC.

#### **Sylvester Ibekwe**

Since 2012, Sylvester has been receiving his intellectual, pastoral, human and spiritual formation at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton. Sylvester spends his time praying, reading, researching and writing as he prepares for the Sacerdotal Ministry for the Diocese of Nelson.

Sylvester will present Faith and the Future of Humanity and Christianity: A Religion or a Way of Life?

#### Fr. Pierre Ducharme, OFM

Fr. Pierre is a Franciscan Priest with the Franciscans of Western Canada and the 800-year-old Order of Friars Minor. A Vancouver native, Fr. Pierre has degrees from the University of British Columbia and Newman Theological College.

Fr. Pierre is the Guardian of St. Francis Friary in Edmonton, the Post-Novitiate Director for the Franciscans of Western Canada, and a part-time Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Fr. Pierre will present: Baptismal Dignity: A Universal Call to Holiness; Called by Name: A Minor Friar's Fortunate Journey; Power and Christian Integrity: How Jesus 'flipped the tortilla', so to speak; The Footprints of St. Francis: Being of the Word; The Christian Commission to 'Go' to the Peripheries; and The Joy of the Gospel.

The Institute begins with Mass at Seton House at 5:30 pm on Sunday August 10, 2014. Costs for this year are \$450, including meals and accommodation (double occupancy) at Seton and participation in all sessions. Clergy and religious may attend without charge but registration is required. Visiting clergy will be hosted in local rectories. A brochure detailing all costs and daily schedules is available by contacting Richard Dunstan at richard@thedunstans.com.

#### JRS Syria Awarded Pax Christi Peace Prize

The 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award was granted to the Jesuit Refugee Service Syria last night at St Joseph's church in Saraievo. The celebration formed part of the Sarajevo Peace Event 2014 which has been taking place throughout the city of Sarajevo this weekend. The ceremony was celebrated by an international community of members and partners of Pax Christi, those who have attended the Sarajevo Peace Event, and people from the local community. The Ceremony was centred around performances by the Pontanima choir, who received the award themselves three year ago for their work to bring reconciliation to Sarajevo and the region as a whole. They are an interreligious, intercultural choir who performed for us a 'symphony of religions and cultures'.

http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.

### Pray for Iraq

#### www.rcav.org

June 13, 2014 – Archbishop J. Michael Miller and the Iraqi community of the Archdiocese of Vancouver are asking the faithful to fast and pray for peace in Iraq, where news organizations say the cleansing of Iraq's Christians is nearly complete. The Vatican news publication Fides reports tens of thousands of Christian families are fleeing or trapped in their homes. The Chaldean Bishop Amel Shamon Nona and the other Bishops of Mosul have launched an appeal to keep churches and mosques open to pray for peace.

Please keep the people of the Middle East in your prayers, and consider praying this novena for peace to Our Lady Undoer of Knots, for whom Pope Francis has a special devotion. We will be joined in prayer by our Christian brothers and sisters in Eastern churches, including Orthodox.

We all have some "knots" in our lives... and Mary can untie them!

*The devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots has become more popular ever since Pope Francis encouraged the devotion in Argentina, and then spoke about it during his first year as pontiff.* 

The theology of the devotion actually goes back to the second century. Saint Irenaeus wrote that, "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith." Mary's faith unties the knot of sin!

So we will pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary will intercede for us all, to untie the knots of sin in our lives – so that we may be purified and ever closer to God.

Read more about the Novena for Mary Undoer of Knots here: http://www.praymorenovenas.com/mary-undoer-knots-novena. 🦹

Diocesan Messenger – June 2014

### Christian Joy is Based in Hope, Pope Francis Reflects

Vatican City, May 30, 2014 / 06:53 am (CNA/EWTN News)

n his first daily homily since returning from the Holy Land Pope Francis centered on the theme of Christian joy, explaining that it comes not from our immediate circumstances, but what Jesus promised.

"Be courageous in suffering and remember that after the Lord will come; after joy will come, after the dark comes the sun" the Pope encouraged in his May 30 daily Mass. "May the Lord give us all this joy in hope."

Basing his homily on the first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles in which the Lord tells St Paul not to be afraid of preaching to the people of Corinth, the pontiff explained to those in the Vatican's Saint Martha guesthouse that the apostle "was very brave, because he had strength in the Lord."

But despite this confidence even Paul was afraid at times and needed reassurance from God, the Pope observed, stating that "It happens to all of us in life, to have some 'fear."

## **C** If you have peace, you have the seed of joy that will come later. May the Lord help us understand these things."

However, Paul didn't let the fact that "neither the Jews nor the Gentiles" liked what he was saying stop him from proclaiming the Gospel, he continued, adding that even Jesus in Gethsemane was afraid.

"We must tell the truth: Christian life not just one big party. Not at all! We cry, we cry so many times," the Roman Pontiff continued, "When we are sick; when we have a problem with our son, in the family, with our daughter or wife, or husband."

"When we see that our salary does not reach the end of the month and we have a sick child; when we see that we cannot pay the mortgage on the house and we must somehow survive" he went on, adding that although we have "So many problems" Jesus tells us "Do not be afraid!"

Noting that there is another type of sadness that comes "when we take the wrong road" and try "to buy (the) happiness, joy, of the world, of sin," Pope Francis

### BC & Yukon Catholic Women's League Convention

#### *by Evelyn Rigby, Past Communications Chair, BC & Yukon Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada*

Over 200 BC and Yukon women, on fire for their Catholic faith, gathered in Kamloops June 5-7. In company with Bishop David Monroe (Kamloops Diocese), Bishop Stephen Jensen (Prince George Diocese), Msgr. Jerry Desmond of Kamloops, priests and spiritual advisors, they were spiritually enriched with daily liturgies, inspired by presentations, and encouraged in reports to continue their sterling work for God and Canada.

Keynote speaker Sr. Eva Solomon explained how relationships can be strengthened between CWL and First Nations groups. Fr. Dale Normandeau gave important pointers for discovering God's will in our lives. In her inter-active session, Barbara Dowding, National President-elect, encouraged members to follow the exhortation of Pope Francis by striving for eternal newness and developing a heart of mercy and compassion. Students from Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and St. Ann's Academy gave valuable input into one session dealing with Anti Bullying Awareness. A powerful recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries incorporated four members' experiences of heartbreak and pain, reminding attendees that their sufferings become a "participation in the saving work of Jesus". Members were also educated about the life's work of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys. Executive members joined composer Carol Vanderbyl in the well-received première of her song celebrating the gifts of the League. explained that this "is the sadness of the wrong sort of happiness" but that Christian happiness "is a joy in hope, which comes."

"However in times of trial we do not see this. It is a joy that is purified by trials, our everyday trials" the Pope continued, observing that "it's hard to go to a sick person who is suffering greatly and say: 'Come on! Come on! Tomorrow you will have joy!"

"No, you cannot say this! We have to help them feel what Jesus made us feel."

## **C** It is "the joy that remains" he observed, noting that although "hidden in some moments of life, we do not feel it in bad times, it comes later: a joy in hope."

Going on, he explained that "When we are in the dark" and "we do not see anything" we need to make an act of faith in the Lord, saying "I know, Lord that this sorrow will turn to joy. I do not know how, but I know it!"

Using the example of a woman in labor to illustrate how sadness turns into joy, the Bishop of Rome stated that "It's true, women suffer a lot in childbirth, but then when she holds her child she forgets" and what is left is "the joy of Jesus, a purified joy."

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This, then, "is the message of the Church today: Do not be afraid!"

Concluding his reflections, the Pope prayed that all might receive "this joy in hope," explaining that "the sign that we have this joy in hope is peace."

"How many sick, who are at the end of life, in pain, have that peace of soul" he noted, affirming that "This is the seed of joy, this is the joy of hope and peace."

"Do you have peace of soul in times of darkness, in times of trouble, in times of persecution, when everyone else rejoices at your suffering? Do you have peace?" he asked. "If you have peace, you have the seed of joy that will come later. May the Lord help us understand these things."

### The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

~ Evangelii Gaudium, 1

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

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

Photo: A young boy's prayer; St. Theresa of Avila mission church

After the election, the 2014-2016 provincial executive was installed in Sacred Heart Cathedral: President—Pat Deppiesse; President-Elect—Evelyn Rigby; 1st Vice President—Jeanne Wilson; 2nd Vice President—Gisela Montague; Secretary—Marianna Caldwell; Treasurer:—Julie Rose; Past President—Doreen Gowans; Chairpersons—Lorraine Thibeault, Dianne Barker, Sharon Geiger, Agnes Geiger and Linda McClinton.

At the closing banquet Christi Dionne, a CWL President from Barrière, was presented with the Molly Boucher Bursary. Nicholas Hunter M. Tarver, Star of the Sea Parish, White Rock, was the winner of the \$500 Life Member Art & Culture Award.

Three resolutions were passed, two of which will be forwarded for consideration at this August's national convention. The first seeks to redress the lack of consistent regulations across Canada for assisted human reproductive technologies. The second requests a ban on the addition of Monosodium Glutamate to processed foods. The third, intended for the BC Government, asks for fully subsidized basic dental care for low income citizens.

A letter was sent to the Benchers of the Law Society of BC applauding their April decision to approve Trinity Western University's application for a law faculty.

Next year's venue for BC & Yukon's convention is Prince George.  $mathbb{R}$ 

in Tulita, N.W.T. <i>Photo by Michael Swan.</i>				
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*Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.* ~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



#### by Connie Dunwoody

It can't all be mountaintops.

At least, that's what they told us at Cursillo. *4th Day* isn't always the sleep-deprived high of community—the hugs, the tears, the revelations, the joy. No, sometimes it's the daily slog—the mundane, the horrific, the unthinkable. Sometimes we experience earth-bound disappointment, sorrow, or get weighed down by the *ennui* of sameness, of hopeless routine. Sometimes our mornings don't feel all that new; sometimes the rainbow hides. Sometimes we thud down the mountainside into a valley we never chose to enter.

Sometimes (usually) we don'-wanna be there. *Please, Lord, not the crucible. I swear I was just here.* 

Once, in a very dark place, I decided I would use my Bible for inspiration the way I'd heard others had. I would let the Bible fall open to a page and a stunningly relevant piece of Scripture would leap off the page and into my heart, solving everything instantly in a serendipitous morsel of Wisdom. There would be a flash of insight and I would be complete, miraculously cured of my angst. It could happen, right?

Eagerly I reached for my Bible. I closed my eyes in anticipated rapture and let the pages fall open. My eyes flew open and settled on what I knew would be the *mots justes*.

"Do not sleep with your mother," it admonished sternly. (I'm paraphrasing.)

Great. Leviticus. Disgusted, I muttered, "I won't. She snores."

And then, realizing the hilarity of the whole situation, I laughed until I cried, and in that instant the crucible shattered. So maybe it did work.

I recently witnessed a preschooler in the midst of a private, monumental joke. Overcome by her own mirth, she bent nearly double, her arms like hawsers reaching out behind her, stiff with expressed delight; her face was scrunched up and her extremely loud *ha-ha-ha!* released from her tiny belly in a completely unselfconscious burst of exquisite glee. I chuckled, and then, slightly wistful, thought, "when did we stop doing that? When did we start trying to contain our joy?"

I admit there is a time-and-a-place for such expressions, and sometimes it *is* wiser to hold it in. The middle of one of Father's homilies may not be the best place to let your mirth run unchecked through the pews. But the simple truth is this: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

My joy. In you. Complete.

#### Contained.

Actually, I don't think there's much wrong with *contained* joy. In some ways, it's kind of the point. *Suppressed* joy is another matter. And I don't think it's laughter that *creates* joy; it's quite the opposite. Laughter is simply the external expression of something our spirit treasures.

See, joy isn't just about humour; it's not simply about email or text exchanges with dear friends that cause you to express noises no human should make, whooshing out a great unselfconscious *ha-ha-ha!* on the exhale and snorting in more air to continue. It's both the face-scrunching-body-bending-belly-laugh that sometimes escapes despite our best adult tendency to repress, and the overwhelming feeling that fills us quietly to bursting in the presence of extraordinary beauty.

Joy is *peace*. Joy is *certainty*. Joy is *trust*. Joy is *hope*. It is the sympathetic vibration of forever that hums in our hearts, quiet certainty holding us through sorrow or rage or frustration. It's the spark that penetrates gloom, the lighthouse in a wildly tossing, life-threatening sea. It's the smell of rain, the gleam of moonlight on night-blue hills, the touch of a friend's hand, an unexpected kind word, a promise

I believe everyone has to find his or her own joy-voice; perhaps the act of *discovery* is as important as *having* it, for once invited in, it does not leave. The journey takes us through dizzying heights and bottomless lows; but the best news is we are not alone; there is joy in community, in keeping company with people who share our mountaintops and our valleys, who delight equally in our ear-splitting *ha-ha-ha!* and quiet, indrawn *oohhh*, people who love us and support us steadfastly.

Regardless of its expression, the source is always the same: "… all these instances of joy flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 7).

Joy—the heart of God—never changes, never forsakes us, even when we're in the valley and can't even see the clouds that cover the mountaintop where yesterday we soared. Because we have Him, His steadfast heart, we have Joy—a kind of quiet confidence in the One who gave us the gift in the first place, courage to believe that everything will be okay, even if this moment feels horrid.

His joy. In you. Contained.

Complete. 🦹





made without words, or sometimes even a stranger's smile.

And it's is not always expressed the same way; it can change form, especially in times of difficulty. I also think it's different for everyone—how I experience joy may be completely foreign to you.



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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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