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Report on the
Synod*



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

November 2014

Welcoming "Pilgrims" at the Pastoral Centre

by Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education

Bishop Gary is a man of joy, hospitality and openness, with a gift of welcoming and gathering. On October 1, 2014, at the Bishop's welcome, 25 Coqualeetza Elders of the Fraser Valley arrived at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre to visit their long-time friend and the rest of the staff.

The Elders had travelled to the Island to meet Elders from Tsawout and Cowichan to begin preparations for the July 2015 BC Elders Convention, which will bring together about 4,000 First Nations Elders from around the province. It was clear from the start of this visit that Bishop Gary has many Elders who enjoyed his ministry, friendship and love over the years.

Bishop Gary was so happy to see them all. Mass was celebrated with great joy. Chairs were rearranged in a big circle and one Elder led the opening hymn with drumming and singing calling on the Creator to bless and gather. Appropriate to the Feast Day of Theresa of the Child Jesus, Bishop Gary preached about our need to learn from the little ones and how children can teach us so much about wonder, joy and life: in welcoming the gifts of children we welcome the gifts of Christ.

After Mass, fellowship continued with a delicious lunch. Lovely sandwiches were shared and everyone had their fill. Community was further deepened by everyone participating in a Sharing Circle. This beautiful First Nation's custom allowed for people to further connect and belong. Everyone in the group had an opportunity, one at a time, to share a little bit about themselves. The open hearts and ears, along with smiling acceptance, gave courage for personal sharing that graced the whole group with affirmation and gratitude. God is revealed when life is shared.



'Goodbyes' followed, and lots of hugs, smiles and good wishes were exchanged, as well as a formal gift given. A print by Charles Elliot (Tsawout) was presented by Bishop Gary and Diocesan Chancellor Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins to members of the Coqualeetza Elders Executive. After group pictures, the grateful Elders boarded the bus and continued on their way.

It was a blessed time together and a beautiful example of Bishop Gary's gift of welcoming and gathering. Thank you, Bishop, for sharing your friends with us! ✠



Bishop Gary (left, with Merlin, the Diocesan Dog) with Elders of the Coqualeetza First Nation and Pastoral Centre Staff

50 Years Later: Unitatis Redintegratio

by Bishop Gary Gordon

Fifty years ago the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ, "I pray that they may be one in us so that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:21) was placed at the forefront of the Church's heart and mind by the Holy Spirit.

The impetus of the Holy Spirit during the Second Vatican Council invited Christians to a personal conversion and the healing of hearts that had been hurt by historical divisions, feuds and even violent disputes in the Body of Christ, which were

sometimes fueled by the powers of the world.

This conversion of hearts led to tentative steps toward one another which has paved the way to friendship and dialogue and has borne much good fruit, and significant collaboration in fostering a common witness to Jesus Christ.

The grace of praying together is a joyful fruit of the Holy Spirit, and in that Spirit I would like to invite you to join me at St. Andrew's Cathedral, on Friday, November 21, 2014, at

6 pm, for Prayer and Music in the style of Taizé, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Decree on Ecumenism *Unitatis Redintegratio*.

The need for prayer for Christians around the world who face great threats to religious freedom and their very existence is something we share in common.

May the grace of our prayer together be a common witness to all people of the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ✠

"Run Out to Welcome the Pilgrim..."

Excerpt from the CCCB Introductory Material for the 50th Anniversary of the Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism

A significant aspect of pilgrimage is hospitality. Pilgrims relied on the generosity of strangers for shelter, food, drink, directions, conversation, and friendship. The Latin word *perigrini* most often refers to pilgrims, but is sometimes associated with the stranger and the poor. Although Christians are members of the one body of our Lord Jesus Christ, as pilgrims we are also strangers, poor and in need of each other, who walk alongside one another on a common journey.

In the *Rule of St. Benedict* the author instructs the community to run out to welcome the pilgrim. This is more than a passive waiting for a guest but an active and joyous welcome for the guest who is pilgrim, stranger, and the poor. In welcoming the stranger we welcome Christ himself. St. Benedict further instructs the community saying, "First they are to pray together, and then be joined with the kiss of peace." Before any other activity, before even a gesture of friendship, guest and host pray together. ✠



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Read more about the 50th Anniversary of Unitatis Redintegratio on page 21



We “Communio” with Bishop Gary Gordon



The Sisters of St. Ann welcomed Bishop Gary Gordon at Mass and lunch on September 9 at Mount St. Mary Hospital. A special welcome was given to him by his aunt, Sr. Mary Gordon SSA



Parishioners of St. Andrew's Cathedral welcomed their new Bishop with a potluck feast on October 18



Bishop Gary enjoyed the hospitality of the North Island Catholic Communities



Bishop Gordon celebrated Mass and enjoyed traditional activities with parishioners and First Nations Elders at St. Ann's parish in the Cowichan Territory



Bishop Gary Gordon (center), the “Fisher of Many” in Parksville at the Catechists and Youth Ministers workshop



Restorative Justice: A Story

by Connie Dunwoody

Vineland, Ontario, April 12, 2000. A joy-riding teenager runs a stop sign at an extremely high rate of speed. His car smashes into an aged Cadillac containing a trio of women off for a shopping trip. The impact is so hard that all three women perish as the car ‘trips’ and rolls end-over-end, side-to-side, tumbling helplessly as glass breaks and metal twists before being impaled on a Hydro post that was sheared into three pieces by the force of the impact.

My mother died in that car.

Some sorrows never go away. But with the grace of God you bear them more easily, and with the opportunity to forgive the person who caused great harm, you encounter a peace that truly passes understanding.

I met him, the boy who killed my mother. *I held him.* I looked into his eyes and saw boundless shame, endless agony and relentless guilt. I didn’t know what to say, so I simply reached out my arms and hugged him in complete forgiveness. We cried. Together. It’s not at all what societal logic says I should have done. But it’s what my mother would have done.

I wasn’t surprised that I could forgive; I was surprised by how easy it was to do. I wasn’t surprised by the depth of my shock and sorrow; I was surprised by how easy it was to carry. I’m not surprised that I still cry unexpectedly, that I still love, miss and yes, want my Mommy. I am surprised that my tears contain peace.

For me, restorative justice is something I have lived. It was not my own will, my own generosity, my own spirit; it was His. Grace is receiving something you don’t deserve; mercy is offering that grace to someone else; peace is the result. Against the tragedy, a triune hope.

And I am the one Restored. ✠

Inspiring Innovation: Restorative Justice Week

by Bishop Gary Gordon

The Week of Restorative Justice is an opportunity to consider our pastoral participation in the mission of Christ to restore all things to His Father.

“Restoration” and “Justice” are challenging words for those touched by crime – the victims, offenders, families, and communities. They can become entrapped and enraged because the natural solidarity and communion of the human family are hurt and broken.

Certainly an understandable response to violence and injury caused by crime is to respond with some form of counter-violence or retribution, which do not reconcile the conflict that has resulted from the crime.

“Conflict cannot be ignored or concealed. It has to be faced. But if we remain trapped in conflict, we lose our perspective, our horizons shrink and reality itself begins to fall apart. In the midst of conflict we lose our sense of the profound unity of reality.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 226)

Restorative Justice proposes non-violence, making amends for harm done, and restoring harmony and peace by facing squarely the effects of crime for the victims, communities and offenders. It seeks a way forward to a restored peace for all.

Restorative Justice is multifaceted in its application and dynamism but fundamentally has its origins in a principal that unity is greater than conflict. “This principal, drawn from the Gospel, reminds us that Christ has made all things one in Himself: heaven and earth, God and man, time and eternity, flesh and spirit, person and society. Christ is our peace (Eph 2:14).” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 229) ✠

Learn more: www.csc-scc.gc.ca/restorative-justice/003005-2000-eng.shtml

Taking Care of People, No Matter What

by Bishop Gary Gordon

It’s a big question: *Why did you become a priest?*

I’ve been asked this question many times – quite often by perfect strangers on airplanes while travelling around the country. I love the question and never tire of telling the story.

“Boys, we don’t always know why people are down on their luck but we do know that we have to take care of people, no matter what.”

First of all I must give credit where credit is due: my family. Mom and Dad lived the faith and were real missionary disciples. Simple examples were the frequent camping trips all summer. No matter how far out in the bush we were, Dad would stop in the last post of civilization, find the Catholic Church and check out Sunday Mass times. My brother and I would always say, “But Dad, we are two hours away at the campsite!” The response would come back, “So God gives you everything and you don’t want to give an hour or so back. Give your head a shake!” It was simple logic that I could not refute. Of course back in those days Dad was pretty smart, so he would say, “We’ll stop at the gravel pit on the way home and shoot cans with our 22 rifles; I got two boxes of shells for each of you.”

But the real impact of my parents’ example was the payday Friday trips to Chinatown in Vancouver for a meal of Chinese food. A ritual seldom missed, this was a Friday-evening family outing that always included a ‘walkabout’ on Carrall, Pender and Columbia Streets with stops at Pigeon Square (The Cenotaph) and Oppenheimer Park. Dad worked for the railroad and his first jobs were in Gordon-owned hotels downtown. So he knew the streets of the Skid Row area well (there was no Gastown in those days).



The amazing thing was Dad also knew a lot of people down on Skid Row – the people mostly who were not likely to be invited to any classy events in the city. Sometimes it was a little scary, but Dad and Mom’s familiarity with the Skid Row area of the city made my brother and I quite confident and unafraid. Then would come the drive home and Dad would answer the question he knew was in my little head: “Boys, we don’t always know why people are down on their luck but we do know that we have to take care of people, no matter what.”

And in my family on both sides there were priests and religious sisters and so the whole relationship to these vocations was as normal as brushing my teeth: very practical, not particularly pious, but very grounded in the nitty-gritty of peoples’ lives and trying to be faithful missionary disciples.

I’ll share more stories next time of some amazing people that inspired me to set out on an amazing adventure as a missionary disciple. ✠

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

~ Matthew 25:40

Please Note ...

Pastoral Itinerary

November

- 2 **Victoria:** Our Lady of the Rosary Parish – Masses (8:30 and 10:30 am)
- 7 **Vancouver:** BC/Yukon Bishops meetings; Archdiocesan Men's Conference
- 8-13 **Toronto:** Anglican Catholic Dialogue meetings
- 14 **Victoria:** St. Andrew's Cathedral – Mass for deceased bishops, priests, religious (12 noon)
- 15 **Duncan:** Meeting of Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island
- 15-16 **Victoria:** St. Joseph the Worker Parish – Masses (Saturday, 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am and 6 pm)
- 18 **Victoria:** Island Catholic Schools AGM – St. Andrew's Regional High School (7 pm)
- 19 **Victoria:** St. Andrew's Regional High School – Blessing of the new Catholic section of the Library (4 pm)
- 21 **Victoria:** St. Andrew's Cathedral – 50th Anniversary of Vatican II Decree on *Ecumensim/Unitatis Redintegratio*, and Taize Prayers (6 pm)
- 22-23 **Comox:** Christ the King Parish – Masses (Saturday. 5pm; Sunday. 8:30 and 10:30 am)
- 27 **Victoria:** "Bishop's Distinguished Lecture" series – University of Victoria; David Lam Auditorium (7 pm)
- 30 **Victoria:** Mass and pastoral visit, William Head Prison

December

- 3 **Mill Bay:** St. Francis Xavier – Mass in honour of parish feast day (9 am)
- 3 **Victoria:** St. Joseph the Worker Parish – Reconciliation Service (5 pm)
- 4 **Victoria:** Diocesan Finance Committee Meeting
- Shawnigan Lake:** Camp Pringle – Grade 12 Retreat visit
- 6 **Sooke:** St. Rose of Lima – Parish Advent Retreat (11 am – 4 pm)
- 11 **Victoria:** Advent Mass – St. Andrew's Regional High School/Sacred Heart Church (11 am)
- 12 **Victoria:** Queen of Peace Parish – Mass in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (6 pm)
- 13-15 **West Coast and Ahousaht:** Pastoral visit
- 20 **Duncan:** St. Edwards Parish – Mass (5 pm)
- 21 **Lake Cowichan:** St. Louis de Montfort – Mass (8:30 am)
- Duncan:** St. Edward's Parish – Mass (10 am)

Upcoming Events

Miscellany

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

St. Joseph the Worker Parish: 3 – 4:30 pm, Jesus Youth at SJTW Parish invites youth in high school to come out to the Jesus Youth Prayer meeting! Jesus Youth is an international Catholic youth movement with a charismatic spirituality. For more information contact: mr.georgephilip@gmail.com.

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

Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria: Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC) regular meetings with faith sharing, prayers, potluck, Mass or special presentations by expert speakers. Meetings will be at 3:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church at Elk Lake Drive off Royal Oak Exchange and Pat Bay Highway. Please note meeting dates may not fall on First Saturdays of the month; please contact Ben for more information. Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information phone (250) 893-9938 or email Ben Chow at benchow@shaw.ca.

Calendar of Events

November

17 Upstairs section, The Irish Times, Victoria: Theology on Tap. Join other young adults from around the city as they gather to hear Fr. David Hogman speak on the topic of Christian joy. The evening begins at 7 pm. More information at www.totvic.ca.

20 Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria: Annual Christmas Bazaar, 10 am – 3 pm. Welcome to our juried, traditional Christmas Bazaar featuring unique gifts for all, handmade quilts & knitting, Christmas decor, baking, jams and jellies, greeting cards, jewelry & collectibles, quality chocolates, raffle and much more! Free admission; refreshments & hot lunch available. Info: (250) 480-3100 (local 3201).

23 Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford: Brunch with Santa, after the 10:30 am Mass. For more information, contact the office at)250) 478-3482.

27 David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin Building, UVic: 7 pm, 2014 Bishop's Distinguished Lecture *Secular Futures*, with Dr. Charles Taylor CC, GOQ, FRSC, Winner of the Templeton Prize & Kyoto Prize. Free and open to the public. See *advertisement page 21*.

December

1⁴ St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria: Parish Mission, 7 pm each evening. There will be a different and additional morning session on Wednesday morning at 10 am. *The Road to Emmaus*, presented by Deacon Glenn and Linda Harmon include the following topics: *Catholic Christian Identity, Agape Love, Mountain Moving Faith, Forgiveness Is A Gift, Commitment Is A Decision, Community Of Disciples*, and much more. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your relationship with God, your Church and with one another! For more information email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or call (250) 479-7413.

3 St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Victoria: Parish reconciliation, 7pm.

13 The Horseshoe Club (620 Kenneth Street), Victoria: St. Joseph the Worker Men's Breakfast, 8 – 10 am. Guest speaker: Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education, Diocese of Victoria. To register call the parish office at (250) 479.7413, email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or visit the Men's Breakfast website at www.mfaff.org.

13 Church of the Ascension, Parksville: The Church of the Ascension Catholic Women's League Council will hold the annual Mass for the deceased members of our Council. More info: (250) 248-3747. See *story on page 5*.

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

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.

2015

Feb 7

St. Andrew's Cathedral: Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Harrison Ayre, 10 am.

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

Find out more about

Natural Family Planning

Nov 29 | 10 am - Noon
St. Andrew's Cathedral


Learn more about NFP in conformity with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. Linda Henderson RN will provide information about the fundamentals of the Billings Method (BOM). Join us and find out more about this often overlooked beautiful teaching of our Church.

To register email: lhender@shaw.ca

Sponsored by the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Council

VISIT WWW.RCDVICTORIA.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS
Hope to see you there.

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



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Diocesan News & Events



Bishop Gary Supports Students on World Food Day

by Margaret MacIntyre, Society of St. Vincent de Paul

On October 16, 2014, World Food Day, students from Island Catholic Schools and Christ Church Cathedral School participated in walking in their communities across Vancouver Island to focus attention on issues of local and world hunger. In addition to walking and raising awareness, these students held large food drives, contributing much-needed supplies to the Saint Vincent de Paul Social Concern Office and local food banks throughout Vancouver Island.

World Food Day was founded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945, and has been observed on Vancouver Island annually since 2007 as a joint project of Island Catholic Schools and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. This year the theme was Family Farming: Feeding the World, Caring for the Earth, and students learned about food security both at home and around the world. The main message was that food must be available, accessible and used in the best way possible for each child and adult to be healthy and well-nourished.



Bishop Gary and Angela Hudson, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with World Food Day Walk participants

Each school marked this special day in its own unique way. The students of St. Joseph's School, Victoria, were fortunate enough to have Bishop Gary Gordon leading their prayer service and encouraging them on their awareness walk immediately following. St. Andrew's High School participated in a variety of ways: holding a food drive, walking with several of the local elementary schools and helping to unload and store food items at the Social Concern Office. Some of these students joined Christ Church Cathedral School for their assembly and walk through the downtown area to the Social Concern Office on Yates Street where staff members gave them a tour of the food distribution centre and an explanation of services offered. St. Patrick's School collected a generous amount of food and conducted their walk in their local area of Oak Bay. Students carried banners and stopped to read the educational signs posted at stages along the walk. The ten points shown on the signs brought the message home that every person has a right to have food in adequate quantity, quality and variety to meet their energy and nutrient requirements.

In Chemainus, St. Joseph's School students celebrated their learning by drawing pictures, writing poems and composing short essays for a school-sponsored contest about food issues; their donated food went to the local Harvest Food Bank. Queen of Angels School in Duncan hosted special guests from the Ozanam Program in Victoria and students gave food to the Cowichan Basket Society. Food donations collected at John Paul II School in Port Alberni went to the local conference of Saint Vincent de Paul to be distributed to those in need. Members and staff from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul were present at all locations to support the students and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the needy people of Vancouver Island. ✠

Church of the Ascension, Parksville, CWL "Happenings"

by Sandi Digras

The Church of the Ascension Catholic Women's League Council will hold its annual Mass for deceased members of our Council on November 13, 2014. Following Mass celebrated by Fr. Mel Bayron, roses will be deposited into a vase on the altar while our Spiritual chair, Carol Low, reads their names. Following the service we will adjourn to the hall for our Annual General Meeting. This year our President, Tina Hanlon, will step down and her vice-president, Nancy Horsfield, will become president. Our Secretary, Pat Sestan, will also retire and a new member will take her place. We are in a unique position: all spots on the Council are filled, and those members not retiring from the 2013 – 2014 team are standing for re-election. Tina expressed her gratitude to all the members for their support and to her dedicated Council.

Blessing of the New Shrine at Our Lady of Grace Parish on Salt Spring Island

by Catherine Murphy

On Sunday, September 28, 2014, Our Lady of Grace parishioners moved in procession through the early Autumn sunshine from the church to our new outdoor Marian shrine. Our Lady's statue was carried aloft as we

sang Marian hymns and then gathered at the site. Then amidst a sea of blue (our Pastor Fr. Stuart had invited us to wear the Marian colour that day) the Litany of Mary was chanted as the statue of the parish patroness, Our Lady of Grace, was set in the stone grotto's niche.

Two decades of the rosary were prayed: one for the repose of the souls of the deceased people memorialized on the reverse side of the shrine; and one in gratitude for all parishioners, past and present, and pastors, and their intentions.

The project was a labour of love for our parish, towards which many gave of their time, treasure and talent – not the least of which was Bishop Gary, who, while spending some quiet time on Salt Spring Island prior to his Installation, went shoulder to shoulder with other volunteers, helping to complete the landscaping.

The structure was designed (first with a scale model built from the project coordinator's grandson's Lego® blocks!) to withstand our rainforest climate and built from natural stone by local stonemasons. It replaced our old wooden shrine which had weathered beyond repair.

The Shrine has been, and will continue to be, the site of processions, outdoor services and moments of private devotion. Open and accessible to all, the site is popular with visitors and islanders of varied beliefs who choose to spend a quiet moment with Our Lady. Our parish would like to issue a warm welcome to all members of the Diocese of Victoria. If you are coming to Salt Spring, please stop by Our Lady's shrine.

May she shower Graces upon all! ✠

See more pictures on page 24



All Creatures, Great and Small ...

Several parishes around the Diocese participated in Blessing the Animals. Here is a sampling of photos and memories!

Raining Cats and Dogs with a Hare’s Chance of Precipitation

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

The rain held off until after the event, but if you happened to be driving by the Blessed Blondin Garden at Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation on the morning of October 4, 2014, you might have thought it had been raining cats and dogs. Over 70 pets were blessed as Greater Victoria celebrated the bond between person and pet at the First Annual Blessing of the Pets, an event organized as part of a celebrated Catholic tradition associated with St. Francis of Assisi to raise awareness and funding for the Foundation and its Caring Hearts Fund. Along with the programs the fund supports at Mount St. Mary Hospital; programs such as Music Therapy, Pastoral Care and Pet Therapy.

The event brought great joy to the residents of Mount St. Mary Hospital. Many came down to the garden to watch, some hopeful for a little chaos and havoc but much to their cheeky dismay, all of the animals were on their best behaviour. Some residents enjoyed a snuggle and nestle, others offered a friendly pat on the head of a welcoming furry head; many watched and smiled as so many people came together to share their love for God’s creatures great and small.

It also brought me great enjoyment too. I was happy to welcome everyone, and to introduce Frater Dan to recite a prayer for the dogs, cats and the one bunny in attendance by way of a group blessing. After the blessing the crowd formed two lines, one each in front of Frater Dan and Brother Carlos who were each dressed in traditional brown habits and white corded belts. The morning was full of smiles, laughter and even a few tears as attendees had their big pets, little pets, dearly departed pets, photographs of pets and some furry resemblance stuffed toys individually blessed, a custom in keeping with the practice of St. Francis of Assisi’s respect for animals and celebration of the unity of all creation. One by one the cats, dogs and even the bunny were blessed, each receiving a personalized ‘blessing certificate’ to commemorate the event.

In total, twelve expert exhibitors took part: BC Guide Dogs, Broken Promises, Dr. Patrick Benloulou, Grandpaw’s Treats, Mucky Mutt Pet Salon, Pacific Animal Therapy Society, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Fish Guys Aquarium Maintenance, Royal Canadian Navy Museum, West Coast Sassy Cats, Your Pet Pals and Howells Pet Food Delivered, all to provide information, advice and even some nuzzles with puppies up for adoption.

Thanks to Baby Dog/Beast Dog, Capital Regional District, City of Victoria, Dr. Julia Harrison, Health Products for Pets; Modern Dog Magazine; Peace of Mind Petcare; Pets West; Purina; Telus; Treasured Friends and Victoria Butterfly Gardens who contributed some exciting silent auction items and ensured everyone who took part received a pet-related goody bag full of wonderful treats, toys and much, much more.

A donation box is set up in the Foundation office if you would like one of these wonderful cat or dog themed goodie bags. Call 250.480.3138 to have one put aside for your favorite feline or canine. A donation will be gratefully accepted. ✂



Blessing of the Animals at Our Lady of Grace

by Catherine Murphy

On Saturday, October 4, 2014, we held our annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals at Our Lady of Grace Parish. Over the years, we have had an assortment of domestic and farm animals assemble for their blessing. This year was no exception, as we had an assortment of canine companions as well as sisters Blanca and Brie, a pair of Alpine goat doelings. Our Pastor, Fr. Ian Stuart, as a member of the Franciscan Third Order, brought a new depth of focus to the service this year. In the spirit of St. Francis’ love and concern for creation, Fr. Stuart invited us to pray for exploited beasts of burden as well as abused animals everywhere, and invited the people present to name and remember their dear animal friends who have passed on.

Then atmosphere was generally warm and lighthearted, and the animals curious about each other but generally well behaved. There was, however, a moment of comic relief when one of the goats decided to sample some of the floral offerings left over from the previous week’s Marian shrine blessing! ✂



Meanwhile, at Sacred Heart Parish ...



8 Missions in 10 Days: A Pilgrimage to the California Missions

by Denise Buckley, Group Leader

In late September, a group of 29 from the Dioceses of Victoria, Vancouver and Calgary journeyed to the beautiful Missions of California, via a six-day cruise from Vancouver to San Diego, and then spent 10 days visiting eight of the 21 beautiful Missions of California. Under the spiritual guidance of Fr. John Laszczyk, our Chaplain, we celebrated Mass in all of the Missions we visited – as well as attending public Masses at the Los Angeles and San Francisco Cathedrals.

Our first stop was Basilica San Diego de Alcala, the first of the great California Missions and the Mother of the Alta California Missions, which marks the birthplace of Christianity in the far West. It is California’s first church.

Mission San Gabriel Arcángel echoes the decision of Blessed Padre Junipero Serra to find an establishment midway between San Diego and San Carlos Borromeo. Thus, the fourth Mission had its beginning on September 8, 1771, near the present city of Montebello. The Mission is one of the best-preserved of all the Missions, with its picturesque buttresses and lofty walls. In the tower are six bells of heavy design dating from 1795 to the 1830s.

The Santa Barbara Mission was the tenth of the California Missions to be founded by the Spanish Franciscans. It was established on the Feast of St. Barbara, December 4, 1786. Initially, three unpretentious adobe churches were constructed on the grounds before the fourth and present church was built in 1820.

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa is a Spanish mission founded in 1772 by Fr. Serra in the present-day city of San Luis Obispo and is named after Saint Louis of Anjou, the bishop of Toulouse. The Mission church is unusual in its design in that its combination of belfry and vestibule is found nowhere else among the California missions. The main nave is short and narrow (as is the case with other mission churches), but at San Luis Obispo there is a secondary nave of almost equal size situated to the right of the altar, making this the only “L”-shaped mission church among all of the California missions.

Aptly dedicated to the patron saint of the lost, San Antonio de Padua Mission is tricky to find, even with a detailed Central California map. Our driver and tour guide had never been there, but we found this haven of peace and contemplation exactly where you’d least expect it – smack in the middle of a military reserve, wedged between prized vineyards of the Santa Lucia Highlands. Yet this remote spot has served as a spiritual retreat ever since July 14, 1771, when Fray Serra held Mass beneath the valley’s stately oak trees

Mission Carmel (San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo): Local Ohlone Costanoan people, who had little experience with stone architecture, built the Carmel mission in 1773 - 1779 when soldiers from the nearby Monterey *presidio* (military base) put them to work. The mission’s Spanish stonemasons should have consulted their Ohlone builders about the local terrain first: earthquakes ruined the sandstone church three times. The current mission was reconstructed in the 1930s along with a mission museum, which features a recreation of Fray Serra’s modest cell (once you’ve seen his board bed, his urge to roam makes perfect sense).

Next we visited Mission San Juan Bautista. Gregorian chants echo through the cloisters, where leather-bound volumes of heavenly music are displayed in Spanish marquetry cabinets. Today the music is an MP3 soundtrack, but otherwise not much has changed since church choirs first raised praise to the wooden rafters. Intrepid padres are credited with founding California missions in 1797, but the historic convent of Franciscan sisters still adjoining this mission bears testimony to the spiritual leadership of Californian women.

The Mission San Francisco de Asis was founded on June 29, 1776. The settlement was named for St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order, but was also commonly known as ‘Mission Dolores’ owing to the presence of a nearby creek named Arroyo de los Dolores, or ‘Creek of Sorrows’. Mission Dolores is the oldest intact building in the City of San Francisco and the only intact Mission Chapel in the chain of 21 established under the direction of Fr. Serra.

The distinct privilege of retracing the steps of the great Franciscan Missionaries (Blessed Junipero & Co. trekked to found these original settlements on foot!!) gave us all a sense of the deep and abiding faith of these determined men. Further, it was a time of realization at how much sacrifice was a part of their everyday lives. Our group marvelled at the beauty and simplicity of the renovated sites and the dedication of the volunteers who were present and so kind to us at each site. ✚



Manna Gathering: Fresh Insights into the Heart of the Gospel

by Jamie Zwicker

Jean Allen is living the Joy of the Gospel. Based in Victoria, BC, she has expertly crafted a series of reflections based on the Gospels of the Church’s three-year cycle. Called *Manna Gathering: Fresh Insights into the Heart of the Gospel*, these reflections gently and encouragingly invite the reader to consider seriously how they might engage with the Gospel of a particular Sunday.

Manna Gathering began as a small gathering of people in the BC interior, where Allen gave a series of presentations. People from other small groups requested copies of her presentations so she finally created a blog. Over the ensuing years, her blog traffic grew to include Canada, United States, Mexico, Australia, Philippines, Germany and Ireland.

“When we read the Gospels,” Allen said recently, “it’s easy to read them from the point of view of modern day culture and some scriptures are very confusing according to those perceptions. I wanted to search out the cultural traditions and common understandings prevalent in the time of Christ. This often changes the whole tone of the Gospel message.”

In all the reflections contained in this book, Allen’s straightforward writing style takes the reader on a journey. She starts with a simple observation, question or reaction to the reading. Then, similar to a chef peeling an onion, she slowly reveals layer after layer, until the reader is convinced Allen wrote this reflection just for them! But rather than leaving the reader threatened, she simply suggests and invites – and makes the desired outcome not only seem possible, but probable.

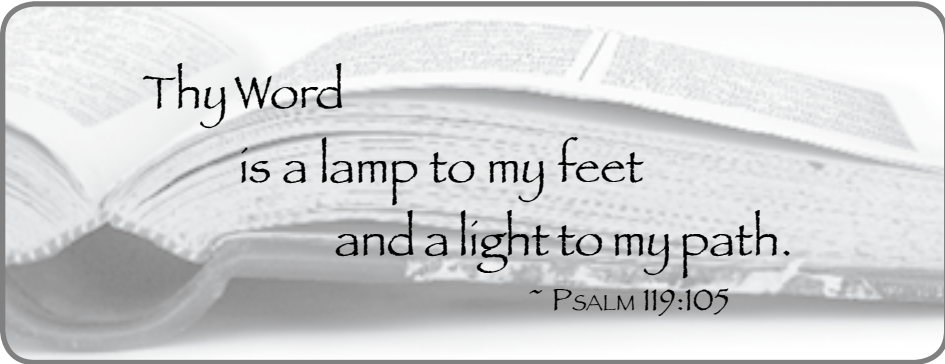
Allen’s sense of humour often comes through her writing, but this isn’t humour for humour’s sake, or to make light of the situation. Rather, it is meant only to encourage the reader to relax and view the question from another angle and to delve deeper on the little things. Or, as Allen says, “to open little doorways.”

Allen is convinced her ministry is to build bridges to new ways of seeing. Her honesty is forthright, and her simplicity is refreshingly welcoming. She is able to sift gracefully between the wheat and the chaff, ensuring that we are presented with a tiny grain of wisdom.

In recent years I have looked forward every week to receiving an electronic note that said, “a new reflection has been posted.” I would shut my classroom door in anticipation of the new reflection. Though it might only be a short five-minute read, I would come out refreshed and renewed, absolutely eager to read the Gospel with new fervor! I would smile to myself as I heard the same reading proclaimed the following Sunday, knowing that I knew something of the small pearl that it contained.

So, is what Allen says the final word on the Gospels? No, absolutely not! They will forever be interpreted anew. But from a personal perspective, I can almost guarantee that you will find and live the Joy of the Gospel as a result of reading and re-reading these treasures! ✚

St. Joseph the Worker parish will be hosting a book launch of Manna Gathering on the weekend of November 15 and 16 only. The book will be available after each Mass for only \$30 – a considerable saving over the Internet cost.



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The Future Role of St. Joseph's

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

St. Joseph's General Hospital has been proudly serving the community and the people of the Comox Valley and North Vancouver Island for over 100 years. Over those 100-plus years of service, we have continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of those we serve.

With the opening of the new North Island hospital in the Comox Valley projected for 2017, the acute care services currently provided at St. Joseph's General Hospital will transfer to the new Comox Valley Hospital, owned and operated by Island Health. Remaining on the St. Joseph's site will be 125 residential care beds situated at The Views, including four hospice beds scheduled to open at The Views by the spring of 2014.

This is a big change for our organization and for the community. With endorsement of Bishop Gary Gordon, we see this as an opportunity to think about what role St. Joseph's might have in the future of the mission of serving the community that started with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto back in 1913. Bishop Gordon is supportive of exploring how the St. Joseph's site may be used to continue to meet non-hospital based health and seniors' care needs for the community and region in an affordable, sustainable manner.

In order to have a thoughtful, well-managed approach to exploring the future role for St. Joseph's, a Task Force was established under the Board of Directors. The Task Force has been asked by the Bishop and the Board of Directors to examine the needs of the community and how St. Joseph's may be able to address



those needs within established parameters. The guiding principles for the future role planning are:

- The ongoing work of St. Joseph's will be inspired by the healing Ministry of Jesus Christ and will bear witness to the Good News of the Gospel as expressed in the Catholic faith based tradition.
- Key to Catholic health care are the core values of dignity, respect, justice, compassion and excellence. Therefore, it must be clear that these values will benefit and support the future role.
- Improve the wellbeing of our communities by addressing an important community and/or regional need, focusing on health care and care for seniors.
- Particularly, consider the needs of the poor and vulnerable.
- Work in partnership with the broader community it serves (including the surrounding municipalities, Island Health, Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District, Comox Valley Hospice Society and Glacier View Lodge).
- Consider the needs and aspirations of the staff who will work at St. Joseph's in its future role.
- As St. Joseph's values the principle of serving by invitation, the future role needs to be confirmed /supported by the community.

St. Joseph's is engaging the community and seeking feedback through a short online survey. Further information and access to the survey is available via the following weblink: www.sjghcomox.ca/. ✂

Building Hope in Sooke

by Margaret McIntyre, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is proud to announce the completion of a joint project in Sooke which will provide affordable living space for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth (19 – 31). The Hope Centre, located at 6750 West Coast Road, is the fruit of a partnership between the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island (SSVP) and the M'akola Housing Society. SSVP has owned the property for more than 25 years and their Sooke thrift store was originally on this site before it moved temporarily to allow for construction of Hope Centre. The Society donated the land and M'akola Housing provided an equal amount of cash which enabled them to bring their mutual vision of providing affordable rental housing for local singles to fruition. The international SSVP mandate is "to serve in hope" and this inspired the name of the new centre. M'akola are the landlords of the Hope Centre apartments and they will be filling vacancies in the building over the next couple of months.

The Hope Centre is a four-story building. The ground floor houses an expanded thrift store which has now moved back home again into over 350 square meters of space. There are 25 housings units (18 studio suites and 7 one-bedroom suites) as well as shared laundry, a lounge and decks for residents. On the third floor SSVP has a Social Concern Office which will be providing outreach programming to local residents and the joint use, with M'akola Housing Society, of a 1,200 square foot meeting space which will be available for educational and mixed use services. Currently, SSVP is interacting with Sooke community agencies to discern the best use of this space. The second floor is also home to the Ahimsa Sooke Yoga and Wellness Centre which combines with the not-for-profit Sooke Therapeutic Yoga Society to make yoga accessible to everyone in the local area. Hope Centre residents will be able to participate on a donation basis.

Another source of hope for SSVP is the revival of a dormant Conference at St. Rose of Lima parish. The completion of the Hope Centre acted as an impetus to get the Conference up and running again, and already several members of the parish have shown an interest in serving the needs of the Sooke community by becoming a member of SSVP. St. Rose of Lima Pastor Fr. Mike Favero has been invaluable in this renewal process.

Just as Hope Centre reached completion, the Society received more good news about a SSVP housing project that has been in the works for several years. Funding has been secured to start construction of Rosalie's Village in the spring of 2015. Rising from the belief that "it takes a village to raise a child," Rosalie's Village will be a 42-unit housing project for female youth with children and older women who are experiencing homelessness or who are at-risk of homelessness. It will include an infant/toddler daycare with capacity for 37 children, with priority given to residents of Rosalie's Village. In addition to the residents and daycare facilities, there will be a Social Concern Office. This office will provide space for support required by the tenants of the building and space for the resident support worker and Women's Day Program.

It is not Advent yet, but the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is anticipating a season of Hope!

Please visit www.isupportrosalies.ca to get current information about the development of Rosalie's Village or to donate to this much-needed project. ✂



Pornography Hurts Everyone

by Christa Grillmair, Communications Chair, CWL Diocese of Victoria

During the month of October, the 16 CWL Councils of the Diocese of Victoria are standing up against pornography by wearing white ribbons and by writing letters and sending postcards to Government to urge them to continue their efforts to bring stronger penalties to people who commit these offenses against children.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) has a long history in standing up against child pornography. In 2003, they presented a Resolution to the Government of Canada urging them to expedite the implementation of a national strategy to eliminate computer-based child pornography and to increase funding to enable law enforcement agencies to enforce this national strategy.

A few days ago, police in Ontario arrested 60 people who will collectively face almost 250 charges in a probe into the sexual exploitation of children over the internet. Although it is illegal to produce, distribute or possess child pornography in Canada, it is increasingly acceptable, accessible, and freely available. Today, any

child with unrestricted internet access is just a mouse click away from viewing, either intentionally or accidentally, sexually explicit material. Pornography is one of the biggest threats to our children's online safety.

In May 2004, the Government of Canada launched the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet (NSPCSEI) and partnered with cybertip.ca whose role is to operate the national tip line and conduct public awareness and education. In February 2009, the Government of Canada announced the renewal of the Strategy.

We hope by mailing the postcards and encouraging members of the public to wear the white ribbons we will remind everyone that pornography hurts everyone. ✂



Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria Prepares to Celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2015

by Ben Pires, Member, 50th Anniversary Committee

Got Photos?

A paper cut-out grape vine, with photos capturing personal memories at Sacred Heart Church in Saanich, will soon adorn the church's circular interior walls. It will be part of the year-long observance of the 50th anniversary of the First Mass, which will be celebrated at the Nelthorpe Street location on September 5, 2015.

The faith community is requesting parishioners, past and present, and anyone else to start scouring their photo collections for their favorite – preferably candid and action – photos for the celebration's Fond Memories on the Vine project.

Those who would like to share their personal memories, through 4x6 photos, should bring their photos to the parish or mail them to Sacred Heart Church, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, V8X 2A1.

Please place captions and the dates the photos were taken on the back of the photos, and provide a name and address if you want the photos returned.

The vine will have sections for each decade, from 1965 to 2015, with photos posted on the section corresponding to the decade in which they were taken.

The vine theme stems from John 15:5 – 7: *I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch – and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you will get it.* ✠

'Sacred Heart' Hymn Contest Unveiled

The Sacred Heart faith community in Saanich, BC has initiated a "Sacred Heart" hymn-writing competition as part of its year-long celebration leading to the 50th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at its church at Nelthorpe Street on September 5, 1965.

The competition is focusing on contemporary Sacred Heart hymns that would resonate with today's youth – an anniversary legacy for the benefit of our youth – and could be: warm, welcoming processional hymns; meditative hymns for communion; and, rousing, joyous recessional hymns.

The composition should be catchy, easy to follow and remember, and the pitch range should not be too high nor too low so that no one is excluded from singing.

The competition is open to all. The deadline for submissions, which should include lyrics and music, is April 24, 2015. Entries can be sent by mail to Sacred Heart Church, 4040 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, V8X 2A1; or submitted by email to sacredheartvictoriabc@gmail.com. Winning entries will be determined by mid-June. While the main reward will, of course, be blessings from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, there will be monetary prizes to be announced later.

For more information on the competition, and to get an application form, send an mail to: sacredheartvictoriabc@gmail.com

Existing hymns to the Sacred Heart include: *Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart of Jesus Meek and Mild; Jesus Heart All Burning; Sacred Heart! O Love Divine; Sweet Heart of Jesus.* ✠

Button Blanket Program

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

The Button Blanket Program is a cultural safety project involving partnerships with and guidance from the Aboriginal community through relationship building, a cornerstone to Aboriginal culture that centers on the creation of a button blanket.

This program provides education on cultural safety and incorporates it into the relational practice of the Maternal Child Unit staff through a systematic, planned approach. It enables and encourages a culture of quality and safety that nurtures and fosters a culture where respect for the dignity of every individual is demonstrated. The program incorporates a change in practice to alter the lens through which staff views Aboriginal people and in doing so, provides culturally safe care and improved health outcomes for all Aboriginal children and families touched by the Maternal Child Department at St. Joseph's.

The project was funded by the Vancouver Island Children's Health Foundation and Success by Six. The button blanket has been assembled in the Maternal Child Department where Elders, staff and families have engaged in this project, creating the blanket and adding buttons.

As part of ongoing education, a gathering was held with one of the Elders to look at health through an indigenous lens, involving maternity staff and medical staff. Additionally, a Cultural Safety Conference was held in December 2013 and a gathering took place in October 2014 to present the findings from interviews with mothers from the Comox Valley and North Island area. Education is ongoing.

At the end of the project the blanket will be gifted to the Maternal Child Unit in recognition of the work they have accomplished. ✠



Many Activities Planned for Celebrations

The Sacred Heart faith community kicked off a year-long celebration in September for the 50th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at the church at Nelthorpe Street on September 5, 1965. The theme for the celebration is: *We are the community. We are the church.*

The faith community started publishing a weekly bulletin, inserted in the parish bulletin, announcing the various activities for the year and includes snippets about the parish and its history, a series on the Catholic Church in the six continents to promote better understanding of the parish's increasing cultural diversity, and profiles of the parish's pastors ever since the Sacred Heart Mission was started in 1936 on Palmer Road.

The weekly 50th Anniversary bulletin can be read online at www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary.

Some of the activities planned for the year include:

- Portrait taking of parishioners for a special 50th anniversary directory and photo album in the first two weeks of November;
- Talent Show in January (date and place to be announced);
- Feeding the Homeless and Needy of Victoria in early spring (date and place to be announced);
- Lenten Mission with Fr. Roger Keeler from March 28 – March 30, inclusive;
- Fashion Show on April 25, 2015;
- Living Rosary, Saturday May 9, from 11 am at the Sacred Heart Church forecourt with participants standing in the shape of a rosary and praying each decade in a different language, such as Polish, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese;
- Strawberry Tea on Sunday June 7, 2015, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall with tea service and strawberries topped with whipped cream and a goodie bag for the children; and,
- 50th Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Gary Gordon, followed by a Dinner and Dance Gala on September 5, 2015.

The faith community is inviting all former parishioners, particularly those who were baptized, and/or confirmed, and/or received their First Communion at the church at Nelthorpe Street to visit the church during the year and to attend the various celebrations. Lists of those names are posted inside the church

We welcome all visitors to attend these celebrations and sign the Guest Book! ✠



Men's Faith & Fellowship Breakfast

by Chris Burke

Conversations in Faith with Fellowship

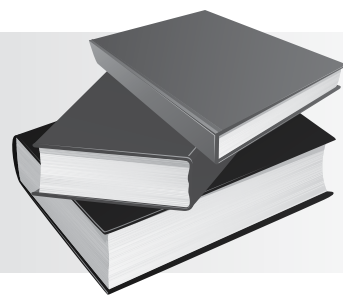
On Saturday October 4, 2014, a group of 30 Catholic men came together to discuss their faith and the need for men (who are also fathers, husbands, grandfathers and brothers) to come together for fellowship and conversations in faith.

Generally speaking, we acknowledge men do not share their faith easily; in fact they have difficulty engaging in deep personal conversations, period. We realize that we do indeed need to have conversations in faith and fellowship about our lives as men, husbands and fathers, and we want to be able to engage each other in dialogue and trust.

These opinions were confirmed by the various men in attendance following brief presentations by Fr. William Hann and me. The men unanimously offered their support to create and maintain a monthly gathering of men for fellowship, and to have conversations in and about their faith. These gatherings will be held on the second Saturday of each month beginning December 13, 2014, from 8 – 10 am. The first hour will be devoted to fellowship and breakfast, followed by an interactive presentation and open discussions.

Mr. Glen Palahicky, the Diocese of Victoria's new Director of Religious Education, will be the guest speaker at the December 13 gathering. For more information or to register to attend (there is limited seating), call the parish office at 250.479.7413, email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca, or visit the Men's Breakfast website at www.mfaff.org.

We look forward to seeing you there. ✠



What's New in Education?

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

In my role as a superintendent over the last number of years, I have received comments about classrooms of 20 and 30 years ago. People question what is the point of all the changes that have been happening in education, does it really make a difference, is it necessary, and why can't we just do things the way it was done when I went to school. Dr. Anthony Muhammad, who was a presenter at last year's Catholic Educators' Conference in Vancouver, summed it up very well. He said that change is essential in all industries if they are to remain successful and at the top of their game. Would any of us want a doctor or dentist using old equipment or methods? What technology company would remain stagnant to stay on the cutting edge? Yes, some methods and strategies in any industry remain tried and true but all industries must change to remain effective.

So what's new in education?

The Ministry of Education of British Columbia in the new BC Education Plan states:

Yet an education system designed in the very different circumstances of an earlier century can't possibly always meet the challenges students face – both now and in the future. In the social, economic and technological environment of the past, change was much more gradual than it is today. Many of the opportunities and jobs we're preparing our students for don't even exist today. So while we enjoy a strong and stable system, we need a more nimble and flexible one that can adapt more quickly to better meet the needs of 21st century learners. We've all got a stake in preparing our young people for success in a changing world. Our challenge is clear. The world has changed and it will continue to change, so the way we educate students needs to continually adapt.

The focus of the new plan is to provide more choice for students (called Personalized Learning). Check out the ministry website (www.bcedplan.ca) for more information on the BC Ed Plan.

The brain research that has and is taking place provides current information so that educators know far more about how the brain functions. Based on the research on neuroplasticity and neurodiversity, teachers have a better understanding of

what is essential when planning lessons in order to help students develop and sustain short and long term memory, as well as understanding. Drill practice is still essential but other practices must also be in place if a student is to understand and retain information. Classroom lessons cannot and should not be taught in the same way they were when we who are adults were in school.

'Self-regulation' is another new term in education. Self-regulation is "the ability to stay calm, focused and alert;" it is "regulation of the self by the self." Additionally, "the better a child can self-regulate the better he/she can rise to the challenge of mastering ever more complex skills and concepts." We know that children's brains are developing differently. We do not see children playing in the street as much; children are involved in far more organized play versus free play than in the past. The use of technology from a very young age is affecting how the brain develops. Much of what is the "norm" in today's society is and has affected the development of self-regulation in children. Parents and schools must assist children in learning how to self-regulate. Teachers have an added role and must coach students, that is be co-regulators, in order to assist students in becoming self-regulators. Parents also must take an active role in teaching their children about self-regulation. Everything from the physical environment to nutrition, sleep, and emotional and cognitive skills, all impact self-regulation. Visit www.self-regulation.ca/ for more information on this topic.

Another hot topic in education is 'digital citizenship'. Technology is here to stay and teachers and parents must help students to understand what digital citizenship is all about. It is "the norms of appropriate, responsible technology use." Educators and parents may want to check out the website www.digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html; it comments on nine elements of digital citizenship. At the same time, are we as adults practicing/role modelling digital citizenship in our own lives?

The above are only a few of the new trends and initiatives in education. Educators must stay abreast of the changes and discern how best to move forward to support the students in their care. School leaders must be able to transform their local school culture so that all stakeholders support educational change in order that their schools can be powerful learning environments. ✚

Welcome Back!

by Andrew J. Keleher, Principal, St. Andrew's Regional High School

Welcome back to another school year at St. Andrew's Regional High School. To think that we are already six weeks in at the time of this writing is simply an indication of how fast the year flies by. We are excited to have the students back in classes growing in their faith and academics. It was nice to welcome the grade 8 students to St. Andrew's last month. They were able to meet friends, get to know their TAG teacher, and sample a few classes, too.

From there, the whole student body returned, led by the enthusiastic members of the Class of 2015. At our opening assembly, our Student Council co-presidents, Seamus Ryan-Lloyd and Grace Neeson, greeted everyone in the many languages of St. Andrew's. This year, we embark on the theme of 'Live the Joy of the Gospel'. Seeing everyone back at school is an example of that joy and we all look forward to many other instances as the year rolls along.

I would like to extend a warm St. Andrew's welcome to our new Bishop, the Most Reverend Gary Gordon. I had the pleasure of meeting Bishop Gary (with the 'Diocesan Dog', Merlin) at administrators' meetings in August and I was also on hand at his Installation. Bishop Gary is certainly at one with the people and we look forward to many good years with our new shepherd. Welcome, Bishop Gary!

Welcome, as well, to our new Superintendent Mrs. Beverly Pulyk. Mrs. Pulyk is a strong supporter of Catholic schools and is taking her time meeting many new people. Mrs. Pulyk attended our Local School Council meeting in August and her attendance was appreciated by all the council members. Bev, welcome to Victoria and to Island Catholic Schools!

By now we have held our annual Meet the Teacher Night where many parents had a chance to meet their childrens' teachers. We have also recently held our Honour Pin Assembly where we recognized students' academic achievement over the course of the last school year. A number of parents were on hand for that event, too. Whether new to the school or a returning parent, it is always nice when parents visit to talk with us.

Our opening Mass this year was held in Sacred Heart Church during the first week of October. Fr. Paul Szczur continues to serve as our school pastor and my thanks are extended to Fr. Paul for celebrating Mass with us on that day.

Congratulations to our Senior Boys Soccer team. The boys recently took home a bronze medal in the BC Catholics tournament in Vancouver. The team played well together and individually acted as fine ambassadors for St. Andrew's. Thank you to Mr. Mark Cristante and Mr. Kevin Mennie for sharing their expertise with the team. Up next – a chance to take home the Island title.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught his disciples about conflict resolution and how to go about forgiving others who sin against us. In that vein, we pray for an end to conflicts around the world, especially the violence in Syria and Iraq. Let us pray for peace in such difficult circumstances. Our students are becoming informed of the suffering that exists in other parts of the world and so it is through prayer and dialogue that we can assist them in understanding these conflicts.

To all of our students, welcome back to St. Andrew's. I wish you a great year full of God's love and the pursuit of academic excellence. Welcome back to the staff of St. Andrew's, a wonderful and hardworking group of individuals who care a great deal for their students. Finally, to you, the parents, thank you for all you do for us. Welcome back to another great year of learning. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

God Bless You. ✚

Long Service Recognized

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

At the Diocesan Schools' Conference held on September 25 & 26, 2014, staff employed by Island Catholic Schools for 10, 20 or 30 years were recognized for their long service, dedication and commitment. Congratulations are extended to the following people:

10 Years

Jacquie Cleaves, Michele Sanders, Cathie Fowlie, John Mennie, Deb Renko, Alia Zawacki, Deb Cadwallader, Cindy Barber, Rob Dery

20 Years

Margaret Blaney, Susie Nute (Photo Top Right)

30 Years

Simon DiCatri (Photo Bottom Right) ✚



Pulling With Both Oars at Queen of Angels School

by Victoria Robinson, Marketing Coordinator, Queen of Angels

Autumn is here, and school has officially commenced. The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time and there is much to be excited about. Queen of Angels, under the direction of our new principal Mrs. Kathy Korman, has the promise of enjoying a successful school year. Along with many changes and additions to our staff, we also welcome many new families into our school community as enrollment numbers increased significantly to 428.

As we settle into the school year, new clubs are formed, while existing ones are strengthened with the tremendous enthusiasm of our students and staff. We embrace our newest activity at school ‘The Queen of Angels Rowing Club’ with open oars!

With the rowing season already underway, our 31 rowers are starting to get their ‘sea legs’. We are blessed to practice at an idyllic setting in Maple Bay, with a spectacular body of water on which to row, great equipment, and passionate, dedicated coaches. It is easy to see why this superior sport has taken off so well for our Middle School students.

Rowing is something that often creates lifelong friendships and helps students to become a part of something that is bigger than themselves. We are offering a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn the importance of discipline while having a lot of fun on the water! Without a doubt we are proud of our team spirit, and along with the combined efforts of our coaches and athletes, we look forward to taking part in our first Regatta in April, 2015.

We believe the greatest gift we can bestow upon our students is to create an outstanding school atmosphere, which will leave an enduring impression on

their time here. We continue to work on making memories everyday. 2015 marks an exciting milestone: the 50th Anniversary of Education at Queen of Angels. In honour of this major Anniversary we are planning a celebration May 15 and 16, 2015. We will be taking this opportunity to reflect on the history of Queen of Angels and share the remembrances of those who were present during the development of our school.

We look forward to celebrating with you the achievements of the past 50 years. ✂



St. Joseph’s Chemainus Students Get Warm Welcome

by Bern Muller, Principal, St. Joseph’s Chemainus
Photos by Warren Goulding

The Welcome Back BBQ has become an annual event in the Chemainus community and is a very popular gathering to kick off the new school year. This year the event also marked the 50th year students have begun a new school year at St. Joseph’s.

Community sponsors included Island Farms and Dairyland. Barbecued salmon (generously provided by the people of the Halalt First Nation) as well as hamburgers and hotdogs (prepared by the local Rotary Club) fed almost 300 people who attended. Live musical entertainment was kindly provided by Rebecca and Raymond Gourlay, and Sarah Sorgiovani.

We look forward to another fabulous school year with teachers, staff, students and parents. Welcome back! ✂



St. Patrick’s School – Growing in Faith and Numbers!

by Deanne Paulson, Principal, St. Patrick’s School

We are truly blessed with the appointments of Fr. Alfred Alilio and Deacon Harrison Ayre to our school parish. They have shown a keen interest in being very involved in the spiritual and social life of the school community, from celebrating our opening school Mass to attending our welcoming barbecue and being a supportive presence in classrooms. Welcome, Fr. Al and Deacon Harrison!

Our community has been enriched with the registration of 44 new families this fall. Some were already our neighbours, whereas others have come from as far away as Europe! Each new family adds its uniqueness and gifts to enrich our already vibrant and diverse community.

We had an amazing turnout for our opening barbecue and are looking forward to equally supportive numbers at our adult auction night on November 14, 2014. To ease the transition to their new school and foster an environment of success, all new students have been given reading assessments by the school-based team to determine that appropriate supports are in place. New students are showing Irish Spirit by supporting the recent parish bazaar and by running with the school cross-country team.

Go St. Pat’s! ✂



Having fun with Fr. Al and Deacon Harrison

For more information about Island Catholic Schools, visit our website:

www.cisdv.bc.ca



St. Joseph's School, Victoria Celebrates

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools

Phase One of the Catholic Schools Plan was completed this past summer. On October 3, 2014, the weather cooperated so that a variety of people could gather outside the school to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new wing at St. Joseph's School in Victoria. Mr. Simon Di Castri, Principal of the school and Master of Ceremonies for the celebration, welcomed everyone to the event. Fr. William Hann, School Chaplain and Pastor for St. Joseph the Worker Parish, led everyone in an opening prayer. Following this, I was privileged to thank the Strategic Planning Committee, Diocesan Finance Committee, Board of Directors, Durwest Construction and Garyali Architects, End of the Roll

Carpets, City Spaces Consultants, pastors as well as parents, staff, students and parishioners of St. Joseph's for their dedication, time and commitment in seeing to the successful completion of the project.

Bishop Gary Gordon was present for the celebration. He recruited four students to help him carry the holy water as he walked the perimeter of the building to bless the school. He also blessed everyone present and then challenged the students that what they do inside the school is really what is most important. The blessing was followed by acknowledging the Sisters of St. Ann for being instrumental in



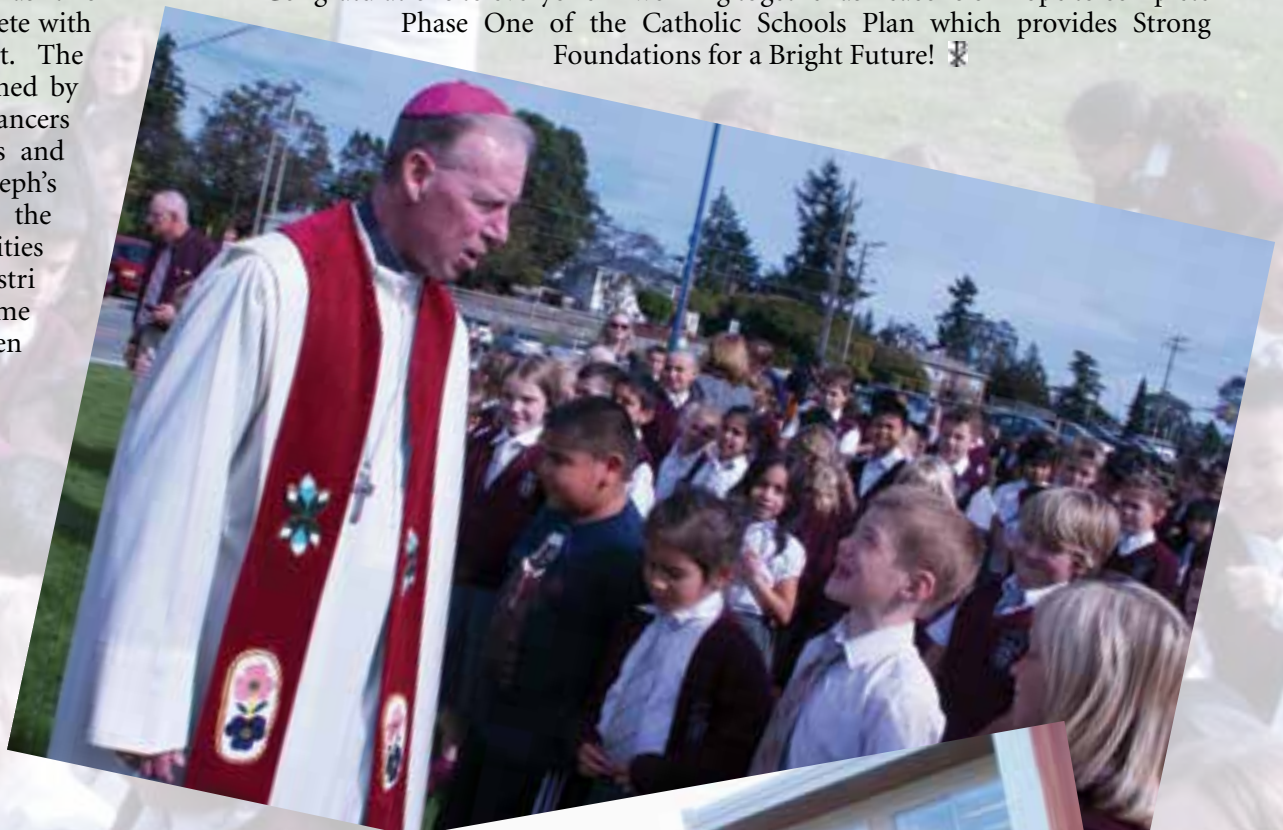
ates Grand Opening of New Wing

Catholic Education as far back as the mid-1800s and for their support with this project. As such, the Learning Commons (library/computer room) was formally dedicated in appreciation of the Sisters of St. Ann. Sisters Joyce Harris, Judi Morin and Frieda Raab were present for the Dedication.

A celebration such as this could only be complete with student involvement. The guests were entertained by a group of Irish dancers and all the students and staff sang the St. Joseph's school song. Near the close of the festivities Mr. Simon Di Castri opened up a 1980 Time Capsule that had been

located in a wall of the school – how times have changed! The afternoon ended with the Grade 7s and Garyali Architects providing guided tours. The students had fun as they had a chance to meet and play with 'Monsignor' Merlin, Bishop Gordon's dog.

Congratulations to everyone in working together as Beacons of Hope to complete Phase One of the Catholic Schools Plan which provides Strong Foundations for a Bright Future! ✠



Focus on Youth

VIU Nanaimo Mass

by Fr. Dean Henderson, UVic/Camosun Chaplain

Vancouver Island University (VIU) faculty Dr. Oscar Clemotte, Richard Dunstan and five Nigerian students and I gathered on October 18, 2014, to celebrate perhaps the first Mass on that campus. The sense of gratitude for God's goodness in planting sacramental seeds of Catholic mission for the 20,000 students was deep.

With the arrival of four Catholic Christian Outreach missionaries on the UVic campus God is inspiring campus mission expansion in the Diocese. Plans are underway to establish monthly Catholic gatherings this academic year. ✠



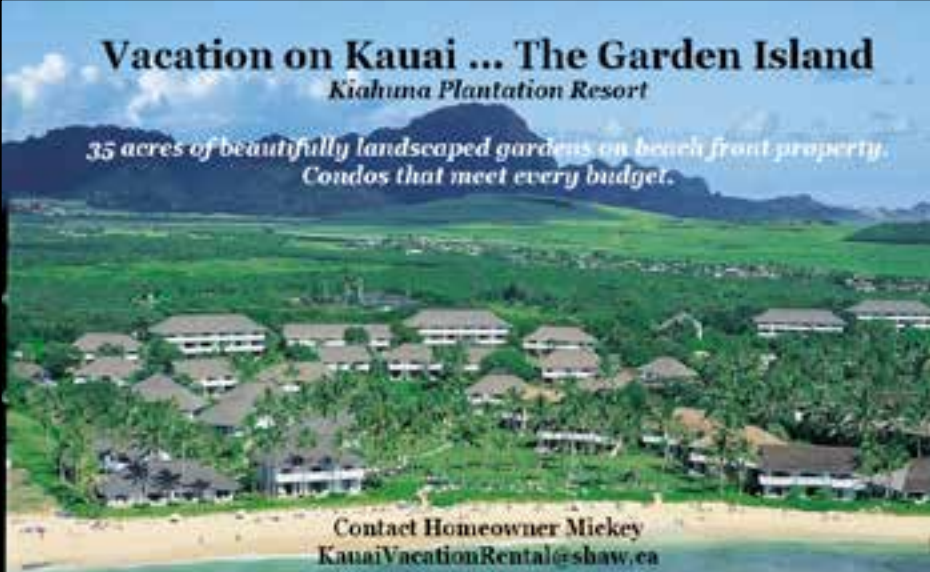
“God did not make a mistake when He chose you to bear Christ's name at this hinge of history. He knew exactly whom He wanted to carry the light of the Gospel in the twenty-first century. He wanted you.”

~ David Shibley, *The Missions Addiction*





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CSA Fall Retreat

by Jan Benedict Bitara

The annual Catholic Students' Association (CSA) Fall Retreat is always the highlight of the fall semester for Catholic University students. It's a time for fellowship, to catch up with friends you haven't seen over the summer, make new friends and immerse yourself deeper into the thriving young adult Catholic community in Victoria. But most importantly, it's a time to slow down from the rush of a new school year, get out of the city, and spend some much-needed time with God.


The Retreat took place at a different camp this year. Instead of taking a bus and catching a ride on the ferry to Pioneer Pacific Camp on Thetis Island, the event was hosted at Camp Qwanoes in Crofton, BC. Unlike previous years, the CSA shared the camp with other Christian groups, including Young Life and Briarcrest College and Seminary. While none of the events planned for the CSA were communal with the other groups there were still many opportunities for mingling around mealtime and in the evenings. "It was definitely a change," said Kayla Hart, a longtime member of the CSA. "We're in this 'Catholic bubble,' which feels great. But I feel like there was something important about sharing the space with our brothers and sisters in Christ."

As with every retreat there was a theme to focus, meditate, and pray on. This year Fr. Dean shared with students "The Healing Joy of the Gospel" – his own personal spin on Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation. Aside from Fr. Dean's talks and small group discussions, some students shared testimonies of how they gained healing through Holy Mother Church and through Jesus. Small books with powerful prayers were shared all around, and just like every year everyone gathered on Saturday night for Adoration and confession – the crowning point of the entire retreat.


All students of the CSA are thankful to the Diocese of Victoria for subsidizing a large portion of the camp and transportation fees. To us, it's more than just a financial helping hand – it's an act of support and encouragement from our Catholic community in Victoria that we are all very grateful for. ✠




DID YOU KNOW ??

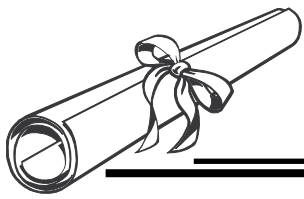


Bishop Gary has a Blog!
Visit www.rcdvictoria.org/bishop.php to read about his travels!



We're on Twitter!
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The Campus Mission

by Rob Koechl

The “Healing Joy of the Gospel” was the theme for this year’s Catholic Students Association’s (CSA) annual Fall Retreat. With UVic’s chaplaincy adopting this theme for the entire year, Chaplain Fr. Dean Henderson 35 young people in this retreat to set the tone. He did a great job of guiding participants in examining the Lord’s work of healing in the Gospel. We explored how to bring this healing into our lives and then how we can bring it to others. We reflected on words from Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*): “We must be bearers of a culture of life.”

As CCO missionaries, we had the privilege of being on the retreat. Afterwards we asked some students to give their highlights of the retreat. They gave many answers, but all came back to what was most life-giving for them. Each of the highlights was a moment when the student felt loved by God. It’s simple and so profound; experiencing the love of God is what brings life to us. A common response to this question is ‘Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament’, and this retreat was no different. Many of the students highlighted time spent in Adoration and spoke of how being in the presence of Jesus brought much life and healing. I can relate – I’ve experienced this ‘life’ in Adoration many times.

“We’re all like one wounded person telling another wounded person where we found our healing.

Over the last couple weeks, we (CCO staff missionaries) have started leading our small group faith studies on campus. The Discovery study is the first in a series of five, and in many ways it is the most important study we lead. It focuses on telling others about Jesus in a clear and simple way. It highlights that God loves each of us in an authentic way – He gives us the freedom to say “Yes” to His gift of salvation.

Since we’ve started leading these studies, I’ve been privileged to be present as students have realized God’s love for the first time. There was a memorable moment while I was leading lesson two. In that lesson we recalled the bad news of sin in the disobedience of Adam and Eve in Genesis, then went on to the good news of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. In it, Jesus tells the story of a Father with two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance early, only to go off, squander the money in dissolute living, and in short order go bankrupt. Things get so desperate that the son finds himself tending pigs. He’s hungry enough that he even wants to eat the pig’s food. (Keep in mind that Jesus is talking to a Jewish

audience for whom pigs are unclean – this shows just how drastic the situation was.) It wasn’t until he reached that point that the son humbled himself and reached out to his father, practicing his lines, “treat me as one of your servants”.

That’s when we get to see the father’s unabashed welcome of his son home. No questions asked, nothing held back. In fact, they even throw a party for him. The question in the Discovery study is, “what is significant about the father’s response to his son’s return?”

As I asked a student this question, he thought about it for a second and said the father was “relentless.” It was an answer I had never heard before. It reminded me of the poet, Francis Thompson’s Hound of Heaven, which the prodigal son could have uttered:

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years; I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways.” He is fleeing, with God in pursuit, offering His love relentlessly.

Thompson ends his extended poem with his protagonist falling: “Halts by me that footfall: Is my gloom, after all, Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly? ‘Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest, I am He whom thou seekest! Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me.’

That is the healing joy of the Gospel. It’s experiencing God as the Father with a love that’s relentless. In the parable, we see the father immediately forgiving the fact that his son has just wasted half of his hard-earned fortune, that he has been working with pigs and is thus ritually unclean, and possibly even that he stinks to high heavens from the pigs and the travel. What the father cares about more than anything else is that his son is home. He puts a ring on his son’s finger (a symbol of a family heirloom and reinstatement into the family as a son and not a slave), a robe on his shoulders (reserved for the guest of honour), and sandals on his feet (an image of freedom). He gives him back his place as a son.

God does that for us. When we say ‘Yes’ to Him, we experience that freedom and healing.

Nor does it end there. As Fr. Dean said at the Fall Retreat, we’re all like one wounded person telling another wounded person where we found our healing. That is what we strive for. We tell others about where we find healing, in the relentless and loving arms of our heavenly Father. Let us tell the world about God’s love that has healed us. ✠



Out of the Archives

by Theresa Vogel, Archivist, Diocese of Victoria

What is this, anyway?

Welcome to a new feature – Out of the Archives – a trip down memory lane to challenge and interest you. Each month, I invite your answers or reminiscences about the object depicted.

This edition’s entry is pictured below. It may not be what you think it is, but yet important in all of the church’s rites – the contents to ‘sweeten, strengthen, and render supple.’

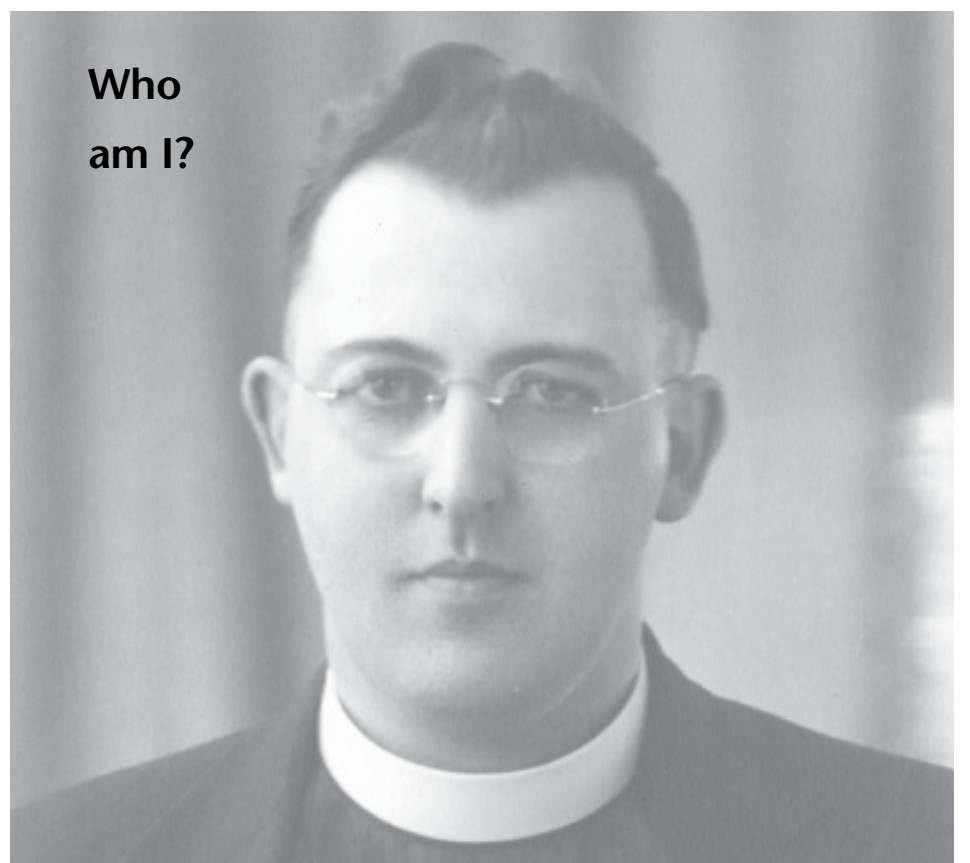
Please send your answers directly by email to tvogel@rcdvictoria.org, or by mail to Theresa Vogel at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre; maybe include your answer on a piece of paper with your donation to the Diocesan Appeal!

There is no greater prize for these contests than our continuing prayers for you and yours, and ‘bragging rights’ for you!

The correct answers will be in the next issue of The Diocesan Messenger! ✠



What
am I?



Who
am I?

Vocations



by Greg Van Dyk

Do I Need Snowshoes to be a Missionary?

Bishop Gary Gordon is on a mission. Not only that, but he's challenging you to radically embark on a mission, too.

In case you missed it, Bishop Gordon's brief closing comments at his Installation Mass gave an incredibly important insight into his vision for the Diocese of Victoria.

"It will be part of my mission to reengage this Diocese in [its] history as a missionary diocese," said Bishop Gordon before the final blessing at his August 28 installation.

"This Diocese had an amazing history of going beyond its shores, to the peripheries of the world, and especially the radically rural north of our country, Canada," he continued. "I want to reengage that missionary dynamism, that powerful spirit that goes beyond what it thinks it can do."

“Is there an opportunity to be a missionary somewhere closer to home? ... How can you be a missionary here and now?

So what does this mean for Average Joe (or Josephine!) Catholic in this Diocese? Well, for Bishop Gary Gordon it might mean giving out some snowshoes and a plane ticket to a "radically rural reality of Canada" – the north. The missionary need in such places is great, and the Lord will indeed call some to travel far to share the Good News. Even if that means proclaiming the Gospel while bundled in a snowsuit.

In a homily last month, Pope Francis affirmed the need for missionaries to go out to the ends of the Earth to invite people into relationship with Jesus.

"Missionaries are those who, in the docility to the Holy Spirit, have the courage to live the Gospel ... they have gone out to call everyone, in the highways and byways of the world," said the Holy Father.

Small communities in remote areas (not just the cold ones!) often have few opportunities to hear the Gospel, and are especially lacking people who will share the love of Jesus with them. Pope Francis and Bishop Gordon both have rightly

made a point of bringing attention to this pressing need to evangelize and serve people at every corner of the world. Yes, especially that northern corner!

But perhaps the idea of heading to the "radically rural" north of our country isn't a practical option for you. Plus, you're just not sure that you own long underwear that's warm enough. So what *can* you do? Well, one option is to consider where you *can* go. Is there an opportunity to be missionary somewhere closer to home?

Maybe packing your bags and leaving home is not something you can count as a possibility. Instead, how can you be a missionary here and now?

In his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* (*Mission of the Redeemer*), St. John Paul II insisted that missionary activity is the task of every single Catholic. That means you and me, too.

"The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to mission," wrote St. John Paul II. "Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission."

A key document of the Second Vatican Council, *Ad Gentes*, similarly says that Catholics should "know that their first and most important obligation for the spread of the Faith is this: to lead a profoundly Christian life."

This means that each of us can embrace our missionary identity in our everyday lives and find the "peripheries" that we, too, must go to in order to share the Gospel. Perhaps this will be far away from our own city, just beyond our parish community, or simply outside our comfort zones.

So perhaps our mission territory won't be the frozen north (or maybe it will be ... dust off those cross-country skis!). But wherever we go, we must strive to reengage with what Bishop Gordon called "that missionary dynamism," that energetic activity, guided by the Holy Spirit, that gives us the grace to truly go beyond what we thought we could do. ✚



Ordination and Clergy Announcements

The Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce that the Ordination to the Priesthood of DEACON HARRISON AYRE will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2015, at 10 am at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. Kindly please remember the intentions of Deacon Harrison in your prayers, as he prepares to celebrate this joyous occasion.


FR. MOGOMIR KIKIĆ OFM has been appointed as Pastor of St. Leopold Mandic Croatian Parish in Victoria and will provide pastoral ministry to the Croatian communities in the Diocese. Fr. Mogomir replaced Fr. JURO MARCKINKOVIC who returned to Croatia in September.

FR. RAPHAEL HONG has returned to his home diocese in Korea, having served the Korean communities in the Diocese of Victoria for the past five years. A replacement priest from the Diocese of Wonju, Korea, is expected to arrive in the near future.

Your support and prayers for the ongoing pastoral needs of our Diocese are greatly appreciated.


“Don't complain to yourselves that you can't go to the mission field! Thank God for bringing the mission field to you!”

~ Brother Andrew, *God's Smuggler*



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www.kofcvictoria.bc.ca





Face the Day



by *Bonnie Landry*

In our parish there are a few older couples who are mentors of mine, even though they do not know it. They are, in fact, mentors to all of us. Perhaps these couples don't even realize how we benefit from them and the witness of their long standing commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage, for the affection they share and for the wisdom they impart to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them, and all the couples whose quiet witness affects those of us in the throes of raising families and our working lives. I hope that I keep your example at the forefront of my mind as I address the next couple of decades in my life ...

“This is a good job, to pray ... you are an active and necessary part of the body of Christ ...

There are others too, in our parish. Perhaps my gratitude could be expressed more effusively in public. Those of you with the family-raising years behind you, in the pews on the weekday Mass mornings – I know you pray for me. The world needs the prayers you offer for parish, Diocese and community. For the world. Thank you for your sacrifices, for your prayers and for all you offer for the rest of us.

And, you, ladies who prepare for the funerals and the parish functions. Thanks for the sandwiches. If there are ever times that you think to yourselves that you go unappreciated, please know that you are, indeed, appreciated. There is something profoundly comforting in lovely little sandwiches and dainties shared through smiles and tears while walking others through the mourning process.

Overcoming Tragedies

by *SK Dr. Oscar Perez de Tagle*

In 1973, because martial law had just been declared in the Philippines, my wife and I and our young family immigrated to eastern Canada. After three decades working on development projects overseas we returned to Canada in 2007, specifically Vancouver Island where my wife took a job in Sidney and I turned my time and efforts to writing a book. My three grown sons and their young families also settled in Victoria. I quickly joined the Knights of Columbus Council 9703 and used my skills in the “Lecturer” position. My youngest son Alec also joined the Knights, volunteering for many activities.

Our First Tragedy

In January 2011, I returned to the Philippines for the launching of my book when tragedy struck. I was overcome by a severe headache, combined with nausea, chills, fever and dizziness. I was rushed to the hospital, where I immediately collapsed and lost consciousness. I was unconscious for nearly 24 hours.

The diagnosis was bacterial meningitis, a potentially deadly disease. I had a middle-ear-infection and a “tiny bubble” somehow escaped into my brain. My neurologist told me if I had not gone to the hospital when I did, I would have been dead within 24 hours.

My wife Belle caught the first flight to Manila and I was discharged from the hospital after nine days. However, Philippine hospitals will not release a patient unless fully paid, in cash. Since Canadian Medicare only reimburses doctor and hospital costs already incurred, I had to find sources of funds to cover the huge, unexpected expenses. After maxing out my credit cards, I was forced to borrow from family in Manila.

Two days later, I suffered a complication: the meningitis infection had moved to the region between my brain and skull. I was put on another 14-day antibiotic I/V program. This meant another nine days in the hospital for me. This time the total medical costs were higher, while our financial resources had been completely depleted. When my brother Knights of Council 9703 heard of our difficulties, they passed the hat and sent me much-needed funds to help me through this worst crisis of my life. The monthly premiums of our life insurance policies with the Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency were about to default, but were paid for temporarily by an anonymous Knight. The Knights’ financial support literally saved my life, paying the hospital bills as well as crucial medication. Thanks to the anonymous Knight, our K of C Insurance policies were continued.

Our Second Tragedy

Worse was to come. This time a great tragedy would impact my whole family. On October 5, 2011, in the middle of the night, I received a phone call from my brother in the Philippines. He told me my youngest son Alec had been murdered in our house close to Baguio City, Philippines, by unknown assailants.

This was the worst day of our lives. The pain and sorrow this news caused me and Belle was unimaginable. As I was not fit enough to fly back to the Philippines, Belle and our second son Rick went back. They had Alec’s body cremated and the ashes brought back to Canada. Two memorial Masses were said for Alec, one in Victoria and one in Sidney.

I hope that as the next 20 or 30 years progress in my own life, I can remember your beautiful examples of love and light and service, and of prayer and sacrifice. I hope that I take on these roles as graciously as you have.

There is a gentleman in our parish whom I met nearly 20 years ago, and he was then, in his seventies, an imposing figure of faith and vigour, busy using his retirement years to set the world afire. At least, set the parish afire! Last Christmas we shared Christmas cards and well wishes. He told me that he doesn’t get out much anymore. He told me, my friends, that his job now is to pray. Simply to pray for all of us – for families, communities, clergy, the Church.

This is a good job, to pray. But to recognize that as we get older and become less active, perhaps less able, we become more able to take on the prayer that the world needs so very, very much.

To my mentors: I thank you. You are an active and necessary part of the Body of Christ for those of us raising families, making mission trips, serving the poor and needy, visiting a shut-in.

The work involved bringing up children, praying Rosaries for vocations, making sandwiches for funerals, serving up soup to people in need; these are only some of the many jobs which the people of the Church, the Body of Christ perform. They are all the same, really. We lay down our lives daily in small and large ways for others.

As Christ laid down his life for us. ✠

How did we survive this huge tragedy? I know that loss of a child can cause spouses to break apart and families to go into depression, eventually destroying their lives. Belle and I survived only because of our faith in Jesus as “the Resurrection and the Life”. After a series of dreams by family members, which depicted Alec saying “I AM FINE!” and “I FORGIVE ALL!”, Belle had a very clear dream at which Alec took her hand and said “I will lead you to the light, Mom.”

Then, on the Feast of the Assumption, Belle prayed to the Virgin Mary for a sign to help her overcome her inconsolable grief. Three days later, she dreamed of her Alec once more. With great joy he exclaimed, “I am alive!” and even held her hands while jumping up and down like an excited child. Truly God never closes a door without opening a window.

Coping with Our Tragedies

Our deceased son Alec’s humility and service to others has inspired our whole family, helping my wife and me to move on and also motivating us and our two sons, Mike and Rick, to become even more strongly involved in the K of C Council 9703 programs and charities. It was with a deep sense of gratitude that we accepted the honor of the “Family of the Year” award by the Bishop Demers Assembly on March 1, 2014. We all remain very active and deeply committed to the Knights of Columbus. ✠



**J.C. Alexander (Alec)
Perez de Tagle,
1981-2011 RIP**



Perez de Tagle Family receiving “Family of the Year” Award March 2014. L to R: Kazuyo, Rick, Dr. Oscar, Mrs. Belle, Nora and Mike Perez de Tagle, and Faithful Navigator Roland Wauthy





Communio

by James E. O'Reilly

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

~ Ephesians 4: 1 – 6

A close look at Bishop Gary's official Coat of Arms reveals one single word for his motto: *Communio*. As is customary on such official symbols, the Latin language is used here, harking back to the medieval and even Roman origins of identifying insignia. So what is being identified here in the word *communio*?

Consulting a Latin English dictionary reveals two forms: *communio* a verb meaning "to fortify, to strengthen," and the feminine noun form meaning "sharing in common, communion." "Fortify," "strengthen," "sharing in common" and "communion" all point to what we understand as capital "C" Communion. This seems logical.

A quick Google search leads us directly to *Communio et Progressio*, the Pastoral Instruction on social communication from the Vatican (1971) which as a fundamental starting point sees the main purpose of communication as the *unity* and the *advancement* of the human person. More clues!

Google also leads us to *Communio*, the International Catholic Review, a journal of theological writings spanning thirteen languages; the founders of *Communio* include Hans Urs von Balthasar, Henri de Lubac and a certain Joseph Ratzinger. This distinguished journal is dedicated, in the words of its editors to "the renewal of theology in continuity with the living Christian tradition, the continuing dialogue of all believers, past and present, 'as if all were simultaneously in the circle.'" There are some interesting concepts here: "renewal," "in continuity," "past and present" – and some which are particularly intriguing: "living Christian tradition," "dialogue," "as if all were simultaneously in the circle."

Further digging, this time on the *Communio* website, leads us to an article *Communio: a program* (Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal, *Communio* 19, *Communio: International Catholic Review* (Fall 1992) www.communio-icr.com/files/ratzinger19-3.pdf) by the then-Cardinal Ratzinger describing the purpose of the journal. In addition to clarifying theology as truth-seeking beyond labels of conservative and progressive, and quoting cofounder Hans Urs Von Balthasar's unique perspective, he mentions some very fundamental points. By definition, "common human nature creates the very possibility that we can communicate with one another" but the human person also by nature seeks to go beyond his or her own boundaries. The very heights and depths of human aspiration can only be satisfied, can only be realized through God who, most significantly has communicated Himself to us, has identified completely with us, by becoming one of us in Christ. This God is a community of persons in communion, a unity of self-giving creative, redemptive, transforming love.

Well, in fact, this one word *communio* signifies and suggests quite a lot: "fortify," "strengthen," "sharing in common," "communion," "Communion," "unity," "advancement," "living Christian tradition," "dialogue," "as if all were simultaneously in the circle."

Our origin, being made in the image and likeness of this God who is selfless love, defines our purpose and our destiny: to live completely open to the presence of God-with-us, in communion with one another and all we encounter – for in doing this we know and live *Communio*! ✠

Six Tasks of the Catechist

by Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education

The words "hand" and "hands" appears over 2,200 times in the bible. It is a powerful symbol of many spiritual truths. Let me suggest a few ways we can use our hands to remember and better understand the six tasks we have as catechists. We can do this prayer exercise with ourselves to learn our roles as faith teachers, and/or we can share it with our students, children and grandchildren so they will be reminded of the many different but overlapping elements to a full Catholic faith formation. This broad formation includes: knowledge of faith formation, prayer formation, liturgical formation, moral formation, community formation and missionary service formation. Our prayer exercise described below flows from one gesture to another. Have fun with it!

We begin by reaching up, symbolizing our openness to God saying:

Abba-Father, by Your Spirit form me so I may be more like Jesus.

Hands move to top of head, symbolizing Knowledge of Faith Formation.

We usually want to know more about things we love. God is the source of all Truth who is revealed in the Book of Creation and the Book of Holy Scripture and sacred tradition. There is so much to learn and understand about our beautiful faith.

Abba-Father, give me new wonder, understanding and right judgment. Form me more deeply in the knowledge of my faith.

Hands move down to the heart, symbolizing Prayer Formation

We need to bring our heads into our hearts when praying. The personal relationship we develop with our God needs a lot of honest talking, listening and be-ing. The heart is our center where God intimately dwells but is also a place where God desires to fully reign.

Abba-Father, melt the hardness of my heart and help me be more real and open to You. Form me more deeply in prayer.

One hand moves up and open, symbolizing Liturgical Formation

Our worship of God is most profound when we celebrate Word and Sacrament within the Assembly. Rituals and symbols are needed for us to be more deeply transformed and grounds us in an incarnational spirituality which takes seriously that God became flesh. The Church is the body and bride of Christ. Christ is the one we encounter in the sacraments and liturgy.

Abba-Father, make me more grateful for the gifts of Your word and sacraments. Form me more deeply in liturgy.

Other hand is raised up with a clenched fist, symbolizing Moral Formation

What we value and how we act is central to being a disciple of Jesus. With our freedom, prudence, courage and thoughtful action we can do the good that is willed by God and become the persons we are called to be. Our grandmothers were right when they reminded us, "Actions speak louder than words." Virtue only comes through doing. "Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Abba-Father, what we do to the least of our sisters and brothers we do to you. Help me to be more just and merciful. Form me more deeply morally.

Hands come down hugging oneself, symbolizing Community Formation

God formed and made covenants with a People. Jesus called disciples around him and started a Church. We worship a Triune God who is communal by nature. Our faith is deeply personal but it is not private; it needs to be shared with others. We are social beings who need to be nourished and supported by one another as well as challenged and stretched by the differences found within community. We belong to God's family; we are many parts but we are all one body.

Abba-Father, awaken me to realize I am called to be Church and that I belong to a faith family. Form me more deeply in community.

Both hands point out, symbolizing Missionary Service Formation

Both the Son and the Spirit have been sent; they are on a mission of love and mercy. We also are sent to be salt and light to a hurting world. The "essential mission of the Church is to Evangelize" – to bring the Good News to others by thoughts, words and deeds of justice, peace, grace and mercy.

Abba-Father, help me realize I am sent to do Your will and to serve one another. Form me more deeply in missionary service.

I have found this prayer exercise helpful in reminding me of the six different tasks I have as a catechist. Knowing these six tasks allows me to teach a given topic with more depth. For example, a project on saints might ask how all six areas of formation are witnessed by a saint's life, or how can I teach the Rosary in a way that forms students in community and missionary service as well as the other tasks? How does Mass form us in all six areas?

Feel free to personalize the prayers and movements above and make them your own if it helps. Give it a try with your students and children – I bet they remember more and have fun doing it! ✠



Pastoral Centre Staff

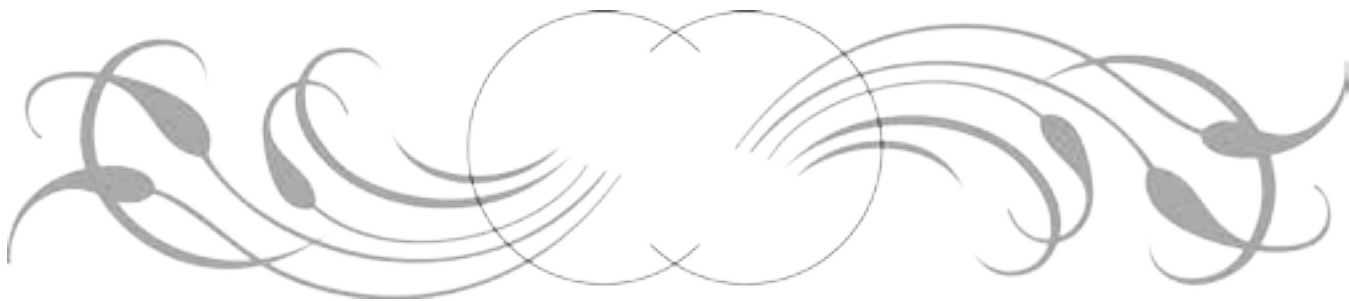


Front row, L to R: Deanne Paulson, Isabel Harding, Rita McNay, Theresa Vogel, Kathryn Fitzmaurice, Leah MacKenzie, Terri Siemens, Lise Derzaph, Susie Nute, Bishop Gary Gordon, Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins (and Merlin, the Diocesan Dog).

Back row, L to R: Connie Dunwoody, Joanie Bidlake, Kelly Bourke, Moira Gill, Mary Carmichael, Glen Palahicky, Brian Fitzgerald, Lana Durand, Bev Pulyk, Sarah Fitzmaurice, Jim O'Reilly

“The Pastoral Centre in the Diocese of Victoria supports and serves Catholic communities, parishes and schools in proclaiming the Gospel message and building the Reign of God.

This Mission Statement speaks to the functionality of the support necessary for the work of the Diocese, as well as the heart of what matters to us most as Catholics. ✕



A Gift of the Word of God to the People of Vancouver Island

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

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.**

~ Isaiah 6:3

The afternoon of Saturday, September 20, 2014, saw a fitting tribute to God and His abundant and rich gifts manifested through those who seek to celebrate the Creator's majesty through word, written and spoken, through music and through image and form.

The occasion was the presentation of the seven volume reproduction folio edition of the renowned hand-written and illuminated St. John's Bible as a gift to the people of Vancouver Island from Bishop Emeritus Remi J. De Roo. Donated with the assistance of Bishop De Roo's many friends on the occasion of his 90th birthday to the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, the breathtaking works were on display with attendants offering information on the various features and techniques employed in their production.

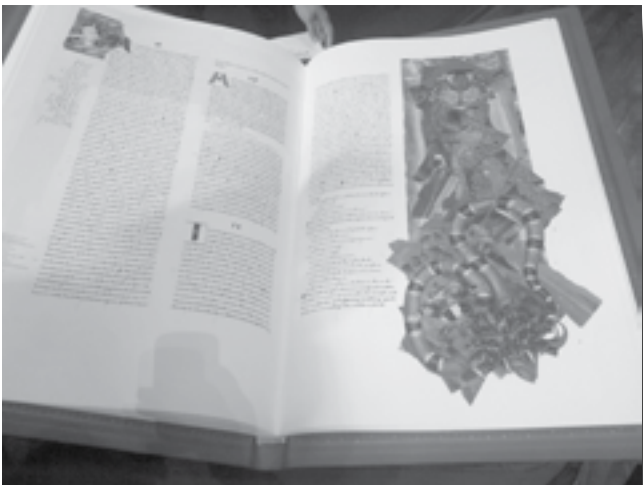
Commissioned by St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, Minnesota in 1998, the New Revised Standard Version took a team of six artists using traditional quill and brush technique 15 years to complete the 1,151 pages of stunning contemporary imagery and crisp calligraphy on calfskin vellum with features in gilt and silver. The original work cost \$8 million and is unique in that it is the first illuminated and handwritten bible produced since the advent of the printing press in the fifteenth century. The seven book heritage reproduction set cost \$140,000, and was limited to a print run of only 299 copies.

Dr. Paul Bramadat, Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society received the gift on behalf of the Centre at the University, noting that the gift

represented the first in the Centre's proposed collection of similar texts of major religions. "The larger plan includes an international research project and conference around what such books mean today in a digital world and for a younger generation with rapidly changing approaches to text," he said.

Quite fittingly the formal presentation was accompanied by a delightful service of prayer and selected readings taken from each of the seven books of the Bible read by distinguished guests. Each of the readings was followed by a related contemporary sacred hymn continuing the theme of either the reading or the character of the book. St. Andrew's Cathedral choir, under the direction of Jackie Ray, led the hymns, including a beautiful setting for Psalm 8 commissioned especially for the event by noted author and liturgical music composer David Haas.

The St. John's Bible will continue to be available for public viewing in the Special Collections library at the University of Victoria. It will eventually be housed at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, and upon request, will be available to travel to various institutions and organizations. ✕





Prince Charles to Give Address on Religious Freedom

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will give a video address on the subject of religious freedom to Parliamentarians and representatives of different faith groups in the House of Lords next week. The address will be shown at the launch of the *Religious Freedom in the World Report* – 2014 report, at 3:30pm on Tuesday, November 4. Produced by the international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need, the report is a comprehensive assessment of the state of religious freedom for all people of faith around the globe. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25856>

Nigeria: Life is the Country's Cheapest Commodity, Laments Bishop

A Catholic bishop responsible for the area worst affected by Boko Haram has described the desperate needs of those who have fled the terrorist group – hitting out at the government for its failure to protect citizens. Responding to an urgent request from Bishop Oliver Doeme of Maiduguri in north-east Nigeria, Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need has just approved £35,500 in aid for refugees who fled attacks by the Islamist terrorists in northern Nigeria. Following Boko Haram's attacks on towns and villages in the northeast, thousands of Internal Displaced People (IDP) – including the very young and the elderly – are living in mountain caves or in the forest. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25855>

Patriarch Suspends Monks and Priests Who Flew Iraq Without Permission

Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako I has suspended a group of monks and priests who fled Iraq without consulting their superiors. Published on the Chaldean Patriarchate's website, the Patriarch's decree gives the names of six priests and six monks who, as of October 22, have been suspended from their priestly duties. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25853>

Pope Defends Marriage and Family, Encourages Daring Prayer

Pope Francis met with more than 7000 pilgrims belonging to the Schoenstatt movement, an international Marian and apostolic organization celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in Germany. In his conversation during the audience, Pope Francis said the institution of Christian marriage has never been attacked so much as it in today's throw-away culture. Asked about what advice he can offer to those who don't feel welcome in the Church, Pope Francis stressed the need for priests to stay close to each one of their flock without becoming scandalized over what takes place within the family. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25850>

Iraq: Church in Mosul 'No Longer Exists'

Reflecting on his recent trip to the Holy Land and to Iraqi Kurdistan, Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City said that for all practical purposes, the bishops of Mosul no longer have Churches to shepherd. "When we were in Erbil, we met with Archbishop Amel Nona, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Mosul, now exiled in Erbil who along with his priests and all of the faithful of the archdiocese, have been driven out," Archbishop Coakley said. "He is, in effect, the archbishop of a Church that no longer exists. They've all been scattered. There are no more Christians in his archdiocese. That's a traumatic, but illustrative situation, of what's happening there, and what can happen, if things don't improve." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25848>

The Journey Continues: Fr. Rosica Reflects on Extraordinary Synod on the Family

by Fr. Thomas Rosica, CEO, Salt & Light Television. Reprinted with permission.

Note: Fr. Thomas Rosica also serves as the English language assistant to the Holy See Press Office at the Vatican and served as English language spokesperson at the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome. He sent out the following message to English language media on October 20, 2014.

Thanks to all of you who took such interest in the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops and provided media coverage in different ways: print, electronic, television and radio. I did my best to try to respond to your many requests over the past three weeks. I appreciated very much the sensitivity and understanding you demonstrated in your coverage. I would simply like to remind you of some things I wrote over the past month regarding the Synod of Bishops.

1. This was a unique experience of a Synod in that it was extraordinary – a preparatory synod – for the major one that will take place next October also on the theme of the family. Therefore the process begun last fall with the questionnaire, followed by the past two weeks of Synod, continuing through the World Meeting of Families next September in Philadelphia and culminating in the 2015 Synod, offers the church many opportunities for deepening the reflections and thoughts that were shared over the past months. This Synod and its documents are works in progress. We have only just begun the process of synod: walking together.
2. One of the great gifts of the Second Vatican Council was the establishment of the Synod of Bishops 49 years ago. After 4 years of intense debate, hard work and newly formed friendships, solidarities and rich collaboration, the Fathers (participants) in Vatican II expressed their strong desire to then-Pope Paul VI (now Blessed Paul VI) to found the Synod of Bishops that would allow the teachings, spirit and dynamism of the Council to continue. In the normal course of history, the Synodal structure grew tired and lost some of its original dynamism. Pope Francis, building on the foundation of his predecessors, desired to reawaken the Synodal structure and allow it to deepen its roots in the Conciliar experience and spread its wings to lead the Church forward on her journey. Using the rich imagery of Pope Francis, I would like to think that the recent Extraordinary Synod was a golden opportunity

to take the Synodal structure out of the Intensive Care Unit (some thought it was Palliative Care) of the great Field Hospital of the Church and return it to the General patient wing of the Field Hospital we call Church!

3. The lenses through which we can best understand what just took place in Rome are the masterful texts of Pope Francis: his homily at the opening mass of the Synod on October 5, his opening address to the Synodal Assembly on Monday October 6, his amazing concluding address to the Synod on Saturday October 18 and the very moving homily at the Synod's concluding mass on Sunday, October 19, 2014.
4. Rather than be overly concerned with the smaller picture of normal, synodal intrigues, details and minutiae that are part and parcel of any gathering when human beings (especially Church people!) come together, I encourage you to take the wide angle view of what has just transpired at the Vatican, and what will continue to take place around the world as the Synod Fathers and participants bring home their documents, stories, hopes, dreams, frustrations and desires for the Church and for the world.
5. The Synodal adventure and drama continues and offers to the entire world a great story. It is a work in progress. Thank you for helping us to tell the story, and even better, to become part of it. What has taken place here in Rome these past weeks not only relates to Catholic Christians, but to all men and women of good will who seek to leave the world a better place, and who recognize that the future of humanity passes through the family, in all that family means for us today.

Allow me conclude by quoting from Pope Francis' homily at yesterday's mass of Beatification for Pope Paul VI, the author of the Synod of Bishops:

"On this day of the Beatification of Pope Paul VI, I think of the words with which he established the Synod of Bishops: by carefully surveying the signs of the times, we are making every effort to adapt ways and methods to the growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society (Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio Apostolica Sollicitudo*)."



Pope Francis, Fr. Thomas Rosica (R) and Cardinal Wuerl (middle). Photo: Salt & Light Television

Waiting with Hope

Pope Francis’ Morning Meditation, reported by L’Osservatore Romano, Weekly ed. in English, n. 43, 24 October 2014

Christians are called to be men and women of hope, united by the certainty of a God who does not give up. This was part of the message of Pope Francis’ homily during Mass at Santa Marta on October 21, 2014.

Looking at the day’s Reading from the Gospel of Luke (12:35-38), in which Jesus calls on his disciples to be as servants, vigilant and awaiting the master’s return from a wedding, the Pontiff asked: “Who is this lord, this master, who is coming home from a marriage feast, who is coming late at night?” The answer comes from Jesus himself: “It is I who have come to serve you, to gird my loins, to seat you at the table, to serve you.”

St. Paul, too, in the Letter to the Ephesians (2:12-22), reiterates that it is Jesus who has “come to serve, not to be served.” And the first gift that we received from him is that of an identity. Jesus has given us “citizenship, membership in a commonwealth, a first and last name.” Taking up the words of the Apostle, who reminds the pagans that when they were separated from Christ they were “alienated from the commonwealth,” Francis highlighted: “Without Christ we have no identity.”

Thanks to Him, indeed, from being separated we have become one “people.” We were “enemies, without peace,” isolated, but Jesus, “united us with his blood.” This theme also comes from St. Paul, who writes in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall.” We all know, the Bishop of Rome recalled, that “when we are not at peace with people, there is a wall that divides us.” But Jesus “offers us his service to knock down this wall.” Thanks to Him “we are able to meet each other.”

From a people broken apart, comprised of men isolated from one another, Jesus, with his service, “has brought everyone near, has made us one body.” And He has reconciled everyone in God.” Thus, “from enemies” we have become “friends,” and from “strangers” we can now feel we are “children.”

“But what is the condition” through which from “strangers,” from “sojourners” we are able to become “fellow citizens with the saints?” To have confidence, the Pope answered, in the master’s return from the wedding feast, in Jesus. It is necessary to “await Him” and to be ever ready: “Those who do not await Jesus, close the door to Jesus, don’t allow Him to do this work of peace, of community, of citizenship; moreover: of name.” That name that reminds us who we truly are: “children of God.”

This is why “a Christian is a man or a woman of hope,” because he or she “knows that the Lord will come.” And when this happens, although “we don’t know when,” no longer will “we find ourselves isolated, enemies,” but rather as he, through his service, has made us: “friends, neighbours, at peace.”

For this reason, Pope Francis concluded, it is important to ask ourselves: “How do I await Jesus?” But above all: “Do I or do I not await” Jesus? Many times, in fact, even we Christians ‘behave like pagans’ and ‘live as if nothing could happen’. We must be careful not to be like a ‘selfish pagan’, who acts as though he himself ‘were a king’ and thinks: ‘I can manage on my own’. Those who behave in this manner come to no good, end up nameless, with no one close, without citizenship. Each one of us must instead ask ourselves: ‘Do I believe in this hope, that He will come?’ And: ‘Do I have an open heart to hear the sound, when He knocks at the door, when He opens the door?’”

The Church in Dialogue

CCCB Press Release, October 28, 2014

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio* in November, 2014, (1964-2014), the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), through its Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue, has published the following document: *A Church in Dialogue: Towards the Restoration of Unity among Christians*. This publication provides an in-depth presentation of the Church’s commitment to ecumenical dialogue and is intended for those already involved in, and familiar with, ecumenical work. This new resource is available on the CCCB website (www.cccb.ca) as a downloadable PDF which can be printed and distributed without charge.

“We are called to be a Church in dialogue because God has entered into a redeeming life-giving dialogue with the world, and sends us forth in his name.

In the concluding remarks of the document, the Bishops state: “We are called to be a Church in dialogue because God has entered into a redeeming life-giving dialogue with the world, and sends us forth in his name. The disunity and dissension within the Body of Christ is a contradiction and undermining of the message we proclaim.” The Bishops continue by noting that “the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the ways that we have grown together in these five decades, and to consider how we are being called to deepen our commitment to journey together with other Christians today on the path to full ecclesial unity. There is much reason to rejoice.”

This document complements an earlier publication released in August 2014 entitled: *A Church in Dialogue: Catholic Ecumenical Commitment* which is intended for parishes, colleges, and high schools as well as discussion groups and can still be ordered via CCCB publications at 1-800-769-1147 or online at www.cccbpublications.ca.

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Photo: Father Rodrigue Vézina, O.M.I., with Sheila Paul Martin and her baby, Hayden; Attawapiskat, Ontario. Photo courtesy of Diocese of Moosonee.

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An Angel Visits Mary
Luke 1:26-38

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all generations
will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts,
he has put down the might from their
thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

He has filled the hungry with good
things, and the rich he has sent empty
away.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.

~ Luke 1:46 – 55




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"If catechesis is done well, Christians will be eager to bear witness to their faith, to hand it on to their children, to make it known to others, and to serve the human community in every way."
Words of Pope John Paul II - 'Catechesi Tradendae'

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The Road to the ‘Mary’thon

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

I had only been at my new post at Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation a couple weeks when Sr. Lucy Dumont asked me to take part in the Victoria GoodLife Marathon as part of the ‘Mary’thoners’. Without hesitation I agreed and began talking to friends, family and colleagues. When they would ask me why I was planning to take part I found myself replying, “How do you say no to a Nun?”

With a great deal of support and the company of former Foundation Board members Mike Clermont and Veronica Osborne, Sr. Lucy completed the 8K trek as we flanked her in an almost V-like formation along the route so as to ensure no one bumped, knocked or caused our dear Team Captain to stumble. All along people were cheering for us all but especially for Sr. Lucy. At 85, this is her ninth GoodLife event, raising money for the Foundation.

As she crossed the finish line and received her medal I was so busy taking pictures and shooting video of Sr. Lucy that it wasn’t until much later that I found myself overcome with emotion at what I had accomplished that day on the Road for the ‘Mary’thon — and during the summer when Jacob, my youngest son, and I tackled ‘running’ via the Foundations’ ‘Learn to Run’ clinic.

As I pondered my summer and my efforts for this event, my thoughts turned to the reason the Foundation participates in the GoodLife’s Charity Pledge program: to raise much-needed funding to support the residents and the programs of Mount St. Mary Hospital. My thoughts also turned to the reason Sr. Lucy fundraises, to the reason resident Willie Lam fundraises. My thoughts turned to the residents of Mount St. Mary Hospital. Being a fundraiser by trade I have an appreciation for how difficult it is to raise money. It is not easy. Having organized a number of events in my career I also had a huge appreciation for the huge amount of effort that goes into making an event run smoothly. Watching Sr. Lucy and Willie in action and participating in the event was an eye opener. I was able to see the huge amount of effort that goes into supporting the Foundation; I began to realize just how fortunate we are to have champions like them. The Foundation needs more people like them.

I was also able to see first-hand how much support the Foundation gave to our own team members, all at the hand of Senior Development Officer Paula Greene. Between what she did for our team and what I saw the Victoria GoodLife Marathon people do to support her, I offer praise as a true credit to the people behind the scenes who make it all look so simple. It is not simple and they did a tremendous job.

Sr. Lucy, Willie Lam and Paula Greene are inspirations to us all. And speaking of inspiration, if you were participating on the course, you passed the Mount St. Mary cheering station! Foundation volunteers Daphne Massey and Lynda Witham come up with a most wonderful way to encourage and cheer on all participants, year after year! I wouldn’t be at all surprised if they walked a marathon distance in dance steps as they cheered that day. They arrived before 6 am to set up and don their costumes; they left only after the last marathoner passed us by.

I trained all summer to run the 8K distance, and I could have done so, but that cool October morning the place to be on that well-traveled road to the ‘Mary’thon was walking alongside Sr. Lucy. One might think I might have regretted not running. Truth is, as we crossed the finish line, I couldn’t have been more honoured and humbled to have walked with Sr. Lucy. I did not find myself wishing I’d run it, as I’d trained to do; instead I found myself wishing that when I turn 85, I could be like Sr. Lucy. For all who participated that day, and for so many, for so many reasons, the Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation ‘Mary’thon is a road well worth travelling. ✚



L to R: Kathleen Burton, Executive Director, Mount St. Mary Foundation; Veronica Osborne, ‘Mary’thoner; and Sr. Lucy Dumont, being interviewed by CTV at the finish line of the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon

Our Lady of Grace, Salt Spring Island ... More Pictures!



The original Grotto



The new Grotto



The Plan

The Lego block scale rendering



Fr. Ian blesses the new Grotto