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Financial Statements



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2nd Annual Family Camp



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Oblates on Vancouver Island



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria September 2014

The Good News of Bishop Gary Gordon

by Connie Dunwoody

“The mission is so much greater than we can even imagine. It’s way bigger than the size of your parish. You’re not the pastor just of the people who are here on Sunday, or even of the Catholic population that you have according to Stats Canada. You’re the pastor of the whole town. You’re the priest of the whole town.”

Bishop Gary Gordon leans a little forward in his chair as I interview him, his quiet intensity underlining the meaning of his words.

“You realize that every single person is crucially important to Jesus, and you minister from that place of the individual person: how are they in relationship to the world.”

He continues, “There’s an expansion that takes place when you are a missionary bishop. The reality is that you are the pastor of the whole people, whether they’re Catholic or not, because when you come from the place of the Good News of Jesus Christ, then everything is always an evangelizing moment, and everybody needs good news. The Good News is attractive. The truth is self-evident. I don’t have to convert anybody; that’s not my job; but I can witness to the reality of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life, the incredible joy that only Jesus can give.”

It’s the second time I’ve been privileged to interview a Bishop of Victoria, and I am immediately at ease with this person I hardly know. It is clear to me that this is a humble and joyful servant of God, a person of compassionate substance who has the ability to meet people exactly where they are, in circumstances that are sometimes quite challenging.

I am curious about his time in the North, but his answer is not bound by geography; it describes his philosophy of ministry. “If there is any time in the

Going Forward Joyfully

by Phyllis Thompson, Nanaimo

Every year, the Poor Clare Sisters in Duncan hold a Mass on or near the feast of St. Clare to honour their Order’s founder. This year’s Mass was on the actual date: August 11, and it was very special, extra celebratory. This year, after six years in formation, Sr. Monique Simpson professed solemn vows as a full member of that community.

Sr. Monique is originally from Ontario. For years she knew she wanted her life to be permeated by prayer; in the depth of her heart, she knew a contemplative life was what she was being called to. How that brought her to Duncan and the Poor Clares is a story in itself; suffice it to say, it has proven to be the right community for her. Sr. Monique entered the Poor Clares as a postulant in 2008 and professed first vows in 2011. This August 11th brought her to the act of solemn consecration.

The liturgy was well attended; even on a Monday nearly three hundred people were there. Abbess Sr. Doreen Trautman OSC expressed her delight at this as she welcomed everyone. Present at this celebration were some other religious and clergy of the diocese and, of course, this Diocese’s Franciscan Friars. Fr. Dennis Vavrek OFM, Provincial Minister of the Western Franciscan Friars, came from Edmonton and was the principal celebrant. Also present were Sr. Monique’s mother from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and her brother from Barrie, Ontario.

At the appropriate time in the liturgy, Sr. Monique was asked to affirm her commitment; she then formally professed her vows. With her vows accepted, the solemn prayer of consecration was proclaimed. Then a ring, sign of her consecration, was blessed and placed on her finger. How appropriate that this was followed by the Mass’ usual Exchange of Peace: joyous and enthusiastic.

In his homily, Fr. Dennis noted that God calls each of us, and each call is unique. This liturgy celebrated both St. Clare’s and Sr. Monique’s particular response to God’s call and “their vows, their commitment is a response to the covenant of the deepest kind that God made to us, to the vows God makes and keeps always.” Fr.



Bishop Gary Gordon at the Installation Mass, August 28, 2014

Diocese of Victoria where there are frozen pipes, I can fix those,” he quipped. “But seriously, as a missionary bishop you start to get less concerned about the details; you prune away some of the things you thought mattered and you grow in a sense of what’s really more important and what’s not so important. You realize that every single person is crucially important to Jesus, and you minister from that place of the individual person: how are they in relationship to the world. You take care of the people and you grow in closeness to Christ, which starts to get you really focused on what it’s all about, which is Jesus.”

continued on page B3



Abbess Sr. Doreen Trautman OSC (L) and Fr. Dennis Vavrek OFM (C) conduct the initial Rite of Examination of Sr. Monique (R)

Dennis also noted that a commitment to contemplative life is risky, so that for Sr. Monique and the other Poor Clares, their shared communal commitment is “a mutual gesture of extraordinary vulnerability.”

May some words of St. Clare be ours for Sr. Monique: “Go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing, agreeing with nothing that would keep you from this resolution or that would place a stumbling block for you on the Way.” ✠

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: Bishop Gary Michael Gordon—See Section B

Financial Overview- Year ended December 31, 2013

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

The Financial Overview provides a summary of the activities of the Diocese of Victoria for the year ended December 31, 2013. The Financial Statements of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre are audited annually by the external firm of KPMG. The Audited Financial Statements are reviewed by the Diocesan Audit Committee and the Diocesan Finance Committee and are available for review upon request. Please feel free to contact me at the Pastoral Centre (250-479-1331) for further information or for a copy of the Audited Financial Statements.

The Diocese of Victoria’s ability to provide programs and ministries is due to the continued support and generosity of individual parishioners across our 30 parishes and 11 missions. We wish to thank the many parishioners who share their gifts of talents, time and weekly offerings to help further the mission of the Church.

Financial stability and ensuring that the funds entrusted to our care are used prudently for purposes to which they were donated is part of the mandate of the Diocesan Finance Committee. To further this goal, policies and procedures are in place to abide with Canon and civil law. One of the policies mandates the creation of an annual budget which is monitored and reviewed by the Bishop and the Finance Committee at their quarterly meetings. The Finance Committee also advises and/or approves major financial transactions, financial policies, administration, legal, insurance, investments and property matters.

On behalf of members of the Diocesan Finance Committee, thank you for your continued support; through your weekly parish collections, *Journey of Hearts and Hands* Appeal, direct donations, and your prayers for the many pastoral and administrative works of the Diocese.

Members of the Diocesan Finance Committee

Bishop Gary Gordon
Fr. John Laszczyk, Vicar General
Leah MacKenzie, CPA, CFO
Mike Mills, Member at Large
Diane Savard, Member at Large

John Anderson, Chair
Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins, Chancellor
Felicity Hanington, Member at Large
Art Paulo, Member at Large
John Shenton, Member at Large

Facts and Figures for 2013

Operating revenues for the Diocese of Victoria are derived from an assessment (tax) on parish income, Appeal donations, investment, property income and miscellaneous donations. Parishes are assessed on their collection income and other sources of revenue. Assessment income is the major revenue item which funds the operating services of the Diocese of Victoria, followed closely by donations to the Annual Appeal. Donations to the Annual Appeal are exempt from the parish assessment.

The assessment rate in 2013 was 18% on parish income as well additional fixed dollar levies for Catholic Schools, Marriage Tribunal and the Hospital Chaplaincy. After consultation with the Diocesan Finance Committee, pastors and parishes it was agreed to adjust the assessment rate to 22%, effective January 1, 2014. The new rate will enable the Diocese to eliminate all extra fixed special program levies, equitably share the costs of all programs and ministries throughout all parishes, and grant subsidies to parishes that require assistance in meeting their basic operating costs. This policy change reduced the 2014 Diocesan budget for assessment and levy revenue to \$1,078,000 (\$49,400 less than 2013 budget).

The *Journey of Hearts and Hands* Appeal donations of \$885,184 were included as revenue to support programs and ministry expenses incurred in 2013 for the specific initiatives of the Annual Appeal. Appeal donations from 2013 are listed as deferred revenue on the Statement of Financial Position until the related expenses are incurred in 2014.

Through the generosity of donors to the *Journey of Hearts and Hands* Appeal, we have accomplished great things:

- Sponsored a youth and breakfast program for Native Ministry in the Cowichan Valley
- Provided travel and support payments for the RVM sisters’ ministry to Native communities
- Sponsored a Family Life Conference and Camp
- Supported Office of Youth, Youth Camps and Diocesan Youth Conference
- Office of Religious Education developed a new program for Children’s Catechesis and Sacramental Preparation, provided training of parish catechists, and support for the Diocesan Conference and Pastoral Planning
- Assisted four parishes with funds for basic operations, including; heat, light, insurance and priests travel
- Provided funds to retired clergy
- Expanded and seismically upgraded St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Victoria
- Supported many local parish projects

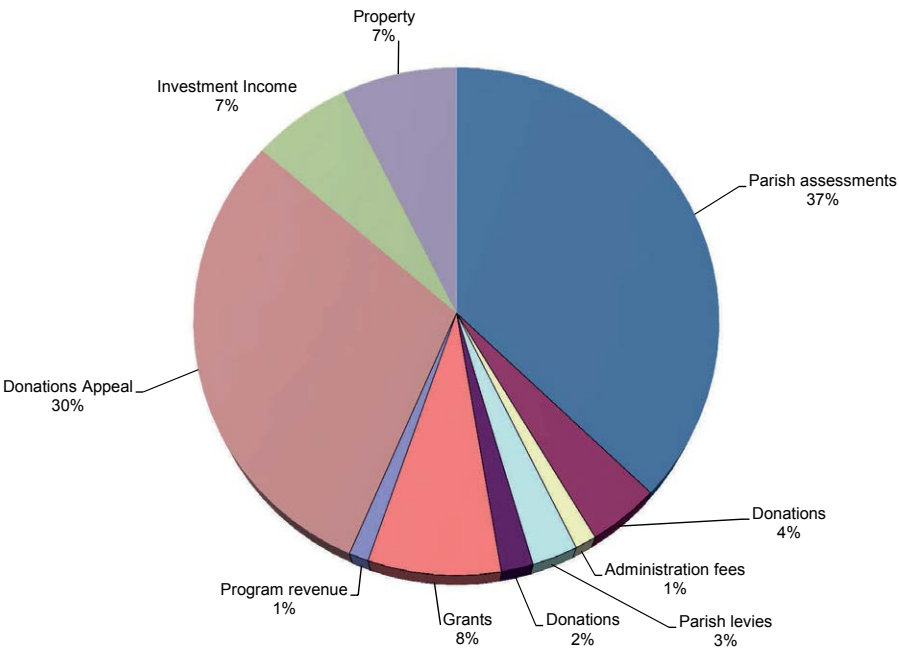
Over the past 4 years the *Journey of Hearts and Hands* Appeal returned \$1,143,665 to parishes for their local initiatives and provided \$1,263,751 to help fund the Catholic Schools capital upgrade plan.

Pastoral Centre

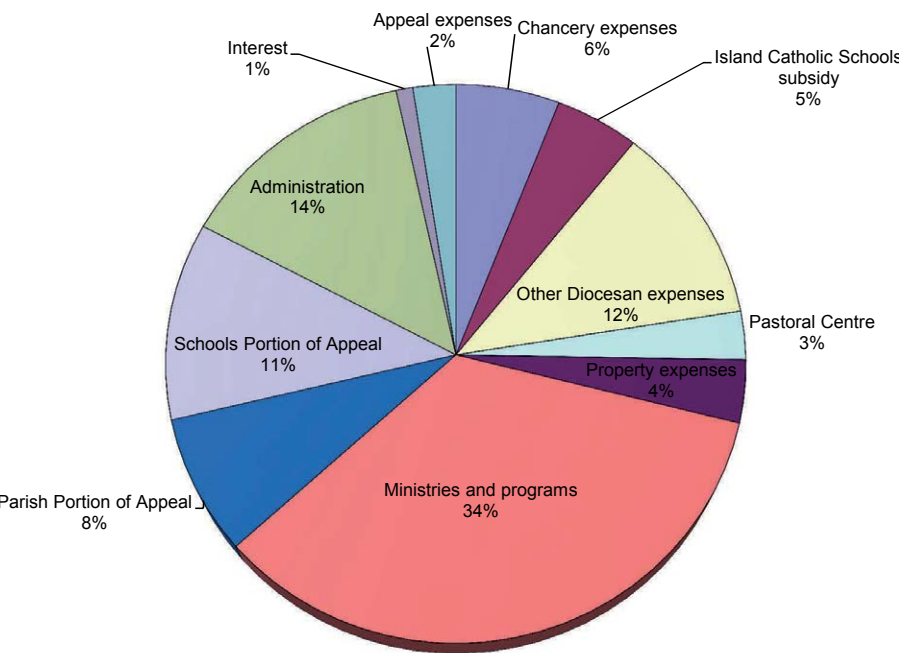
The Pastoral Centre employees 15 full-time and 5 part-time staff members to serve the Chancery and Bishop’s Office, Office of Youth, Office of Religious Education, Island Catholic Schools, Office for Special Education, Media Resources, Marriage Tribunal, Archives, Annual Appeal Office and Information Technology.

Financial and Administrative services are provided for ministries and Diocesan programs, Parishes, Island Catholic Schools, Native Ministry, University Ministry, Social Justice and Life, Hospital Chaplaincy, the Diocesan Messenger, Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment program, St. Clare’s Villa, retired clergy, employee and clergy pension plans, vocations and seminarians.

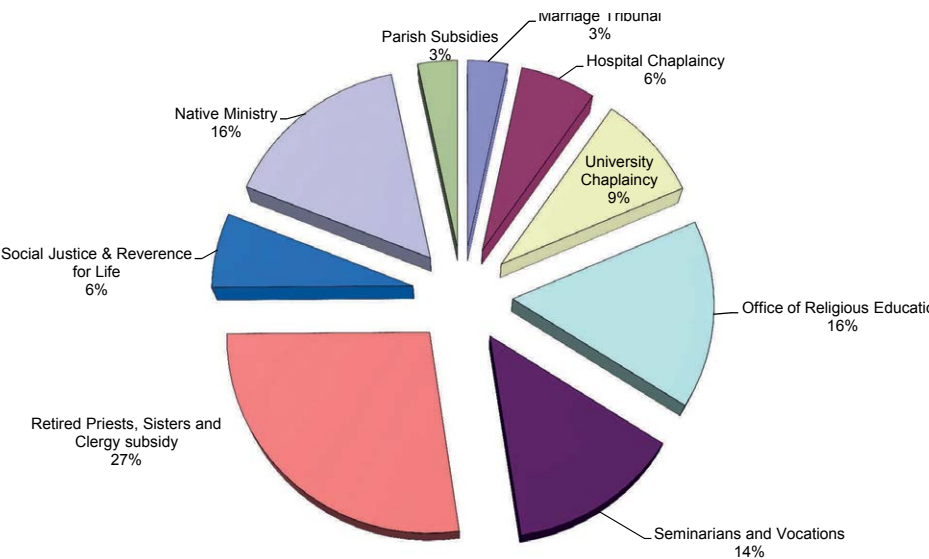
Diocesan Pastoral Centre Operating Revenue 2013



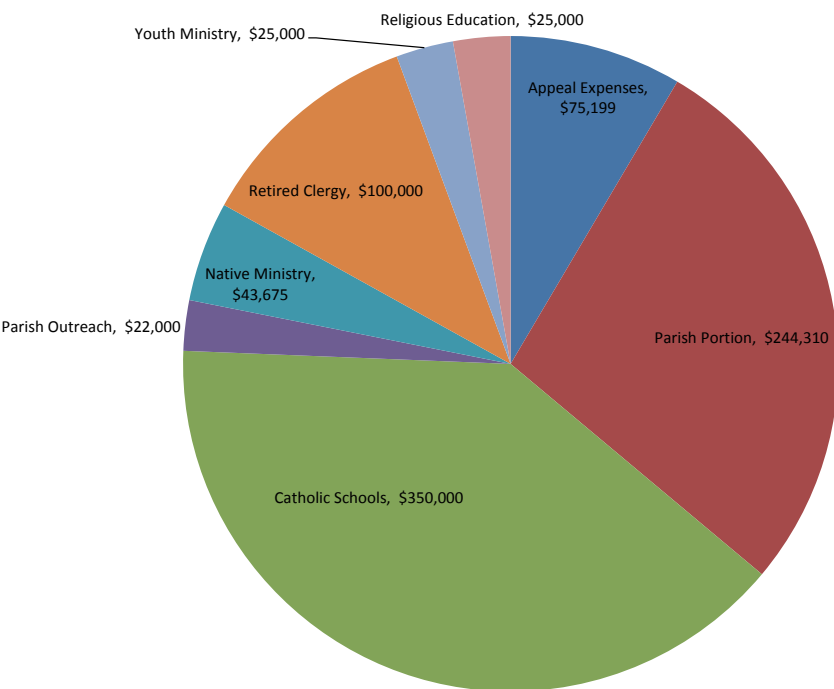
Diocesan Pastoral Centre Operating Expenses 2013



Ministry and Programs 2013



Journey of Hearts and Hands Appeal 2013



Diocesan Pastoral Centre of the Bishop of Victoria, Corporation Sole Statement of Financial Position Year Ended December 31, 2013 with comparative figures for 2012		
	2013	2012
Assets		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	940,891	1,280,774
Accounts receivable	300,416	289,470
Prepaid expenses	38,075	14,554
	1,279,382	1,584,798
<i>Loans and investments</i>	3,496,946	3,599,279
<i>Capital assets</i>	7,144,494	7,216,627
	11,920,822	12,400,704
Liabilities and Net Assets		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	195,350	357,811
Demand bank loans	32,682	44,682
	228,032	402,493
<i>Deferred revenue and contributions</i>	2,611,365	2,828,178
	2,839,397	3,230,671
<i>Net Assets</i>		
Invested in capital assets	5,663,027	5,702,360
Restricted for endowment purposes	381,486	373,326
Internally restricted	548,070	703,468
Unrestricted	2,488,842	2,390,879
	9,081,425	9,170,033
	11,920,822	12,400,704

Standard clergy salary. All priests serving in our Diocese, including the Bishop, receive a standard clergy salary and car allowance which is set annually and adjusted for the cost of living. Incardinated clergy in the Diocese also are guaranteed the standard clergy salary and a housing allowance in retirement. Past priest pension contributions have not been sufficient to provide this level of monthly income. The Diocese provided over \$200,000 to retired clergy and religious in subsidies last year to make up the difference between their income from pension annuities, CPP, OAS and the standard clergy salary. Our goal is to increase the contribution levels for active clergy to ensure that most members at retirement will not require additional funds through diocesan operations. However, it will take time to build up the pension funds and this funding requirement may not be completely eliminated.

Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment initiatives were launched in 2011 which included training in abuse prevention, for all diocesan and parish staff, as well as for all those who volunteer to serve in our many ministries. As of June 2014 over 15 training workshops were offered and attended by hundreds of people. We are grateful to each person who has assisted in sharing the responsibility to protect the children, youth and vulnerable in our care.

The MIC Fund. MIC is an acronym for *Mutual Investment Credit* account which acts as an inter-parish deposit and loan account. All parishes have an operating bank account and MIC bank account at Canadian Western Bank under our master banking agreement. Non-operating funds are to be deposited into MIC accounts to earn interest and to provide funds for inter-parish loans. The MIC fund is internally managed by the Diocesan Finance Committee to set interest and loan rates and repayment schedules. We strive to maximize returns to parishes with funds on deposit and reduce interest charges to parishes requiring loans. ✂

National Collections

Special collections are held in parishes throughout the Diocese to support national and international causes. The funds have been sent directly to the charities listed below for the purposes for which they were collected. The totals reflect funds donated through the parishes and the Diocese and do not include donations sent directly to the charities by individual parishioners or directly by the parish.

Thank you for your generosity in support of these worthy charities. ✂

	2013	2012
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops:		
Needs of the Church in Canada	\$15,659	\$15,816
Pope’s Pastoral Works	\$15,971	\$14,140
Development & Peace:		
Share Lent	\$94,883	\$113,698
Disaster Relief- Syria and Philippine Typhoon	\$97,992	-
Needs of Church in the Holy Land (Good Friday)	\$36,449	\$34,709
Evangelization of Nations	\$16,345	\$18,914
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$14,725	\$13,495
Total National Collections	\$325,335	\$210,772

Diocesan Pastoral Centre of the Bishop of Victoria, Corporation Sole Statement of Operations Year Ended December 31, 2013 with comparatives for 2012		
	2013	2012
Revenue		
Parish assessments	1,099,716	1,047,345
Donations	126,373	166,277
Administration fees	37,945	40,208
Ministries and programs:		
Parish levies	81,024	71,064
Donations	56,674	44,336
Grants	234,727	196,972
Program revenue	34,584	17,593
Donations Appeal	885,184	1,012,969
Investment Income	187,242	163,197
Property	216,375	213,501
	2,959,844	2,973,463
Expenses		
Chancery Expenses	182,465	155,836
Island Catholic Schools subsidy	147,768	147,768
Other Diocesan expenses	356,785	389,159
Pastoral Centre	85,592	93,474
Property Expenses	110,766	113,454
Ministries and programs:		
Marriage Tribunal	34,822	54,706
Hospital Chaplaincy	65,910	60,254
University Chaplaincy	93,456	90,345
Office of Religious Education	164,242	143,350
Seminarians and Vocations	142,395	102,662
Retired Priests, Sisters and Clergy subsidy	286,095	303,138
Justice and Life	65,430	76,257
Native Ministry	164,374	174,125
Parish Subsidies	34,314	37,768
Parish Portion of Appeal	244,310	308,520
Schools Portion of Appeal	350,000	351,000
Administration	423,333	445,613
Interest	29,356	29,560
Appeal Campaign expenses	75,199	61,258
	3,056,612	3,138,247
Normal Diocesan Operations	(96,768)	(164,784)
Extraordinary expenses	-	102,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(96,768)	(266,784)

Diocese of Victoria
Schedule of Activity
Journey of Hearts & Hands Annual Appeal
Period Ending December 31

	2013	2012
Appeal Revenue	\$ 885,184	\$ 1,012,969
Appeal Expenses	\$ 75,199	\$ 61,257
Parish Portion	\$ 244,310	\$ 308,520
Schools Portion	\$ 350,000	\$ 351,000
Parish Outreach	\$ 22,000	\$ 26,000
Native Ministry	\$ 43,675	\$ 96,207
Retired Clergy	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Justice and Life	\$ 0	\$ 25,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 25,000	\$ 19,985
Religious Education	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Seminiarian	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total - Appeal Expenses	\$ 885,184	\$ 1,012,969

* Appeal funds are raised in October through December to support programs and ministries in the next fiscal year.

At year end, the Appeal money raised is deferred until expenses for the special purposes of the Appeal goals are incurred.

Calendar of Events

September

19 Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford: *YDisciple*, a program for students in grades 7 – 9, to help teenagers take ownership of their faith. *YDisciple* discusses the themes of chastity, love, fellowship, the true beauty & strength, and relationships in the everyday live. This is a four week program that runs on four Fridays from 7 – 8:30 pm: September 19 & 26 and October 3 & 24. The registration fee to cover the cost of materials is \$20. For registration or more information email olor@shaw.ca or call the office at 250.478.3482.

13 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: *Centering Prayer Workshops:* Centering Prayer is a method that helps you get in touch with your inner self by learning to meditate. This prayer teaches us inner silence and stillness that diminishes the inner chaos that we sometimes experience. It is a tradition that goes back to early Christianity. The Centering prayer workshops are based on a series of six DVE talks by Fr. Thomas Keating OCSO (Trappist Monk). The first workshop Saturday, September 13, begins at 10 am at St. Joseph the Worker Parish and will continue each succeeding Saturday for six weeks. Please register by calling the office 250.479.7413 or by email: charlieballen@gmail.com.

14 Our Lady of the Rosary, Langford: 11 am, Parish Picnic for the end of summer, Knights of Columbus farm, 4537 Rocky Point Road, off Happy Valley Road. For more information contact the parish office at 250.478.3482.

21 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: 9 am, Sacramental Prep Info Session. Contact the office at 250.479.7413 for more information.

26 - 28 Annual Fall Retreat for UVic and Camosun students: All UVic and Camosun students are invited to the always-popular annual Fall retreat September 26-28 at Camp Qwonoes. Last year 45 students and their chaplain, Fr. Dean Henderson, enjoyed a holy and happy community building retreat focused on the Theology of the Body. This year, with the addition of Catholic Christian Outreach staff support, the students will focus on the theme derived in part from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation—the *Joy of the Gospel*. There will be games, great food, sharing of student testimonies of the love of God and lots of friendship building. If you or a person you know is a student and would like to join us, please contact Fr. Dean catholic@uvic.ca.

Upcoming Events

October

3-4 St. Patrick's Victoria: 9:30am – 2pm. CWL Good Used Clothing Sale on Friday Oct 3 and Saturday Oct 4, 2014. Bazaar only on Saturday. 2060 Haultain St. Ample parking and wheelchair accessible. For more information contact the office: 250.592.7391 or parishsecretary@telus.net.

4 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: 9 – 11am, Men's Breakfast at the new Westshore White Spot on the Langford Parkway. Guest speakers: Fr. William Hann and Christopher Burke. To register call 250.479.7413 or email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

5 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: 11:30 am, Blessing of the Pets.

6 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: *Soul Searching: The Spiritual Journey of Thomas Merton* begins October 6 and runs Monday nights (except Oct 13) through November 10. Presented by Dr. L. McKeown. To register call 250.479.7413 or email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

7 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: *Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church.* 7 – 9 pm, through November 18. Do you believe you have burned too many bridges and have reached the point of no return? Remember there is no condemnation and there is no one among us good enough



Retired Accountants Have Our Best Interest at Heart

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

For more information please call

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

to throw the first stone. To register, call the parish office at 250.479.7413 or email charlieballen@gmail.com.

18 Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Annual Christian Charities Fall Sale, 9 am – 2 pm. Clothing, bedding, linens, house wares and attic treasures will all be on sale. All proceeds to charities.

21 Union Club, Victoria: Association of Catholic Leaders Breakfast. Registration at 7 am; Breakfast at 7:30 am. Cost \$28 including breakfast. Keynote speaker is Brett Powell. Brett is the Vice-President of Organizational Development and Administration for Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). Registration deadline October 14. For more information or to register, contact Tim Dumas at 250. 857.5817 or email victoriabcac@gmail.com.

November

1 Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Parish Bazaar, 9 am – 2 pm. Tea Room, home baking, ethnic food, Lucky Seven, books, crafts, jewelry, raffle and children's activities. All proceeds to charities.

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.

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

Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria: Regular meetings will resume on the following Saturdays, with faith sharing, prayers, potluck, Mass or special presentations by expert speakers: September 20 (Estates and Wills; no Mass), October 18 (Fall & Strike, Acupuncture; no Mass), November 1 or 8 (Mass by Fr. John Mak from Calgary, depending on his availability, otherwise the topic will be Real Estate and Property Assessment). 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. Meetings will conclude with a potluck supper. For more information contact Ben Chow at benchow@shaw.ca.

Pastoral ministry gets you really, really focussed on what it's all about, which is Jesus Christ. You get less concerned about the details and more concerned about what truly matters. The mission of the Church is way bigger than your parish or your diocese.

~ Bishop Gary Gordon

Sundays

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

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

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

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

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

communio : community, mutual participation; association; sharing; fellowship; communion.

~ JM Latin English Dictionary



The Diocesan Messenger

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Knights of Columbus, Distribution



Island News & Events



A Decade Rooted in Christ

by Jean Allen and Moira King

When asked why he became a priest, Fr. William Hann replied, “Because I realized it’s not all about me.”

Ten years later, it’s still obviously not all about him, and on June 20, 2014, in recognition of a man with a true pastoral heart, close to 300 parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Church, along with other friends, filled the church to enthusiastically celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass of his 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood that culminated with a grand and festively decorated potluck dinner.

Near the end of the Mass, children processed with a card and a running T-shirt gift. Everyone was then treated to a PowerPoint presentation of Fr. William’s Decade of Memories, and put to his favourite song, The Summons. During dinner, Fr. William was presented with a monetary gift of donations from the parish. Because tin is the traditional 10th anniversary gift, he was also given a whimsical tin basket, which held various practical items for his personal use. Each attending family was given a beautiful take-home keepsake box made with shimmery paper and tied with a sapphire-coloured ribbon—the colour of the decade anniversary. Featured on the box were a photo of Fr. William and a short history of his ordination journey to his present posting as Pastor at St. Joseph the Worker Parish.



“I am so in love with the Church. I am so in love with my ministry. And I am so in love with the people of God.”

August 15th is Fr. William’s official anniversary date when he will celebrate Mass with his friends and family members in Newfoundland this summer. It was on this date in 2004 that Fr. William became the first seminarian to be ordained by the newly appointed Bishop of Victoria, Richard Gagnon, now the Archbishop of Winnipeg.

In a letter of congratulations to Fr. William, Archbishop Gagnon remarked to the parishioners, “As you know, Fr. William has worked very hard to develop St. Joseph the Worker Parish and is overseeing the new construction at the elementary school. Fr. William has had a number of Diocesan appointments including his role as the Bishop’s Representative to Catholic Health Care, and his appointment as Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools. In addition, he has served on many committees including the Council of Priests.”

To Father William, the Archbishop added, “I would like to say thank you for your support of me throughout your ten years of priesthood in the Diocese of Victoria. Your first ten years as a priest has revealed you to be a hardworking and caring pastor of souls.”

Following his ordination, Father William served as Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth’s in Sydney before his appointment in 2006 as Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker, where he began his trademark whirlwind of pastoral leadership. From fundraisers to building projects, to parish pastoral plans and active promotion of reconciliation and healing for marginalized people, especially sexual abuse victims, Fr. William walks closely with all people, showing them a heart full of compassion and hope.

Ending his homily at his celebration Mass, Fr. William stated passionately, “I am so in love with the Church. I am so in love with my ministry. And I am so in love with the people of God.”

A decade rooted in love. A decade rooted in Christ. ✂



Celebrating a Lifetime of Service and Holiness

by Shannon Turner, Chair, Hospitality Ministry, St. Patrick’s Parish
Photo: Mark Redchurch

St. Patrick’s Parish Victoria hosted a parish picnic in the hall to recognize and celebrate the priesthood of Fr. William MacDonald OMI. Fr. Bill, as he preferred to be known, worked tirelessly for our parish. He came during a time of major transition and brought stability, humour and enormous administrative talents. Fr. Bill took great care of our pastoral needs, and families in the parish will remember his many kindnesses as they experienced the Sacraments under his care.

The picnic was a wonderful affair and the hall was overflowing with guests. Tony Joe facilitated the event and many parishioners spoke of Father’s ministry and their love and appreciation for him. We know few people who have served so faithfully for so many years and St. Patrick’s will miss Fr. Bill a great deal.

Our thanks to the Knights of Columbus who provided the barbeque and the Catholic Women’s league who made the salads; and special thanks to Bruna Perusi for managing the watermelon and running the kitchen so expertly. It was a beautiful community event, typical of the laid back and welcoming style of Fr. Bill.

Much love and blessings to you, Fr. Bill, as you move into a well-deserved retirement! ✂

For more information about the Oblates on Vancouver Island, see story, page 10.



The “MacDonalds” sign was created by parishioner Cal Jones as a tribute to Fr. Bill MacDonald

50th Anniversary Kick-Off at Sacred Heart

by Ben Pires

Sacred Heart Parish has kicked off a year-long celebration leading to the 50th anniversary of the First Mass at the church at 4040 Nelthorpe Street on September 5, 1965, with an invitation to all former parishioners to join in the celebration. The parish has posted lists of all those who were baptized and/or received their first communion and were confirmed at the church since 1965. *Diocesan Messenger* readers may want to check out these lists at the church. In early November, portrait photographs of parishioners will be taken for a special anniversary photo-book souvenir that will include the parish’s history and a roster of parishioners. ✂

Sow Much Love

by Elana Wright, Education Material Officer, Development and Peace

Development and Peace to call for support of small family farmers and their right to seeds during the 2014 fall campaign

At Development and Peace, we believe that there is room at the table for all. However, 1 billion people are still suffering from hunger—that's one in eight people of the entire human family! This fall, Development and Peace continues to answer the call of Pope Francis to fight the global scandal of hunger by launching an education campaign about the role of women and men family farmers in fighting hunger. Under the slogan *Sow Much Love*, the campaign will educate Canadians about the role of family farmers as stewards of the world's seeds, and call on Canadians to take action to support the rights of farmers in the face of the growing threat of corporate control of seeds.



Farmers' seeds are the heritage of the family farmers and peasant communities who use them to feed their families, their communities and the world. Without access to seeds, the livelihoods of small family farmers and peasants around the world is threatened. By supporting small family farmers in their struggle to maintain the world's seed biodiversity, we will ensure that they can continue to feed their families, and play a major role in fighting global hunger.

Caritas Internationalis is organizing a Global Week of Action, from October 12 – 18, 2014, and we hope that Canadians from coast to coast will join in! Stay tuned for proposed activities and events for that week. It will be a key moment in the campaign when the entire world will be focused on food and hunger on World Food Day on October 16, 2014.

There will be many ways that you can join in the campaign. Through educational and advocacy materials and activities, we'll learn about the essential role of small family farmers in feeding the hungry, and the challenges that they face. Then, we'll take action to support their right to use traditional seeds. We are producing an activity guide for teachers and youth leaders, accompanied by special online games and activities, so that children and youth can engage in this important campaign. Two documentary films which examine the role of small family farmers in Haiti and in the Sahel, along with discussion guides, are available for your use in your community. Watch for the organizer's kit which was mailed out in mid to late August, and will also be available at www.devp.org. Be sure to order the campaign materials at the end of August so that you can promote the campaign in your parish, local schools and your community-at-large.

With your support, Development and Peace will be able to continue to raise its voice with other Caritas organizations around the world to fight the injustice that causes global hunger. Together, we can make a place at the table for all of the members of our human family! ✂

For more information, please contact Sr. Marina Smith SSA, by email to victoriadevp@gmail.com.

60 Years of Service

by Doreen Fenton, CWL President, Salt Spring Council

On June 19th Lena Ostapowich was presented with her 60-year pin with the CWL at a celebration Mass at St. Paul's in Fulford Harbour. Three priests concelebrated the special Mass. After Mass, a luncheon was held on the beautiful grounds of a nearby parishoner.

Lena first joined the CWL at St. Joseph's in Russel, Manitoba. During her time with the Council at St. Joseph's, Lena held various positions but her greatest passion was baking and helping at all the fundraisers. After her husband died, Lena moved to Salt Spring Island at the age of 77 to be near her son. At 96 Lena has only recently reduced the amount of baking she does for CWL events. We are blessed to have Lena at our Council on Salt Spring Island. ✂



L to R: Fr. Ian Stuart, Parish Administrator; Fr. Jules Goulet, former priest at the parishes on Salt Spring Island, and Fr. Edward Evanko with Lena Ostapowich (centre)

100 Years and Counting!

by Christa Grillmair

Being a centenarian is an honor and in July 2014, family and friends celebrated the 100th birthday of Josephine Good.



One hundred years ago, on July 14, 1914, George Cunningham, a British man, and Elizabeth Williams, an Aboriginal lady from the Tsawwassen First Nation, welcomed their daughter, Josephine. She married George Good from the Snuneymuxw First Nation in Nanaimo, had three daughters and is now grandmother to 10 and great-grandmother to 20.

Josephine has led a very active and fulfilling life. She worked in the women's correctional system in Nanaimo well into her 70s. She was a founding member of the Tillicum House, served on various committees on the Snuneymuxw First Nation, and represented Aboriginals in KAIROS Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, a religious organization that works to promote human rights, social justice and peace. She has been a member of St. Peter's Catholic Women's League (CWL) for the past 24 years. Together with another CWL member, Muriel Loftus, Josephine organized catechism classes for the mothers and children of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and continues to be a great inspiration to them.

Josephine is a great storyteller. In her youth, she wanted to be a nun. However, the convent turned her down because they felt that she was not strong enough to be one. On her last birthday, she said: "I am now 99 years old, do you think I am strong enough?"

Living a healthy lifestyle—gardening, taking walks, picking berries, eating healthy meals and having a happy and positive disposition—accounts for Josephine being healthy and vigorous at the age of 100. ✂

What I Learned in Youth Group

by Marianna Joan Yvonne Sillseemult

I learned lots from that very first day to now. I have a bigger circle of friendship, did lots of art, learned prayers and knitting. We made lots of friends and figured out our relatives—who we are related to. Sometimes we can get close to 20 of us in youth group.

We did lots of art. We made the family tree, wrote in journals, and made a Father's Day gift. During art, one of my young sisters learned how to spell her name.

“... I know more about God ... because I was taught how to pray.

My sisters and I learned how to say prayers. One of my sisters learned how to say *Hail Mary* and *Our Father*. I learned *Glory Be*, *Hail Holy Queen* and the *Apostles' Creed*. Now I hear my sister saying *Hail Mary* and *Our Father* all the time.

We are still knitting. We are knitting squares then when we are done we will make a quilt. I'm not sure what we will do with the quilt. I started knitting at school, then not too long after we started knitting in youth group.

I would say now I can teach my sisters more about God than before I started youth group, because I know more about God, and also because I was taught how to pray.

I am being taught about the Elders' Teachings. I went to the Elders' building for a drum group for singing, dancing and played a game, and learned Elders' Teaching. We learned that when we eat and learn Elders' Teachings, you're swallowing the teachings. I would like to thank those who helped for the drum night and the youth group. ✂

Marianna is a member of the Youth Group supported by the St. Ann's First Nations Ministry and local First Nations Community members.



“I Love a Jimmy-Book!”

by Theresa Vogel, Archives Manager, Diocese of Victoria

Very few girls passed through the Sister-Mary-Stella-SSA-era at St. Ann’s Academy in Victoria without overhearing Sister’s gleeful pronouncement of her passion for museum and archival collections. Though a *jimmy-book* is more properly an assortment of the souvenirs of a schoolgirl, the enthusiasm for assembling and cataloguing historical treasures is a key in archival development. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm and more than a little curiosity that I begin work as the Archives Manager for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria.

The management of the archives of most dioceses falls into the domain of the Diocesan Chancellor, and in this regard, the collection continues to be part of the mandate of Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins, the current Chancellor. In times past, the Diocesan Archives have benefitted from dedicated staff and volunteers under the leadership of the Chancellor of the day. There is a growing recognition, however, that the archival resources of church and religious organizations are not only reliable records of the social and cultural development of a community or region, but an unparalleled tool for evangelization.

My interest in archives was fostered by eight years’ service as the Executive Director of the Society of Friends of St. Ann’s Academy in Victoria, BC. At the national historic site of St. Ann’s in downtown Victoria, I was mentored by the archivists of the Sisters of St. Ann. In that process, I was also given a glimpse of the inestimable value of historical records in revealing and reinforcing the values of a religious organization, and how those ideals spread to the social fabric of the city or region. Prior to involvement at St. Ann’s Academy National Historic Site, I worked in healthcare, both at the service delivery and administrative levels, and was originally prepared for hospital work with undergraduate and graduate degrees in rehabilitation. Somewhere along the path, the ‘adventure bug’ began to circle, and with diplomas in Pastoral Ministry and Adult Education, I began to take sabbatical years (and then ‘retirement pursuits’) in Canada’s northern missions. In 2003 – 2004, I served as the Coordinator of Lay Leadership Development in the Archdiocese of Keewatin–The Pas, and most recently, fulfilled a two-year contract as the Pastoral Administrator of St. Theresa’s Mission in Telegraph Creek, BC. It is likely that the interest in historical records was fully formed during these northern sojourns—long winter evenings are the perfect opportunity for delving into the fascinating chronicles of the religious men and women who developed the North! In many northern missions, too, a new understanding of the relationship between the church and Canada’s Native Peoples is a requirement, and the written and oral records in tiny communities are a partial source for growth.

Despite popular belief, archives are ‘living entities’. As such, they benefit from ongoing effort in cataloguing and preservation, as well as consideration of opportunities for educational outreach and research. The recent advent of techniques in computer-assisted records management and digitization of collections is yet to be fully considered in the Diocesan Archives. Thankfully, however, the work carried out by volunteers and staff in the archives to date has been attentive, and the foundation is laid for efficient organization of the material. Within the Diocese of Victoria, there are a number of qualified individuals, including historians, active archive professionals and archivists *emeriti*, who will soon be fielding a call from me, with the request that they come together in an *Advisory Committee to the Diocesan Archives!*

Lest you think that this advisory committee will have naught to do but consider sparkling metal storage shelves and the latest technology in cool scanners, be assured that these people will have to wrestle with a current and complex challenge—developing policy for accessibility in religious archives. The Diocese of Victoria presently has sound policy governing its archival collection, but review and revision is called for, in light of a new reality. The new reality requires

that the privacy and dignity of church personnel be protected at the same time the transparency surrounding information in historical documents is advanced. This standard must be maintained as the archives become a credible centre for research, as well as a mechanism for evangelization.

Researchers of all kinds approach diocesan archives with mixed motives. A few are searching for information to support their essentially negative view of the church. Some are wrapped up in the current genealogy craze, and think all the sacramental records of the church ought to be digitized and posted online. Occasionally, public and private groups are aware that the detailed records of the Roman Catholic Church are amazing sources of information on social and human development. Taken to its very extreme, these individuals are the actualization of the cliché: *What’s yours is mine, and what’s mine is mine!* The priority, as mentioned previously, is allowing research while safeguarding the confidentiality and honour of our distinguished forebears.

A similar principle in archival policy governs the employment of archival resources in evangelization. One of the explanatory attitudes toward promotion of archival heritage in the Church is contained in the following declaration:

Christianity is characterized by the announcement of the Gospel in the “hic et nunc” (here and now) of every generation, and by faithfulness to the Tradition. The Church throughout her history “...has made use of different cultures in order to spread and explain the Christian message.” (Second Ecumenical Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes, December 7, 1965, n. 58.)

With such guidance at hand, the future of the Diocesan Archives in Victoria is set. The documents, treasures and souvenirs in the collection are truly proclamation of our Catholic faith there and then, as well as here and now—invaluable instruction on the mission of the Church. ✠



When Catholic Archivists get together – there is no end to the surprises!
L to R: Theresa Vogel (Diocese of Victoria Archives); Shelley Myhres (Programme Coordinator – St. Ann’s Academy National Historic Site); Carey Pallister (Sisters of St. Ann Archives)

Fundraising for Mount St. Mary Hospital has Gone to the Dogs

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

On October 4, 2014, Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation and the Victoria community will celebrate the bond between person and pet at the First Annual Blessing of the Pets. A ‘Blessing of the Animals’ is part of a celebrated Catholic tradition and is associated with St. Francis of Assisi.

Imagine if you will, Victoria in the fall with crisp autumn leaves scattered at your feet. You and your beloved puppy or guppy are standing in the gardens beside Mount St. Mary Hospital. The garden gates have swung open and you are gathered with others; one person has with them a ferret, another has a parrot. All of you are there to participate in an exciting new fundraiser in support of Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation. You are there to take part in the First Annual Blessing of the Pets.

From all over Victoria, Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation will welcome a variety of pets, each to be individually blessed by Franciscan Friars. Individuals and families are encouraged to arrive and join the procession of animals—a family with its dog; a grandmother with her grandson cradling his beloved cat; a little girl holding her hamster delicately in its ball; a young boy, his goldfish sloshing gently in its bowl; and a gentleman with his colourful parakeet.

Franciscan Friars—in the traditional brown cassocks and white corded belts—along with Foundation staff will greet the fluffy, furry and perhaps even scaly procession of animals much like one might imagine Noah did at the ramp of the Ark. Participants will mingle, enjoying the exciting interactive displays and interesting partner and sponsor exhibits.

Frazer Dan will recite a prayer for all the animals, after which Fraters Dan, Sebastian and Carlos will bless will the animals individually, a custom in keeping with the practice of St. Francis of Assisi’s respect for animals and celebration of the unity of all creation.

Following the Blessings, participants will be encouraged to continue to mingle and engage with one another and view the displays; as they leave, partakers will receive a pet-related goody bag. Everyone is welcome with or without a pet. All the proceeds will go directly towards supporting the Caring Hearts Fund and programs of Mount St. Mary Hospital; programs such as Music Therapy, Pastoral Care and Pet Therapy. See advertisement page 23 ✠

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Tea for Two Serves 300+

by Barbara Newton, Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation
Photo: Daniela Hartshorn, MSMHF Volunteer

The orchard at St. Ann’s Academy welcomed over 300 people in bustle skirts and top hats on Sunday, August 10, 2014, as they gathered to celebrate the legacy of the Sisters of St. Ann and Sophie Pemberton. They were served dainty sandwiches prepared by Chef Michael Williams accompanied by St. Ann’s Orchard tea, a new blend from Silk Road Tea. Costumed volunteers and the Knights of Columbus served guests while Victorian Vogue presented a fascinating glimpse of fashion in the 1800s. A concert by Raven Baroque and the story of Sophie Pemberton presented by Marie Hélène Bourret finished the program.

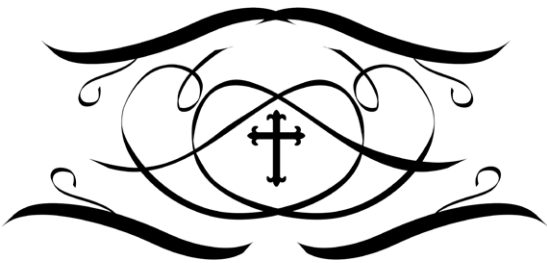


Guests enjoyed Victorian games and interacted with historic impersonators in the Academy’s Interpretive Centre. The Executive Directors of the two host organizations—Kathleen Burton and Julie Cormier —agree everything came together to make the event a magical occasion and both are grateful for the many ways the Catholic community supported the event.

The first annual Sophie Pemberton Tea was hosted collaboratively by the Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation and the Society of Friends of St. Ann’s Academy to honour the instrumental role of the Sisters of St. Ann in the development of education and health care in BC. The Sisters of St. Ann arrived from Lachine, Quebec, in 1858 expecting a sleepy frontier town. Instead, they were confronted with the needs of a gold rush boomtown and immediately immersed themselves in the education of local children and the care of the sick regardless of colour, creed or nationality. Both Mount St. Mary Hospital and St. Ann’s Academy were founded by the Sisters of St. Ann. ✂



Victorian Vogue models displaying a fascinating glimpse of fashion in the 1800s at the Sophie Pemberton Tea.



Birthright Strollerthon

by Peggy Chapeskie, Birthright Victoria Director



On August 16, Birthright Victoria held its annual 5K sponsored walk, with our biggest attendance yet—almost 30 participants. A surprise walker was Bishop Gary Gordon (pictured left, in the white shirt)! Other walkers represented Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Sacred Heart, the Saanich Peninsula parish, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Columba, Our Lady Queen of the World, Holy Cross, Queen of Peace, and St. Andrew’s Cathedral. We expect to raise over \$4,000 for Birthright’s pro-life crisis pregnancy service as a result of this fundraiser. Many thanks to all who participated!

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me

By: Kathleen Burton, Executive Director, Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation

People may come into our lives as strangers. The same can often be said about those who move to Mount St. Mary Hospital. But strangers they are not, at least not for long. At Mount St. Mary Hospital, residents and their families are welcomed into a home like environment. Here they receive the various types of health and homemaking services to make them feel welcome. Matthew 25:35—“For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

It is in that same spirit that Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation welcomes the Most Reverend Gary Gordon, and celebrates his Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria. Not a stranger by reputation, he is most welcomed by the community of Victoria. We rejoiced—we have a new bishop! Habemus episcopum novum!—at the news shared by His Holiness Pope Francis, on Saturday, June 14, 2014, when he announced the Most Reverend Gary Gordon as the Bishop of Victoria.

God is good, and He has a plan. The installation of a Bishop succeeding the Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, who was appointed Archbishop of Winnipeg on October 28, 2013, is part of His divine and ordained plan. We welcome the Most Reverend Gary Gordon as Bishop and look forward to seeing God’s plan unfold and be carried out in the lives of individuals through him; and welcome Bishop Gary to the Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation’s family and into our Caring Hearts. ✂

“For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

~ Matthew 25:35

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Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Welcome Addition to Food Bags

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

Jennifer (O’Driscoll) Begley does not need to go to the gym to get her exercise, as she does plenty of weight lifting as a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Green Circuit team. Jennifer is the regular driver who meets one of a team of volunteers every weekday morning at 9 am at the SVDP administration centre where the Green Circuit van is kept. This van was generously donated by Wheaton GM for the work of the Society. I met with Jennifer one morning to see firsthand what goes on in this important project.

The Green Circuit produce rescue program has been operating since 2012 and collects up to 1,000 lbs of fresh, culled produce from four Fairways stores, five days per week for distribution on the same day from the downtown Social Concern Office (SCO) as part of their once-a-month food parcels. A typical collection is about 700 lbs a day. Gordon Stuart, the volunteer director and developer of the Green Circuit program says that Fairway err on the side of caution in disposing of unsaleable produce and so a good deal of quite edible fruits and veggies are being diverted from the compost or the pig farm to the tables of needy people.

Jennifer used to drive an armoured car transporting money around the city, but she feels her current position is a much better match for her lifestyle and values; she told me how comfortable she feels working with “nice, friendly people” and doing a job that makes a difference in the world. We arrived at the first of four Fairway stores where SVDP has an arrangement to pick up their past-prime fruits and veggies. I was in awe of the way Jennifer handled heavy cartons of food getting them from the store to the van, and felt guilty that she only had my wimpy assistance—usually she is accompanied by a Green Circuit volunteer who does a lot of the heavy lifting for her. On we went to all the stores and swung by Leaven Bakery to pick up a giant bag of bread to be distributed in the food bags. The SCO also receives bread and buns from Cobbs, Thrifty’s, and Salt Spring Island Bagels.

We made it to the SCO and a lot more weight lifting went on getting the fruits and veggies up to the sorting room. There we were greeted by volunteers from the Frederic Ozanam Centre who had been patiently awaiting our arrival (I think I slowed Jennifer down on this day!). This Centre, also run by the Society



Kylie Militello from the Ozanam program helps sort the produce

of St Vincent de Paul in partnership with Community Living BC, operates a day program for people with developmental disabilities and offers a range of programs that provide opportunity for growth, independence, self-fulfillment and integration into the community. This day the participants were the volunteers assigned to the Green Circuit program.

Jennifer and I put on our plastic gloves and helped out with the sorting process where fruits and veggies are bagged to be given out to people with needs at the front of the SCO, and the produce that is no longer useable is thrown in the compost. Once a week, the Green Circuit team takes the compost out to a local farm where it is used to replenish the soil. Our job done for the day, Jennifer drove me back to the administration centre in Royal Oak and went on her way to pick up her son from school and head back to Metchosin where she lives. She told me she would not bother going to the gym that day—little wonder! ✂

Sisters of St. Ann Jubilarians



L to R: Sister Marie Zarowny, Province Leader, joins Srs. Frieda Raab, Pat Dickinson and Shirley Walsh as they celebrate their respective jubilees as Sisters of St. Ann. Sr. Pat celebrates 70 years, Sr. Frieda 60 years and Sr. Shirley 50 years. The Jubilees were celebrated with Sisters, family and friends on Saturday, August 9, 2014, with Mass at Holy Cross Parish followed by lunch at the University Club. Congratulations!



“Sisters of St. Ann, One Hundred and Fifty Years of Service in the Cowichan Valley and at Providence Farm” were the words written across the cake which the Sisters of St. Ann cut into during the June 1st celebrations at Providence Farm.

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

2 Chronicles 2:9

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

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REFLECTIONS ON YEARS OF The Oblates in the 150th

by Greg Van Dyk

When Fr. Larry Mackey first joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in the 1950s, he had no idea what kind of intense adventure and missionary challenge would become his life's work.

"I wasn't healthy enough to become a university professor, because that's what I was slated for," said Fr. Larry, who studied at the Oblate St. Patrick's College in Ottawa. "Because I couldn't stand all day, they sent me out to the West Coast and I ended up in a small sixteen-foot boat on the open sea of Vancouver Island!"

"The most important thing is to be guided by the people ..."

Now 85, retired, and living in Vancouver, Fr. Larry often reflects back on the great missionary work of the Oblates on Vancouver Island. And the work truly was significant. The retirement of Fr. Bill MacDonald in July 2014 marked the end of the Oblate presence in the Diocese of Victoria, one that spanned over 150 years.

"We were committed, as Oblates, to the missionary work," said Fr. Larry. "Send me to preach the Good News to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted and set prisoners free, is our motto. So we were sent to preach the Good Word, the Gospel, to the outlying areas, remote areas."

The Oblates arrived on Vancouver Island in 1858, and St. Louis College was named after Fr. Louis D'Herbomez, the first principal and an Oblate. With the demands of the Gold Rush, the need for Catholic missionaries proved to be greater on the mainland so the Oblates soon moved to New Westminster.

Diane Lamoreux, archivist for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, noted that the Oblates on the West Coast first moved up to British Columbia from their missionary work in Oregon.



Fr. Mackey, Missionaries and Children of Christie School, 1963

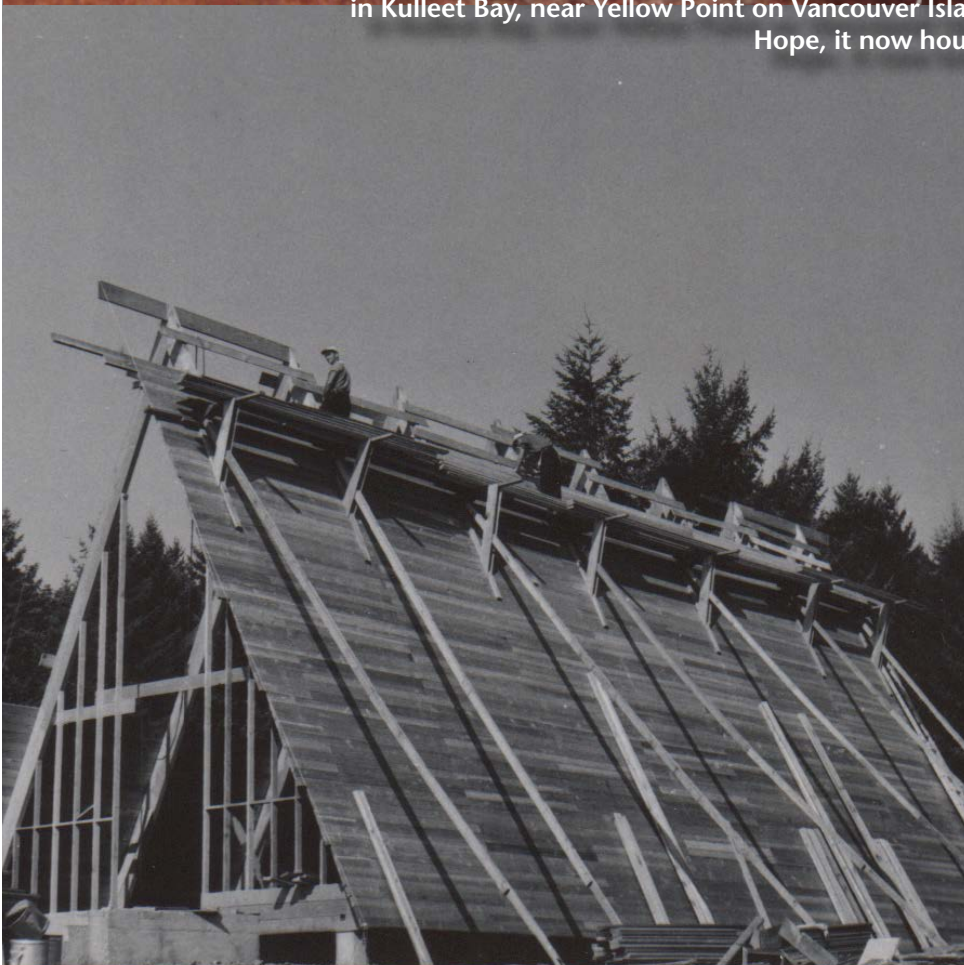
"The first mission on Vancouver Island was opened by Fr. Charles Pandosy at Esquimalt—under the direction of Fr. Louis D'Herbomez, who was the Superior of the Oregon Oblates," she said.

It was not until 1938 that the Church established a permanent mission on the West Coast, centred on Meares Island and Kakawis Residential School. Fr. Larry arrived in 1956, succeeding the Montfortian Fathers and taking over the school at Kuper Island and the surrounding missions.

"When I went down to the CPR to find out where to send my trunk, to Kuper Island, the fellow says, 'Never heard of it!'" recalled Fr. Larry.



Fr. Larry Mackey (seen on the right in the top-right picture, this block of photos) built the A-frame church in Kulleet Bay, near Yellow Point on Vancouver Island, in the 1950s. Known then as Our Lady of Good Hope, it now houses an Art Gallery.



F MISSIONARY ADVENTURE

Diocese of Victoria

Although Fr. Larry had previous experience in the Navy, the West Coast of Vancouver Island provided adventure and challenge as he and fellow Oblate missionaries sought to bring the Gospel to the most remote places.

“It’s such an expansive area with rugged coastline, which makes it extremely difficult to travel,” said Fr. Larry. “And the risk of just even being on the ocean, with phenomenal seas—as you can understand—on the West Coast, and we had to navigate this whole thing from our own boats, with very little experience.”

Missionary priests frequently came up against the terrifying power of nature, and many came close to losing their lives in the tumultuous ocean waves.

“One of our men, Fr. D.D., was lost overnight,” said Fr. Larry, recalling when Fr. Donald Douglas McDonald’s motor died while coming back from midnight Mass at Hesquiat. Another missionary, Fr. Joe Murray, was shipwrecked on an island outside of Queen’s Cove.

“The tide didn’t come up high enough to wash him right off, so they got him in the morning,” said Fr. Larry.

Despite unpredictable weather and general isolation the Oblate missionaries carried on with their work, most of which was among the First Nations of the island’s West Coast. Although most experiences of residential schools were extremely negative and damaging, Fr. Larry expressed that this was not generally the case during his time at the Kakawis and Kuper Island schools.

“When I was the administrator at Kakawis, the government wanted to move all the youngsters out of that area for high school, up to Kamloops and so forth,” said Fr. Larry. “And what I did was establish the first advisory board for the school. But all the advisory board was made of First Citizens people.”

Although Fr. Larry and the Oblates took part in the school system at the request of the Canadian government, he and his fellow missionaries desired to give as much power and control as possible to the local indigenous people.

“The First Nations have the right in law understandably, and in nature, for their own children. But what happened is the government took that over and was running it almost independent of them,” said Fr. Larry. “I realized that they had the power, and that’s why I set up the advisory board for the schools.”

Around 1970, Fr. Larry was instrumental in the establishment of the first group home on McKenzie Avenue for indigenous peoples in Victoria, at the site of what is now St. Andrew’s Regional High School. Louis and Eva Frank, a First Nations couple from Ahousat, ran the group home, where young indigenous students could stay while going to school in the city.



“The people would have control of their own children, and not anybody else, and not the government,” said Fr. Larry. “The government had to work through us and through the Native people themselves.”

Through all of his work with indigenous communities across Vancouver Island, Fr. Larry always knew that missionaries must do their work with sensitivity and humility as they strive to evangelize.

“The most important thing is to be guided by the people. To be in touch with the brokenness and the very sensitive things of peoples’ lives,” said Fr. Larry. “The difficulty with the way we evangelize is we bring in a ‘ready package’ and drop it right on the people without understanding the culture, the background, the qualities and the wisdom and the insights of the people.”

In 1987, when Fr. Larry established Bountyfull Counselling Society, a drug and alcohol counselling agency in Vancouver’s downtown eastside, he carried the same mission of healing the broken-hearted that characterizes Oblate work.

“It was challenging and life-giving and fulfilling ... I would never have wanted it any other way.”

“It was not our mission, it was the brokenness. And all the brokenness came, and that’s what we worked with,” he said. “There is a lot of need, unbelievable need, of people to be set free. To know how to have the Spirit that is within. The Spirit and the life of the Lord is within us. To bring that life that is within us to the fullest. That’s John 10:10.”

Though the Oblates of Mary Immaculate no longer have an official presence on Vancouver Island, their great missionary work leaves a lasting legacy in the Diocese. And for Fr. Larry Mackey, he could never have imagined the adventure and challenge he would encounter when he first arrived from Ottawa in the 1950s. His missionary life as an Oblate on the West Coast, however, proved to be a most meaningful adventure.

“It was challenging and life-giving and fulfilling,” said Fr. Larry. “I would never have wanted it any other way.” ✠



Kakawis (Christie) School, c 1950s



First Communion, Shell Beach Church, 1958, with Bishop Remi De Roo (back centre)

2nd Annual Marriage and Family Life Conference

by Marnie Wynans

Energy was high and the sounds of children echoed across Camp Barnard in Sooke this past July at the 2nd Annual Vancouver Island Catholic Marriage and Family Conference. Nearly 180 people, including 100 children and youth, spent the weekend playing and praying while also being filled with encouragement by guest speaker Pavel Reid from the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Office of Marriage and Life.

Our Camp Leader and Chaplain, Fr. Dean Henderson, played with the kids, ministered to the youth and parents, and made sure an outdoor Mass was said each day. The Catholic Christian Outreach Missionaries IMPACT team spent time sharing their faith with the children through games, talks and arts and crafts so parents could take in the Conference talks. During free time, the large field was usually full of boys and girls of all ages playing soccer, Capture the Flag and 'Garbage Ball', while

parents socialized and renewed friendships with one another. The lake at the camp was a fun place for swimming, canoeing and paddle boating, and of course many marshmallows were toasted around the campfires before bed.

An enormous amount of food was lovingly prepared and served by Chef Tony (from Bear Mountain Golf Club) and his team. Emcees John and Dana Mellis kept the camp running smoothly, along with the many behind-the-scenes organizers and volunteers. Families stayed in cozy cabins, tents and RV's.

Guest speaker Pavel Reid challenged and uplifted parents with interesting stories and statistics about Catholic families in the world today. On the final day, a panel of some of the team of organizers answered questions and shared their faith stories. Many great ideas were formed from the discussion to further the support and outreach to the couples and families in the Diocese of Victoria.

We prayed for Bishop Gary and rejoiced at the announcement that he, our speaker at the 1st annual Marriage and Family Conference, would be our new Shepherd. Dates are being planned already for next summer, and will be announced soon enough for families to plan to make it a part of their 2015 Summer Vacation plans.

Watch your bulletins and the Messenger for next year's dates. Representatives from each parish are needed to help plan and promote the Conference. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning committee can contact Reine Mykyte at reine_and_ian@hotmail.com. ✂



Saints and Sports in the Diocese of Victoria

by Will Gaertner, Seminarian

Running around with anywhere between twenty-five and forty kids every day is certainly an experience: a joy-filled, but tiring, experience!

As I write this, the St. Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of the Rosary camps have finished, with camps at Sacred Heart parish and St. Joseph the Worker parish to come. The campers so far have all seemed to enjoy themselves, having fun playing games and learning something about the faith.

The camp for St. Andrew's was sports themed, where the kids learned about volleyball, football, soccer, dodge ball, and basketball. They also learned about a few saints and exemplary Christians in sport. The camp at Our Lady of the Rosary parish was saint themed, where the kids learned about a few saints each day in addition to their crafts, games, and field trips to parks, beaches, petting zoos, and even the water park.

It has been good working with some of the Catholic Christian Outreach impact members, the many youth volunteers, and especially Maria Campos from Our Lady of the Rosary who brings many years of experience, and an ever-joyful spirit. On the whole the experience has taught me much, and the kids, in addition to learning a few things, have had a blast.

by Maria Campos, Our Lady of the Rosary

I have had the privilege of leading various summer camps, first at Sacred Heart, and now at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, for the last 10 years. Every year is different; we choose a theme that identifies the camp's name. We have crafts, games, and Catholic-



oriented activities all day long. Our field trips are very enjoyable, full of fun and fellowship in a caring environment. Many of the children who attended these camps as children are now the youth helpers. These youth share their energy, enthusiasm and generous spirits with all participants. Many parents have told me that the camp at the church is

their children's favourite of the whole year. What a privilege and a responsibility!

This year at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish we hosted our summer camp from July 14 – 18. The theme of the week was A Saints' Ball. We learned about many saints including St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, and St. Andrew, Patron of our Diocese. We had fabulous field trips to Witty's Lagoon, the Petting Zoo and Beckwith Water Park. We were a group of 50 people, children, teenagers and adults all gathered under the beautiful sunny days and in the love of Our Lord.

July 16th could not pass unnoticed, and the craft that day was about making flowers that we later on took to the church to offer to Our Lady; Mary was smiling upon the children. I heard someone say that every flower we take to our Mother in Heaven makes her smile; what a gentle gesture, letting us give Mary happiness with a flower.

On the last day we had a BBQ and, of course, our dear Knights of Columbus cooked lunch for us. The parents and children were very happy; they just keep coming back every year. Thank you, parents for your continuing support. We love your children! And thank you to our pastor, Fr. Paul Szczur SDS, for his enthusiastic guidance and for being the great benefactor of these camps. ✂



Island Catholic Schools

Superintendent's Message

by Bev Pulyk, Superintendent, Island Catholic Schools

Greetings everyone!

When the position of Superintendent for Island Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria was advertised in April, I immediately knew that I wanted to apply. The Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria have a rich history, and having been involved in Catholic Education in Alberta and British Columbia as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and for the past nine years as the Superintendent of Schools in the Nelson Diocese, I was excited about the possibility of pursuing new challenges with Island Catholic Schools. With a new Bishop, Diocesan Religious Education Director and Superintendent, it is an exciting time in the Diocese.



“If all those in Catholic schools can assist and support each and every student so that he/she has a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, a strong work ethic, a love of learning, and an active role in helping others in this ever-changing world, then we have been successful.

I look forward to visiting the schools and meeting stakeholders in the school and parish communities. In addition to meeting staff, students, School Councils, Parent Support Groups, Pastors and other stakeholders, my plan is to spend the year gathering information about what is to be celebrated about our schools and what might need changing. I welcome the opportunity to develop a shared vision in “charting a new direction” for Island Catholic Schools.

My belief is *if all those in Catholic schools can assist and support each and every student so that he/she has a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, a strong work ethic, a love of learning, and an active role in helping others in this ever-changing world, then we have been successful.* More than ever, schools must work together with home, parish and the community at large to assist in raising well-rounded children in this secular and demanding world.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those people that have so warmly welcomed me to the Diocese. ✠

New Director of Religious Education

by Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education

Dear fellow parishioners,

As the new Director of Religious Education for the Diocese, I want to introduce myself as a first step in serving here on Vancouver Island. My name is Glen Palahicky and my roots are Irish-Ukrainian, hence my love of perogies and potato chips! I am the youngest of five children, and grew up in the “other” part of God’s country: Terrace, BC. My parents, Sacred Heart Parish, and the good Sisters of St. Joseph were the first to plant the seeds of faith in me.



My faith journey has always led me in surprising new ways. As a young man living in Ottawa and working as an electrician, I discerned a vocation to Religious Life with the Capuchin-Franciscans for a number of years. Prior to final vows it was clear another path lay ahead for me. The wonderful gift of this formation has been a blessing for the last 20 years.

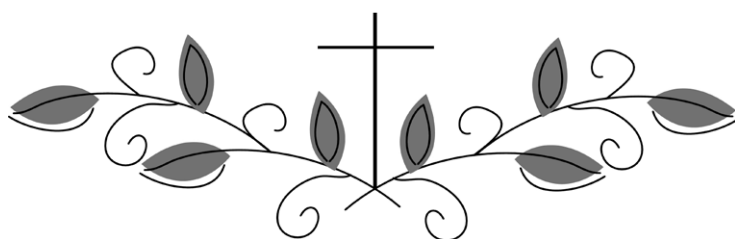
An opportunity to teach Religious Education at St. Thomas Aquinas College in the Bahamas led me to meeting my beautiful wife, Sophia. We moved back to Terrace and were blessed with two children: Victoria (15), and Jonathan (10). I taught and was principal of Veritas Catholic School, where I worked for more than a decade.

Open to a new adventure after 13 years in Terrace, we moved out to Manitoba where I continued new work in Catholic education, while Sophia worked at the University of Manitoba and Ministry of Education. Strong community and warm friendly people have made up for the not-so-balmy winters. Now the Lord has opened another door of ministry for which I am grateful, and through which I move, ready to serve and share the good news of Jesus as best I can.

I enjoy many activities: playing most sports, especially tennis and baseball, fishing, hiking, reading, watching action movies, DIY projects, learning new technology, horseback riding with my daughter and her horse, Lacey, travelling and sometimes, honestly— just sitting.

I do look forward to meeting you in person, and I ask for your sincere prayers in my new ministry and in my family’s transition to a wonderful, new community.

Peace and Joy! ✠



Getting the Facts Right About Independent Schools

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The teachers’ strike in the public school system has led to much misinformation about independent schools in BC. In June, a public school parent in Vancouver initiated a petition lobbying the provincial government to eliminate funding to independent schools. It is important that the general public understand the implication if such a decision by the provincial government were to ever take place. The end result would yield an even greater financial burden on the education system in this province.

Recent statistics published by the Federation of Independent School Associations BC (FISABC) indicate that the 350 independent schools in the province account for approximately 12% of all school-aged children in the province, and 29% of the 78,084 independent school students attend Catholic schools. At the same time, independent schools receive approximately 5.3% of the Ministry of Education dollars allotted to all schools in the province. This is less than half the operating costs if these students were educated in the public sector. Suffice it to say, independent schools save the government money each and every year.

Comments have been made that independent schools do not accept children with special needs; again, this statement incorrect. In 2012, 4.5% of students with special needs were funded in public schools; just over 4% were funded in independent schools. Other comments are that only well-off parents send their children to independent schools; this also is not true. Most independent schools tend to enroll students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds.

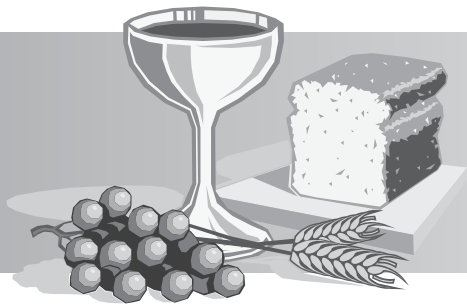
“It is interesting to note that independent school parents continue to pay taxes for public schools even though their children attend independent schools. There is no system of directing property taxes to specific systems, as there is in some provinces.” Also, independent schools receive no government funding for land, buildings or equipment. (FISA media fact sheet, March 2014)

Taking all of the above into account, if operating grants to independent schools were eliminated, many independent schools would be forced to close. If this happened then the provincial government would be faced with a greater financial challenge as well as the need to find space for 78,000 students.

The Federation of Independent School Associations BC, established in 1966, is the voice for independent school members, and acts as a liaison between the schools and the provincial government, and other educational institutions. The Catholic Independent Schools (CIS) group is one of the five associations within the FISA. There are three CIS members elected as representatives to the 15-member FISA Board and they ensure that the ‘Catholic’ voice is heard.

Please feel free to share the above information with others, especially those who may not have access to this information about independent schools. ✠

Vocations



Discern This

by Fr. Michael Birch, Parochial Vicar, St. Columba's Ordinariate Parish, Victoria

So ... You Want To Help People!

There was a time when, if a person was asked why they wanted to be a priest, he would probably answer that he wanted to serve God. Then there was a period when such a person would probably have said, "I want to help people." Yet surely the two go hand in hand. If we think it is either/or, we may become very discouraged very quickly, and think ourselves useless at either thing.

When I felt a call to Priesthood, it was a remarkable thing. It wasn't just some sort of feeling that I should think about it; I simply knew at a certain moment that I was going to be a priest, simply because it was God's will that I should be a priest. I was fourteen at the time! I did try to get out of it a few times, taking jobs that I really loved and felt I could have worked at all my life, but something always came up that focused me back on that calling to the Priesthood, which I could not deny nor avoid. That was me; it will be different for others. And I thought that I would cut a remarkably romantic figure, swishing about in a cassock (priests often wore them back then!), and providing for people such wonderful liturgy, such wonderful sermons! I would be looked up to, respected, loved because of who I was, a priest. Then I began to hear and read stories of what priests actually did, and I was blown away by what I heard, by what I read. I thought I might just share two of them with you readers of this column.

“Then we shall understand St. Paul's statement about his ministry, “Not I, but Christ in me.”

The first was written by a young priest who had been asked to visit a young man from his parish in the hospital. This young man was very ill, and was in a coma, could not communicate with anyone, and was thought to be very close to dying. When the priest arrived, a doctor was just about to leave the young man's room, and he said, "Oh, good, a Padre. Well, I've done all I can for this young man, and I'm afraid it's up to you now. I don't hold out much hope for him."

The priest sat by the bedside, but communication wasn't possible as he could discern no response at all. Finally, he said to the young man, "I want to come tomorrow morning and say Mass for you here in your room, and give you the Blessed Sacrament. If you agree, please squeeze my hand." (In those days except for extremis conditions, Holy Communion was the first food of the day, so clergy arrived early to give it to patients.) He arrived the next day, celebrated the Mass very early, and gave the young man the Holy Communion. Then he left.

Upon returning the next day, he found the young man sitting up, almost completely recovered. The priest was pleased but a bit startled at how complete this healing was, and asked about it. "Well," said the young fellow, "I felt my life ebbing away, and I could hear the doctors and nurses talking as if I weren't there, and I couldn't speak or indicate to them that I could hear them. I was praying, and I kept hearing a voice saying to me, 'Touch the hem of my garment; touch the hem of my garment' over and over again. And I didn't know how to do that. But when you offered me the Sacrament, I knew! I was desperately hoping that you would know I wanted that, although I felt powerless to tell you. And then there you were, and as I received the Body and Blood I felt my life force reverse and begin to flow back into me. And here I am, one day later, healed and strong."

When I read that story, I thought to myself, "This is bigger than I thought. Herein is the secret of the priesthood – to make Christ present, to refresh all who turn to him. I can't do this as a bank clerk! And it is this that Christ has called me to do!"

The second story came out of England – an older priest reflecting on someone he had known in Seminary. The lad's name was Philip, and he was not a very bright person. He had a hard struggle with theological studies; all the men had to pitch in and coach him to get him through an exam. He remembered long evenings of

theological discussions and arguments (such evenings as Seminarians are wont to spend), with Philip usually having nothing to say until near the end of the evening, when his remark or comment would usually attest to the fact that he had completely failed to grasp what everyone was talking about! He was slow, a bit dull-witted; the rest of men wondered how on earth he would make out in a parish.

Well, Philip was assigned to a very working-class parish in the east end of London, and this priest who was reflecting on all this hadn't seen him for quite some time when suddenly, during the war, he ran into him on a train platform at a London station. Philip was dressed in the uniform of a Commando, Chaplain's Corps, and he told the priest in his usual slow way that his unit was shipping out to North Africa, and asked the priest to pray for him and his men. He refused anything from the tea room, saying that he fasted twice a week, as it was about the only contribution he felt he could make to the war effort. A few weeks later, poor, slow, dull old Philip was reported killed in action; he had been on the front line hearing his men's confessions and giving them Communion when something hit and killed him.

The men in his east London parish got together and paneled a Chapel into the parish Church in his memory. On the wall they placed a plaque, which read: "And Philip went down unto the city, and proclaimed unto them the Christ ... and there was great joy in that city." What an epitaph! I thought, if God can use Philip in so mighty a manner, surely he can use me.

I love being a priest, for it is what God wants me to do. I am not, I think, so blessed a presence in the Church as the two examples above, but then, I don't know that, either. I do know that Word and Sacrament are what my life is about, even if my worldly loves keep me from shining as the Saints. May God forgive me, and use me, that someone who otherwise might not be saved unto eternal life can be saved. And may he call you, young men, to that ministry, and you, young women, to the consecrated life of prayer and action, that he will not be without witness in this, your generation. And when you hear or feel that call, may you add your "yes" to that of Our Lady. By her yes the Saviour was born; by your yes, His continued presence is assured. Then we shall understand St. Paul's statement about his ministry, "Not I, but Christ in me." ✠



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Face the Day



by **Bonnie Landry**

I’ve talked about community before. I’m going to talk about it again, because I feel called to support and foster community in my daily walk. Autumn is a time for routine, for developing good habits, for starting again. Bring community life into that routine.

My family and I live in a community. A village, a neighbourhood. But most significantly, a place to belong. I am not talking about the rural hamlet in which we live. It, too, is a lovely community, both in its natural beauty and its friendliness.

What is a community, by definition? Miriam-Webster Dictionary online says:
*a social group of any size whose members live in a specific geographical area and often have a common cultural and historical heritage. From the Latin term, **communitas**, meaning “public, general, shared by all or many.”*

Yes, we live roughly in the same geographical area. We have common and cultural heritage in that we are all Catholic. But more specifically, we love God and one another.

I am referring to the community in which I experience love. Love. I am talking about those people who daily touch my life who love me, not in the general way we are called to love as Christians, but in the very specific kind of love that one feels for family members, for those we rely on and who rely on us for spiritual and emotional support. That kind of love. That kind of community. Arguably, a rare find these days.

I am so blessed.

It isn’t a formal community at all. It really is a group of friends, from a fairly large geographical area, perhaps an hour’s drive at most. We don’t live together on a property; we aren’t a commune. We all own our own stuff, but there are things we share. Joy. Sorrow.

There aren’t rules, exactly. At least, there isn’t a Rule Book. *The rules are written on our hearts as we strive toward holiness.* We all have the same understanding of what holiness is. Holy Mother Church takes an active role in defining, clarifying and teaching what Christ gave us in His Word.

Each on his or her own path, each at a different place on the journey. Not better, not worse, not lower or higher. *Just different.* We love each other, mentor each other, learn from each other. We share joys and sorrows and sometimes borrow a bit of sugar.

It is a Catholic community. There are many who play with us, who join us and who associate themselves with us, who are not Catholic. They are welcome. We love them and we hope and pray that they will come to know Him in the Catholic Faith. To experience His fullness. How else to evangelize without welcoming people into our community? One on one, family to family, person to person.

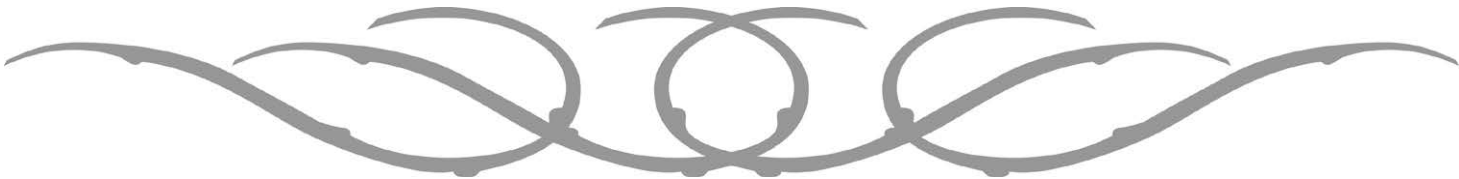
There are so, so many different personalities, types of families, ways to parent, to experience and express faith. We are diverse—so diverse. How is it then, that we can all function together as a community so beautifully?

I think the number one reason for this is a shared faith. We strive for an attitude of gratefulness, forgiveness and acceptance, however imperfectly, imitating Christ. Regardless of how we choose to express that faith or experience or where we are “at” with God, we all profess the same belief. We all trust and believe in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. It is our ship and we are on it together. Some have much, much greater understanding of theology or much greater degrees of holiness ... or greater trust or greater charity ... but we all share our belief. Our Creed.

The hallmark of this particular community is its Catholic-ness. And that shared belief makes us different. There are few who share that intimacy of faith with those they love.

We were built to long for community. Building community is a valuable investment. For ourselves and our children and future generations. It starts simply by inviting someone over. Maybe a family, maybe two. Have a potluck, maybe hot dogs. It doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter if your house gets messy because you have people over. Houses are simply the place we’re given to experience and share the love of God on a daily basis.

Share what you are, who you are. However imperfectly. Build community into your daily routine. Build a community. We grow when we give. ✠



Let’s Tackle Poverty

by **Sr. Sheila Moss SSA**

Living in the heart of tourism Victoria near the inner harbour I can’t help but notice the amazement and delight of visitors as they wander around our beautiful city. Most of us are proud to point out places of interest throughout the province to tourists and newcomers.

But there is another side to our province we are not so proud of. BC has had the highest poverty rate in Canada for the last 13 years. Half of BC single mothers and their children live in poverty. Surprisingly, most poor people are working, only 3% are on welfare. In spite of this dismal record, BC is one of the last provinces to develop a Poverty Reduction Plan.

But there is some hope. In May, Michelle Mungall, MLA from the Nelson/Creston riding, introduced the official opposition’s Poverty Reduction and Economic Inclusion Act. This Bill sets the framework for government to develop a comprehensive plan with legislated targets and timelines and involving public engagement for reducing poverty. Ms. Mungall presented at the same time over 1,200 postcards from around the province asking the government to take concrete action to reduce poverty.

Several Sisters of St. Ann were in the Legislature when the Bill was brought forward for first reading and were pleased at the positive response of the members to the Bill. Later the Sisters’ social justice committee met with Ms. Mungall to ask how we could support this step to reduce poverty in BC. She encouraged us to urge people to write to the Premier and let her know that we want to see the Legislative Assembly debate this Bill in second reading, and that we want her government to support it. In a meeting of the community in August the Sisters discussed the issue and signed a letter to Premier Clark.

The Catholic community of the Diocese of Victoria has shown in multiple ways its commitment to help those in need. I urge readers of the Diocesan Messenger to contact their MLA and Premier Clark asking for government support of the Poverty Reduction Act. ✠

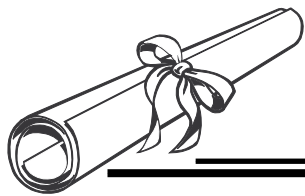
If you are interested in using a draft letter to the Premier please contact Sr. Marina Smith by email: sandseaandsky@gmail.com



The Fellowship of Blessed John Henry Newman Canadian Deanery of St John the Baptist Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter

Warmly welcome Bishop Gordon as the new local Bishop. We are Roman Catholics of Anglican heritage, maintaining distinctive elements of our theological, spiritual, and liturgical patrimony. Mass is celebrated at St Columba of Iona, West Burnside Road and High Street.





The Campus Mission



by Chantal Castellino, CCO Team Leader, University of Victoria

At the beginning of May, 27 young adults from across Canada arrived in Victoria for IMPACT, a summer mission hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). Their purpose: to share the Gospel message and bring others to the truth of the Catholic faith. They intended not only to help strengthen parishes in the Diocese and the wider Victoria community, but also to pave the way for full-time CCO missionaries on campus at the University of Victoria. Though the 27 students will be heading back home mid-August, four full-time CCO missionaries, including myself, will stay to assist the chaplaincy in the Catholic mission on campus. We are excited to reach more students and bring them to a relationship with Jesus Christ! A large part of our job is summed up very nicely in this quote from Pope Francis's exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*:

On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." This first proclamation is called 'first' not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things [...] it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. [164]

As missionaries, we do not wait for people to come to us; we go to them. We go to those who are on the fringes, who are most in need of Christ's mercy, who may only know a little about Him, and we proclaim Him to them. The intention is not to argue with anyone about why the Catholic Church is correct in Her teachings. Often, even the soundest reasoning alone will not be enough to convince someone to leave behind their old ways of thinking for the fullness of Truth.

First and foremost, we share God's love. Through relationship-building, small group sessions, and one-on-one mentorship, we show students what it means to live a dynamic, Christ-centred life in the Catholic Church. On our 10 other established campuses across Canada, we've seen great success. The Spirit continues to draw students closer to Him, using us as His willing instruments. Most often, as a result of an encounter with Jesus, the Church's teachings become attractive to those not previously inclined towards them. The chaplaincy at UVic has already done a great deal of witnessing to students and borne wonderful

fruit. We hope to supplement the unwavering efforts of Fr. Dean and the Catholic Students' Association to draw even more students to Christ!

In addition to our first mandate of clear and simple Gospel proclamation, CCO exists to teach students how to be evangelists in their sphere of influence. In the same exhortation, Pope Francis writes:

All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. [120]

We four missionaries are not meant to do all the work of evangelization ourselves. We also exist to help every baptized person recognize his or her fundamental identity as missionary. We provide leadership opportunities and train students with the necessary attitudes, skills, and knowledge to be courageous evangelists on and off campus. The goal is that, no matter where students are being called after graduation, they know how to evangelize in every context, and their faith and integrity do not waver no matter what the situation. Our hope is to build young men and women who are radically committed to God's call for their lives and do not hesitate to share Him with others.

All of us must take Pope Francis's call seriously. University campuses are important mission-fields for bringing the Gospel to the future leaders of our society, but they are not the only places in need of bold witnesses. We all have people in our own lives who have had little to no exposure to the Catholic faith, who may participate in a lukewarm fashion, or who may have even walked away from it altogether. We do not require extensive formation in order to be evangelists! A simple invitation, a 'come and see', may be all that's required for someone to eventually experience conversion in Christ.

I challenge you to share an aspect of your faith with someone that you might not otherwise, such as a relative, co-worker, neighbour or friend. It could be simple, like sharing about an experience you had with your faith, offering to pray with him or her in a time of difficulty, or even issuing an invitation to Mass. Remember to be loving and to listen patiently. As Pope Francis says, "What are we waiting for?" ✠



Connections

by Raya MacKenzie

September has always been, for me, a month filled with promise and anticipation. The heat of the summer slowly dissipates and the air crackles, full of new autumn crispness. The leaves unveil their hidden colours as if for a celebration. Everything is new and fresh and possible in September, because every September—except this one—I have filled my binder with clean lined paper and gone back to school. Since kindergarten, I have returned at this time each year to an academic institution, to study and learning. But this year I won't be going back to University.

I decided in December not to immediately begin a master's program and to take a year to reflect on my career aspirations and become open to options outside of the Master's-then-PhD route. I'm applying for Law, Public Administration, and a few other paths, but I haven't decided on anything for sure. That uncertainty makes me sad about September. I've always thought of September as a time of general renewal but, more specifically, of the renewal of goals. In September, students re-commit themselves to the completion of their projects, their semesters, their degrees. September is for busyness, for challenge, for people who belong to a community of exploration. But this year, as many of my friends return to complete their Undergraduate degrees or begin master's work, I will be sitting in my cubicle at work and waiting for a clear goal so that I can begin again too. I feel like I am experiencing a personal advent.

In fact, maybe this is the first form of advent I will have to undergo fully, with all the waiting—both quiet and anguished—that real Advent should bring to us. But at real Advent, I often ignore Father William's entreaties to watch, wait, and prepare. I shamefully must admit that I set up Christmas decorations by the second or third Sunday. I see Advent as a run-up to Christmas rather than as the sacred season it is. Similarly, I approach the waiting portions of my life—the summer months when I am in school, or this whole year now that I'm not—as wasted time, or a section of time to rush through as quickly as possible to get to the real goal. But I've been missing the point that our lives happen in those waiting times, that they are every bit as real and as important as the moments in which we attain goals. In fact, I have very few memories of actual instances of attainment.

My University graduation ceremony flew by quickly and afterwards I felt somehow disappointed that those few moments receiving the degree could never represent all the effort and time and waiting it took to get to that point. The in-between times, remarkably, mean more than those flashes of completion. In the waiting times, the working times, the routine times that we grown and transform. Like leaves in September, we slowly turn from green to yellow and by October look around, amazed, that we have become this brilliant red.

Perhaps then this September will be the freshest and newest yet for me. Though I will sit at the same cubicle I've sat in all summer long, the renewal will take place within me instead of in my binder or my backpack. I will learn the most challenging lessons: to appreciate the beauty of the every-day, to understand and love myself even without a clear goal, and to dedicate myself to small acts of service for others. I have been so consumed in the years of major projects and papers that I have forgotten the joy of reading a book, just for fun. I have not stopped long enough to really appreciate that my family and friends love me for who I am, not for what I can accomplish. I am only just learning how simply scanning a file for a co-worker can relieve some of the stress in her day. This September I will return to small things. After all, it is ultimately the small things, each leaf on the trees, that make up the glory of Autumn. ✠

“Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains ... but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, a still, small voice.

~ 1 Kings 19:11-13



Faith Matters



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

Quo Vadimus?

(Where are we going?)

As we have been navigating the past six months or so and have been planning for the coming months, one thing is certain: as a diocese we are seeing much change.

Already, while we were still trying to get used to the fact that we had no bishop, it was announced that Bishop Gary Gordon, Bishop of Whitehorse, would be our new shepherd. Early in August Bev Pulyk, our new Superintendent of Schools arrived from Kelowna, and mid-August brought our new Director of Religious Education, Glen Palahicky from Winnipeg (a bit of a cosmic balancing act perhaps? we get Glen as Winnipeg gets our bishop!).

“A bend in the road is not the end of the road ... Unless you fail to make the turn.

~ Helen Keller

The excellent work accomplished by Archbishop Richard, Joe Colistro and Char Deslippe have kept us well on course, and Fr. John Laszczyk's effective administration along with the dedicated Pastoral Centre staff have helped maintain that course, but it doesn't take long before the reality of no longer seeing the familiar face and feeling the familiar presence finally sinks in. Something clearly is missing, something is lost.

No one really likes change. Change frequently means facing the unknown, and as time passes the “what-ifs” of life seem to become more apparent and multiply. Yet we know change can be exciting. For children, particularly, just being alive is an adventure; every day brings new experiences, new territories to explore. So is it an “age thing,” that we become less “up for the adventure” as we age? I think this is part of it. As we age we gain experience, and with experience comes the awareness of good experiences and recollections of bad experiences—the disasters we'd rather not repeat! As Will Rogers once said, “Good judgement comes from experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgement!”

Anyone would take an adventure over a disaster any day. However, there is a fine line between an *adventure* and a *disaster*, and what makes the difference is *being grounded*. With an adventure, as wild as it may get, you always know you have something to return to, somewhere to return to, your ground – home. On the other hand, a disaster comes with a certain chaos that seems to be totally consuming, all encompassing; it's the territory of the dispossessed, the homeless, the lost.

Resolutionary Challenge

by Jean Allen

September: a time to take stock, take a deep breath and take the plunge into a new year of classes, commitments, clubs, conferences, charities, councils and consultation. The Church starts to stir like a giant awakening and stretching, ready to once again face the joys and frustrations of community life.

So ... have you thought about who you are going to be?

We spend lots of time thinking about what we are going to do as new programs, initiatives and studies start getting into gear, but “Who am I going to be?” is a question that isn't often pondered. However, if we have a responsibility to discern what we are going to do, we certainly have a responsibility to discern who it is we will be while we do it. In fact, it is critical to the potency and well-being of the Church that we take time to make some resolutions; not just about what we want to accomplish but, more importantly, about what kind of people we will be while accomplishing these things.

Paul says in the familiar scripture 1 Corinthians 13 that we can move mountains and have great faith but if we have no love we are like clanging cymbals. Most of us have heard that passage innumerable times, but most of us have not sat down to ponder that absolutely nothing is a worthwhile endeavor if love is not the primary concern. Certainly we would all agree that love is important but there are many interactions we have with our brothers and sisters where the concept of acting in love goes right out the window. The moment someone threatens our authority or disagrees with our beliefs or ignores our visions and skills we immediately revert to self-preservation, aggressively defending our positions or criticizing behind the scenes. We feel justified because it's so obvious that the other person is wrong!

If that's the way we move through our commitments and our relationships, we are not acting as representatives of Christ's Church even if we are deeply involved in spiritual activities. We are acting just like the world.

Scripture is clear about who we should be while being Church. In James 3, the apostle writes, “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ... but the wisdom from above is first

As Catholic Christians we are truly blessed with what our Faith gives us and teaches us. We follow a Master who calls us friends, who tells us His Kingdom (and therefore our home) is not of this world, to be not afraid, and that He will always be with us. This we learn and come to understand from sacred Scripture and the testimony of the saints. Add a life of prayer deepened by occasional trials, encounters with God in the Sacraments, and the living witness of the holy loving ones among us and there is the confirmation of God's promises through our own experience.

“True education is a kind of never ending story—a matter of continual beginnings, of habitual fresh starts, of persistent newness.

~ J. R. R. Tolkien

So the ancient image of the pilgrim may best describe our human condition: *You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you*, said Saint Augustine. *We are constantly on an inner journey regardless of where we physically find ourselves. What makes a difference for us as Christians is we know that the detours we may have chosen to take; the stumbling, the falls and the rough patches we may have encountered, do not spell disaster. We have heard the Easter story and we not only know the ending, but we have walked dark valleys and have been guided through them, for He has been with us through it all.*

So we may have lost the familiar: our Bishop, our Superintendent and our Director of Religious Education, but we have gained three very good people to serve in these roles and who will take the next steps on the pilgrimage with us. We find ourselves on the threshold of a fresh new adventure, guided by the One who walks with us—the *One Who has been with all of us and Who has promised to be with us through it all!* ✠

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it. ~ John 14: 12 – 14.

pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.”

There is a strong command in this scripture. We need to ask the Lord to set a guard over our mouths and keep watch over the doors of our lips (Psalm 141). We need to pray that God will keep us highly aware of when we have stopped making peace and give us the courage to repent or turn around. Only then can the Lord bless the work of our hands.

“In fact, it is critical to the potency and well-being of the Church that we take time to make some resolutions ... about what kind of people we will be while accomplishing these things.

This is The Way. This is what calls out to the hungry hearts of the world. Contentions, anger and resentments say to the world that we have nothing terribly worthwhile to offer it, but if the heart of the Church reflects peace, mercy, kindness and good fruit, God promises a bountiful harvest.

Before the year gets into gear, ponder on all of this and ask yourself, “Do I walk in gentleness and peace? Do I speak in respect and love about others even when they can't hear me? Do I value the health of my relationships over my own need to be right? Do I expect that others should bend and give in when I don't intend to?”

This year could be the most incredible year ever for our faith community in the Victoria Diocese. But it is truly up to each one of us, laity, Religious and clergy alike, to resolve to act as if Love is the only way our we can bring hope to a hurting world.

Because it actually is the only way. ✠



National & International News



Pope Urges Parish Communities to Support Each Other

Pope Francis greeted thousands of pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square August 27 for his General Audience. During his catechesis, the Holy Father stressed the importance of unity in the Church and in our lives. We, the members of the Church, are all sinners, he said, but the unity and holiness of the Church arise from God and calls us daily to conversion. The Holy Father said that the sins against unity, such as jealousy, envy, and antipathy come about when we place ourselves first - something which does happen in parish communities.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25440>

Ukrainian Church Leader Appeals for Prayers and Support

For nine months, Ukrainians have been on an arduous pilgrimage from post-Soviet fear to freedom and God-given dignity. Traumatized by twentieth century World Wars, brown and red totalitarianism and genocide, they seek a just society and a democratic, European future. With patience, endurance, and great human sacrifice they overcame in February the brutal regime of Viktor Yanukovich. This moral triumph was answered in March by Russia's territorial annexation of Crimea. Now, for months the country endures foreign supported destabilization, separatism, and terrorist activity in the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions, in one word: war.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25436>

Amman: Caritas Jordan Welcomes Iraqi Christians Fleeing IS

Around a thousand Christians from northern Iraq, fleeing from jihadists militia of the Islamic State, will be welcomed in Jordan within the next few days thanks to the contribution of Caritas Jordan. Wael Suleiman, Director of Caritas Jordan, said: "So far more than 300 Christians have arrived in Amman after escaping from Mosul and villages of the Nineveh Plain. Within the next week the number will increase to 700."

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25435>

USA: Memorial Mass for Journalist James Foley

More than 900 people attended a 'Mass of Healing, Hope and Peace' at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary parish in Rochester, New Hampshire in memory of journalist James Foley who was killed in the Middle East last week after being held captive for nearly two years. The evening before, hundreds of people had taken part in a candlelit vigil.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25434>

Viewpoint: Dawkins Has Done Us a Favour by Highlighting How Dangerous Our Culture of 'Choice' Really Is

If a world cleansed of imperfections is what we wish for, then Dawkins, with his Down's Syndrome outburst, has shown us the way - Max Wind-Cowie writes in his Catholic Herald blog this week. Richard Dawkins is not 'pro-choice'. I know, it surprised me too. Turns out that atheism's high priest thinks abortion isn't just a 'right' or an 'option' - he thinks it's an obligation.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25430>

Pope Calls Iraqi Priest to Express His Closeness to Persecuted Christians

Rome, August 31, 2014 (Zenit.org) Robert Cheaib

Pope Francis has telephoned an Iraqi priest working in a refugee camp in the war-torn northern part of the country to express his closeness to persecuted Christians in the region, ZENIT has learned.

The Pope made the call after the priest, Father Behnam Benoka, sent a message to the Holy Father via the "Viber" messaging system. The message was sent to Rome-based journalist Alan Holdren who turned it into a letter and handed it to Pope Francis on the papal flight back from South Korea.

In the message, Father Behnam turns to the "Holy Father, our merciful shepherd" and writes: "My name is Behnam Benoka, priest of Bartella, a small Christian town near Mosul. I am vice-rector of the Catholic seminary in Ankawa. Today, however, I find myself in a tent that has been erected with a staff of doctors and volunteers who are giving medical care to our brothers fleeing persecution."

Father Behnam explained to the Pope the tragic situation faced by hundreds of thousands of Christians: "Your

holiness," he writes, "the situation of your sheep is miserable, they are dying and they are hungry. Your little ones are scared and cannot hide anymore. We priests and religious are few and fear not being able to meet the physical and mental needs of your and our children."

The priest does not fail to express gratitude to the Pope's continued appeals to end the suffering of persecuted brothers and sisters in Iraq. "I would like to thank you so much - really thank you - because you always carry us in your heart, placing us on the altar where Mass is celebrated so that God erases our sins and has mercy on us, and hopefully take this cup away from us."

The letter continues by expressing concerns and asking for a blessing: "I am writing with tears, because here we are, in a dark valley in the middle of a large pack of ferocious wolves. Holiness, I'm afraid of losing your children, especially infants who are struggling every day and weaken more and more. I'm afraid that death will take some away. Send us your

blessing so we have the strength to go on and maybe still resist. I love you, Behnam Benoka."

Francis' reply was not long in coming. A day after his return to Italy, precisely on the morning of 19 August, the Pope called Father Behnam to express how deeply moved he was by the letter. According to what he told us, the Pope expressed his gratitude for the volunteers at work in the refugee camps.

In the telephone conversation, the Pope also reiterated his full support and closeness to the persecuted Christians, promising that he will continue to do his utmost to help give relief to their suffering. Finally, he imparted his apostolic blessing asking the Lord for the gift of perseverance in the faith.

Earlier this month, Pope Francis donated \$1 million to help Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq who have been forced from their homes. The funds were given through his personal envoy to Iraq, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, who visited the country in August. ✠

CCCB Makes Appeal for Compassion, Justice in Mideast

Toronto, August 27, 2014 (Zenit.org)

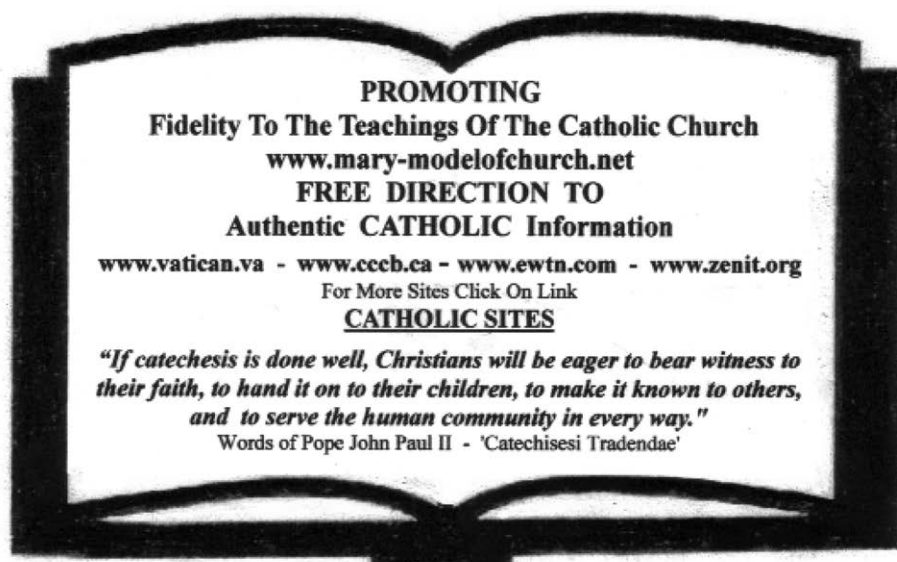
The Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, meeting on August 25, 2014, in Quebec City, issues the following appeal: In the name of the Father of life, and of the Crucified Christ, and of the Spirit of love, we make this appeal for mercy, compassion and justice.

We hear resounding about us still the question that God, Father of all life, posed to humanity at the beginning: "Where is your brother?" We see the homeless and the wounded of the Middle East: in Iraq, Syria and the Holy Land. We hear their cries in Ukraine and in parts of Africa. We observe the persecutions and hardships that hundreds of thousands of people today endure because of their faith and convictions - Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, members of other religions as well as ethnic minorities. The horrors of war and violence are ravaging so many innocent hearts. Families and children are left without water, food, aid and shelter. Homes and communities are being destroyed. Not only is the future at risk for the people of these regions, but international security itself is in peril. War and violence are again eroding the common bonds of humanity, fragmenting the human family. It is Jesus who is being persecuted, who is homeless, who is hungry, who is in prison, who is being tortured.


As followers of the Crucified One, we recognize particularly in the Middle East the sufferings of our own brothers and sisters in faith. Moved by their pains and afflictions, we make their cause our own. We are united with them in solidarity and faith. Our unceasing prayer and hope are rooted in the love and forgiveness by which Our Lord transforms the human heart. Our one comfort is in the concern and care that people around the world are offering. Encouraged by the calls of Pope Francis for peace and justice, we echo the statements and actions of the leaders of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches of the Middle East. We make our appeal to all people - of every faith and in the name of good will, here in

Canada and around the world - to do even more to assist the suffering of those in need.

We pray that the Holy Spirit continue to inspire Canadians, particularly the faithful of our Catholic Church, to support the work of agencies that bring solace and aid to the persecuted and the exiled. We pray too that the transforming power of the Spirit inspire political, religious and community leaders, in each of the troubled regions of our world, to speak out loudly for justice and reconciliation, to denounce atrocities, to renounce violence and oppression, to announce and demand peace. ✠





*The Diocese of Victoria and
Island Catholic Schools*



welcome

*Most Reverend
Gary Michael Gordon
as the
17th Bishop of Victoria*

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who
bring good news ..."
~ Isaiah 52:7*

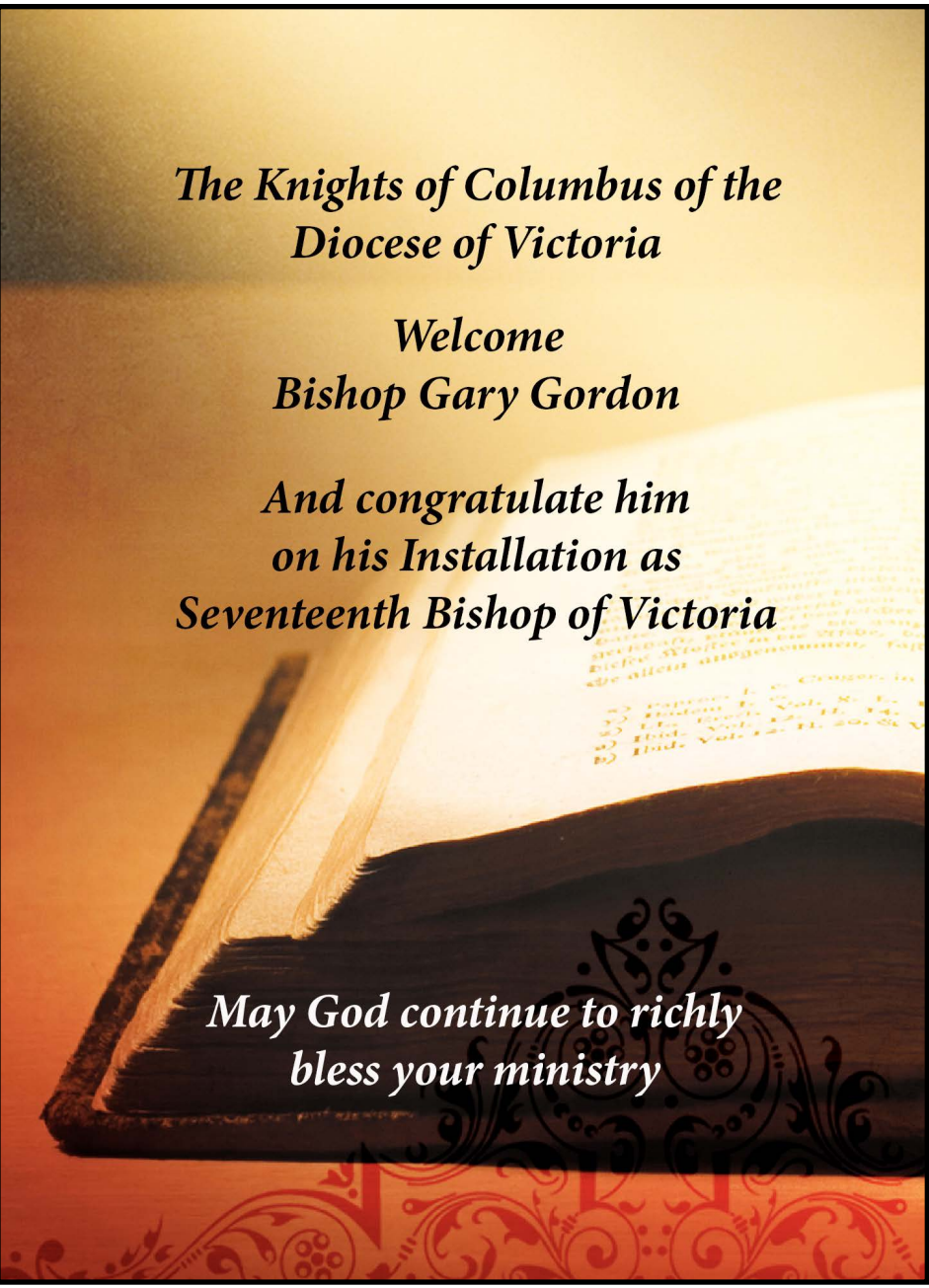



*The Knights of Columbus of the
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Seventeenth Bishop of Victoria*

*May God continue to richly
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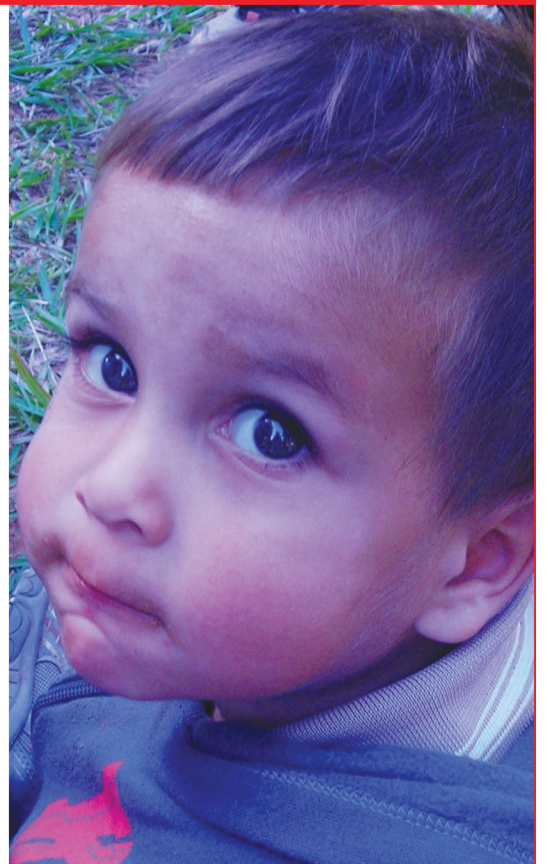
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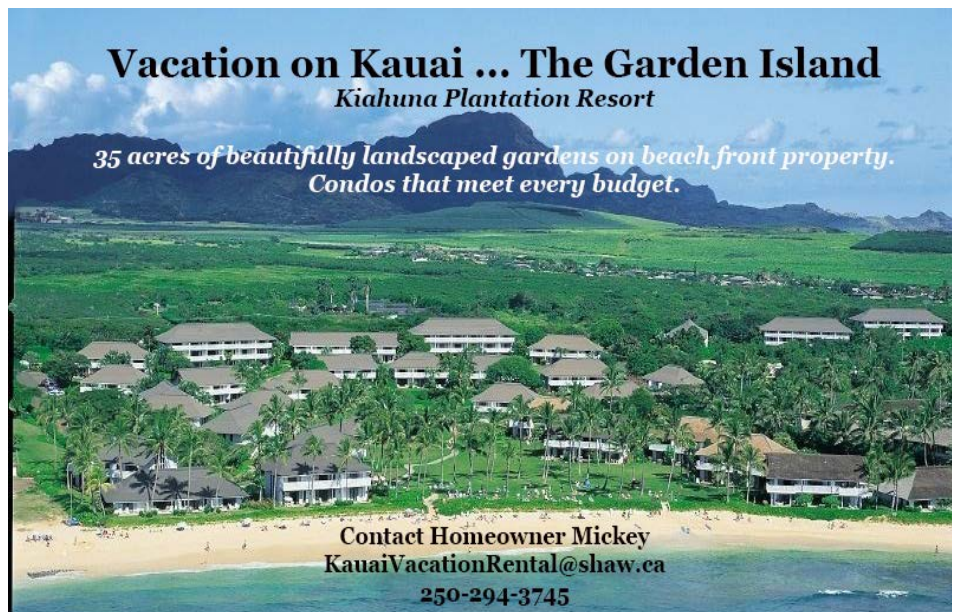
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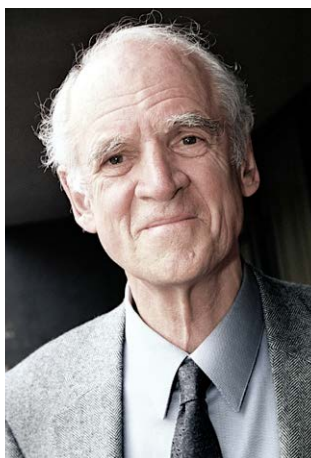
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