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Remembering
Archbishop
Raymond
Roussin *SMDD*



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50th
Anniversaries
at ICS



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DYC: Set the
World on Fire!



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

June 2015

Truth and Reconciliation: God Restores our Joy

Letter from Archbishop Pettipas, Chair of Catholic Entities, to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission

I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today to represent the over 50 Catholic dioceses and religious communities that were in some way a part of the Indian Residential Schools System. While the legacy of the schools challenges the whole church, the government and the whole of Canadian society, in a particular way it involves us who are party to the Settlement Agreement and to the work of the TRC.

In their name I want to express our appreciation to the Commissioners who have worked tirelessly to lead us all in a profound examination of conscience in regard to a painful period in our history. Through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission thousands of former students, their families and communities have given voice to their experience and we have been forced to confront the great harm and depth of suffering so many experienced. Through them we have had to face the pain of our past and that work has not finished. We have heard stories of resilience and some have also offered forgiveness and expressed a desire for reconciliation. In this way they have held open a door of hope.

The Commission has now presented all Canadians with Calls to Action. On behalf of Catholic entities, I receive these challenges and encourage others in our community to do so as well. In the next few months, I will be presenting these Calls to Action to all of the Bishops of Canada and to the Canadian Religious Conference as direction posts and milestones on the way to a reconciled future.

In the many events that I have attended it has become apparent that the road will be long but the end point is more than a faint hope. In Northern Alberta, where I come from, people are strengthened by the prophetic words of Chief Poundmaker:

We all know the story of the man who sat beside the trail too long and then it grew over and he could never find his way again. We can never forget what has happened, but we cannot go back, nor can we just sit beside the trail.

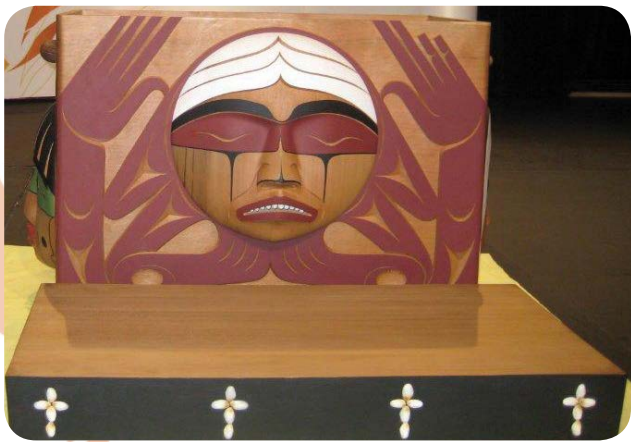
His Prophetic words join with the encouragement of Pope Francis who reminds us that "God is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to

lift up our heads and to start anew."

As the work of the TRC is coming to a close, we can say with humility that, while we may have not done enough, neither have we been sitting beside the trail. Through the TRC, Reconciliation Canada, Kairos, Returning to Spirit, the Oblate Justice and Peace Committees, the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs of the Western Catholic Bishops and many other ways we have been seeking and finding our ways of healing and reconciliation with the aboriginal peoples.

While the schools no longer exist we have been learning how these former institutions are connected to the rupture that still exists in our relationships. We are learning that reconciliation is not only about the past but is about our present need for justice and is about our capacity together to build a better future.

As we look to that future we will continue to be committed to remembering the past, to working in the present for healing and justice and to animating our work with the hope of a reconciled future. ✕



Carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, the TRC Bentwood Box is a lasting tribute to all Indian Residential School Survivors

Service with a Smile

by Glen Palahicky

*We have to state, without mincing words,
that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor.
May we never abandon them.*

~ Pope Francis

All through the different liturgical seasons Bishop Gary has been challenging us to be more authentic missionary disciples by accompanying and serving those in real need who often live on the periphery. It is clear that a person doesn't have to travel very far in the Diocese to face this reality. Sadly, the 2011 Greater Victoria statistics show 1 in 10 children are living in poverty; this is the worst statistic in the Province. (Source: <http://bc.anglican.ca/article/2014/11/01/charity-social-justice-addressing-child-and-family-poverty-conference>)

In one small way the Pastoral Centre Staff responded to this challenge. On Sunday, May 30, 2015, staff led by Bishop Gary spent most of their Sunday evening at Our Place, a downtown outreach centre. We cleaned, bussed tables and served nutritious BBQ turkey

dinners to almost 300 patrons. A lot of the folks said it was the tastiest meal they'd had in months and were very appreciative.

Sponsoring a meal costs \$500; Pastoral Centre Staff raised this amount during Lent, but the real gift was in serving the food and being with those who are often not valued.

We were not the only ones taking up our Bishop's challenge. St. Andrews High School Staff also served in a similar manner earlier this year. It was a grace for both staffs to minister and be ministered to, by those on the periphery. ✕



L to R: Moira Gill, Mike Gill, Terri Siemens, Morris Cleveland, Cynthia Bouchard, Bishop Gary

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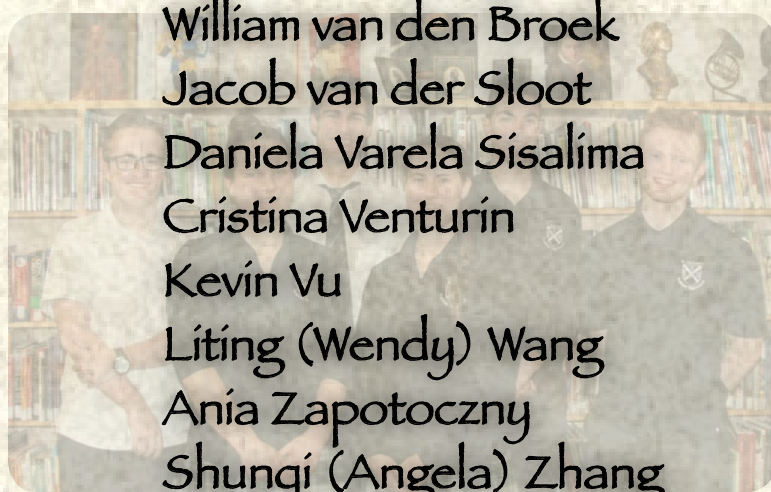
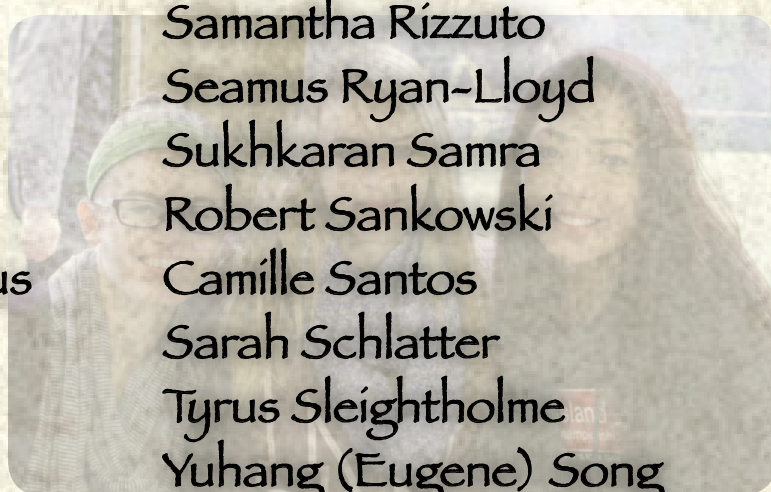
CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2015!



Emma Alvernaz
 Damian Andersen-Crouch
 Paneet Atwal
 Benjamin Avila
 Jordon Barr
 Jenna Bella
 Daelyn Blanchard
 Gillian Brinas
 Keara Cafferky-Nixon
 Jae Hyuk Choi
 Brian Chou
 Viktor Coffey
 Eduardo Contreras Pivaral
 Rachel Cripps
 Julia DeGagne
 Michaela Duncan
 David Eupen
 Cecilia Fillipone
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 Amory Hall
 Christian Hardy
 Veronica Harland
 Alexander Harper

Terahn Harrison
 Tristan Hayton
 Matthew Henderson
 Katie Hinds
 Chanwoo Ho
 Megan Howse
 Maria Isberg
 Patrick Keane
 Sean Kearney-McManus
 Matthew Kehoe
 Brian Lawless
 Caitlin Le
 So Yeon (Stephanie) Lee
 Tanner Logan
 Vincent Lun
 Gavin Maxwell
 Emily McCart
 Darcy McDermott
 Jocelyn Mihalynuk
 Jaime Millar
 Katrina Naesgaard
 Shauna Nedelec
 Beth Neeson
 Grace Neeson
 Riley Newton
 Hannah Parent
 Olivia Pearse
 Luke Polson

Michaela Pomponio
 Stefanas Povilaitis
 Spencer Pubben
 Ao (Rebecca) Ren
 Samantha Rizzuto
 Seamus Ryan-Lloyd
 Sukhkar Samra
 Robert Sankowski
 Camille Santos
 Sarah Schlatter
 Tyrus Sleightholme
 Yuhang (Eugene) Song
 Christina Soong
 Maranda Spencer
 Rayna Stuart
 Konrad Suesser
 Shota Tanaka
 Morgan Taylor
 Tiffany Trannguyen
 Drew Van Bourgondien
 William van den Broek
 Jacob van der Sloot
 Daniela Varela Sisalima
 Cristina Venturin
 Kevin Vu
 Litng (Wendy) Wang
 Ania Zapotoczny
 Shunqi (Angela) Zhang



Pentecost: Life to the Full

by Bishop Gary Gordon

Pentecost is fundamental to the life of the Church. It is much more than part of Church history; it is the source for the whole mission and apostolate for our own day.

Imagine that room where the disciples were gathered on the day of the Resurrection, hiding in fear of the authorities. That fear was conquered by the appearance of the risen Christ three days after he was crucified, died and was buried. He greeted the frightened disciples with the words, “Peace be with you.” Thus, the Holy Spirit is experienced as “Comforter.”

Many of Jesus’ appearances to the disciples provided comfort and assurance that he was with them and that all he had said and taught them was true, but they somehow remained fragile and unmoved.

“Above all, the sign of the Holy Spirit alive in someone’s life is the joy of the Gospel.

After the Ascension of Jesus to heaven, we again see the disciples locked in the upper room: a fearful group who were not just afraid, but also grief stricken. It was like losing for a second time the hope of their aspirations for the liberation and freedom that had been promised by the Messiah. He was gone from their view; they felt abandoned, discouraged, uncertain and terrified. In the grief of loss and inevitable changes that Jesus’ Ascension meant for the early community of believers, they had locked themselves up and closed themselves off from the joy of the Gospel.

Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire upon their heads ignited a new power: a power to propel the disciples outside the safe confines of the upper room. A new power of zealous proclamation of the good news beyond the comfortable inner circle. A new power to face the whole force of rage from the authorities of Israel and the might of the Roman Empire (cf. Acts 2:21-23).

This Holy Spirit will always upset the comfortable, and will always move the Church and Her members toward the peripheries and margins of the world and its societies.

Of course being on the move does not come easily, and is sometimes the result of great persecution and internal upheaval in communities (cf. Acts 11:18-21). Yet it also causes a renewal and resurrection of the Kerygmatic proclamation, the source of all Christian joy.

I think I could say that Pope Francis’ declaration of a Year of Mercy beginning December 8, 2015, could well be a Pentecost event that gets the whole Church moving: “There are two ways of thinking and of having faith: we can fear to lose the saved and we can want to save the lost. Even today it can happen that we stand at the crossroads of these two ways of thinking.” (Homily by Pope Francis on Sunday, February 15, 2015)

Even seeking the lost is a challenge today, for in the Gospel parable the little lamb did not know it was missing until it was sought out by the good shepherd. Or the beautiful parable of the prodigal son who is unable to turn back to the mercy of the father until, as the parable tells us, he began to feel the pinch and “he came to himself.”

At a recent celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation a student asked, “How will I know the Holy Spirit has come to me?” That’s a great question. How *do* we know?

- First of all, God does not hold back the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, as though God might only deliver half the gifts. God does not hold back in giving us the all-encompassing enormity of His love for us.
- Second, God will not force the acceptance of this life-changing gift, but leaves us to say “yes” to receive the gifts of Holy Spirit.
- Third, the power of the Holy Spirit is fundamentally experienced in a deep desire for communion with Jesus and desire for service in the mission of Jesus and His body without considering the cost.
- Fourth, Jesus’ teaching that whoever tries to save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will keep it, makes perfect sense, as in acts of mercy.
- Fifth, forgiveness and love of one’s enemies, in other words the mercy of Jesus on the cross, is central to personal and communal happiness, making works of justice and reconciling all things a dynamic part of ministry.
- Sixth, each person, each family, each parish is always expanding the horizons of mission and outreach beyond what is secure and familiar. That’s Missionary-Discipleship in action.
- Seventh, authenticity and witness is in dynamic communion with the Church (cf. Acts 2:42) and the Church has its doors open for coming and going.

Above all, the sign of the Holy Spirit alive in someone’s life is the joy of the Gospel.

St. Paul provides a succinct list in the second reading for Pentecost, Galatians 5:16-25, of the works of the Spirit and those actions that are opposed to the Spirit. Every day the same Holy Spirit is sent forth to renew the face of earth and reinstate to all people the dignity of children of God.

On this great feast of Pentecost which celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to ignite, confirm and motivate the proclamation of the kingdom of God, I pray that we may all be freed from those rooms of fear, grief and self-protection so that the earth and all the nations upon it may have life, and have it to the full. ✠

Pope Francis to Release Second Encyclical

by Bishop Gary Gordon

Excitement continues to grow with a joyful anticipation of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the Environment, expected to be released in a few weeks. I thought I would calm my excited little heart by looking at a few things that have already been said about the environment; and what Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI said in his Social Justice Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*.

In his inaugural Mass homily, Pope Francis drew attention to the ways in which all life is connected, and identified the interdependent links of sustainable development, concern for the poor and care of the planet. He called on everyone to be “protectors of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.”

In his June 5, 2013, address on World Environmental Day, Pope Francis said, “We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation. The implication of living in a horizontal manner is that we have moved away from God, we no longer read His signs.”

A joint statement from the April 28, 2015 meeting at the Vatican to discuss the environment underlined attendees’ common concern:

These traditions all affirm the inherent dignity of every individual linked to the common good of all humanity. They affirm the beauty, wonder and inherent goodness of the natural world, and appreciate that it is a precious gift entrusted to our common care, making it our moral duty to respect rather than ravage the garden that is our home.”

Pope Francis will continue to build on the work begun by His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus, (sometimes called the “green pope”), calling on all people to embrace an integrated ecology.

The human being will be capable of respecting other creatures only if he keeps the full meaning of life in his own heart. Without a clear defense of human life from conception until natural death; without a defense of the family founded on marriage between a man and a woman; without an authentic defense of those excluded and marginalized by society, we will never be able to speak of authentic protection of the environment. (Caritas in Veritate)

Here in the Diocese of Victoria, children at St. Joseph’s Elementary school planted potatoes (see story, page 8) and St. Patrick’s Elementary school spent time learning to care for themselves and for the environment (see story, page 11).

I look forward to sharing more information with you about this exciting encyclical. ✠



Pope Francis holds a green parrot during his weekly general audience at the Vatican. Photo credit: AP Photo/L’Osservatore Romano



Planting potatoes at St. Joseph’s, Victoria (middle photo); caring for the environment at St. Patrick’s (right)



Calendar of Events

June 26 **Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose:** An invitation to all Diocese of Victoria Catholics to save the date and spend an evening with hundreds of your fellow Catholic brothers and sisters being inspired and challenged by Matthew Kelly. See poster page 21 for more information.

June 26 **Feast Day of St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei:** St. Andrew's Cathedral, 7pm. Confession from 6:30pm. Fr. John Laszczyk will celebrate Mass.

July 3 **Retrouville Retreat:** To be held at Honeymoon Bay Retreat on Vancouver Island, Retrouville is for all married couples wanting to heal their marriages, even those contemplating separation, those who are already separated; even divorced couples. Retrouville deals with tough problems like infidelity, years of emotional distance or seemingly irreconcilable differences. Couples who come to Retrouville often feel hopeless or desperate, but leave with a renewed sense of hope, intimacy and trust. Register online at www.retrouvaillevancouver.com/events.html or Fr. Dean Henderson (catholic@uvic.ca) for more information.

July 13-17 **Our Lady of the Rosary:** Summer camp for kids aged 7 – 11 years; \$60 per week. Contact the office at (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca for more information or to register.

July 20-24 **Our Lady of the Rosary:** Summer camp for kids aged 12 – 16 years; \$60 per week. Contact the office at (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca for more information or to register.

Upcoming Events

October 2-3 **St. Patrick's, Victoria:** CWL's Fall Good Used Clothing Sale. Bazaar will be held Saturday, Oct 3. Times for both events 9:30am – 2pm. Proceeds support our school, local charities and missions abroad. There is ample parking and the building is wheelchair accessible.

Pastoral Itinerary

June 24 **Victoria:** Mass – St. Jean Baptiste Parish (11:00 am)

June 25 **Victoria:** St. Andrew's High School Graduation Mass - St. Andrew's Cathedral (6:30pm)

June 26-30 **Northern Vancouver Island:** Begin Mission trips to small parishes and communities

July 1-5, 9-31 **Up Island:** Mission trips to northern parishes and communities including Ahousat, Alert Bay, Friendly Cove, Gold River, Kyuquot, Port Alice, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Port Renfrew, Quatsino, Tahsis, Tofino, Ucluelet and Zeballos

July 7-9 **Saanich Peninsula:** Elders Gathering – Tsoualt First Nations

June 2-4 Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: This event is coming to Vancouver Island, in the Nanaimo area. Learn a new way to communicate and turn your good marriage into a great marriage! For more information or to register call (604) 876-7298 or email wwwmevancouverbc@gmail.com.

Weekly Events

Wednesdays

St. Patrick's, Victoria: Did you know that St. Patrick's has a group for parents with children under 5? It's called Moms and Tots (Dads are also welcome) and meets from 9:30 – 11am in our Parish Centre. There is a group of volunteers who keep the children busy with games, stories and snack time in the Lourdes Hall, while the parents gather in a separate room to talk about parenting and lots of other things in a faith based environment. If you are interested in joining the group which starts in September, or want more information, please contact Pauline Scherr at 250-592-9424 or email at pischerr@shaw.ca

Fridays

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria: Traditional Latin Mass, 9am.

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

Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: YDisciple is a Catholic program to help teenagers take ownership of their faith. We meet from 7 – 8:30pm in the parish hall. Youth leader is Jose Mendez. More info: olor@shaw.ca or call (250) 478-3482.

Saturdays

St. Joseph the Worker Parish: 3 – 4:30pm, 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.

August 1-17, 19-30 **Up Island:** Continue Mission trips to northern parishes and communities

August 18 **Vancouver:** CWL National Convention

September 5 **Victoria:** 50th Anniversary Celebration and Mass – Sacred Heart Parish (5pm)

September 6 **Victoria:** Mass and Festival – Our Lady of Fatima Parish (10:30am)

September 6 **Victoria:** Visit William Head Prison (6:30 pm)

September 13-18 **Cornwall, Ontario:** CCCB Plenary Meetings

September 18-22 **Toronto:** Serra Council Meetings

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

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

Catholic Underground at St. Patrick's Parish: Catholic Underground is an initiative which engages youth in both their culture and their faith, held in the basement at St. Patrick's at 7pm on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. Grades 10 – 12.

Sundays

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

Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Holy Families Group on the last Sunday of every month, with potluck dinner! For more information contact Bonnie Landry at (250) 743-1982 or email onthisrock@shaw.ca.

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



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"A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weaknesses or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively."

-Pope Francis



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Diocesan News & Events



CSA Holds 7th Annual Graduation Banquet

by Kayla Hart



On Saturday, April 11 the Catholic Students' Association held its 7th annual year-end banquet with approximately 40 students in attendance, along with Bishop Gary Gordon and Chaplain Fr. Dean Henderson. Since 2009, this yearly event has been an evening set aside to honour the year's graduating students, as well as to allow all of the students a formal chance to celebrate the end of a successful school year with a catered dinner and dance.

This year found the CSA honouring a record twelve grads, who next month will receive their degrees in such varied subjects as education, sciences, mathematics, linguistics, health and recreation and accounting,. Not only was there a range of areas of study, but the grads spanned all three levels of post-secondary education. While the majority were finishing Bachelor's degrees, there were also students receiving a Master's degree and a PhD.

After dinner, the speeches began. Bishop Gary gave a reflection, and Fr. Dean invited each graduating student to stand up and say a few words about what they studied, where life is taking them next, and the impact the CSA has had on their years at UVic. It's no surprise that everyone spoke highly of the community, thankful for the faith foundation that kept them grounded through their years of study. In fact, of the twelve graduating students, two have future plans that include sharing their faith with others through Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO)—one on this year's summer Impact mission in Vancouver, and another as a CCO staff member at the University of Saskatchewan beginning in September.

Among those celebrating, the banquet is also a bittersweet occasion, as it is soon followed by students being scattered back to hometowns or summer jobs, or on to permanent relocations for further schooling or careers. In the case of one member of the community, Kasia Lach, the students had to say goodbye to a CCO missionary who was only in Victoria for one year.

This year's heartfelt speeches continued with incoming president Sarah Kopriva thanking outgoing president Maris Jahelka for her year of leading the community.

Alongside the tears and "see you later," there was also plenty of laughter and well wishes, with dancing lasting well into the evening. ✂

Welcome to Greg Beattie, RMSE Coordinator

by Leah MacKenzie

I am pleased to advise that Greg Beattie joined us as the new Diocesan Responsible Ministry & Safe Environment Coordinator on May 1, 2015. Greg is a Registered Social Worker who has worked in child protection, individual and family therapy, education and community work for over 30 years.

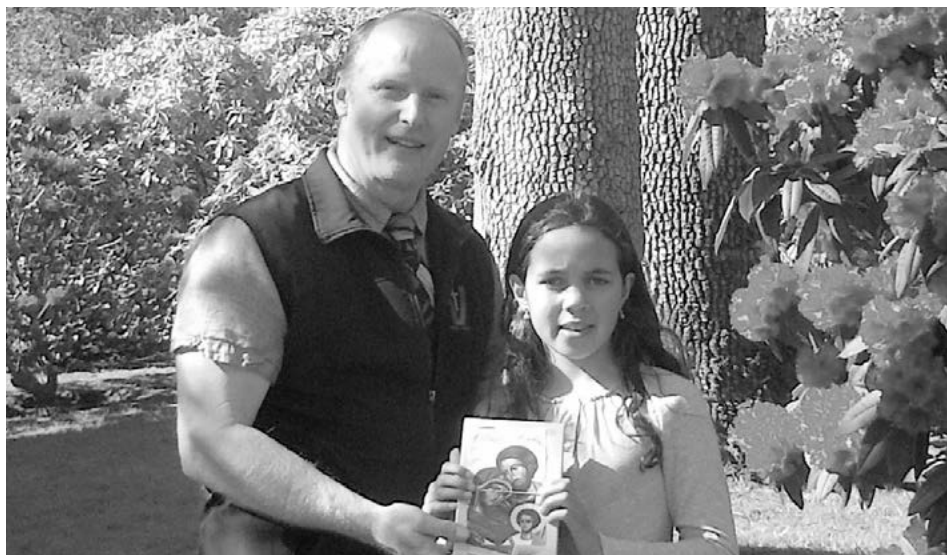
The Diocesan Responsible Ministry offers assistance and protection to vulnerable persons (children, youth and vulnerable adults) as well as to Diocesan clergy, religious, employees and volunteers. We also offer assistance to communities in which abuse or alleged abuse may have occurred. Please feel free to contact Greg at any time if you have any questions or concerns. The number for the confidential hotline voicemail is (250) 479-1331, extension 223. Greg will be working at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays and can be reached at (250) 479-1331, extension 244.

Additional information pertaining to the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Policy can be found on the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org/responsibleministry-safe-environment.php.

Thank you for joining me in welcoming Greg to our Diocesan family. ✂



Attendees at the "Western Gathering of Care & Safe Environment Policies," May 20–21, 2015 in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Greg Beattie (green shirt, centre) joins his counterparts from throughout western Canada at the conclusion of the conference. The group discussed a wide range of issues including: parish volunteer training, liability insurance and insurance company expectations, confidentiality from a Canon Law perspective and moving beyond necessary policy formulation and best practices to working to shift the safe environment culture of faith communities. The conference was held over two days at Queen's House in Saskatoon under gorgeous, sunny prairie skies.



The winner of the Diocesan Lenten Trivia Contest was Mia Cameron of Victoria. Mia worked hard and completed the quiz 27 times! Mr. Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education, awarded Mia with a prayer card and Tablet. Congratulations Mia!



Bishop Gary, Fr. Rolf and the First Communion / Confirmation class from St. Elizabeth's Parish in Sidney shouting "Alleluia!" on April 12, 2015



Feast of Divine Mercy Celebration at St. Patrick's Church

by Delmer Samson, Chair, Divine Mercy Devotion Committee

A committee of Catholic men in Victoria successfully concluded the celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Patrick's Church on April 12, 2015. The celebration was preceded by a nine-day Novena that began on Good Friday. There was a procession prior to the Mercy Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr. Vince Borre. The unveiling and blessing of the new Divine Mercy image was led by Fr. Alfred Alilio, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, and witnessed by over 200 devotees and parishioners.

The Divine Mercy Devotion Committee was established in June 2014 under the Bishop Demers Assembly #3364. There are currently 12 members on the committee who are all Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus members. The mission of the Committee is to be an active disciple and promoter of the Divine Mercy devotion through the promotion of programs and activities of Bishop Demers Assembly #3364. The Committee has since been leading the Assembly's Divine Mercy prayers and invoking the granting of petitions regarding families, and the healing of brother Knights who are ill. The Committee promotes the devotion through prayers, distribution of prayer leaflets and images, and visitation of the sick at home or in hospital. Committee members also lead the Divine Mercy devotion every Friday during the Eucharistic Adoration at St. Patrick's Church from 3 – 4pm. All are welcome to join this Friday devotion. ✕



Committee members L to R: Roland Wauthy (Faithful Navigator); Fr. Vince Borre (Spiritual Director); Jess Narciso; Ben Rivera (Vice-Chair); Alex Lontayao (member & Honour Guard); Richard Grosset (Honour Guard); Nestor Acebedo; Dick Peralta; Ken Nguyen (Honour Guard); Delmer Samson (Chair); Carlos Soler (Honour Guard); Nick Boncajes; Willy Santiago; and Roger Cahanding. Members who are not in the photo are Henry Tavares and Fernando Sales

Festivities at Church of the Ascension

by Sandi Digras, CWL Communication Chair

The Church of the Ascension Catholic Women's League celebrated Mother's Day with a delicious luncheon and elegant fashion show presented by *Close to You Boutique* in Parksville. The hall was beautifully decorated, from chair covers with blue net bows to tables clad in white sporting lovely centerpieces, all done by a wonderful decorating team. Spring fashions were modeled by members and guests of the CWL and commented by Sandy Herle, the store's owner. Lucille Barclay and her "kitchen angels" prepared a wonderful chicken curry salad and strawberry shortcake, which were served by the handsome men of the Knights of Columbus, resplendent in their tuxedos. The ladies were escorted by the Knights to their seats and to bid on the wonderful raffle prizes.

According to our treasurer, Pat Worchester, we raised over \$2,800 for local charities. "This has become an annual event we look forward to and a way to give back to the community," commented President Nancy Horsfield.

The World Day of Communication and our Parish Feast of the Ascension both were held on the following Sunday, May 17, 2015. To celebrate we had an international potluck lunch featuring dishes from all the different ethnic backgrounds in our parish: Indian, Filipino, Italian, Swedish, German, Chinese, French and many more. This was organized by Dida Pennykid, Leah Low and their capable team.

The World Day of Communication was celebrated following each Mass with tables set up featuring many of the active ministries in our parish. Parishioners were encouraged to sign up to volunteer or learn more about the various ministries, and perhaps find a way for them to use their time and talents.

On Saturday, May 16 Bishop Gary Gordon celebrated a special Mass for Confirmation and First Communion. Children's Faith Formation Coordinator Laura Gaetz and her team organized the day and also participated in events that took place on Sunday.

We all agreed it was an exciting two weeks of celebrations and fun and many blessings for all. ✕

Sir Knight Welcomes 4,900 New Canadians ... and Counting!

by Calvin Jones, Council 7934



Judge Gerald Pash, Ret. C/Supt. Michael O'Rielly and CIC representative Christopher Kerr with members of the Father Brabant Fourth Degree Assembly (Hugh Greene, Rheal Henri, George Flint, Ken Rehman, Calvin Jones, Jim Pungente and Paul Redchurch)

When planning began to host a local citizenship ceremony, members of the Father Brabant Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus in Victoria soon discovered that their own Faithful Navigator, Retired Chief Superintendent Michael O'Rielly, had volunteered as representative for the RCMP at almost 100 similar ceremonies!

A citizenship ceremony is the final step a candidate takes to become a Canadian citizen. It is a requirement for each candidate to attend the ceremony and recite the Oath of Citizenship. During May, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration (CIC) planned to hold four local ceremonies at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Thankfully, as plans with the staff of the CIC office were worked out, the Assembly's request to assist with a ceremony were soon coupled with what would be Faithful Navigator O'Rielly's 100th volunteer ceremony on May 13.

The Fourth Degree Knights arrived at the convention centre on May 13 to find that close to ninety candidates for citizenship were to attend the afternoon ceremony.

The ceremony was presided over by Citizenship Judge Gerald Pash. Judge Pash gave an impassioned speech about the rights and responsibilities of all citizens, and congratulated each candidate for now calling Canada their home. Along with the candidates, everyone in attendance then recited the Oath of Canadian Citizenship.

Shortly thereafter, Judge Pash called attention to C/Supt. O'Rielly's long service as volunteer representative for the RCMP. He calculated that O'Rielly had welcomed over 4,900 new citizens throughout his years as volunteer RCMP representative. C/Supt. O'Rielly spoke about becoming a Canadian citizen himself (he was born in Newfoundland prior to the province joining Confederation), his involvement with the Knights of Columbus, and about his service as a peace officer. Judge Pash presented C/Supt. O'Rielly with a certificate signed by Minister Chris Alexander commemorating his achievement.

Once all the new Canadians had their photos taken with Judge Pash and C/Supt. O'Rielly, the Fourth Degree Knights rallied around C/Supt. O'Rielly to have their photo taken, too, by O'Rielly's grandson, Jacob, who was also there to celebrate his grandfather's achievement.

The basic principle of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is patriotism. The Department of Citizenship and Immigration has indicated the opportunity exists to assist with upcoming ceremonies. If you are a Fourth Degree Knight and are interested, speak with your Assembly's program director. This is an opportunity to witness to Canada's political and religious freedom. ✕

BC Elders to Gather in Saanichton in July

Excerpted from www.bcelders.com and www.bcelders2015.ca

For the past 39 years, First Nations Elders have met in distinct locations of British Columbia. The first Elders Gathering began in Stó:Lō Nation hosted by the Coqualeeza Elders.

The purpose for an Elder's Gathering is so the Elders can come together and take their rightful place as advisors, teachers and leaders. Many Elders are involved and work at the community level throughout the year. They participate at meetings, workshops and various events to support the youth, education committees, Band Councils and so on.

From July 7 – 9, 2015, the 39th Annual BC Elders Gathering will be hosted by Chief Harvey Underwood, Councillors Allan Claxton, Louis Claxton, Samantha Etzel, Elizabeth Hermesen, Toby Joseph, Joel Pelkey, Stanley Sam, John Wilson, all the members of the Tsawout First Nation with support from all the WSÁNEC Elders. The Gathering will be held at the Panorama Recreation Centre located at 1885 Forest Park Drive, North Saanich, British Columbia.

The Gathering is seeking volunteers; and there is also a need for billets for Elders. If you are able to offer accommodations during the week of July 6, please contact Debra at debra.lazzar@songheesnation.com. If you are interested in helping with this historic event, please visit www.bcelders2015.ca/index.php/news and click on "Volunteers." ✕

Guided by the Spirit

by Christa Grillmair, CWL Communications, Victoria Diocesan Council

The Catholic Women’s League (CWL) of the Victoria Diocese held its annual convention from May 3–5 with the theme: *Guided by the Spirit*. At the event, hosted by St. Edward’s Council in Duncan, the main celebrant at the opening Eucharistic Celebration was the Most Reverend Gary Gordon.

In addition to the business of the meeting, which included reports from the various standing committees and parish presidents, deceased members of the councils were remembered in the Rose Ceremony. A new Resolution was approved and forwarded to the CWL provincial convention to be held in Prince George in June. The Resolution entitled *Invoke the Notwithstanding Clause* asks the federal government to invoke the notwithstanding clause in order to have more time to conduct a full enquiry on physician assisted suicide and its far-reaching effects.

Guest speakers included Pat Nichol, whose presentation on *Gratitude* encouraged everyone to journal their blessings and share them with others. CWL Provincial President Pat Deppiesse’s powerful presentation called *CWL Facelift* looked at the ‘wrinkles and age lines’ of the League, and asked members to evaluate the effectiveness of the meetings, and find innovative ways to attract new members. Linda Stedfield had the room in stitches with her *Laughter Yoga* presentation. And Phil Little shared his heartbreaking experiences of working with Padre Melo SJ in Honduras. His story recounted the many acts of human rights violations, murder, poverty and drugs that plague the majority of the country’s 8.5 million people.

At the banquet, the Diocesan Bursary in memory of Freda Smith was awarded to Aidan Canil, a student at Bellenas Secondary School and a member of the Church of the Ascension in Parksville (*see photo and story below*). Participants were treated to fabulous food, and entertainment by Danny and the Seniors inspired several to get up and dance. And, at the closing Eucharistic Celebration, Fr. Mel Bayron and all Officers reaffirmed their commitment to the League. ✕

Freda Smith Memorial Bursary Winner

Aidan Canil, the winner of the Freda Smith Memorial Bursary, was presented the award at the Victoria Diocesan Convention held in Duncan on May 3–5, 2015. The \$500 bursary is awarded to children or grandchildren of members of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria and is based on the applicant’s financial need, academic performance, community and church involvement.

This year’s recipient is a remarkable young man. Aidan and his family moved to Parksville in 2000 and joined the Church of the Ascension, where his mom, Fiona, is a member of the Catholic Women’s League. Aidan attends Ballenas Secondary School where he has consistently maintained a 98% academic average since 2011 and is a recipient of the school’s top academic awards, along with ten individual school subject-based awards.

In athletics Aidan has received the Ballenas Athletic Award and played in the 2014 BC Boys Volleyball Provincial Championships and the 2014 Vancouver Island Soccer Championships. He is a member of the soccer team and captain of the volleyball team.

In his parish, Aidan has participated in local food drives for struggling families and collected Christmas toys for poor children across the globe. He is an altar server and has received the Bishop’s Medal for Altar Serving Excellence. Aidan takes part in numerous other parish activities such as preparing and serving luncheons and helping with the religious education of the youth group.

Aidan says, “The great satisfaction and joy that comes from helping others more than makes up for the work I put in, and I know I will continue to volunteer throughout my post secondary life.”

Aidan plans to first complete an undergraduate science degree in nursing, followed by Medical School to eventually become a certified physician.

We congratulate Aidan and his family, and wish him much success in his chosen career. ✕



L to R: Fiona Murphy, proud mom, Aidan Canil and Bertha Landrie, Diocesan CWL Chair, Education & Health

St. Joseph’s General Hospital Honours Retirees and Long Service Employees

Press Release

St. Joseph’s Hospital Board and Administration was honoured to host a special evening reception on April 20 to recognize our 2014 retirees and long-service recipients. Celebrated were 18 retirees and employees with 10 years of service (33); 15 years of service (18); 20 years of service (13); 25 years of service (11); 30 years of service (7) and 1 employee with 40 years of service! Approximately 110 guests attended (including our honourees and their guests), plus representatives of the St. Joseph’s Hospital Board, St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation Board and St. Joseph’s Hospital Auxiliary. We were also very honoured to have the Most Reverend Bishop Gary Gordon in attendance.

Jane Murphy, President & CEO, served as the evening’s emcee. The program included acknowledgements and remarks from Bishop Gary Gordon and Chris Kelsey, Board Chair. A brief biography, provided by respective managers, was read for each service recipient. Brian Ducedre, Chaplain, delivered a poignant reflective blessing to open the reception.

Bishop Gordon recited the parable of the Good Samaritan—one of the foundational stories of Catholic health care—the story of a compassionate person choosing to help a perfect stranger because they were vulnerable and in need. In his address, the Bishop commented, “Each of you has, whatever your role in the hospital, demonstrated this same loving compassion in support of the care and healing of those we serve.”

Board Chair Chris Kelsey stated, “Health care is an environment of high reward, but also high challenge. The demands are intense and it takes a special type of person to become involved in health care and stay committed over the years.”

It was a very successful evening, enjoyed by all. We wish to thank Christ the King Church for the generous use of their Parish Hall with its spectacular mountain views and incredibly well equipped facilities, as well as Tracy Canil and St. Joseph’s very own Eric Macdonald for the beautiful musical entertainment. ✕



Pictured: St. Joseph’s General Hospital 2014 Retirees, Bishop Gary Gordon and St. Joseph’s Board Chair, Chris Kelsey (far right)



A joyful celebration with Bishop Gary Gordon. On May 16, 2015, ten children from the Church of the Ascension in Parksville, celebrated receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation—our first group completing the new two-year Sacramental preparation program. God Bless them and their families.

We Do Not Journey Alone

by Martha Martinez and Family

Recently our daughter Perlamaria Francis Martinez (“Perla”), was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Immediately we felt overwhelmed, and our daughter was frightened. In my mind came many thoughts: “What have I done? What is going to happen to Perla? How will she let us poke her tender fingers and administer insulin injections?” I prayed, begging God to make this diagnosis a mistake.



We called our family and friends. Our family in Mexico let us know that even though they are far away, their hearts and thoughts are with us. There were prayers from St. Joseph’s parishioners, Fr. Tony, and phone calls and emails from the Principal and teachers of St. Joseph’s school. We felt that we were not alone in this journey. Dear friends have come to visit us and some have sent Perla supplies for drawing; her classmates made beautiful cards and Girl Guide Sparks made paper flowers.

Days passed at the hospital. We received training from the Diabetes team to teach us how we have to take care of our daughter. It has been amazing how much we have had to learn—and we still learning. Our oldest daughter Amadalia helped Perla, making her days at the hospital easier. Despite the diagnosis and the disease, Perla is the same girl: full of energy, enjoying everything she does.

We realized we have to see the positive side in this event and that God has a plan for us. We are so grateful for all your support; and this is the meaning of St. Joseph’s for us and for so many others: we are family. Thank you for journeying with us. ✕

Full Steam Ahead for Saint Vincent de Paul Services

by Margaret MacIntyre

As it approaches its centennial presence in Victoria next year, this is a time of extraordinary growth for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island. At the Social Concern Office in downtown Victoria, plans are underway to improve outreach services to families and seniors by developing a pastoral and informative intake process which will facilitate the connection of those in need with services offered in the community, and to the dedicated teams of SVDP home visitors who offer emergency assistance, advocacy, and a compassionate presence. Training workshops for intake volunteers are under way.

The Thrift Stores’ warehouse will be on the move during the summer toward its new location on Kirkpatrick Crescent in Saanichton. This will allow the Society to operate in a more profitable manner and provide an outlet for a used furniture store. The stores and warehouse are part of a chain of service that provides affordable goods to those with small incomes, and funding for food to the most vulnerable citizens of the Capital Regional District.

Rosalie’s Village in Royal Oak, the Society’s new housing project for single mothers and their children, is about to come to fruition with construction starting this summer. The daycare (37 spaces, infants to age 5), which will be available at no cost to residents, has just been designed; the infant side will have a water/undersea theme and the toddler side will have a woodland theme. Priority for places will be given to the children of moms who are living in Rosalie’s Village and then low income/at risk children from the community. It is fitting that the grand opening of Rosalie’s Village coincides with the Society’s 100th year anniversary of service in the Victoria area—2016 will be a year of remembrance and celebration.

The Frederic Ozanam Centre for adults with mental and physical disabilities is getting a wonderful addition in the form of a Multimedia Therapy Room which is a state of the art facility providing support to the participants who experience anxiety, stress and dementia issues.

St. Andrew’s Saanich Millennium housing for seniors is coming under the umbrella of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul after 22 years of its existence. This housing was the dream of a dedicated group of men and women from St. Andrew’s Cathedral Parish and members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul who wanted to provide much needed affordable housing for seniors. The St. Andrew’s Victoria Housing Society was incorporated as a Non-profit Society and a Registered Charity in 1987. In 1993 the first phase of seniors housing comprising 27 units was built, called Saanich Memorial Manor; the second phase, adding a further 20 units, followed in 2002. The outgoing Board of Directors of St. Andrew Victoria Housing Society have left the wonderful legacy of a newly improved community garden to be used by the residents of St. Andrew’s and also St. Vincent’s, the Society’s downtown housing project. The money to move the garden was approved by the outgoing Board who decided to contribute discretionary funds to something that would directly benefit the residents year after year. The new garden has lots of direct sun, a new shed, water to the garden and lots of space to expand the growing patch in the future if needed. There is one wheelchair-accessible planter for those residents who require a growing bed at counter height. It promises to be a wonderful growing season in every way! ✕

For more information or to donate please contact SVDP at 250-727-0007 or go to the website - <https://svdpvictoria.com> or ask at any of our thrift stores.

To Visit the Sick and Imprisoned

by Maureen Gunn, Coordinator Spiritual Care, Broadmead Care Society

There are many serious signs in society that basic respect for human life is diminishing. Now, more than ever, we are called as Catholics to show that even if others seem to have forgotten that life at any stage is precious, we still hold onto that value.

One important way to do that is to visit the sick, especially those who are imprisoned, so to speak, in care facilities. This does not need to take a lot of time, even half an hour once a week could make a noticeable difference in a lonely person’s life. Do not have any qualms about being placed with a resident who has some communication difficulties. If you make an appointment with the Spiritual Care or Volunteer Services Coordinator, they will match you with a resident who has appropriate abilities. You will receive some training, but remember that this kind of visit is all about listening. Some of the residents have amazing stories to tell about their time in the war, others will have equally amazing stories about events that never actually took place; but both kinds of residents will respond gratefully to the time that you spend giving them your warm-hearted attention. As well, care staff will be thrilled that you are contributing to better quality of life for a resident and will give you great support

All of the care facilities in Victoria have a percentage of residents who do not receive a lot of visitors, but several facilities offer particularly good support for Spiritual Care and Volunteer Services: Mount St. Mary Hospital, The Lodge at Broadmead, Oak Bay Lodge and Saanich Peninsula Hospital Residential Care. Contact any one of these and ask to speak to their Spiritual Care or Volunteer Services Coordinator. ✕

The Great Potato Plant

by Mar Mendez, Grade 7

On April 28, 2015, Bishop Gary came to my school (St. Joseph’s Elementary, Victoria) to show us how to plant potatoes. The school decided to plant potatoes to give to the poor. They tore down a little house, which meant we had space to plant the potatoes. The whole school stood around the patch where the potatoes were supposed to be planted, and sang a song about potatoes. After we sang, we planted our potatoes by grade. Everyone got at least one potato to plant, some got two.

At some point, while the potatoes grow, Bishop Gary will hold a contest to see if a child can guess how many pounds of potatoes there are. The winner will win \$500 that will be given to a food bank under their name. So, even though it was super cold outside, learning how to plant potatoes was a fun experience. ✕



Amazing moments with the children, amazing flowers for our Mother Mary. It started as a simple idea of bringing flowers to celebrate Mary during the month of May and to give a little bit of life and light to the Marion grotto located next to the main door at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria. Fr. William invited the parish and school to make May a special month to celebrate Mary and in response the Grotto now looks radiant. The school children have been visiting the grotto to visit Mary and pray the Holy Rosary.

BC and Yukon Knights Gather For 104th Annual General Meeting

by Paul Redchurch

The weekend of April 23 – 26, 2015, was both rewarding and ‘awarding’ for ‘Island’ Knights of Columbus Councils, Fourth Degree Assemblies and individuals who attended the 104th British Columbia and Yukon State Council’s Annual General Meeting and Convention, held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond.

In his annual report, State Deputy Edward Shawchuk announced that each of BC/Yukon’s seven dioceses would receive a cheque of \$12,000 from the BC/Yukon Pennies for Heaven fund for previously identified needs within their respective jurisdictions. The fund is replenished each year with donations from individual members and councils. Shawchuk also reported that during 2014, BC/Yukon’s 140 parish-based councils donated a combined total of \$4,402,210 to various British Columbia and Yukon church, community, family, youth, healthcare, school and seniors programs, averaging \$391.07/member—making us the per capita leader in the Order and almost \$300/member over the Order average. In addition, a total of 761,259 volunteer hours was recorded by BC/Yukon Knights and their families.

Vancouver Island attendees receiving accolades and recognition for their contributions and achievements over the past year were:

Sir Knight Michael O’Rielly, Faithful Navigator, Fr. Brabant 4th Degree Assembly 0032 Victoria was presented with the Faithful Navigator of the Year Award by Master of the 4th Degree, Sir Knight Wil Wilmot, in recognition of his exemplary leadership and service to this patriotic arm of the Order. Other members of the Assembly receiving recognition for outstanding contributions to the Order and their fellowmen were Sir Knights Hank Francis and John Vukovic. The Assembly was also presented with the prestigious Patriotic Award for its Colour Guard participation and laying of a wreath at Esquimalt’s Remembrance Day Services.

Other presentations of note to Island Knights and families were :

- Most Improved Council: St Patrick’s 7934 (Oak Bay, Mark Redchurch, GK)
- Highest Net Gain in Insurance Members: Council 3842 (Nanaimo, Brian King, GK)
- BC/Yukon Family of the Year: Ian and Reine Mykyte, St. Joseph the Worker Council, 13356 (Saanich, Peter Daniels, GK)
- Keep Christ in Christmas Contest: 2nd – St Patrick’s Council, 7934; 3rd – Council 4253 (Duncan, James Loftus, GK)
- Used Eyeglass collection: Winner – St Joseph the Worker Council, 13356

Vancouver Island KC Insurance Field Agents Marcel Cassavant and Matthew Morrison were singled out for accolades in recognition of their productivity and professionalism in support of their client base (families in the Diocese of Victoria).

Youth Awards were announced and, as a result of this past year’s Basketball Free Throw Competition, the Soccer Challenge and the Alcohol and Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, a number of ‘Island Grand Knights’ returned home with hardware for students who excelled in those activities and were named Provincial Champions. Bringing home these awards were Grand Knights Glenn Wynans, Alberni Valley Council 3435 (two Free Throw Champions); Mark Redchurch, Council 7934 (one Free Throw Champion) and Frank Hawboldt, Saanich Peninsula Council 9703 (one Free Throw Champ, four Soccer Challenge Champs and a plaque for a Poster Contest Winner). All of these presentations will be made and individuals identified at the local level.

Arcie Jose Lim of Vancouver was Elected State Deputy for the coming year. ✂

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal Service organization with a membership of 1.9 million men in 14,900 councils in fourteen countries. For more information, visit [www. http://kofcbc.org](http://kofcbc.org).



Family of the Year, Reine and Ian Mykyte



Remembering ... Sacred Heart School

by Ben Pires

This is the second of two installments of this story. The first installment appeared on page 15 in the April 2015 Diocesan Messenger.

On February 17, 1964, the Sacred Heart Parent-Teachers’ Organization was formed and on April 20, Sacred Heart elected its first school board. From 1960 to 1962, Sr. Mary Constance Hanley taught at the school and in 1967 to 1969 was appointed to succeed Sr. M. David Rigali [d].

By 1967, the parish was paying a subsidy of \$4,666.43 to the School—about 12 per cent of parish revenues—plus contributions to St. Anne’s Academy and St. Louis College. In spring of 1968, when Fr. Donal Lehané was pastor, a parish vote was held and 61 per cent of the parishioners voted to close the school. In September, Bishop Remi De Roo agreed that the Diocese would provide additional financial assistance: the salary of one sister. On April 6 of the next year the parish council approved a subsidy of \$3,500 for the school, decided to amalgamate the school board with the Parent-Teacher Organization and to keep the school open for the next school year.

Meanwhile, in the late 1960s and in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, the Sisters started making changes but the Cardinal Archbishop of Los Angeles insisted that if the IHM Sisters were to continue teaching in the schools of the Archdiocese, they would have to maintain a number of rules he believed were essential to female community life. The Sisters objected to the Cardinal Archbishop dictating their attire, bedtimes and hours of prayer, and the Vatican congregation that oversaw religious life refused to intervene. The Mother Superior remained firm against implementing the reform and on February 1, 1970, about 90% followed her and were dispensed from their vows. They went on to form a non-canonical group that admits both men and women known as the Immaculate Heart Community.

In *Witness to Integrity—The Crises of the Immaculate Heart Community of California*, it was noted that 13 Sisters staffed local schools in the Diocese of Victoria, two of them serving native peoples. A Sister wrote that Bishop Remi De Roo gave the “most forthright and positive support for our renewal decrees from a church authority.” She added that, “Early on he gave his permission for the Sisters to experiment in their apostolate.” That year, Sacred Heart School closed its doors and the next year, on June 30, the Diocese leased 2.9 hectares of the parish’s 4.12 hectare property that housed the school and the convent.

The deal involved, among other things, the adoption of the parish’s \$120,000 debt plus a \$34,000 payment to the parish for the land. In 1983, the two buildings became the Diocesan St. Andrew’s Regional High School, relocated from Pandora Street.

Over the years, more than 30 Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters were involved in Sacred Heart School. About 18 other IHM sisters served the educational needs of children of the Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nations but stayed with Sisters at Sacred Heart. ✂

For more in depth information about the Sacred Heart school and the wonderful Sisters who served there, please see Sacred Heart’s 50th Anniversary history.

St. Peter’s CWL Tea: Hats and High Heels

by Christa Grillmair, Master of Ceremonies

Over 100 ladies donned their finest and enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship at St. Peter’s Catholic Women’s League (CWL) Hats and Heels High Tea on Saturday, May 23. Ladies with classy hats, colourful hats and outrageous hats were treated to tasty finger sandwiches and sweets served by the lovely candidates for Miss Nanaimo Ambassador: Ami MacFarlane, Brittany Wakely, Emily Bell, Emma Billman, Dione Robert, Tiffany Ecclestone, Hannah McNabb and Krista Spivey. Peter Ho, a classical violinist with the Nanaimo Chamber Orchestra, provided the entertainment.



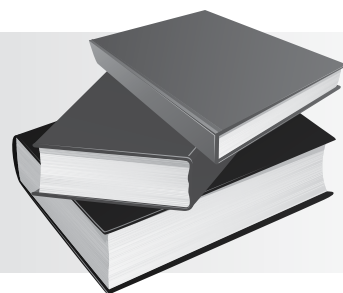
The event would not have been possible without the hard work of the many ‘angels’ who organized, decorated, prepared food and helped to clean up, and the various individuals and local businesses who donated items for the raffle: Country Grocer, Quality Foods, Thrifty Foods, Shoppers Drug Mart, Chico’s Fried Chicken and Pizza, London Drugs, Vancouver Island Symphony and Port Theatre.

One of the guests sent us these comments: “It was simply lovely, well planned, moved along nicely and the table guests were friendly and warm. What I want to bring to your attention: the food portion of the program. It was outstanding for several reasons, the first being the freshness of the sandwiches. I have attended many a Tea event and those sandwiches offered yesterday certainly outscored many other organizations’ food preparations! Having the young women serve the tables was a smart and appropriate decision, for exposure for the Ambassadors and to show their communication skills and also to have their energy in the room. There was an amazing abundance of tasty food selections and to have the servers continually circulate with the large platters made for conversations and decision-making! And the tea and coffee kept coming, that was another plus to the occasion.”

Thank you to all who contributed to making this a most wonderful and joyful event. ✂



Island Catholic Schools



ICS Public Speaking Competition 2015

by Simon Di Castri, Principal, St. Joseph's Elementary School (Victoria)

The legacy of the Sisters of St. Ann continues to influence Catholic education in the Diocese of Victoria as Island Catholic School students gathered to compete in the eighth annual Public Speaking Competition, hosted by St. Joseph's Elementary School in Victoria.



The Island Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition was inaugurated on the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann to Victoria. They were truly pioneers of Catholic education and health care in the Pacific Northwest. We are happy to acknowledge and celebrate the ongoing involvement of the Sisters through the awarding of the Sisters of St. Ann trophies.

The speech competition involves all five Catholic schools in the Diocese, as well as Christ Church Cathedral School. Our up-island schools left home early to arrive for the morning's Junior Division speeches, comprised of grade four and five students. The Senior Division of grade six and seven students competed in the afternoon, following a shared lunch and recess during which students got to know each other a little better.

The Junior Division trophy is in the name of Mother Marie Angele SSA. Mother Marie was the Superior of the first Sisters of St. Ann who arrived in Victoria in 1858. She was unaware the language of instruction in the colony was English rather than French, and as she was a native French-speaker, she took on instead the housekeeping, administrative and care-giving duties for the sisters.

The Senior Division trophy is in the name of Fr. Honore Timothy Lempfrit, who opened the first Christian school in the 1840s, which served First Nations and Hudson Bay workers' children. From the outset, Catholic education was hallmarked by service to First Nations and Hudson Bay Company children, and openness to inter-denominational dialogue. Archival records from the Sisters of St. Ann indicate they wished the work of Fr. Lemfrit to be acknowledged in some way, and we are happy to do so with the naming of the Senior Division trophy in his honour.

All schools held their own speech competitions to determine the finalist in each division. Twelve students competed in each division, with each competitor bringing a student to introduce them. Students chose the topics they were to present and wrote their speeches, to be two to five minutes in length.

The array of topics was fantastic—from issues arising from siblings and large families, to Asperger's Syndrome. There were humorous speeches on the interpretation of what a clean room looks like (depending on who is looking!), how to write a speech and how to write and understand the English language. There were insightful speeches on homelessness and commuter people watching. There were historical speeches examining the Titanic, a trip to the Yukon (with concluding quotes from Robert W. Service!), the rain forest, as well as informational speeches on black bears, paintballing, Parkour, posture, Batman, and Harry Potter. Students were passionate about their topics and animated in delivery, using their voices without amplification, holding the audience's attention throughout. Our student audience was attentive and respectful, recognizing the challenge it is to stand before a gymnasium of peers and deliver a speech.

We were privileged to have as judges Jo-Ann Roberts of *All Points West* fame and a Green candidate in the upcoming federal election; Theresa Vogel, Archives Manager for the Diocese; and Mrs. Karin Paul, teacher-librarian at St. Andrew's Regional High School. We were also grateful for the generous support of the Royal Oak Rotary Club who sponsored the event.

It was a difficult task to determine a single victor for each division, but winners were eventually arrived at. The Junior Division was won by Grace Lavigne from St. Joseph's Chemainus (and daughter of St. Andrew's High School alumnus Ken Lavigne), and the Senior Division was won by Ryan Ambudaiyan of Christ Church Cathedral School. Our congratulations to all participants and to our two top speakers—well done! With funding from the Royal Oak Rotary Club, we were able to “pay it forward” by donating, through Chalice, two goats in the name of each winner to a needy Third World community.

The Island Catholic Schools Public Speaking Contest is a unique event that prepares students for public speaking and builds confidence and self-esteem in young people who do not often get such an opportunity. We are proud to carry on the legacy of excellence in Catholic education begun by the Sisters of St. Ann so many years ago, and the Island Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition is but one way we do this. It takes a team to put this event on, and I would like to thank Mrs. Christine James and Mr. Jamie Zwicker for all the hard work they put in planning, organizing and executing this event. It feels right to be a part of and continue the tradition of Catholic education on Vancouver Island, and to make available to our students the many challenges and enrichment opportunities our schools provide! ✕

Catholic School Leaders Gather

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent, ICS

Each April, the Catholic school leaders from the four smaller dioceses in BC gather for days of reflection, discussion and prayer. This year all principals and superintendents, as well as a few Board members and school pastors, were blessed to listen to Bishop Gary Gordon as he challenged us in our role as Catholic school leaders. Under the theme *Catholic School Leaders ARE the Joy of the Gospel*, Bishop Gordon shared on the topics of authenticity, witness, excellence and joy. In addition to the talks being valuable for me in my role as a Catholic school leader, I found them to be well suited for any person as one examines how he/she is living out the Joy of the Gospel as a Christian in today's world.

In the first talk on *Authenticity: God's Engagement with Me*, Bishop Gordon asked us to explore our relationship with Jesus Christ. God is the source of our joy; our encounter with Jesus Christ is an encounter of mercy. He encouraged us to acknowledge our own poverty and through reconciliation we can admit that poverty, knowing that God loves us more than we can imagine. Each and every one of us must first encounter Jesus because our joy can only come from a personal relationship with Him. It is through this relationship that we can be authentic witnesses called to create opportunities for others to meet Jesus.

Witness: the Wedding at Cana was the theme of the second talk. It focused on what can flow from us being chosen as Catholic school leaders. In looking at Mary as one who said yes to God, we see her as a bold advocate for Jesus. Bishop Gordon asked us to reflect on how we boldly advocate for Christ, students, parents and staff; and do we do so in tenderness, mercy and reconciliation. In addition to advocating with others, we have to ask who advocates for us, as we cannot do our job well if we are alone. First and foremost, Christ advocates for us so we must make sure we are talking to Him asking for divine intervention and mercy. We also need to ask others to pray for us in our daily struggles. As Catholics, we are called to be like Mary, saying yes to God and boldly advocating for others. We must be the cause of hope for others and boldness of advocacy gives that hope.

The third talk on *Excellence: the Transfiguration*, Bishop Gordon asked us two questions. What does excellence in listening look like? What is the discernment of voices like? As a leader, we cannot lead unless we listen to Him and listening can only come from being quiet, so we must make time for silence in our lives. We also need to nurture silence not just for ourselves, but for others. It is crucial in our role as a Catholic and as a leader that we first listen to God and then we must listen to others. Listening is our response to the Lord.

We ARE the Joy of the Gospel was the theme of Bishop Gordon's final talk. Joy is really is all about *amazement*. It is important that we become like little children so we can enter the Kingdom. He reminded us that the students and staff will do what we do, more than what we say. As Christian people, we have to accompany people in their suffering and understand that this may take a long time; we must be with them in their poverty. We must be patient and open to the Holy Spirit in order to maintain the joy that is required in being Gospel people.

The Catholic school leaders expressed their gratitude to the Bishop for taking time away from his busy schedule to spend three days with them. All walked away having a much better understanding that being a leader in a Catholic school is really about AWE:

- Authentic by being in relationship with Jesus Christ
- Witness by being a bold advocate
- Excellent by listening to Jesus and others ✕



Employment with Island Catholic Schools

There are possibilities of 2015–2016 teaching and/or support staff positions being required within Island Catholic Schools.

Preference will be given to candidates with the following qualifications:

- Identification with and participation in the life of a Catholic parish
- Commitment to Catholic Education
- Valid training and/or certificate relative to the position
- Successful school experience
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with others.

Interested persons are invited to monitor our website for future positions, application forms and application requirements. <http://cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php>



Caring for Ourselves and Our World

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

Pope Francis' universal intention for April was, "That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God ... we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family."

It can be challenging for children living in an urban community to respond to the Holy Father's call to make the earth a beautiful garden. Stewardship and healthy eating are two ways that the St. Patrick's school community honours Pope Francis' intention. Students are encouraged to develop healthy living habits and a lifelong commitment to stewardship.

British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has spearheaded a campaign to promote food education in schools. St. Patrick's students were enthusiastic participants in his Food Revolution Day on May 15. Some students created "Squash It" sandwiches and others planted food crops.



The St. Patrick's Healthy Living Committee is a group of staff and parents who volunteer their time to successfully promote healthy eating initiatives for students. Students are encouraged to eat "under the rainbow" with fruits and vegetables of the featured "colour of the month." Health benefits and recipes are published in the

school newsletter, parents supply classes with food trays to sample and students may enter contests and win prizes.

Our grade one students participate annually in a salmon enhancement program. They eagerly track the lifecycle from egg to small fry in freshwater tanks in their classrooms. A very popular field trip is the salmon release trip to Goldstream Park. Kindergarten students studied the incubation of embryonic ducks and were thrilled when they witnessed the hatching in their classroom.

Who will make a difference in the future? I believe that St. Patrick's students will be among the caring Christian leaders of tomorrow. To learn more about the education awaiting your child at St. Patrick's, please contact me at dpaulson@cisdv.bc.ca. Go St. Pat's! ✂

The Clash of Clans

by Kim Arthurs

On Thursday, May 28, St. Andrew's Regional High School held the grade 8 activity day. This day required all grade 8s to participate in a variety of challenges that demanded athleticism, creativity and cerebral fortitude. This day would not have been complete without a general theme—a theme that is the obsession of many teens, and the bane of the parents of those kids—Clash of Clans.

Each student was placed in a 'Clan' headed by a staff member. Clans had a week to come up with a team name, create a banner to carry to each event, develop a team cheer to be shouted before each competition, and fashion a uniform (matching clan outfits). Just as important as maintaining Clan authenticity was the importance of recognizing those who are less fortunate. Each clan was responsible for bringing food and donations for Saint Vincent de Paul. Each item was worth 'gold' (team points), as the clan donations did play a major factor in determining the outcome of the entire competition.

With clans that went by the names Zelos, Iron Skulls, Too Epic, Barbarian Bananas, Supa Hot, and Tropical Thunder, the day was full of fierce competition. Some of the athletic events included Capture the Flag, Bodyball, Dodgeball, and Tug of War. For the creative and cerebral side, there was Clash of Clan Trivia along with the hotly contested Clan Throwdown that was hosted by the Barbarian Queen (librarian Karin Paul).

Early in the morning, arrayed before the wise elders—Garner Prime, Paul Prime and Sanders Prime—intrepid Clans matched intellectual wits against each other.

In the first assault wave, individual Warriors answered common knowledge questions such as: What is the fastest moving land animal?; and, Which continent is at the bottom of the earth?

For the next attack, the Clans regrouped into larger formations in order to demonstrate their mastery of key Clan lore. During this vicious battle, teams desperately scrambled to offer answers to key strategic questions such as, What is the cost in gold to form a Clan?; What is the name of the Dark Troop that rides pigs?; and What is the best type of warrior to stock the barracks—Giants or Barbarians? After the smoke and dust had cleared, there was no clear victor. It was evident that the Clans were evenly matched.

Honouring Mary and "Acting Out Our Faith"

by Gordon Higginson, Principal

At John Paul II Catholic School in Port Alberni we honoured our Holy Mother by praying the Rosary regularly in classes throughout the month of May.

Mrs. Owton, our grade 4/5 teacher, thought it would make the focus on the Rosary more meaningful and special for the children if they were given a chance to create a T-shirt with symbols of the Rosary and the slogan "I pray the Rosary" on it. Students were encouraged to bring in a white T-shirt and older classes then got together with their younger buddy classes to design a wondrous collection of "Marian Ts," using fabric felts and paints. Starting on Thursday, May 14, and for the rest of the Thursdays in the month, the kids were allowed to wear their T-shirts to school with jeans, and the Rosary was prayed for Morning Prayer, sometimes with buddy classes, and sometimes in our school chapel.

As part of this celebration of the Rosary we sent a letter home to parents, encouraging them to take a look at a YouTube link that was the inspiration for our Marian Ts. You can take a look by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsQeyDZJ_HQ. On the back of the letter we included a short article on why we pray the Rosary.

Mrs. Owton has also been active with our grade 6/7/8 leadership group, choreographing two very powerful dramatizations that put into action the phrase, "acting out our faith." The first was prepared in Lent, and was central to our Holy Thursday assembly. It follows the ministry of Jesus through to the cross and resurrection, all without saying a word. The second reflects on how we can become detached from God through sin and our own willfulness, yet He is always there, waiting to welcome us back. I encourage you to take a look at these inspired works in the video section of our Facebook page (search: "john paul ii port alberni facebook" then go to the "More" dropdown menu, and click "Videos"). ✂



Afternoon brought the final conflict. Rival Clans engaged in the dreaded but decisive Epic Rap Throwdown. The power and prowess of each Clan's warrior raps was measured by the strength of the beat, the nobility of the message, and thunderous power of the warriors' complete dedicated participation. The Barbarian Bananas, the Tropical Thunder Army and the Too Epic Clan were mighty fighters and rappers, but the glory of victory in this battle went to the scorching Supa Hot, the divinely inspired Zelos Warriors and the impenetrable Iron Skulls Clan.

~ (as reported by Karin Paul, Barbarian Queen)

The end of the day saw all students cooling off at a very soapy slip and slide in the back field, then shamelessly dunking a teacher in the dunk tank on the basketball court. Scores were kept and tabulated with team Zelos earning the most points. The real winners, however, were the students themselves, as they recounted the

victories, the defeats and the laughs they shared throughout the day while munching on Freezies. A big thank you to our Clan leaders, Kim Arthurs, Dean Anderson, Blake Andison, Phil O'Reilly, Greg van Dyk, Laura Angrove, and Danny Brock, for all their efforts and for making a day to remember for one and all. ✂

Read more about SARHS on page 24



Celebrating 50 Years

Queen of Angels School, Duncan

By Victoria Robinson

After three years of planning, May 15 and 16, 2015, marked the 50th Anniversary of Catholic Education at Queen of Angels.

Celebrations began with a Mass at St. Edward's Church. We were honoured to have Most Reverend Bishop Gary Gordon, Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo, Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Fr. Sean Flynn and Fr. Joe Prakash concelebrate the Anniversary Mass. Myra Charlie, a former staff member and Cowichan Elder, helped us with our welcoming comments. Mass included a special presentation from the Khowutzun Drummers and Tzinquaw Dancers. Mr. Ken McKinnon, one of the original School Council members, and Mrs. Shirley Thomas, a former staff member of 23 years, were each recognized with a plaque of appreciation and a gift during the Mass.

Following Mass, we hosted a Wine and Cheese Event in the school's gymnasium, which had been beautifully transformed to host our two-day event. The evening was well attended by former and current staff members, former students, Sisters of St. Ann, bishops, clergy, and parishioners. Liz McKinnon had worked tirelessly to update 50 years' worth of photographs, and to organize school photo albums. Her efforts were thoroughly enjoyed by our guests.

We had a lovely Reception Tea on Saturday with approximately 200 people attending. Once again we were honoured with three special dances and drumming

"Grandmother Moon" by artist Stuart Pagaduan



performed by Robert George, Lawrence Joe and Isaiah Baker. After speeches from ICS Superintendent Beverley Pulyk, former principal Sr. Patricia Shreenan, and original School Council member Ken McKinnon, two of our Grade 9 Students shared how their lives have been affected by their time here at Queen of Angels. We thank everyone for their kind words.

Two pieces of commemorative art were unveiled at the reception tea. The first piece titled "Grandmother Moon" by artist Stuart Pagaduan (pictured left) was inspired by our Holy Mother's love and nurturing. Stuart is a former student, former staff member, and current parent. Artist and current parent Mark Law created the second piece: a montage of metal art depicting 50 years of Queen of Angels. Both hang with pride in our school reception area.

At the end of the weekend, we were blessed with a generous donation of \$50,000, which will be used to purchase 8 iMac computers and a mobile lab containing 25 laptop computers. We are very grateful to the Wizinsky Family Foundation for their kindness.

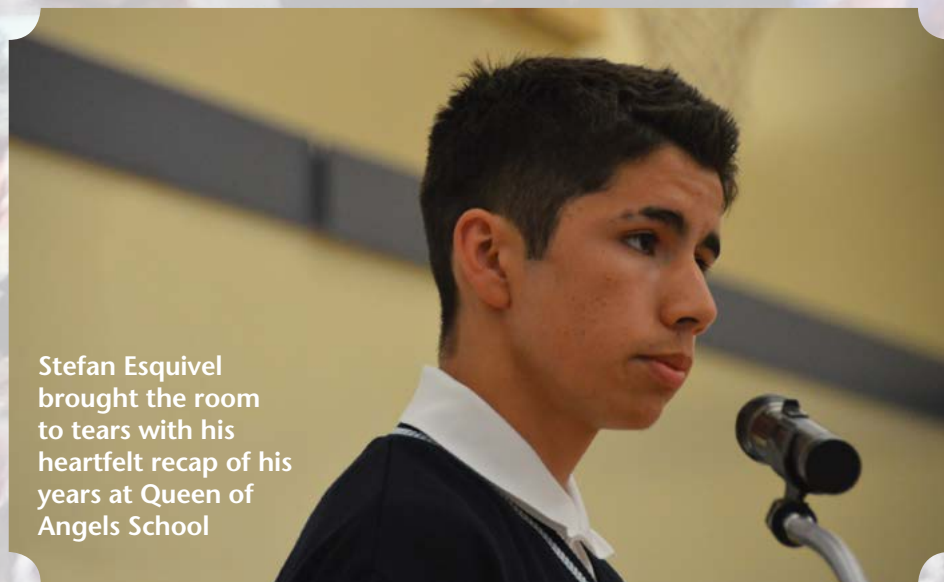
It truly was a wonderful celebration during which everyone reconnected and shared stories of their time at Queen of Angels School. ✕



Maureen La Placa (1975-1979), Sr. Frieda Raab (1979-1982), Ellen McMillan (1982-1997), Kathy Korman (Current), Art Therrien (2007-2014), Sr. Patricia Shreenan (1965-1975)



First Council Member Mr. Ken McKinnon (R) and current School Council Chair Mrs. Sheri Biblow-Irving



Stefan Esquivel brought the room to tears with his heartfelt recap of his years at Queen of Angels School



Dave Wizinsky and Sr. Frieda Raab



Liz McKinnon listening to speeches



Bishop Gary Gordon (L) with Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo

Years of Education

St. Joseph's Elementary, Chemainus

by Bernard Muller, Principal

The sun shone brightly on the morning of Sunday, April 19, 2015, as Bishop Gary Gordon, Friar Anthony Gonsalves and Fr. Mark Miller CSsR concelebrated a special 50th Anniversary Mass at St. Joseph's School in Chemainus. They were joined in the gym by almost 300 parishioners, alumni, teachers and friends.

To open the 50th Anniversary celebration, Elder Florence James brought greetings and welcomed guests to traditional Penelakut territory. Superintendent of Catholic Schools Beverly Pulyk offered congratulations and words of encouragement to the school community. The Knights of Columbus provided an honour guard for the procession, and the Harris family from Stz'uminus First Nation brought forward the Offering of bread and wine in traditional dance and song. Many other groups and individuals also contributed to the Mass and the gathering afterwards, including the Catholic Women's League, St. Mary's choir, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's parish councils, the school council, teachers and students.

One hundred and eighteen children filled the original four classrooms when the volunteer-built school first opened its doors in September of 1964. The students received instruction from a dedicated team of teachers from the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King. The expanded school continues to flourish a half-century later, thanks to the generous support of families and other community members. St. Joseph's currently has a preschool and six classes serving almost 140 children who come from Nanaimo, Stz'uminus, Ladysmith, Penelakut, Chemainus, Halalt, and Crofton.

This Anniversary offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the mission of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: honouring the past, celebrating the present, and looking forward to the future with gratitude and enthusiasm. ✠



Glen Tom leads a traditional song as gifts are brought forward for the offertory



Presentation of Offertory gifts



Offertory gifts are presented with First Nations cultural dance and song



Students, staff, alumni and guests in joyful celebration



Bishop Gary (centre) celebrates Mass with Fr. Mark Miller CSsR (L) and Friar Tony Gonsalves OFM (R)



Bishop Gary assisted by acolytes Dave Marston (L) and Zach Doebling



Ready to “Set the World on Fire”

by Anela Nicholson

Over 100 participants from all parts of the Diocese joined together this May at the 12th Annual Youth Conference to celebrate that they are called to “set the world on fire” with the love of Christ. Instead of believing that youth are the forgotten, unheard generation, conference participants rose up to answer the call of St. Catherine of Siena, “Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.”

Bishop Gary Gordon opened the conference on Friday with words of hope and encouragement, and led youth in prayer for a faith-filled weekend. There was great music to lead powerful praise and worship sessions which resonated strongly with the teens. Colm Leyne, the keynote speaker, encouraged youth to live for Christ, and use their gifts and talents to share the fire of his love with the world. “Do not strive for mediocrity,” said Colm, “Stop sitting on the sidelines ... there’s work to be done.” After each session, youth congregated in small groups to discuss what had been talked about, and how the message affected them personally.

Youth and chaperones enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the Knights of Columbus, and then the infamous soccer game took place on Saturday, leaving the Blue Team the undefeated champions.

Several shepherds from the Diocese joined Bishop Gary to hear Confessions, including Fr. Paul from Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, as well as Friar Dan from Sacred Heart Parish and Fr. Dean, chaplain at UVIC. During Mass, Bishop Gary preached a strong message of inspiration as he told youth that “There’s something amazing happening in the Church, and you’re a part of it.” Following Holy Mass, teens got to experience a one-on-one encounter with Christ in Eucharistic Adoration.

An epic lip sync battle showcased many talented “singers,” but the winner was a performance of See You Again by Wiz Khalifa featuring Charlie Puth; the evening was topped off with a fun dance.

Worshiping together, experiencing the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist, and hearing messages of hope and inspiration help many youth realize their life’s potential and leave the Conference ready to “set the world on fire.” ✠



Love in Teen Culture

by Maggie Gramlich

Growing up in today’s society, teens are pressured by television, magazines, social media, and by each other to look and act a certain way. I am not saying that past generations haven’t had to deal with the false images the media supplies us with, but rather that our generation seems to strive for perfection and will change our images and values to achieve it. We have come to learn that it is better to blend in and do what everyone else does than stand out and be different. Standing by your own values and morals will only end in humiliation and rejection, and that simple belief has changed so many lives today.

Until recently I didn’t know what love really meant. I knew my parents loved each other and that when you were in love the world seemed so much brighter and your dreams seemed so much more achievable, but how was I supposed to know that love had a different definition? It is not like I had many places to look for answers. The media was projecting a message that showcased celebrities having affairs, having sex before marriage was totally normal, no matter what age you were, and that doing unfaithful and irresponsible things was totally acceptable.

When I learned that love is *a decision to want what is best for another person*, I realized that what we had been hearing on TV or reading about in magazines was a twisted version of love. From the moment my parents said, “I do,” they committed themselves to each other and by doing that they had to choose to want what is best for each other, and *that* is what real love is.

When you’re a teenager you are going through a very confusing time. Your body is changing, your feelings toward the opposite sex are changing, you are stressed about school, and you are trying to find your place in the world. There are a lot of decisions you must make and those decisions can affect you for the rest of your life. So why do teenagers decide to make stupid mistakes and let other people push them around? The answer is simple: no one likes to be rejected and known as a “prude” or “freak.” Teenagers feel, in all aspects of their lives, that if they say *yes* to a few things nothing will go wrong. They fail to see the consequences that can

Ethics at the End of Life

by Moira King

“Disabilities are a diminishment of life only if others withhold their assistance or compassion.”

It was a master class for more than 200 Diocesan parishioners who attended the Fr. Mark Miller CSsR presentation and workshop at Holy Cross Parish on April 17 and 18, covering such topics as biblical, theological and ethical perspectives on health care issues—in light of the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn the law prohibiting assisted suicide.

Several topics were covered over the two days, but one particular moment set the stage for many of us: renowned speaker, clinical bioethist, and Provincial of the English speaking Redemptorists of Canada, Fr. Mark Miller explained that he was not afraid of dying, but in his earlier career, he was afraid of the dying process.

Fr. Mark soon realized that the end of life process is not to be feared. He now believes he is “on holy ground when experiencing the love, compassion and the dignity of human beings, and how to be the presence of a healing God.”

He spoke about the difference between acute treatment and hospice care. Palliative and hospice care is working toward the Kingdom of God. Attendees took note of the beginnings of palliative care: to protect not only the dignity of the human person, but also the need for spirituality, setting appropriate goals in caring for the dying and holding people close in the most vulnerable and difficult times of their lives, even as minds and bodies diminish.

He reported that two great fears of the dying are pain and abandonment. We also live in a culture today where many people don’t want to enter into suffering: they are afraid of it.

On the ethical principles for decision-making, Fr. Mark discussed the weighing of the benefits and burdens of treatment options, and of autonomy: “The patient as the head of the care team. If treatment doesn’t work, then let them know there is care for the balance of their journey.

But what does this mean for us? Fr. Mark explained how we can discover Christ in the poor, the injured and the dying, and how the laity, by our Baptism and Communion, can be a healing Church. We need to tune into the tenderness of Jesus, and be attentive to the great healer, the physician, and the one who walked with people. This is a gift.

So was the time we had with Fr. Mark Miller. ✂



Fr. Mark Miller in the Peace Garden at St. Joseph’s General Hospital in Comox, BC

result in just saying *yes* one time. That irrational thinking is the reason why there are so many teen pregnancies, STDs, and failed relationships that were supposed to last forever. Teenagers don’t realize that standing by your values is not a stupid thing to do; it will save you from a lot of pain and will allow you to make wise decisions. Having a strong head on your shoulders is one of the best things to walk through life with.

Though every teen is going through the same things and is experiencing everything very similarly, we feel the need to insult each other and single each other out with rude comments and jabs. Even though everyone in this entire universe is different and special in their own way, we choose to make fun of people who look differently or don’t blend in with the crowd. Even to this day I don’t understand why we do this. It is one of the most vicious things in the world to destroy someone’s confidence with remarks about their body, that they are probably insecure about, and to feel the need to humiliate them in a time when they are already so confused. For teenagers having a figure that fits into skinny jeans can seem like the most important thing in the world, but we forget that everyone is beautiful in their own way and that there is nothing to be ashamed of. It is hard to not follow the trends and be like everyone else, but someday you will thank yourself for not doing what everyone else does because, in the end, you stayed true to your morals and it made you a better person.

Being a teenager is certainly no walk in the park. We will fall down and think life is too complicated, so why bother with trying? We will sometimes bend for someone else and regret it later. We will disrespect ourselves and wish we could look a certain way or be a certain way. We will make many, many mistakes and wish we could start over, but in the end these are the most exciting years of our lives—so why spend them being someone you aren’t? If we stand up for what we believe in, respect each other, and learn from our mistakes we will become the person that we always wanted to be. ✂

Putting our Pro-Life Convictions into Action

by Anastasia Pearse

“You are here today because you have not lost hope. For the sake of Canada, act like people who don’t give up.” These encouraging and motivating words were spoken by Dr. Will Johnston, a speaker at this year’s March for Life in Victoria, BC. In spite of the immensity of the life-threatening issues we are battling in our society, participants were challenged to take action to end these injustices and support the vulnerable. Through the sea of close to 2,000 participants (over 500 being high school students), balloons stating “love them both: choose life”, and signs with the message “we choose life,” a message of hope was conveyed.



The speakers at the rally were living witnesses of this hope and how we can put our pro-life convictions into action. Courtney DeGeest, a passionate advocate for those with special needs, shared how her primary witness is in the love and care she has for her son who has had health and developmental challenges since birth. PJ and Pamela Lewis shared their experience of having a daughter who passed away just after birth as a result of a rare genetic disorder. Their story demonstrated how every life has meaning and value and must be celebrated, no matter how short-lived that life may be.

Emily Ryznar, a university student from Simon Fraser University, emphasized how “we need to recognize that ‘pro-life’ is not an adjective, it’s a verb.” She challenged participants to join in the pro-life movement by writing letters to politicians, supporting young women facing unplanned pregnancies, volunteering at crisis pregnancy centres, donating to pro-life organizations, participating in a pro-life internship, becoming involved with or starting a pro-life club at school, and not shying away from telling others about our experience at the March for Life. She pushed each of us to “step into our lost culture and do our part in sharing the truth about abortion.”

Speaking on the current issue of assisted suicide, which runs the risk of being legalized in Canada, Dr. Will Johnston encouraged participants to take part in the Give Us Time campaign. Through this campaign, Canadians are urged to contact their MPs, asking that they take more than the currently allotted one year to discuss and make a decision on this important issue. As he stated, “supplying real healthcare means supplying therapy. Therapy improves function, therapy does not intentionally create a corpse.” For more information about the campaign: <http://giveustime.ca>

Bishop Gary Gordon gave us further practical action points as he emphasized the relational aspect of our pro-life convictions, stressing how we must befriend those who are vulnerable and unwanted in our society. He further stated how this cause cannot be achieved on our own; we must rely on the Holy Spirit to transform our culture.

By learning from the experiences of the speakers and taking to heart (and hand) their calls to action, each of us can be bearers of hope in our country, playing our own role in affirming the value of each and every human being and conveying through our actions that *every life is worth living*. ✂



Out of the Archives



by Theresa Vogel

Thank you to all who submitted responses to the April *Out of the Archives* column. Good memories, all of you, as all submissions were correct!

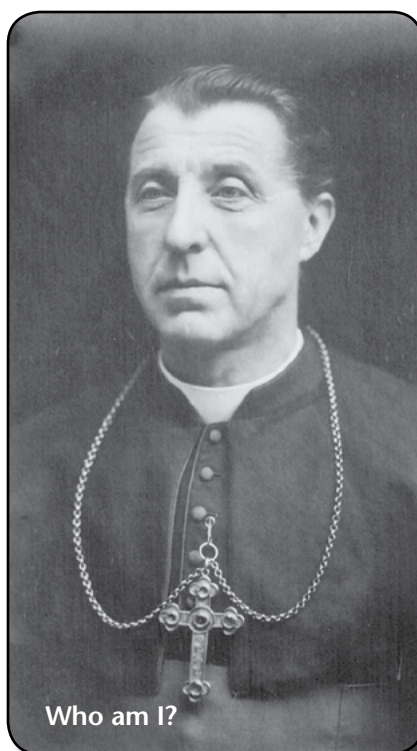
Of course, the handsome leprechaun in the April issue was none other than Fr. Maurice Costelloe, in his youthful days. Fr. Costelloe was born in Tralee, County Kerry, educated by the Christian Brothers of Ireland and ordained a priest in Dublin. It was not until 1946 that he managed to book passage to Canada, travelling by liner from Liverpool to Halifax, and then across Canada by train. He started his missionary work at the Cathedral, serving the communities of Strawberry Vale and Songhees.

The rather ornate tri-part piece that formed April's *What Am I* is one of the beautifully decorated examples of altar prayers to be found in the Diocesan Archives. These three cards contain the prayers the priest must say, and are used during the Tridentine Mass. These cards were used from the sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries, and were really only meant as a memory aid.

For this issue, the *Who Am I* entry features the seventh Bishop of the Diocese. He was consecrated Bishop on June 10, 1900 at the Cathedral, and served until 1908. The question is: Was his title: Bishop? Archbishop? or, both?

A little less pressure for the *What Am I* entry of this edition. Some of you will have only to search your memories to identify this city church of some years ago.

Send in your reply to the Diocesan Archives, or tvogel@rcdvictoria.org. I certainly enjoy your reminiscences! ✂



Face the Day

by Bonnie Landry



In the last six weeks, our family has experienced two life-altering events.

Two of our daughters got engaged in the last year. One was married in May, and the other will be married in September. Two weeks before the wedding in May, just as the lights were coming up on all the last minute arrangement and the flurry of excitement began, my Mom had a massive heart attack.

Sometimes, in the myopia of our lives, God allows us perfect and lucent clarity. The curtain is pulled back and we are given an opportunity to see what life is all about.

She was rushed to the Royal Jubilee Cardiac Unit. The fear of another heart attack loomed large—she was very sick. A quadruple bypass was planned, and scheduled for a couple of days later. She had the bypass surgery. And took a turn for the worse.

Her heart was not pumping blood around her body. Everything that could be done medically was being done. And she was not responding.

She was not responding, and we were told that she was slipping away from us. Perhaps we had a day, maybe two.

We gathered, talked to her, loved her and held her.

Twenty-four hours later, she was gone. Our hearts were broken, our universe shifted, grief crashed down on us in waves. She was my Mom, and life will be different forever now.

I love her so much.

Ten days later, we had a wedding. My Mom would want it that way. The bride and groom were amazing and gracious and allowed me whatever I needed in the days before the wedding, when normally I would have been attending to them. We collected ourselves, gave everything we had to give, celebrated, danced and sang. It was perfect. It was difficult and perfect.

I'd like to share with you words from a celebration in honour of my Mom, held at the family home a couple of weeks ago.

The iconic trait that comes to mind when I think about my Mom is stability. All the words that first come into my mind are related, somehow, to stability. Constancy, dependability, faithfulness, deep roots, strong foundation, commitment.

These are the things Mom craved, and she craved them for us, too. This was the atmosphere in which we were raised. My parents have provided foundation for us, but also for the extended family and the community. They have had the marriage that we all hold up as what to strive for.

I learned many things from my Mom. I'd like to share some life lessons.

Mom loved babies, and I learned to love babies through her. When our eldest daughter was born, her first grandchild, she would say, 'let's play with the baby.' And play we did. My daughter's waking hours were spent being sung to, read to, talked to, and having the amazing world shown to her from the loving arms of Grandma and Mama. It set my feet on a path of how I wanted to mother my children, and what kind of family I wanted to have.

My mom knew instinctively what medical science now encourages. Actively engaging a young child through play is the best way to develop their brain. It's also a great way to get out of housework.

You are all very blessed to be standing here in Mom's favourite spot in the whole world—her garden. Many of the lessons I've learned from my Mom are lessons from the garden. You learn an awful lot about people when you're tending plants.

Most of the time, when I visited my mom, she would say, 'I'll put the kettle on; come and see my snowdrops ... daffodils ... peonies ... roses...' The most basic of the lessons that I learned watching my Mom in the garden was that gardening is good therapy. There is something cathartic about digging your fingers in the good, brown dirt.

It's also a great way to get out of doing the housework.

Mom would say:

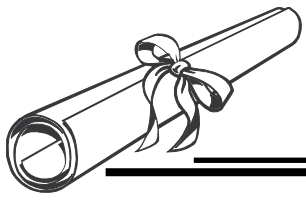
"To do a good job at anything, you're going to have to get your hands dirty." ... "Treat tender things gently. Don't put them out before they're ready. Don't rush them, practice patience." ... "Attend daily to the things that matter to you. It's good for them, and it's good for you." ... "Always be learning; read up on your subject, gather your data, listen to the experts. But go with your gut instinct." ... "Use good fertilizer. Sometimes good fertilizer stinks."

But the most important lesson, by far, that I learned from Mom and life in the garden is that you reap what you sow. What you put into your marriage, your family, your friendships, will mean that at the end of your days you'll be surrounded by people's whose lives have been made richer by acquaintance. That you'll be surrounded by people who love and support you and your family without bounds.

All of you here, in love, compassion and gratitude for her life, represent, in some way or another, what Mom has sown.

In fondest memory of my Mom, Patricia Burnett. I love you, I thank you and I will miss you until the end of my days. ✂





The Campus Mission



by Fr. Dean Henderson

After a year of enjoying the four UVic Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) staff taking over the computer keyboard and writing about the Lord's powerful work of pastoral care, proclamation, and disciple making, I'm happy to return to this column!

Something 'right' is happening when those students to whom we minister actually become ministers, and this is so evident on our annual student mission trips at the end of each academic year. We have students that have joined pro-life summer missions, CCO missions to the Yukon and Mexico, and I took seven students on a third visit to the parish of Port Alberni and the Ahousaht First Nation village off the coast of Tofino. Coordinating ministry with Fr. Stephen Paine and the faithful in Port Alberni, our work comprised physical labour around Holy Family Notre Dame parish and John Paul II school, bearing witness through humour and testimony with youth and at Mass, and sharing in friendship while enjoying great hospitality.

While the majority of the students were sprucing up the grounds of the school, I took a nursing grad with me to see a 93-year-old widow who expressed gratitude for her first home visit from a priest in 45 years. The nurse missionary was inspiringly compassionate and professional exuding the love and care of Jesus Christ, the physician of our souls. After a wonderful time of honouring her life-long fidelity to the Church, we celebrated a few Sacraments and then blessed her home; she suspected the last blessing needed some sprucing up! We left with a great sense of solidarity as a Church in what Pope Francis titled his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*, the *Joy of the Gospel*. Our students were put to work and witness in many ways, and as always received the robust hospitality of the fine people and generous hosts of the Valley.

After a few days in the Valley, we ventured off to Tofino, boarded water taxis, and ventured off to be with the friendly people of Ahousaht where the iconic West Coast mission story *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* was filmed 40 years ago. The cargo we carried aboard was not insignificant. Having heard that the school was

drastically short of books, our Island Catholic school librarians were able to assemble, in short order, 12 boxes of new and used books for the children of the village. The school was delighted and so grateful.

As has become our custom, we did skits in the elementary school, ran an after-school ministry, greeted the Elders whose invitation we depend upon, and opened up the church each evening for Mass. I was kept busy with spiritual direction, house blessings and friendship evangelization. When we showed up for a community pancake breakfast and discovered the assigned cooks "called in sick," we offered to take over. Some 50 or 60 members of the community were greeted by the eight of us waiting tables and dishing up flapjacks. What fun we all had!

A significant miracle of healing occurred with a man who attended our first Mass, but who barely participated. Through student friendship and sharing, we discovered he'd been prohibited from receiving his First Communion with all the other children in catechism decades ago in residential school. Among many sorrows accumulated along the path of his life, this sense of 'excommunication' was one of them. With a profound sense of the Holy Spirit's voice saying to me: "Dean, this is why I've sent you," I invited him to receive Christ's love in the Eucharist. With very personalized preparation, profound healing, and tons of love, he received the body of our Lord at our last Mass. JOY!

In cooperation with the Pastor of the West Coast, I am preparing to send four students back to the village this summer for children's catechesis and preparation for Sacraments. Praise the Lord for this renewal of mission and connection within our own Diocese. This mission initiative is so good for those who are sent and those who host, that I cannot help but wonder why parishes don't organize similar adventures of faith. It's relatively easy, very inexpensive and the spiritual benefits are phenomenal.

Thanks be to God, thanks to student missionaries, thanks to the people of Port Alberni and Ahousaht. ✠



Connections

by Amber Santarelli, Grade 8 Student, John Paul II

Have you ever seen images of nature and how it struggles through all odds to flourish? Can you picture plants breaking through pavement? Flowers blooming in the smallest of cracks in a rock face? Trees with their roots somehow hanging on to life in the barest of sustaining soil, or the beauty of colours in parched ground? Nature can achieve all of this.

As I looked upon these images, it brought to mind how God's love is always with us and in us.

Through those times when our hearts are hardened like stone, when they are parched and barren, when there seems to be no ground for love to take hold and grow, the miracle of God's love is there.

God is always there, working where it is least expected or wanted, always working with determination to break through and to nurture. Flowing all around us, surrounding us, His roots encircle us, looking for a way in. In every wall there is an entryway. Through this, in seeps God's love.

When we have turned away, when we have closed our hearts, when we are troubled, when our desolate hearts repulse comfort and love, when we have forgotten; then, God is with us, steadily, surely, and unconditionally loving us.

It can be a gradual change, but sometimes even the hardest walls crumble to dust in a flash. It can be a soft whispering that gains in volume until the heart is filled with the joy and peace of His love. It can seem to take an eternity for the power of love to be with us but it can happen. We are a stubborn group of beings that at times need to be halted in our tracks in order to stop, step back and turn all the work and trials over to God in order to feel again.

When we have felt that we have been standing alone, fragile and abandoned, experiencing the awakening of the feelings can be conflicting. Are we going to nourish and allow the beauty of love to enter our lives again? Are we willing to risk it? But wait: it is not God's love that has let us down. We have let ourselves down. We have stopped seeing the endless possibilities of His love. Is it that we want God back in our lives but do not know how to ask? Why do we make it so very difficult? Has it not been said, "Ask and you shall receive?"

God's love is not a love that fails. It is not a love that turns its back on us. It is not a love that seeks to deceive. It is a transporting love that stands in the front and says, "I am here for you."

God is love.

How can we ever question God's love? Was not the greatest gift from God the death of His only Son on the cross for us? Did Jesus not show his love for us by his suffering and death?

The greatest message in the Bible is love. For me that is what God is about. In a word: *Love*. ✠



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

**Jawl & Bundon,
Barristers & Solicitors
Bursary**

*The Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce the Jawl & Bundon
\$2,500 Bursary for a graduating Catholic student in the
Diocese of Victoria.*

Criteria:

- A grade 12 Catholic student from the Diocese of Victoria
- Acceptance in a post-secondary institution
- Demonstration of good citizenship
- Preference will be given to students who live outside Greater Victoria & Nanaimo
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Items to Complete & Submit:

- Jawl & Bundon, Barristers & Solicitors, Bursary Application form
- Recommendation from your parish priest
- Certification of post-secondary acceptance or registration
- An application letter explaining how you meet the criteria, including:
 - your community involvement and service activities
 - your accomplishments, awards and relevant activities
 - your post-secondary plans
 - a brief explanation of your (or your family's) financial needs

Please submit the above by July 15th, 2015 to:

Diocese of Victoria
1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street
Victoria, BC V8X 2A1

*Application forms and information on the Bursary
are available on our website www.rcdvictoria.org
or by contacting the Diocese of Victoria
at (250) 479-1331.*



Faith Matters



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

Our lives appear to us as a story: a story that we tell ourselves about our past, act out in the present, and script for ourselves into the future. To share one's life with someone, then, is to embark on a daring creative venture in shared storytelling. To marry is to say: Let us make of our two lives one story, a story that I will tell to you and you will tell to me. Telling and retelling that story—reminiscing about shared experiences, especially the happy or funny ones—is one of the secrets of happy couples, studies tell us.

~ Steven D. Greydanus

☪ We want to get married on the beach.” Why does the Church call us to share wedding vows in a consecrated building, surrounded by members of the parish community? Not because there is something wrong with nature or even any part of God's Creation. No, it is because of who we are in the Big Picture.

The Church of Living Stones

The Church is a Mother with a big heart, and a big vision; with a place for all, and broad view incorporating the living memory of the millions of faithful witnesses and what those witnesses have held, hold, and will continue to hold precious. These witnesses are people who not only knew about God, they are people whose lives reflect and radiate a personal encounter with God, an encounter which has changed their lives. These are people who through the centuries have walked and continue to walk with the Lord!

It is all about relationships. In the Church's understanding, marriage is a particular relationship which involves more than the woman and the man; it involves God and God's People. Believers throughout the ages have modelled their lives after the One they profess, Jesus, the One who is Love, and who showed us what love is. What Jesus showed us is that love is all about care for the other, and our theology reminds us that marriage mirrors God, the Community of Love.

When a couple shares solemn vows, it is within this broad and deep context that they do so. Important as they are, and they are important, it is about so much more than the couple, for they take their place among a vast company of believers. A wedding day isn't just about that day, or a particular couple. A wedding day, in a very real sense, is the whole Church's day too; it's about all those who ever stood before the Lord or whoever will. And, in a very real sense, it is about the Church to come, because one of the hopes, the very real blessings of marriage, is the possibility of God's gift of new life. Humble as a couple may be, they also receive a unique dignity and the special graces to contribute to the salvation of others, through matrimony, which along with Holy Orders is one of the two “Sacraments of Service.”

The Church of Consecrated Stone

As Catholics, we also gather with our brothers and sisters, pilgrims in faith, drawing on the strength of the Lord in our midst within the shelter of the house dedicated to our God and built by witnesses who as well are our spiritual kin, our spiritual family. It is in this context that we receive the very Bread we all depend on and truly need for our journey. We belong not just to ourselves but to the community and all those witnesses who have gone before us, who in their own time also gathered under the “Lord's roof,” nourished at his Table recalling and

celebrating the Love which saves and transforms, the Love which sends us forth, the Love which truly does pass all understanding, for it never fails.

If we go back far enough we realize that this type of gathering touches the deepest roots of our faith in God, and our tradition. In the Upper Room, at the Table of the Last Supper, our Lord prefigured the depth of his love, by giving his very self to his disciples, feeding them, and calling them to do the same for others.

☪ If we go back far enough we realize that this type of gathering touches the deepest roots of our faith in God, and our tradition.

Following the horror and desolation of the Crucifixion, the frightened and fractured disciples gathered once again in the questionable security of that same Upper Room. That downcast gathering, however, was soon to be incredibly and undeniably transformed by the gift of the coming of the Holy Spirit. That “tomb”, now a virtual spiritual womb, birthed the Church for the healing and transformation of the world.

From here the Lord's faithful gathered around the tables of humble homes, and eventually, down through the ages, to modest chapels as well as great cathedrals. All of which, humble or grand, are dwelling places dedicated to honour God's presence and to gather God's people, for their formation, their transformation, and their mission—God's mission—a mission of love shared for the sake of others. All of these can trace their roots to that Upper Room, the mother of all churches.

The Church: a Pilgrim People

Jesus continually calls us, cares for us each day, and most profoundly—at his Table, in his House—gives us himself as nourishment for the journey for the sake of all our brothers and sisters who also need to be nourished, those within the walls of our churches, and those without in the world. As with our own mother, Mother Church is essential to understanding our personal and collective stories and indispensable to our Journey.

This is why we marry in the midst of a gathering of the faithful in a consecrated building, not because there are no other options; there are, but because this is the most meaningful, the most life-giving, and the most beautiful one. This is *our* story. ✂

The Wild Kingdom

by Jean Allen

. See that dot? The one right at the beginning of this paragraph? That's the approximate size of a mustard seed. One could be forgiven for assuming that this tiny seed grows into a huge tree like a stately old oak with generous branches offering shelter to birds, but Jesus didn't say that the mustard tree is the greatest of all trees; he said it is the greatest of all shrubs. It's a fairly large and tall shrub but not an impressive or valued tree. It is actually considered an invasive weed, which means it will reproduce without any input from humans.

If Jesus was trying to paint a picture of the greatness of the Kingdom of God as something that starts small and then grows great and mighty, he didn't choose a very good example. Natural historian, Pliny the Elder (AD 78) wrote that the mustard shrub, considered a malignant weed, “is extremely beneficial for the health. It grows entirely wild, though it is improved by being transplanted: but on the other hand when it has once been sown it is scarcely possible to get the place free of it, as the seed, when it falls, germinates at once. A real mustard plant is unlikely to attract nesting birds.”

There are some contradictions here. It is considered a malignant weed but beneficial to health. It grows entirely wild but is easily transplantable. Once planted you can hardly get rid of it so it was never deliberately planted in proper Jewish gardens. It's not a plant that's easily controlled. And Jesus seemed out of touch with reality by indicating that birds of the air made nests in its branches. Birds aren't naturally attracted to it. But in the Kingdom of God, what we assume is right, natural and logical isn't always the supernatural reality.

Jesus was always trying to get people to go beyond what they had always thought. He was moving them towards *metanoia*: a complete change of mind and heart. The Greek term *metanoia* is derived from *meta*, meaning *beyond* and *noeo* meaning *perception*. Jesus invited people to go beyond common assumptions

and challenged them to change their perceptions of what it meant when he said that the Kingdom of God was within them. Today he is still challenging us to metanoia. No matter who we are and where we are on the faith journey, we are continually called to have our minds, hearts and assumptions radically changed. This isn't a one-shot deal.

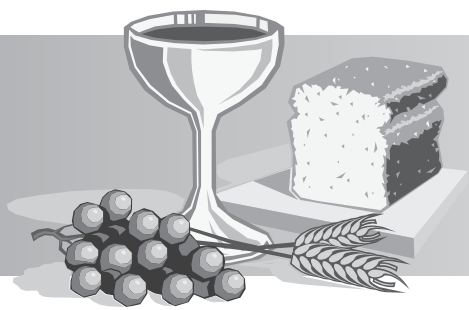
The mustard seed is far more than a simple little analogy illustrating the need to plant our tiny seeds of faith and trust in God to provide—although that's a good beginning. It's more than a snapshot of how the Church grows and develops. What we lose sight of is that the mustard seed, which is not created by us, has the astounding capacity to develop and grow without our understanding, intervention or control. God can take something that to us seems malignant, insignificant, inadequate, unattractive or useless and create whatever He wants out of it. Not only can he create whatever He wants but He can use it however He wants.

The Kingdom of God is a mass of contradictions, a mystery that defies neat definitions. It is wholly contained within us yet is rampant and invasive. It is inherently unattractive yet entirely hospitable. It is a Kingdom of love, peace and joy and at the same time it is one of tension, struggle and grief. It is a Kingdom where the balm of healing flows out of the agony of crucifixion. The Kingdom of God is within us ... but it's not ours. It's not under our tight control and was never meant to be. The Kingdom is pristine symmetry encased in wild chaos. It is a trek into the vast unknown. We are not called to know; we are simply called to go. Faith, then, is not a precisely laid out map; it is a leap into the unknown. It is a present-moment walk with a present-moment God who can take a weed and create shelter for all.

Go ahead ... give yourself over to metanoia and take a walk on the wild side. ✂



Vocations



Serving the Mission

by Bishop Gary Gordon

The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on June 7 and the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12, are perfect opportunities to reflect on Vocation for a person's life.

Both these Feasts focus on the action and work of God on behalf of the world—in other words, the mission of God or plan of God in giving His Son to the world.

Vocation is born not so much because someone has been called to a particular life and way of living their earthly journey, but rather vocation is born from discipleship for a mission. Sometimes it seems mission or purpose in life is meant to serve vocation. But the opposite is true: vocation serves the mission. Vocation is always fundamentally at the service of the mission or plan set out by a God who wants only the best for each of us.

The feasts of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus tell us so much about the mission of God's Son and about our own mission.

First, on the feast of Corpus Christi we celebrate the mystery of God's closeness, so close that God's Son becomes food for us, life-giving food. The mission? God feeds the people with His own life, with real food and real drink. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live." (John 6:56) Indeed all feeding of people takes real work, real sacrifice and real love—a mission that is quite the opposite of feeding one's self just to get fuller and have a bigger self. Over many years around many different kinds of tables in many countries and cultures I have witnessed so many vocations lived in service of the mission to "feed the people." Feeding people is not driven by some kind of consumer instinct which would simply be a competition to "see who could eat the fastest and get the most." To feed the people in a human and godly way as my grandmother did for her 15 children and numerous grandchildren, well into her 80s, and to imitate Jesus who gave his life to feed the people, are two images of the same coin.

“Sometimes it seems mission or purpose in life is meant to serve vocation. But the opposite is true: vocation serves the mission.”

I can distinctly recall asking the Rector of Christ the King Seminary during my first meeting and interview, "Where is the kitchen?" and his response, "Why do you want to know?" "I like to cook for people," I replied. His response was, "The seminary has cooks." So I suggested perhaps I could help them. My parents were no doubt thinking this kid should be at chef's school, not the seminary! I did get to help by doing dishes for five years. Oh well, you have to start somewhere.

Serving the mission of God to "feed the people" is fundamental to the vocation of marriage, religious life, single life, diaconate and the ordained priesthood. There are a multitude of variations in setting the table, but all share in God's mission to "feed the people."

“What else could the people of God do in imitation of their Lord and Saviour except discover new ways and places to give their own lives away?”

Second, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus opens up the whole expanse of the fundamental mission or life of God for the world, "to love." Again the revelation of God's own life is a pierced heart, an open heart pouring out love. Mercy and forgiveness are the best words to describe this mission and perhaps the best way to describe this mission is, "God gives everything away." This is far different from the motto on some bumper stickers I have seen: *Whoever has the most toys when he dies, wins.*

This Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is seen in the great witness of so many marriages: couples whose lives are poured out in total giving of self to one another and to the children that come from such an expansive love.

The vocation to serve this mission-plan of God, "God giving His life away," is the great impetus of the people of God down through the centuries. What else could the people of God do in imitation of their Lord and Saviour except discover new ways and places to give their own lives away, in abandon to the mission command of Christ, "Go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) This is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, pouring his heart and life into the lost sheep.

Considering these two Feasts of the Church's life is to behold the mission of Christ and his Church, and each provides us the opportunity to discern the vocation or call we have to serve the mission. Vocation is born out of each person's sense and call to "Take Care of the People."

These two Solemnities, the Body and Blood of Christ and the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, are an invitation to live the fullest life possible by feeding the people and loving them in the image and likeness of our God, becoming the best person and people we can be with God's grace. Every Christian and Christian community is invited in these two Feasts to consider their vocation. ✠

Remembering ... Sr. Beverley Mitchell SSA

Sr. Beverley Mitchell, known also as Sister Mary Ann Beverley, was the only child of George Albert Mitchell and Alma Walker. She was born in Mission City, BC on May 30, 1930. Beverley died, March 18, 2015, at Hospice in Victoria, BC.

Beverley graduated from St. Ann's Academy, New Westminster in 1949 and entered the Sisters of St. Ann, Victoria. She pronounced vows on August 6, 1951.

Beverley was a talented and creative educator. In her words, her life has been "extraordinarily interesting and varied." As a teacher for over 18 years, she ministered at both the elementary and secondary levels in Port Alberni, Vancouver, Penticton, Mission City, Victoria and Kamloops.

Her studies brought her to Seattle University (BA), University of Calgary (MA), and University of New Brunswick (PhD). Her second career began in 1976 as an Associate Professor of Literature at The University of Alberta in Edmonton. Holding this position for 19 years she taught, counseled students and published many periodicals.

After retirement Beverley committed herself to Community ministry and exercised a passionate commitment to social justice and environmental issues. Always positive, whether facing professional or health issues, Bev unites with Margaret Anderson in describing her life, "The blessings I have wanted were love and music, books and great ideas and beauty of environment. I have had them all and to a degree beyond my imagining."

Her mother died in 1942. Her father remarried and she is survived by her half-brother Jim (Ann), niece and nephew Maria and Jimmy, grandnieces Alex and Katey, grandnephew Nicky, numerous cousins and our own community of the Sisters of St. Ann. ✠



Remembering ... Fr. Gerhard Hartmann

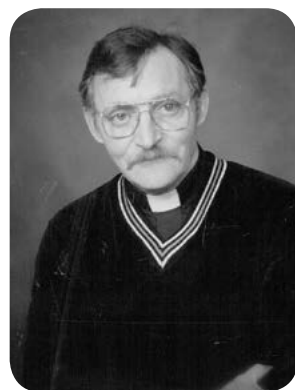
Fr. Gerhard Hartmann passed away at Mount St. Mary Hospital on April 30, 2015. Gerhard Hartmann was born on February 26, 1929, in Bindow, a village close to Berlin, in what is now East Germany. The depression of the 1930s touched his family with hardship and privation, and the advent of World War II forced a young man of 15 into conflict, armed with a machine gun, and forced to stand in defense of Berlin against the Russian advance. He abandoned his post, as did all the other youth in the group, and went in search of food. When captured, he was forced into a slave labor camp, from which he eventually escaped.

In 1953, Fr. Hartmann immigrated to Canada, and joined his brother, who already lived on Vancouver Island. In 1955, the family was reunited when his parents came to Canada. In 1965, Fr. Hartmann began to inquire about Catholicism, and after conversion entered into a course of studies in theology and religion, eventually earning a Master's degree in Religious Studies, as well as nomination as an Honorary Jesuit, which entitled him to attend any Jesuit University.

A deep desire to be of service to people inspired Fr. Hartmann to seek ordination to the priesthood and he was ordained on January 14, 1976, at St. Andrew's Cathedral by Bishop Remi De Roo. Fr. Hartmann served in parishes in the North Island, Port Alberni, Campbell River, Sooke and Victoria until he retired from active ministry in 2008.

In addition to the care and attention he devoted to parishioners who accompanied him on his journey, Fr. Hartmann was also a prolific reader and writer, lifelong scholar, and water-colour artist.

May he rest in peace. ✠



National & International News



Egypt: Expelled Group of Coptic Christians Return Home

A group of five Coptic families from the village of Kafr Darwish in Upper Egypt returned to their homes on 2 June after they were expelled following sectarian violence in the Beni Suef Governorate, 100 km south of Cairo. The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) reports that the families were forced to leave their village after claims that one of the sons, Ayman Youssef Tawfiq, had uploaded cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to Facebook sparking violence from gangs of Muslim youth, who attacked the homes and businesses of local Copts with stones and Molotov cocktails. During the violence, another group of Muslim youths are reported to have helped the Coptic families defend their homes, along with the police who reacted promptly. www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27638

Book: The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope by Austen Ivereigh, Publisher: Allen & Unwin, 2105

A recent profile of Pope Francis in Der Spiegel* reports a Vatican whispering campaign against the Argentine pontiff. When Francis highlighted the pomp and ostentation of the clergy, it was “an unspoken declaration of war, especially against the Vatican Curia.” By challenging corruption in the Vatican bank, and ex-communicating Mafia bosses, Francis also confronted Rome’s unsavoury vested interests, the article suggests. Those plotting against Francis accuse him of caring little for tradition or theology, wondering if his “confusion” will abate by the Synod of Bishops in October. This whispering campaign makes Austen Ivereigh’s biography of Jorge Bergoglio all the more timely. <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27636>

Campaigners Ramp up Pressure on MEPs Ahead of Critical TTIP Vote

The European Parliament is due to vote on a resolution on the US-EU trade deal (TTIP) tomorrow, 10 June, in what is predicted to be a close-run battle between opponents and supporters of the deal. Ahead of the vote campaigners and trade unions are calling on MEPs to draw clear red-lines across TTIP, in particular by opposing the use of the controversial ‘corporate court’ system known as Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27635>

Eritrea: Report Alleges Possible Crimes Against Humanity

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) welcomes the report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, released today, and commends its finding that some of the “systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations” underway in Eritrea “may constitute crimes against humanity.” <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27634>

Philippine Bishops Urge Voters to Reject Corrupt Politicians

The Catholic bishops of the Philippines are urging their voters to reject “notoriously corrupt” politicians running in next year’s national elections. In a pastoral letter read out in churches on Sunday, the Church leaders sought to remind the electorate that voting is not merely a political right, but “a moral obligation.” <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27627>

Remembering ... Archbishop Raymond Roussin SM, DD

By Theresa Vogel, Archives Manager

*“He is your Shepherd
Guiding you.
He is your covering
And Confidant too
He is your Foundation
Tried and true
He is your Friend ...
Your whole life through.”*

Archbishop Raymond Roussin carefully preserved the cards and wishes offered him at the time of his inauguration as Bishop, and it is evident that he often returned to the above quoted wish during his tenure in Victoria. More importantly, the few lines characterize Bishop Roussin’s service to the people of the Diocese, as shepherd, confidant and confessor, foundation of spiritual inspiration, and friend of the faithful.

Bishop Roussin accepted that all he was and did was guided by God, and with such fortitude, he never shrank from facing a challenge. Prior to his appointment to Victoria, first as Coadjutor, and then as Bishop of the Diocese, he presided over the Diocese of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. In his own words, he described the difficult circumstances associated with being in a diocese where discernment over the future was so necessary. He says: “As Bishop of Gravelbourg, a small and ever-dwindling diocese, I was brought to request of Rome—after much prayer, discussion, and assessing the reality—that this diocese be amalgamated to neighbouring dioceses.”

Upon his arrival in Victoria, the Bishop found, as he says, “Once again, the Lord has challenged me, and does so in an ongoing way.” Throughout it all, Bishop Roussin avers that he strongly felt the hand of God present and guiding him, and that any outcome would be reflective of the greater power.

It is no mystery that Bishop Raymond Roussin’s chosen motto, *Fortes in Fide—Steadfast in Faith*, was a persistent reminder of his leadership in the Diocese, both on larger Vancouver Island, and in the smaller communities on islands in the Gulf. Within months of the official ceremonies of appointment as shepherd in the Diocese, Bishop Roussin entered into the discussion with the universal Church through his presentation to the Synod of Bishops for Europe (October, 1999) in Rome. He began his intervention in his usual humble manner, by saying: “It is with some trepidation and elation that I dare speak to this illustrious assembly, as I am fairly new to the episcopal life.” After such a self-effacing introduction, Bishop Roussin went on to establish himself as the disciplined and dedicated shepherd that he was. He spoke to the assembly as follows:

More than ever, the Church must proclaim and propose what and who is at the heart of its very being. Too many identify the Church as an institution of service on the one hand (schools, hospitals, counselling centers, etc.) and/or a source of laws and rules, on the other hand. Fewer and fewer see the Church as ‘the place’ where Christ reveals the meaning of life, where a community proclaims and lives the freedom revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Who cannot look back on this gentle servant and not see his words actualized in his actions? For Raymond Roussin, beset as he was at the beginning of his episcopacy by the uncertainty and change inherent in succeeding a long-serving Bishop, there was no other course of action than to be steadfast in faith, and determined in proclaiming the centrality of our Lord Jesus Christ in every aspect of life.

Armed in such a fashion, Bishop Roussin applied himself to the needs in the Diocese. Chief among these needs was, in Bishop Roussin’s view, a just and consistent approach to pluralism which had, in some cases, hardened into



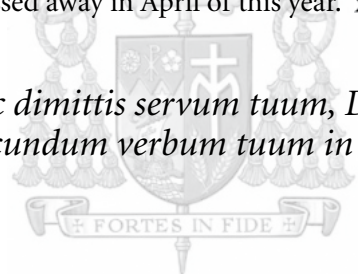
polarization. He lauded the manner in which the Church in the Diocese had been opened to ethnic, cultural, gender and age diversity, but stressed the importance of bringing diverse constituencies together in collaboration. Bishop Roussin stated emphatically that hardness of variant groups around notions of Church leadership was just not that, when he allowed: “That isn’t of Christ; that isn’t of the Church; that isn’t Catholic.” For the Church in the Diocese to continue in its faithful journey with all, Christ must be the centre and substance of the Church.

Bishop Roussin also alluded to his faith and faithfulness in many practical areas, and was fearless in addressing issues and ideas alive among people. He worked with collaborators to develop an approach designed to bring clergy from other countries to the Diocese of Victoria, and offer them an opportunity to understand the universality of the Church, as well as the beauty of service to diverse groups of people.

Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of Bishop Raymond Roussin’s few years in the Diocese of Victoria was his great compassion for others. It was only later that we learned that this arose from the Bishop’s own contemplation of his health and stability, as well as his controversial decision to share, publicly, his struggle with depression.

Raymond Roussin was born in Saint Boniface, Manitoba, June 17, 1939. He attended primary and high school in southern Manitoba, and then went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, as well as a Licentiate in Theology from the University of Fribourg. He took his first vows as a Marianist August 29, 1957, and was ordained a priest in Fribourg in 1970. He served in leadership in his religious order, as an educator and mentor in Manitoba, and, often concurrently, as a pastor and chaplain. He was named as Bishop of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan in 1995, and served there until being named Coadjutor Bishop of Victoria in 1998. He was raised to full episcopacy in Victoria in 1999 and served as leader in this Diocese until being named as Archbishop of Vancouver in 2004. In his persistently humble manner, Archbishop Roussin steered the Vancouver Archdiocese until 2009, when he willingly submitted his resignation to Rome, citing overwhelming health concerns as the foundation of his inability to continue. Raymond Roussin entered into a restful retirement near his family in southern Manitoba, where he passed away in April of this year. ✠

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace.*



BC & YUKON Catholic Women's League (CWL) Representatives Visit the BC Legislature

by Lorraine Thibeault, Provincial CWL Communications Chairperson, BC & Yukon Council

The BC & Yukon CWL Resolutions delegation met with MLAs and representatives of the BC Government and opposition in Victoria on May 13 and 14, 2015. Prior to the meetings, ten resolutions had been presented to the Liberal and NDP caucus representatives.

Ralph Sutton (MLA for West Vancouver- Capilano) introduced the delegation to the Liberal caucus. In attendance were MLAs Honorable Todd Stone (Kamloops South), Jane Thornthwaite (North Vancouver-Seymour), Laurie Throness (Chilliwack-Hope), Pat Pimm (Peace River North), Marvin Hunt (Surrey-Panorama) and Gordon Hogg (Surrey WhiteRock), legislative assistants and a legislative intern.

Officials were informed that two resolutions originating in BC were approved at the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO) and presented to the United Nations for action by the 132 countries of the UN.

Resolutions presented by the delegates were:

- *British Columbia Low Income Dental Care* asking the BC government to provide access to fully subsidized basic dental care for low income citizens;
- *Electronic or E-Cigarettes* commending the government on passing Bill 14 "Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2015" regulating the sale of e-cigarettes to minors in BC;
- *Flavored Tobacco Products Ban* requesting a ban on flavored tobacco products to children;
- *National Standard for Newborn-Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)* asking government to include screening for SCID in its newborn screening protocols.
- *Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women* encouraging BC's continued participation in the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- *Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System* affirming the CWL's opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide and encouraging government to take leadership in providing palliative care in BC.

The delegation attended and were introduced in the Speaker's Gallery. Minister Stone spoke briefly about CWL good works done provincially, federally and globally.

On May 14, the delegation met with NDP MLAs Maurine Karagianis (MLA Esquimalt-Royal Roads), Michele Mungall (MLA Nelson-Creston), and Jennifer Rice (MLA North Coast). These MLAs were interested in resolutions dealing with Low Income Dental Care, Flavored Tobacco Products Ban, and Children of Missing Murdered Aboriginal Women. ✂

Directions in Aboriginal Ministry Conference

by Bishop Gary Gordon

I take this opportunity to invite you to the upcoming *Directions in Aboriginal Ministry* program. This is a program of the *Building Bridges* project which is the work of the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops' Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. We are very fortunate that this event is taking place at Rosemary Heights retreat centre in Surrey, BC. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Ministry I want to encourage you to attend, especially in the light of the recent work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and long association of our Diocese with our aboriginal brothers and sisters.

The *Directions in Aboriginal Ministry* program has a focus on inculturation of faith. In his recent document *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis says: "Through inculturation, the Church "introduces peoples, together with their cultures, into her own community, for every culture offers positive values and forms which can enrich the way the Gospel is preached, understood and lived" (Cf. 116).

This year's gathering will focus on how "the Gospel is preached, understood and lived," through the context of the TRC report that was presented in June 2015. There will be a special focus on Decolonization: the colonization of Indigenous Peoples occurred over several centuries creating imbalances and injustices which now require a process of reconciliation and decolonization.

The program will also explore how our pastoral ministry can support healing and social transformation in overcoming the harmful legacies of colonization; be supportive of authentic reconciliation; and, celebrate and strengthen the contributions of Aboriginal peoples within the Church and Canadian society.

There is a limited number of spaces available. If you are unable to attend, we invite you to share this information with interested persons and encourage their participation.

We also invite you to pray for all those who are participating so that they may be touched by the Spirit of God to rediscover the gift and power of God in their own lives and that they may help others to grow in response to the call of God.

For more information contact Sr. Eva Solomon CSJ at (204) 221-3539 or email evasolomon@shaw.ca. The registration form is available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org. See also the advertisement, this page. ✂

To see examples of the work of *Directions in Aboriginal Ministry* visit www.kateritv.com and click on the first title, Kateri TV which will open 12 different short episodes.

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Sponsored by Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops' Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Newman Theological College, Edmonton AB

Monday, August 17th - Thursday, August 20th, 2015

"DECOLONIZING PASTORAL MINISTRY"
The Journey after the TRC: Building Right Relations of Respect and Integrity

DIRECTIONS IN ABORIGINAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre
Archdiocese of Vancouver,
3690 152nd Street, Surrey, BC V3S 0L3



We will be gathering 10 weeks after the closing Ottawa event and the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The colonization of Indigenous Peoples occurred over several centuries creating imbalances and injustices which now require a process of reconciliation and decolonization.

We will explore how our pastoral ministry can: support healing and social transformation in overcoming the harmful legacies of colonization; be supportive of authentic reconciliation; and celebrate and strengthen the contributions of Aboriginal peoples within the church and Canadian society.

Program details, registration forms and conference costs will follow.

Contact Information: Sister Eva Solomon, CSJ, D. Min.
Coordinator of Building Bridges Project
Phone: 1-204-221-3539
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St. Joseph's General Hospital Presents Sr. Pat Macaulay Merit Awards

by Jane Murphy, President & CEO

The Sister Pat Macaulay Merit Award recognizes and celebrates the achievements of employees, physicians and volunteers who clearly reflect the mission and values of St. Joseph's General Hospital. The award aims to recognize achievements that model St. Joseph's values of stewardship, creativity, respect for human life, excellence in care, compassion, justice and social responsibility. The annual Award was established in honour of former member of the pastoral care staff, Sr. Pat Macaulay, who served at St. Joseph's Hospital from 1978 – 2002. Sr. Pat continues to be a member of the congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, who first established the hospital in 1913.

This year it was our honour to congratulate our five very deserving award recipients: Marie Hunter, Volunteer/Auxiliary, Cataract Clinic; Connor Carson, Acute Care; Christmas Radcliffe, Residential Care; Trevor Fox, Director of Pharmacy; and Brian Slater, Patient Placement Porter.

Sr. Pat, as she is still affectionately known throughout the hospital and in the wider community, unfortunately could not attend this year's ceremony in person, however, in her written blessing to each recipient, Sr. Pat stated "This honour is in response to your peers witnessing that you are living the Mission of St. Joseph's "Care with Compassion." This is not only on extraordinary days; it is in the ordinary everyday events of your caring."

The Diocese of Victoria assumed ownership of St. Joseph's General Hospital from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto in 1989. The Most Reverend Bishop Gary Gordon was in attendance to honour this year's award recipients. Bishop Gordon stated, "The Diocese of Victoria takes its responsibility to continue the Sisters' good work very seriously. The Diocese provides stewardship and oversight of the hospital; however, we recognize that it is the staff, physicians and volunteers who work at St. Joseph's who truly bring our mission and values to life. It is only through the commitment, dedication and efforts of all who work at St. Joseph's that we have had a vibrant mission for over 100 years, and will have a continued mission in the decades ahead.

We wish to thank our recipients' colleagues and family members, Board Chair, Chris Kelsey, and the members of the Board who attended this year's event.

Congratulations to this year's Award recipients. You truly embody the mission of St. Joseph's and support our values of providing outstanding care, delivered with skill and compassion. ✕



2015 Award Recipients

Year of Consecrated Life Retreat

by Sr. Kathleen McGarry OSC

Monday, April 20 dawned lovely on Vancouver Island. The sun shone as we travelled to St. Joseph's Friary in Victoria where the Franciscans were hosting the second Retreat Day for the Year of Consecrated Life.

We came from all over the Island and from various religious families. There were some new faces: a Dominican friar, another Benedictine nun, more Sisters of St. Ann and another Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Sister from Tofino.

We gathered in the chapel of the Friary and Friar Dan introduced us to *The Admonitions of St. Francis*. There are 28 Admonitions: he wisely chose to focus on only three. The first Admonition was about humility in leadership. The second was on practicing patience. The final one was about poverty of spirit: we can be very penitential and observant of rules but if a word from someone else wounds our pride, are we angry and hurt? This is not the mark of the truly poor in spirit.

After Fr. Dan had presented the Admonitions he asked each of us to pick two numbers between 1 and 150. We were surprised to learn that the numbers we chose were those of Psalms. These we were to take to prayer and then compose an Admonition of our own.

We met at the end of our time of prayer and some shared their psalms and the resulting Admonitions they had been inspired by. Each reflected the uniqueness of the person and how the Spirit was working in them at that moment, hence all were different.

Lunch was a simple but tasty affair: good soups, veggies, buns and cake. We sat at tables in different areas of the house and got to know each other a bit more, then we returned to the chapel for the second period of prayer.

Fr. Dan asked us to compose a psalm of our own during our time of meditation. When we gathered around 3pm, many presented the psalms they were inspired with and their experience of prayer. This was a very bonding time for each shared personally and with depth. As in the morning prayer session, people gave the gift of themselves, their wisdom and presence. We are all involved in many and diverse works but in prayer we are united in our experience of the Risen Lord and the mystery of God's work among us.

Our day concluded with the song *This Little Light of Mine*. We parted with much joy and interaction with one another. Once again we were enriched and more prepared to continue our work of service on this beautiful Island. Thanks to Fr. Dan and the Friars for a day well spent! ✕





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Let's Talk Science

by Kim Arthurs

Congratulations to our two four-person teams of Science 8 students who competed in the “Let’s Talk Science Challenge” on May 8, 2015, at the University of Victoria.

In preparation for the *Let’s Talk Science* challenge, the eight students studied together and independently for the past two months. During several lunch hours, they practiced specific practical design challenges where they were given materials and instructions to build various apparatuses. They competed against 30 other teams from all over Vancouver Island.

The morning consisted of a question and answer period followed by an interactive design challenge in the afternoon. During their lunch hour, the students were entertained with exploding helium balloons and liquid nitrogen demonstrations.

After all the points were tallied, the two SARHS teams placed one point behind the bronze medal for fourth and fifth places—an excellent showing for these talented, bright young students.

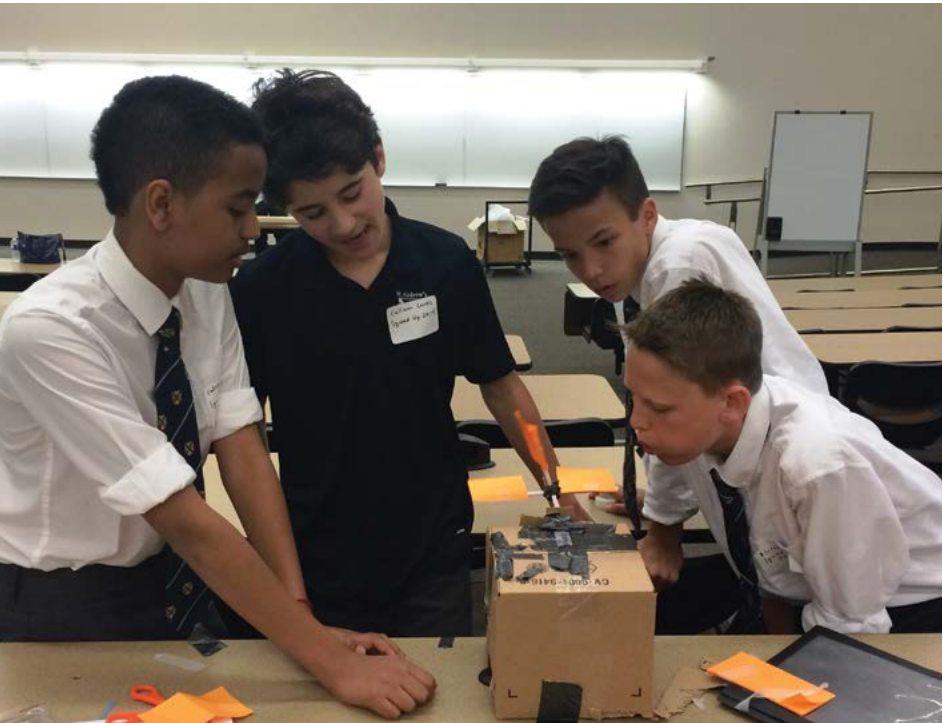
Congratulations and well done to:

The Barometers: Shaleen Mihalynuk, Jessica Coady, Kirsten Suesser, and Maggie Gramlich.

Squad Up 2k15 : Brandon Thom, Callum Curtis, Caleb Isaac and Jacob Fulton.

Educational and personal growth benefits from this challenge include:

- a realistic view of the opportunities for choosing STEM-related studies in high school to enhance their post-secondary program and career options
- enriched curriculum in eight subject areas (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Math, Physics and Space Sciences)
- firsthand experience in team collaboration, cooperative learning and problem-solving skills
- exposure to a post-secondary campus and contact with university and college students and professional scientists—a great opportunity for meeting role models! ✂



Little Things Make a Big Difference

by Sue Goldsack

Sammy’s Supply Shack at St. Andrew’s Regional High School provides school supplies, backpacks, and some food items for our school. This year we have added baked goods produced by students in our special education department. This baking has proven so popular that if customers don’t get down right at the beginning of lunch, they miss out. This work experience for special needs students in our school has allowed two of our students to successfully land jobs in the community.

Ably run by Blake Andison, students set up on Thursday in the front foyer and sell their goods. The store provides opportunities for our greater student body to amass volunteer hours for their grad transition plans. More importantly, they work with our special needs students and meet them on a very different level.

Our store operates and is supported by Bev Pulyk, Andrew Keleher and Diane Chimich, but we couldn’t do what we do without the support of Don Routliffe from Staples on Tolmie. Don has provided school supplies to Sammy’s free of charge. This has allowed us to earn extra money that will go back into providing another iPad or two for our school.

Please come any Thursday to St. Andrew’s Regional High School and see our store in action. If you want fresh homemade bake goods you will have to come early! ✂

