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. Calls to Action to all of the Bishops of Canada and to the Canadian Religious Conference 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:

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.
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
Jamie Frank
Georgia Fromanger
Alyxandra Gallacher
Grace Geneau
Emma Gibbs
Drew Guyan
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
Sukhkaran 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
Liting (Wendy) Wang
Ania Zapotoczny
Shunqi (Angela) Zhang
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 2:1-23).

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)

Pope Francis to Release Second Encyclical

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 the environment at S

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 restate 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.

I look forward to sharing more information with you about this exciting encyclical.
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 dozens of your fellow Catholic brothers and sisters being inspired and challenged by Matthew Kelly. See poster page 21 for more information.

Feast Day of St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei: St. Andrew’s Cathedral, 7pm. Confession from 6:30pm. Fr. John Laszczynski will celebrate Mass.

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

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.

20-23 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 1. 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)
25 Victoria: St. Andrew’s High School Graduation Mass – St. Andrew’s Cathedral (6:30pm)

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

July 1-5 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, Talsisi, Tofino, Ucluelet and Zeballos
7-9 Saanich Peninsula: Elders’ Gathering – Tsoualt First Nations

August 1-17, Up Island: Continue Mission trips to northern parishes and communities
18 Vancouver: CWL National Convention

September 5 Victoria: 50th Anniversary Celebration and Mass – Sacred Heart Parish (5pm)
6 Victoria: Mass and Festival – Our Lady of Fatima Parish (10:30am)
13-18 Cornwall, Ontario: CCCB Plenary Meetings
18-22 Toronto: Serra Council Meetings

The Diocesan Messenger

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To learn more about our October 2-4, 2015 Vancouver Island weekend, email wwmevancouverbc@gmail.com or call 604-876-7298

“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

www.wwme.org
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 laters,” there was also plenty of laughter and well wishes, with dancing lasting well into the evening.

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!

Welcome to Greg Beattie, RMSE Coordinator

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.

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 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.

Bishop Gary, Fr. Rolf and the First Communion / Confirmation class from St. Elizabeth’s Parish in Sidney shouting “Alleluia!” on April 12, 2015.
We all agreed it was an exciting two weeks of celebrations and fun and many took place on Sunday. Laura Gaetz and her team organized the day and also participated in events that were held on the following Sunday, May 17, 2015. To celebrate we had an international strawberry shortcake, which were served by the handsome men of the Knights of Barclay and her “kitchen angels” prepared a wonderful chicken curry salad and covers with blue net bows to tables clad in white sporting lovely centerpieces, all invited to bid on the wonderful raffle prizes.

Committee members L to R: Roland Wauthy (Faithful Navigator); Fr. Vince Borre (Spiritual Director); Jess Navarro; Ben Rivera (Vice-Chair); Alex Lontong (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 Boutiques 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 Hershield.

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.

BC Elders to Gather in Saanichton in July


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

The purpose for an Elders’ 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 Clouston, Louis Clouston, Samantha Ettel, Elizabeth Hermens, 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 Stefield 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 see photo and story below.

In athletics Aidan has received the Bellenas 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.

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 2010 and joined the Church of the Ascension, where his mom, Fiona, is a member of the Catholic Women’s League. Aidan attends Bellenas 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 Bellenas 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.

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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.

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.

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)
We Do Not Journey Alone
by Martha Martinez and Family

Recently our daughter Perla Martinez, 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 I be able to provide her with the daily insulin injections?” I prayed, begging God to make this 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, and a message 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 Amadalicia helped Perla, making her days at the hospital easier. Despite the diagnosis and the disease, Perla is the same girl: full of energy, enjoying everlast the does.

We realized we had 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 Machtryre

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 Saanitchon. 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, has received funding from the BC Housing Corporation; the infant side will have a woodland 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. The long-term vision 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 has made two wonderful decisions: it has 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 small water feature, and those residents who have a growing interest in gardening 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 Mauren 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 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 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 light and to light the Marian 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.

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Diocesan Messenger – June 2015
**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 $391,071/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, Faithful Navigator, Fr. Brabant 4th Degree Assembly 5613, was also presented with the prestigious Patriotic Award for its Colour Guard and 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 Redchurch)
- BC/Yukon Family of the Year: Ian and Reine Mykyte, St. Joseph the Worker
- Used Eyeglass collection: Winner – St Joseph the Worker Council, 13356

used eyeglass collection

**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 1963, Sr. Mary Constance Hanley taught at the school and in 1967 to 1969 was appointed to succeed St. 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 Lehane 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 HIM 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 reprimanded 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 HIM 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 Wade, Emily Bell, Emma Billman, Dionne Roberts, 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 girls were fantastic! What a great decision! And the tea and coffee kept coming, that was another plus to the occasion." The Diocese of Victoria

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Thank you to all who contributed to making this a most wonderful and joyful event.
The Island Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition was inaugurated on the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann to 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 toiled instead the housekeeping, administrative and care-giving duties for the sisters.

The Senior 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 toiled instead the housekeeping, administrative and care-giving duties for the sisters.

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 compelling quotes from Robert Service!), the rain forest, as well as informational speeches on black bears, paintballing, Parkour, posture, Batman, and Harry Potter. There were historical speeches examining the Titanic, a trip to the Yukon (with compelling quotes from Robert Service!), the rain forest, as well as informational speeches on.

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 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 just 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.

**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 Islanders. Catholic School students gathered to compete in the eighth annual Public Speaking Competition, hosted by St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Victoria.

The speech competition involves all five Catholic schools in the Diocese, as well as Christ Church Cathedral School. Our Student Leadership Committee arranged 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. Students were interviewed lunch and recess during which students got to know each other a little better.

The Junior Division trophy is in the name of Mrs. Christine James. A mother of the first students of St. Ann’s Winter school, our students 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 Canna 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 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 then 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 about AWE:

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

**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 and grow in their vocation 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.

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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 demonstrate their mastery of key Clan lore. During this vicious battle, teams desperately scrambled to offer answers to key strategic questions such as, Why did the Native Americans trade for beaver pelts? and What is the first animal ever to go extinct? The Barbarian Bananas, the Tropical Thunder Army and the Too Epic Clan rivalries were measured by the strength of the beat, the nobility of the message, and the performance of the warriors.

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@csisd.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. Each student was placed in a ‘Clan’ headed by a staff member. Clans had a week to come up with a ‘Clan’ name, create a banner to carry to each event, develop a team cheer to be shouted before each competition, and fashion a uniform. 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 rules pig?, and What is the best type of warrior to stock the barricades—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 T’s, using fabric felt 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 conflicts. 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 the 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 warring Suga Hot, the divinely inspired Zeus Warriors and the impeneerable Iron Skulls Clan.

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.

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~ (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 Zeus earning the most points.

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Read more about SARHS on page 24
Celebrating 50 Years of Education
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 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.

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

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


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

Liz McKinnon listening to speeches
Celebrating 50 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 Cotham.

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. ☞
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 that 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. The media was projecting a message 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 celebroties having affairs, having sex before marriage was totally normal, no matter what age you were. Do you believe that our generation seems to strive for perfection by imitating the celebrities we see on TV and in magazines? 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 or 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. 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 our lives are 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 the differences in other’s body image, and to feel the need to humiliate them in a time when they are already so confused. Being a teenager is certainly no walk in the park. We will fall down and think our lives are 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 the differences in other’s body image, and to feel the need to humiliate them in a time when they are already so confused.

I 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, 2015, 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 bioethicist, 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 a better 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.

**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. Bill 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 Ryanz, 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 legislated 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 friend’s pro-life convictions, stressing how we must defend 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.
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 St. John's and St. Mary's.

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@redvictoria.org. I certainly enjoy your reminiscences!

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 lucid 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, our 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 ironic trait that comes to mind when I think about my Mom is stability. All the other things 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 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.
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 Payne 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 inspiring compassion and professional exuding the love and care of Jesus Christ, the physician of our souls. After a wonderful time of honouring her lifelong fidelity to the Church, we celebrated a few Sacraments and then blessed her home; she suspected the last blessed 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 so 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.

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 most unlikely places? Some of these images 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.

When we have felt that we have lost the certainties 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:

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• Preference will be given to students who live outside Greater Victoria & Nanaimo

Preference will be given to First Nations students

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• 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.
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 hold, 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 as the Love of 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 along with 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 root,” 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. 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. The Church, this person, was soon to be imbued with something free of it, as the seed, when it falls, germinates at once. A real mustard plant is unlikely to attract nesting birds. “Mustard shrub, considered a malignant weed, “is extremely beneficial for the community and all those witnesses who have gone before us, who in their own time also gathered under the “Lord’s root,” 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.

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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, and partnering 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 became 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 a real work, a 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 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, deaconate 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 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 Solennities, 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, BC, on March 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 "extraordinary in 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, Beverley united 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 Kately, grandnephew Nicky, numerous cousins and our own community of the Sisters of St. Ann.

Remembering ... Fr. Gerhard Hartmann

Fr. 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.
Egypt: Expelled Group of Coptic Christians Return Home

A group of five Coptic families from the village of Kafa 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 homes after denominating that one of the sons, Ayman Youssef, had uploaded cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to Facebook sparking redlines from gang of Islam 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.

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

A radical Pope? Francis in Der Spiegel® reports a Vatican whispering campaign against the Argentine pontiff. When Francis androgynizes the pout and pontification 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 carrying little for tradition or taste, wondering if his “enlightenment” will abuse by the Synod of Bishops in October. This whispering campaign makes Austen Ivereigh’s biography of Jorge Bergoglio against humanity. "Its finding that some of the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations”...

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The TTIP or “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership” is due to vote on a resolution in the US-EU trade deal (TTIP) tomorrow dealing with whether that is proposed to be a close-run battle between opponents and supporters of the deal. Ahead of the vote campaña has been run by trade unions calling on MEPs to draw clear red lines across TTIP, in particular against the use of the controversial “corporate court” system known as Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).

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Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) welcomes the report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, released today, and comments its finding that some of the “systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations” underworry in Eritrea “may constitute crimes against humanity.”

Philippine Bishops Urge Voters to Reject Corrupt Politicians

The Catholic bishops of the Philippines are urging their voters to reject “predominantly 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 only a civic right, but a moral obligation.

Diocesan Messenger – June 2015

By Theresa Vogel, Archives Manager

“Your Bishop, who has long and patiently suffered the attacks of the people of this nation, for the good of his family and for the care of his flocks, was accused of having obtained his wealth by fraudulent means. And because he believed that such a thing could not happen as long as he was the Bishop of the Church, and that if he were no longer in office, it would be impossible for him to have such thoughts, he took refuge in the Holy Sacrament, but in vain. For those who accused him continued to be very insistent, and the people of the city were very angry with him. And so he was forced to leave the city, and to go to another city, where he found more favor. And there he continued to live, until the time of his death.”

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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
E-mail: evasolomon@shaw.ca

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

by Lorraine Thibault, 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 Honourable Todd Stone (Kamloops South), Jane Thornthwaite (North Vancouver-Seymour), Laurie Thornton (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.

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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, 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.

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Year of Consecrated Life Retreat

by Sr. Kathleen McGarry OSC

Mond a y, April 20 dawned a lovely 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 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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Page 22
Calling all Volunteers in Youth Ministry

Training Opportunity

The Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies is designed for those in ministry with youth in the parish, school or community setting. Courses may be taken for personal enrichment or for credit toward a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies.

Offered in collaboration with WCACYM Summer Seminars, the 2015 courses include Principles of Youth Ministry on July 16 – 17 and Practices of Youth Ministry on July 18 – 19.

For more information, contact Kelly Bourke, Youth Office, Diocese of Victoria: kbourke@rcdvictoria.org or (250) 479-1331.

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The Good News of Our Lord is shared with our brothers and sisters in remote and isolated mission across our vast land.

"With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." —Colossians 3:16

Your support will help Presentation of Mary Sister Diane Lajeunesse to lead worship at Sacred Heart mission in Big River First Nation, Saskatchewan.

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Interested in riding with a group? Join us: Tuesdays (intermediate) and Thursdays (advanced) at 6 pm, or Saturday mornings (novice, intermediate and training) at 10 am, all leaving from the Victoria location.

Russ Hay’s: we’ve got a ride for you!
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 Mihalyenuk, 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!