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Diocesan Family Camp



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

September 2015

Laudato Si'—a culture of care

by Bishop Gary Gordon

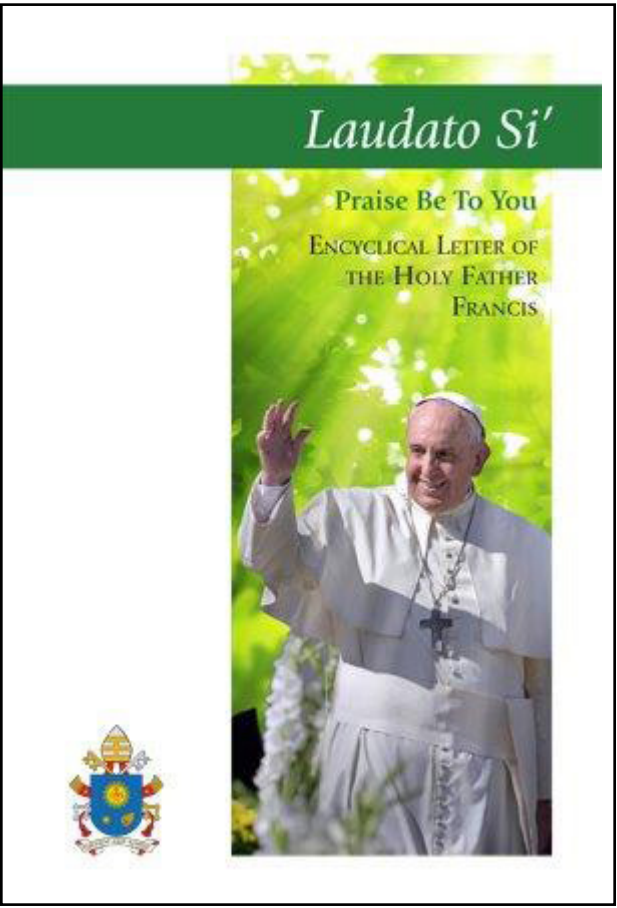
A number of years ago I was invited to the Richard Malloway Longhouse in Chilliwack for a naming ceremony and received the name *Xyolhmetoxw*, which means 'taking care of the people' in Halq'eméylem, the language of the Stó:lō Nation. The word care is very special to me; it is linked to the Old English word *caru*, which means, "to feel concern, interest, sorrow that calls to action." Fittingly, our Holy Father Francis' new Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, is subtitled *Care for our Common Home*. In this wonderfully written Encyclical, which is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching, Pope Francis brilliantly reveals the indissoluble union between caring for people, especially the poor, and caring for the earth. The two always go together.

Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (LS, 49)

It is true that previous popes, especially Saint John Paul II and Benedict XVI, as well as many national and regional bishops' conferences, shared teachings on caring for the environment. Pope Francis highlights

and incorporates these, while bringing a new sense of urgency, focus and integration to this issue. Throughout the Encyclical we hear the challenge of Pope Francis calling us to greater communion with God, neighbour and nature. We are reminded of our profound interdependence with all creation as echoed by St. Francis' Canticle of Creatures praising the Lord for our kinship with Brother Sun, Sister Earth and all God has made. The reality that this familial kinship has been ruptured and broken by a distorted, fallen view of the human person and abusive technological power, highlights the need for deeper dialogue with each other, broader conversion and daily actions so that "nothing in this world is indifferent to us."

We live in one of the most alluring and splendid environments in the world; the 'gospel of creation' is clearly proclaimed. I am hoping that our natural appreciation for God's beauty all around us, and a desire to follow Pope Francis, will motivate us to read and reflect further on this Encyclical. There are so many intelligent and important messages in it for us. I challenge all of the faithful, individually and communally, to take time to understand and appropriate *Laudato Si'* and to do something concrete so as to build up a 'civilization of love', and a 'culture of care'. ✠



"NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS INDIFFERENT TO US."

The Gospel and our culture

Pastoral Letter by Bishop Gary Gordon

In a few weeks, Canadians will be called upon to exercise their democratic right and responsibility to vote in Canada's Federal Election on Monday, October 19, 2015.

As we approach this Election Day, we need to be aware that this exercise of democracy is an important aspect of the Christian Life—the encounter between the Gospel and our culture.

We all have a duty and a responsibility to elect representatives who will sincerely work for the common good. Our democracy cannot be productive and sound without our participation in the democratic process. The Church recognizes that democracy is the best expression of a full participation of its citizens in the public arena, but it rightly reminds us that the true common good of society can only be served if it is based on the correct understanding of the human person.

We live in a fast-changing and complex society that contains much that is good in the advancement of the quality of life through helpful technologies, a sense of tolerance and respect towards others and a genuine care for those who suffer both in Canada and abroad. However, there are signs of increasing attacks on the principle of the

dignity of human life. In Canada, we are very much aware that our major political parties do not have a platform in support of human life and that it appears extremely difficult, at present, to overturn the situation regarding respect for human life. It is important then to understand clearly where the candidates stand on such issues. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided some examples of the application of Catholic moral and social teaching and how these may be used to analyze and evaluate public policies and programs. Together we ask "What do the political parties say about these issues? What positions are the candidates taking?"

In Pope Francis' recent Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his compelling statements clearly outline our collective responsibility "to care for our common home." He states, "Today in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life." In April of this year the Pope also commented, "The Church is ... not a political party, but Catholics must get involved and 'embroiled' in politics because it is one of the highest forms of charity since it seeks the common good."

As we approach this Election Day, we need to be aware that this exercise of democracy is an important aspect of the Christian Life—the encounter between the Gospel and our culture. ✠

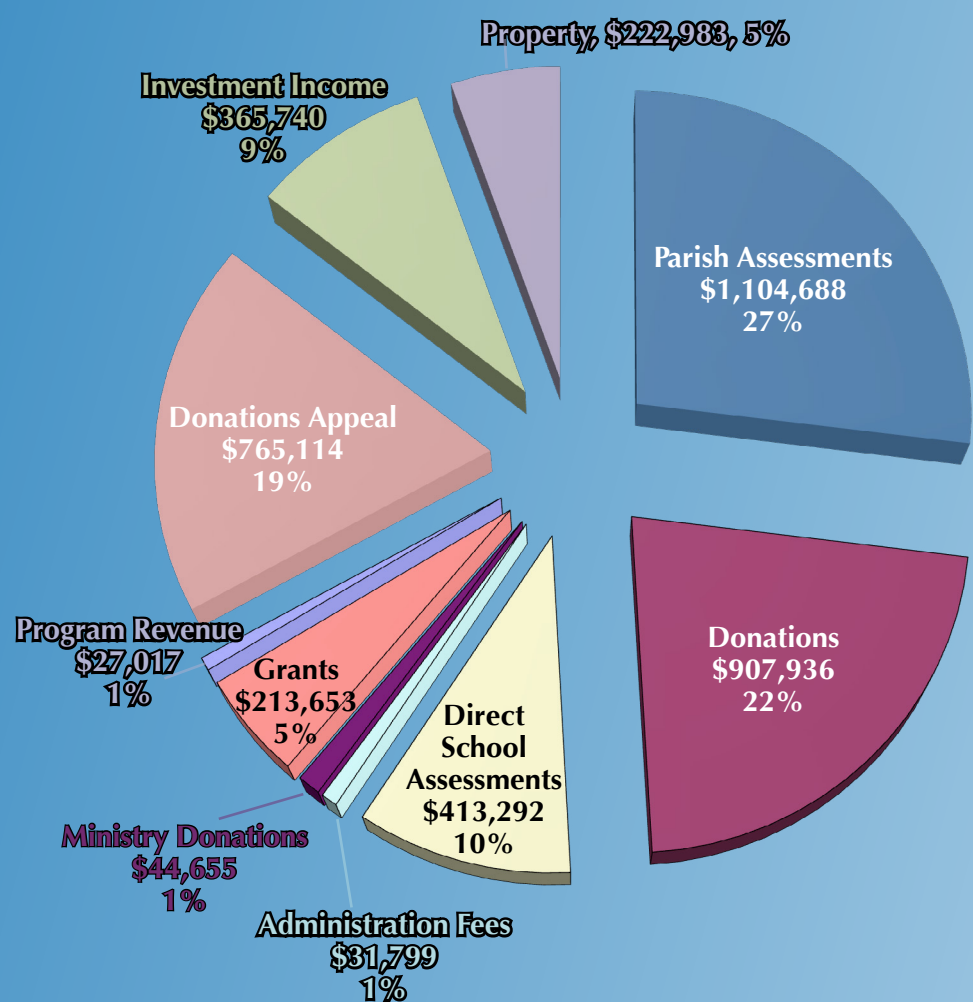
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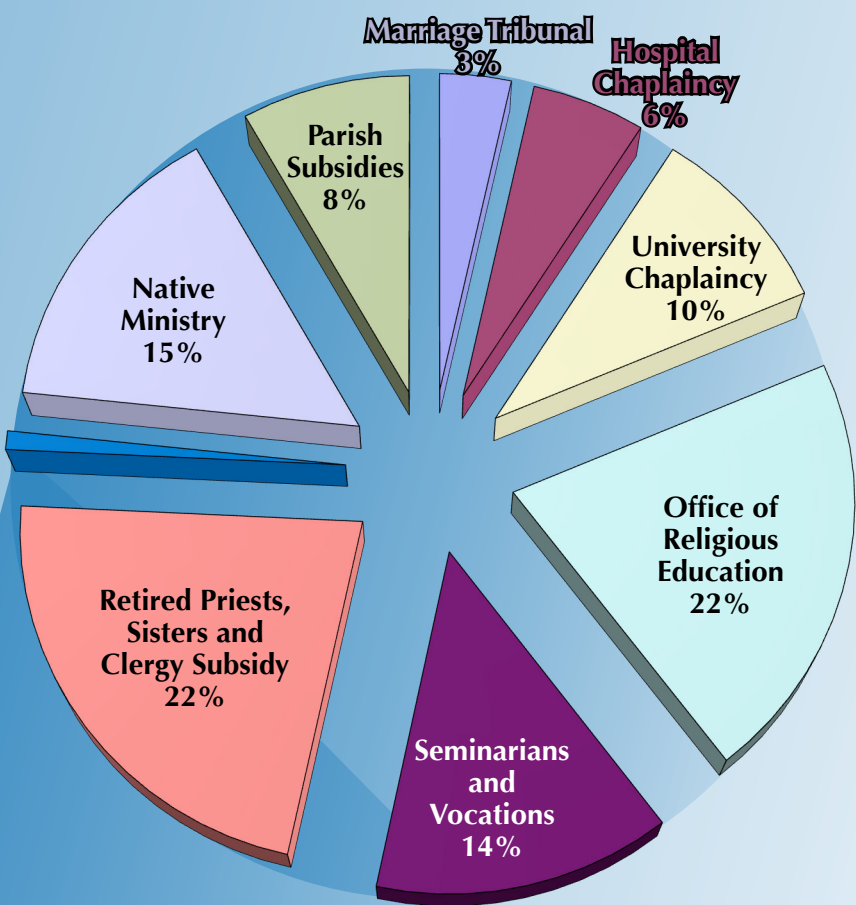
Read more about *Laudato Si'* on page 12

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

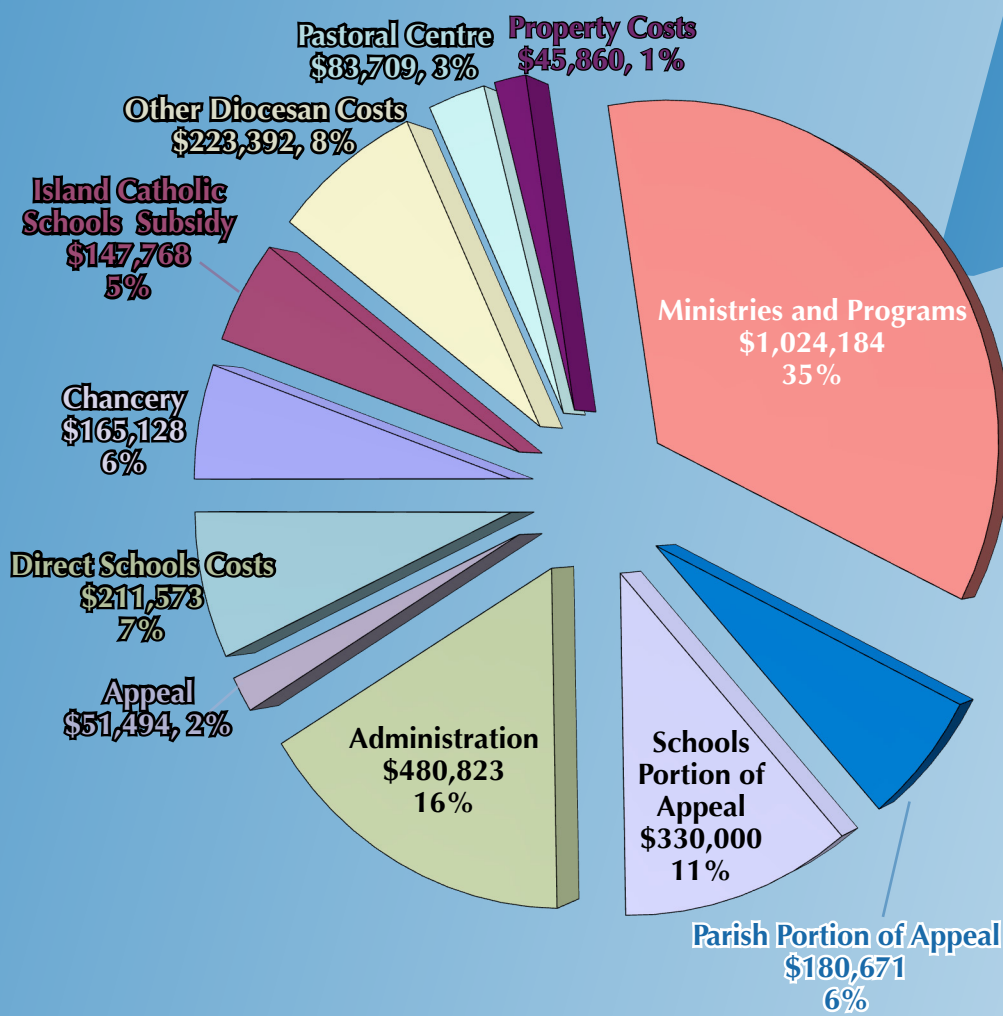
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE OPERATING REVENUE 2014



MINISTRY AND PROGRAMS 2014



DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE OPERATING EXPENSES 2014



Diocese of Victoria
National Collections
Period Ending December 31

	2014	2013
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops		
Needs of the Church in Canada	\$16,621	\$15,659
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$17,886	\$15,971
Development & Peace		
Share Lent	\$104,906	\$94,883
Disaster Relief Syria/Philippine Typhoon	\$7,859	\$97,992
Needs of the Church in the Holy Land	\$41,633	\$36,449
Evangelization of Nations	\$17,601	\$16,345
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$18,614	\$14,725
Total National Collections	\$765,114	\$885,184



YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

by Leah MacKenzie, CGA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Financial Report for the Diocese of Victoria, Pastoral Centre. During 2014 there were many changes for the Diocese of Victoria, the most exciting being the appointment of Most Reverend Gary Gordon as the 17th Bishop of Victoria on August 28, 2014. Other significant changes included hiring Bev Pulyk as Superintendent for Island Catholic Schools, reopening the expanded and seismically renovated St. Joseph's Elementary School in Victoria, and the consolidation of Island Catholic Schools Central office services within the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Centre.

The Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Centre exists to serve others and we keep focused on this primary mission. The Chancery Office, Marriage Tribunal, Religious Education and Youth, and Finance and Administration Office exists to support and assist parishes, schools, programs, parishioners and groups in living out the Gospel Message.

The Diocese of Victoria was busy during the year providing support through our established offices with youth retreats, family camp, vocations, hospital ministry, First Nations and parish outreach and clergy support. In addition we were also pleased to host the Annual Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops in February and the Canadian Catholic Financial Administrators Conference in May of 2014.

We strive to provide cost-effective centralized services and policies on governance and structure for sound decision-making. The Bishop appoints a Diocesan Finance Committee that has oversight on all temporal matters which works to ensure prudent decision-making using extensive combined knowledge, expertise and background of its members. Policies and procedures are in place to abide with Canon and civil law. The Diocesan Finance Committee advises and/or approves major financial transactions, financial policies, administration, legal, insurance, investments and property matters, and has policies and procedures in place to ensure we conform with Canon and civil law.

The Financial Overview provides a summary of the activities of the Diocese of Victoria for the year ended December 31, 2014, and does not include parishes, schools, or other affiliated Catholic organizations. The Financial Statements of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre are audited annually by the external firm of KPMG. The Audited Financial Statements are reviewed by the Diocesan Audit Committee and the Diocesan Finance Committee, and are available for review upon request.

Members of the Diocesan Finance Committee


- Bishop Gary Gordon
- John Anderson, Chair
- Fr. Marinaldo Batista, Clergy Member at Large
- Cynthia Bouchard, Chancellor
- Una Guile, Member at Large
- Felicity Hanington, Member at Large
- Fr. John Laszczyk, Vicar General
- Leah MacKenzie, Chief Financial Officer
- Mike Mills, Member at Large
- Art Paulo, Member at Large
- Diane Savard, Member at Large

On behalf of Bishop Gary Gordon and members of the Diocesan Finance Committee, I thank you for your continued support through your weekly parish collections, Journey of Hearts and Hands Appeal, direct donations for local and international charities, and for your prayers for the many pastoral and administrative works of the Diocese. ✠

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA – TOGETHER IN FAITH


323 Funerals


10,272 registered families


41 parishes, missions and Catholic places of worship


79 trained catechists teaching **1,600+** children in parish religious education programs


1,710 students in **6** Catholic schools

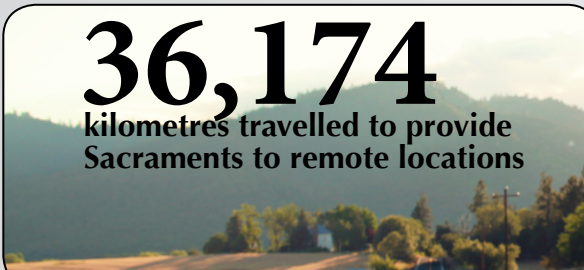

50 priests & **3** seminarians


336 Baptisms
156 First Communions
143 Confirmations

64 Marriages



16,614 Sacrament of Reconciliation
1,582 Sacrament of the Sick


36,174 kilometres travelled to provide Sacraments to remote locations


392 volunteers trained in the Responsible Ministry program

Calendar of events

September

17 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: St. Joseph the Worker Parish and Holy Cross Parish will be sponsoring six sessions on ‘St. Paul, Christology in the Epistles and Hebrews’ starting Sept 17 at 7pm. The sessions will be presented by Dr. Les McKeown and will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish. To register, email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or phone (250) 479-7413.

13 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: Parish Children’s Religious Education Start-Up—Children’s Liturgy and Registration for ‘Our Catechism Journey’ for ages 4 through Grade 6 will start up in September. Registration for Programs for Grade 1, Sacramental Prep Year I and II, and Year III and IV will be held after 10am Masses on Sunday, September 13, 20 and 27. Classes will begin on Sunday, October 18th.

20 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Family Potluck picnic at the Knights of Columbus Farm at 4537 Rocky Point Road. We begin with Mass at 11am, picnic to follow. Special thanks to our Knights of Columbus for the delicious burgers and hot dogs. There will be a lot of fun Kites are waiting!

22-24 ‘The Spirituality of Gratitude’ with Fr. Darrin Gurr, 7pm, various parishes. See ad page 15.

23 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: St. Joseph the Worker Parish’s Social Eco-Justice Committee will be offering 4 sessions starting Sept 23, from 7–9pm, on ‘Honouring God’s Creation’. These sessions are presented as the Pope’s encyclical letter on the environment is recently published. Please see the attached for more information. For registration call the parish office 250-479-7413 or email sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

October

2 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: The Victoria Diocesan CWL Fall Interim meeting will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary, 798 Goldstream Avenue, Langford, starting with the executive meeting at 9am, followed by the general meeting at 10am. Guest speaker will be environmentalist Phil Jennings, who will speak on *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on Care for the Common Home.

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

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

17 Sacred Heart, Victoria: Sacred Heart Christian Charities Used Clothing and Attic Treasures Sale, 9am–2pm in the Parish Hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. Clothing & accessories, bedding & linens, housewares & attic treasures. Everyone welcome. Free admission, wheelchair accessible, all proceeds to charity. For more information email sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca or phone (250) 479-1611.

18 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: Catechism classes for ages 4 through Grade 6 begin. See entry under September

Pastoral itinerary

September

- 5 **Victoria:** 50th Anniversary Mass and Celebration, Sacred Heart Parish (5pm)
- 6 **Victoria:** Mass and Festival, Our Lady of Fatima Parish (10:30am)
- 13-18 **Cornwall, Ontario:** CCCB Plenary Meetings
- 19-21 **Toronto:** Serra Council Meetings
- 22 **Courtenay:** ‘The Spirituality of the Collection Basket’ with Fr. Darrin Gurr, Christ the King Parish (7pm)
- 23 **Nanaimo:** ‘The Spirituality of the Collection Basket’ with Fr. Darrin Gurr, St. Peter’s Parish (7pm)
- 24 **Victoria:** ‘The Spirituality of the Collection Basket’ with Fr. Darrin Gurr, St. Joseph the Worker Parish (7pm)
- 27 **Duncan:** Installation Mass for Fr. Luyen Dau, St. Edward’s Parish (10am)

October

- 1-3 **Edmonton:** Restorative Justice Conference, St. Thomas Moore College/ University of Saskatchewan

13 for more information.

26 St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria: ‘Beloved’ Marriage Enrichment Program: A simple way to enrich your marriage and experience the deeper meaning behind the commitment of “I do” and the Sacrament of marriage. ‘Beloved’ is a DVD video series (12 sessions) presented by the Augustine Institute and offers perspectives on issues in marriage pertaining to conflict resolution, physical and spiritual intimacy, forgiveness, communication, healing and prayer. Part I (6 sessions) will be presented on Monday evenings (7 – 9 pm) from Oct. 26 – Nov. 30/15, Part II (6 sessions) will follow in the new year. Workbook cost is \$35/person. For more information, please contact Michael Watkins via email: michaelnwatkins@gmail.com or call (250) 858-1731.

November

3-4 Retrouvaille Retreat: To be held at Honeymoon Bay Retreat on Vancouver Island, Retrouvaille is for all married couples wanting to heal their marriages, even those contemplating separation, those who are already separated; even 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.retrouvaillevancouver.com/events.html or Fr. Dean Henderson (catholic@uvic.ca) for more information.

7 Sacred Heart Parish, Victoria: Annual Bazaar from 9am – 2pm in the Church Hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. All proceeds to charity. For more information email sacredheartchurch@shaw.ca or phone (250) 479-1611.

Weekly events

Wednesdays

St. Patrick’s, Victoria: Moms and Tots (Dads are also welcome) meets from 9:30 – 11am in our Parish Centre. Children are kept busy while the parents gather in a separate room to talk about parenting and lots of other things in a faith-based environment. If you are interested in joining the group which starts in September, or want more information, please contact Pauline Scherr at 250-592-9424 or email at pischerr@shaw.ca

Fridays

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

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

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

Saturdays

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

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

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

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

Sundays

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

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

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



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Diocesan News & Events

Looking back with gratitude

by Sue Manchester, Volunteer

On August 5, 2015, the St. Ann's Children and Youth Ministry gathered at Transfer Beach in Ladysmith for a relaxing day by the ocean in celebration of their second anniversary since being organized on May 17, 2013. The event was attended by 31 people in all, including children, youth ministry volunteers, parents, Sisters Elisa and Vinda, and Fr. Joe. As we all stood to pray before lunch, I couldn't help but reflect on how much we had grown in the last couple of years, and on what an enjoyable journey it has been.

Our first meetings were held outside, under tents, on Thursdays after school. Though quiet and shy, the children eagerly sat to share a snack with us, and to hear introductory teachings about the Catholic faith, the Hul'qumi'num language, and stories and wisdom shared by the Elders. Arts and crafts were enjoyed by all including the youngest member at three years old! "What are you drawing?" I asked him looking at his page of carefully composed gold dashes. "God," he replied, matter-of-factly. It was an auspicious beginning, I thought.

Our group grew quickly in that year with ten children being baptized in the same field by then-Bishop Richard Gagnon, now Archbishop of Winnipeg. Months later, others have received their First Holy Communion. The Children and Youth Ministry now sponsors a Mass each month where these once-shy children do not hesitate to take the microphone to do readings, psalms and prayers! Field trips are great confidence boosters too, as well as being a lot of fun. At Family Drum nights for example, we gather together for a meal. Afterwards, the drummers sing traditional songs to the rhythm of their drums, and the children enter the circle to learn the traditional dances. Elders will stand to tell a story, or perhaps share a teaching. Hul'qumi'num words and expressions are heard throughout, and in the closing prayer. Enriching experiences such as these are truly delightful for us all!

We thank the volunteers, the Cowichan Tribes Band office, our generous benefactors, and the Diocese of Victoria for their never-ending support. ✂



A 'wheely' amazing gift

by Peter Daniels

A new wheelchair for Ms. Amber Rainshadow of St. Joseph the Worker parish in Victoria, obtained by the Knights of Columbus Council 13356 through the BC and Yukon State Council's long-standing support for the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, was presented on Sunday, July 5, 2015.


The presentation was done prior to the final blessing at the 6pm Sunday Mass, together with our new chaplain, pastor Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Grand Knight Brother Andy Kyfiuk and Past Grand Knight Peter Daniels.

Ms. Rainshadow was most thankful for the chair and mentioned that she looks forward to using it for rhythmic gymnastics, in which she plans to participate in the fall. The chair colours will even match the team uniforms! ✂




Amber Rainshadow with (L to R) Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Past Grand Knight Peter Daniels and Grand Knight Brother Andy Kyfiuk

Photo credit Denise Kyfiuk



Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism

These lofty values are those on which every Knight of Columbus models his life.



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

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

Greater Victoria Councils

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

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

www.kofcvictoria.bc.ca



Inside the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

by Margaret McIntyre

As we prepare for our 100 Years of Service Anniversary in 2016, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island is reflecting on the past and how our service model has changed over the years.

Maureen Walkden has volunteered at the Social Concern Office (SCO) in Victoria for 25 years and has seen many changes during this time. She remembers the milk and diaper programs. Milk was delivered to the door by the local dairy and distributed to the needy. The diaper service involved a Victoria company which would provide cloth diapers and the SCO would make them available to moms at no cost. Home visitors picked up the rinsed diapers and returned them to the company to be washed and re-used. This was a great service to low income families who struggled with the cost of diapers, but it became very difficult to sustain and eventually it was stopped. One of the main reasons for this was that the diapers were not always returned, and the Society had to pay the company for any missing item. Today the SCO keeps disposable diapers to give out when needed, but it is too expensive to give them to every family with small children. Bravo to the SCO for trying various methods of meeting this need.

“You get to know the regulars—sometimes I would apologize for not having much to give them and they would say, ‘It’s OK—God gives me what I need.’”

Maureen remembers Alex Vanbork, who was the SCO manager when she started volunteering, and the old building that housed the SCO at that time. Her job was to answer the phone for home visits and consult the big map that showed the neighborhoods of the Greater Victoria area and then send home visits to the Conference dispatchers. This was the time before families came to pick up their food bags. Maureen remembers the old monthly voucher system. She also helped look after the small garden that was attached to the old building.

As a member of St. Patrick’s Conference, Maureen used to do home visits with her husband Tom. Tom joined the Conference so that he could participate in home visits and made a great contribution until he passed away. When she thinks back to doing home visits, Maureen remembers heartwarming occasions such as the time they visited an elderly woman who was looking after a child with disabilities. This lady was so glad to have the chance to talk and offered them a cup of tea so that they could have a good visit. Maureen also remembers difficult visits to Dallas Place where families tried to make a home in situations of real poverty and squalor. When asked why she belongs to Saint Vincent de Paul Society Maureen replied, “The heart of it all is being able to help families and children.” Maureen still volunteers at the Social Concern Office in her calm, warm, humorous manner, and Victoria is a better place because of her contribution.

Phyllis Cameron joined St. Andrew’s Conference in 1994 and feels nostalgic for simpler times with a strong sense of community and fewer rules and regulations, and less technology. However, Phyllis has learned to change with the times and continues to be an essential presence both in St. Andrew’s Conference and the Social Concern Office where she volunteers. Before the food bank, Phyllis did many home visits and she smiled as she remembered getting stuck in the elevator at View Towers and visiting with Diane Pearson, who was a member of the Conference at that time. One time they visited a man who had a dog at home with him, which growled and barked ominously throughout the visit. Diane was



Maureen Walkden has volunteered with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for 25 years

petrified of dogs and was very relieved to escape unharmed. Another time Phyllis and Diane visited a home across from the police station and parked in a spot in front of the building. When they came out, the car had been towed due to them misreading the parking times. Phyllis not only had to pay for the tow and to get her car out, but she also got a ticket! This is a clear example of the aphorism, “No good deed will go unpunished.”

Another program that Phyllis has taken the lead on is the Christmas Bureau program that she took over from Pat Mochrie. Beginning in October, her team would get ready for the December rush. They gave out vouchers for a turkey dinner, and families could pick from a toy room that had been stocked by donations. In recent years the Christmas program became more complex with new partners; now the focus is changing again, putting the emphasis on serving seniors.

Meanwhile Phyllis continues to volunteer at the front desk at the Social Concern Office. She loves the simplicity of helping one person at a time. While she understands the importance of a ‘hand up’ provided through programs and advocacy, she feels the priority is still the ‘hand out’—giving emergency food and clothing to the most vulnerable members of society. This is the heart of her service—helping those whose circumstances keep them in dire need. She strives to make no judgments about those who come for help because the story behind each person is not known. Some people are living on the street; some have housing but are on social assistance and cannot afford to buy food; some are embarrassed they have to ask for help; many have donated to the Society when times were better. Phyllis says she has learned so much from those she serves—it is not just about giving but also receiving. The final words of her story come from Phyllis herself:

“One day a ‘regular’ came in asking about her friend. I was upset about the friend’s situation and felt judgmental towards them, but instead of getting frustrated this person said, ‘Phyllis you have to look at him through God’s glasses, because He is looking through rose-coloured glass when He sees us.’ It really touched and humbled me at the same time. You get to know the regulars—sometimes I would apologize for not having much to give them and they would say, ‘It’s OK—God gives me what I need.’” ✂

St. Joseph’s Hospital chapel blessing and dedication

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

Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria, presided at a blessing and dedication service in Comox on July 13, officially opening the new St. Joseph’s Hospital chapel for church services.

The chapel was filled to capacity for the service with members of the community, clergy from different churches of the Comox Valley, residents and families of The Views residential care facility, St. Joseph’s staff and special invited guests.

The former St. Joseph’s chapel was decommissioned in its previous location in October 2014 as a part of the organization’s space planning initiative, enabling renovation of the vacated space and the relocation of the administration offices to free up clinical space in the hospital’s acute care building.

The new chapel is a combination of the new and the old. The space is completely redone and expanded, many of the artifacts were removed from the old chapel and have been carefully incorporated into the new space.

As you approach the chapel doors, you cannot help but appreciate the beautiful stained glass windows that adorn the east wall of the chapel. All of the hand carved woodwork—the wood paneling, altars and kneelers—were crafted by Frank Henderson in 1962. The holy water repository, part of the old chapel, was reinstalled. The Stations of the Cross, located on the west wall, were part of the original chapel when it opened in 1938.

The chapel is a quiet, restful place of worship and reflection where patients, residents, family and staff can experience God’s presence and feel spiritually renewed. The chapel speaks to the importance of faith and St. Joseph’s holistic approach to care, recognizing the importance of spirituality in the healing process.

Mass takes place weekly in the chapel, and many church communities in the Comox Valley provide worship services once a month.

Brian Ducedre, Hospital Chaplain, states, “It is my hope that our new chapel will continue to be a place for spiritual renewal for all who wish to use it for prayer, reflection and solitude.” ✂



A visit to St. Mary's

by George Weiss

On Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2015, Bishop Gary was welcomed to St. Mary's Parish, Ladysmith.

Events included Mass at 10am on Sunday morning for St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parishioners; a photo shoot outside the church of Bishop Gary with Fr. Tony Gonsalves (both are in the centre of the picture) and all those present; a pancake breakfast hosted by the KofC and CWL; a gift of two albums illustrating the parish buildings was presented to Bishop Gary.

We are an active parish of about 120 families. Our Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus Councils support the parish, sponsor scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary studies and organize pancake breakfasts at St. Mary's in support of St. Joseph's Catholic school, among many other activities.

Our pastor and parishioners provide Sunday Holy Communion; musical presentations or Mass in Seniors Homes. The pastor is also a member of the ecumenical assembly known locally as the Ministerial which deals with the administration of the local food bank.



Parishioners have been participating in the annual ecumenical Christmas Carol Service, now in its 39th consecutive year of operation, hosting it every-other year.

Our Religious Education program is very successful due to our dedicated catechism team and the children's constant enthusiasm.

We are grateful to Bishop Gary for his introductory pastoral visit to our parish, and his emergency visit to celebrate Mass on July 12, and we very much appreciate his presence in our parish community during our time of grief. ✂

On Thursday, July 9 the first draft of this article was discussed with Father Tony. On Friday, July 10 Fr. Tony was called to his eternal sleep. May he rest in peace.



50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate

CCCB Press Release

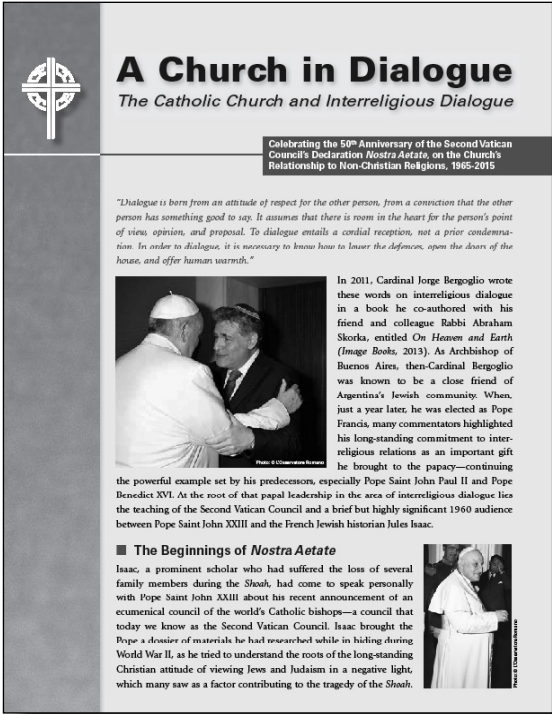
To mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relations of the Church with Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate* (promulgated in 1965), the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), through its Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue, has published a new resource entitled: *A Church in Dialogue: The Catholic Church and Interreligious Dialogue*. This 12-page resource presents the origins of *Nostra Aetate* and its impact on interreligious dialogue, both in Canada and abroad over the past 50 years, and most notably the renewed relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. As the document states, "*Nostra Aetate* offers a vision of hope and a model of respectful, meaningful interaction. It marked a critical beginning point for contemporary interreligious dialogue for Catholics ..."

The CCCB resource highlights "how, in our modern world, different religions are increasingly interacting with each other." This move towards a global community was an essential principle which guided the preparation of the conciliar document. *Nostra Aetate* "seeks to highlight the things that Christianity shares in common with other religions, and to emphasize their positive, life-giving aspects, which Christians can appreciate and value..." Despite their differences, *Nostra Aetate* "recognizes that each religion seeks to answer certain basic questions about the cosmos, about the meaning of life, the nature of good and evil, and the goal of our existence." The new CCCB resource explains that "our grappling with these fundamental issues links all believers, and through our sharing of our respective religious heritages, mutual enrichment is possible and, indeed, desirable".

In Canada, the fruit of *Nostra Aetate* can be seen concretely in the many interreligious networks, forums and groups that have taken root in part because of the vision of the conciliar declaration. Areas of interfaith collaboration exist across our country, addressing issues of poverty, hunger, human trafficking, domestic violence, religious extremism, and peace-making in the Middle East. A number of Canadian institutions and groups now promote interreligious dialogue and friendship year-round. The Catholic Church in Canada contributes leadership and energy to these efforts. Examples include the Canadian Centre for

Ecumenism in Montreal, the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, the Centre for Jewish-Catholic Muslim Learning at King's University College in London, Ontario, the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Toronto, and the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal.

This new CCCB resource is part of a series by the Commission called *A Church in Dialogue* which includes three other publications. For more information, visit www.cccb.ca. ✂



CWL National Convention held in Vancouver, BC

Practical prophets of wisdom

by Alicia Ambrosio
Reprinted with permission of Salt & Light

What happens when you gather together some of the most committed, passionate, dedicated Catholic women from across the country in one church? Vancouver’s St. Francis Xavier church in Vancouver learned the answer: the congregation out sings the choir and the decibel level threatens to take the roof off the building!

The Catholic Women’s League opened their 95th annual national convention August 16 in Vancouver. More than 800 members took part in the opening Mass. Their enthusiasm was palpable.

Addressing the women during his homily Vancouver’s Archbishop Michael Miller thanked the women for their “prophetic mission of wisdom.”

Appearing to beam as he spoke, the Archbishop explained that to be wise means to have insight into how things really are. For Christians that means being able to see when something is ‘of God’ and when it is not. Women, he said, have a particular sensitivity for discerning God’s presence and have a duty to be “practical prophets of wisdom.”

Why are women called to be practical prophets? According to the Archbishop—who cited the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis—because women’s gift for focusing on the person in a given situation opens the door for God’s mercy. He said, “now is the hour when women are called to use their feminine genius to protect and promote the dignity of every person.”

On hand for the opening Mass and opening ceremony was the Honorable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. She reminded the women that Canada “is a nation born of conversation, not confrontation,” and the CWL has been an integral part of that conversation, providing a strong foundation for communities. She called on the League’s 85,000 members to continue working to uphold the Christian values that provide a solid foundation for the communities that make up the nation. ✂

Sacred Heart hymn contest winning entry

by Ben Pires, Member, 50th Anniversary Committee

In October 2014, a ‘Sacred Heart’ hymn contest was unveiled to get submissions for contemporary ‘Sacred Heart’ hymns, particularly those that will resonate with the youth. This anniversary legacy was undertaken by Rafael Oei, the parish’s musical director, with Ben Pires promoting the contest throughout the Diocese and in the nearly 120 Sacred Heart churches across Canada, including five Sacred Heart cathedrals in Kamloops, Prince George, Bathurst, Prince Albert and Whitehorse.

The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island provided a \$1,750 grant for the first prize of \$1,000, second prize of \$500, and third prize of \$250.

Of the 20 entries received, only one was selected: *Hymn to the Sacred Heart*, composed by Helen Krauch, Music Director at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.✂

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

by Amanda McCormick
Reprinted with permission of the National CWL

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada (CWL) held its 95th Convention in Vancouver from August 16 – 19, 2015, where 900 CWL members, Archbishops, Bishops, and clergy from sea to sea joined together to listen, share and pray together. The theme ‘One Heart, One Voice, One Mission’ was the focus of all presentations and activities. A full review of the convention can be found on the www.cwl.ca website.

One of the highlights of the convention was a presentation by our own Most Rev. Gary Gordon titled ‘The Abundant Heart and Our Mission Call’. Bishop Gordon started his presentation with, “There is something beautiful about this gathering.” Addressing the audience, he enthusiastically proclaimed, “You greet each other with a hug! Boy! They say you have to receive twelve hugs to be well each day, and I’ve gotten enough now to last a month!” Speaking to members, he affirmed, “You are one group of people that demonstrate to the rest of the people in Canada what it means to roll up your sleeves. Thank you very much!”

“Every place [the Pope] goes, he goes to visit a prison. These people must become the centre of the Church; those whom we do not want to associate with, necessarily. Accompaniment, care and tenderness ... take the first letter of each word and it spells ACT.”

“Having a good heart and a strong mind; this is my experience with the CWL,” Bishop Gordon proclaimed. League members are “people who truly epitomize the stretching out your own arms to embrace the universe that you live in.”

Bishop Gordon’s experience with the League began as a child. His mom was a life member of the League and he happily recalled his memories of her. “The biggest thing my mom experienced in the League,” he said, “was a communion of trusted friends—a communion of trusted sisters that were a great source of strength, which she needed.” As a child, his parents would often take him and his brother to downtown Vancouver’s east side. The area at the time was referred to as ‘skid row’, and he was fearful of seeing the people who were down on their luck. Looking at his audience, he paused and said, “It seemed like my mother and father seemed to know everyone down there!” This is where Bishop Gordon got his idea of ‘mission, service, sacrifice.’ He fondly recalled his mom saying, “Boys, you’ve got to take care of people. We don’t know why they’re down on their luck. All we know is that Jesus told us to take care of people.”

“Isolation is the greatest poverty and indifference,” Bishop Gary said firmly. “This is a big mission,” he continued, “to end isolation in our country, with bold ideas and new resources.” Bishop Gordon spoke of Pope Francis and his recognition of the marginalized and the isolated. “Every place he goes, he goes to visit a prison,” he said. These people, “Must become the centre of the Church; those whom we do not want to associate with, necessarily,” he said. “Accompaniment, care and tenderness,” he began, “take the first letter of each word and it spells ACT.”

In closing, Bishop Gordon spoke of an encounter he had with a homeless man outside of the hotel. He had struck up a conversation with the man and asked him where he was from. The man told him of the 27 years he had spent working on the Douglas Lake Ranch. As a cowboy, the man had an accident and broke three vertebrae, ending his career. When the Bishop asked him what he was doing now, the man replied, “Well, I get \$220 a month.” There was a collective gasp in the room as Bishop Gordon continued his story: “How are you going to survive?” The man then replied, “God. God.” After asking the man what he asked God for today, the man stated, “Well, it already came true ... I woke up.”

“The margins and the periphery are our mission.” Bishop Gordon encouraged all members of the League to “Go for a walk. Take a trip down to Columbia and Cordova.” League sisters, you have been challenged. Visit those who need visiting the most. ✂



With “BAM BAMs” in hand the crowd roared with approval at the great outreach of Catholic Missions in Canada

68th Annual BC & Yukon Catholic Women's League Provincial Convention

by Laura Esposito, CWL Provincial Communications Chairperson

The 68th Annual Convention of the BC & Yukon Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) was held at the Coast Inn of the North, Prince George BC from June 11 – 13, 2015. One hundred seventy-eight members and guests attended and were welcomed by the Prince George Diocesan CWL Council. The Most Reverend Stephen Jensen, Bishop of Prince George, celebrated Opening Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Also in attendance was Most Reverend David Monroe, Bishop of Kamloops. Mass was followed with a reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus from Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The agenda contained a variety of guest speakers for Friday, June 12, 2015. National CWL President Barbara Dowding and Sister Irene Baker CSI, spoke on the national theme, 'One Heart, One Voice, One Mission' linking it to the provincial theme, Joyfully Serving the Lord. Encouragement was given to spend time in prayer and with Scripture using daily Mass readings. A suggested starting point for reflections was asking questions such as, "What is the text saying to me?" or, "What in my life is in need of change?" Encouragement was also given to read Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel). Barb Dowding challenged members to continue to emphasize the spiritual component of the League and make CWL meetings more exciting and relevant to younger members.

Sergio Petrucci, representing Development and Peace (D&P), and Doreen Gowans, Past President of the BC & Yukon CWL Council and CWL National Chairperson of Community Life, shared the work of D&P. Everyone was reminded of the program to donate 1% of funds raised by CWL councils to D&P. Doreen told of one council which held a successful fundraiser by asking members to contribute \$1.00 for every pair of shoes they owned to help with D&P efforts. Maureen Fadum, President of Domestic Abuse Services, Our Lady of Good Counsel Society, shared the Society's work with women in the Lower Mainland and the BC interior. Donna Flood, Executive Director of the Prince George Hospice Society, shared her work with the society and the need for palliative care to help people die "gracefully, not fearfully."

Five resolutions were presented and approved: 2015.01, Invoke the Notwithstanding Clause; 2015.02, Enduring Power of Attorney on Spouses; 2015.03, New Registration Process for Organ and Tissue Donation; 2015.04, Increased Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services; 2015.05, Income Tax Credit for Clients of Registered Clinical Counsellors. These resolutions were forwarded to the national council for consideration at the 2015 annual national CWL convention held in Vancouver August 16 – 19, 2015.

The liturgical celebration held on Friday, June 12 was officiated by Reverend Edwin Kulling, Provincial Spiritual Advisor. A collection was taken for Development & Peace, and the names of the deceased CWL members were read. A casual dinner followed at Sacred Heart School gym served by teachers and students of the school. Participants were entertained by the children's choir and the Forever Young Chorus.

Saturday morning, Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, captivated the audience with her charisma and knowledge. She stated that the dignity of the human person is fundamental to our Catholic faith founded in Scripture, especially as each of us is a member of the body of Christ. A human life is defined as life from conception to natural death, therefore the dying process should be supported rather than the right to end life. "We are to help with the dying, not help to die." There is medication available to help with suffering and it is important to ensure that an advance directive and enduring power of attorney clearly states the wishes of an individual. Dr. McQueen's book, *Bioethics Matters*, explains our Catholic teaching on today's stem cell research, reproductive technologies and euthanasia. She supports BC & Yukon CWL Resolution 2015.01 Invoke the Notwithstanding Clause, especially since examples from other countries have proven that no law is strong enough to end abuses. Each member was encouraged to write letters on this issue to her MP and other members of government.

The closing Eucharistic celebration was held at Sacred Heart Cathedral and included the reaffirmation of officers and chairpersons. The convention banquet followed. Greetings were extended by the Mayor of Prince George, Lyn Hall and a presentation was made by National President, Barbara Dowding. The CWL Molly Boucher Bursary was presented to the winner, Marianna Gagliano, by BC & Yukon CWL Provincial Education & Health Chairperson, Agnes Geiger.

A very successful, informative, spiritual and fun-filled convention was enjoyed by the 178 members and guests in attendance. An invitation was given to attend the 2015 National Convention in Vancouver and the 2016 provincial convention in Coquitlam. ✂



Journeying with one heart, one mind

By Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM

The workshop 'Decolonizing Pastoral Ministry' held at Rosemary Heights in Vancouver on August 17 – 20, 2015, was an experience of faith-journey, and can be summed up as a continuous formation of the mind, heart and hands in giving life to the Gospel. From what has been seen in the past, brought about by colonization, it evoked various emotions that somehow grabbed the freedom of expression of what was in the heart, seemingly an endless cycle. Nevertheless, this workshop provided new opportunities to integrate the whole experience and embrace the challenges of decolonization towards reliving Jesus' heart of mission—love.

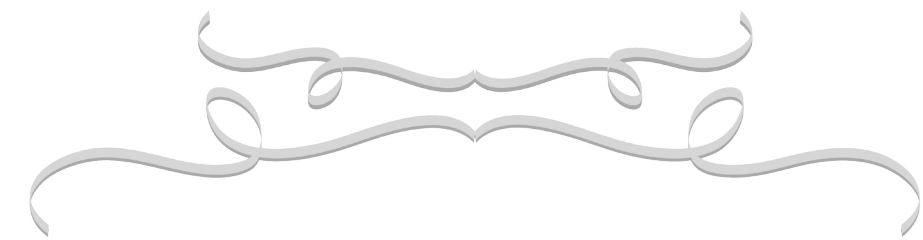
During the clan sharing, I had the chance to listen to the richness of the aboriginal cultures, religious traditions and practices across Canada. I was faced with the reality that being with the community among First Nations, there is so much to learn day by day and so many times to take action accordingly.

We started with an activity that asked us to complete the phrase: *Love is ...* and we concluded the workshop with the same activity. Having known the effects of colonization, I believe that there is always room for change if we allow love to move us, and that decolonization begins in our heart even before we could take the first step forward. But we cannot do this by ourselves alone. As I learned from the Cowichan people, we journey together with *nuts'amaat shqwaluwun* (one mind and one heart).

Archbishop Millar from Vancouver and Bishop Gary joined in the workshop, and locally we were blessed with priests including Fr. Sean Flynn, Fr. Jose Prakash, Fr. Alfredo Monicelli; there were also eight representatives from St. Ann's Church, one from Queen of Angels Catholic School, one from Nanaimo and several from the Congregation of Sisters of St. Ann. ✂



Participants discussing decolonization, theology and pastoral ministry



Celebrating Dr. Patricia Rooke

by Barb Beaubien

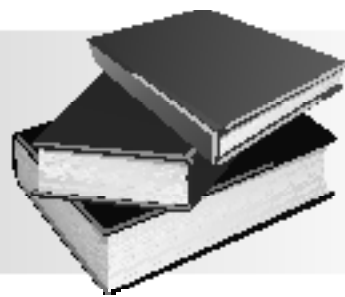
It is with a mixture of sadness and delight we announce that Dr. Patricia Rooke is officially retiring from teaching classes and holding workshops.

During 15 years of stewardship with the gift of teaching, she has inspired hundreds of us to a deeper understanding of the precious gift we have been given in our faith, encouraging us in the mission of the laity.

Over the years, Dr. Rooke has created classes that include:

- Exploring the Catholic Faith
- Early Christians
- Salvations is from the Jews
- The Sunflower
- Judged on love alone (her final class)

We would like to honour Patricia's extraordinary gift and generous commitment with a retirement celebration on September 20, 2015, after the 11am Mass in the Seghers Hall at St. Andrews's Cathedral. For more information please contact by email to exploringthecatholicfaith@gmail.com or phone (250) 386-2982. ✂



Looking forward with ICS

by Bev Pulyk, Superintendent

My first year with Island Catholic Schools (ICS) was exciting, challenging, and fun, and it flew by much faster than expected. Throughout the year, I met many wonderful people who were welcoming and very willing to share thoughts and ideas about our schools. I heard about our rich history and traditions; I received letters and emails from parents celebrating their child's teachers and school; and I received thoughts and ideas on where we need to improve. Thank you—I enjoyed the conversations and the feedback.

Summer holidays have often been a time of reflection for me as it provides the necessary time to look back over the past year and set goals and direction for the upcoming year. This year's reflection was on the wide variety of people I met, conversations that took place, school visits, meetings attended, celebrations and challenges. Having watched and listened throughout the year, my focus for ICS in the upcoming year will center on: evangelization, educational currency (i.e., teachers staying in touch with the most current educational research and effective training methods), Catholic Schools Plan, and greater visibility.

Without a doubt ICS is founded on a rich history with much tradition; this is to be celebrated. More than ever in this secular world, it is critical that staff are authentic witnesses of the faith who journey with children while providing them an excellent education in a safe, caring environment. We all are being called to a time of evangelization; a time where "we need to see with new eyes how the Lord might be asking us to do things in new ways." (Bishop Brian Dunn, CCSTA

Conference, June 2015) This will remain an ongoing focus when having conversations with current staff, when planning for faith development days and when hiring new staff.

Currency in any business or organization is essential; in education, it is critical! The focus over the next number of years will be implementing Response to Intervention (RTI), new BC curriculums and the BC Education Plan; implementing our Information Technology Strategic Plan; working on phases 2 and 3 of the Catholic Schools Plan (seismic upgrades for St. Patrick's School; renovation for St. Andrew's Regional High School); and supporting the ICS Board of Directors with their Strategic Plan. It is also my goal to spend more time in schools this year as I continue to meet and get to know our school stakeholders (students, parents, staff, and parishioners).

Catholic Education is a gift to the world—a gift to be celebrated—a gift to be shared.

I'd like to say, "Thank you" to all the people who share their talents, time and treasures with us; you are greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for the success of Catholic Education in our Diocese as we *Proclaim Jesus with Loving Hearts*. ✠



Building in love

Excerpt from the Valedictory Speech given by Brian Chou, St. Andrew's Regional High School

This is a special time for the St. Andrew's graduating class. We've had many struggles and challenges in the past [four] years and today we have reached a memorable point in our lives.

Like all math students, when I think of the word 'point', I envision the X-Y graph. Points are like stop signs. They force us to stop. While this point of graduation is exciting, some of us may feel stopped too, immobilized by doubts and fears about what lies ahead. In learning how to drive, we were taught that at stop signs we have to look around and check the rear-view mirror before we proceed. The same goes for life. While it is imperative that we look ahead and think about our coming years, it is of equal importance to pause, to look around and to take time to reflect on our past.

“An object experiencing a centripetal force has an inward acceleration due to force acting on it from the centre. There is something bigger than we are helping us in our lives and we don't have to worry about the forces that act against us. We will be held in a circle, and we won't have mere points; we will have connections.

Over the past few years we have learned a lot. We've studied history, languages, science, English, math, physical education, music, art and religion. We have gained a lot of skills, knowledge, and wisdom that will be valuable as we go forward in life. One lesson we all learned is Newton's Law of Motion, a particularly apt metaphor for life. The first law of motion states that every object will remain at rest or in uniform motion in a straight line unless acted upon by an external force. If an object is moving, it will continue to move and it will not change direction. If another force acts on this object, then it will either change direction or come to a stop. If you think of other memorable points in your lives, you will see how this metaphor works.

I grew up in Taiwan until the end of grade four and then our family moved to Victoria. This was an important point in my life. I was scared and confused, but also excited and exuberant. At first everything was new, fresh and fun. I remember waking up at five in the morning and my dad took me out to the UVIC campus. We saw deer and rabbits. In Taiwan, you'd have to go to the zoo to do that. Exciting moments like this act as the external forces that push us forward, just like the objects in Newton's law. But as we all know, excitement is temporary. As time passed, my feeling of freshness vanished.

Then I came to St. Andrew's in grade eight—another new beginning. Again the excitement acted as the force that pushed me forward. I'm sure you all remember your first day at St. Andrew's. You felt overwhelmed but also happy and excited to meet and make new friends. However, high school is a tough time. If we continue using the Newton analogy, these tough times would be the friction forces that slow us down and bring us to a stop. Forces like boredom, fear and doubt will slow us down and maybe even stop us. Fortunately, they weren't strong enough to stop us and we all came through in one piece.

So here we are at another point in life and the most important lesson we may have learned is what Mr. Brock taught us in Grade 8 Religion, that real love is 'thinking and doing the highest level of good for others'. Now as I look back and think of how I became the person I am today, I realize that I am surrounded by love. I am fortunate to have parents who care for me unconditionally and an older sister who always offers me the best advice. I'd like to thank them for that. Sometimes we get too caught up in what's happening around us and forget to tell others how much we appreciate them for being important forces in our lives.

I am grateful for my teachers who have not only passed on academic knowledge, but have also instilled virtues in me that will make me the best version of myself. I am grateful for classmates who are considerate and embracing, and who inspire and motivate me to strive for the best. I see how rich life becomes when love is the centre.

And this brings me to one final metaphor. As I said earlier, there will be forces applied to us and sooner or later we will have to move. But where do we go? We will need to use another law of physics to explain that. It is the law of centripetal acceleration. An object experiencing a centripetal force has an inward acceleration due to force acting on it from the centre. There is something bigger than we are helping us in our lives and we don't have to worry about the forces that act against us. We will be held in a circle, and we won't have mere points; we will have connections. As Scripture says, Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. He is the beginning and the end of that circle.

Our school's motto states that the world will be a better place if we 'build in love'. My wish for the graduates of 2015 and all the people in this room is that they keep love at the centre of their lives. ✠



“My wish for the graduates of 2015 and all the people in this room is that they keep love at the centre of their lives.

~ Brian Chou, Valedictorian, St. Andrew's Regional High School



A facelift for Queen of Angels school

by Kathy Korman, Principal

Many volunteers, contractors, and workmen have been busy at Queen of Angels Catholic School in Duncan during the summer break. The entire school interior has been painted; the Kindergarten rooms renovated and updated with new sinks, toilets and water fountains. The front façade and a large fir tree in our memorial garden were removed. Even the library hallway had two windows removed and replaced with new walls. Our Science lab received new counter tops and the Middle School courtyard saw the addition of some new picnic tables. We also removed and replaced 30 chalkboards with whiteboards. The entire school has been rewired so that everyone has wireless Internet access. The final touch is a new sign for the front entrance.

These improvements are in addition to our new playground installation last Spring Break. The School Council spearheaded a fundraising project for 5 years to purchase a new \$85,000 playground structure. Many parents, teachers, and other

volunteers helped with the installation. They also recently built two ‘kick-boxes’, also known as ‘ga-ga boxes’ for the Intermediate playground. ‘Ga-ga’, literally ‘touch-touch’ in Hebrew, is a variant of dodgeball that is played with one ball in a large octagon or hexagon called a ‘ga-ga pit’. The ga-ga pit generally consists of flat walls atop a smooth dirt, turf, or sand surface. The game begins when one player throws the ga-ga ball into the air; while their backs are against the wall, the players shout “ga” on each of the first three bounces: thus the name of the game!

It is with great excitement and much gratitude that our 420 students and a staff of 47 look forward to our 2015-16 school year. ✂



THANK YOU!

The Benedictines of Nanaimo of the House of Bread Monastery extend a warm and grateful thank you to all who have supported our Bethlehem Retreat Centre ministry over the past twenty-eight years. We are deeply grateful to all who have assisted us in offering spiritual and psychological opportunities for growth to the people of Vancouver Island and beyond.

The new owners of the Bethlehem Retreat Centre ministry, the Friends of Bethlehem Retreat Centre Society, welcome your ongoing support as they continue to sponsor programs and spiritual retreats. For information and ways to offer support please visit their website friendsofbrc.com

The Benedictines of Nanaimo
House of Bread Monastery

An integral ecology

by Bishop Gary Gordon

As an avid fisherman, the Holy Father's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, struck a harmonious chord for me. I believe many people, of all faith traditions, who reside in God's garden we call 'earth', wish to see an integrated ecology; where the balance of all creation and our relationship with that creation as creatures, not masters, is respected. Thus the beauty and life of the earth's goodness can be shared by all, and can sustain all.

This summer I spent some time in Nootka Sound in the towns and hamlets that dot this historic and beautiful part of our Diocese in the heart of Nuuchah-nulth traditional territory. At one time, not very long ago, the towns of Zeballos, Tahsis and Gold River were hubs of industrial and human activity with lots of jobs in the forestry, mining and fishing industries, but now the population is tiny and the few people residing year round are mostly unemployed or retired. The churches in Gold River and Tahsis are beautiful; they are used twice a month by small congregations in both towns, when Fr. Jan Grotkowski SDS travels from Campbell River to celebrate Mass and pastor these mission communities.

“In many ways I understand Pope Francis' call for an integral ecology which clearly puts the needs of the poor at the heart of a right-relationship with the earth because it seeks a global strategy that will take care of the vulnerable ...

One of the great joys of the summer was hosting Dino and Elaine Bottero from Toronto. They are supporters of Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC). Each year CMIC supports over 600 projects in 22 dioceses across Canada, including assistance for our seminarians and missions in the Cowichan Valley, and on the north and west coasts. At the annual Taste of Heaven gala held last April in Toronto, the Bottoneros won the auction prize of visiting the West Coast Missions and doing a little fishing with Bishop Gary. Catholic Missions in Canada are providing the assistance to put new roofs on the Tahsis and Gold River Churches: yes, it really does rain on the West Coast!

Though the human activity in Nootka Sound is minimal compared to days gone by, there is a vibrancy of nature that lures a few fisherman and kayakers; for the few who have stayed and reside here they have “found paradise.”

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* speaks passionately about taking care of creation and taking care of the people as an *integral ecology* (LS, 10). In Nootka Sound the fish are plentiful, the forests are reproducing, being cultivated and harvested, in some areas now being harvested a third time. It is unfortunate that the logs are largely not being processed here on the Island. This is an important point for Vancouver Island and many other resource-based societies in the world who experience the sad effects of global market economics, which Pope Francis tackles head-on in *Laudato Si'*.

One of the ecological success stories is the salmon enhancement project developed and run by the community of Tahsis, which has been hailed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as an outstanding model of community fishery projects.

This project received a top award for excellence last year.

On August 28 and 29 I attended the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Days. What an outstanding event! With a salmon BBQ, fishing Derby, and loads of prizes and giveaways, it gathered about 250 people from Alberta, BC, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and Vancouver Island to support this community project.

This year the Tahsis project and Conuma River Hatchery released over four million Chinook salmon fry into the ocean, along with the Nootka Sound Watershed Society and many volunteers. They say, “It is all about the fish.” This meaningful saying is also about the people who reside around Nootka Sound and seek an integrated ecology in one small part of the planet. Tahsis has in large part reinvented itself by this cooperative effort and has seen a steady increase in recreational fishing, which provides significant employment for many people. Yes, as Pope Francis exhorts us in *Laudato Si'*, taking care of God's garden is good for the people too, socially and economically.

I have fished, climbed mountains, kayaked and canoed much of BC and Vancouver Island since the early 1970s. I've seen and even had close encounters with almost every living creature, from whales breaching next to my kayak, to eagles and bears fishing the same waters right next to me. In many ways I understand Pope Francis' call for an integral ecology which clearly puts the needs of the poor at the heart of a right-relationship with the earth, because it seeks a global strategy that will take care of the vulnerable, in urban or rural areas, as a direct means of creating right relationships with all of creation.

On my first visit to St. Patrick's elementary school in Victoria I took note of a small creek cutting right through the playground, and of course my first question to the principal was, “Are there any fish in the creek?” “Maybe!” was the reply.

This fall the children of St. Joseph's elementary school in Victoria will harvest the potatoes they planted on nearby property that once was held a house. The harvest will go to the Saint Vincent de Paul food drive (see article, June 2015 *Diocesan Messenger*). This is a small thing in the grand scheme of the world, but is a vital component of teaching a sustainable ecology right in our own back yard. It's perhaps better to grow potatoes than water and mow the lawn!

I know the question running through everyone's mind as they read this article is, “So how was the fishing, Bishop Gary?” Let's just say a lot of people are now happily enjoying a salmon BBQ, including our friends at Our Place and Anawim House.

As we say in the Nuuchah-nulth language, *kleko, kleko* (thank you), Lord for the bounty of blessings in one small corner of our awesome Diocese. And P.S.—kleko for the recent downpour of rain! ✕



“It's a keeper!” Elaine Bottero (L) with Bishop Gary



Frank Collins (R), president of the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society, with his wife, Lucille



Elaine and Dino Bottero (L) with parishioners

LAISE BE TO YOU

A call to holiness

By Fr. David Hogman

An essential and universal prerequisite for Christian faith is the call to repentance. In many ways, this Encyclical is a call to conversion. Christ restored all creation in himself and therefore a Christian vision of salvation seeks the good of all from the human person to the smallest creature. Pope Francis' intent with *Laudato Si'* is to provide the Church with an integrated vision of the Christian Faith and its practical implications for every dimension of human life in this world and the next and as such, it represents an authoritative expression of the Church's Teaching Office.

Throughout Christian history, many sects tried to disassociate Christ from the beauty of creation. Through the witness of Saints Benedict and Francis, the Catholic Church proclaimed that creation was neither divine nor worthless, but God's gift to humanity. Creation provided humanity with a home and a realm where we would fulfill our divine likeness by mediating God's care for all creatures.

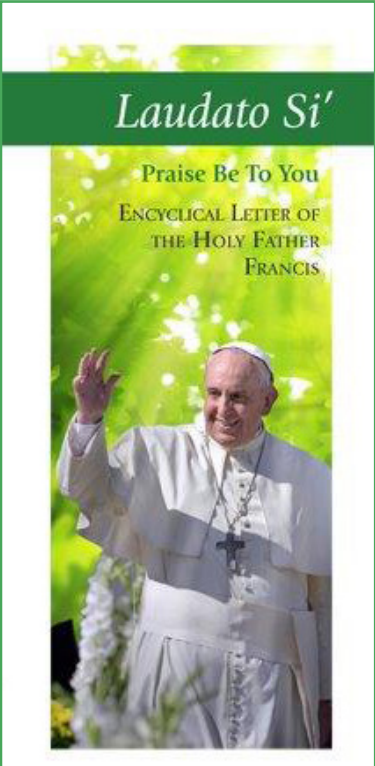
Since the Industrial Revolution, this balance suffered a new threat. The industrial societies often separated the human from creation, misappropriating humanity's dominion as domination, having both environmental and human consequences. This separation prompted the beginning of the 'Social Encyclicals' with *Rerum Novarum* (New Things) in 1891. Now in 2015, *Laudato Si'* reminds the Church of her role to protect humanity and her home in creation.

Pope Francis' ecological critiques are grounded in an understanding of humanity made in God's image. Divorced from a communion with God, the Pope points out that "human beings frequently seem 'to see no other meaning in their natural environment than what serves for immediate use and consumption'... and that 'the deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence' (5-6)." Any denigration of human value bears fruit in a degradation of creation. Therefore we cannot serve the environment through misanthropic or anthropocentric philosophies. When we rediscover humanity's value as made in God's image and likeness, we will simultaneously reject any vision of humanity as a mere consumer or an instrument of power. Inevitably, it is the poor who suffer from a culture fixated on power.

This ethic of power and consumption is the real target of Pope Francis' Encyclical and it has many subtle applications to waste, pollution, agriculture, economics and the value of human life. Pope Francis' intent is not to blame any one group, but to view the healing of our relationship with creation as component to our common good.

On the issues of genetically modified foods or climate control, the Pope's position is subtle. While recognizing that for centuries farmers have conditioned crops to produce higher yields or to be resistant to pests, the speed through which the same results can be produced through artificial methods should be tempered through caution (130-134). Similarly, the Pope notes that the climate is changing and that there is an element in which the human family must take responsibility for these changes. Pope Francis says that we should do what we can to minimize the damage by adapting our lifestyles and protecting our forests that recycle the air we breathe (20 – 26, 53 – 59).

In short, the measure of Christian life is not our 'standard of living', but the call to holiness. Everything from abortion, to climate change, water and air pollution carries with it a new call to conversion and a respect for God's gifts. Christian life is one of those calls, and we will do well to remember that what we do to the least of God's children we do to Him. ✠



One of the main themes running through the Encyclical is that there is a human meaning to the word 'ecology'. Several other main themes run through the Encyclical that are addressed from a variety of different perspectives, thus traversing and unifying the text. For example:



New beginnings



Bishop Gary signs documentation installing Fr. Mel Bayron (L) as pastor of St. Joseph’s, Chemainus and St. Mary’s, Ladysmith. It was previously signed by Betty Martindale as the representative from St. Joseph’s, as well as by Kevin Sheahan, Chair of the Pastoral Parish Council of St. Mary’s



Fr. Karam Alraban is installed by Bishop Gary, with Mary McClelland as witness, as the eighth pastor of Church of the Ascension in Parksville, which was constructed in 1968



Fr. Scott Whittemore (R) was installed as pastor of Our Lady of Grace (Ganges, Salt Spring Island), St. Paul’s (Fulford Harbour), St. Theresa’s (Pender Island), St. Joseph’s (Mayne Island) and all southern Gulf Islands



Bishop Gary installs Fr. Alfredo Monacelli (R) at St. Joseph The Worker Parish in Victoria. Concelebrating the Mass was a visiting priest from Uganda, Fr. Jino Mwaka (far left). Fr. Alfredo is the 12th pastor since the parish was opened in 1962

Inspiration for youth ministry

by Kelly Bourke

In July, a group of Youth Ministry Leaders from around the Diocese of Victoria traveled to Saskatoon for the Summer Seminar in Youth Ministry. This seminar was hosted by the Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers (WCACYM) and the Diocese of Saskatoon as part of the Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies, sponsored by the Redemptorists (The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer).

The Diocese of Victoria was well represented at the seminar with six students attending the first year of the three-year certificate program in Comprehensive Youth Ministry. With students attending from Victoria, Courtenay, Port Alberni and Nanaimo this year, it is our hope to have representation including other areas of the Diocese at next year’s seminar.

Courses this year included: ‘Principles of Youth Ministry’ and ‘Practices of Youth Ministry’. These courses are rooted in the work of youth ministry in the mission of the Church. At its core, this model is about involving and engaging young people in the life of the Church through a process of Belonging, Becoming and Transforming. In this vision of Youth Ministry it matters less what event or activity is being offered for young people; what matters more are relationship, response to the needs and engagement in the community. The goals for Youth Ministry are simple: to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community; and to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry, 1997)

Participants of the seminar learned these basic ideas behind a comprehensive approach to ministry with youth, explored planning and collaboration to be continued within their parish/organization settings, and had the opportunity to network with other youth ministry leaders from across Canada. The seminar instructor, Andrew Bartley, inspired our youth ministry leaders to bring this way of seeing youth ministry back home with them to incorporate it into the youth ministry at their parishes. For more on this model, visit: <https://www.cmdnet.org/youth-ministry> or http://ccym.ca/wp/?page_id=35.

Stayed tuned for local presentations on the ways we can build a dynamic and thriving Comprehensive Youth Ministry model in our parishes and for news on next year’s seminar. Be sure to help send someone from your parish! ✂





The Campus Mission



by Rob Koechl

Going on mission!

The summer is always a slow time for campus ministry. It's in the summer that we turn our eyes to missions. There have been a number of missions that have happened this summer with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) as well as the Diocese. Instead of trying to describe the missions to you I thought it would be better if those who went on them described them to you instead.



Zak Shi in CCO's mission to Brazil

The most memorable moments on mission were when we visited families in the Amazon; many communities only see a priest twice a year, which made me realize how fortunate I am that I can receive Sacraments daily. The locals have very few material things, but are very rich in heart and spirit. They always welcomed us despite how little they had. I wondered if they would teach us about our faith rather than us teaching them. We would share with them the Gospel, sing to them and play with the children. We felt very much loved by the Amazon people.

I learned love requires great effort. When the heat and humidity made me uncomfortable, every act of love and kindness became a conscious effort; love is an action of the will. I also learned what is important in life. I have heard multiple times that heavenly treasure is more important than earthly concerns, but my heart learned this through my experience on mission.

I enjoyed every moment of this mission; it taught me some very valuable lessons, and gave me great friends. I would recommend anyone to make a trip like this if they feel called.

Laura Pond in CCO's mission to the Yukon

I was very blessed to be a part of the Yukon mission. We went into the community to serve in whatever ways we could, always looking for opportunities to share the Gospel.

We volunteered at the Salvation Army, helping to make and serve lunches to 90 – 150 people weekly. We also cleaned windows, washed floors and walls, chopped wood, and did yard work. We visited most of the Religion classes at the Catholic high school, where we would share our testimonies and faith, play sports and spend time with the students after school. We attended all Masses on Sunday at the cathedral parish and had weekly faith studies and Adoration outreach events called Nightfever. Fr. Harrison from Victoria was around to help us facilitate Nightfever and Theology on Tap, as well as lead a four-day mission trip to Dawson City. We saw many grow in their relationship with God and their desire to share their faith.

However, my biggest highlight from the mission was the community. All 15 of us got along really well, as we were connected by the mission and our desire to serve. At the end of the mission it was hard to say goodbye.

Samara Carty on the Impact mission in Vancouver

Over the summer I had an amazing opportunity to participate in CCO's IMPACT mission. IMPACT is a three-and-a-half-month-long mission in which university aged men and women evangelize in the city through parish work, the workplace, and volunteering. This year we were located in Vancouver. With a total of 39 student missionaries, we were split up in teams at ten different parishes in the city. This was the first time I'd ever lived in community and I loved it!

Our weekly schedule was very busy. Monday to Friday we would work or volunteer until 5:30pm. In the evenings, we would lead faith studies, have community bonding nights, fellowship nights for young Catholics called Cornerstones, and Adoration events. During the weekends, we would have a training meeting with all 39 IMPACT participants and on Sundays we would attend Mass with our parish teams and help out there. We would make announcements about what we were doing on mission, as well as other things such as lectoring, ushering, altar serving, and helping at the parish picnic. My team was comprised of me and four others at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

IMPACT was not just an opportunity to help others draw closer to God but also an opportunity to grow in our personal relationship with Him. During the mission I learned how precious I am as a daughter of God. I was able to grow in confidence. Now I am more sure of who I am and who I want to be.

Karl Trautmann, Seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, on the Ahousat mission

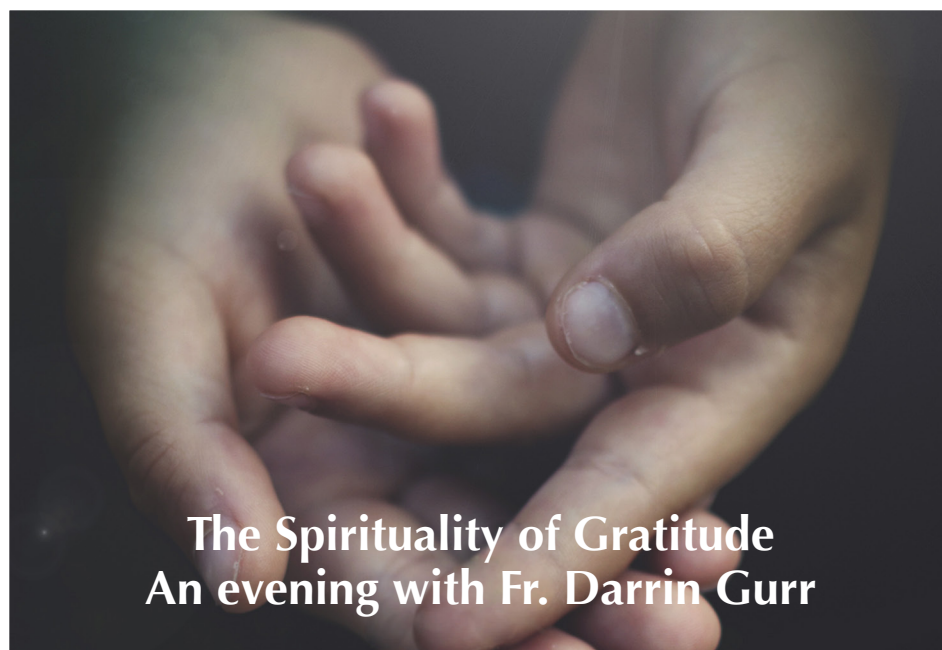
In early August I went to Ahousat on Flores Island with two students from UVic, on behalf of the UVic Catholic Chaplaincy and the Diocese of Victoria. We had originally planned a bible camp, but the youth were on vacation, so we played games with them and hung out in the sun trying to find opportunities to talk about God. It was easy to be with them, and we had fun. However, it proved more challenging to talk about Jesus. We shared our faith with them, and I think we showed that Catholic grownups are pretty cool people.

While we were there, an Elder of the community passed away and the tribe mourned as a community for five days. This transformed our mission from catechesis and evangelization to presence and witness. It was our privilege to spend time cooking, cleaning, serving, visiting with families and being part of their grieving process. It was not what we expected at all but it was beautiful and I am very thankful to have been a part of it. We received many words of thanks and invitations to return. God worked through us to show people love and comfort, and in turn we were shown the beauty of a community that is as close as family.



The summer has been busy, full and life changing for many from Victoria. God is doing great things! Next summer, Fr. Dean Henderson and Fr. Paul Szczur SDS will be leading a group to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. Make sure you sign up for that soon if you are interested, or if you know someone who might be interested. As for next year? CCO will be leading different missions. Visit www.cco.ca/missions to learn more—don't miss out!

As we've been preparing for the upcoming school year, we're excited to announce that the Newman house has been resurrected! There will be three young men living in community and praying together at Holy Cross rectory. We're excited for what this year will bring! ✕



The Spirituality of Gratitude

An evening with Fr. Darrin Gurr

Fr. Darrin Gurr is a priest of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg ordained in 1989. He has worked in both rural and urban parishes and has employed the principles of stewardship in all aspects of ministry. Fr. Darrin has facilitated workshops, conferences, study days and retreats in stewardship throughout Canada and in parts of the United States. He is currently the founding pastor of the new parish community of St. Gianna Beretta Molla in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a comprehensive stewardship parish. Fr. Darrin also serves as the Archdiocesan Director for Liturgy.

Tuesday, Sept 22, 7 – 9pm
Christ the King, Courtenay

Wednesday, Sept 23, 7 – 9pm
St. Peter's, Nanaimo

Thursday, Sept 24, 7 – 9pm
St. Joseph the Worker, Victoria

*For more information, contact your parish office
or phone (250) 479-1331*

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Out of the Archives

by Theresa Vogel

Thank you to all who submitted responses to the June ‘Out of the Archives’ column. Some local Victoria folk scolded me for including the picture of the Palmer Road mission that went on to become Sacred Heart Church, saying that it was all too recent to be an archival piece!

The stern looking gentleman (pictured right) was Bertram Orth, seventh bishop of the Diocese. In fact, Bishop Orth served as both Bishop and Archbishop during his episcopacy, 1900 to 1908. Bertram Orth was born in 1848 near Cologne, Germany, and ordained in 1872 in Brussels. He followed many of his colleagues from the American College of Louvain (Belgium) to the Pacific Northwest, serving first in Portland and then moving north to Victoria. Three years after being consecrated Archbishop in Victoria, the Diocese was separated from the jurisdiction of Oregon, and became the Metropolitan over all of British Columbia and Athabasca-Mackenzie. In 1908, the Metropolitan Jurisdiction was moved to Vancouver, and the Diocese of Vancouver Island reverted to an episcopate.

For this issue, and in light of the 50th jubilee celebrations at Sacred Heart Church in Victoria, the ‘Who Am I?’ section is expanding to include a duo of priests associated with that parish community over the years. Your memory is required to tell me who they are and what their unique connection to the parish is! ✂



Connections

by Anela Nicholson

Back to school season is upon us, and it can be a very challenging time of year for many. As students return to their classes and dorm rooms, it can be hard to stay positive amidst the exchange of sun, sea, and sky for lockers, exams, and textbooks. The excitement and enthusiasm that is present the first few days of school quickly fades, and suddenly we are stuck surviving another year. If we’re honest, some days it might seem like we might not make it to the end of the year with both our sanity and faith intact.



In his letter to Timothy, St. Paul says, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7) So, how exactly do we as high school and university students keep the faith as we embark on another year of education? There are a few simple things you can do, such as change your cell phone lock screen to an inspirational image, take a moment to talk to God as you switch classes, or keep a holy card in your binder, but there’s more than that.

“There are a few simple things you can do [to keep your faith in school], such as change your cell phone lock screen to an inspirational image, take a moment to talk to God as you switch classes, or keep a holy card in your binder, but there’s more than that.

The first thing we need to do in order to ensure that we have a faith-filled day is to pray and simply invite God into our daily lives. Part of being a Catholic is inviting God into every part of our lives, not just when we go to Mass on Sundays. He wants to be the most important thing in our lives, but still must wait for our invitation. When we pray, we communicate with God, just as we would with a good friend or close relative. There’s no right or wrong way to pray, and in doing so, we give God the opportunity to walk beside us every step of our day, whether we’re preparing for a hard test, facing the bullies awaiting us, or even realizing we forgot our lunch. Starting the day with prayer gives us the strength to face whatever the world’s going to throw at us, and also helps ground us to live every moment for God. We should also make sure to pray during the day and before we go to sleep at night, in order to include God in every moment of our day.

Next, it’s important to make sure that we keep the faith by going to Mass every week. As young adults living in a many times chaotic and stressful world, Mass is an opportunity to come before Christ as we are, with no strings attached, to share in his love. The Eucharist is where we get recharged to go out into the world and serve Christ, and it is also the place where we join the universal Church in celebrating Christ’s sacrifice of love for us. We often look for ways to feel included in things, and when we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist we are participating in a worldwide sacrifice that people of all nations, races and languages recognize as the celebration of Christ’s true Body and Blood.


Another way to keep our faith strong is to be among those of the same mind who can encourage and inspire us, while also helping draw closer to God. If your parish offers a youth group or a Bible study, join it! Join with a group of other like-minded young people who are all experiencing the same thing as you, and who can support you as you learn more about the Catholic faith. For those attending university or college, don’t be afraid to join your Catholic Students Association or local Catholic campus groups. University is a time when we start new lives as adults, and so it’s important to make sure that Christ has a prominent role in it.

Finally, don’t ever ‘take off’ your faith. It can be hard to be the only Catholic in the room, the only person saying grace, or the only person battling peer pressure. It can seem harmless to take off your crucifix when you go out with your friends, but this isn’t the case. Although it’s not always the easiest or most comfortable situation, salvation is at stake. We are called to “make disciples of all nations,” and we can’t do that by hiding our identity as Catholics. Don’t be afraid to share Him with the world, however that might be. Don’t conform to the rest of the world; instead, continue living as a good Catholic in all of life’s moments, easy or hard.

Starting a new school year, whether in high school or university, can be hard. There are bound to be moments when we find it hard to follow Christ, but it is in those difficult moments that we grow the most in our faith.

This school year, as you prepare your supplies and opening assignments, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to help guide you, walk with you, and above all, “keep the faith.” ✂





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Margaret Somerville

D.C.L., LL.B. (Hons.), A.U.A. FRSC, Order of Australia

UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science
2013 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
2014 Jean Echlin Award for Ethics in Palliative Care

Dr. Somerville is a speaker, consultant and researcher on topics such as euthanasia, reproductive technologies, mental health, human rights in health care, the pharmaceutical industry, AIDS, abortion, and the role that scientific and medical research and technology play in the formation of societal values. She has consulted for international organizations such as the *Global Programme on AIDS* of the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and law reform commissions in Canada and Australia.

Margaret Somerville is the author of: *The Ethical Canary: Science, Society, and the Human Spirit*; *Death Talk: the Case Against Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide*; and *The Ethical Imagination: Journeys of the Human Spirit*. She is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees.



Radical Autonomy or the Common Good?

Battles about values in the culture wars.


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Response by Dr. Christophe Potworowski
Professor, Catholic Pacific College

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Vocations



Seeding the future

By Sr. Joyce Harris SSA and Sr. Judy Morin SSA

Pope Francis has invited us as a faith community to celebrate a Year of Consecrated Life. All over the world, members of religious communities and others are raising awareness of God's call to some individuals to live their baptismal call as consecrated Religious. Religious women and men from Victoria Diocese have met twice for a day of prayer and sharing together. One more day is being planned.

The Sisters of St. Ann are adding to the celebration by organizing a conference on Consecrated Life for October 16 – 17, 2015. This conference, Seeding the Future: Consecrated Life, is primarily for the Religious of the Diocese as well as Associates of The Sisters of St. Ann. Religious from other British Columbia dioceses have also been invited to join us for this conference. We are pleased to see that registration is filling up for a weekend to be led by well-known guest speakers/leaders Margo Ritchie CSJ and Sean Sammon FMS.

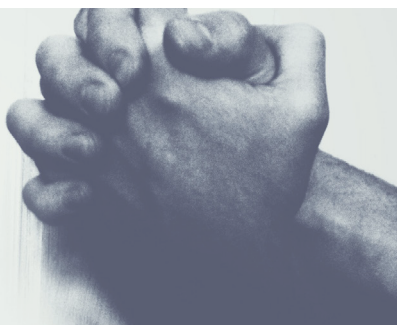
We are grateful to the Diocese and local councils of the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus for making a financial contribution which helps us keep the registration fee affordable.

Throughout this Year of Consecrated Life, and at all times, please pray for us and all those being called to religious life.

We rejoice in this opportunity for renewal and recommitment to a life of joy as described by Pope Francis. ✠



Throughout this Year of Consecrated Life, and at all times, please pray for us and all those being called to religious life.



Prayer for our Sisters and Brothers in the Consecrated Life

Heavenly Father, you call women and men to follow Jesus,
in poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Help them grow as witnesses of your love and mercy,
by embracing the Gospel and journeying with your people.

Fill us with gratitude and joy
for the variety of gifts made so abundant
through the consecrated life in Canada.

Help those on this path of holiness
to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church

Piand the world today.
Give them unwavering hope
that they may embrace the future
with confidence and boldness.

Let the beauty and holiness of the consecrated life
continue to shine forth in our Church.

May Mary, endowed with every gift of grace,
be for your people the model of love and service
for God and neighbour.

Through Christ your Son, Our Lord,
Amen.

Approved by the Canadian Conference of Bishops and the Canadian Religious Conference

Sisters of St. Ann celebrate Jubilarians

by Sr. Patricia Donovan SSA

On May 23, in this special Year of Consecrated Life, The Sisters of St. Ann celebrated the anniversary of Religious Profession of five of our Sisters: Sister Noreen O'Neill and Sister Nora Keane, 75 years; Sister Marina Smith and Sister Patricia Shreenan, 60 years; Sister Dawn Mahara, 25 years.

The festivities began with the Eucharist at Holy Cross Church with Monsignor Michael Lapierre as celebrant. During the Liturgy, each Sister renewed her vows which were received in the name of our Congregational Leader by Sister Patricia Donovan. Sisters, family and friends of the Jubilarians were there to celebrate.

Following Mass, a festive luncheon was held at the University Faculty Club to which the many friends and relatives were invited. At the end of the meal, each Jubilarian was toasted.

It is interesting to note that Sisters Noreen O'Neill, Marina Smith and Patricia Shreenan grew up in Victoria and attended St. Ann's Academy. Over the span of the past 75 years all of the Jubilarians spent some of their active life ministering on Vancouver Island: Noreen for 12 years, Nora for 39 years (26 of which were at St. Patrick's School), Marina for 12 years, Patricia for 46 years and Dawn for 20 years.

We are grateful for their years of dedicated service to God's people and wish for them many blessings as they continue their journey as vowed religious. ✠



L to R: Sr. Patricia Donovan SSA, Provincial Leader; Sr. Marina Smith SSA; Sr. Pat Shreehan SSA and Sr. Dawn Mahara SSA



Faith Matters



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

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles and The state of being whole and undivided are the first two definitions for *integrity* in the Oxford Dictionary.

In terms of today's celebrity and political culture, integrity as a concept may resonate vaguely, if at all. Most people are likely to associate integrity with the Age of Chivalry as a quaint concept both difficult and rare.

Actually the word's origins go as far back as the Roman Empire during the period of the twelve Caesars. We've all seen period films with Roman soldiers striking their chest armour and saluting superiors. During daily review by the unit centurion, each legionnaire would shout the word *integritas* accompanied by the gesture of striking the breastplate armour with the right fist. "Integritas!"—the affirmation of 'material wholeness, completeness and entirety', along with the telltale resounding ring of the breastplate metal, was verification to the centurion that this legionnaire's armour was sound—literally 'undiminished, complete, perfect'. This was also symbolic of the soundness of the standards, character, and morals of the soldier it protected. By contrast, the praetorians (imperial bodyguards) during this period were gaining power and influence while their moral conduct was steadily declining. Their declarative shout was, "Ave Caesar!" signifying allegiance to a man, not to their unit, not to an institution, nor even to a set of principles.

We have met the enemy and he is us. (Pogo)

Integrity is also a core concept found in Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Drawing on a topic of great contemporary interest and urgency, the environment, Pope Francis parses out its various aspects from ecological to social, economic and spiritual domains. In citing current maladies and the implications of not responding to the pressing crises which we are facing in each of these areas, he reminds us that that they are all interrelated, and that the fundamental issue is one of human failure.

Integral Ecology

All is not doom and gloom, however, as even in the midst of humanity's self-destructive, self-centered tendencies and excesses, humanity possesses great God-given creative potential for change. Such change is surely possible through awareness, re-examination, reform, education and action.

“An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness (*LS*, 230)

The ways and means are readily available: the positive application of technologies, honest and forthright inclusive dialogue and debate, the development of globally conscious social, ecological and economic policies that are fair and equitable, along with education that recognizes limitations and honours limits for the benefit of the common good, particularly in the face of our "throw-away" culture. What Pope Francis is calling all humanity to is to live what he terms an "integral ecology." That is, understanding and living in a manner that takes into account, respects, and honours all aspects of life as gift—the planet, the economy, society, culture, humanity—not only in our time, but for future generations; and not only for nations, but also for each and every one of us.

The unfolding global drama has certain core elements that resonate particularly for the Christian. While increasing in scope and intensity, and engaging an ever larger and diverse cast of characters, it's basically a familiar script, repeated innumerable times since things first went awry one day in the Garden of Eden. It is a drama played out in the history of nations, of cultures, of families and in each and every one of us. Things dis-integrated then, and things dis-integrate every time our focus shifts, our allegiance shifts, our love shifts from our God to our selves.

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things.”

~ *Laudato Si'*, 233

Pope Francis is reminding us that only when our microcosmic personal inner reality is in order—is right with God—only then can our macrocosmic global reality experience true justice; these two realities are inseparable, and they profoundly impact each other.

Integritas!

We did not need Pope Francis to tell us we are in crisis on the global level, but what Pope Francis has helped us recognize is something that deep down we all knew: the issues are all connected. Pope Francis has also helped us realize all of this is part of a deeper, age-old struggle, a battle that we are all in together:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. (Ephesians 6:10 – 18a)

In light of *Laudato Si'*, it is worth noting that Paul indeed "fought the good fight" and that the greatest power on earth in his time, the glorious Roman Empire, along with the greatest military power of the age, the Roman Army, fell to the very forces that Paul in Christ overcame.

Paul struggled, as all the Saints have done through the ages, and as we all do today in this same battle. The effective weapons for this battle are old yet ever new,

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12 – 15)

So when we consider our world and the seemingly overwhelming battlefield it can often be, we can take heart with St. Paul and all the Saints who know that God has already guaranteed victory.

As we rise and equip ourselves for the battle each day, we must ask ourselves to whom will we pledge our allegiance, our heart—the 'Caesars' of waste, excess, power, fame, fortune, dehumanizing technocracy, injustice, inequality, selfishness?—they are legion! Or will we give our heart to God who has given us everything to which we are bound as recipients and stewards: the planet, the economy, society, culture, each other, life itself—all of which can be occasions, opportunities, and mediators of God's grace.

Integritas! ✠

AN ENCYCLICAL MINI-QUIZ

- The word "encyclical" means:**
 - an authoritative teaching
 - Papal document
 - Church pronouncement
 - circular letter for the community
- Laudato Si' means** _____
- This is Pope Francis' first Encyclical. True or False? circle one**
- Who has been nicknamed the 'Green Pope'?**
 - Pope John XXIII
 - Pope John Paul II
 - Pope Francis
 - Pope Benedict XVI
- Pope Francis has addressed this Encyclical to:**
 - bishops and priests
 - leaders of the world
 - every person on the planet
 - the Catholic faithful
- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation has been designated every:**
 - October 4
 - October 20
 - September 21
 - September 1

Answers are located on page 21



Freefalling into mystery

By Jean Allen

I received the following in an email:

“I very much liked what you said about the fact that we can’t know God [through the intellect] and that there is a kind of peace in accepting that. I understand that. There really is a peace in finally realizing that we don’t know God and can’t control Him—not in our prayers or by our actions. It brings peace because we no longer wake up every morning wondering if today is the day God will answer this or that prayer or change this or that situation. It also takes the load of guilt off that we didn’t pray the right way, didn’t fast enough or didn’t have enough faith. At the same time it’s not the same as praying “thy will be done” as a safeguard. It’s more of a realization that we’re facing pure mystery. We need to just stand still and let God’s mystery present itself to us without injecting into that mystery our ‘knowledge’, expectations and demands. Now that’s freedom and peace!” (Quoted with permission)

This woman lost her child to cancer six months ago.

Don’t get the wrong idea. Just because she wrote the above doesn’t mean she is completely over the bone-wrenching grief and agony. It doesn’t mean she will never ask “Why?” again. It just means that she has taken a quantum jump past the destructive but common misconception that she could have controlled the outcome by what she did or how she prayed. Suffering is hard enough without the added anxiety and guilt of feeling that if we’d had more faith or had found the right prayer it might have ended differently or, if we had more trust, we might not be so incapacitated by grief. Saying, “Thy will be done,” while feeling it is wrong to honestly struggle with the agonizing questions of “Where was God? Where is He now? Why did this happen?” may actually be unhealthy denial and can lead to even deeper pain and depression. Trying to maintain the image of towering spiritual strength when one is completely unravelling inside is not a Gospel value; it is the ego unable to admit poverty of spirit. The Gospels tell us that poverty of spirit is a state of the Blessed of God and that the Kingdom of God belongs to the poor, the weak, the ones who don’t know the answers and the ones who suffer without knowing the reason why.

Mount St. Mary Hospital’s Annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015. We are looking for an individual or a team to oversee the White Elephant Sale.

Also needed is a musician for Sunday Mass at 10:15. Please contact Anne McCaffrey, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Volunteer services at amccaffrey@mtstmary.victoria.bc.ca or (250) 480-3118

October 11th, 2015

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“It’s almost as if we can’t get to that chasm without suffering. We certainly can’t think our way there or determine that we are going to get there by our own righteous works. However, once facing that chasm, there is still a choice. We can jump in or we can turn back and look for other options.

One of the meanings of the word *chimera* is a thing that is hoped for or wished for but in fact is illusory or impossible to achieve. It is terribly difficult not to chase the chimera of spiritual power and control. We are all so tempted by the myriad of spiritual books that promise to teach us ways to find ultimate peace and dynamic spiritual success that it’s hard to resist the idea that the more we know in our heads, the more we will be able to withstand the ‘slings and arrows of outrageous fortune’. But what these false promises actually do is keep us from approaching the terrifying chasm of the Mystery of God, a place where we discover that we know nothing and that all our definitions of God and of what He will or won’t do are completely inadequate.

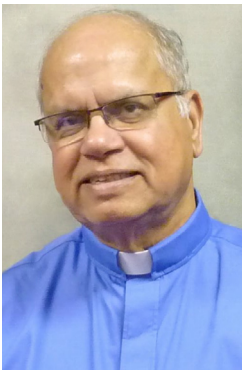
It’s almost as if we can’t get to that chasm without suffering. We certainly can’t think our way there or determine that we are going to get there by our own righteous works. However, once facing that chasm, there is still a choice. We can jump in or we can turn back and look for other options. St. John of the Cross wrote, “God has to work in the soul in secret and in darkness because if we fully knew what was happening, and what Mystery, transformation, God and Grace will eventually ask of us, we would either take charge or stop the whole process.”

We would rather chase the chimera of safety and power than jump into the chasm of unfathomable mystery. It’s the eternal temptation. However, when you are faced with this temptation, remember:

*Christ didn’t chase, he jumped—
and by that jump we were saved. ✠*

Remembering Fr. Tony Gonsalves

Your prayers are requested for Fr. Tony Gonsalves OFM, who passed away suddenly from a massive heart attack at St. Clare’s Monastery in Duncan on Friday, July 10, 2015, at the age of 75.



“We are a Church of the baptized, sharing and living out our faith commitments, thus making our efforts to contribute to the common good, excluding no one.”

Fr. Tony was born on February 4, 1940, in Karachi, India (now Pakistan) and was received into the Franciscan Order on May 31st, 1961. He made his solemn profession of vows on August 2nd, 1966, and was ordained a priest on January 6th, 1968. Fr. Tony served the Franciscan community in Pakistan in leadership roles as a formator and pastor until he transferred to Canada in 1993 to join the Franciscans of Western Canada.

Fr. Tony served in our Diocese as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria from 2004 – 2007 and Guardian of St. Joseph’s Friary; Administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Victoria from 2011 – 2013; Director of San Damiano Friary in Duncan from 2014 – 2015; and was serving as Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Chemainus and St. Mary Parish, Ladysmith from 2014.

Please continue to remember in your prayers the members of the Franciscan Community, and the Poor Clares, as well as the parish communities of Ladysmith and Chemainus where Fr. Tony served until his sudden passing.

In an Easter message Fr. Tony shared with the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in 2007, he spoke of the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. His closing remarks included these words:

Much more has to be aimed at during our onward journey. Like those on the road to Emmaus, let us tell our stories, our successes and our failures, our frustrations at not being heard, our greater need for honesty and trust among all levels of Church structures. It is never too late to make a start and be accountable. We are a Church of the baptized, sharing and living out our faith commitments, thus making our efforts to contribute to the common good, excluding no one. We have a long way to go, but let this Easter Blessing be ours—to reach out and touch others and to make Christ a true presence.

With God’s grace and comfort, Fr. Tony’s journey has brought him home to the presence of Christ. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. ✠*



Philadelphia: 200 Journalists Attend Seminar on Pope Francis

Vatican officials, bishops, clergy and academics from around the world came together on 28 August in Philadelphia to offer to more than 200 news journalists covering religion an intensive course on Pope Francis and his upcoming visit to the United States. The seminar, called ‘The Church up Close’ was organized by the School of Church Communications of the Pontifical University Santa Croce (Opus Dei’s Rome-based university) and sponsored by Columbia magazine. The seminar was part of the Religion Newswriters Association’s annual conference.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28208>

US Video Series on Catholic Social Teaching Launches with ‘Care For God’s Creation’

A video on ‘Care for God’s Creation’ is the first of a seven-part series on Catholic Social Teaching, designed to be an introduction to this body of thought with notable Catholics reflecting on each of the teachings. The video release comes in conjunction with Pope Francis’ declaration of September 1 as a day of prayer for creation. The video series is cosponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28203>

Bonn Climate Talks: 10 Days to Shape the Paris Agreement

As nations meet in Bonn, Germany, to develop a global climate agreement, Christian Aid has warned that with only 10 negotiating days left until ministers meet in Paris, urgency is needed. Mohamed Adow, Christian Aid’s Senior Climate Change Advisor, said: “With the world expecting a positive outcome at the Paris summit in December it is vital that much of the legwork is done now to ensure negotiators are not left with a mountain to climb in Paris. December may feel a long way off but we only have 10 negotiating days between now and then and there is still lots of issues to be resolved.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28200>

Syria: Bishop Urges Young Christians Not to Abandon Their Homeland

One of Syria’s most senior Catholic leaders has issued an impassioned plea to young people, describing a “tsunami” of youth emigration and begging them to stay. Referring to “an almost communal wave of youth emigration”, Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch Gregorios III said the exodus was so severe it begged serious questions about the future of the Church in Syria. In an open letter to youth, the Damascus-based prelate said emigration of Christian youth was especially severe in Syria but was also of grave concern elsewhere in the Middle East.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28197>

Catholics and Muslims in Canada

Press Release from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our Conference’s Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue has issued a resource entitled *Catholics and Muslims in Canada: Believers and Citizens in Society*. The pamphlet is meant to help Canadian Catholics better understand their Muslim neighbours. Our country is home to an impressive array of cultures and religions, and the Catholic Bishops of Canada wish to foster understanding and dialogue amongst the diverse people of our land.

Christianity and Islam are the two most populous religious groups in the world. For our own good and for the good of all humanity, we must learn to live in harmony with each other, and Canada can certainly play an important role in modeling this harmonious relationship. Knowledge of each other is essential for such a task. It is with this hope that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops presents its new resource. It is limited in scope; it does not explore in depth our doctrinal differences, nor does it comment on the present state of geopolitics. However, it does constitute an important step that we can all take in responding to Saint Paul’s invitation: “Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building” (Romans 14.19).

The first part of the pamphlet presents the origins of Islam, its main currents today, its similarities and its differences from Christianity. The second part provides an overview of the history and present state of interreligious dialogue between Catholics and Muslims, both at the international and national level, concluding with some suggestions about how everyone can contribute to such dialogue.

As beautifully proclaimed by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, we are called by our Baptism to be builders of a just and peaceful society:

“By preaching Jesus Christ, who is himself peace (cf. Eph 2:14), the new evangelization calls on every baptized person to be a peacemaker and a credible witness to a reconciled life. In a culture which privileges dialogue as a form of encounter, it is time to devise a means for building consensus and agreement while seeking the goal of a just, responsive and inclusive society” [n. 239].

+Paul-André Durocher
Archbishop of Gatineau and
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops ✠

This new resource is part of a series called A Church in Dialogue by the Commission which includes two other documents: “A Church in Dialogue: Catholic Ecumenical Commitment” and “A Church in Dialogue: Towards the Restoration of Unity among Christians”. The newly released resource is now available on the CCCB website (www.CCCB.ca), while printed copies can be ordered from CCCB Publications at 1-800-769-1147 or online at www.cccbpublications.ca

The Challenge of Pope Francis to the Church in Canada

Press Release from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops

The Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has published a new resource entitled *A Church Seeking Justice: The Challenge of Pope Francis to the Church in Canada*. Since his election as Bishop of Rome, the Holy Father “has brought an immediacy and specificity to Catholic social teaching that has made it a strong mark of his pontificate thus far,” states the Episcopal Commission in its text which was released today.

Dealing broadly with the themes of Human Dignity and Labour, War and Peace, and the Economics of Exclusion and Isolation, this document outlines the freshness and urgency with which Pope Francis is calling us to act for justice and offers reflection questions tailored to our Canadian context.

Throughout the document, in text boxes, the Bishops of the Episcopal Commission “have sought to make connections between the Holy Father’s teaching and some of the justice issues needing to be addressed in our own cities and nation.” Although not exhaustive, the issues raised concern the disappearance of indigenous women, euthanasia, the welcoming of refugees, temporary foreign workers, income disparity, unemployment among Aboriginal youth and

A Church in Dialogue

Catholics and Muslims in Canada: Believers and Citizens in Society

The Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

The President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a letter explaining that this pamphlet is intended “to help Canadian Catholics better understand their Muslim neighbours. Christianity and Islam are the two most populous religious groups in the world. For our own good and for the good of all humanity, we must learn to live in harmony with each other, and Canada can certainly play an important role in modeling this harmonious relationship. Knowledge of each other is essential for such a task.” The complete text of the letter by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher is found in the “Media Room” on the CCCB website: www.cccb.ca under “Statements & Letters”.

Why do Catholics need to know about Islam?

As noted by Muslim scholars in 2007: “Muslims and Christians together make up over half the world’s population. Without peace and justice between these two religious communities, there can be no meaningful peace in the world. The future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians” (*A Common Word Between Us and You*, 2007).

Christianity has about 2.3 billion followers, and about half of all Christians are Catholic. Islam is a world religion with an estimated 1.6 billion members.

Muslims are our neighbours and our co-workers. Because the number of Muslim immigrants to Canada is increasing, it is even more important to know Islam better so as to foster better relations and improve mutual understanding.

What are the origins of Islam?

Islam began with a man named Muhammad, who was born in 570 AD in the town of Mecca in Arabia (now Saudi Arabia). Muhammad, who was orphaned at a young age, was cared for by relatives, especially an uncle. Like this uncle, Muhammad grew up to be a trader,

youth in general, the arms trade, peacekeeping, Canadian mining companies abroad, international assistance, poverty, the environment (the text was completed before the release of *Laudato Si’*), and the concept of the common good.

The Bishops invite readers to “listen to the challenging voice of Pope Francis, and to make connections between that teaching and the world around you in the particulars of your lives, your places of work, your parishes and communities, with eyes especially attentive to those in greatest need.”

For Pope Francis, “the Church’s social teaching—about those in poverty or afflicted by other forms of suffering, about economic injustice, and about war and peace—[rises] directly out of the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus Christ. He consistently and strongly sets his reflections on justice and mercy within a framework of faithfulness to Christ.” The Commission document also highlights how the Holy Father knows how to give a face to the poor by his gestures and his pastoral visits. “By pointing to real people and specific situations, Pope Francis highlights the urgency of the present moment, and invites an energetic and emotional response to counter the ‘globalization of indifference’ which has developed.” ✠



National Aboriginal Day celebrations at St. Joseph’s General Hospital

Press Release from St. Joseph’s General Hospital

National Aboriginal Day was celebrated at St. Joseph’s General Hospital on Friday, June 19. This year’s celebrations included a presentation on Cultural Safety by Harley Eagle, Island Health’s Cultural Facilitator.

A highlight of the day’s events was the gifting of the Button Blanket Wall Hanging to the St. Joseph’s Maternal Child Department by Laurel Anderson, Aboriginal Liaison Nurse, on behalf of the women, children, families and Elders.

The Button Blanket Wall Hanging is a symbolic piece of art that was created by women and elders in the community. It is part of a cultural safety project guided by and in partnership with the Aboriginal community. The gifting of this Button Blanket wall hanging is in acknowledgement of the work that has been done by the staff, and the work that will continue to be done to provide culturally safe care to Aboriginal Women, babies and families.

The project enables and encourages a culture of quality and safety that nurtures and fosters an environment where respect for the dignity of every individual is demonstrated.

The program incorporates a change in practice to alter the lens through which staff view Aboriginal people to support culturally safe care and improved health outcomes for all Aboriginal children and families touched by the Maternal Child Department at St. Joseph’s. The St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation received a grant from the Vancouver Island Children’s Health Foundation to fund the program. Further support was provided by Island Health, Comox Valley Success by Six, Wachaiy Friendship Centre and the MIKI’SIW Metis Association.

Elders and families engaged in creating the button blanket wall hanging; once it was completed to where it needed the placement of buttons and beads, it was brought

to the unit where Elders’ families and staff engaged in adding buttons and beads. The completed blanket will be displayed in the Maternal Child Department in recognition of the work accomplished.

K’omoks peoples traditional food, smoked fish and fry bread, were thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

National Aboriginal Day takes place, annually, on June 21. It is a special day to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. St. Joseph’s General Hospital is privileged to take part in this celebration. ✂



Christian comfort is in Jesus, not in chatter

Press Release from Vatican Radio

Pope Francis said Christians should comfort each other through good works and kind words and not with useless chatter. He was speaking on Tuesday (1st September) during his homily at his first morning Mass at the Santa Marta residence since the summer break.

Taking his inspiration from the St. Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians about the need for a strong faith and hope in a final meeting with Christ, the Pope noted that the apostle wrote that the day of the Lord can arrive without warning “like a thief” but Jesus is coming to bring salvation to those who believe in Him. My advice, he said, is to comfort each other and help each other and this comfort will give you hope.

“This is my advice, ‘comfort each other.’ Speak about this: but I’m asking you: do we speak about this, that the Lord will come and will we meet Him? Or do we speak about so many things, including theology, things about the Church, priests, religious sisters, Monsignors, all this? And is this hope our comfort? ‘Comfort each other,’ comfort those in the community. In our community, in our parishes, are we speaking about this that we’re waiting for the Lord who comes? Or are we instead chattering about this and that to help pass the time and not get too bored?”

Pope Francis explained how in the responsorial psalm we repeat the words: ‘I am sure I will see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living’ but then asked the question: are you certain you will see the Lord? He advised us to follow the example of the prophet Job who despite his many misadventures maintained his belief in the existence of God and that he would see him with his own eyes.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love,
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.

Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! Amen.

~ *Laudato Si'*
Final verse of A Christian Prayer in Unison with Creation

“This is my advice, ‘comfort each other and help each other and this comfort will give you hope ... This is the true comfort, this is the true certainty: ‘I am sure I will see the Lord’s kindness.’”

“It’s true, He will come to judge and when we go to the Sistine (Chapel) we see that beautiful scene of the Last Judgement. But we must also believe that He will come to find me because I see Him with my eyes, I embrace Him and am always with Him. This is the hope that the Apostle Paul tells us to explain to others through our life, to give witness to hope. This is the true comfort, this is the true certainty: “I am sure I will see the Lord’s kindness.””

Just as St Paul encouraged the early Christians, the Pope reiterated the saint’s advice to those in the Church today. “Comfort each other with good works and help each other. In this way, we can go ahead.”

“Let us ask the Lord for this grace: that seed of hope that he has planted in our hearts so it germinates and grows until our final meeting with Him. “I am certain that I will see the Lord.” “I am certain that our Lord lives.” “I am certain that our Lord will come to find me”: This should be the horizon of our life. Let us ask the Lord for this grace and let us comfort each other with good works and kind words, (let’s go) along this road.” ✂

ANSWERS TO ENCYCICAL MINI-QUIZ

- (a) – An encyclical is, literally, a circular letter to be spread through a community. Etymologically, it comes from the Greek word *egkyklios*, which means “circle.”
- Laudato Si'* (literally “Be praised” or better, “Praise be to you”).
- False – Technically, *Laudato Si'* will be Francis’ second encyclical letter, but this is the first one he wrote alone. *Lumen Fidei* was released only three months after he was elected, so it was based on a mostly finished draft from his predecessor.
- (d) – Pope Benedict XVI
- (c) – Every person on the planet
- (d) – September 1



Impressions

By Connie Dunwoody

A good friend of mine hit a milestone a while ago. He asked me, “What is the biggest difference between turning 30 and turning 50?” My inner self glared at him. Externally, I waggled my eyebrows knowingly. “About 20 years,” I replied archly. “What *did* they teach you in university?”

He persisted. “No, really. What do you know now that you wish you’d known at 30?”

There are so many answers to that. Because there’s so much they don’t tell you about getting older. Everything wrinkles. *Everything*. You ache when you wake up, even though you didn’t really do anything memorable the night before—that you can remember, anyway. You take longer to heal from injuries (ask me how I know), digestion becomes the main topic of conversation, parts of you get closer to the floor and other parts just get wider, hair grows on body parts you didn’t even know you had, and nouns become elusive at that moment when you need them most. I used to run a 10K in 42 minutes. These days, I’m happy to be awake and in one piece when I finish.

My brother phoned me just before he turned 40. “What’s that thing called, that bit of your ear above your earlobe, just where your ear canal starts?” “I don’t know,” I said. “Just a minute.” I polled the room, which contained my husband and the kid. The 10-year old piped up, “It’s called the nublet!” (It was as good an answer as any.)

“It’s the nublet,” I reported. “Why?”

“I need to know. It’s just sprouted hair.”

No, getting older is not for weenies. It takes a certain amount of fortitude to withstand the march of time. Happily, we gain that over years; it doesn’t just happen. So when my friend asked me that question, it wasn’t the daily aches and pains that came to mind. Here’s what leapt into my brain (in a rare moment of great clarity): *At 50 you care so much less about the things you thought were important at 30.*

When I was younger, I cared about, well, *everything*. It all seemed important and I was fairly certain I wasn’t quite measuring up in ways that were significant to others. I did OK, I thought, but it seemed it was never enough. I was awkward, bumbling and nervous about how the world would perceive me. I didn’t stop to think about what mattered to me: I was a dervish whirling madly in a frenzied attempt to measure up to an invisible, highly critical yardstick with ‘judgment’ on one end and ‘perfection’ on the other. I strove to always tip the scale towards

‘perfection’: I said *yes* to all requests for my time and energy; I dressed *this way* with *these people* and behaved *that way* with *those people*. I was an adroit chameleon with an identity crisis. And I was off balance. Too much one way or the other, and we tumble into chaos.

I tumbled, and the grasping, hungry churning engulfed me for a while.

I once read something that suggested women ‘come into their own’ in their 30s. I don’t know if that’s right, or whether this process is exclusive to women because surely men go through these things too. For me, it was true. The tumult of my 20s started to subside, and as I moved through time and experience, I learned. Now in my 50s, I look back at young, struggling me, and my heart is full of compassion for that girl, for those decisions. They weren’t all great, but they were all valuable.

I’ve learned that what matters to me is not *what* I have or do, but *why* I have and do things. I’ve learned that judgment is harsh, and compassion is necessary. I’ve learned that laughter can be faked but joy is unshakeable. I’ve learned that a job is just work whereas a vocation is fulfilling. I’ve learned that I have value exactly the way I am, that not everyone will like me, and that I won’t like all the people whose struggling path intersects even briefly with mine. I’ve learned not to get blown off course by others’ tempests; I’ve learned that kindness is non-negotiable, and mercy and acceptance are the most important things in the world. I’ve learned there is no substitute for my family, that true friends are worth their weight in gold, and that unconditional love isn’t always easy but it’s always right.

I’ve learned that it is as important to be as kind, merciful and loving to myself as I am to others; I’ve learned that balance is critical to contentment. You don’t have to work as hard not to tumble when you are rooted in joy.

And I’ve learned that we choose what it is that matters to us, and in the end, we are the product of those choices. With this comes enormous responsibility, because none of us is unconnected. We are all part of each other’s journeys and I am as affected by your choice as you are by mine, even if I don’t see or agree with that choice.

These days, my yardstick has ‘love’ on one side and ‘joy’ on the other, and the midpoint is full of kindness and mercy. It is still invisible but now I’m not afraid of it because those measurements were chosen for me by One whose compassion knows no bounds and before Whom the chaos subsides into stillness.

And in the stillness, I learn of Him. ✂



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Fun and fellowship at annual Diocesan family camp

By Marnie Wynans

In the Spirit of the upcoming 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia to be held September 22 – 28, families from across the Diocese gathered together at Camp Barnard in Sooke to play, pray and relax with each other against a beautiful West Coast backdrop.

Keynote speakers Brett and Andrea Powell, parents of eight children and Catholic missionaries in Vancouver, were there all weekend to engage and inspire participants. Parents were treated to several talks on living the Catholic faith in all areas of life. During the sessions, the children were busy playing games, making new friends while doing crafts under the guidance of youth volunteers. Teens had their own special late-night talk with Brett, who shared fascinating stories of his own life. Spare time was spent at the lake canoeing, kayaking, swimming and hiking the local trails.

The amazing food was prepared by Angela Grohovac and her team of kitchen helpers who served delicious home-cooked meals that allowed families to spend quality time together, enjoying a lovely dinner.

One of the highlights of the weekend was having Jesus in the Eucharist in a monstrance under a tent for Perpetual Adoration. People of all ages could be seen at all hours sitting with Jesus in silent conversation. Fr. Dean Henderson was our chaplain for the weekend and made sure all our spiritual needs were met with beautiful outdoor Mass, Confession and Adoration.

Plans are already underway for next year at the beautiful Nanoose Bay Pentecostal Camp just north of Nanaimo. Save the weekend of Aug 12 – 14, 2016 for a special family getaway! ✠

