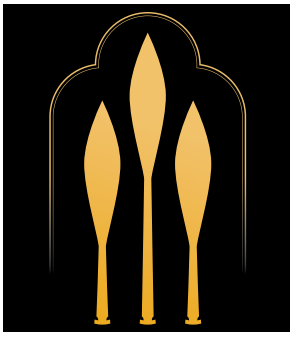


See Page 5

Update on
Refugees



See Page 12

2016 Bishop's
Gala



See Page 24

Our Lady of
Fatima Feast
Day



The
Diocesan

Messenger

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Summer 2016



Perfectly, infinitely & forever loved

by Bishop Gary Gordon, from his Homily at the Mass of Confirmation, Christ the King Parish

I want to tell you three reasons why this is my favourite time of the year. First of all, it's Eastertime, and that is the great season we celebrate our life, because Jesus has risen from the dead and has given us life. So that is the number one reason why this is my favourite time of year.

Number two reason is, it's springtime! I love springtime! I love seeing stuff grow out of the earth, and blooms, and the golf courses get into great shape, and, ah, there are so many wonderful things about springtime and when I was up north as a Bishop in the Yukon, springtime was even more powerful because it meant now the water wasn't frozen anymore, and I could go fishing. So, springtime, number two reason.

And the third reason this is my favourite time of year is, I get to visit you! And I get to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with you, and with all the other people in the Diocese.

So those are my three reasons why this is my favourite time of the year. And whenever God gives us three really good things: Confirmation, springtime, and Jesus rising from the dead, I say, "thank you." That's what fills my heart—gratitude and thanksgiving.

It's the most important word we can ever have in our lives: *gratitude*, thank you. Every language in the world has a word for 'thank you', because those are the most important words a human being can ever have. I'll bet you probably say 'thank you' at least 50 times a day! Somebody passes you the salt at the

table. "Thank you!" Somebody gives you the sugar. "Thank you!" Somebody passes you the ketchup, or somebody says, "gee, you've got a nice jacket." "Thank you!" "Oh, gee, you've got beautiful blue eyes." "Oh, thank you."

See, it's built in! One of the things I want to do this morning, is I want to say a great big "thank you" to your moms and dads. *Thank you!* A few years ago, you brought your children, when they were probably about *that big*, to the church to be baptized. And the priest asked you, in that moment, "You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of raising them in the practice of the Faith. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" And moms and dads, you said, "Yes!"

And here you are. You have clearly understood what you are undertaking. You have raised your children in the practice of the Faith, and here they are, to be Confirmed and make their first Holy Communion. Thank you for fulfilling that great promise that you made to God when your children were really tiny. *Thank you.*

Now, I must let you know that they will also grow and become teenagers. And there will be a few more challenges to continue to raise them in the practice of the Faith, but God's grace and gift is with you in this marvellous, beautiful adventure of family life. *Thank you.*

Continued on page 2

Inside	
Calendar of Events	4
Diocesan News & Events	3
Face the Day	16
Faith Matters.	18
Island Catholic Schools	10
National/International	20
Out of the Archives	23
Pastoral Itinerary	4
The Campus Mission	17
Vocations.	15
Blessed are you ...	



Perfectly, infinitely & forever loved

(continued from page 1)

Now, boys and girls, I want to leave you with a very special word, and it is the word Confirmation. You're going to be confirmed in the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and his Father in heaven have sent the Holy Spirit for one reason only: so that you will be confirmed today, tomorrow and for the rest of your life, that you are infinitely, perfectly, compassionately, mercifully, and forever loved by God. That is what the Holy Spirit does. It opens your heart, and your mind, and your soul to always know that you are infinitely, perfectly, eternally loved by God. That's what the Holy Spirit will do for the rest of your life: convince you that you are loved perfectly, always, and forever, by God. That's the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes when I talk to kids in classrooms, they put up their hand and they say, "But what if ...?" We all have the but ifs in our lives. "Bishop, what if I do something really bad? Will God always love me perfectly, infinitely and forever?"

"Yup." Because God's love is perfect in mercy and forgiveness.

I remember one kid a few weeks ago, put up his hand and said, "Bishop, what if I end up in jail? Will God love me perfectly, infinitely and forever?"

"Yup." God never tires of forgiving us.

Nothing can change God's mind that He loves you. That's what the Holy Spirit is for. It's to convince you of His love.

“That is what the Holy Spirit does. It opens your heart, and your mind, and your soul to always know that you are infinitely, perfectly, eternally loved by God. That's the Catholic Faith—and it's that simple.

And then, you're going to receive your first Holy Communion. The gift of Jesus' Holy Communion will give you the courage and the strength to love your neighbour, and everybody else, as much as Jesus loves them. That's what Holy Communion does. That's why we go and receive Holy Communion every Sunday, because—well, you're probably better than I am—but I always need help to love everybody as perfectly as Jesus loves them. So every week, every day, I receive Jesus in Holy Communion, so that I can have the courage, and the strength and the grace to always love as perfectly as Jesus loves.

So today we celebrate the great gift of love. God's love for you, the gift of God's love for you, in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the greatest gift we can receive. And, our greatest vocation, our greatest calling, our greatest work on this earth, is to love everyone, others, our brothers and sisters, as much as Jesus loves them. Isn't that something?

And you all thought that the Catholic Faith was complicated! It can't get any simpler than that, brothers and sisters. It's really simple. I know you kids have spent a whole year in catechism, learning all kinds of good stuff, and I'm glad that you've learned it. I'm not going to ask you any questions. I'll bet your teachers probably said, "The Bishop's going to ask you questions." Did your teacher tell you that?

I'm not asking you any questions. I just want you to be convinced that the power of the Holy Spirit will open your heart more, and more, and more, to receive God's love, and that Jesus, in Holy Communion, will open your heart more, and more, and more to give love to others.

That's the Catholic Faith—and it's that simple. ✂



Diocesan News & Events



Witnesses to life

by Bianca Rojo

Thursday, May 12, 2016, may have seemed like any other ordinary day with the sun high in the sky and not a cloud in sight. It was the perfect day to be in and around downtown Victoria, walk by the tourist shops on Government Street, and sit on the grass in front of the BC Legislature.

But this was no ordinary day. This was the day of the annual March for Life. This was the day that 2,700 British Columbians from across Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the mainland came out and stood beside one another to voice their concerns to the politicians who represent us. There was no better way to top an ordinary day than to walk with and among people voicing their concerns over the many loopholes in Bill C-14. This year's theme, 'Caring Not Killing', highlights the need to relieve suffering by caring for patients, not through euthanasia or assisted suicide.

For the first time at the March, two MLAs were present and spoke at the rally: Laurie Throness of Chilliwack-Hope and Marc Dalton of Maple Ridge & Mission. Their words and their presence was very much needed in a crucial time of Canada's history. Both MLAs showed their concern over the long-term impacts

of assisted suicide in our society and will continue to work for a provincial policy that would protect the weak and the consciences of BC physicians, and look to promote palliative and hospice care.

Other speakers at the rally who spoke on the theme for the March included Joanna Krawczynski, the Western Campus Coordinator of National Campus Life Network; Anna Nienhuis of Reformed Political Action; Dr. Will Johnston, a Vancouver family physician and Chair of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of BC; and Natalie Sonnen, Director of LifeCanada. Also speaking at the March was Mike Schouten of We Need a Law who gave the attendees an update on Bill C-225 otherwise known as Cassie and Molly's law.

Bishop Gary Gordon said it best during his homily: "As witnesses to life, the Gospel of Life, and the infinite mercy of the Father, we have the opportunity to give dignity to people's lives." If passed, Bill C-14 will have a large impact on Canadian society; and it will challenge us, as Catholics, to act on our very identity, to show our neighbours the love that they deserve, regardless of age or ability. ✕



Calendar of events

June 7 Cedar Hill Golf Course, Victoria: Association of Catholic Leaders Breakfast, 7 – 8:30 AM. The June speaker is Karen Voisin. Her entertaining insights will give you encouragement and tips on how to integrate your faith in your professional experiences and everyday life. The title of the talk is ‘How I Went From Church Lady to Taking On Bill Clinton’. For more information, email: victoriabcac@gmail.com.

10 St. Patrick’s, Victoria: Presentation of Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy, 7:30 PM. Admission \$10; suitable for ages 13 and up. More information: (250) 592-7391 or email stpat190telus.net.

July 4-8 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Summer Camp for children 4 - 6 years old, 9 AM – 1 PM, \$60 per week per child. Contact: (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca. To register: Maureen at (250) 590-6095 or email olorpreschool2750@gmail.com.

4-8 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Summer Camp for children 7 - 11 years old, 9 AM – 2 PM. \$70 per child. Contact: (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca.

8 Christ the King, Courtenay: Michael Tran ordination to the Order of Deacon, 6:30 PM Mass. Reception to follow in the parish hall; all are welcome to attend.

9-10 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Vocations Awareness overnight retreat for graduates of grade 10 and up. Come meet our seminarians, religious sisters, brothers and priests, for a fun, prayerful and faithful time of fellowship. No cost to attend; for more information contact Fr. Dean: catholic@uvic.ca.

11 Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria: Spring Fair celebrating Mount St. Mary’s 75th Anniversary, 10 AM – 3 PM, 861 Fairfield Road. Lots of activities, entertainment, fun and food! All ages welcome. For more information contact Jane Bowers: JBowers@mtstmary.victoria.bc.ca.

11-15 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: : Summer Camp for teens 12 – 17 years old. 9 AM – 2 PM, \$70 per teen. Contact: (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca.

11-15 Our Lady of the Rosary, Victoria: Summer Camp for children 4 - 6 years old, 9 AM – 1 PM, \$60 per week per child. Contact: (250) 478-3482 or email olor@shaw.ca. To register: Maureen at (250) 590-6095 or email olorpreschool2750@gmail.com.

16 Crown Isle Golf & Country Club, Courtenay: Join us for the 26th Annual St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation Golf Classic on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at beautiful Crown Isle Golf & Country Club in Courtenay, BC. Highlights include prizes (hole-in-one, and door prizes), plus great auction and silent auction items.

Pastoral itinerary

May 28 Sooke: Confirmation Mass – St. Rose of Lima (5 PM)

29 Victoria: Closing Mass, Diocesan Youth Conference – St. Andrew’s Cathedral (9:30 AM)

Duncan: Confirmation Mass – St. Edward’s Parish (1 PM)

30 - June 3 Quadra Island: Clergy Retreat, Diocese of Victoria

June 1 - 3 Quadra Island: Clergy Retreat, Diocese of Victoria

4 Langford: Confirmation Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish (5 PM)

5 Victoria: Confirmation Mass – St. Leopold Mandic Parish (11 AM)

6 - 10 Cache Creek: Clergy Retreat – Diocese of Kamloops

11 Penelekut: Meeting with First Nations community

Victoria: Mount St. Mary Hospital 75th Anniversary Celebration (10 AM)

Parksville: Confirmation Mass – Church of the Ascension Parish (5 PM)

12 Port Alberni: Confirmation Mass – Holy Family/Notre Dame Parish (10 AM)

17 Comox: St. Joseph’s General Hospital Annual General Meeting (1 PM)

18 Coquitlam: Closing Mass, BC & Yukon CWL Annual Conference – All Saints Parish (5 PM)

Proceeds from this year’s event support women’s health, and will go towards a highly specialized fluid management system for the Operating Room at St. Joseph’s Hospital. 11:30 AM registration; 1 PM start; 6:30 PM dinner and auction. To register call Crown Isle at (250) 703-5000. For more information email: r.mulrooney@holliswealth.com.

August 12-14 Nanoose Bay: 4th Annual Marriage and Family Life Conference. A weekend of fun, faith and fellowship for the whole family. Keynote speaker is Sr. John Mary Sullivan FSE, a graduate of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Washington, DC, and now missioned to the Life, Marriage and Family Office in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. For more information email: reine_and_ian@hotmail.com.

September 30- Oct 1 St. Patrick’s Victoria: St. Patrick’s Church Good Used Clothing Sale will be held Friday, September 30 and Saturday October 1 from 9:30 AM – 2 PM. The Bazaar and Silent Auction will be held Saturday October 1 from 9:30 AM – 2 PM.. The hall is wheelchair accessible and ample parking. For more information contact Lorna O’Neill: lornaoneill6@gmail.com.

Weekly events

Wednesdays

St. Patrick’s, Victoria: Moms and Tots (Dads are also welcome) meets from 9:30 – 11 AM 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, 9 AM.

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

Saturdays

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

22-27 Ucluelet/Tofino/Ahousaht: Pastoral visitation – Holy Family/St. Francis of Assisi/St. Lawrence Parishes

28 Victoria: St. Andrew’s Regional High School Graduation Mass – St. Andrew’s Cathedral (6:30 PM)

29 - July 4 Ucluelet/Tofino/Ahousaht: Pastoral visitation – Holy Family/St. Francis of Assisi/St. Lawrence Parishes

July 1-4 Ucluelet/Tofino/Ahousaht: Pastoral visitation – Holy Family/St. Francis of Assisi/St. Lawrence Parishes

8 Courtenay: Ordination to Diaconate, Michael Tran – Christ the King Parish (6:30 PM)

11 Mission: Closing Ceremonies, Pulling Together Canoe Journey 2016

18 - 25 Tahsis & Gold River: Pastoral visitation

29 - Sept 5 Port Alice, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Alert Bay, Zeballos, Winter Harbour, Fair Harbour, Kyuquot: Pastoral Visitation

August 1- Sept 5 Port Alice, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Alert Bay, Zeballos, Winter Harbour, Fair Harbour, Kyuquot: Pastoral Visitation

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

Our Lady of Fatima, Victoria: Victoria Chinese Catholic Community (VCCC) regular meetings with faith sharing, prayers, potluck, Mass or special presentations by expert speakers, 3:30 PM. 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 7 PM on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. Grades 10 – 12. For more information, contact Julie at: ygcatholicunderground@gmail.com

Sundays

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Victoria: Hungarian Mass at 2 PM on the first Sunday of every month.

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

Please visit www.rcdvictoria.org to view the online Calendar of Events for the most current information



The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the Diocese of Victoria
1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC,
Canada V8X 2A1
www.rcdvictoria.org

Circulation 6,600
2016 Publication Dates
Spring (Feb 1), Summer (May 27), Fall (Sept 1)
and Winter (Dec 16).

Articles submitted for consideration must be received by the 5th of the month preceding publication. Submissions should be no more than 400 words in length, and those chosen for publication may be edited for content or length. Submissions and comments should be sent to: editor@rcdvictoria.org

Editorial Board

Bishop Gary Gordon
Connie Dunwoody, Editor
Cynthia Bouchard-Watkins
Leah MacKenzie
James O’Reilly

Contributors

David Baanstra, Proofreader
Sarah Kopriva, The Campus Mission
Anela Nicholson, Vocations
Bonnie Landry, Face the Day
Gordon Reilly, Proofreader
Knights of Columbus, Distribution

Welcome!

by Denise Helm, St. Patrick’s Parish, Victoria

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”**
~ Matthew 25: 35

The message is simple and heartfelt—*welcome*. Across the Diocese of Victoria, parish committees are quietly well into their preparations to resettle refugee families in Canada. While other groups’ efforts on Vancouver Island have been more prominent in the media, you don’t have to look far to appreciate the efforts that Catholic communities are undertaking in this Year of Mercy.

On a recent spring evening, two dozen people from Refugee Sponsorship Committees gathered around a Victoria boardroom table to share information and learn from each other. The compassion, dedication and enthusiasm were evident.

Thousands of kilometers away, Christian families forced to flee from their homes in Iraq to Jordan and Turkey due to threats and persecution anxiously wait to begin a new life on Vancouver Island.

As of early May, nine parishes on Vancouver Island have refugee sponsorship committees and are working on detailed preparations. Progress to date wouldn’t be possible without the resources and support in the wider community, most notably the Anglican Diocese of BC, which has many years’ experience with refugee settlement. It is our Diocese’s partnership with the Anglican Diocese that has enabled our parishes to sponsor refugees under their Sponsorship Agreement with the federal government.

The amount of work being done by refugee committees is tremendous, and includes completing detailed application forms, preparing a budget, applying for various federal and provincial supports, developing settlement plans, raising funds to support a family for a year (minimum \$40,000), finding and outfitting accommodation, arranging for translators, finding dentists, doctors and other professionals willing to help, and even starting English language training—and all this before the families arrive and their orientation and new lives begin, which will require another level of support and attentiveness.

Fr. Karam Alraban, the pastor at Parksville’s Church of the Ascension and an Iraqi refugee himself, was asked by Bishop Gary Gordon to help with the effort to sponsor families from the Middle East. To that end he prepared a list of 13 families through his contacts and it is primarily those families that the committees hope to sponsor.

Parish Committees

Church of Ascension—Parksville

We hit the ground running in December and with God’s blessings and with generous parish and greater community support, \$63,000 was raised in less than a month. Our Iraqi family comprises a mother, father and baby who were exiled to Syria and later to Lebanon where the husband works as a mechanic and the mother is caring for the baby and learning English. We know the wait will be long since Iraq and Syria no longer have priority in the Canadian immigration process as they did earlier, but we remain optimistic. We are blessed to have Fr. Karam leading us through the training, and thankful for his knowledge of how to work with a culture very different from our own, along with an understanding of the challenges refugees face in leaving their home and loved ones.

Trinity—Nanaimo

Trinity CARES is a joint project of the Trinity Catholic and Trinity United parishes in Nanaimo to sponsor a Christian family from Iraq who fled when ISIS invaded their town in 2014. The family, a mother and father, 20-year-old daughter and 18-year-old son, left everything behind to seek asylum in Turkey where they now live, unable to go to school or work. In just one week, Trinity CARES raised about one third of the \$45,000 required by government to help the family establish themselves, and we continue to fundraise with great community support.

St. Rose of Lima—Sooke

The Team Sooke/Juan de Fuca Refugee Sponsorship Committee is all about a community working together to respond to the worldwide refugee crisis. St. Rose of Lima parish is the lead agent, with team members from the parish, other faith groups, and the wider community. The people of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca electoral area have been generous with their donations and enthusiastic in their support. We have the funds and volunteers we need for sponsorship, and were recently matched with an Iraqi family of four, a mother and father and two daughters aged 13 and 20. They were forced to flee their home in Mosul when it was overtaken by ISIS and are now refugees in Lebanon.

Holy Cross—Saanich

Holy Cross, with support from St. Patrick’s and St. Joseph the Worker parishes, began its refugee sponsorship process last fall. With a donation from the Franciscan Missionary Union, St. Patrick’s is now sponsoring its own family. The two parishes, with support from St. Joseph the Worker, are sponsoring three generations of Iraqi refugees. Our family —Martin, his wife Sandra and two daughters, aged two and four—fled their home in Iraq and have taken refuge in Turkey. Also, we have a family at Holy Cross—‘A Group of Five’ that is sponsoring another young refugee family from Iraq. We are still looking for Arabic speakers to provide translation services and initial and long-term accommodation.

St. Patrick’s—Oak Bay

St. Patrick’s and the Franciscan Community are sponsoring an Iraqi couple with their toddler son, as well as the father’s mother. Forced to relocate twice due to death threats and religious persecution, the family is currently in Turkey. They are eager to come to Victoria and a parish member is teaching them English via Skype. Our committee’s regular meetings have reaffirmed the wealth of compassion, service to community and importance of our Catholic faith in planning for our family’s arrival. The connections we are building across Victoria and the generous help from different groups in the community are inspiring. ✠

At the time of writing we learned that the federal government has limited the intake of refugees into Canada citing backlogs and limited resources for processing applicants. This has directly impacted one of our parishes whose refugee family reluctantly opted for settlement in Australia when faced with the current uncertainty of the Canadian system. Another letter writing campaign has started in the hopes of convincing the federal government to reverse its decision and dedicate more funds to processing refugee applications.



Photos: Top right, Church of the Ascension refugee sponsorship committee. Bottom, Victoria area refugee sponsorship committee with representatives from St. Patrick’s, St. Rose of Lima, The Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, Holy Cross, Franciscan Friars, Our Lady of the Rosary and the Sisters of St. Ann
Background image: a welcome card to a new family

Executive Director appointment

Press Release

The Boards of Directors of the Catholic Health Association of BC and the Denominational Health Association are pleased to welcome Robert J. (Bob) Breen MSC, ICD.D to the role of Executive Director, effective February 29, 2016.

This role is pivotal, under Bob’s leadership, in promoting awareness of the Associations and their initiatives in advancing faith-based healthcare in the province.

Bob brings to the position a stellar senior executive career with expertise in creating a vision, building partnerships, and enhancing customer service and operational efficiency.



Robert J. Breen

The Boards look forward to working with Bob as he develops the future strategy to guide the work of the Associations.

The Boards are deeply thankful to Susan House, our retiring Executive Director, for her more than two decades of commitment and dedication to the Associations and commends her on the significant role she has played in developing both Associations and executing their missions. ✂

Peace Pen Award

Press Release

Yvonne Zarowny from Qualicum Beach, BC, has been selected by an independent panel as the recipient of the 2015 Leo Kurtenbach Award presented to a contributor to Letters to the Editor of the Prairie Messenger.

Relevant, well resourced and challenging are some of the words used to describe Zarowny’s winning letter for 2015. Her letter, titled *ISIS responding to corporate capitalism’s equally nasty war*, drew the attention of the panel as one presenting a fuller story of the ISIS crisis and what may offer potential for more peaceful solutions.



Yvonne Zarowny

Zarowny has received the third Peace Pen Award which was established honouring Leo Kurtenbach, now 96, avid reader and researcher, dedicated and influential writer for peace. ✂

Joyfully Serving the Lord

by Christa Grillmair

Milestones were reached for Eileen Little, when the St. Peter’s Council in Nanaimo honoured her 70th anniversary as a member of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada (CWL). And this year she will be celebrating her 90th birthday. This vibrant and dynamic woman has had an incredible life’s journey.

Eileen was born in England and throughout her young years had her parents as role models. She was taught by the Sisters of St. John of the Cross and was an active participant in her faith.

Life changed dramatically when war came and the air raid sirens would hustle all to seek shelter. Everyone in England had to register for national service upon reaching the age of 17, so Eileen trained as a surgical nurse. This was a traumatic experience for a young woman, as she had to deal with men who had lost one or both limbs, were burned or blinded or when they succumbed to their injuries and had to be prepared for burial.

In December 1944, she met a young Canadian who literally swept her off her feet by dancing all night. They were engaged in February and married in June of 1945. After the war was over, she, along with 45,000 other war brides, followed their husbands to Canada. The young couple settled in Beiseker, Alberta, where Eileen was invited to attend her first CWL meeting. They gave her a gift, welcomed her to Canada, asked for a one-dollar membership fee and presented her with a badge. She was 19 years old.

The family later moved to Calgary where Eileen was a CWL member at St. Joseph’s and St. Pius X, and she continued to actively organize dances, picnics and home parties, forming community and lifelong friends, swapping maternity clothes each year with whomever needed them.

In 1957, when an appeal came for homes for Hungarian refugees who were fleeing the revolution in their homeland, she and her husband, Ernie, responded. A young couple was assigned to them and they helped them find work and get settled in their new country. Eileen continued her good works for the CWL and says that the ‘50s were great years for new arrivals to our country.

After moving to Edmonton, Eileen became president of her Parish CWL Council and was later appointed to the Diocesan Council where she joined active women who were embracing the arrival of Vatican II. Asked by the Bishops to do a study of ‘Women in the Church’, Eileen took courses at Newman College and was named a member of the Canadian Bishops’ Vocation team.

The family continued to grow and also included First Nations and Eskimo foster children. They often looked after young, single expectant mothers and helped

Solidarity in action

by Yvonne Zarowny, Co-Chair Church of the Ascension Social Justice Committee

Lent is annually a time of learning, renewal, and taking reflective action so we can be vessels through which God’s Love is known in our battered world.

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis reminds us the practice of pilgrimage deepens our love and compassion towards all those denied life with dignity.

In *Laudato Si’*, the Pope calls on each of us to be compassionate change agents in order to stop the destruction of ourselves and our common home. He also reminds us “all is interconnected,” that environmental devastation generates human suffering which destabilizes societies and this can trigger armed conflict which in turn increases the environmental devastation ... and deeper into the chasm we go.



Katrina Laquian

Syria is an example of how everything is interrelated. There was an extended drought in Syria beginning in 2006; by 2008, when Syria asked for assistance, there were over one million internally displaced Syrians. This is in addition to the 1.5 million Iraqis escaping the increasing chaos following the 2003 invasion and occupation of their country. The international response to the 2008 Syrian plea for assistance was inadequate. By 2011 there were over five million internally displaced Syrians, plus an increasing number of Iraqis.

On Friday February 12, 2016, Katrina Laquian, the BC/Yukon Animator for Development and Peace, provided a brief overview of the variety of projects enabled in this troubled region through Share Lent and Emergency Assistance donations. These include community building projects such as those where people are trained in conflict resolution; and the creation of child-friendly spaces.

Fr. Karam Alraban shared some of his personal experiences. He also outlined some of the ways in which his former parishioners were assisted through our Caritas Canada partners—such as having their medical bills for chronic illness paid.

Katrina stressed the need for social solutions to social problems. Through your donations to Share Lent you have assisted in laying the ground work for birthing a new Creation. ✂



them throughout pregnancy and delivery. In 1970, she was awarded ‘Mother of the Year’ and was honored to ride a convertible in the Klondike Days parade; especially proud when her parents came from England to watch them ride by.

In 1977, the family moved to ‘the little farm in Cedar’ (BC) where she and Ernie lived until his death a few months after their 65th wedding anniversary. Eileen joined the CWL Council at St. Mary’s in Ladysmith. Now living in Nanaimo, Eileen is a member of St. Peter’s Parish, having worked on the parish council as Ecumenical chair, serving as President of the CWL and conducting leadership courses.

In the mid-eighties, Eileen organized a club for immigrant women to help them become more at home in Canada and Nanaimo. Throughout her life, Eileen has been encouraging women to leave the confining limits of their everyday surroundings and experience something new. Her life is a true example of how a young woman from another country can make such a difference. As we continue to welcome refugees to our country and neighborhood, Eileen’s life story and service to God and Canada should be an example and guideline for all of us. ✂



L to R: Agnes Geiger, Eileen Little and Christa Grillmair



Mightier than the sword

by Yvonne Piggot

“We are a small group of people from different parishes who gather at the Pastoral Centre once a month to write on behalf of those who are being persecuted because of their beliefs. We write to kings and presidents, to government ministers and diplomats, to police chiefs and other officials. We write to protest the incarceration and torture of prisoners of conscience and human rights workers. We write to draw the attention of our own politicians to unjust laws that affect our citizens and those in the Global south.” (Aideen Lydon)

The Letter Writing Group began over thirty years ago as a Fall Action of Development and Peace. Aideen Lydon was there at the beginning and she is still active. This is a very loosely structured group that sees itself as an outreach based on Gospel teaching. Non Government Organizations like Kairos Canada, Development and Peace, and Amnesty International send out ‘Urgent Actions’ with details of human rights abuses all over the world and the group—however many are able to attend that month—responds with letters of support for the victims.

The Letter Writing Group is looking to expand its membership. Join us for a two-hour session on the first Monday of every month at 9:30 AM at the Pastoral Centre, 1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street in Victoria. You will be most welcome. For more information, phone (250) 658-8654. ✂

Church of the Ascension annual baby shower

by Sandi Digras

The Parish hall at the Church of the Ascension was awash in pink and blue as the Catholic Women’s League hosted the Annual Crossroads Crisis Pregnancy Centre’s Baby Shower.

Approximately 106 people attended. There were table reservations for the Parksville Fellowship Baptist Church and St. Peter’s parish in Nanaimo. We were pleased to have folks from Knox Presbyterian Church and the Salvation Army in Port Alberni; St. Mark’s Anglican Church and St. Stephen’s United Church from Qualicum Beach; and Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Parksville. These lovely visitors brought baby gifts and donations totalling \$1,000 to assist the Centre’s Director, Kirsten Emmanuel, and her staff in their amazing work with mothers and fathers who are in stressful circumstances.

Anne Byrne, coordinator of the event, assembled a wonderful group of Kitchen Angels to prepare a delicious lunch while I was lucky enough to have a great team of decorators that worked their magic on the hall. Lovely baby-themed centrepieces were created by ladies from Port Alberni. As Emcee and game animator, I invited the ladies to pit their wits with fun quizzes and guessing games.

Our guest speakers, Kirsten Emmanuel and Elizabeth Nickels, shared their stories of grandmothers trying to assist young mothers during pregnancy and delivery; a father left to care for four children under the age of five, including a newborn; and mothers who thought they wanted to abort until they felt the hand of God—and were then happy to welcome their children.

Crossroads helped over 260 babies in 2015 and anticipates even more demand in 2016. The donations offered and gifts “go a long way to helping our clients to have a head start in their lives.”

This event was begun forty years ago when a parishioner named Elaine Vanderbyl saw the need to help unwed mothers and their babies. Elaine gathered a group of Catholic Women’s League members, and started what is now a much bigger event. Sadly, Elaine passed away in late 2015; her family assembled at Church of the Ascension to pay tribute at her funeral to her many contributions. It was our pleasure to acknowledge her at this year’s shower. Her niece and nephew-in-law, Cheryl and Dave McDougall commented:

“Our family is honoured that you are recognizing Auntie Elaine’s vision, drive and commitment. She talked about how the Pregnancy Crisis Centre was growing and was very proud to be a part of supporting women.”

Our President Nancy Horsfield summed it up when she thanked everyone for attending and said “this is what the Catholic Women’s League is about: fellowship, love and helping the community.” ✂



Open for business!

Creating a climate of change in the Diocese of Victoria

by Christine O’Leary, current Diocesan chair, Development and Peace, Caritas Canada

2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. The Pilgrimage of the Solidarity Quilt project was initiated as a way to represent all parts of Canada in the celebration. The quilt piece for the Diocese of Victoria was created by Kathryn Boudreau; appliquéd antique priestly vestments from the archives were incorporated into a design featuring iconic symbols of the West Coast. The quilt piece then travelled on to the rest of Canada, where it will be stitched together with pieces from all the other dioceses. A celebratory ritual was presented on Ash Wednesday at St. Andrew’s Cathedral to exhibit the quilt piece and share the history of the organization.

The Share Lent campaign this year continued the Create a Climate of Change theme, facilitated in each parish by a Development and Peace representative. Resources created by Development and Peace were widely used, and it was especially good to see so many parishes had organized special presentations and hosted events. The total donation amount will not be known until later in the year.

On April 16, Bishop Gary led a retreat held at Trinity Catholic church in Nanaimo, hosted by the CWL Diocesan Council. Bishop Gary chose *Interdependence, Communion and Solidarity* in relation to *Laudato Si’* as the theme. The Pope’s Encyclical had inspired the Fall and Share Lent ‘Create A Climate of Change’ campaigns, so this theme was timely. We were asked to ponder those now familiar questions: “What kind of world do we want to leave to our children? What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?” (LS 60) As the retreat ended, we felt challenged to seek the answers to those questions.

Over the weekend of April 29 to May 1, delegates and a few Development and Peace staff met in Cache Creek, BC. This annual conference provides a welcome opportunity for council chairs from other dioceses to meet, as well as hear updates from staff on current initiatives. As we relaxed around the outdoor fire at the end of the second day gazing up at the canopy of twinkling stars above us, we felt a renewed commitment to creating a climate of change so we can build a just world. ✂



Development and Peace supporters gathered on the Legislature lawns ready for Earth Walk 2016, April 23
Photo credit Christine O’Leary

Earth Walk in Victoria

by Nancy Stuart

It was a loud, joyous group that led 300 people down Government Street on Saturday, April 23, 2016—Earth Day—for the 36th annual Walk for Peace and the Planet. Many different banners illustrated the various organizations that were walking to save the planet. Development and Peace was there with their banner ‘Create a climate of change’.

The walk started at the Legislative Buildings and ended at Centennial Square, where people were entertained with music. A few organizations had display tables and people mingled and enjoyed the atmosphere. It was an opportunity to network with other people and organizations that care about our planet and are working towards a sustainable future.

Pope Francis has called us to care for creation in his Encyclical *Laudato Si’*. Development and Peace will continue to bring this message to our Canadian citizens and our local, provincial and federal politicians. ✂



Guided by the spirit

by Christa Grillmair

More than 100 women gathered in Courtenay at the beginning of May for the 88th Annual Diocese of Victoria Convention of the Catholic Women's League (CWL). The theme of the convention was 'Guided by the Spirit', and from the opening Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Mel Bayron, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, to the closing Mass by Most Reverend Gary Gordon, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, the Spirit was very much the guide throughout the convention.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Margaret Keresztesi who shared her 40+ years as a physician on end-of-life care and the need for increased palliative and hospice care in light of Bill C-14 (Medical Aid in Dying). Evelyn Rigby, BC and Yukon Provincial Council President-Elect, challenged the attendees to step out in faith to offer their leadership. And, focusing on the Corporal Works of Mercy: visiting the imprisoned, Bishop Gary Gordon, demonstrated how a restorative justice program would be a more holistic approach where the person, family and community are included in the rehabilitation program, as compared to traditional criminal justice that deals with law and punishment. Special guests included Vera and Liz Little from Ahousaht.

At the closing Mass, Agnes Geiger was honored with Life Membership in the CWL and the new executive was installed: President Maureen Ingram, Past-President Blanca Stead, President-Elect and Organization Christa Grillmair, 1st Vice President and Treasurer Laurel Phyll, 2nd Vice President and Christian Family Life Bertha Landrie, Secretary Daisy Mah and Spiritual Development Pat Carew. Standing committee members are: Community Life, Tina Hanlon; Resolutions, Margaret Beardon; Legislation, Linda Foucault; Health and Education, Pat Darling; and Communications, Sandi Digras. ✂



Agnes Geiger receiving her Life Membership pin from Bishop Gary Gordon. Onlooking is Blanca Stead, Past-President, Victoria Diocesan Council

Hats, heels and high tea

by Christa Grillmair

Over 150 ladies, dressed in their finest afternoon attire, enjoyed an afternoon of sisterhood and fun at St. Peter's CWL second annual *Hats & Heels High Tea* held on April 23. The event was a huge success, exceeding all expectations in both attendance and money raised to fund the CWL Council's local and international charities. ✂



Spring fashion show

by Sandi Digras

The Catholic Women's League of the Church of the Ascension hosted a Black-and-White Mother's Day Spring Fashion Event on Thursday, May 5, 2016. From the polka dot table runners to the prizes all wrapped in black and white, the 2016 Mother's Day show was an elegant affair. Members of the Executive from St. Peter's Council and Evelyn Rigby, incoming President of the Provincial CWL, were there to help support this wonderful Fashion Event. Over 127 guests were escorted and served by tuxedo-clad members of the Knights of Columbus.

As Coordinator of the event and Emcee I was thrilled with the response and am so thankful for Sandy Herle, the owner of *Close to You* clothing store in Parksville whose beautiful fashions made this event such a special event. President Nancy Horsfield commented, "We were so pleased with the success of this year's event which raised over \$3,000 for two local charities: The Oceanside Hospice and Haven House." ✂



Provincial CWL delegates present their resolutions to the government in Victoria, May 2016: MLAs (back row) Marc Dalton (Maple Ridge-Mission), Ralph Sultan (West Vancouver-Capilano), John Yap (Richmond-Steveston), Jane Thornthwaite (North Vancouver-Seymour), Linda Reimer (Port Moody-Coquitlam), Donna Barnett (Cariboo-Chilcotin), Don McRae (Comox Valley), Richard Lee (Burnaby North) Simon Gibson (Abbotsford-Mission), Linda Larson (Boundary Similkameen) Marvin Hunt (Surrey Panorama). Missing from the photo John Martin (Chilliwack).

Resolution Committee (front row) Legislation chairperson, Gisela Montague, Provincial president-elect, Evelyn Rigby, Resolutions chairperson, Dianne Barker, Education and Health chairperson, Agnes Geiger



Employment with Island Catholic Schools

There is a need for relief Educational Assistants as well as Early Learning and Before and After School workers required within Island Catholic Schools.

Preference will be given to candidates with the following qualifications:

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

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

FX CONNECTORS LTD.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE
FOREIGN CASH AVAILABLE

www.currencywholesale.com

Member CFEDA

106-1208 Wharf St., Victoria 250-380-7888



Solicitude, not solitude

by Maria Campos

Mercy for myself. This phrase may sound selfish. Nonetheless, I believe it's one of the cornerstones for us to celebrate this Year of Mercy. I guess we can start off our merciful thoughts and actions with ourselves, forgiving ourselves for the wrong decisions we have made or the not-so-right things we did. I believe that if we had known better at that time, or if we could have had the wisdom that aging offers, we could have acted differently. But, today is not the past. The past is history, and we certainly know that we cannot change it. Wisdom is the ability to learn from the past. That is the value of our past: a life lesson.

☺ Pope Francis has invited us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but how am I supposed to believe that God forgives me if I can't forgive myself?

I remember my childhood and teenage days with happiness surrounded by my parents, noisy siblings and a huge extended family. There was always a dinner or party to attend including birthdays, celebration of a Saint's Day, First Communion, Mother's and Father's Day. Any event was an excuse for a family reunion. In those early years, when we were surrounded by many people, we were not necessarily taking time to consider other peoples' feelings. We just kept living in our small happy world. This was excused because, after all, we had the privilege of being a child or a young person. But as parents or grandparents, our words and actions have taken a different role. These actions may have been the reason for many to live in a silent solitude. But mercy today asks us to change solitude to solicitude; to go out and care for others. It's never wrong to say *I'm sorry*.

Pope Francis has invited us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but how am I supposed to believe that God forgives me if I can't forgive myself? Well, we can start by asking Our Lord to make room in our hearts, so that by having a little piece of God's love in our hearts, we can make room for our own forgiveness. Do you remember these words: "Ask, and you shall receive?"

Now is our present time—time to throw off of our backs those pebbles or big rocks that we have been carrying for so long and not look at our solitude, but act with solicitude. Today is the time to start a happy future. This will certainly give us a happy earthly life and take us back home to heaven. ✂

Celebrating 100 years of service on Vancouver Island

by Colin Tessier

These are very exciting times for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island. On September 27, 2016, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Society on Vancouver Island. Not only does this provide us an opportunity to look back with wonder at all that has been accomplished through the service of our members, but it is also a time celebrate our current progress, and look forward with excitement toward the future. Countless men and women have sacrificed their time, energy, and resources in service to this community, and have helped to improve the lives of thousands of people who were in need. We continue to strive toward our mission to serve Christ in the suffering, the poor and the marginalized by bringing them love, respect, aid and development, hope and joy, in a more just society.

As part of our celebration month, the Society will be hosting two events in September for our members, partners, donors, and all other supporters.

Centennial Retreat

Coming together as family, we renew our spirit of service.

Come to Bethlehem Retreat Centre, situated on lovely Westwood Lake in Nanaimo to remember the past, celebrate the present and welcome the future. This will be a time to reflect on how the Society has been blessed, to pray for a deepening of our spirit of service and respond to our personal call to holiness.

The retreat takes place from September 10 – 11, and there is an early bird special available until June 30. Our retreat directors are Fr. John Brioux and Fr. Jim Bekkema. For more information on this event and for details to sign up please contact mmacintyre@svdpvictoria.com.

Centennial Dinner

At the centennial dinner we will celebrate and highlight the society's rich history, and look toward the exciting future that lies ahead. In addition to cocktails, dinner and a tremendous ocean view, there will be several other aspects to make the evening special. We will have a local celebrity acting as our Master of Ceremonies who will guide us through the evening as well as several guest speakers throughout the program. We are reaching deep into our archives and will share incredible pieces of our history that will be on display, and shared through a video that details our past, present and vision for the future. Finally, we will hold a silent auction that will include some tremendous items, and the evening will culminate in a fun live auction for a few special prizes.

The centennial dinner will take place the evening of September 27, 2016 at the Beautiful Naden Wardroom. Tickets for this event are limited. For more information on this event please contact ctessier@svdpvictoria.com.

For more information or to donate please contact SVDP at 250-727-0007 or go to the website: www.svdpvictoria.com. ✂

A mission of mercy and compassion

by the Diocesan Health Care Committee

The Diocesan Health Care Committee (DHCC) was formed in 2007 to serve in a consultative capacity on current healthcare and ethical issues, needs and concerns. The committee is composed of women and men with diverse backgrounds, experience in the ministry of caring for the sick and the elderly, and who represent all regions of the Diocese of Victoria.

Bishop Gary Gordon, Moira King (Chair), Fr. Alfredo Monacelli (Bishop's representative to Catholic Health Care), Gerry Herkel, Michael Pontus, Marilyn Klizs, Dana Mellis, Marian Lord, Patricia Gunton, Mary McGovern and Derek Pinto meet approximately every three months. Various parishes within the Diocese host the meetings.

The Vision and Mission Statements recently adopted for our Committee are:

Vision

A Diocese where the healing ministry of Jesus Christ is an integral, vibrant, and evident part of each parish and parishioner's expression of the Catholic Faith.

Mission

The Diocesan Health Care Committee is an advisory council to the Bishop, fostering and supporting pastoral care to our pastors and parishes. Its role includes:

- education about current healthcare and ethical issues;
- promotion of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ; and,
- help in strengthening pastoral healthcare ministry in our parishes.

The overarching vision relates to two pillars:

Pillar 1: Leadership and direction in health training and learning

The committee creates initiatives designed to address health concerns and assist with implementation. Presentations are offered covering such topics as biblical, theological and ethical perspectives on healthcare issues like Fr. Mark Miller's 2015 and Dr. Moira McQueen's 2016 presentations regarding End of Life and Palliative Care topics. These talks were very current given the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn the law prohibiting physician-assisted suicide.

Another initiative is the Pastoral Care Outreach Training Program, designed to assist parishioners involved in hospital, homebound, extended care and bereavement ministries.

Pillar 2: To provide a robust healing ministry in our parishes

The Diocesan Health Care Committee, under the guidance of the Bishop, also seeks out greater ways to assist Pastors and Parish Pastoral Council members with the pastoral healthcare ministry within parishes to share in the mission of Jesus Christ. This involves connections with agencies such as Island Health, and other Catholic, Christian and Interfaith Health Care Institutions and Associations.

Should you require more information about the Diocesan Health Care Committee, please contact Moira King, Chair, via email at moiraking@shaw.ca. ✂

The completion of life's faith journey

by Sandi Digras

At the April Catholic Women's League meeting, Gerry Herkel gave a presentation on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide at the Church of the Ascension. His presentation was most timely as this was the day the federal government introduced its Assisted Dying Bill.

In his talk, Gerry presented the teaching of the Catholic Church on end-of-life care, society's expectations around medical technology, and some of the main reasons why people request euthanasia or physician assisted suicide. Pain management, nutrition and hydration, and palliative and hospice care were also discussed. In addition, he commented on what has and is happening in Belgium and the Netherlands since introducing laws allowing physician assisted suicide and euthanasia.

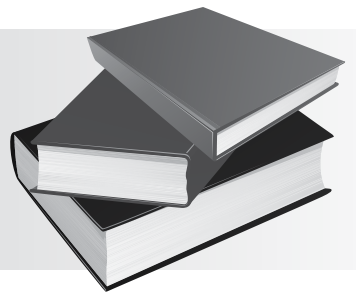
Gerry concluded his presentation by noting that a good death is still possible today without resorting to euthanasia and/or physician-assisted suicide, and that death is the completion of life in our journey of faith, love, and family. ✂



L to R: Gerry Herkel and Ascension CWL President Nancy Horsfield



Island Catholic Schools



Proclaim Jesus with loving hearts

by Beverly Pulyk, Superintendent, Island Catholic Schools

Catholic school leaders from across the province gathered in mid-April to reflect on what it means to *Proclaim Jesus with Loving Hearts*. Leah Perrault, who is the Executive Lead of Governance Advancement for Emmanuel Care (Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan), challenged approximately 40 administrators, school pastors and board members in their roles as leaders and more importantly as Catholics.

“We are Christ’s disciples—are we stuck in the Upper Room, or are we out there living the mission he has called us to?”

In the first session, *When Jesus is Just a J-Word*, Leah guided participants through three stages of Christian History. From the Early Church (0-312) to Cultural Christianity (312-1960s) to Missionary Disciples (1960s on), we have seen the Church grow from a small group of disciples to a strong institutional church to a struggling and what some might say a crumbling church, in a society where the name of Jesus is just a name. If so, what does that mean for Catholic school leaders—or for that matter, any Catholic?

Leah asked us to reflect on the following. *Are we, as disciples, stuck in the Upper Room, mourning the loss of the Church of yesterday?* We need to get out of the Upper Room and be Christ’s disciples in the world today as it is. We must recognize that as disciples we are called to: *evangelize*—to introduce people to this person named Jesus; to facilitate encounters with Jesus; *share*—to share the wisdom of the disciples who have come before us; and, *educate*—to teach others about our faith.

As disciples we must keep in mind the five stages of conversion (trust, spiritual curiosity, spiritual openness, spiritual seeking, and intentional discipleship). Without trust as the starting point, the rest remains futile.

In the second session, *Turns Out I Need Some Practice*, Leah spoke about the essential elements of Christian Spirituality (prayer and morality, social justice, involvement and belonging to a church community, and celebration/friendship/joy/gratitude) and then posed some questions: What are your spiritual practices? Are they healthy practices? How do you shake off the dust from your feet? How are you living spiritually? What does it mean to live spiritually? How are you practising your faith? Do you share your energy with others? Is it positive or negative energy?

As busy as we all may be, looking inward about our spiritual practice is essential. We cannot give what we do not have.

Mercy Could Be My Middle Name, the third session, focused on the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy. During this session, we were reminded that we: cannot offer mercy from a position of power; we must be a ‘guide’, not an ‘owner’; must be vulnerable with others in order to be merciful; must be broken with the broken and not afraid to show our brokenness; and, must receive mercy as much as we give mercy.

During the last session, *Preach Jesus Like Jesus*, Leah reminded us of the importance of story and presence. Jesus preached through story, so we, too, are called to share our stories. Jesus was present to others, so we, too, need to show up and be present with others. Leah again provided questions that caused us to think about living our lives as Catholics and Catholic school leaders: What bible passage, character or situation resonates so deeply that is also my story? What stories might I share and what is the point of the story? How do I make time and space for others in my life? Am I Christ for others? Am I willing to walk into the crosses of my life?

As people of the Diocese, I invite you to take time to think and reflect on the information presented. We are Christ’s disciples—are we stuck in the Upper Room, or are we out there living the mission he has called us to? ✠

Making the abstract, concrete

by Simon Di Castri, Principal, St. Joseph’s, Victoria

Once again we approach the end of another school year, and it’s time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going as a school and a community.

It has been a busy year at St. Joseph’s, with students pursuing their studies on and off campus. We have made it a goal that all classes participate in off-campus learning whenever the opportunity presents itself, and there have been many such opportunities this school year. We are fortunate here in Victoria to have so many great facilities that relate to and extend learning.

One such facility is the Swan Lake sanctuary, which provides fantastic extension learning in various scientific areas: ecology, biology, chemistry, mammals, insects, amphibians, reptiles, microscopes, and so on. Students from kindergarten to grade 7 have benefited from programs offered at Swan Lake, and their learning becomes experiential through hands-on participation—abstract learning translated into concrete terms.

The University of Victoria (UVic) is another great community resource that we are able to tap into for extending student learning. They have provided us with a digital weather station and we are fortunate to have parents at UVic who gave presentations relating to the use and interpretation of the online data collected from the weather station. We also have had people from the Science Venture Program who helped with hands-on experiments examining the properties of air, water, and soil. Scientists in Schools, from Science World, presented a talk on trees and soils to grade 2 students.

Victoria also provides many natural environments where students can see and learn about the environment and ecosystem of our surrounding regions. Goldstream Park is an excellent place to learn about the lifecycle of salmon and eagles, or to study the ecology of estuaries. Galey Farms, Oldfield Orchard, and Welland Orchard offer students more opportunities to explore ecology and the environment, and actively consider such things as invasive species, growing seasons and harvesting, and local food production. Our grade 5 students participated in a ‘Learn to Fish’ Program that introduces youngsters to the art of fishing, exposing them to one of the fundamental cultural activities of coastal First Nations and an economic driver for the province of BC as a whole.

Having the Legislature here in the Capital offers intermediate students the experience of government in action, seeing the work and the history of politics in British Columbia (messy as it may be!). Students are able to visit the Victoria Municipal Public Works Yard and explore a variety of trades and see what services can be provided to the citizens of Victoria. The IMAX Theatre and the Royal BC Museum are two other venues that provide a stimulating learning environment for students to explore history and natural wonders. For the first time for St.

Joseph’s, one of our grade 5 classes will engage with the Victoria Film Festival, exploring filmmaking and the processes involved.

This year, again for the first time, we have the Songhees Nation coming to the school to share the cultural celebration of a camas harvest and pit cook, which will involve the participation of all students in one capacity or another. This is one small way of introducing First Nations culture to our students in a manner that takes it beyond textbooks and into experience, again making the abstract concrete. In keeping with the theme of raising awareness of First Nations culture and its contribution to Canadian culture, the grade 5 class hosted a guest speaker from the Victoria Friendship Centre to extend students’ learning and understanding of First Nations culture.

Our Athletics and Phys. Ed. programs are able to make use of such excellent facilities as the PISE center for sports excellence at Camosun College’s Interurban campus, as well as the Commonwealth Pool and the Crag X climbing facility. Our Leadership Team takes learning outside of the classroom, sponsoring random acts of kindness, a RESPECT campaign, and Stations Day in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our Religion Program sponsors many events to raise funds for the marginalized here in Victoria, as well as supporting Cops for Cancer and reaching out to Haiti, the Masithuthukisani Project in South Africa, and the Compassionate Warehouse.

So, that’s where we have been this year, and there is so much more that could be included here—a dynamic Athletics Program, a first rate Choral and Band Program, Irish and Jazz dance Programs, and our Religion Program that challenges student to put their faith in action. Now, the big question is: Where are we going?

The answer to that question is that we are embarking on a new orientation to learning established by the B.C. Education Plan that is organized around personalized learning. This is a big change in education, one that shifts the teaching focus to personalized, differentiated learning in the classroom, which addresses all learners’ needs. It involves integrating new curriculums into teaching practice, with a greater focus on experiential, project-based learning and individual student choice based on their interests and preferences. Implementation of the new BC Education Plan will be several years in duration, and will require ongoing adjustments based on the particular students in each class. It is an exciting and challenging time in education, one we embrace with enthusiasm!

We have a great school here at St. Joseph’s Victoria, and the education students receive here is broad, capitalizing on the many opportunities presented by our natural environment and the various facilities, institutions, and venues available to us in Victoria. It is a privilege to educate our children in the light of Faith, in this fabulous city in which we live! ✠



Thriving in the Alberni Valley

by Gordon Higginson, Principal, John Paul II, Port Alberni

John Paul II school in Port Alberni has had a wonderful 10th Anniversary year and we're looking forward to our eleventh! We sent our roving reporters Michael K-J and Curtis G out onto the playground in early May to ask John Paul II students some of their favourite things about this past school year.

Many of the students raved about great field trips that the school participated in throughout the year, which included trips to our local pumpkin patch, to the local salmon hatchery, to a house under construction—which gave our grades 4 – 7 students a chance to see math in the real world—to the Alberni Valley Fall Fair, and to the Horne Lake Caves. Many of the grade 6/7 students indicated that they were eagerly anticipating their trip to Camp Qwanoes in Crofton in early June. When students were asked their favourite things about JPII, Michael and Curtis heard over and over from students that 'friends' and 'really nice people' were their favourites.

It was with heavy hearts and great sadness that we said farewell to one of our JPII Heroes who passed away in April, Mr. Joseph Dol. Joe was very much the heart and soul of our school family. We are forever grateful for Joe's commitment and unquestionable love for the children, students, staff and school.

We are anticipating another great year in 2016 – 2017. We have had strong enrolment this spring, especially in Kindergarten, and anticipate starting the school year with over 135 students in September. This spring we have been putting together the foundational pieces for a number of new initiatives next year, including investment in resources for a Sensory Room to augment our Special Education programming, the purchase of a wrestling mat from the local wrestling club in anticipation of starting our own wrestling team next fall, and continued enhancement to our fencing and gate systems to improve the security of our grounds.

John Paul II continues to be a spirited little school that is growing and thriving in the Alberni Valley. We are very grateful for the support of our parish priest, Fr. Stephen Paine, our local parish, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League (CWL), and many volunteers who make it possible for us to continue to provide Catholic education here. We would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus and CWL from the Church of the Ascension in Parksville for generous donations this year and their continued encouragement and prayer. ✠



Mr. Joseph Dol

Hands-on learning in Chemainus

by Bern Muller, Principal, St. Joseph's, Chemainus

Students from St. Joseph's School in Chemainus recently had the opportunity to learn about traditional and medicinal plant uses in our local ecosystem. On April 25, Chief Joan Brown welcomed our children to visit the community of the Penelakut people. Mrs. Karen Charlie graciously guided us around Penelakut Island while explaining the importance of ecological stewardship. She described how cedar bark was traditionally used for clothing and other textiles, and demonstrated how the bark is harvested in the spring. She also pointed out many indigenous plants, and described their traditional and therapeutic uses.

On April 27, Chief James Thomas welcomed our entire school to the Halalt First Nation to take a guided walk by the Chemainus River. Under the supervision of Chief James and other members of the community, our students planted cedar trees and released salmon fry into the river. They were also given a hands-on opportunity to view some of the insects that play an important role in the river ecosystem. Christie Thomas guided students through the forest to identify plants that have supported local people for untold generations.

We are very grateful to our neighbors for the opportunity to visit and to learn more about the natural world around us. *Huy ch q'a* (thank you) for a wonderful experience! ✠



Seismic preparedness project nears completion

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

The emergency management planning guide for schools, issued by the BC Ministry of Education, identifies key responses that can be appropriately implemented in the event of an earthquake. *Drop-Cover-Hold On* is the recommended immediate response. This may be followed by a second response, such as shelter-in-place or evacuation.

St. Patrick's School, with the support and guidance of the Diocese of Victoria, developed a three-phase plan to respond to the provincial emergency earthquake emergency recommendations.

The first phase was the installation of the early warning system. Sensors buried two meters underground on the school property can detect p-waves—the initial jolt of an impending earthquake. The sensor activity is monitored by UBC's Earthquake Engineering research facility in Vancouver and specialized sirens in the school may sound. The St. Patrick's sensors proved their worth in providing the initial warning of a 4.7 magnitude trembler on December 29, 2015.

If the sirens warn of an earthquake, the response is for everyone in the school to *drop, cover* and *hold on*, and may be followed by sheltering in place. This response generated concern over the need to provide protection in a multi-storied wing of the school and the purchase of earthquake-proof desks from LifeGuard Structures. The desk is virtually stronger than its surroundings and designed to house two people and emergency supplies. St. Patrick's School is the only one in the world with this technology.

Everyone was very excited to return this past March from Spring Break to scaffolds, fences and the Durwest Construction team hard at work on the seismic safety plan approved and financed by the Diocese of Victoria. Most of the work is being done on the internal support system of the gymnasium and multi-storied intermediate wing. The project is progressing well and is on schedule. For detailed information on the project visit: www.stpatrickselem.ca/media/user/docs/Seismic_Plan.pdf.

Staff and students are looking forward to returning to a state-of-the-art earthquake prepared facility in this coming September. This would not be feasible without the vision and commitment of parents and the Diocese. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make St. Patrick's a safer place to be. ✠



Seismic upgrade work in progress at St. Patrick's school in Victoria



St. Joseph's Chemainus students enjoy hands-on learning opportunities on Penelakut Island and by the Chemainus River





2016 Bishop's Gala

\$52,000 for West Coast missions!

by Connie Dunwoody

It was a night of faith, fun and fellowship at the First Annual Bishop's Gala, held on April 30, 2016. From the moment the doors opened to welcome guests to the final chord from Maureen Washington's outstanding ensemble, Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall was abuzz with excitement and enthusiasm.

The purpose of the Gala was to raise funds to enable the Diocese to respond to the need and invitation of the Ahousaht First Nation: proceeds from this year's Gala will help fund the ministry of two Religious of the Virgin Mary to accompany the community on its journey of faith.

Parishioners and friends from across the Diocese of Victoria gathered in the beautifully decorated hall, renewing friendships and forming new ones. The Silent Auction was humming with activity as the dulcet tones of award-winning local musician Maureen Washington serenaded those gathered to celebrate. Island Catering Services provided an excellent champagne cocktail reception, moving easily and unobtrusively among the guests, followed by a delicious, served dinner.

Emcees Brent and Elizabeth Boyd kept the evening moving along and the crowd entertained. Bishop Gary Gordon spoke passionately about his vision for missions in the Diocese: mission as accompaniment; mission to our own peripheries; and mission beyond our own borders; Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM talked of her own experience with First Nations ministry at St. Ann's parish in Duncan, and her hopes for Ahousaht; and Catholic Student's Association President Sarah Kopriva shared with us her experience ministering in practical hands-on ways in the community of Ahousaht.

After dinner, bidding was fierce for the 'Fish with the Bish' two-day fishing trip with Bishop Gary; the 'Italian Dinner for Eight' to be cooked by Fr. Alfredo Monacelli; and beautiful First Nations art donated by Dave Frank of Ahousaht.

The Gala Organizing Committee is pleased to report that, after expenses, you helped us raise more than \$52,000 to further this important ministry. Our deep thanks go out to all those who made this evening possible; gold, silver and bronze sponsors Jawl & Bundon, Durwest Construction, KPMG and Capri insurance; all who donated to the Live and Silent Auctions, and all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this event a tremendous success. We are more grateful for your generosity than our hearts can express.

And we're already excited about next year! Remember to Save the Date for the next Bishop's Gala: May 6, 2017! ✕



The beautifully



Award-winning jazz musician Maureen Washington



The Gala Organizing Committee



L to R: Dave Frank, Ahousaht First Nation and Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM



L to R: Sheila Quinn, Bishop Gary Gordon, Bob Deslippe



L to R: Lisa Little and Vera Little, representing the Ahousaht First Nation, express their thanks

Bishop's Gala



Photos courtesy Connie Dunwoody and Keith MacKenzie



decorated hall



Bishop Gary Gordon



Brent and Elizabeth Boyd, Emcees



Sr. Vinda Ochoa RVM



One of the Silent Auction tables



Catholic Student's Association President Sarah Kopriva



Beautiful First Nations artwork crafted and donated by Dave Frank being auctioned



'Chef' Fr. Alfredo Monacelli





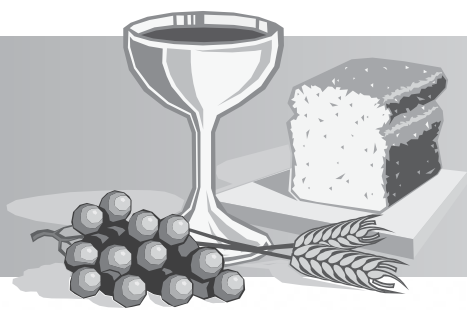
CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CLASS OF 2016

Nathanial Anderson
Omar Ballis
Laura Barlee-Morris
Mateo Bernaldez
Kimraj Bhandal
Makkyla Brual
Julie Bull
Russell Burke
Hugh Camilleri
Diego Casados Chouza
Can Cheng
Ka Fu Chong
Kwasun Cook-Thomas
Lauren Cooley
Audrei Marielle Dillera
Jaime Gallegos Dupuis
Anmol Gill
Natasha Goodfellow
Sabrina Goodfellow
Camila Grove
Hope Haladik

Allysa Hawes
Mayra Hernandez Grajeda
Justin Howe
Olivia Imlach
Yongwook Jang
Peter Jenkins
Liam Johnston
Myles Kitson
Jacob Laird
Tianpeng Lan
Emily Lapinski
Adam Lavoie
Kaylyn Lehmann
Ziqi Liu
Junsheng Luo
Shuyang Luo
Matthew Mah
Nicholas Mateyko
Declan McIntosh
Jacob Moreau
Monica Nguyen

Joei Oliveros
Tanvir Parhar
Bo Peng
Timea Peterson
Jonathan Pomponio
Katica Rados
Carlos Real
Emily Saville
Cameron Sawyer
John Seale
Justin Stewart
Senay Tedla
Benjamin Vincent
Georgia Wagner
Georgia Winstanley
Alexander Woo
Minjia Xu
Jamie Yousief
Bangle Zhang
Peng Zhang

Vocations



by Anela Nicholson

This vocation of marriage article comes from the faithful and creative heart of our youngest member of the Vocations Team, 16-year-old Anela Nicholson from Trinity Parish, Nanaimo. ~ Fr. Dean Henderson

Have you ever taken a moment to think about your future spouse? If so, maybe you considered what they will look like, and the qualities you hope they possess. Or, maybe you haven't dared to look that far into the future. Perhaps we are so unsure of where God's plan for our lives will take us that we become wary of having any expectations for fear that they won't be met. Especially where dating is concerned, we may take things one step at a time because dating can sometimes seem like an endless journey of disappointment and heartbreak. Even if we might know the qualities we want in a partner, finding someone who fits those standards might feel impossible. At times like these, it's vital that we keep in mind that marriage is a special vocation that God calls certain people to. Not everyone is called to be a husband or wife, but if God is truly calling you to the vocation of married life, you can be assured that the man or woman of your dreams is out there.

If you haven't ever considered your future husband or wife, there's no better time to start than the present. God knows you better than you know yourself, so He's already found the perfect person for you, if marriage is your vocation. You and your future partner will truly be 'a match made in Heaven.'

One thing that you can do to prepare for meeting your special someone is to pray for them daily, even though you may not have met. Pray that they might be open to what God has planned for their life, pray for your future relationship, and pray that they may be patient in waiting to find you.

Something else that you can do, as strange as it may seem at first, is to write your future husband or wife a letter. In doing so, you can really start to visualize God's plan for your life. You'll be able to see more clearly that God has chosen a person especially for you, and you'll find yourself feeling empowered, excited, and joyful as you come to this realization and begin to anticipate seeing God's plan for your life fulfilled.

One other important thing that will happen as you write this letter is that you'll need to think about the qualities that you're looking for in a partner. Everyone has their 'list' of things that they require in a partner, and it might include everything from personality to whether or not they can be completely open with someone,

without feeling judged or humiliated. If you're dating someone at the moment, you probably already have your list of priorities and qualities at least in semi-order, since you'll probably have tested this person to see if you want to pursue a relationship with them.

“Even if you haven't met your future spouse yet, don't lose hope! If this is the path God wants your life to take, it will unfold perfectly, with His perfect timing. God has a plan for you, and you alone. He loves you more than you could ever imagine, so put your trust wholly in Him, sit back, and enjoy the ride!

So, once you have this 'list', how do you actually go about writing this letter? Well, the first thing you could do is introduce yourself. Talk about your interests, and what's going on in your life at the moment. Let your words flow easily, and speak in a warm, conversational manner. Ask your future spouse about their life and how they're doing. Tell them that you're praying for them, and ask them to do the same. Express how thankful you are for them, and how excited you are to meet them someday soon. Finally, you might want to tell them the qualities that you're looking for, and the values that are important to you. What are you willing to do for them? What are you looking forward to?

Even if you haven't met your future spouse yet, don't lose hope! If this is the path God wants your life to take, it will unfold perfectly, with His perfect timing. At this point, your job is to be open to whatever opportunities may be presented from above, and pray. When you do meet the person you're destined to be with, you'll still need to discern if this is your true soul mate, and prayer will be the invaluable tool to accompany you through this journey.

God has a plan for you, and you alone. He loves you more than you could ever imagine, so put your trust wholly in Him, sit back, and enjoy the ride! ✠

For THIS reason a MAN

shall leave his FATHER and his MOTHER,
and be joined to his WIFE; and

they shall become ONE FLESH.

~ Genesis 2:24



Bishop Gary Gordon

is pleased to announce

the ordination to the Order of Deacon of

Mr. Michael Tinh Tran

Friday, July 8, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Christ the King Parish, Courtenay

A reception in the parish hall will follow

All are welcome





Face the Day

by Bonnie Landry



Pentecost is upon us. What does that even mean? Well, Pentecost is the feast of the universal Church at which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles 50 days after the Resurrection of Christ. We call Pentecost the ‘Birthday of the Church’, because the Apostles were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit to effectively and fruitfully begin their mission to preach to all the nations.

When we seek God, and open ourselves to sanctifying grace, we grow in faith and become apostles of the mission too.

But as Pentecost draws near, so too does the end of the ‘Confirmation Season’. Most of us, in one capacity or another, have had the pleasure of attending a Mass over the last couple of months celebrated by our Bishop,—with nervous and excited children, proud parents and grandparents, and delighted parishioners—all there as witnesses in support of the newly strengthened in Christ, through the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

It’s pause for reflection, don’t you think? What were those gifts again? Do I have them? And more importantly . . . Am I using them?

Wisdom—the perfection of faith, to understand the truths of the faith more perfectly, to desire the things of God.

Understanding—moving beyond desire of Wisdom to certitude, so that we may order our thoughts and actions in the world with our Lord’s will.

Counsel—building on Wisdom and Understanding so that we know intuitively how to act.

Fortitude—moral courage that allows us to transcend suffering and to be bold in doing what is right.

Knowledge—also a perfection of faith, an ability to discern the will of God from our own will or the temptations of the world.

Piety—the willingness to serve God and worship Him with our lives.

Fear of the Lord—arising out of love, the Fear of the Lord installs in us a deep desire to not offend God, a desire to live in awe, not in fear, of our Lord who has given us life.

Please note: these are not gifts to be trifled with. They are gifts that should not be stuffed in the bottom of the closet or in the storage room of our hearts because we think they are nice and we don’t want to offend the dear old Aunt who gave them to us. These are gifts we should be wearing daily, hanging on our walls, packing in our purses and wearing on our sleeves.

These are gifts to be *used*—sought, polished, prayed for and nurtured. They should be delighted in and tenderly cared for so that they arrive well understood, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

It’s very exciting as we renew our vows with the young. Bishop Gary, of course, charms and delights his flock with his warmth and candour everywhere he goes. But not just that. He raises the bar, and calls us back to the central core of our faith. At our little Saint Francis Xavier church in Mill Bay, he shared with us these simple and profound thoughts.

All the gifts of the Holy Spirit point to the ultimate gift. The greatest gift we can receive is love. The greatest gift we can give is love.

Love is the gift. God is the gift. Every time we go outside of ourselves, with the gifts we have received, for the good of another, we share the gift of love. And we are called to share the gift of love, not in our spare time, not in our best moments, not at Easter and Christmas, but always and everywhere.

Always and Everywhere. That’s super hard.

Our generosity should mirror the generosity of our Lord.

Everything we share with another is our gift. To that person, to the Church, to humankind. Is the gift we give love, or is it resentment, anger or criticism?

What are we adding to the pool of all there is to give and receive in our little sphere? Are we using the gifts that allow us to love, express love and emulate the love of God?

Here’s a prayer, written by St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

Holy Spirit, divine Consoler, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints.
I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me.
O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favours, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the gift of holy fear, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.
Grant me the gift of piety, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.
Grant me the gift of knowledge, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.
Grant me the gift of fortitude, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.
Grant me the gift of counsel, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.
Grant me the gift of understanding, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.
Grant me the gift of wisdom, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next.
Amen ☩



AVAILABLE AT ST. CLARE VILLA

2045 Carrick Street at St. Patrick’s Parish

1 bedroom, \$209,900

1 bedroom + den suites from \$224,900

Visit www.stclarevilla.ca for more information

Or contact Tony Joe 1-800-663-2121 or tony@tonyjoe.ca

Unique Life Lease arrangement offers peace of mind with guaranteed buy-back ability.

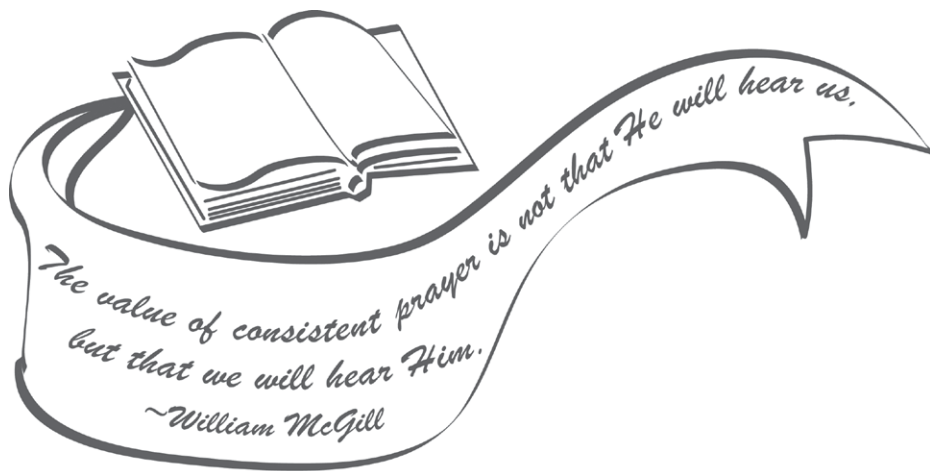


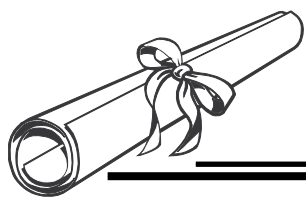
RE/MAX
Camosun

RE/MAX Camosun OAK BAY
2239 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, BC

250-370-7788

tony@tonyjoeandassociates.com





The Campus Mission



Catholic Students' Association: thriving in Victoria!

by guest columnist Sarah Kopriva, CSA President

Exams are ending, students are heading home, and summer jobs beginning—all signs that the Catholic Students' Association (CSA) is winding down for the end of term. And what a year we've had! As CSA president this year, I've been lucky enough to have seen so many exciting events and initiatives unfold, new friends arrive and old friends embark on their next adventures, and members of our community grow in faith throughout the school year. Although it is difficult to articulate the great things God has done on campus this year, one can get some idea of what we've been up to with a brief recap.

The source and summit of our faith, the Mass, is where we began. Our 4 PM student Mass was celebrated by Fr. Dean throughout the year, providing us with the Christ-centred framework for everything else. We continued our tradition of Soup & Soul after Mass—a soup dinner to provide hungry students with food and fellowship. This year, we hosted a panel on the vocation of marriage, presentations on prison ministry and social justice for the homeless in Victoria, discussions with Development and Peace, several potlucks graciously put together by the Knights of Columbus, two Coffee Houses to showcase student talent, an Advent Party, and relaxed evenings of hanging out, to list just a few. The University of Victoria (UVic) is also blessed to have daily Mass on campus almost every day during the week. When the Multifaith Chapel on campus was closed for renovations in January, Christ took us to the Senate Chambers, the Student Union Building, and to the student residences for the celebration of Mass, all places where Mass had never been celebrated before. We also had the opportunity to have a Eucharistic Procession from Holy Cross parish to UVic, with the Knights of Columbus escorting us. All these firsts reminded me of our Lord's desire to be close not only to his faithful, but also to those who have not encountered his love yet—and his ability to meet people in the strangest places, without our input, on campus.

My favourite CSA events are the retreats. In September, we set off to Pioneer Pacific Camp with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) Western Regional Director Eric Chow to talk about the Merciful Heart of God the Father. In January, with our largest group in recent years, Bishop Gary Gordon (not one to 'retreat') took us 'forward' to Christ the King Parish in Courtenay and up to Mt. Washington, where we talked about the Good Samaritan and pushed Fr. Dean into a few snowdrifts (some students were quite literally wrestling with their faith). During the term, we were also blessed to have been welcomed by the Franciscan Friary for an Advent Retreat and the Poor Clares for a Lenten Retreat. Both were days of reflection and rest in the midst of busy semesters. In addition to these four retreats, a group of

five young women and Sister Elisa of the Religious of the Virgin Mary went on a vocations road trip to Queen of Peace Monastery in Squamish to experience a weekend with the contemplative Dominican sisters, and to witness CSA alumna Bronwyn Lawrie entering the community as a postulant.

In case our weekly gatherings and the retreats weren't enough, the CSA came together on many occasions for board games, movie nights, and parties. The Newman House community opened their doors for Thanksgiving and Mardi Gras dinners, a post-Easter vigil 'Resur-rock-tion' party, and an early-morning men's Bible study. The second men's house, 'Bessatti House', hosted a Halloween party and several birthday celebrations throughout the year. At the end of this year, a women's house was established, and is preparing to host our community as they live in a prayerful community together.

During Catholic Students' Week in February, there were several opportunities for outreach including a pilgrimage with a dozen young adults walking down the busy road in the pouring rain with a processional crucifix. That was an amazing way to quietly witness to our faith for Victoria at large and to let them know that the crazy young Catholics are so in love with Christ, they will literally weather a storm for him.

Although I spent all year working hard to try to keep the CSA running smoothly, my reflections always come back to the fact that I am not the one in charge, but only an instrument. God has been so good to our community, and has never let our work fall through when we honestly seek to do His will. The fruits of these labours truly show how full of life the student community is. I am very excited to have this summer to rest and recharge before coming back for one more year as the CSA President with a wonderful, dynamic council, who I know will be working on some very exciting things next year to continue our mission of evangelization and spiritual growth.

Please keep us in your prayers as we discern our direction for the coming year, trying to direct ourselves in the direction God calls, and heading into the fray to bring the light of Christ to UVic. Pray also for the students whom we will encounter, that their hearts would be open to receive God's word and meet Him through our efforts. ✕



Eucharistic procession from the University of Victoria to St. Andrew's Cathedral



Members of the Catholic Student's Association at the year-end banquet (above and photos right)



Faith Matters



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

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
~ Deuteronomy 10: 19

This pithy verse from Deuteronomy, clearly rooted in the Old Testament yet curiously appropriate for our times, touches on a fundamental insecurity that comes with being human. We have all been strangers, whether we've been to 'Egypt' or not! We have all either experienced being 'the stranger' or that visceral feeling of having being alienated or estranged.

Whether it is a powerful memory from long ago—the shocking realization that Mom is nowhere in sight and no one around me in the crowd is at all familiar—or a more poignant picture from the present—fleeing for your life with your family in the raging night, with little more than the clothes on your back, cold, hungry, and defenceless.

While our plight as North Americans may be having to endure the 'Egypt's' of indifferent clerks, rush-hour gridlock or slow service, others—our brothers and sisters—face the brutal realities of bombings, bloodshed and the destruction of lives, homes and livelihood.

In the midst of our culture, often criticized for complacent self-interest and entitlement, an amazing groundswell of compassion and caring has occurred across this country, and in this Diocese in particular.

As soon as parishes in the Diocese of Victoria were alerted to the escalating crisis in the Middle East (this past fall) they immediately initiated support for relief efforts through fundraising, or began plans to organize refugee support committees.

In a short time, collective fundraising efforts by all of the parishes in the Diocese amounted to more than \$120,000 raised for relief, which was sent directly to: Aid to the Church in Need – Canada (ACN) 12%; the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) 22%; and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) 69%.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria also entered into a partnership with the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia operating under their Sponsorship Agreement with the Federal Government. Working closely with representatives Rev. Bruce Bryant-Scott and Rebecca Siebert from the Anglican Refugee Sponsorship Coordinating Office has given birth to a unique, mutually enriching ecumenical collaboration.

As a result, nine of our Catholic parishes, along with several smaller parishes (which have partnered with larger parishes), have formed refugee sponsorship committees. These committees are made up of willing volunteers with a wide variety of backgrounds: from banking, to law, to language translation, to healthcare professions.

A Few Highlights

The evening of April 21 saw representatives from five Victoria area parish communities gather at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for networking, information sharing and mutual support in the work of preparing for our "newcomers".

The resurrection man

by Jean Allen

In the spring, whenever I look at the world of nature, it feels like Christ is continually whispering, "I am the Resurrection." Everywhere in the natural realm of life, something is always dying, dead or being resurrected.

“To live in Christ is to be continually soaked in the process of dying and rising again.

To us, dying is frightening. It is the ultimate sign that we are not in control. We may do everything in our power to stave off dying and death, but in the end we have no control over the inevitable. The process of dying, death and resurrection is the rhythm of the universe and it's in our genetic code. If God engineered the whole world to move through this life-rhythm over and over from the beginning, there must be something phenomenally God-like about it. To God, death is not failure and death is not the end. Dying and death are transformative states; they are a necessary bridge to resurrection and to a life that is more abundant than it was before.

Our spiritual lives also encompass this natural rhythm of life. At any given point you are spiritually dying, dead or rising again. You can't avoid it. Though we all agree theoretically with the idea that we are called to die to the self in the spiritual life, we resist that dying process because when it happens and situations are out of our control, it feels more like failure. When we are ill, temporarily or chronically, when relationships crumble, when our children make unhealthy choices, when we are deeply disappointed because our plans don't work out, when life spins out

One of our smaller parishes, St. Rose of Lima (aka 'Team Sooke/Juan de Fuca'), has literally gone beyond its church doors and has earnestly engaged the greater community of Sooke garnering support in every sense of the word from: her sister church, Our Lady of Fatima, both their MP and their MLA, schools in the area, other faith communities, a local service club, a bank, and a variety of local businesses. St. Rose of Lima has extended this outreach to the virtual world, having a dedicated website for the cause as well as a Facebook page. Other parishes taking the lead with impressive plans include St. Andrew's Cathedral, Holy Cross and St. Patrick's Victoria.

Parishes outside Victoria are also fully engaged with Fr. Karam Alraban at the Church of the Ascension (Parksville) who is assisting parishes throughout the Diocese with his own experience, sharing his story and working directly to help many refugee families. He is supported by his very effective parish refugee committee.

Val Macdonald at Christ the King parish in Courtenay (whose recent involvement saw the Comox Valley settle its first Syrian family), has 25 years' experience in refugee resettlement having formerly assisted over 30 Kosovar refugees to settle in the Comox Valley.

These parishes, along with able committees at Trinity in Nanaimo (in partnership with Trinity United) and Holy Family/Notre Dame in Port Alberni, are ably supported and guided by Tony Davis, Assistant Refugee Coordinator with the Anglican Diocese. In addition to his own Anglican parishes (as well as other community refugee sponsoring groups), Tony has taken our Catholic parishes under his wing and has been an invaluable resource as a workshop presenter, and an expert guide in navigating the intricacies of government bureaucracy.

We are all sojourners in this life, strangers in a strange land—our common source is love, our constant calling is to love, and our destiny is to be in God who is Love. We all can become alienated—refugees in every sense of the word—when faced with poverty, violence, death or injustice, all of which is the antithesis of love, and, most unsettling of all, much of which is initiated by fellow humans.

So we have a choice when faced with 'the stranger'—to run in fear or to embrace, to condemn or to welcome, to not even see or to see something of ourselves. ✠

Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

~The Charter for Compassion

At the time of writing we learned that the federal government has limited the intake of refugees into Canada citing backlogs and limited resources for processing applicants. This has directly impacted one of our parishes whose refugee family reluctantly opted for settlement in Australia when faced with the current uncertainty of the Canadian system. Another letter writing campaign has started in the hopes of convincing the federal government to reverse its decision and dedicate more funds to processing refugee applications.

of our hands, we resist the dying. It feels more like something is faulty or we are guilty of gross inadequacy than it feels like clean spiritual dying.

To Christ, death, whether it's physical or spiritual, is not the end of the world or the end of anything. It is the beginning. It is not a process that is outside of him. He is the dying. He is the death. And he is the Resurrection! In his incarnation he completely embraced the whole rhythm of life to death to life and infused it with his own body and blood. He is not only the Master of the process; he *is* the process. To live in Christ is to be continually soaked in the process of dying and rising again.

Even before Jesus died on the cross and rose again, he was the Resurrection. The whole world existed within him and was dependent on the rhythmic heartbeat of his love. In Christ, dying is a High Way. There is no other way to get to the Resurrection.

Your reception of the Body and Blood in the Eucharist is an "Amen!" to being absorbed into the dying, death and resurrection process. You are saying, "My Lord—Yes!" to the universal mystery of dying, death and resurrection. To the world, dying and loss is failure but Christ came to show that dying and loss is part of a full abundant life. He saved us from the sting of dying and loss by showing us that he is death and resurrection. In his lifeblood, no pain is useless and no loss represents failure. It is all his Body and Blood.

The Word breathes into the universe, "I am the Resurrection."

We must breathe with him. ✠



Celebrating the first anniversary of Devotion to the Divine Mercy

by Delmer Samson

The Lord Jesus has promised that all who attend the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, go to Confession, and receive Holy Communion, will be granted complete forgiveness of sin and remission of all punishment. Jesus told St. Faustina, “I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy”. (*Diary* 1109)

It is this promise that a year ago, encouraged a committee of Catholic men and women in Victoria to plan the successful celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday for the first time at St. Patrick’s Church on April 12, 2015, with close to 200 devotees and parishioners. This important event was preceded by a Novena, an unveiling of a new Divine Mercy image, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Vince Borre and Fr. Alfred Alilio, St. Patrick’s parish priest, who suggested the celebration and offered the church as an ideal place to venerate the image.

The Devotion to Divine Mercy was in the hearts and minds of three Catholic men who in recent years personally felt the presence of Jesus through the Divine Mercy image, three o’clock prayers, and Chaplet songs. Remarkably they were appointed to form the newly established Divine Mercy Devotion Committee in June 2014 under Bishop Demers Assembly #3364, Knights of Columbus. The Committee’s membership has since grown and consists of brother knights, ladies and a priest who acts as their spiritual director. Their mission is to be active disciples and promoters of the Devotion to Divine Mercy in Victoria and overseas including the Philippines and in California.

The Committee leads the weekly Friday Devotion at St. Patrick’s church, Victoria at three o’clock in the afternoon in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. When requested, the Committee holds Divine Mercy prayers with the sick and their families in the hospital or in their own homes. Spreading the Devotion is fulfilled through group prayers, distribution of prayer booklets, images and rosaries, and works of mercy. In 2015, the Committee was formally recognized as one of the ministries serving St. Patrick’s parishioners and became a member of St. Patrick’s Liturgy Committee.

The first anniversary celebration of the Divine Mercy Sunday was held on April 3, 2016. It was a memorable occasion especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The announcement about this celebration focused on what Divine Mercy Sunday is, what graces are available, and how to receive them. A Novena was held starting on Good Friday, March 25, 2016, and ended Saturday, April 2, 2016, with many devotees expressing joy for having attended and prayed all nine days.

Nine Honour Guards of the Knights of Columbus served at the occasion in full regalia. Devotees and parishioners participated in the procession and witnessed the blessing and veneration of the Divine Mercy image. Sharing food and fellowship after Mass (held at St. Patrick’s in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall) was a happy occasion

that included an instant photo slideshow of the procession and the Eucharistic Celebration on that same day, as well as pictures from last year’s celebration.

Devotees of the Divine Mercy in the Philippines, especially in the town of Tubao, Province of La Union, follow and support the Committee’s works by participating in the distribution of relief goods to the poorest of the poor. Tower speakers have been erected in thirteen communities where the Chaplet in song is simultaneously played at three o’clock in the afternoon. Seniors and bedridden residents in the community join in the singing or praying of the Chaplet and seek God’s mercy.

Three Committee members regularly assist Fr. Vince Borre, Chaplain to Extended Health Care Facilities, to celebrate scheduled Masses at hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Diocese of Victoria. They introduce the Devotion to Divine Mercy and recite the Chaplet before each Mass.

The Committee is looking forward to the arrival of the live production of *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy* from Washington State on June 10, 2016. *Faustina* is based on the life and message of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), a Polish visionary whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a Devotion to Divine Mercy. The drama brings to audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for the world today. Admission is \$10. For tickets and additional information, contact the Parish Office at (250) 592-7391 or stpat190@telus.net. Watch the trailer and learn more at www.DivineMercyDrama.com. ✕



Paul Redchurch, Past State Deputy, BC/Yukon Knights of Columbus (L), presents Bishop Gary Gordon with a ‘Pennies from Heaven’ cheque from the Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$ \$14,921.11, which will be used for the ‘Returning to the Spirit’ program.

PROMOTING
Fidelity To The Teachings Of The Catholic Church
www.mary-modelofchurch.net
FREE DIRECTION TO
Authentic CATHOLIC Information
www.vatican.va - www.cccb.ca - www.ewtn.com - www.zenit.org
For More Sites Click On Link
CATHOLIC SITES

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

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 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

Mid Island Councils

- Fr. Bill Mudge Council 8874 serving Mill Bay
- Duncan Council 4253 serving Duncan, Lake Cowichan and Chemainus
- Santa Maria Council 4582 serving Ladysmith and Chemainus
- Mid Island Council 3842 serving Nanaimo and Gabriola Island
- Holy Trinity Council 9990 serving Nanaimo
- Alberni Valley Council 3435 serving the Alberni Valley
- Fr. Leonard Assembly 2785 serving Mill Bay to Ladysmith
- Captain Alexandro Malaspina Assembly 34 serving Nanaimo and the Alberni Valley

North Island Councils

- Ascension Council 7991 serving Oceanside
- Dr. Briggs Council 4597 serving the Comox Valley
- Bishop Hill Council 5468 serving Campbell River
- Monsignor Albury Assembly 2006 serving the Alberni Valley and Parksville north

For more information about the Knights of Columbus in your area please contact your parish office or visit our website at: www.kofcbc.org



Viewpoint: Pope Francis on Islam - Fr Anthony Egan SJ

I really like to see, amidst the populist appeals of many politicians to the lowest - the very lowest - common denominator in humanity, that a public figure has the courage to talk sense about religion. The figure is (I am tempted to say again) Pope Francis. The occasion: his interview with the French newspaper La Croix. And the religion is Islam, with a thoroughly appropriate dig at the excesses within Christian tradition and modern secularism as well.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30100>

Pope Francis: 'To Ignore the Poor is to Despise God'

To ignore the poor is to despise God, Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square for the General Audience today. The Lord's mercy for us is tightly connected to our own mercy for others, the Pope said, decrying the inequality and contradictions in the world today as he reflected on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30099>

US Bishops Welcome Court Opinion on Health Insurance Mandate

On Monday the US Supreme Court issued a 'per curiam' opinion in the case of *Zubik v Burwell*, in which Catholic and other religious organizations are challenging the HHS mandate requiring them to facilitate health insurance coverage of sterilization, contraception, and drugs and devices that may cause abortions. The Court unanimously vacated the decisions before it, remanding the cases to the lower courts with instructions to afford the parties the opportunity to work out an alternative approach to the mandate. In the meantime, the Court forbade the government from imposing taxes or penalties on the organizations for failure to provide the required notice and certification or otherwise to trigger the 'accommodation.'

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30093>

Call to #disagreewell in Politics

After the unedifying behaviour of one or two speakers during the election for Mayor of London, current arguments over Brexit, and Donald Trump's election campaign - there are some fairly shocking public discourses taking place on both sides of the Atlantic. Christians in Politics are trying to insert a very different message and method into the public square, with a new video appealing for everyone to get involved in politics, but to do it in a way that shows respect to those who have different views to our own.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30089>

Pope Francis: the Holy Spirit makes Jesus' teaching come to life

CNA/EWTN News

On the solemnity of Pentecost Pope Francis said the Holy Spirit, rather than giving a new message, brings Jesus' timeless teachings to life and helps us to both understand and live it throughout our lives.

"The Holy Spirit exercises a role of teaching and memory...the Holy Spirit doesn't bring a different teaching, but makes that of Jesus alive and active, so that the time that the passage of time does not erase it or make it fade," the Pope said May 15.

"He grafts this teaching into our hearts, helps us to interiorize it, making it become part of us, flesh of our flesh," the Pope continued, adding that at the same time, the Spirit "prepares the heart so that it is able to truly receive the words and example of the Lord."

Pope Francis spoke to pilgrims present in St. Peter's Square for his final Regina Coeli of the liturgical year, which he prayed after presiding over Mass for the solemnity of Pentecost inside the Basilica.

In his address, Francis told pilgrims that the day's liturgy serves as a

reminder to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit, who Jesus promised to send to his disciples and is "the first and primary gift he has obtained for us with his Resurrection and Ascension into heaven."

Jesus himself prayed for the Holy Spirit during the Last Supper when he told his disciples that "if you love me, keep my commandments; and I will pray to the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever."

These words, the Pope said, remind us that both love for God and for other people "is not demonstrated with words, but with deeds." He said that "to keep the commandments" ought to be understood in an existential sense "so that one's whole life is involved."

To be a Christian, he said, "doesn't primarily mean to belong to a certain culture or to adhere to a certain doctrine, but rather to bind one's own life, in every aspect, to the person of Jesus and, through him, to the Father."

Thanks to the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is "the love that unites the Father and the Son and who proceeds from them, all of us can live the same life as

Jesus," he said, adding that the Holy Spirit teaches us "the only essential thing: to love as God loved."

When promising the Holy Spirit, Jesus refers to him as "another Counselor," Francis observed, explaining that Jesus himself is the first.

The Spirit, then, is a Consoler, Advocate and Intercessor who "assists us, defends us, and is by our side on the path of life and in the fight for good and against evil."

Francis closed his address by turning to Mary, and asked her intercession in obtaining for all "the grace of being strongly animated by the Holy Spirit in order to bear witness to Christ with evangelic frankness and open ourselves increasingly to the fullness of his love."

After his speech, the Pope drew attention to the 90th World Missionary Day, which will be celebrated Oct. 23, 2016, and prayed that the Holy Spirit would give strength to all missionaries and support the mission of the Church throughout the world. ✠

BC/Yukon Knights of Columbus 105th State Convention

by Paul Redchurch

The weekend of April 29 – May 1, 2016, saw the representatives of BC/Yukon's 140 local councils of the BC/Yukon Knights of Columbus meet at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC for the organization's 105th State Annual General Meeting and Convention.

Under the direction of State Deputy Arcie Lim of Vancouver, delegates conducted the affairs of the organization, assessed performance and success of its various programs over the past fraternal year, and formulated goals and objectives for the coming months. Joining the conventioners and assisting them in their deliberations were State Chaplain Bishop Ken Nowakowski, Eparch of New Westminster, former State Chaplain Bishop David Monroe from the Kamloops Diocese, Bishop Steven Jensen from Prince George, Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria and Archbishop Michael Miller of Vancouver, and a number of priests.

Special guest for the weekend was keynote speaker Supreme Master of the 4th Degree Dennis Stoddard from New Haven, Connecticut. Other guests included State Deputies Eddie Parazoo (Washington) and Kerry Hennessey (Idaho), all of whom were accompanied by their respective spouse. Greetings from the Catholic

Women's League were brought to the assembly by Provincial President Mrs. Marianna Caldwell, Provincial Secretary.

In his annual report to the members State Deputy Lim said that membership in British Columbia/Yukon has reached an all-time high, passing the 11,700 mark. In 2015, BC/Yukon Knights recorded 641,647 hours of service to Church, youth, community and charitable works while donating a remarkable \$4,233,260, thereby, once again, leading all jurisdictions on a per-capita basis.

Island Councils and Knights were singled out for special mention with St. Patrick's Council 7934 (Oak Bay) member Jim Pungente being named BC/Yukon Knight of the Year for his many hours of selfless contribution to a variety of causes and institutions including parish ministries, St. Patrick's School, the Diocese of Whitehorse (with Fr. Harrison Ayre), St. Andrew's 9-10 Club and Operation Trackshoes. St. Patrick's Council was also awarded the outstanding State Youth Award for its Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch at which it served the staff and students of St. Patrick's School.

Honoured as the BC/Yukon Family of the Year was the family of Roy and Lucianna Battilana (Rebecca and

Antonio) of Saanich Peninsula Council 9703. This the second consecutive year that this recognition has been awarded to a Greater Victoria area family.

Since its founding in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut by Fr. Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has grown to more than 15,100 Councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Korea. ✠

For more information on the Knights of Columbus contact:

Greater Victoria

District Deputy Richard Grosset,
(250) 995-1491

Mid-Island

District Deputy James Loftus,
(250) 756-3934

North Island

District Deputy Peter Horsfield,
(250) 248-8869 or your local parish



by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The statements are both responses to Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Calls to Action #46 and #49 invite faith communities to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius. Call to Action #46 also invites the full adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Call to Action #48 expands on that, drawing specific attention to the right to self-determination in spiritual matters, calling for internal reform where necessary, encouraging public dialogue and actions in support of the Declaration. Like many other Christian communities, the Catholic Church has supported the TRC process, and is eager to engage with its Calls to Action.

The TRC specifically invited each religious denomination to issue a statement no later than March 31, 2016 indicating how they would implement the UN Declaration. Regarding the Doctrine of Discovery, the Justice and Peace Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has been working on a statement for over a year. Controversies about what the Doctrine of Discovery means, calls for its repudiation, and the request from some quarters for Pope Francis to revoke certain papal statements from the 15th century, invited both comment and clarification.

No, both the Vatican and the Catholic Church in various countries - including Canada - have responded very positively to the Declaration. The CCCB wrote to the Government of Canada (with other Christian churches in 2010, and directly, in 2015) urging their support of the UNDRIP when some reluctance was expressed by the government.

Well, we are mindful that the request to adhere to the UN Declaration and implement it comes out of a history that has included much suffering, the denial of legitimate rights and the exploitation of Indigenous Peoples and lands. In this instance, it also arises out of the TRC's efforts to listen deeply to the suffering and hurt that occurred in residential schools. While the residential schools were funded by the government, 60% of the schools were administered by Catholics. While many who worked in those schools sought to serve generously and carried out their duties responsibly, we have come to a deeper understanding over the past seven years about how the overwhelming legacy of these schools was disastrous for Indigenous Peoples. Children were in many instances forcibly removed from their families, and were punished for speaking their own language. There was a shocking number of instances of sexual abuse. The TRC process also detailed physical, emotional and cultural abuse. This is the context in which we are being asked to affirm the UN Declaration - above all, it is a context of having been complicit in the deeply flawed policies behind the schools.

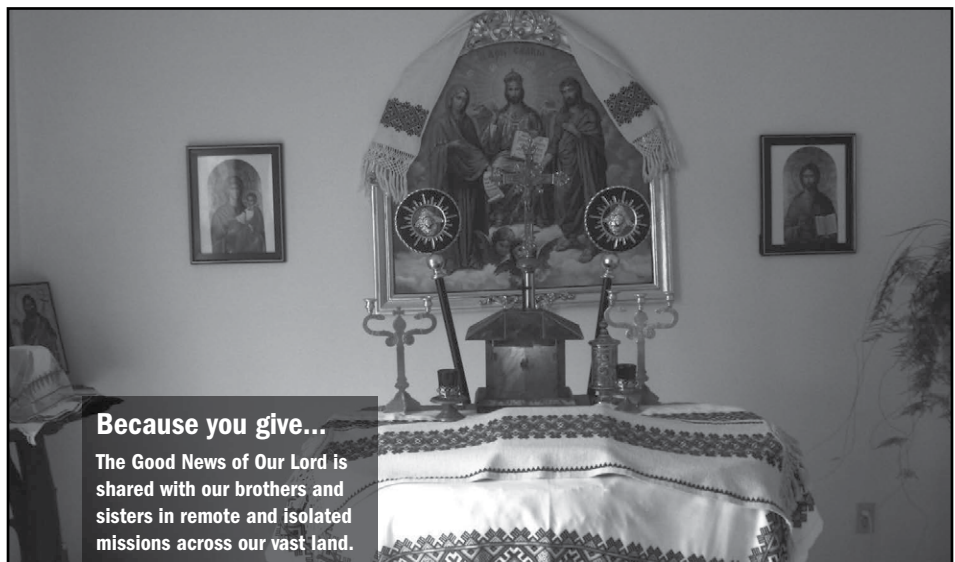
As the TRC process made very clear, many Indigenous students experienced their traditional beliefs and practices as being belittled, or worse. While Catholics uphold the right of each person to be free to make their own choices regarding religious faith and spiritual practice, we often didn't live up to our own convictions, and the experience of a lack of religious freedom is a part of that legacy of suffering. The text we're publishing today acknowledges that history and restates our commitment to work for and respect religious freedom.

The UN Declaration's recommendations and vision have the potential to be truly transformative. There's an enormous challenge being extended there to our society, our governance structures, our strategies for economic development, our educational system, our way of building up the common good. It's much easier to affirm the Declaration than it is to implement it, just as it is much easier to affirm the principles of Catholic social teaching (beginning with the dignity of the human person, the pursuit of the common good, justice and peace, solidarity, the need to attend to those on the peripheries of our society) than it is to implement them. On a national level, the Bishops' conference will continue to engage in justice issues, and as a part of that, we will continue to engage with other Calls to Action of the TRC Final Report. But the large majority of the Church's efforts are carried out on the local level. Our text encourages an engagement with the UN Declaration in our parishes, schools and communities. Relationships need to be built and strengthened there, there is much learning to be done, a thousand small steps to be taken. In Saskatoon we've established a Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation; we're holding educational events and programs about treaties; we're entering into dialogue about Indigenous spiritual traditions, and trying to find new ways to support our parish for First Nations and Métis people.

Terra nullius means ‘no one’s land.’ Our research suggests that the term wasn’t actually used until the 19th century. However, it’s recently been used in a sort of retroactive way to refer to the arguments many Europeans made before that time to bolster their land claims. This is probably what most people think of when they hear the words ‘Doctrine of Discovery.’ It’s basically a misapplication of the idea of ‘finders-keepers.’

I appreciate greatly the way that the TRC's Calls to Action ask faith communities "to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius" (#49; cf. #46). When we started looking at the concepts of the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, we realized that simply repudiating those terms wouldn't go far enough. The European powers who unjustly seized Indigenous lands didn't announce "I'm claiming this land by virtue of the Doctrine of Discovery!" It wasn't a recognized legal doctrine until the 19th century. The same goes for terra nullius, which is an even newer term and would have been unknown to those who actually committed these historical injustices. Rather than simply rejecting two rather esoteric terms which don't have a clear, agreed-upon meaning, our intent in the 5 numbered statements at the start of the document is to repudiate all illegitimate concepts and principles used by Europeans to justify the seizure of land previously held by Indigenous Peoples. We hope they will be understood in that light.

The TRC process has brought about a painful awakening for many Catholics, and we see our culpability much more clearly than we did before. Both before and during the TRC process, many apologies have been offered. But we know that apologies don't heal all the wounds. We appreciate the way in which the TRC's Final Report has not given up on the churches, but rather, called us to integrity and to own past sins and mistakes. We know there's still much work to be done, both in our own coming to awareness of past offenses and in seeking reconciliation. These documents are a small step on a long journey; they aren't an end point. We will continue to work with the Calls to Action, and look for opportunities to be engaged in ongoing discussion with Indigenous Peoples as we seek to learn to walk together to build a better future. ✕



“The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.” —Isaiah 32:17

Your support will help keep small churches open in underserved mission dioceses. Above, altar in the Bishop's chapel, Eparchy of New Westminster, British Columbia.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA.

Here is my gift of: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$_____

☐ Cheque (made payable to Catholic Missions in Canada) ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Credit Card No. _____ Expiry _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Fr./Sr./Br./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.
Address

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to: Catholic Missions In Canada
201 - 1155 Yonge Street, Toronto ON M4T 1W2

Tel: 416-934-3424 **Toll-free:** 1-866-YES-CMIC (937-2642) **Website:** www.cmic.info



St. Joseph's General Hospital annual employee recognition event

by Jane Murphy, President & CEO

St. Joseph's Hospital was honoured to host a special evening reception on April 18, 2016, to recognize its 2015 retirees and long-service employees. Approximately 120 guests attended, including representatives of the St. Joseph's Hospital Board and leadership staff, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation Board and the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary. We were also very honoured to have Bishop Gary Gordon in attendance.

Celebrated were 20 retirees, and employees with 10 years of service (39); 15 years of service (23); 20 years of service (7); 25 years of service (12); 30 years of service (2) and 1 employee with 35 years of service! This year's event also incorporated St. Joseph's annual Sister Pat Macaulay Merit Awards presentation.

The Sister Pat Macaulay Merit Award celebrates the achievements of employees, physicians and volunteers who clearly reflect the mission and values of St. Joseph's General Hospital. The award aims to recognize achievements that model St. Joseph's values of stewardship, creativity, respect for human life, excellence in care, compassion, justice and social responsibility.

The annual award was established in honour of former member of the pastoral care staff, Sr. Pat Macaulay, who served at St. Joseph's hospital from 1978 – 2002. Sr. Pat continues to be a member of the congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, who first established the hospital in 1913. Sr. Pat, as she is still affectionately known throughout the hospital and in the wider community, unfortunately could not attend this year's ceremony in person, however, her congratulations and blessing was conveyed to our very deserving award recipients—six individuals and one group.

In his address, Bishop Gordon referred to the parable of the Good Samaritan—one of the foundational stories of Catholic healthcare—the story of a compassionate person choosing to help a perfect stranger because they were vulnerable and in need. Bishop Gordon expressed to our honourees that each has, whatever their role within the hospital, demonstrated this same loving compassion in support of the care and healing of those St. Joseph's serves.

St. Joseph's Chaplain, Brian Ducedre, delivered a poignant Reflective Blessing to open the reception.

Board Chair, Chris Kelsey, conveyed that healthcare is an environment of high reward, but also high challenge. The demands are intense and it takes a special type of person to become involved in healthcare and to stay committed over the years.

Jane Murphy, President & CEO, served as the evening's Emcee. The program included a brief biography on each of the honourees.

It was a very successful evening, enjoyed by all. We wish to thank Christ the King parish for the generous use of their Hall with its spectacular mountain views and incredibly well-equipped facilities. ✂



Bishop Gary Gordon congratulates St. Joseph's Hospital employees at Recognition Event

Spring Fair to celebrate 75th anniversary

By Jane Bowers, Director of Fund Development

You are invited to take part in the festivities happening at Mount St. Mary Hospital's Spring Fair, which is being held to recognize our 75th anniversary. Founded by the Sisters of St. Ann in 1941, Mount St. Mary Hospital has a long history of providing compassionate care to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

An incredible team of 10 volunteers has been working hard to organize a fun-filled day! This free, community celebration will be held on Saturday, June 11 from 10 AM – 3 PM. The event will be held at Mount St. Mary Hospital which is located at 861 Fairfield Road (corner of Fairfield Road and Quadra Street).

There will be lots of activities for children, including 'old school' games like egg and spoon races, bean bag toss, and sack races. There will also be an Imagination Station where children can participate in a variety of fun craft projects. Children may also choose to visit the face painter so they can explore the gated grounds with a kitty cat, puppy dog, superhero, or another favorite character painted on their face.

The smell of caramelized onions will lead you to the BBQ featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie dogs and veggie burgers. The Mount St. Mary Hospital Café will also be open if you wish to purchase a hot meal, soup, salad, sandwich or a sweet treat.

You are welcome to wander the hallways to read the history of the Sisters of St. Ann and visit the special anniversary display which shares Mount St. Mary Hospital's story over the past 75 years. Or, you may wish to visit the collection of Mount St.

Mary residents' art work created during their participation in art group sessions held by renowned Victoria artist Robert Amos every Friday afternoon. At 11 AM, violinist Jessica Woollard will entertain attendees with her beautiful music and resident Willie Lam will play a short set of songs on the keyboard with music therapist Allan Slade.

Another favorite is sure to be the bake sale table! Yummy treats—everything from cookies and squares to loafs, cupcakes and macarons—will be available for you to purchase. A big attraction will be the silent auction featuring gift certificates to local attractions and restaurants, tickets to summer festivals, gift baskets, golf passes, art and much more.

There will also be tickets on sale for two raffles—the prize for the first one is two tickets anywhere WestJet flies and the second raffle has a beautiful Giant women's bike as a first prize and a 'Pamper Yourself' basket as the second prize.

There is no admission fee to attend this celebration. However, if you wish to make a donation to Mount St. Mary Hospital, all of the funds raised will support the Room to Care campaign.

Your gift will help cover the cost of renovating and repairing the residents' rooms to maintain their dignity and enhance their quality of life. Donations can be made at the event or online at www.mtstmary.victoria.bc.ca. ✂





CASA NOVA CATERING

Bakery, Café and Catering
Featuring Portuguese breads and goodies

492 Esquimalt Road
Tel: (250) 385-8242 or (250) 884-5747
Fax: (250) 385-8246

Put your trust in our professional service



Out of the Archives



by Theresa Vogel

Once again, I must laud the volunteers in the ‘Vestment Re-Purposing Project’ (before I go back to quizzing you on interesting things in the Archives) for their outstanding work in producing a unique piece for auction at the Catholic Missions in Canada gala on April 28, 2016, in Ontario.

Our Diocese has long supported CMIC, as that organization has supported the Diocese over its 107-year history. Though the pages of their magazine often feature pictures of churches with a lot of snow piled around them, the notion of ‘missionary church’ engages all of us, even in the more temperate climes of the Diocese of Victoria. There are regular and faithful donors to the organization, as well as major benefactors across the country. Annually, the Tastes of Heaven gala dinner and auction offers unique treasures to attendees at the event, and this year, the clever crafters and sensational seamstresses here in Victoria worked overtime to produce a bed runner/wall hanging as a unique donation.

Bearing in mind the valiant pioneer priests of this Diocese, and working with their re-dedicated garments, the volunteers took as their theme Matthew 4:19: “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” (NIV)

On a black background, the artists superimposed three colorful fishes with glittering button eyes, and painstakingly hand sewed a blue wave design on the bottom of the piece. The side borders are brocades repurposed from vestments which would ordinarily have fallen into disuse and disrepair, had not inspired individuals looked closely at them, and selected them to carry, once again, a missionary message. Though the fabrics may be brilliant or beautiful, the crafters agree on the fundamental idea of the pieces they work on: each of these items carries the spirit of one of the pioneer priests of the Diocese of Victoria, and honors their devotion to the faithful in the region. ✂



Hands at work

Photo credit Connie Dunwoody

HELP US HELP FAMILIES

GLOBAL DAY OF FAMILIES JUNE 1

YOU CAN HELP US PROVIDE:

- EDUCATION
- NUTRITION
- HEALTH CARE
- HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

1-800-776-6855 **www.chalice.ca**

SPONSOR A CHILD TODAY!

dm0616

4TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

AUGUST 12 – 14, 2016 | NANOOSE BAY

PRAY, PLAY AND CREATE
PRECIOUS MEMORIES, RENEW
FRIENDSHIPS, MAKE NEW
FRIENDS, AND RELAX IN A
BEAUTIFUL WEST COAST
SETTING.
TENT, RV OR INDOOR
DORMITORY ROOMS
AVAILABLE.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SISTER JOHN MARY SULLIVAN FSE
OF THE OFFICE OF LIFE, MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF VANCOUVER

MORE INFORMATION
www.rcdvictoria.org
Email: reine_and_ian@hotmail.com
Register online at EventBrite.com:
[Marriage and Family Life Diocesan Conference](http://MarriageandFamilyLifeDiocesanConference)

as for me and my household,
WE will SERVE the Lord

250-480-4000
www.scribegraphics.ca

Graphic Design • Marketing
Printing • Promotional Products

Russ Hay's The Bicycle Store
650 Hillside Avenue
Victoria BC V8T 1Z2
(250) 384-4722

9781-A 2nd Street
Sidney BC V8L 4P8
(250) 656-1512

LIVE TO RIDE • TO LIVE

Russ Hay's knows bikes ... from high-end mountain and racing bikes to commuting, touring and cruising bikes—or your child's first bike, the Russ Hay's staff can find the right fit for you.

Our experienced mechanics are known for custom wheel building, and have knowledge and skill in every aspect of bicycles past and current. Whether it's time for a tune-up or you're looking for your special Next Bike ... you can trust your cycling to us.

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

Russ Hay's: we've got a ride for you!

WILL MEARS
REALTOR®
WillMears.com
580-5300

JONESco
REAL ESTATE INC

Our Lady of Fatima feast day celebration

by Connie Dunwoody

May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 and October 13, 1917. On the 13th day of the month of Our Lady, May 1917, an apparition of ‘a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun’ presented itself to the three children saying “Please don’t be afraid of me, I’m not going to harm you.” Lucia asked her where she came from and she responded, “I come from Heaven.” The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. The woman asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

Two years ago, Pope Francis received the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter’s Square. He invited those present to meditate on the gaze of Mary.

“O Mary, let us feel your gaze as a mother,” he said. “Lead us to your Son, as we are not Christians ‘for show,’ but who can ‘get their hands dirty’ to build with your Son, Jesus, his kingdom of love, joy and peace.”

“How important it is,” the Pope said of Mary’s gaze. “How many things can be said with a look! Affection, encouragement, compassion, love, but also reproach, envy, pride, even hatred.”

“Often,” he added, “the look says more than words or says what words cannot or dare not say. Who looks at the Virgin Mary? She looks at all of us, each of us. ... She looks at us like a mother, with tenderness, with mercy, with love: the same way she looked at the Child Jesus, in every moment of his life. ... When we are tired, discouraged, overwhelmed by problems, look to Mary.”

On the weekend of May 13 – 15, 2016, Our Lady of Fatima parish in Victoria celebrated this Anniversary with a processional (Friday, May 13), and special Mass and barbeque celebrations complete with Silent Auction and a bake sale of Portuguese delicacies (Sunday, May 15). See photos below.

2017 will see the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Mary’s appearing to the children. As Portugal prepares to celebrate, and as Pope Francis plans to travel for this centennial event, Our Lady of Fatima here in Victoria will also enjoy special celebrations. Stay tuned for more information!

The central message of Fatima is what the Church has always taught: it is, as Pope Benedict XVI said, “the exhortation to prayer as the path of “salvation for souls” and, likewise, the summons to penance and conversion.” As Scripture tells us, “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise. ✠



Photo credits Dina Careiros and Connie Dunwoody