



THE DIOCESAN MESSENGER

A Publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Volume 2 § Issue 2 § Fall 2018



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Take Note

From time to time, we have hosted students from other parts of the world as guests in our home. We head to the airport to pick them up, not knowing who will appear. In our hands, we hold a sign with their name on it, so they'll know where to go when they come out into the airport arrivals lounge. They're tired, hungry, thirsty, and in need of a friendly face. Their faces always relax with relief when they see something familiar: their name, in the hands of a stranger.

We are heading overseas for a vacation shortly, and have arranged transfers from airports and train stations to the places we are staying. We will be tired, hungry, thirsty, and in need of a friendly face when we arrive, after hours of travelling. I have always felt vaguely self-conscious holding a sign for someone, for reasons that escape me, but I know that when we come through the gate into the arrivals lounge, we will be so grateful to see something familiar: our names in the hands of a stranger.

This September, we have some new faces with some familiar information, and some familiar faces with some new information.

In July, we were blessed to ordain to the Diaconate four men who, with their wives, have had quite a journey. There were times in their journey when they were tired, hungry, thirsty, and in need of something familiar: God called their names, and they responded with grace, compassion, and willing spirits, recognizing Someone familiar. The Diaconate may not be familiar to you; this edition of the Diocesan Messenger provides information about what a deacon does, and how he works within a diocese.

The gift of these men and their wives to the Diocese is beyond repayment. We are grateful for the friendly faces, the work, and the presence they will be for strangers, neighbours, friends, and family.

We are also pleased to introduce our new Diocesan website. The website address remains the same: www.rcdvictoria.org, but we have a new format.

We chose some time ago to roll this out in a phased approach: this is phase one. You'll see in the menus some items that are in italics. These are not yet available, but will be worked on over the next several months, as phase two, and will be live when we have content prepared.

One major change is that the website is now easily used on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Another change is to how we present parishes and missions: when you click on 'Parishes', you'll see a listing of all our parishes and missions, with basic contact information. Clicking on the image will direct you in one of two ways: either you will be taken directly to the websites for parishes and missions that have existing sites; or, for parishes or missions which do not have existing websites, you will be taken to a page with more information.

Finally, you are able to subscribe to our blog updates by entering your email address at the bottom of our home page (which can be accessed by clicking the Diocesan Crest in the upper left-hand corner). Once we have this feature fully functional, you will then be notified when blogs are uploaded, and you will receive a monthly email newsletter. We invite you to take advantage of this method of communication, to stay in touch with news around the Diocese, and we also invite you to submit items for consideration for the blog. Blog entries should be no more than 500 words in length, and when possible, include one or two high-resolution photographs. Please email blogs directly to me: editor@rcdvictoria.org.

May God continue to bless us this Fall with familiar faces, and abundant grace. ✠



Connie Dunwoody serves as Communications Coordinator for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria, and as Editor of the Diocesan Messenger magazine.

The Diocesan Messenger

A Publication of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria
1 - 4044 Nelthorpe Street
Victoria BC Canada V8X 2A1
www.rcdvictoria.org | [@rcdvictoria](https://twitter.com/rcdvictoria)
Circulation 5,000

Published three times annually (Easter, Ordinary Time, Advent)

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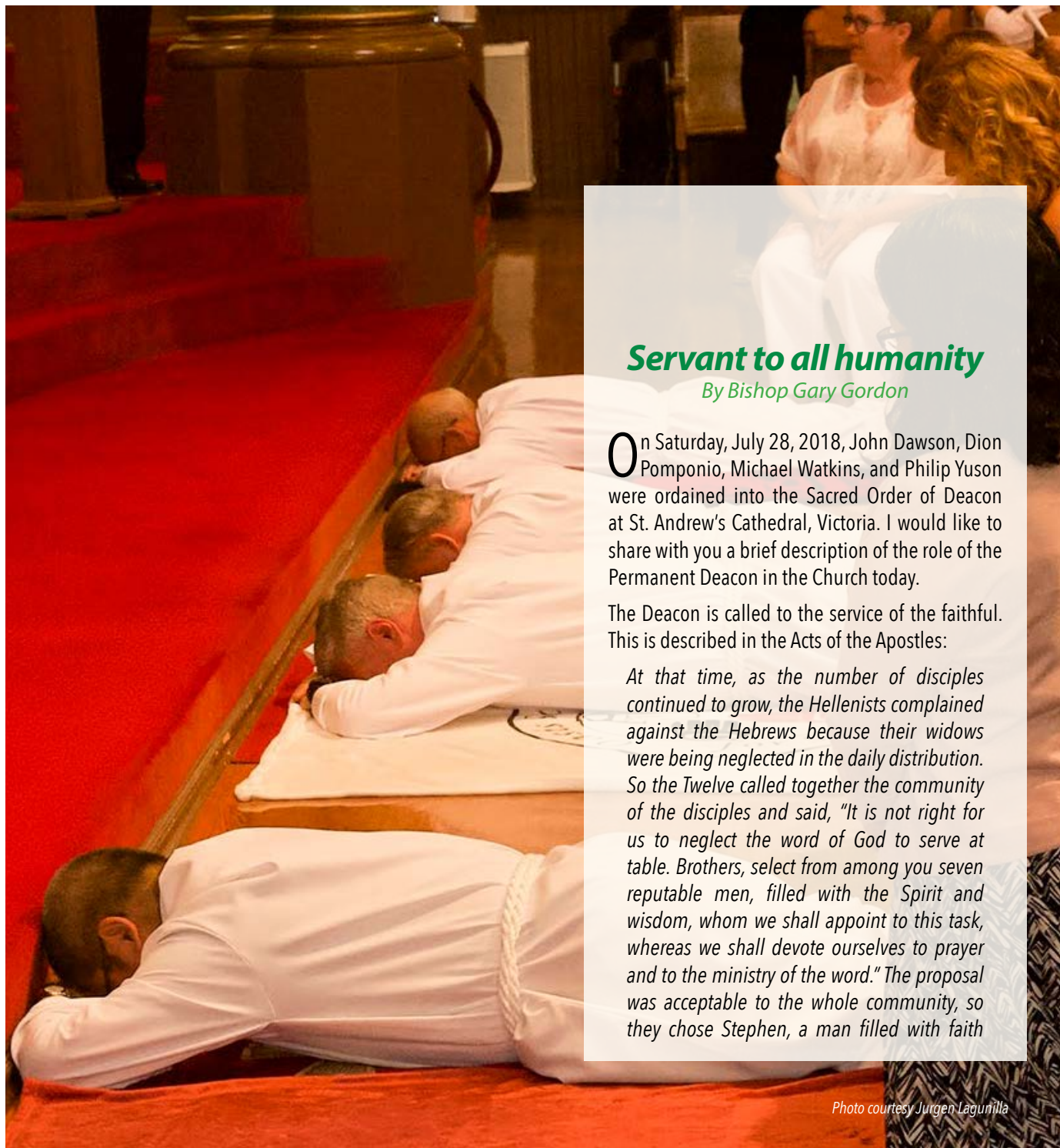


Communio

Bishop Gary Gordon



Communio



Servant to all humanity

By Bishop Gary Gordon

On Saturday, July 28, 2018, John Dawson, Dion Pomponio, Michael Watkins, and Philip Yuson were ordained into the Sacred Order of Deacon at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria. I would like to share with you a brief description of the role of the Permanent Deacon in the Church today.

The Deacon is called to the service of the faithful. This is described in the Acts of the Apostles:

At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith

Photo courtesy Jurgen Lagunilla

and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. (Acts, 6:1-6)

The word *deacon* comes from the Greek word *diakonos* which means 'servant' or 'helper'. In the early Church, deacons traditionally assisted the local bishop. One of the early Church Fathers, St. Ignatius of Antioch, emphasized their role of service to the Church of God with the first deacons also serving the poor and the needy of the community. The deacon is an ordained minister in the Catholic Church who shares in the apostolic work of the bishop, carrying the profound responsibility to pour out one's life in service to others just as Christ came "not to be served, but to serve."

This spirit of service was also emphasized at the Second Vatican Council, describing the Roman Catholic Church as *servant to all humanity in its every condition, weakness, and need*. In response to this exhortation to serve the world, the Church restored the Order of Deacon as a concrete sacramental sign to remind and challenge all the baptized to imitate Christ in caring for others. St. John Paul II reinforced this when he said, "The service of the deacon is the Church's service sacramentalized." Through their ordination,

deacons share, to a lesser extent, in the threefold apostolic ministry of the Bishop: a Ministry of Word, of Sacrament, and of Charity. Deacons are official teachers and preachers of the Gospel. They preside at celebrations of baptism, funerals, and matrimony; and they visit the infirm, the imprisoned, and the needy. They do not celebrate Mass, hear confessions, or anoint the sick.

The four candidates for the Order of Deacon are married and their wives have participated fully in the four-and-a-half year formation. The wife of a deacon is not obligated to any official or public ministry once her husband is ordained into the Order of Deacon. There is no model for a deacon's spouse to follow. Her level of involvement is chosen freely, with many wives being involved in ministries of service, flowing from their baptismal call as Christians rather than merely as a result of their husband's ordination.

As a married man chosen from among the faithful, with established professional lives and perhaps a family, the deacon is able to extend the sacramental presence of Christ's service outside of the Church into the secular world. Called to be just as engaged in his ministry whether at home or at work, in collaboration with his family, his employer, his pastor, and his bishop, the deacon is a permanent and public sign of Christ the Servant in his own community. ✠

“My great hope for this Order of Deacons in our Diocese is that your ministry will open the hearts of all the faithful in our parishes, and that you will knock on the hearts of our Church to be a place of refuge, and that the whole people of God in this Diocese will be so committed to the impoverished, to the vulnerable, to the poorest, to the weakest, to the addicted, and to those who are simply excluded from society that our Church, every parish in this Diocese, will truly look like a field hospital.”

~ Bishop Gary Gordon, Homily at the Ordination to the Diaconate (see page 10)



Most Reverend Gary M. Gordon is Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria.



Our Diocese

Catholic communities building God's kingdom with hope, mercy and love



Our Diocese

Feature

"The Rite of Ordination of Deacons, through its words and action, addresses a three-fold service of diaconal ministry ..."

The origins and ministry of a Deacon

By Fr. Paul DeLadurantaye

You may have seen him in your parish, assisting the priest at the altar. You may have seen his name listed on the parish bulletin with the title 'Deacon'. You may have wondered what a deacon does in the life of the Church and where the diaconate (or the Order of Deacons) came from.

The beginnings of the diaconate lie in the Old Testament. In the Book of Numbers, God tells Moses to set aside one of the 12 tribes of Israel, the tribe of Levi, to assist the priests in the worship of God (Nm 1:48-53). The Levites were to have charge of everything connected with the tabernacle—the tent set up in the desert where the people of Israel were to encounter the presence of God and offer Him their prayers and sacrifices. The Church sees in the ministry of the Levites a prefiguration of the diaconate, reflected in the prayer of consecration used in the current Rite of Ordination of Deacons: "...as once you chose the sons of Levi to minister in the former tabernacle, so now you establish three ranks of ministers in their sacred offices to serve in your name."

Photo courtesy Jurgen Lagunilla

Deacons are clearly mentioned in the New Testament. The Acts of the Apostles describes their origin: "Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task (i.e., distributing food and other material resources) ... They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them" (Acts 6:1-3, 6).

Again, the Rite of Ordination of Deacons, in the consecratory prayer, recalls this New Testament scene: "And so, in the first days of your Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, your Son's Apostles appointed seven men of good repute to assist them in the daily ministry ... By prayer and the laying on of hands they entrusted to these chosen men the ministry of serving at table." St. Paul also refers to deacons and the qualities they should possess in his First Letter to Timothy (1 Tm 3:8-13). Later, St. Hippolytus would describe the ceremony of the ordination of deacons, involving the laying on of hands and a prayer (*Apostolic Tradition* 9:1-5, 9-12). St. Ignatius of Antioch regarded deacons as "ministers of the mysteries of Jesus Christ ... and not simply distributors of food and drink, but servants of the Church of God" (*Letter to the Trallians* 2).

Because of the service (*diakonia* in Greek) that deacons performed, the Church continues to regard the Order of Deacons as a true ordained ministry in the Church. Deacons share in the sacramental grace and character of Holy Orders, even though they are ordained not to the priesthood but to the ministry (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1569; Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, No. 29). The presence of the deacon at the altar, and his involvement in works of charity in a parish or a diocese, reminds the faithful of the service of Jesus Christ who tells us, "I am among you as the one who serves" (Lk 22:27). The living-out of these characteristics is exemplified in the lives of some well known saints who were deacons: St. Stephen, one of the original seven deacons and the first martyr of the church; St. Lawrence, martyred in Rome around A.D. 258, and St. Francis of Assisi, who remained a deacon so that he could give witness to the servanthood of Christ.

Over the centuries, the presence and ministry of deacons, for a variety of reasons, became limited to assisting the priest at

Mass, and the diaconate itself was conferred almost exclusively on seminarians who were preparing for ordination as priests. The Second Vatican Council, however, wanted "to restore the diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy" (*Lumen gentium*, No. 29), opening up also the possibility of conferring "this diaconal order even upon married men, provided they be of more mature age" (*Lumen gentium*, No. 29). The Council declared that it was up to the bishops' conference of a nation or region to decide whether it was opportune for such men to be ordained deacons. Since the time of the Second Vatican Council, many episcopal conferences have exercised this permission, and many bishops have ordained (and continue to ordain) deacons for ministry in their dioceses.

The Rite of Ordination of Deacons, through its words and actions, addresses a three-fold service of diaconal ministry: service of the Word of God, service at the altar, and service of charity. Thus today it is the task of deacons, at the direction of the bishop or pastor, to assist in the celebration of Mass, to distribute Holy Communion, to preside over public prayer, to administer baptism, to assist at and bless marriages, to bring Viaticum¹ to the dying, and to conduct funeral rites outside of Mass. Deacons also can proclaim the Gospel during Mass and preach the homily; they can instruct others by teaching the Faith in different settings (for example, in a parish religious education program, the RCIA or youth ministry); and they can dedicate themselves to any number of charitable works (*Lumen gentium*, No. 29; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1571).

As ordained ministers who make present in a unique manner Christ the servant, deacons offer themselves in service to the Lord and to His people in a variety of ways and enrich the life of the Church by their faithful diaconal ministry. ✠

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¹ The Eucharist as given to a person near or in danger of death



John and Heather Dawson



John Dawson and his wife Heather are members of St. Patrick's parish in Campbell River. John is active in many ministries in the parish including: sacristan, extra-ordinary minister of the Eucharist, leader, server, and was catechist for the RCIA for many years.

John and Heather have been married for 27 years and are actively involved in St. Patrick's parish. They are caregivers for Bryan, who lives with them and accompanies them to Mass. John is active in the Knights of Columbus, the Special Olympics, and likes to fish and work in the garden. John is active in the community, counsels people with addictions, and is a past member of the Board of Directors for 2nd Chance Recovery House in Campbell River. John is a 'cradle Catholic' who was raised in the faith and inspired by his mother, Mary.

John is assigned to serve in the ministry of accompaniment at Holmalco First Nation, and will serve at St. Patrick's Parish in Campbell River under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Jan Grotkowski SDS.



Philip and Marie Yuson



Philip Yuson and his family have been parishioners at St. Andrew's Cathedral since 1995, when they moved to Victoria. He has been married to Marie for 28 years, and they are blessed with two children: Pauline and Joseph. The family migrated from the Philippines to Canada in 1994.

Although Philip has a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering, he made his career in the IT industry. Philip was the Chief Counsellor for the Columbian Squires Circle 1169; a member of the Parish Council; a teacher of RCIA (*Discovering the Catholic Faith*) and for the El Shaddai Prayer Group. In the past, he has developed three courses and conducted them at the Cathedral: *Come and See Jesus, Why Lord: God in the Midst of Suffering* and *Come to Jesus: How to Pray Scripture*. He continues to write bi-monthly articles for the Genesis Catholic Community in Jakarta, Indonesia. Philip speaks English, Filipino, Hokkien, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Philip is assigned to serve in the ministry of the Apostleship of Sea in collaboration with Bishop Gary Gordon. This is a new ministry serving seafarers who visit the ports on the island. He will serve at St. Andrew's Cathedral under the pastoral leadership of Fr. John Laszczyk.

Photos courtesy Connie Dunwoody



Michael Watkins and Cynthia Bouchard



Michael Watkins and Cynthia have been married for 37 years, have three sons, and they have also been blessed with four grandchildren. Michael and Cynthia have been members of St. Joseph the Worker since 1991, when they moved to Victoria.

Over the years, Michael has led liturgical music at St. Joseph the Worker and Holy Cross Parishes. Michael has been actively involved with Cynthia in facilitating Adult Formation programs including *The Great Bible Adventure, Catholicism Series, Beloved, and Pivotal Players*.

Michael has always felt that God calls each of us to a unique mission and purpose, and he believes that his formation in the Diaconate program was helpful in responding to that call. Michael looks forward to fulfilling his role as a Deacon by answering the call to better serve the people of God.

Michael is assigned to serve in hospital ministry and care of the sick, assisting Fr. Ian Stuart, Hospital Chaplain, and will serve at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Victoria under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Alfredo Monacelli.

Ordained to serve

Excerpted from Bishop Gary's Homily



Photo courtesy Connie Dunwoody

The Word of God today in the beautiful Second Reading of the Acts of the Apostles, speaks of the ministry of Jesus Christ as the bringer of healing, and of peace, and to liberate all who are oppressed by sin and the devil. And that is a ministry of the whole Church, and in particular, the ministry of service to the Church and to all people. To bring peace. And so one of the great hallmarks of this particular ministry of deacon is to be a wonderful instrument of peace, a witness of peace.

We've got a lot of work to do, brothers, and sisters, and we're going to do it together. The service of Jesus Christ to the world will continue in our hearts, and in our lives, through our hands, and our feet.

Now, this is the peace of Christ. This is not the peace of a détente, or some kind of negotiated deal. This is the peace of Jesus Christ. It's a peace that brings healing, because it is a peace that is meant most particularly for the poor and the vulnerable—the ones in our society who cannot protect themselves, whose lives are on the very edge and fringe of existence. St. John Paul II said that the Diaconate, the deacon, is the sacrament of Christ's service to the poor. It is the sacrament of the Church's constant presence to the

poor and to the needy.

You have received from God many talents, and many gifts, which you have used in the service of your families, and have used in the service of the community, and of the Church. Many, many gifts. Most precious, you have the gift of your wives and your families. This is the gift that you bring to ministry. Your closest collaborator in this ministry of service of Christ to the poor is

going to be your wife. She is your collaborator. This is the one who is going to say, How are you doing? How are those poor people doing? Have you been able to advocate for them? Have you been able to create opportunities of justice and peace and mercy? So, wives, you have a very important job to do. Your job is with a fairly gentle toe and foot: Get going! I'm so grateful for that support.

What is our Church in need of, more than anything else, at this particular time, in this particular age, in this particular country, Canada, and this particular Diocese? Well, let me use an example from the year 258. Way back.

In 258, in the city of Rome, Valerian the Emperor had just started a new persecution of Christians. The reason was they had been declared as enemies of the human race. This is what Valerian and the Senate of Rome said, that Christians are enemies of the human race. And, well, the best thing to do, is let's round up all the clergy, especially the Bishop of Rome, and the deacons, and we'll execute them. So in 258, Pope Sixtus II lost his head, along with the other seven deacons of Rome, except for one: Lawrence.

Lawrence had the marvellous thought that before the Christians were rounded up and martyred in Rome, they should try to help the poor, in the image of Christ. And so he collected from those who had property or wealth, and distributed it to the poor. Well, the Emperor heard about this, and he thought, "Oh boy! Those Christians are rich! I've got to get my hands on all that money, on all that property. I need it!"

And so Emperor Valerian called Deacon Lawrence in, who hadn't quite met his end yet, and said, "Lawrence, we're going to do a deal! You bring me all the wealth of the Church, and I will spare your life, and I'll let you go on being a deacon."

So Lawrence—he's a smart guy—says, "We've got a deal, Valerian. Give me three days." Off Lawrence goes, and in three days, he gathers up the total wealth of the Church. They set a meeting place in Rome. Lawrence sends a message and says, "Valerian, come on over, I've got all the wealth of the Church, and it's piled up in the Square. Come on over and get it."

"My hope is that you will open the doors of our churches ... that you will open the hearts of the faithful to the poorest and the most marginal so that our hearts become homes for those who are suffering greatest.

When Valerian got there, Lawrence presented to the Emperor of the Roman Empire the lame, the destitute, the prisoners, the slaves, and the poorest of the poor in the City of Rome, and said, "This is the wealth of the Christian Church." Well, that didn't go over too well, and Lawrence was also martyred. I hope that doesn't happen to you! This is not my plan, it is not my hope, and it is not my expectation.

But my expectation is this: my hope is that with this Order of Deacon, which is to serve the poor, that you will open the doors of our churches to the poorest and the most marginal in this city and in this Diocese. My hope is that you will open the hearts of the faithful to the poorest and the most marginal so that our hearts become homes for those who are suffering greatest. My hope, and this might be where it might be a wild idea, is that you set up your tent in a tent city, in this city. My hope is that your ministry is going to enliven our Church to become what Pope Francis has invited us to: I want the Church to be a field hospital.



Photo courtesy Jurgen Lagunilla

My great hope for this Order of Deacons in our Diocese is that your ministry will open the hearts of all the faithful in our parishes, and that you will knock on the hearts of our Church to be a place of refuge, and that the whole people of God in this Diocese will be so committed to the impoverished, to the vulnerable, to the poorest, to the weakest, to the addicted, and to those who are simply excluded from society that our

Church, every parish in this Diocese, will truly look like a field hospital.

That's a big call. You've got your assignments, and each one of your assignments is going to put you in close proximity to the most vulnerable in our Diocese. As ordained ministers, my hope is that you will open my heart, and their hearts, and these doors, so that we truly begin to be the field hospital that Pope Francis has invited us to be as a Church.

God bless you. I will be with you all the way. I am so pleased to be your Bishop. I am so pleased to have this great ministry of the Diaconate in our Diocese: a ministry established by service in Jesus Christ by the Church for the whole people. Just to give you an idea: there are 750,000 people in this Diocese, and at least 150,000 – 200,000 are truly, truly hurting. We've got a lot of work to do, brothers, and sisters, and we're going to do it together. The service of Jesus Christ to the world will continue in our hearts, and in our lives, through our hands, and our feet. ✠

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Face the Day

By Bonnie Landry



I write to you today awkwardly. My right hand is in a 'thumb spike cast'. It means that the thumb is held out from the rest of the hand at approximately a 45-degree angle. I had surgery on my hand last Friday, because the previous Friday I fell on my right hand coming offstage during a performance of *The Tempest*. Falling in a poor position on my hand, I tore the ligament clean off the bone in my thumb.

It wasn't a very good idea. I am kind of clumsy and most injuries I've sustained over the years have been, by and large, self-induced. This one was no exception. It's all sewed up and I am wearing a cast for the next six weeks at least. Silver lining: I'm left-handed. People keep telling me how lucky I am.

But here's the thing. Perspective is everything. If my ridiculous hand situation had been the only crisis I was dealing with in my life, it would have counted as big deal. But two days after I fell on my hand, my husband was taken by ambulance to the hospital for chest pain. He was admitted, medicated, fast-tracked, had an angiogram, and was fitted with a stent for a blocked artery in a short five-day span.

Cute: we shared a room in the ER. True story. While I was injured Friday, it wasn't until my husband was in the ER that we noticed my hand was looking horrid. So, I was admitted into the ER stream, assigned in the same room as my husband.

In any event, I could barely remember that I had a hand, let alone an injury. Life was spinning out of control.

An example of perspective, for sure. But here is an even better example.

In the middle of all the angst, and fear and unknown of a heart condition, my husband said this. "It makes mortality real. It makes my need for God more real. It makes God more

real. Really, it makes what I've lived my whole life for real."

A wakeup call. A slowdown. A self-check. A stocktaking. This is what we humans do in crisis. We pare it all back to what matters most. Are we right with God? Are we right with the other people we love?

"It makes mortality real. It makes my need for God more real. It makes God more real. Really, it makes what I've lived my whole life for real."

I don't know why it takes *crisis* to take stock of where we are with God. Every Mass we attend, every prayer we say, every biography or quote from every saint we read says the same things, over, and over, and over. *Love God. Love others. Be a person who can rise above their problems. Be a person who can see their problems and stumbling blocks and difficulties as the very thing that can draw us closer to the Lord who gave us life.*

My cast is awkward. Annoying. Itchy. But it isn't my identity. My awkward, annoying, itchy cast doesn't define me. How I respond to this very insignificant detail of my life does. "It makes what I've lived my whole life for real." Thanks for the upstage and the reminder, honey. ✂



Bonnie Landry is a parishioner of St. Francis Xavier, is a busy mom of seven great kids, and is thoroughly married to her wonderful husband, Albert.

Connections

By Raya MacKenzie



This August, I wrote the last exam of my legal education. It hopefully will be the last exam I will ever write. Three days later, I returned to the law firm where I have been working throughout my law degree studies.

I have begun my articling term at the firm. This is an apprenticeship period for young lawyers where we learn under the supervision of experienced practitioners. For me, this means a great deal of work and patience with myself as I learn. It also means I get my own office at the firm.

On my first day back, I moved the items I had accumulated from my smaller cubicle desk to my new office. I felt unworthy of such a large space. The filing cabinets and bookshelves lay imposingly empty.

I started arranging the things from my old desk in my new office: stapler, tape roll, pens, note pads, and ... I paused when I found the small square picture frame with the Prayer of St. Francis. It is small enough to fit across the palm of a hand. It is a dual picture frame that can stand up on a desk, with an image of St. Francis on the left and the Prayer in beautiful gold script on the right. I must have brought it with me to the firm at some point, I think as a way to ground me on difficult days.

I considered whether I should keep the Prayer of St. Francis in my new office. Would non-Catholic clients be offended by it? Would it make me seem unapproachable to them?

Growing up, the workspaces I was most familiar with had the presence of God everywhere. At Catholic school, images of Jesus, Mary, and the saints filled the hallways. After school, I would go to the Pastoral Centre, the Diocesan office where my mother worked, to do homework. Again, at her office, I felt the divine presence in the religious images that surrounded me.

In my adult life, I also want the presence of God with me in a tangible way. I put the Prayer of St. Francis to the right of my computer monitor. It isn't glaringly obvious, but it is there for me.

I also need to remember this prayer as I begin a likely stressful career. In choosing the legal profession, I want to help others. I want to acquire the skills to assist ordinary people through joys and challenges: buying a house, dealing with family disputes, preparing for death by making their Will. The Prayer of St. Francis reminds me of this goal and to seek it, rather than simply pursuing my own success.

There will still be difficult days in my new life, perhaps many more. I will need the wisdom of St. Francis:

**Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is despair, love
And where there is sorrow, joy.**

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.**



Raya MacKenzie is a parishioner of St. Joseph the Worker and a proud alumna of St. Joseph's Elementary and St. Andrew's Regional High School. She is completing her articling year at a local law firm.



Harkening back

By Theresa Vogel



Dr. Arnold Wenekers (L) and Dr. Pieter Druif (R)

Imagine the surprise and glee in the Diocesan Archives when it was learned that the great-nephew of Fr. Adrianus Johannes Vullings was planning a 'once in a lifetime' trip to Canada, to see where his 'Great Uncle John' ministered and travelled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Dr. Arnold Wenekers, unofficial chronicler of family history for the Vullings' dynasty, and his travelling companion Dr. Pieter Druif (chief cheerleader for writing a book about 'Uncle John') arrived in Victoria on June 2, 2018, just in time to join the Sisters of St. Ann in their public celebration of 160 years in the Pacific Northwest. What a joyful reunion of pioneers and their descendants!

The following days were filled with visits to the many Vullings' sites—five days were not enough—as well as learning, learning, learning, about the life and times of Fr. Vullings on southern Vancouver Island.

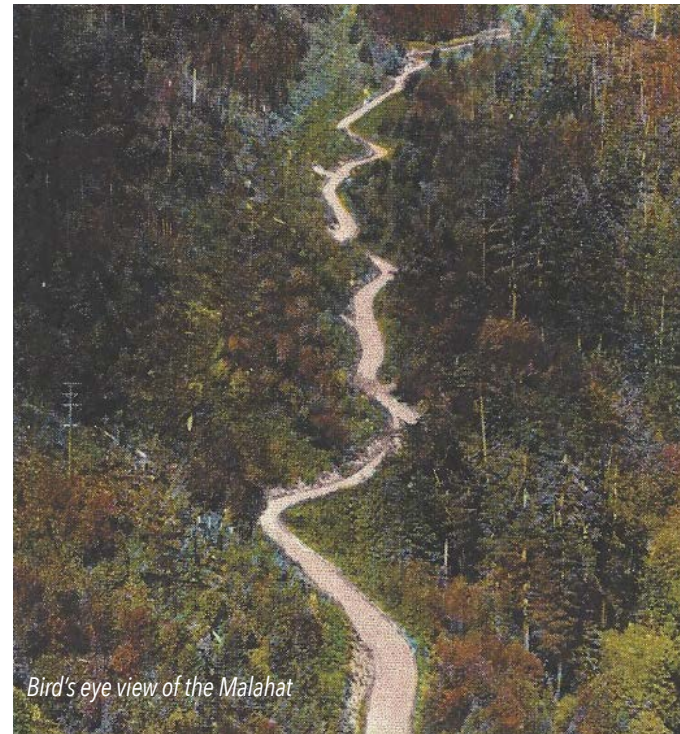
As noted in the last article about Fr. Vullings, (*Diocesan Messenger*, Winter, 2017) he was a prolific and creative photographer and the Archives was able to share more than 800 photographs with his family.



Princess Victoria entering Harbour, Victoria, B. C.

In return, Dr. Wenekers revealed that Fr. Vullings was a regular writer home to Holland, and the Archives received scans of nearly 300 picture postcards depicting life on Vancouver Island in simpler times.

In passing, I ask you ... has the Malahat Drive ever seemed so peaceful? Do you remember when the 'Princess' ships regularly visited the harbour?✂



Bird's eye view of the Malahat

Theresa Vogel serves as Archives Manager for the Diocese of Victoria.



She can frequently be found in the cellar at the Pastoral Centre, engaged in any manner of Archival Activities. Theresa is also an active Rotarian whose favourite pastimes include raising money for worthy causes.

The Diocesan CWL takes a 'selfie'

By Christa Grillmair



Members of the Diocesan CWL at the summer Executive meeting

This summer, members of the Victoria Diocesan CWL team met in Ladysmith at All Saints Parish to have a good look at our CWL: Parish councils, Diocesan councils and the CWL as a whole.

We gathered to discuss what makes us strong, determine what we can improve, probe the challenges we're facing, investigate what our opportunities are, and explore possibilities.

Our major strength is that we are the largest women's organization in Canada that can influence government and legislation through our Resolution process: many of the Resolutions we have presented to government have effected change and become law.

In addition, we affirmed that we are competent, deeply spiritual women with a variety of personal and professional skills who come from the same faith tradition and care about Church, world, and social justice issues and are willing to act on our beliefs. We strive to work cooperatively and diligently towards common goals of the League, and we care about each other, respecting our diversity but sharing the love of our Catholic faith. We participate in a variety of ministries in our parishes; we provide ongoing educational opportunities, spiritual programs, workshops and panel discussions on timely topics, as well as offering opportunities for personal growth through stimulating conventions and meetings.

However, we also identified some weaknesses. Our membership is aging, and our challenge to be relevant to the younger generation mirrors the declining attendance our parishes are experiencing. Change is difficult for many, and executive burnout results when resources are scarce. Some outside threats include a lack of understanding as to what the CWL really is, and we may be viewed as non-inclusive

or irrelevant to current society's secular values.

The team identified many opportunities with the overarching theme of 'reaching out to others'. As an organization, we are a voice for all women and we need to be more open to visible minorities, immigrants and newcomers. Using social media and the website as tools to spread our message and partnering with other organizations on projects would expand our reach. In order to attract new members and keep existing members active, meetings must be more interesting, educate about relevant issues and provide opportunities for spiritual growth. We must be better in communicating our achievements on social justice issues, Resolutions to government, and the many services we provide to our Church, community and country.

Our Diocesan Planning Day gave us the chance to take a look at ourselves as CWL leaders, to get to know each other better, to become energized and to share our ideas. This information will help us to develop a plan to carry our ministry of compassionate, loving action into the future. ✂

Visit our website: www.cwldov.org



Christa Grillmair is President of the Catholic Women's League Diocesan Council, and is a parishioner at Trinity Parish in Nanaimo.

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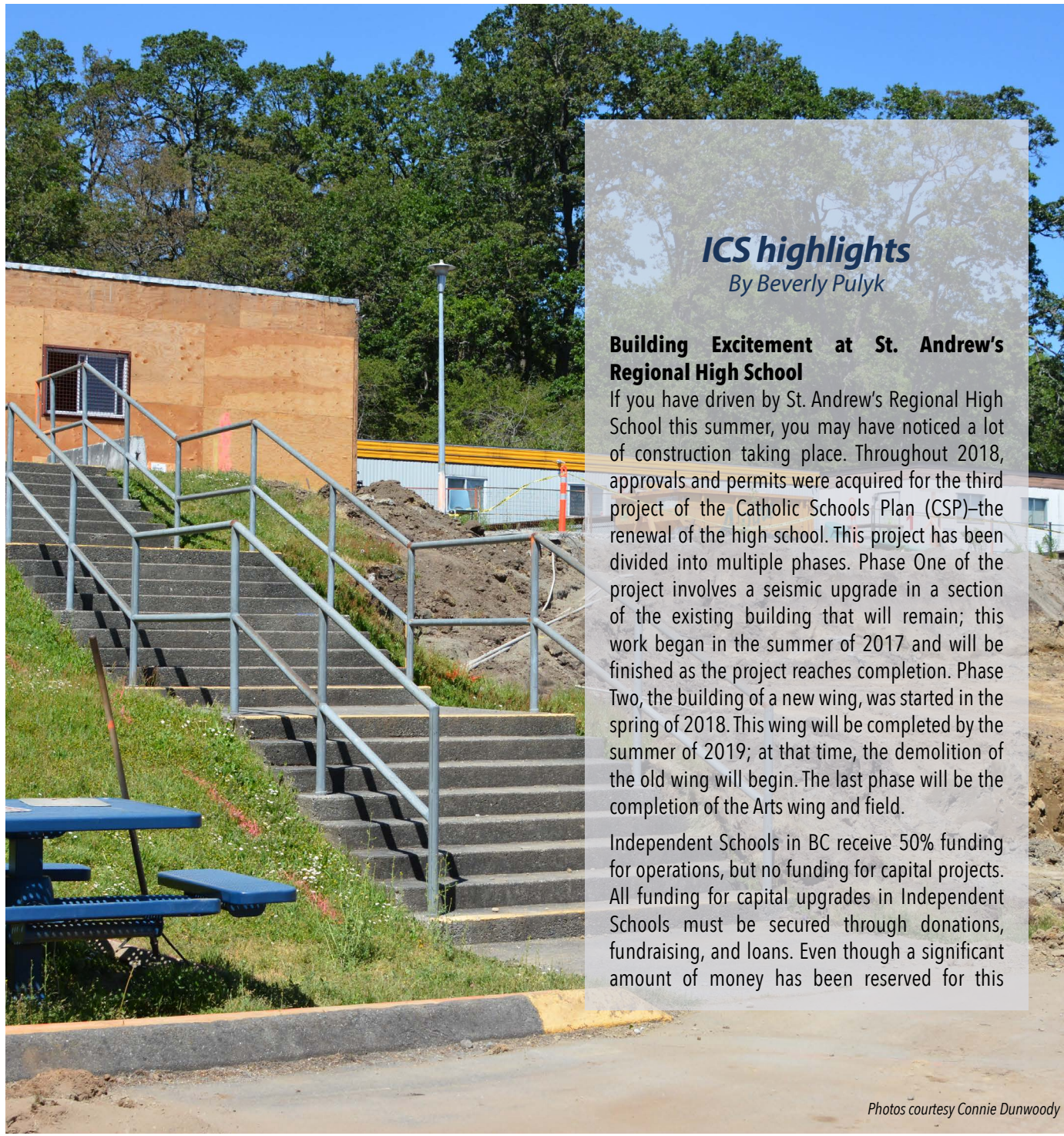
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Our Schools

Building in love



ICS highlights By Beverly Pulyk

Building Excitement at St. Andrew's Regional High School

If you have driven by St. Andrew's Regional High School this summer, you may have noticed a lot of construction taking place. Throughout 2018, approvals and permits were acquired for the third project of the Catholic Schools Plan (CSP)—the renewal of the high school. This project has been divided into multiple phases. Phase One of the project involves a seismic upgrade in a section of the existing building that will remain; this work began in the summer of 2017 and will be finished as the project reaches completion. Phase Two, the building of a new wing, was started in the spring of 2018. This wing will be completed by the summer of 2019; at that time, the demolition of the old wing will begin. The last phase will be the completion of the Arts wing and field.

Independent Schools in BC receive 50% funding for operations, but no funding for capital projects. All funding for capital upgrades in Independent Schools must be secured through donations, fundraising, and loans. Even though a significant amount of money has been reserved for this

Photos courtesy Connie Dunwoody



Our Schools

Superintendent's Message

Catholic Schools Ask: What Do You Want of Me Lord?

We are very excited about the theme for Catholic school this year. As school begins, students and staff will ask the question, *What Do You Want of Me Lord?*

As priest, bishop, and now the Holy Father, Pope Francis has always sought 'to live the Gospel', as Jesus asked. From the first day of his pontificate he has emphasized action over theological discussion; he has insisted that Jesus calls us 'to live' the Gospel, by putting into practice in daily life the beatitudes and the words of Jesus in chapter 25 of Matthew, that refers to feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger. (Gaudete et Exsultate)

In our Catholic schools, we are striving to learn and act as Jesus would want us to, and as Pope Francis is challenging us to. ✠

project, additional monies will have to be raised to complete the the project. I'll have more news on the fundraising front once the school year gets underway.

Closure of St. Joseph's School in Chemainus

As many of you may be aware, St. Joseph's Elementary School in Chemainus has faced immense financial challenges with declining enrollment, and very limited options for future sustainability. With much regret and heavy hearts, the difficult decision was made to close the St. Joseph's School building in Chemainus, and to facilitate the transition of students, families, and staff from St. Joseph's Elementary School to Queen of Angels School in Duncan, effective the 2018/2019 school year.

This decision was not easy, as we acknowledge, with gratitude, the efforts of the community. However, in the best interests of our Island Catholic Schools families, we had to move forward with transition plans. We have been able to accommodate students and families at Queen of Angels School in Duncan, and transfer most staff to Queen of Angels School.

We recognize that the summer months have been a time to grieve, so we continue to pray for all those affected by the closure and we ask that you do the same. Thank you to all the staff, families, alumni, and supporters of St. Joseph's School in Chemainus, for your loving support of the school for more than 50 years.



Beverly Pulyk serves as the Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools, and she is Chairperson of the Catholic Independent Schools Committee of British Columbia



Employment with Island Catholic Schools

There is an ongoing need for substitute/on call Teachers, Educational Assistants, Early Learning, and Before and After School workers.

Interested persons are invited to visit our website for application forms and requirements.
www.cisdv.bc.ca/employment-opportunities.php



Our Faith

Faith Matters

Our Faith

Faith Matters



Joy complete

By Jean Allen

Jesus said that if we love one another our joy would be complete. In the past few months I have chatted with two of our newly ordained deacons who both talked about the ministries they have become engaged in, one doing hospital visits, the other setting up an Alcoholics Anonymous® program for the First Nations community in his town. What struck me with both of them was how full of complete joy each was to be doing what he is doing.

The complete joy Jesus spoke of doesn't mean that a person is full of over the top bubbling happiness. The Greek word for Jesus' brand of joy is *chara*, which means 'a great calm delight that comes from deep within'. This is not joy that is dependent on happy circumstances and having no personal troubles; it is a joy that reflects the heart of Christ being given free reign to touch another person in mercy, love and compassion. He shares his joy with anyone willing to participate in his love for the poor, the sick, the weary and those who are marginalized on any level.

If you think the two deacons I talked to are experiencing this joy just because they are deacons, please remember that both exuded this joy well before they were ordained. I have also conversed with many lay people who have discovered this joy of participating in love.

"I take the Eucharist to some of the elderly in care facilities and I just love it. I love the people I visit—they are so beautiful."

"I volunteer at Anawim House and I love it! I love the street people I meet there and the men who are residents are just great guys."

"I visit prisoners out at William Head. They are now my people, my brothers and my sisters. I love them and I love going out there."

"I have become involved in hospice. It has changed my life."

Whenever I encounter someone expressing the joy they experience in their ministry, I not only recognize the joy from my own experiences in ministry but I also feel as though I am in the presence of Christ, who seems to shine out through their eyes.

When Christ within us ministers to Christ within the sick, dying, imprisoned or the otherwise impoverished, the circuit of joy is completed. Jesus shares himself unstintingly to all within that flow of love.

Please note that it is always Christ's love and joy that is being circulated in and through those who answer the call, not our own. If you feel poor in love or poor in capability, don't be afraid. Jesus actually prefers those who feel poor because those are the ones he can fill with *his* compassion and *his* joy. St. Paul said, "When I am weak then I am strong." Within your poverty is an ability to be transparent and really present to those who are in need, without patronizing them. When you know that you are receiving as much from those to whom you minister as they may be receiving from




you, then you know that you are truly within the circuit of Christ's love.

You may be called to touch one person with compassion or you may be called to touch many. Numbers don't matter if you are in the circuit; only love matters.

May you hear the call. May you find the joy. ✠


Jean Allen is a parishioner at St. Joseph the Worker parish in Victoria.



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- 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

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- 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
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- Fr. Leonard Assembly 2785 serving Mill Bay to Ladysmith
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- 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



Our Faith

Faith Formation and Evangelization

But what does it all mean?

By Gwen Jahelka, Assistant Director, Faith Formation and Evangelization

What comes to mind when you hear the words 'Faith Formation and Evangelization'? Do you see a preacher on the corner, someone going door to door, or perhaps a glossy pamphlet announcing the Good News? Although these can be useful tools, as Catholics, we often cannot picture ourselves participating in the evangelization mission of the Church in these ways, but we are, by the very essence of our baptism, called to evangelize! So take a deep breath, because we are here to help.



Glen Palahicky (L) and Gwen Jahelka (R)

Faith Formation is the action of equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus.

Faith Formation is the action of equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus. The process of faith formation is informed by many people, ideas, and mediums, and is a lifelong process of learning. Faith formation brings people into community, and works best when it is continually renewed by the people of God. Our team will offer opportunities for faith formation in the mid island, north island and greater Victoria locations. Our faith formation program will take a variety of shapes. It may be a general workshop, or a retreat, or working with an existing parish team to meet their pastoral goals. We are counting on the Holy Spirit to guide our creative efforts to collaborate with and to effectively support parish communities.

Evangelization is about integrating our Catholic Faith with our daily living. It is being caught up in an amazing cosmic and historic love story between God and creation. It's a worldview that is shaped by the revelation of a God who creates and sustains everything; declaring it good and gifting humanity with a special relationship to reflect the divine image and likeness. This love story goes further, showing a God who desires to heal, forgive and redeem all who are broken by dysfunction and sin. This is proclaimed

most clearly through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the followers of Jesus Christ and the Church witness to the Good News of this love story in word and deed.

Glen Palahicky is the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization for our Diocese and has been serving in the ministry of Religious Education for more than four years.

Gwen Jahelka has recently joined the team as Assistant Director, returning to our Diocese after working as a High School Teacher/Chaplain for Calgary Catholic Schools. If Gwen's name seems familiar, you might remember her serving our Diocese previously as teacher, Religious Education Coordinator, and Principal of St. Joseph's School in Chemainus. Gwen lives in Ladysmith with her husband, and is delighted to have returned to the newly formed, but just as welcoming, All Saints Parish.

Over the past few months, Glen and Gwen have been engaging pastors and lay leaders in conversations about the specific hopes and needs of the nearly 40 parishes and missions. We are a very diverse and dynamic Diocese; these conversations will help us to form a faith formation and evangelization plan to serve our parish communities in meaningful and practical ways.

Evangelization is about integrating our Catholic Faith with our daily living.

Through baptism, we are called by Jesus to follow him and live out what he himself proclaimed, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28.19). As we are baptized in the Faith, we must grow and be formed in the Faith and have the tools to share it with others.

"We challenge you to draw on the graces of your baptism to recognize the specific ways you share Christ with others..."

We are here to support your baptismal mission to participate in faith formation and evangelization, as part of a welcoming community of faith. In our baptism, we are anointed as priest, prophet and king and called to live as a member of Christ's body. We challenge you to draw on the graces of your baptism to recognize the specific ways you share Christ with others, beginning with your parish

family. You are an essential part of the Body of Christ and we hope we can journey alongside you as together we learn and grow as missionary disciples.

If you have a retreat or workshop idea or concept, please contact Glen or Gwen at gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org or gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org.

Contact Information

We are delighted to announce that the Diocesan Faith Formation and Evangelization Team has opened an office in St. Peter's Parish, Nanaimo, to help serve the diverse needs of our communities north of the Malahat.

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Director, Faith Formation and Evangelization

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Gwen Jahelka
Assistant Director, Faith Formation and Evangelization

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Calendar of Events

- **Diocesan Catechist Retreat and Workshop**
Saturday, September 15
8:30 am – 3 pm, Ascension Parish, Parksville
Register on Eventbrite
- **Foundations of the Faith**
September 19 – November 14 (Wednesdays)
7 – 9 pm
Part I: Pastoral Centre
4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria
Part II: Queen of Angels School, Duncan
Note there will be no class on October 31
- **Credible Catholic**
September 25 – November 6 (Tuesdays)
7 – 8:30 pm, St. Andrew's High School
- **Diocesan Conference: Proclaim Life**
Saturday, November 24
St. Edward's Parish/Queen of Angels School, Duncan
More details to follow

Explore or learn more about these and other Faith Formation opportunities at www.rcdvictoria.org/religious-education



Our Faith

Vocations

Vocations

By Fr. Pawel Szczur SDS

A few months ago one of my young parishioners, maybe six or seven years old, asked me a question, "Where do priests come from?" My answer to this young fellow was that first, a man has to feel a vocational call to the priesthood, and after that he has to attend seminary for at least five years.

When I gave that answer, the boy had a puzzled look on his face. He told me that he didn't understand why everybody who would like to



St. Joseph's Seminary, Edmonton. Photo courtesy Bishop Gary Gordon

be a priest had to live for at least five years in the cemetery. Hmm ... maybe my explanation wasn't clear enough, or perhaps he didn't understand me correctly, or maybe he somehow connected a seminary and a cemetery in his own mysterious way. Anyway, as we all know, every candidate for the priesthood is not headed directly for the cemetery, but he will attend the seminary—and just to be clear, these are two really different places.

The seminary plays an extremely important role in the life of every candidate for the priesthood, and also in the life of our Church. At the seminary, each candidate and the Church has the chance to evaluate the candidate's vocation through prayer, personal reflection, and through meetings and discussions with faculty members and spiritual directors.

Every seminary is also a place of formation. This formation is meant to lay a wonderful foundation for fruitful ministry in the future. There are four closely connected components of priestly formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

As the *Program for Priestly Formation* states: "Human development (formation) aims at developing in the candidate for Holy Orders, a growing inner freedom, an appropriate level of maturity and a capacity for healthy relationships fitting for priestly life and ministry" (64).

Spiritual formation helps every candidate to develop an intimate union with our Risen Lord, and to learn to remain open for the

inspiration of the Holy Spirit (*Program for Priestly Formation*, 75).

Intellectual formation is a very important part of seminary life. A seminarian's years of studies include topics such as Sacred Scripture, Dogmatic Theology, Moral Theology, and the History of the Church, to name a few. These studies are vital to equip each future priest with skills to explain the truthfulness and beauty of our Faith.

The last, but not the least, element of **priestly formation** is pastoral formation. Every priest is sent out to the people for a period of time before ordination to help them understand and see that our Almighty God sent his Son to invite us on the wonderful journey to His Everlasting Home. Pastoral Formation helps seminarians to bear great witness to this amazing truth.

Time in the seminary is a wonderful opportunity for each candidate to reflect on his vocation and grow closer to God, as well as to get to know himself better. On the other hand, this is a very demanding time which requires a lot of work, clarity of thought, and dedication.

At the beginning of this new school year, let us pray for all seminary faculty and formators as well as seminarians, especially those from our Diocese. May our Almighty God bless their efforts and help to form them into wonderful new priests who will ultimately help others discover the amazing love of our Heavenly Father. ✠

Learn more about the *Program for Priestly Formation*

<https://secure.cccb.ca/pubs/pdf/184-093%20Priestly%20Formation.pdf>



Fr. Pawel Szczur SDS serves as Formation Director for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria, and is Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford.



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Photo courtesy Connie Dunwoody