

Pastor's corner

This coming week I will be participating in three workshops (Cowichan, Nanaimo, Ahousat) organized by First Nation people together with the RC Diocese of Victoria on the subject of native spirituality. This event brings me to share with you a few reflections on the need for us to inculturate our faith: the fact that the Christian faith can only exist within a given, historical culture. The message of the Gospel is universal and faith is universal, but it can only exist particularized, inculturated in a specific culture. Culture is the various and many ways of seeing things, of living which are characteristic of a particular milieu, time and age. The reason we experience a gap between faith and culture is often related to the fact that we receive our faith in expressions that are related to a past culture. We are aware that our culture has changed and we feel the need to find new ways to express the faith received in this new culture. This is called acculturation and inculturation.

When we talk of faith and culture, we must immediately clarify that we are really talking of the encounter between the culture which is the bearer of our faith and the present day culture. Just as there does not exist human nature outside of a culture, so is there no Christian faith which is not impregnated by, steeped in a particular culture. Faith is always conveyed, incarnated, expressed, lived in a particular culture. Problems arise when there exists a gap between the culture which bears our faith and the culture of our time, the ways of seeing things, the ways of living characteristic of our own time and of our own milieu. In other words it is not so much "the" faith as "the culture which bears that faith", which incarnates it, which gives it a face. The culture which was the bearer of our faith is disintegrating in such a way that we wonder what really is left of our faith, because the culture which carried it has disappeared or is in the process of disappearing. What is needed is to inculturate the faith anew, in the new culture of our milieu and of our time.

The requirement that faith be inculturated comes from the very fact that we believe in a God, who out of love, wished to journey with us through time and whose Son was born in, incarnated in a particular people who had their traditions, their laws and customs, their ways of thinking and of living. Pope John Paul II expressed it beautifully when he talked to the Bishops of Kenya on May 7, 1980: "Acculturation or inculturation which you rightly promote will precisely be a reflexion of the Incarnation of the Word when a culture, transformed and uplifted by the Gospel and starting from its own living tradition, produces original expressions of Christian life, celebration and thought..." In other words, inculturation is not really an option; it becomes essential because of the Incarnation.

In the liturgy this acculturation can take various forms, for example, incorporating cultural elements such as using the local language in the liturgy; or it may mean finding the dynamic equivalent (symbols, gestures, postures) in the local culture that can express the same ideas; or finally incorporating elements of popular religiosity in which pre- or non-Christian rites are adopted by endowing them with Christian meaning. These latter adaptations are more controversial but we must remember that that is precisely what the early Christians did when they adopted and modified Jewish and pagan feasts in order to create Christian feasts and rituals.

Faith is always inculturated, incarnated, lived in a specific culture, etc. The insertion of the faith in a specific culture leads necessarily to the elaboration of representations of the faith which are marked by these specific cultures (just think of the different theological traditions of the east and the west which have complemented one another). The reverse is also true. The proclamation and the reception of the faith in a specific culture cannot but influence that culture, transforming it, uplifting it in the words of John Paul.

fr. Rolf

Saanich Peninsula Parish



A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Box 2116, Sidney, BC, V8L 3S6 web-site: www.spparish.com e-mail: spparish@shaw.ca

Parish Office & Kitchen: 656-7433, Fax 483-1597, Rectory: 652-1990

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm

RECONCILIATION Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Neil Lensen

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chair, Bob Fowler, 655-3078

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am

Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays

& Thursdays and First Fridays

Liturgy of the Word at 9am on Mondays

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Brentwood Bay

Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am

Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home

See inside bulletin

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

Am 6:1, 4-7 / 1 Tim 6:11-16 / Lk 16:19-31

MISSION STATEMENT

*Let us be open
accepting individuals
sensitive to change
and willing to take
Courses untraditional,
unknown to us.
Let us live as
examples of God's love.*

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please fill out the information below so we can get to know you. Pick up one of the blue information pamphlets next to the bulletins in the foyer so you can get to know us.

Name _____

Phone# _____

Need donation envelopes? Yes _____ No _____



PARRISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

Sept. 2nd Collection	\$3,906.00
PAD's	\$2,275.00
Sept. 9th Collection	\$4,165.00
Sept. 16th Collection	\$3,676.00
Sept. 23rd Collection	\$3,887.30

Budgeted Expenses 1/52 \$5,270.00

SPECIAL COLLECTION: TODAY

There will be a 2nd collection taken after communion for the Needs of the Canadian Church. The money raised will help finance the activities of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), an organization created by and for the Bishops of Canada.

OFFICE

CLOSED TUESDAY: OCT. 2

There will be no morning mass as Fr. Rolf will be at the Native Spirituality Workshops.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Oct. 7 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: OCT. 1

Monday at 7pm. Theme: "Are we redeemed as individuals and/or community?"

BAPTISM PREPARATION: OCT. 3

Parents who wish to have their babies baptized are invited to a Baptismal Preparation session on Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:00pm at St. Elizabeth's. Child care will be provided. Please contact Lise and Niles Derzaph 655-4042.

URGENT! FRIENDLY HOURS needs a soup maker and other volunteers.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, OCT. 1ST

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
7:00pm Faith Reflection Group

TUESDAY, OCT. 2ND

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm CWL Exec. Meeting
7:00pm KofC Prayer & Exec. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3RD

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
10:00am Taiji Qigong
6:00pm Baptism Preparation
7:30pm RCIA, Adult Faith Formation

THURSDAY, OCT. 4TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
11:30am Friendly Hours
6:00pm Taiji Qigong
7:30pm Prayer Group

FRIDAY, OCT. 5TH

9:00am Liturgy of the Word

SATURDAY, OCT. 6TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, OCT. 7TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

ERITREAN ANNUAL BENEFIT LUNCHEON:

OCT. 21, directly after 10:30am Mass

This fundraiser (by donation) will continue to support all our good friends' work in Eritrea, Horn of Africa—Education (pre-school, elementary, high school, Agricultural College), clinics, study centres, orphans, the elderly. Please come and enjoy a wonderful lunch, buy items from the Hands and Heart Boutique, and enjoy chatting with your fellow parishioners. A lunch with a Purpose. God Bless, Stephanie.

OKTOBER—HARVEST FEST: OCT. 19

Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 19th for our annual Oktoberfest. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with games, horse racing and entertainment to follow. Tickets \$10, available after all Masses. Special events for children.

GENERAL

FR. GARY HARTMANN'S 3RD BOOK

Will be available at the beginning of October, called "My Experience as a Priest" and tells of Father's adventures from the time of his ordination in the mid 1970's until his retirement. Please order soon by mailing your cheque (\$12.50) with name, address, phone number to St. Rose de Lima Church, P.O. Box 566, Sooke BC V0S 1N0.

DIOCESAN WORKSHOPS: OCT. 2-4

Facilitator: Sr. Eva Solomon, CSJ, D.Min.

NATIVE SPIRITUALITY & TRADITIONS

How these relate to our Catholic Faith and to build bridges with the Catholic Native community and the Native community at large.

* Tuesday, Oct. 2nd: Cowichan Reserve

* **Wednesday, Oct. 3rd from 10am—4pm at St. Peter's Parish in Nanaimo. Please let Fr. Rolf know if you plan to attend by Monday morning**

* Thursday, Oct. 4: Ahousat, West Coast

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: OCT. 3

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society UVic. Wednesday, Oct. 3rd, David Strong Building, Room C118 at 4:30 p.m. Speaker: Jordan Paper, CSRS Associate Fellow. Theme: *Religious Studies and Native North American Religion: Ethics, Methods, Political Correctness and Racism*. A 40 minute talk, followed by discussion, free, open to the public.

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria
www.queenswoodcentre.com

For Registration or Information call 477-3822

ENNEAGRAM EXPLORATIONS: OCT. 3

Wednesdays for 3 weeks from 7-9:30pm. Facilitators: Phyllis McGee, Cathy Fouracre & Cheryl Macpherson.

FROM BUSINESS TO THE BUSINESS OF LIFE: OCT. 4 7-9pm. Removing the blocks to a creative, happy & contented post-business life with Susan Worrall.

SLOWLY DOWN THE GANGES BY KAYAK: OCT. 5

A stunning multi-media presentation by Dag Goering and Maria Coffey. Cost \$20

THE PATH OF THE JOURNAL: OCT. 6-7

A writing workshop with Maria Coffey from 10am to 5pm both days.

CAPTURING THE ESSENCE: OCT. 6-7

A photography workshop with Dag Goering from 10am to 5pm both days.

See their website at www.hiddenplaces.net

WILD SELF-REAL SELF: OCT. 6

9:30-3:30pm—a writer's workshop. Facilitator: Margot VanSluytman.

JOHN ALBERT HALL LECTURE SERIES: OCT. 10-16

Sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of BC and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria. Sarah Coakley, University of Cambridge presents "Flesh and Blood: The Eucharist, Desire and Gender—4 lectures on Oct. 10, 11, 15 & 16. All lectures at 7:30pm in the Human Social Dev. Bldg., Room A240. Poster St. Elizabeth's bulletin board.

MESSAGES

THANK YOU

Many grateful thanks to Fr. Rolf, the Prayer and Visitation Groups and to all parishioners for your prayers of healing. God's Blessings to all!

John Verlaan

THANKSGIVING - NEXT SUNDAY, bring a non-perishable food item for our celebration.