

Pastor's corner - 18 Nov 2007

Last week you found on the back page of the bulletin the conservation/environment policy that our Pastoral Council after consulting with our various user groups is now proposing for our implementation. A short time before an article appeared in the Globe and Mail of October 27th, which reminded us once more that the call to preserve our environment has always been part of our Christian response to be stewards of God's creation. The paper quoted the late Pope John Paul's call on New Year's Day 1990, "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with all of Creation." Seven years before the Kyoto Protocol the Pope issued a warning about climate change. He talked about our planet "suffering" from environmental degradation; that we were facing "the threat of ecological breakdown" and "uncontrolled deforestation"; that the "greenhouse effect" caused by "vastly increased energy needs" was already at a crisis level. The Pope was expanding on elements already present in traditional Catholic social doctrine and repeated what some Catholic and other Christian Theologians had been saying for some time. Unfortunately, as has happened so often in modern times to the Church's social justice doctrine, the Pope's important message on the intimate relationship between man and the environment was ignored not just by the world but also by Catholics.

Well, Pope Benedict, in the words of the Globe, "has picked up his predecessor's green theme and is pushing it hard. This time it appears to be sticking. Where endless scientific warnings have failed, can religion now succeed?" I certainly hope so and I am sure you feel the same way. Our faith has something to say in these matters since the beginning when at creation God placed the human as guardian/caretaker over the Earth. We cannot forget that we are faithful servants of this Earth because if we do then "it becomes a desert that threatens the survival of all creation." "Courageous choices that can create a strong alliance between man and Earth must be made before it is too late."

The Church must practice what it preaches. Last month Pope Benedict led the first ecofriendly Catholic youth rally in Loreto, a shrine on Italy's Adriatic coast. Some 500,000 people were given backpacks made from recyclable material and crank-powered flashlights. Prayer books were printed on recycled paper and meals were served on recycled plates. It reminds me of our latest Oktober/Harvest Fest when our paper plates and left-over bits of food were collected in a large bin which later was picked up by a company that recycled it into compostable material. By the way this was started about three or four years ago at the University of Victoria where all paper products used for food consumption is gathered together with all thrown away food scraps and recycled.

Our Church can be a very powerful agent for change even if, "no one expects Catholics to turn into ecological knights in shining green armour overnight, given the rate at which human behaviour changes."

Well, let us here at Saanich Peninsula Parish do our part, not just when we are in church, but also in our own homes. Let us apply our conservation/environment policy at home also and wherever we go. One little step at a time. If you have any suggestions or comments, please, talk to one of the Pastoral Council members.

Shalom

Fr. Rolf, OP

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: 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

EUCCHARIST 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

EUCCHARIST 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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 18, 2007

Mal 4:1-2 / 2 Thess 3:7-12 / Lk 21:5-19

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 _____

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

Nov. 4th Collection	\$4,717.55
PAD's	\$2,275.00
Nov. 11th Collection	\$2,870.00
Budgeted Expenses 1/52	\$5,270.00

SPECIAL COLLECTION: NOV. 24 & 25:

A 2nd collection will be taken after communion for the **Catholic Missions in Canada.**

We welcome into our faith community in Baptism:

Rafael Marcelo Alarcon-Peters son of Francisco Giovani Alarcon & Iris Martha Peters;

Owen Price Christopher Alphonse son of Gregory Alphonse & Thomasina Smith;

Cameron Dallas Mack son of Andrew Mack & Nicollette Smith.

We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the soul of:

Elsie Barbara Holm (Funeral on 17 Nov 2007)

COVENANT

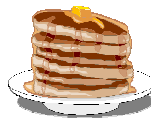
ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Nov. 25 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE at both churches - you are invited to inscribe the names of deceased relatives and friends.

K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: NOV 25 After the 10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Adults \$4.00, children free.



THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, NOV. 19TH

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 20TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm Knights of Columbus

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21ST

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:30pm RCIA, Adult Faith Formation

THURSDAY, NOV. 22ND

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, NOV. 23RD

9:00am Mass at the home of Eileen Kroetsch

SATURDAY, NOV. 24TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, NOV. 25TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am Children's Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Pancake Breakfast - by K of C at St. Elizabeth's

CHRISTMAS CARDS to support the Poor Clare's contemplative nuns in Duncan. For sale in the foyer - 6 pack of cards \$5.50

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: NOV. 19

Topic "The Church is About Life; Ours and God's, as Focused in Jesus", J. Carmody. Continued. Meeting on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

REEL SPIRITUALITY FILM SERIES: NOV. 30

Films with issues arising from the human spiritual journey. Held at the UVic Campus, Fine Arts Bldg., Room 103 at 3:30pm. "Millions" More info on the bulletin board.

BAKE SALE, FOR EAST TIMOR: DEC. 2

After the 10:30 Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Some of the most talented bakers in the Parish will help you prepare for Christmas Visitors. Buy some goodies and freeze them! For more information or to donate some of your own wonderful baking please call Deirdre Doyle at 656-6872 or Stephanie Schroeder at 655-3635

DO YOU NEED PRAYERS?

Are you, your family or a friend in crisis, ill or dealing with a tragedy? Your Parish Prayer Group members will individually and as a group join their prayers to your during these times of need. You may leave a message in the Prayer Intention Box in the foyer of St Elizabeth's Church or phone for prayers. CALL CARMEL at 655-4464 or CATHY at 652-2365

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - OUR RECONCILIATION SERVICE WILL BE ON DECEMBER 14, 2007 AT 7 P.M.

GENERAL

FILIPINO DINNER & SILENT AUCTION - INVITATION TO ALL THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH St. Joseph's Junior Youth Group is inviting all families and everyone to attend our Filipino Dinner & Silent Auction to fundraise money for a village that we are building in the Philippines for poor families. The evening will feature Filipino food, cultural presentations from the Philippines, and presentations about the village and the charity in the Philippines. The event will take place in the St. Joseph The Worker Parish Hall (Burnside and McKenzie) on Saturday, November 24, 2007 from 6 to 9pm. We are also seeking volunteers. For information or tickets, contact Darryl Wilson darrylgw@telus.net or 812-6268.

TEN-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO ROME where you will explore Thomas Merton's life and thought with Merton scholars Donald Grayston, Michael Higgins and Judith Hardcastle. Cost: \$2,495 Cdn (based on double occupancy); and \$2,820 Cdn (single). For more information or to reserve your space, please contact Judith Hardcastle, Program Director, @ 604-669-2546 or judithhardcastle@telus.net.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria
www.queenswoodcentre.com

For Registration or Information call 477-3822
WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL WEEKEND RETREAT: NOV. 30
With Gertrude Scott, ssa and Mary Jane Wilson, cdn

THE GIFTS OF SABBATH - An Oasis in our Busy Lives with Sarah Donnelly
Nov 23 at 7 pm & Nov 24 at 9 am, at St. John the Divine Church, 1611 Quadra St Victoria
Cost \$25 Refreshment provided, bring a bag lunch on Sat. To register, call Carol-Ann Zenger, 383-7169

"IMPLICIT RELIGION"? WHAT MIGHT THAT BE? - EDWARD BAILEY

NOV 21, 4:30 PM, at the David Strong Building, UVic, Room C118 - The lecture is free and open to the public.

MESSAGES

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

An example of what mining can do to people. The Canada Pension Plan invested \$35 M in the OMAI Gold Mine in Guyana. A massive tailings dam failure spilled into the Essequibo River claiming fish losses, contamination of fresh water supplies and adverse health effects. A class action law suit on behalf of the affected Guyanese was thrown out by a Quebec court.