

In my Easter homily I mentioned that ultimately the element that brought the first followers of Jesus to interpret the empty tomb and to believe in the Resurrection of the Lord was love, not tangible facts. The different stories relating the resurrection of Jesus were not trying to give us proofs; they were told and written for believers, to strengthen the faith of those who believed in Jesus so that they might be able to continue not just to live but to live as transformed, resurrected people, as people in who the Spirit of Jesus continues. It is the Gospel of John in chapter 20 that tells us that the "other disciple", the "one Jesus loved", yes, the one who represents all of us baptized persons (who were told by God at our baptism: "you are my beloved"); it is he/she that helps us to "see and believe" because of love! Well, today's gospel brings us back to earth; among other things it puts before us someone with whom we can relate, Thomas, the "doubting" Thomas. It is good to have Thomas; we can all relate to him; he is concrete, not afraid to get to the point, to question when necessary.

At the beginning of his final journey to Jerusalem and death Jesus decides to return to Bethany, the very place where people had been deaf to his preaching and where they even had tried to stone him (John 11: 7-16). The other apostles thought out loud: "Of all places why go there? Wouldn't it be safer to stay where people are receptive, where people support us?" Thomas is the one who is ready to follow Jesus wherever he goes, even if it means to die with him: "Let us also go to die with him (John 11: 16)." Whatever Jesus is going to do, he will do the same, out of love!

When John's Gospel puts together various teachings of Jesus in what we call the "farewell discourses," it is Thomas who asks the question which his fellow apostles were too shy or too embarrassed to ask. In John 14: 1-7 Jesus comforts his disciples by assuring them: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many places to live in." Jesus talks about how he needs to prepare a place in his Father's house for his disciples and asks a kind of rhetorical question: "... You know the way to the place where I am going." It is Thomas who is not afraid to say: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Remember Thomas loved Jesus and wanted to accompany him on the journey, no matter what. It is because of Thomas that we know that Jesus is THE WAY!

And finally we find Thomas in the upper room, representing us all, trying to tell us that the saying "seeing is believing" is not sufficient. He wants to touch Jesus. St. Augustine will write later: "I will see it when I believe it." We cannot truly "see" if we do not want to believe. Thomas is brought to true faith because ultimately faith is his personal love and attachment to Jesus, now the Christ, the Risen Lord.

The love that Jesus shows to his disciples begins today with the greeting Shalom, that beautiful Hebrew greeting which wishes the disciples and us "wholeness", to become more our complete selves. Jesus does not mention the betrayals of his disciples; he only wishes them to become more like him; and so he breathes on them so that they might receive his spirit. It is the gift of the spirit that makes of these once fearing people, true apostles who fearlessly confronted civil and religious authorities of their time to bring the Good News to every part of the known world. It is Thomas who will travel the farthest and to the most unfamiliar parts (India) to preach and to tell people about how God loved him in Jesus and how God loves us all.

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

MARCH 30, 2008

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts: 2:42-47 / 1 Pet: 1:3-9 / Jn n20:19-31

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 _____

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

March 2nd	\$4,348.50
March 9th	\$3,803.00
March 16th	\$4,114.75
March 23rd	\$4,854.00
Share Lent (up to Mar 23rd)	\$4,153.76
Easter Sunday	\$3,863.00
PAD's	\$2,815.00

HELP BRING THE AWOR FAMILY TO VICTORIA

FRIDAY APRIL 4TH AT 5.30PM Come to Saanich Peninsula Parish Pot Luck supper for **FUN, FUND-RAISING AND FOOD. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU WITH US!** Bring your friends.

TICKETS: on sale March 29/30 after all Masses.
- Adults \$15 - children \$7
See Ralph at the 5pm Mass on Saturday; Don, Bob and Freddie at the 8.30am Mass at OLOA; and Gary and Lynn at the 10.30am Mass at St Elizabeth.

FUND RAISING - SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION

- exciting items include
- dinner for 4 at the Rectory (Host Fr Rolf, Chef Fr Sean)
- KofC 4 hour yard clean up
- hand made queen size quilt
- gourmet basket from the CWL
- picnic for 4 on Salt Spring Island
- and many more

ENTERTAINMENT

- skits with Fr Rolf and Bob Fowler
- Celtic musicians
- the Sunshine Singers
- Shirley's choir
- and more

And **Your Contribution to POT LUCK** should be as follows, please...

- A to F - Salad
- G to P - Entree
- Q to Z - Dessert

and **THANK YOU** from your organizing Committee!

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 31ST

9:00am Liturgy of the Word
3:00pm Reflection Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST

9:00am Liturgy of the Word - No Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm K of C Executive Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

9:00am Liturgy of the Word - No Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's followed
By Eucharistic Adoration
5:30pm Parish Pot Luck Supper

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH

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

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Apr. 6th 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST - MAR. 30 C A N C E L L E D

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: APR 9

The next meeting is changed to Apr 9th at 7:00 p.m.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAR. 30

3pm at St. Elizabeth's. Topic: *People of God - Resurrected People.*

LITURGY MEETING - SAT, APR. 5

10a.m. at St. Elizabeth's. All those interested and/or involved in our community are invited to evaluate our Lenten celebrations and prepare for the future.

K OF C PRAYER SERVICE: APR. 1

The Day of the Unborn Child Prayer Service will be held on Tuesday, April 1st at 7pm at St. Elizabeth's. This is a service of Prayer for the right to life and well-being of unborn children, their mother's, father's and family. We invite everyone to join us at 7pm to pray for the protection of God's precious gift of human life at every moment from conception to natural death. The Order of Service is included in this week's bulletin and we ask you to bring it with you if you are able to join us. If you are unable to attend the service, please join your prayers with ours wherever you may be to protect the right to life for unborn children.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST: APR. 13

Will be celebrated on Sunday, April 13th at 10:30am with Bishop Richard Gagnon presiding.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: APR. 20

The AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held following the 10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Nominations are welcome from those who are willing to actively participate as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for the next two years. Contact Roy Battilana or Els Welle. Nomination forms are available for pick up at the Parish Office. Ministry leaders are requested to have their reports to the Parish Office by April 10th. Reports will be posted to the information board for review by interested parties. Council needs a Recording Secretary for their monthly meetings - if you have skills to offer in this regard, please put your name forward.

HOME VISITS EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

This Ministry makes home visits on Thursday mornings, bringing Holy Communion to those unable to come to the Saturday/Sunday Mass. If you are unable, or know of someone who is unable, due to sickness or disability, to come to our Saturday/Sunday Eucharistic Celebration, and

would like to receive Communion and a social visit every Thursday morning, you are invited to call the Neil at the office at 656-7433 to register your name for such a visit.

GENERAL

iGNight YOUTH MINISTRY: MAR. 30

"WHADDYA LOOKIN' FOR?" This Sunday, March 30th at St. Joseph the Worker parish: Mass at 6:30pm followed by iGNight (Gr. 9-12). Theme: Looking for Easter eggs, you never know what you might find! Watch the trailer at www.ignight.ca.

SOUP TIME at THE ROCK CHURCH

Every Friday from 12:30 - 3pm soup will be served at The Rock Church (between the D.Q. and the Skateboard Park).

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: APR. 2

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society UVic. David Strong Building, Rm C118 at 4:30pm.

Wed., Apr. 2nd: Presenter Louise Bienvenue, Department of History, Universite de Sherbrooke. Theme: *Making Honest Men: Masculine Socialization in the Classical Colleges of Quebec, 1800-1960.*

Wed., Apr. 9th: Presenter Mona Goode, CSRS Graduate Student Fellow (History), UVic. Theme: *Arabic Papyrus: A Tool for Understanding Islam*

YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 9 - 11

"THAT 7 X 70'S SHOW" DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE 2008 All youth in grades 8-12: come to the 5th annual DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE, "That 7 x 70's Show." Our special guest speaker is Fr. Stan Fortuna, the Rapping Reverend from the Bronx, NY. Dates: Friday May 9 to Sunday May 11. Place: St. Andrew's High School, 880 McKenzie Ave, Victoria. For registration info, contact your parish youth leader; or download the registration form at www.islandyouth.ca. Questions? Phone Flo Follero-Pugh at 250-544-0999; or e-mail follero@shaw.ca.