

Pastor's corner – April 13, 2008.

Last Sunday I gave a homily (now you cannot say that it was a long one!) on the beautiful Gospel of the disciples of Jesus unknowingly conversing with the Risen Lord on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35) and on how little by little “the stranger” in their midst shares with them their stories, breaks open the Scriptures for them and breaks bread with them thereby bringing them to a new and beautiful realization. Several people commented positively on my kind of unusual take on this Gospel. Well, I thought it might help our own personal reflection by using this back page to again touch on some elements.

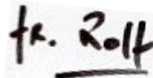
The disciples on the way to Emmaus were struggling with an event that had hurt them deeply: the rejection, suffering and death of the One in whom they had placed a great deal of hope, Jesus their spiritual master, their companion for three years. Remember their words: “We had hoped...” Their dreams of a new life for themselves, their loved ones, their country, had died with Jesus. We can sense that their lives had changed; that for the moment they were drained of the necessary energy, bitterly disappointed. They were struggling with the real dilemma that they faced: whether to return to their former lives before Jesus had entered theirs or whether to see themselves transformed and move forward.

We, too, who are “on the way” (an expression used in Luke’s Second Gospel, the Book of Acts, for the first Christians; Christ is the Way) often see our hopes crushed or at least watered down little by little. And then we too will say: “We had hoped...but....” We had hoped that our retirement would be worry free, but.... We had hoped that marriage/family counseling would have saved our life as a couple, as a family, but.... We had hoped that the cancer treatment, but After the Great Wars we had hoped, but With Vatican II and the growing consciousness of the Church being the people of God, all of us, we had hoped, but With our tremendous resources and with a greater awareness of the basic needs and rights of people and individuals we had hoped, but We can continue this line of thought with our own “we had hoped, but...”

Then the story of the disciples of Emmaus can bring light and hope. Jesus recognized their needs and so he shared with them, broke open the Word and broke bread with them giving his very self. They two thousand years ago, and now we, we need to come together when our hope is low, fading, to share our stories, our pains, our hopes. Christ is there with us and for us as he promised. We need to nourish each other’s hopes and dreams because what we hope for is important, whether it is true peace (remember the “Shalom – the wholeness of being” that the Risen Lord promises his followers), social justice, an equitable sharing of resources, a “green” planet, a “new” and healed church, a greater awareness and acceptance of the fundamental equality of women and gay people in our churches and communities, or implementation of structures and programs that recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to clean water, to housing, to education, to work, to participation in decision-making, etc, etc.

We need to celebrate the Eucharist. We need to come together to break open the Word, to strengthen and nourish each other in our faith, to be able to think clearly and act decisively and with passion, to empower each other, to encourage each other to persevere, to be truly Easter people (people of hope), Christ-nourished and Christ-like people filled with the Spirit of the Risen Lord. And like the disciples of Emmaus “our hearts need to burn within us”, our eyes need to be opened to see the Lord in our midst, and we too need to continue on the way always giving an account of the hope that is within us.

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

APRIL 13, 2008

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14, 36-41 / 1 Pet 2:20-25 / Jn 10:1-10

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

April 6th \$4,969.00
PAD's \$2,815.00

We welcome into our faith community in Baptism:

Desmond Patrick Higgins-Grant, child of Nicolas Grant and Colleen Deborah Higgins; and **Kaleb Koren**, child of Jamie Koren and Theralee Catchpole.

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

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Apr. 20th 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: APR 14

3pm at St. Elizabeth's. Topic: *Deconstruction*.

LITURGY MEETING - APR. 19

At 10am at St. Elizabeth's. All those interested and/or involved are invited to evaluate our Lenten celebrations and to prepare to the future.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Is needed. If you can help in this area please call Betty or Roman Hawryluk at 544-0529.

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, prior to the meeting, of those who are willing to actively participate as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council for the next two years. There will be no nominations from the floor. 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 ASAP. Reports will be posted on the information board for review by interested parties.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APRIL 14TH

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
1:30pm St. Vincent de Paul

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Knights of Columbus

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

9:00am Mass at the home Eileen Kroetsch

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH

10:00am Liturgy Meeting
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH

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

CWL: APR 25

The Saanich Peninsula Parish CWL is hosting a Tea at 1:30 p.m. on April 25, 2008 in honour of our Lady of Good Council. We have invited all CWL members of the Vancouver Island Diocese. All CWL members from St. Elizabeth's and Our Lady of Assumption are invited to attend. If you wish to join us, please call Linda MacGowan, Secretary, S.P. Parish CWL, at 655-0713 before April 20, 2008 to confirm your attendance. We will be having guests that day to speak to us on the Trafficking of Women and Children. Admission to the Tea is by donation."

GENERAL

VOCATIONS MASS: APR. 13

There will be a Vocations Mass on Sunday at 5pm on April 13th at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Bishop Richard Gagnon presiding.

SPRING GARAGE SALE: APR. 19

Sacred Heart Church welcomes you to their Attic Treasures & Clothing Charities Spring Garage Sale on Saturday, April 19 from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Parish Hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. Info at 704-1151 or 479-1611.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION & QUEENSWOOD FUNDRAISER: APR. 22

Come listen to David Hickey's Crystal Bowl, Paiste Gongs & Chakra Chimes Concert at Queenswood Centre Chapel, 2494 Arbutus Rd. from 7—9:30 on Tuesday, April 22nd. Cost \$20/person at the door.

OPERATION UPPER ROOM 2008: MAY 4

On Sunday, May 4, the Victoria Diocese Charismatic Renewal Services is holding a special prayer meeting. This event will be part of the "Operation Upper Room 2008" Novena Prayer Events that are being held worldwide and are intended to weave a global prayer network before Pentecost. Everyone is welcome. The prayer meeting will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Hall in Victoria, 785 Burnside Road West from 2-5pm. There will be refreshments and snacks at the end of the prayer meeting. For more information, contact David at 383-9955.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MAY 23-25. Make your good marriage even better

consider a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend. It is a powerful experience for couples who believe that their Sacrament of Matrimony is a sign of love in our world. The next weekend will be held May 23-25 at the Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo. To receive a registration brochure or for more information, please call: Bryan & Fatima Warner 250-656-88. We encourage you to book ASAP.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

CELLULAR HEALING & SACRED TRANSMISSION WORKSHOP: APR. 18-20

This 3 day workshop with Ger Lyons from Ireland will be held at Queenswood Centre on Apr. 18th from 7-10pm and Apr. 19th & 20th from 10am-6pm. There will be an introduction evening on Thursday, April 17th from 7-10pm at U-Vic, McKenzie-Sinclair Rooms, Cadboro commons bldg. For more info check www.gerlyons.net or the bulletin board at St. Elizabeth's. Cost for the 3 day workshop \$375, 1 day session \$160, evening session \$65, or intro \$10.

HELP - I WANT TO HELP!: APR. 19

A workshop to help you help others with effective listening; responding in a way that encourages change & when to give advice. Facilitator: Dr. Martin Spray. Apr. 19 from 9-4pm (incl. lunch), at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill X Rd., Cost: \$55, to register call 472-2851.

MESSAGES

SPRING FLING THANK YOU

The Planning Committee wishes to thank all parishioners who attended the Spring Fling, made donations of money or goods/services for the silent auction. Your generosity enabled us, with the help of a \$1000 donation from the Knights of Columbus Council 9703, to collect over \$10,000 for the Awor family. A special thank you to those who offered their services for the event, especially the Knights who operated the bar, set up tables and provided clean up, the women of the Catholic Women's League who operated the kitchen, the decorators, the entertainers, masters of ceremonies/auctioneers and the sound and light technicians. Thank you all for reaching out to those who are in desperate need.

Bob Fowler