

Pastor's corner - May 4, 2008

Earlier this year in February I talked briefly about an upcoming announcement (it was supposed to be on February 24) on the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Well, the Federal Government announced last Monday that an aboriginal judge from the Ontario Court of Appeal, Justice Harry LaForme, would head the new Commission, which was promised almost two years ago as part of an out-of-court settlement with former students of residential schools. Justice LaForme is a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in southern Ontario. The Commission will be composed of two additional members who will be appointed in the next month before the Commission is officially appointed on June 1.

For years people from various organizations and backgrounds have been asking for such a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the Roman Catholic Church, because it was felt that healing and reconciliation can only come about when the whole truth is brought forward. There are about 90,000 aboriginal people alive today who went to residential schools and who will be asked to come forward to tell their story, both the positive and the negative. Since late last fall these people have been receiving payment (ranging from \$10,000 and up) for their years in residential schools from the Federal Government. However, money does not bring about healing and reconciliation.

Governments, churches, former staff of the residential schools as well as the general population, all of us, need to participate with honesty and humility and truly listen with open and compassionate minds and hearts to the truth of the past. We cannot ignore or mask that past. We need to accept that as **our** (as a country and as a Church) past and ask for forgiveness where needed. However, we also need to recognize the generosity, the compassion and truly hard work that so many religious, clergy and lay women and men did, all in good faith.

First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine has been an active supporter of the churches and religious communities' involvement in this process. He has publicly recognized that while the residential school system was flawed and unjust, and while some individuals committed abuse, a great deal of good was also done by the many people who were part of the school system.

Here are segments from this week's press release: "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been developed to provide a nationwide forum for former aboriginal students and participants, including church representatives and educators, to tell their stories. The \$60-million, five-year panel is also aimed at educating Canadians on the history and impact of the residential school system, which was funded by Ottawa and administered by churches. (In fact, it is part of a process to add an important chapter in Canada's formal history; it will become part of the history to be taught in our schools.) Some 150,000 aboriginal, Inuit and Métis children were removed from their communities at the age of six and forced to attend the schools, where physical and sexual abuse was rampant for much of the last century. The schools aimed to assimilate the children by making them Christians, as well as to bury their language and culture.

Fontaine noted the history of the school system has been "largely hidden or misunderstood until now," and said he had hoped such a commission would have already begun its work. "This is about Canada's history," he said. "It would have been better that this happened before this date, but we are here today, and we have a real opportunity to set the record straight and write the missing chapter." The goal of the commission was not to find "people to blame, but about understanding that missing piece of history so that we understand how that occurred, why it occurred, and where our people can go from there."

As Catholics we are invited to become actively engaged in this five-year long process. Let us take time to inform ourselves, to possibly participate in the hearings of the Commission when they are held in this area, to pray that true healing and reconciliation may occur, and that we may all learn from this part of our history so that the same mistakes may not be made again.

Shalom. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

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: 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

MAY 4, 2008

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11 / Eph 1:17-23 / Mt 28:16-20

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
April 13th	\$5,332.75
April 20th	\$3,518.40
April 27th	\$3,973.25

PAD's \$2,815.00

FR. ROLF ON VACATION

We welcome Fr. Herve to our parish for the month of May to celebrate with us while Fr. Rolf is on his annual vacation.

Pastoral Council Members 2008-2009

Returning Members:

Bob Fowler Tim Leadem
Paul Ledet Jr. Lissen Lockwood

New Members (approved at Parish AGM
April 20, 2008)

Tom Kwiatkowski Linda MacGowan
Janet Staebell Chris Whelan

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

May 11th 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

LITURGY OF THE WORD

As of May 1st there will be no Liturgies of the Word on Monday mornings until the fall.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAY 5

3pm at St. Elizabeth's. Topic: *The Spirit of God Among Us*. This will be our last session until the Fall.

C.W.A.: MAY 6

Our Tuesday, May 6th meeting will be held at 1:30pm in Room 1 at St. Elizabeth's.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAY 5TH

3:00pm Reflection Group

TUESDAY, MAY 6TH

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
1:30pm CWA Meeting
7:30pm K of C Executive Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH

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

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

9:00am Mass at the home of Barry & Vera Gear, 7993 W. Saanich Rd., 652-2774

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH

8:00am Garage Sale & Plant Sale
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

C.W.L. MEETING: MAY 13

The general meeting will be held at 2pm at St. Elizabeth's. All women welcome.

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 session 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 656-8863. We encourage you to book ASAP.

K of C ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: MAY 10

At St. Elizabeth's from 8am - 2pm. Donations for our Garage Sale will be accepted only on May 8th or 9th. Call Gord at 652-4379.

PLANT SALE FOR BIRTHRIGHT: MAY 10

Takes place at the KofC garage sale. Donations of plants for the sale would be gratefully accepted. For more information call Arthur or Alanna Menu at 656-0138.

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would like a visit from the Pastor or Visitation Team, please call the office.

LECTORS REQUIRED

Please consider serving as a Lector/Reader. We really are in desperate need of some new readers as quite a few have fulfilled their commitment and want to retire. We especially need readers for the 5pm Mass. Please call Rose at 544-4891. **LECTOR COORDINATOR NEEDED.** Please indicate your planning skills to Neil, Parish Coordinator.

GENERAL

OPERATION UPPER ROOM 2008: MAY 4

On Sunday, May 4 from 2-5pm, the Victoria Diocese Charismatic Renewal Services is holding a special prayer meeting at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Hall, 785 Burnside Road W. There will be refreshments and snacks at the end of the prayer meeting.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: MAY 14

May is dedicated to the Blessed Mother and to honour her, and to give glory to God, a special service has been planned for Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm at the Cathedral. A sung Rosary, with meditations on the Glorious Mysteries, will be prayed. The service will take approximately 60 minutes. All are invited to attend! Spread the word!

ONE NIGHT ONLY!: MAY 21

Hillsong United presents *'The I Heart Revolution We're All In This Together'*. It was created to inspire this generation and youth ministries to respond to injustice in their local communities and take responsibility as God's hands and feet on the planet. May 21st at 7pm at the SilverCity theatre at Tillicum Centre.

CARING FOR THE HANDS OF CHRIST: MAY 24

A workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria on Saturday, May 24th from 8:30am to 3pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 785 Burnside Rd. Presenter: Dr. Nancy Reeves, author, clinical psychologist and spiritual director. Bring a bag lunch. The day will include prayerful activities, lecture and discussion. For more info see the bulletin board at St. Elizabeth's or call St. Joseph the Worker Parish at 479-7413.

ST. ANDREW'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Are pleased to announce that beginning September 2008 they will be opening a separate 3 year old class – every Tuesday & Thursday 8:50–11:20am. They will continue to have a 4 year old class every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:50-11:20am. Limited spaces in each class. For more info. please contact 382-1815.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE NEWS:

D&P and its partners in the South are examining a common strategy in order to address the global food crisis. For more information, check: <http://tinyurl.com/627yr5>. To see what D&P partners around the world are doing, check: <http://tinyurl.com/54ryrg>.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 9 - 11

All youth in grades 8-12: come to the DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE "That 7 x 70's Show" Friday May 9 to Sunday May 11 at St. Andrew's High School. Our guest speaker is Fr. Stan Fortuna from NY. For registration info download the registration form at www.islandyouth.ca. Questions? Phone Flo Follero-Pugh at 544-0999.