

Pastor's corner – August, 2008

During the month of August a number of the Sunday readings are about what we seek in life, about the food which nourishes us and fulfills us.

Elie Wiesel who tried to awaken the world of his time to injustice and who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 offered in his Night Trilogy a series of meditations on mankind's attraction to violence and on the temptation of self-destruction. In Night which describes the time he spent as a young teenager in the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald he writes about how physical hunger dehumanized him and even drove him to a terrible darkness where God seemed absent. "All that mattered to me was my daily bowl of soup, my crust of stale bread; the bread, the soup, those were my entire life. I was nothing but a body, perhaps even less: a famished stomach." His experience of absolute evil brought him to doubt that God saw or cared: "I was the accuser, God the accused...I no longer accepted God's silence....Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes." But despite all this he continued to pray: "in spite of myself, a prayer rose in my heart, to that God in whom I no longer believed." When he witnesses the hanging of another child, "the little servant, the sad-eyed angel," he hears someone behind him say: "Where is God now?" And I heard a voice within me answer him: "Where is He? Here He is – He is hanging here on these gallows...." Later he called on all to "affirm hope and love in the name of life itself."

Elie Wiesel's experience of demeaning hunger is still felt by millions in the world and again in countries like Ethiopia and Darfur. Of the world's 6.5 billion people 850 million go to bed hungry at night; 16,000 children die from hunger or hunger-related diseases every day; one child every five seconds!

In light of the above it is obvious that Jesus' words about the Kingdom, about the Reign of God, compel us to move beyond the charitable acts of giving to the demands of justice. In the modern parable that I described in my homily on Sunday July 27 I said that it is hard to believe that personal salvation is directly linked to the salvation of all humanity. The Kingdom of God cannot come among us unless we look not only at what we do, but also at what we allow to happen, at what we do not do. Conversion implies both private morality and participation in public ethics. We need to alleviate the hunger of today but also work towards the elimination of future hunger by enacting different trade policies. The countries of the northern hemisphere continue to seek undue advantage over the poorer countries. We need to clamor and fight for change in our own and the world's way of using and sharing the resources on this earth.

Jesus tells his disciples not to look to others in order to satisfy the hunger of the crowds but to use their own resources. Well, that challenge is given anew to us in our own time: to use the many resources that we have to feed, house, educate and free people.

But we do so in order that other spiritual hungers and thirsts may be stilled and quenched and hope and life is affirmed. The readings from the Hebrew Scriptures will speak of coming to the waters to listen and eat the Word of God, to meditate and discover God in the "sheer silence", to let the Word of God burn in our heart and mind becoming a force within us which needs to find an outlet. We become what we eat. So we need to feed ourselves and others with spiritual food, with that which truly fulfills us: the Spirit of Christ which brings peace, understanding, wisdom, true happiness. With what are we feeding ourselves during these summer months so that we might regenerate our spiritual being?

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

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

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30am
Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am
Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home
See inside bulletin

SUNDAY READINGS FOR AUGUST, 2008:

Aug. 3	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 55:1-3 / Rom 8:35, 37-39 / Mt 14:13-21
Aug. 10	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 19:9, 11-13 / Rom 9:1-5 / Mt 14:22-33
Aug. 17	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 56:1, 6-7 / Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 / Mt 15:21-28
Aug. 24	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isa 22:15, 19-23 / Rom 11:33-36 / Mt 16:13-20
Aug. 31	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jer 20:7-9 / Rom: 12:1-2 / Mt 16:21-27

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 (656-7433).

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 Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

July 6th	\$4,587.00
July 13th	\$5,545.00
July 20th	\$3,156.40
July 27th	\$3,561.65

PAD's \$3,085.00

Awor Fund \$ 448.14

WE WELCOME INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY IN BAPTISM:

Angelina Maria Faith Koehl, child of Clayton & Katrina

Dylan William Henry, child of Joseph & Darlene

Cynthia Norah Cheryl Henry-Seward, child of James & Karen

Gabriel Dominic Ameerli, child of Peter & Jennifer

Caden Jacob McGuire, child of Timothy & Alison

Linus Mills Kloepfer, child of Anthony & Merryn

Maisie Mills Kloepfer, child of Anthony & Merryn

Krystal Karen Stevenot, child of Daniel & Cynthia

Annabelle Lydia Marie Godbout, child of Pierre & Angela

WE OFFER CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGES OF:

Brendan Clarke Tuchsherer & Katrina Lauren Schmidt

Peter Micheal Gosniak & Helen Lamla

David Jason McEvay & Lorelei Joan Elliott

SUMMER BULLETINS

Will be reduced to one bulletin for the month of August. Check the parish website and the bulletin board for any updates.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The office will closed on Mondays and Fridays in August. Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

LIVING WITH CHRIST BOOKLETS

August is the last month they will be available, if you wish to subscribe there are forms available in the August booklet.

AUG. 2008 - NORMAL WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS

9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAYS

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAYS

9:00am Mass
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAYS

Aug. 8th 9:00am Mass at the home of Vera Gear, 652-2774

Aug. 15th 9:00am Mass at the home of Eileen Kroetsch

Aug. 22nd 9:00am Mass at the home of Ed & Barb Lovick, 652-1653

Aug. 29th 11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital

SATURDAYS

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAYS

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

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion

10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion (alternates)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: AUG. 10

St. Stephen's Church, 7921 St. Stephens off Mt. Newton X Rd invites all to their annual Blessing of the Animals on August 10th at 2pm.

IN OUR PARISH

MEMORIAL SERVICE: AUG. 8

The Memorial Service for Mary Danylkiw will be held at St. Elizabeth's on August 8th at 11a.m. Reception to follow.

OUTDOOR MASS: SEPT. 14

The Outdoor Mass for the Saanich Peninsula Parish will be held on September 14th at Our Lady of the Assumption at 10:30a.m. Note: there will be no Mass at 8:30 at OLA nor 10:30a.m. at St. Elizabeth's. Bring your own folding chairs and bring your own food for a snack after Mass. There will be coffee and juice. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are looking for volunteers to teach this year's course three (grade three) program. Your time commitment would be approx. two hours class prep time and one hour and fifteen minutes class time once a week (Sunday 9:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m.) from September to April. Please consider sharing your gifts with the children of our parish. For further information please call either Els Welle at 656-5888 or Lynn Koett at 652-2543 or you may email me at lynn@spparish.com.

RCIA/ADULT EDUCATION

This program will start in September. For more information, please contact Father Rolf at 250-652-1990 or Janet Moir at 250-655-6781.

AWOR FAMILY UPDATE

With your generous help William now has a bicycle and all necessary gear. We are looking for a bike and equipment for Mary. Total raised was \$448.14. Thanks to Paul Ledet's learning program, Kumon, Michael and Josephine are upgrading their reading skills. Any money remaining will be used for needs as they arise. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

LECTORS/READERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in participating more in the weekend Masses, please contact Neil at the parish 250-656-7433.

SERVICES NEEDED

The Parish needs your services if you have expertise in electrical engineering/solar power generation and storage and/or heat exchange systems. Please call Neil at the parish office at 250-656-7433.

GENERAL

ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL—SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEER COURSE: OCT.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority Spiritual Care Services is offering a Spiritual Care Volunteer Course, which runs one day a week (10:30am to 3pm) for 9 weeks beginning in October. The venue is either the Royal Jubilee or the Victoria General Hospital. The deadline for accepting applications is Sept. 19th. For more information contact Peter Shurvin (RJH) at 250-370-8207 or Karen Wilson (VGH) 250-727-4278.

POOR CLARE MONASTERY VISIT: AUG. 9

Plan to visit the Poor Clare Monastery in Duncan for Mass and lunch on Saturday, August 9th. The bus leaves from the parking lot of St Patrick's Parish on 2060 Haultain Street at 8:30 am and returns to Victoria after Mass and lunch. Please call the Religious Education Office 250-592-7391 Ext 115. The cost is \$25.00 which is requested upon registration.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY: SEPT. 6

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team is offering a workshop on Sept. 6th from 10am to 3:30pm at Trinity Parish in Nanaimo for all those involved in youth ministry. If you would like to participate reply to jeoreilly@rcdvictoria.org by August 4th.

FIND YOUR FIT: AUGUST 9

"What are my gifts; and how can I use those gifts in my day-to-day life?". Queenswood Centre is offering a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator course on Saturday, Aug. 9th from 9am-4pm. Cost \$85 includes lunch & materials. 250-477.3822.

PATRICIA ROOKE COURSES OFFERED

At St. Andrew's Cathedral Parish Centre. To register, contact Patricia Rooke at 250-360-0743 or rookept@shaw.ca

**FROM INCARNATION TO GENESIS:
REWRITING THE SEXUAL SCRIPT** Sept. 8—
Oct. 20, Mondays from 7-9pm

**ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN THE
SACRAMENTS** Jan. 12—Feb. 23, 2009.
Mondays from 7-9pm