

PASTOR'S CORNER – SOLIDARITY SUNDAY – SHARE LENT COLLECTION

This weekend is **Solidarity Sunday** when we are encouraged to give our financial support to the poor as a sign of our willingness to enter fully into the meaning of our Lenten journey: a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving leading to the rebirth within ourselves as individuals and as a community of Christ's spirit. It is also a way for us to recognize and demonstrate that, in the words of Vatican II, "action for the sake of justice and participation in the transformation of the world are a constitutive element of the preaching of the gospel."

Unfortunately, In the past two weeks articles have appeared on the internet and in newspapers which **unjustly and falsely criticize Development and Peace**, the official development agency of the RC Church in Canada, as supporting and funding "pro-abortion groups" in Mexico. They list five (out of 11) partners of D&P in Mexico. The general inference and tone of the articles imply that these groups are actively involved in the practice and promotion of abortion. By association, Development and Peace is being presented as supporting abortion.

This past week a letter from Archbishop James Weisgerber, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as from Patrick Hogan, President of Development and Peace, clearly denied this allegation: "It is inconceivable that an organization of the Catholic Church, such as we are, would support any activities that contravene catholic doctrine or Catholic Social Teaching, particularly activities relating to abortion.

Let there be no mistake:

D&P has never supported abortion services anywhere, at any time.

D&P has never and will never enter into partnership with any organization offering such services.

D&P is committed to remaining vigilant regarding any partner's action that would place us by association at variance with Church teaching."

They then go on to explain that the organization has conducted an extensive investigation and consultation with partners in Mexico to clarify the situation. **"These partners are shocked and saddened by these inferences.** We are reassured and unequivocally confirm that there is no involvement with abortion in any of our partners' programs or activities, nor has there ever been over the course of our long-term partnership.

Our partners participated in a nation-wide consultation by the United Nations Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Mexico; they were contributors (along with 100 other organizations) to an omnibus document on human rights issues in various sectors -- Report of Organizations of Civil Society on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights in Mexico. In this consultation, our partners brought forward their concerns on issues that they promote and defend: **indigenous people's rights, protection of the environment, a fair judicial system, freedom of the press, social and economic justice, including fair wages and fair trade, and the promotion of equality between women and men. We fully support these themes in solidarity with our partners and in accordance with our shared values.**

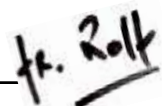
Some of the other Mexican civil society groups ... brought forward their own concerns based on their area of interest. Of course, neither we, nor our partners, have any control over the content or recommendations advanced by these other groups. At the conclusion of the consultation, the Report was signed by all the organizations who had participated in the process, including a number of religious congregations and religious orders. This signing represents only evidence of participation, and is not an endorsement of all of the points or recommendations in the Report."

In these turbulent economic and social times we are tempted to hold on to our resources. **The people and communities Development and Peace work with in the Global South experience uncertainty every day of every year. Unlike many of us, there has been no feast from which they have been able to save some fat for a lean tomorrow.** They are all too familiar with the effects of climate change, economic crises, and fuel and food insecurity. **Let us give thanks for our own blessings and share generously with those who are working for a more just future. As with the grain of wheat, our gift will bear much fruit.**

You may also consider making an even greater commitment by joining the Share Year-Round, the D&P monthly giving program (pamphlets are on the table in the foyer).

Thank you; may God bless you.

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: 250-656-7433, Fax 250-483-1597, Rectory: 250-652-1990

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: Gary Koett

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Jai Francis

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chair, Tim Leadem 250-656-5628

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

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29, 2009

Jer 31.31-34 / Heb 5.7-9 / Jn 12.20-33

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 (250-656-7433).

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

March 1st	\$5,153.05
March 8th	\$4,848.65
March 15th	\$3,973.25
March 22nd	\$2,791.50
Share Lent	\$ 50.00

PAD's (38 donors) \$3,020.00

2ND COLLECTION TODAY FOR SHARE LENT
Thank you for showing your solidarity with the world's less fortunate by generously contributing to the Development & Peace Campaign.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES
Apr. 5 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: APRIL 1
The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesday, April 1st at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TEAM NEEDED
Lise Derzaph can no longer continue due to the demand on her time. If you wish to offer your time and talent for this ministry please call the Office.

CALLING FOR GARDENERS
Volunteers are required to maintain the flower beds at St. Elizabeth's and Assumption. If you can help, please call the office at 250-656-7433.

PASCHAL MYSTERY: APRIL 4

Dr. Les McKeown will present a **Reflection on the Passion of Christ** on Saturday, April 4th at St. Elizabeth's. Sign-in at 9:00am, presentation concludes at 2:30pm. Bring a bag lunch, coffee, tea and juices provided. Donation accepted to cover costs. Please register by phone with either Tom and Janet Moir at 250-655-6781 or Freddie Brand at 250-655-5028.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

1:00pm	MONDAY, MARCH 30 Memory P.L.U.S.
7:45am	TUESDAY, MARCH 31 Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am	Mass
11:30am	Friendly Hours
9:00am	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 Mass
10:00am	Taiji Qigong
10:00am	CWL Executive Meeting
1:00pm	Faith Reflection Group
7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting
9:00am	THURSDAY, APRIL 2 Mass
11:30am	Friendly Hours
2:00pm	Prayer Group
6:00pm	Taiji Qigong
6:30pm	Children's Reconciliation
9:00am	FRIDAY, APRIL 3 Mass at St. Elizabeth's
5:00pm	SATURDAY, APRIL 4 Mass at St. Elizabeth's
8:30am	SUNDAY, APRIL 5 Mass at OLO Assumption
9:45am	Children's Religious Education
10:30am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER UPDATE
Approx. 250 people attended this year's World Day of Prayer, hosted by St. Elizabeth's. It was a huge success. The offering of \$1,415.75 was sent to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. The WDOP 2010 service will be written by women of Cameroon Africa. Thanks to all for your generous support.

GENERAL

VA CHORALIS CONCERT: MAR. 29
Via Choralis presents "Gypsies and Troubadors" with conductor Nicholas Fairbank on Sunday, March 29th at 2:30pm at St. Elizabeth's Church. Tickets: \$12/adult, \$8/student, children 12 & under free. Available at the door. Refreshments.

REEL SPIRITUALITY: A FILM SERIES: MAR. 31
At 2:30pm in the Fine Arts Building, UVic, Room 103. March 31 *Whale Rider* (New Zealand, 2003, 101 min.) Moderated by Terry Marner.

THE VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS 7TH ANNUAL CONCERT: APR 4 & 5
Saturday, April 4th at 7pm & Sunday, April 5th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$25 at the box office or 250-656-0275.

PENINSULA SINGERS CONCERT: APR. 24-26
The Peninsula Singers Spring 2009 Benefit Concert Series *Of Castles, Kilts and Leprechauns*: Songs from the British Isles and Ireland will be held on Friday, April 24th & Saturday, April 25th at 7:30pm and Sunday, April 26th at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Centre. Tickets \$20/adults, \$10/children available at the Mary Winspear Box Office. Proceeds to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation's Music Therapy Program.

SALT & LIGHT CATHOLIC TELEVISION
Call and subscribe today to support Catholic programming and view inspirational stories, thought provoking documentaries that bring us closer to Christ and the Catholic Faith. Channel 160 on Shaw Cable.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

SAFE HARBOUR: MAR. 31 & APR. 1
The Safe Harbour Program is an initiative for businesses to take a leadership role in creating an environment where all members of the community feel welcome, safe and are treated with respect. The last 2 Training Sessions will be offered on either March 31st from 2-4pm or April 1st from 4:30-6:30pm at the ICA Office, 930 Balmoral Rd. No cost, but pre-registration required: 250-388-4728, ext. 116 or sbaileys@icavictoria.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COURSES: APR. 8 & 15
www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health
250-472-4747.
Wednesdays, Apr. 8 & 15, from 7-9pm. "Life After Loss, New Beginnings". Instructor: Instructor: Su Russell, MEd, a registered clinical counsellor. Fee \$63.00. Class #HPHE213.

Holy Week in the Parish

PALM SUNDAY, April 4th & 5th
Bring green or flowered branches for the procession

TUESDAY, April 7th
7:45am Eucharistic Adoration
9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY, April 8th
9:00am Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, April 9th
(No 9:00 am Mass)
7:30pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper – St. Elizabeth's
(bring bells for the Gloria)
Special collection for the poor
Following Mass – Eucharistic Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10th
11:00am Ecumenical Service - Mary Winspear Centre
3:00pm Passion of our Lord Service – St. Elizabeth's

HOLY SATURDAY, April 11th
9:00pm Easter Vigil – St. Elizabeth's
(Bring bells for the Gloria, flowers and a snack to share after)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12th
8:30am Mass – Our Lady of the Assumption
10:30am Mass – St. Elizabeth's

EASTER MONDAY, April 13th
9:00am Mass

Please bring water pitchers, large bowls and towels (between April 5th and 8th) for the Holy Thursday Celebration.

Please bring potted flowers for the Holy Thursday and Easter (preferably before April 9th).