

Pastor's corner - October 3 & 4, 2009

You may remember **Darryl Wilson**, a young man who ministered here in our parish some five years ago when we were trying to start a youth group. Well, the then graduate from St. Andrew's High School decided this year to spend his 25th Birthday volunteering for six months in a small rural village near Talisay, Negros, in the Philippines. As he relates: "I have had numerous inspirational and life changing experiences so far. Life with the poor is a very touching yet humbling experience." It is great to see how eyes and hearts are opened through a direct experience with reality. Allow me to let him speak for himself in this e-mail he sent:

"ARTICLE #1 "Being Pro-Life in the Third World"

BACALOD, Philippines - Growing up as a Catholic, I was always taught to consider life precious in all of its stages of development. To be honest, I felt that I did until I arrived in the Philippines.

Through volunteer work in the Philippines, I met children that have been put through significant trauma in their precious short lives. As a child raised in Canada, it's hard to even fathom what they have been through. It was in an orphanage in Bacolod where I learned their stories. I met a once malnourished five-year old girl who used to dress in rags. She lived with her uncle who forced her to beg for money in the streets. If she failed to bring enough money home, her uncle would beat her, hanging her upside down weeping as pain ripped through her. The girl's cousin had molested her; her mother was a drug addict and a prostitute. Her father did not want anything to do with her.

I also met a two-year-old boy who used to run and hide when he was hungry. He lived on the streets of Bacolod with his mother and two sisters. When the boy would complain that he was hungry, his alcoholic mother would beat him up. This senseless act brought the boy to associate hunger with punishment. The boy was brought to the orphanage with his four-year old sister. Their elder sister had gotten involved with a gang and was raped and killed in Bacolod.

These are just two stories of children who have been saved but there are thousands that remain on the street without loving homes. It was this reality that made me question my definition of pro-life. For years, I only paid lip service to what was central to my faith. I was hardened to the miserable lives of children living in subhuman conditions in Third World countries while I was fighting for the rights of the unborn within the safe circles of like-minded friends.

It's easy for us to forget life on the other side, especially when we are raised in an environment where the vast majority of our children are taken care of by government. We become easily detached from the fact that many Third-World countries are anti-life environments for the living because of poverty and corruption. Crime, insurgency, hunger and disease are all anti-life forces. It was this new understanding that provoked me to expand my definition of what it means to be genuinely pro-life. These children are so far from their basic human rights. In the Philippines, I've learned that caring for the less fortunate is the most pro-life thing I could ever do. But the sad reality is that it often takes an outsider to recognize the need these children have. People raised amidst poverty can also be callous and street children are regarded simply as a matter of fact. If the children at these orphanages had not been rescued off the streets they could end up as future gang members, thieves or killers. Most of the children came from dysfunctional homes. By giving them love and restoring the image of family, the orphanage hopes to break their cycle of pain."

Darryl wants to bring stability to some of the children in the village which has welcomed him: "I am working hard on a number of projects on the ground but I am also trying to fundraise \$3,500 to build a school house for the children (the nearest school is 5 km away) of grades K-3." **Can we help as a parish community?**

Shalom!

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: 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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Gary Koett

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



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 4, 2009

Gen 2.7, 8, 18-24 / Heb 2.9-11 / Mk 10.2-16

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:

Collections for September: \$18,753.00
Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00
Needs of the Canadian Church \$1,207.50

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

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

IN OUR PARISH

FLU (H1N1) PRECAUTIONS REMINDER

On the advice of public health authorities, the Diocese is inviting all people to take the precautions previously announced in our parish bulletins, i.e.:

- Make use of the hand sanitizer dispensers that are available at the entrance to the church.
- Avoid physical contact with others. You are invited to pray the Our Father by raising your hands in prayer instead of joining hands, and to wish each other Christ's peace by bowing instead of a handshake.

Please note that receiving communion on the tongue is suspended during this time.

PASTORAL PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE

As indicated in the Bishop's letter printed in the Diocesan Messenger, the Diocese is embarking on a short pastoral planning process. A Diocesan committee has been struck, chaired by Frs. Rolf and William, and a part time coordinator, Moira King, has been hired. You are invited to reflect, either personally and/or in groups, on the pastoral priorities you wish the Diocese to undertake for the next five to ten years. A questionnaire has been developed, which all people are invited to fill out. This questionnaire will be available by the end of the month.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: OCT. 5

Please note the change of day to Mondays at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. For information contact Eleanor or Don Lloyd at 250-652-3029.

NEW FEATURE!

On the bulletin board in the foyer many wonderful opportunities to get involved in our faith community are posted. Have a look and take the plunge!

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, OCT. 5

1:00pm Memory Plus
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

TUESDAY, OCT. 6

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm K of C Executive Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7

9:00am Mass
10:00am CWL Executive Meeting
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

THURSDAY, OCT. 8

NO MASS at 9:00am
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

9:00am Mass at the home of Jack & Frances Chaproniere, 7746 E. Saanich Rd. 250-652-3948

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, OCT. 11

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:30am Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

C.W.A. NEWS: OCT. 6

The Tuesday, Oct. 6th meeting will be held at the home of Hilde Fischer, 6180 Old West Saanich Rd. at 1:30pm. Phone: 250-652-1436.

CWL MEETINGS: OCT. 7 & 13

Executive meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7th after morning Mass, and the General meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at 2pm.

THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Now that the final touch-up has been done, a heartfelt "Thank You" to those who financed our new cedar shingle roof at Our Lady of the Assumption. Wonderful!

ANOTHER THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to everyone for all the prayers and good wishes we received while Max was in the hospital. A special thank you for the two organizers and the driving team, it was very much appreciated! Max & Riki de Vries.

GENERAL

COOL AID SHORT FILM: OCT. 17

During Homelessness Action Week, Cool Aid will screen the short documentary film "40 Years of Cool Aid Culture", about the organization's philosophy, history and services for Victoria's homeless or marginalized. Saturday, Oct. 17th from 2 - 4pm at St. John the Divine church, 1611 Quadra St. Free. Discussion to follow.

PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING: OCT. 17

VIHA is organizing Palliative Care volunteer training sessions on three Saturdays in October (17th, 24th, and 31st) from 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Interested? Call Chris Foster at 250-652-7519.

FAITH IN ACTION SPECIAL FORUM: OCT. 18

As part of National Homelessness Week (Oct. 11-18), the Faith in Action & Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Rd., is hosting an informative afternoon (free event) on this issue. You can also meet the organizations that are working to provide homes and services for people living with addiction. Sunday, Oct. 18 from 2 - 4:30pm. For more information see www.cadbayuc.org.

VIHA FALL ORIENTATION: OCT. 21

Vancouver Island Health Authority Spiritual Care Services is holding an orientation on Wed., Oct. 21 from 9:30 - 11:30am at Victoria General Hospital. This is for anyone new to the program or anyone who has not been to an orientation for five years or more. To register (no charge) or for more information call Karen Wilson at 250-727-4278.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FALL CAMPAIGN

The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island funds programs such as social justice projects; religious education; support for diocesan seminarians, retired clergy and lay workers; missionary work; and capital projects. Since 1985 they have disbursed more than \$2M. Please consider a donation, cheques to The Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, 4044 Nelthorpe St., Victoria, V8X 2A1.

PRAY FOR PRIESTS

There is a group of people who commit themselves to pray for the priests of our diocese. If you would like to register to do this please visit the website www.prayforpriests.ca, view the list and submit the form committing for prayers.

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria
For registration or information call 477-3822
or e-mail info@queenswoodcentre.com

EMBODIED PRAYER & MEDITATION RETREAT:
OCT. 5-8 Mon. evening to Thurs. 1pm

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

EVENING FORUM: OCT. 5

Come, hear and ask questions of speakers from Afghanistan: "The Courage to Learn: Education for Afghan Women and Girls" on Monday, Oct. 5 at 7pm at St. Aidan's United Church - by donation.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: OCT. 7

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, UVic. Wed., Oct. 7 at 4:30pm, David Strong Building, Room C116. Lecturer: Graham P. McDonough, Department of Curriculum and Instruction: *The Problem of Catholic School Teachers Deferring to the Home on Controversial Religious Issues*.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKSHOP: OCT. 17

This workshop provides an opportunity to learn the basic process of face-to-face problem solving to build a healthy community. It is being held over 3 days: Sat., Oct. 17; Sun., Oct. 18 & Sat., Oct. 24 from 9am to 4pm at 6843 Central Saanich Rd. The cost is \$100. For more information call Etta Connor at 250-658-8922 (email: etta@connor.bc.ca).

BE A CAREER ALLY: OCT. 26

On Monday, October 26 from 6:30 - 9:30pm at St. Andrew's High School: "Be A Career Ally" a workshop for any adult who wants to play a positive role in helping a teen build their future. Learn how to help young people navigate their career options, while being a true ally. Facilitators are our own **Flo Follero-Pugh** and Dawn Schell. Cost \$20. To register, phone 250-595-5307 or email info@workflo.ca.