

Pastor's corner – Thanksgiving 2009

Last week I wrote about **Darryl Wilson**, the young man who was in our parish five years ago and who is now working as a volunteer on the Island of Negros in the Philippines. He writes us:

“ARTICLE #2 "A Filipino-made solution"

TAGUIG CITY, Philippines – "...I landed in the Philippines to begin six months of work with the Gawad Kalinga movement. ...But what inspired me to go? As I discovered, while still in Canada, the Philippines is receiving an extreme makeover. Slums that once dotted the landscape are being transformed into bright, colourful villages for the poorest of the poor. This cultural revolution, which the Filipinos call "Gawad Kalinga," translates into English as "to give care." The formula is simple: less for self, more for others, enough for all. Filipinos around the world are being challenged to give back to their home country ... to provide homes to homeless families. After years of oppression and continued government corruption, 70 % of the 85 million residents of the Philippines still live in poverty. Ironically, in a 2005 global survey, Filipinos came out among the world's happiest people. Looking through North American eyes, one might believe that such statistics are incorrect. After all, when many North Americans spend their lives chasing material pursuits or the "American" dream in the pursuit of happiness, who could imagine that a country so poor could be so happy?

As a half-Filipino, I was so touched by this unique Filipino-made solution that I made the decision to come here. When I arrived at the village where we would spend part of our six months, there was an immediate connection to the families. It was a humbling thought that even though these people came from such humble means, had little money and few possessions, they welcomed us to stay in their small homes, share their food and their lives with us. Stories were shared of life in the slums: sleeping on cement floors infested with cockroaches, meals of only salt mixed with a bit of rice and leaky roofs that would flood homes during downpours. Men spoke of how they lost their dignity and confidence because they could not provide for their families. At no point did they blame anyone for their pain. Something transcended the darkness in their lives. As long as they had their families, there was joy. I then realized I was standing in the richest country in the world. ... If we work together to teach people to fish, they will be able to feed their families for life."

Darryl is trying to raise funds (about \$3,500) to build a school house for the children K - grade 3 because the nearest school is more than 5 km away. I have asked him to send me more information and to tell us how and to who we can send money (to be continued).

As I mentioned two weeks ago there exists a Diocesan Health Care Committee which is promoting the establishment of **Parish Health Care Committees**. At the time I wondered whether someone might form one here at Saanich Peninsula Parish so that health care issues might be explored which would benefit members of the parish. So far no one has come forward; I realize that this may take time. Please, think about it; **it is wonderful opportunity to get involved!**

Pastoral Care Teaching sessions will be held at St. Joseph the Worker parish for people involved in pastoral care and outreach ministries. Session 1 - The Healing Ministry of Christ - will be held on November 14, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Session 2: Communication and Listening Skills - will be on November 21, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Please, register at sitwoffice@shaw.ca or call 250-479-7413.

Shalom and Happy Thanksgiving.

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



28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 11, 2009

Wis 7.7-11 / Heb 4.12-13 / Mk 10.17-30

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 October 4 \$ 4,043.02
Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00
PAD's \$ 3,315.00

There will be a second collection after communion for emergency aid by Development & Peace to the Philippines and Indonesia.

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Oct. 18 9:00 St. Stephen's BCP Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BAS Holy Communion

IN OUR PARISH

In June of this year a short survey was distributed regarding interest in a parish retreat. Sixteen responses were received. Parish Council would like your input before organising the retreat. Please fill out the attached survey and place it in the basket.

FLU (H1N1) PRECAUTIONS REMINDER

On the advice of public health officials the Bishop has sent a letter re temporary guidelines for parish liturgies. You will find a copy of this letter on the bulletin board. This parish has already implemented most of them this past month. As indicated in the letter: "The most effective line of defense is for an infected person to remain at home, rather than attend the Liturgy ... It is an act of charity towards others."

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 is being developed, which everyone will be invited to fill out. This questionnaire will be available at the end of the month.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE MEETING: OCT. 15

Come learn about D&P and join your parish committee on Thursday, Oct. 15, 7pm at St.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, OCT. 12

1:00pm Memory Plus

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm CWL General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, OCT. 15

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Development & Peace

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

9:00am Mass at the Legion Manor,
7601 E. Saanich Rd.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, OCT. 18

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

Elizabeth's (meeting room 3). We will be planning our fall action campaign on the issue of food sovereignty. For more information contact Donna Thompson at 250-656-2064, or email her at dthomps@shaw.ca.

LAY BROTHERS OF THE POOR: OCT. 17/18

Every day we all pray: "Give us this day our daily bread". In this time of financial hardship, it is the poor who are the most vulnerable and affected. That's why the Lay Brothers of the Poor ask for your prayers and contributions to help the poorest of the poor in Mexicali, a city in northern Mexico. This year's fall collection will be on the weekend of Oct. 17-18 at the church entrance. Rudy van Lierop, Lay Brother.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: OCT. 19

Will not meet on Thanksgiving Day. Next meeting will be on Mon., Oct. 19th, 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. For information contact Eleanor or Don Lloyd at 250-652-3029.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA is a personal education program for those interested in joining the Catholic church, returning to the faith or continuing their life journey. For more information please contact Father Rolf 250-656-7433 or Janet Moir 250-655-6781.

GENERAL

WORLD FOOD DAY AWARENESS WALK: OCT. 16

October 16th is World Food Day. The Island Catholic Schools have joined together with St. Vincent de Paul Society to host an awareness walk at each Catholic elementary school to show solidarity, support and awareness of the plight of the poor. All are invited to join the walk and bring a donation for the food bank.

PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING: OCT. 17

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

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.

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.

SOUPER BOWLS OF HOPE: OCT. 22

At the Fairmont Empress Hotel on Thursday, Oct. 22nd from 11am to 1:30pm. Tickets are \$25 and are available by phone, 250-383-3514 or at the door. Help the Youth Empowerment Society provide skills, training, housing and counselling services to at-risk youth through your attendance. Eat Soup! Have Fun! Choose and keep the bowl! For information phone Helen Hughes at 250-361-0217 or visit the web site at www.souperbowls.com

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria

For registration or information call 477-3822

or e-mail info@queenswoodcentre.com

SOUL SHARING: A WOMEN'S SACRED HEALING CIRCLE: OCT. 26

7-9pm, register prior to Oct. 25th. Cost \$20.

FLOODS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Tropical storms brought destruction and death in the Philippines. Torrential rains affected, among other cities, the capital city of Manila and its 12 million residents. Development and Peace has donated an initial \$50,000 to Caritas Philippines for emergency relief activities. You can offer your pledge by telephone (1-888-664-3387), online (www.devop.org) or by cheque (marked "Philippines: Floods"), sent to Development and Peace, 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd Floor, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1T7.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: OCT. 14

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, UVic. on Wed., Oct. 14 at 4:30pm. Sarah Kinsley, Dept. of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies is presenting: *Yoga Therapy: Ancient Wisdom for Today's Body, Mind and Spirit*.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKSHOP: OCT. 17

Learn the basic process of face-to-face problem solving to build a healthy community. Three days: Sat. & Sun. Oct. 17 & 18 and Sat. Oct. 24, from 9am to 4pm at 6843 Central Saanich Rd. Cost \$100. For more information call Etta Connor at 250-658-8922 or email: etta@connor.bc.ca.

BE A CAREER ALLY: OCT. 26

Mon., Oct. 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 is \$20. To register phone 250-595-5307 or email info@workflo.ca.

UVIC CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY: OCT. 30—BISHOP REMI DE ROO

Free Series of Lectures: *A Church for the 21st Century: The Spirit of Vatican II in Our Time*. Friday, Oct. 30th at 7:30pm in the UVic David Strong Bldg., Rm. C103. **The Sign of the Times** with Bishop Remi De Roo.