

Pastor's corner - January 10 & 17, 2010

At Christmas we are reminded of the Holy Family having been forced to flee and migrate to another country.

Since the end of the 1970's the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria had an agreement with the Federal Government of Canada to sponsor refugees from abroad for resettlement here on Vancouver Island. As a SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder) the Diocese in conjunction with SARA (the St. Andrew's Refugee Association) was able to free hundreds of people from oppressive situations in refugee camps so that they might start a new life here in Canada. Our Parish too participated in the resettlement of refugees; the latest being the Awor family who arrived in May 2008 and who lives in Sacred Heart

Parish and doing well, as well as Fethi and Ghinbar Ghebremeskel, the twin brothers from Eritrea who arrived in early December and who with the help of the Schroeders have successfully found housing and employment. Unfortunately, the Federal Government suspended the Diocese in late 2008 which meant that we could not proceed with about 55 refugee sponsorship applications. The Bishop asked me to try and negotiate us out of this predicament. We have instituted reforms in procedures and documentation which will eventually bring about our reinstatement. However, we especially need to re-develop grass root level participation in the refugee resettlement program, preferably at the parish level. New and more volunteers need to be encouraged to come forward to help people to start a new life. There are many ways in which you can participate directly or indirectly; let us start by forming a Refugee Sponsorship Group here in the Parish.

To this end we are cooperating with the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and organizing a Refugee Sponsorship Training Program, which will be held on **Saturday, February 6 at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, 1611 Quadra Street.**

Please, consider putting this date aside in your agenda for this important workshop. There is no charge. Details as to time and agenda will follow.

After a global overview of forced migration and its background in the world, you will be able to find out who can be sponsored as well as who can be a sponsor; what the sponsorship application process entails, the concrete and practical things to know and follow. We will hear from refugees who have resettled here : their experience as a refugee, their experience arriving and settling here, their suggestions, their hope of continuing to help their own people, etc.

During the winter semester 2010 RSTP at Catholic Crosscultural Services in Toronto will also offer an e-training course (Introduction to Private Sponsorship of Refugees). There is no fee for this course, which has a starting date of Feb. 8 and end date of April 9. Registration deadline is Jan. 27. website: www.rstp.ca or e-mail: info@rstp.ca.

As Coordinator of the Diocesan Refugee program I will participate in the First National Catholic Conference on Refugee Sponsorship to be held at the Manresa Retreat Centre in Pickering, Ontario, from January 13-15.

Shalom. Fr. Rolf, OP

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 COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Co-Chairs, Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney
250-656-7433

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am.
Daily on Tuesdays (9am), Wednesdays (8:30am),
Thursdays (9am), and First Fridays (9am).

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton
Sundays at 8:30am

Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am
Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home.
See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD: JAN. 10, 2010

Isa 40.1-5, 9-11 / Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7 / Lk 3.15-16, 21-22

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: JAN. 17, 2010

Isa 62.1-5 / 1 Cor 12.4-11 / Jn 2.1-12

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 at 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 _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 3,455.00
December 6th	\$ 4,654.50
December 13th	\$ 5,590.10
December 20th	\$ 4,128.40
Christmas Day	\$ 9,479.58
December 27th	\$ 4,068.00
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00

PRE-APPROVED DONATIONS (PAD's)

Please consider supporting our parish via pre-approved donations instead of weekly envelopes. This is a convenient way to contribute to the parish. Each month your contribution will be automatically debited from your bank account. Packages are available in both churches. If you have any questions, please call Gary in the office at 250-656-7433.

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

VIGNETTES FROM AN AFRICAN SUNSET: JAN 10

Martin Poels, a parishioner and hospital volunteer, has written a booklet with pictures and drawings on his experiences as a missionary in Africa. He will be signing your copy after the 10:30 mass. The cost is \$15, of which \$5 will go to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation.

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP REMINDER

The Faith Reflection Group will resume on Monday, Jan. 18 at 1 pm. For further information contact Don or Eleanor Lloyd at 250-652-3029.

CWL MEETING

The next CWL General Meeting is on Wed. Jan. 13 at 2 pm. For info call Rhoda-Marie at 250-629-6292.

TAIJI QIGONG CLASSES START UP

Taiji Qigong classes will resume on Wed. Jan. 13. For information call Felix Teh at 250-652-6360.

VISITS

Please notify Fr. Rolf and/or the office (250-656-7433 or 250-652-1990) if someone is sick, home-bound or in hospital so that visits may be arranged.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, JAN. 11 & 18

1:00pm	Memory Plus
1:00pm	Faith Reflection Group (Jan. 18)
9:00am	Service of the Word (NO MASS)
11:30am	Friendly Hours
2:00PM	CWL Meeting (Jan. 12)
7:30pm	Knights of Columbus Mtg. (Jan. 19)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13 & 20

8:30am	Service of the Word (NO MASS)
9:00	Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am	Taiji Qigong
1:30pm	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (Jan. 20)

THURSDAY, JAN. 14 & 21

9:00am	Service of the Word (Jan. 14)
9:00am	Mass (Jan. 21)
11:30am	Friendly Hours
2:00pm	Prayer Group
6:00pm	Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, JAN. 15 & 22

9:00am	Service of the Word at the Legion Manor, 7601 East Saanich (Jan. 15)
9:00am	Service of the Word at the home of the Campbell's, 1028 Waverley Tce., 250-412-7459 (Jan. 22)
1:30pm	Writer's Group

SATURDAY, JAN. 16 & 23

5:00pm	Mass at St. Elizabeth's
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SUNDAY, JAN. 17 & 24

8:30am	Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:45am	Religious Education
10:30am	Mass at St. Elizabeth's

FLU (H1N1) PRECAUTIONS LIFTED

The diocese has lifted the flu (H1N1) precautions. We now return to having communion with the cup.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL CARE TEACHING SESSIONS: JAN. 16 & 23

for Victoria area parishes who are involved in pastoral care and outreach ministry at St. Joseph the Worker Parish:

- Session 3 (Sat. Jan. 16): "Grieving Process and Coping with Loss"
- Session 4 (Sat. Jan. 23): "Who Am I as a Care Giver?"

Sessions are from 9am to 1pm. Register online at sjtwoffice@shaw.ca or call 250-479-7413.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP: FEB. 6

Mark your calendars! The Holy Family, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, was a refugee family forced to migrate to another country. If you are interested in sponsoring and helping refugees settle here in the Diocese of Victoria on Vancouver Island, come for a training workshop to be held on Feb. 6 from 9am - 4pm at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Quadra St., Victoria.

GENERAL

FR. JAI'S WISH LIST

The parishes of the Quamichan & Cowichan First Nations could benefit from your used but working electronic devices and small electronic appliances, such as games, phones, stereos, small TVs, VCRs, DVD players etc. Of particular need is for a laptop. For info and pick-up call Barbara at 250-380-6610.

THANK YOU'S

Darryl Wilson in Bacolod, Negros, Philippines wishes to thank us in the name of the people of his village for the \$1,630 we sent him before Christmas. A picture of the groundbreaking ceremony is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Fr. Rolf wishes to thank you all for your well wishes and prayers at Christmas and for the gifts and goodies. His trip with Development & Peace to East Timor beginning Feb. 22 has been confirmed.

Board Members, the Director and staff of Anawim House thank you most sincerely for your donations of clothing and other items. We are extremely grateful to parishioners who contributed so generously, and to those who sent a financial contribution. May God bless you all.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

WORKSHOP: GOSPEL OF JOHN: JAN.12-FEB. 16:

Sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker and Holy Cross Parishes, The Spiritual Tradition in the Gospel of John will be presented for six weeks on Tuesdays, 7-9pm from Jan. 12th to Feb. 16th at Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Presenter: Dr. L. McKeown. For more information or to register call 250-477-5321.

THE CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE:

JAN. 20 - MAR. 24 at Sacred Heart Church Hall. An 11 week course to help you realize your full potential in communication, leadership and confidence. Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Call Stan at 250-380-6350 or Bonnie at 778-426-2706 or register online at clcvancouverisland.com. Cost: \$175 / person (discount for students, seniors and couples).

UVIC : "TALES FROM SINAI": JAN 11, 12 & 13

at 7:30 pm in the Social Sciences and Math Building, Room A120. Janet Soskice will track some of the key themes, debates and mythologies surrounding the place of Sinai in the Western theological imagination (including the amazing discoveries of Scottish "lady adventurers" Agnes and Margaret Smith). Free and open to the public.

- Mon. Jan. 11: "The Engaging and Slightly Terrifying World of Text Scholarship, or What Agnes and Margaret Did Next"
- Tues. Jan. 12: "Naming God at Sinai, or Is the God of Classical Christianity A Monster"
- Wed. Jan. 13: "Climbing Mountains and Following God: From Spirituality to Ethics"

For more info see www.csr.uvic.ca/programs, call 250-721-6325, or email csr@uvic.ca

QUEENSWOOD 2494 Arbutus Road, Victoria:

- Thurs. Jan. 14: "I Hear God Laughing": Edwina Gateley shares her joys and struggles in responding to God's call to make a difference in the world, reflecting on how faith and prayer lead us to discover the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the world and in our hearts. Dinner at 5:30pm, presentation at 7pm. Cost: \$30 for dinner and presentation or \$15 for presentation only (student discount available).

For more info see www.QueenswoodVictoria.ca, call 250-477-3822, or send an email to retreats@queenswoodvictoria.ca.

UVIC PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: JAN. 20

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society UVic. Wed. Jan. 20, David Strong Bld., Rm C116 at 4:30pm. Speaker: Christa Hunfeld, Winnifred Lonsdale Graduate Student Fellow, Dept. of History, UVic. Theme: "Not a Cosmetic Nation: Fashioning a Protestant Identity in 17th Century England". 40 min. talk followed by discussion. Free, open to the public.