

Pastor's corner - January 24 & 31, 2010

In this week of prayer for Christian Unity it is appropriate to remind us of our fundamental agreement as Christians that we believe in a God who is love and of a God who wishes to bring to completion the whole of creation, the whole world, in God's image.

While I was away in Toronto at the First National Catholic Conference on Refugee Sponsorship I learned of the death at the age of 95 of probably the most influential Dominican theologian of our time: Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., a member of the Dutch Province of Dominican Friars, although he was born in Belgium. I was privileged to have spent some time with him when I was asked to accompany him during the 1967 Theology of Renewal Symposium which brought many People of God together with a large number of theologians (Rahner; Metz, Kung, Baum, Davies, Pannenberg, Tillard, Ducocq, Dulles, etc.) in order to joyfully celebrate the promises and hope engendered by Vatican II.

Schillebeeckx embodied the conviction which we as Dominicans always have had about the fundamental goodness of creation and of the human created in God's image, and therefore about the fundamental goodness of the world, of this world. At a symposium held in his honour in Leuven in 2008, Schillebeeckx expressed his love for the world and his belief that rather than the totally restrictive saying "no salvation outside the Church", we should be saying: "There is no salvation outside the world!"

Anyone who has read his groundbreaking first book, Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter With God, will have noticed that for Schillebeeckx God's Spirit, God's Grace, is everywhere. God's Incarnation which we just celebrated at Christmas should be taken seriously and should remind us that the mystery of God is to be encountered in all of human life and in all of creation. Amid a world of radical suffering God holds open a future full of hope, the promise of the fullness of life, "God's eternal surprise."

Mary Catherine Hilbert, O.P., wrote in the editorial comment of America Magazine (Jan. 18): "Throughout his teaching (and preaching) career and in his writing, Schillebeeckx emphasized that we experience God's love, the creative and saving presence of God's grace, wherever human persons minister to one another, especially to the neighbor in need. Human love is an embodiment, a sacrament, of God's love. These human "fragments of salvation," as he called them, are a share in the final triumph of God's grace, which was promised in a definitive way in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Christians are called to participate in the living story of Jesus by "writing a fifth Gospel with their lives." This sacramental view of the world, and of the church's role within the world (Church, the Human Story of God, the final volume of his Christological trilogy), remained at the heart of Father Schillebeeckx's writing, preaching and teaching for over seven decades. It was also central to the vision of the Second Vatican Council, which he helped to shape as an advisor to Cardinal Bernard Alfrink and the Dutch bishops. ... (He always) reminded his readers that "God is new each moment" and that in situations of injustice, whether in the world or in the church (he suffered a great deal from the human inadequacies of the institutional church), the Spirit of God is actively at work, prompting resistance, hope, courage and change."

Schillebeeckx loved the Church and his community, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). His passing calls on us to love the Church and our community despite their flaws.

Shalom. Fr. Rolf O.P.

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

EUCCHARIST 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).

EUCCHARIST 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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: JANUARY 24, 2010

Neh 8.2-4, 5-6, 8-10 / 1 Cor 12.12-30 / Lk 1.1-4; 4.14-21

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: JANUARY 31, 2010

Jer 1.4-5, 17-19 / 1 Cor 12.31-13.13 / Lk 4.21-30

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would like a visit from

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
Jan. 1 (New Years Day):	\$ 2,946.50 (*)
Jan. 3 Collection:	\$ 4,150.00
Jan. 10 Collection:	\$ 4,417.50
Jan. 17 Collection:	\$ 3,339.75
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00
Haiti Relief:	\$ 5,963.00

(*) includes \$820.50 initial offering for envelopes

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HAITI: JAN.23 & 24

A special collection is being held after communion to raise funds for Haiti (through Development & Peace). If you donate by cheque, please make it out to Saanich Peninsula Parish and note "Haiti" on it.

PLEASE HELP THE FITZAALAND'S

As you may recall Mary & Rick Fitzaaaland's 11 year old son Wade suffered a heart attack a few months ago and he requires around the clock care. If you wish to provide a casserole for the Fitzaaaland family, they live at 2501 Shoreacres near St. Elizabeth's. If they're not at home, leave the casserole on the bench by the front door. Call Barbara Nedzelski at 250-656-5768 for more information. Blessings!

CWL NOTICE

The CWL requires people to fill the following positions: Treasurer & Secretary. No experience necessary - we will train anyone willing to take these positions. If you are interested please call Rhoda Waddington at 250-629-6292 or e-mail her at waddington@shaw.ca

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, JAN. 25 & FEB 1

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 26 & FEB 2

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Friendly Hours)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27 & FEB 3

8:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, JAN. 28 & FEB 4

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, JAN. 29 & FEB 5

11:00am Mass at Saanich Peninsula Hospital (Jan. 29)

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's (Feb. 5)
1:30pm Writer's Group

SATURDAY, JAN. 30 & FEB 6

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, JAN. 31 & FEB 7

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:45am Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Pancake Breakfast (Jan. 31)

THANK YOU FROM GR 6/7/8 REL. ED. CLASS

Christmas packages containing a toque, t-shirt, gloves, socks, flashlight, toothpaste, shampoo, and other basic care items were assembled and delivered over the Christmas holidays. Ten were given to Wilkinson Jail, five to Seven Oaks Mental Health Group Home, and five to the Royal Oak Youth Detention Center. This proved to be another meaningful outreach project, and we want to thank the congregation for their support and donations. A special thank you also goes to Shoppers Drug Mart and Marks Work Wearhouse for providing items at a reduced cost. We look forward to doing this project again next year!

K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: JAN. 31

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Pancake Breakfast after the 10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Cost: \$5 per person (children are free).

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 on Vancouver Island, come for a training workshop on Sat. Feb. 6 from 9am-3pm at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, 1611 Quadra St., Victoria.

GENERAL

HAITI RELIEF - DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

Development and Peace is launching an emergency appeal to support humanitarian aid relief in Haiti in the wake of the devastating earthquake that is estimated to have affected millions of people in the country. They are in dire need of financial resources to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of this population in crisis. All donations made to Development and Peace will be sent directly to its partners in Haiti (mainly Caritas Haiti). **Donations can be made through the parish by writing a cheque to Saanich Peninsula Parish marked "Haiti".** Donations can also be made by phone at 888-664-3387, online at www.devp.org, or by sending a cheque marked "Haiti Emergency" to: Development and Peace, 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. W, 3rd Floor, Montreal QC H3G 1T7

PASTORAL/SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEER VISITOR TRAINING: FEB. 13

If you would like to volunteer and develop / improve skills for visiting residents of long-term care facilities to bring them spiritual comfort and care, you are invited to attend a series of seven 2-hour sessions taught by experts in the field. This course takes place from 9:30-11:30am on Saturdays from Feb. 13 to Mar. 27 at the Salvation Army Victoria Citadel, 4030 Douglas St. Cost: \$20. To register contact Colleen Childs at 250-592-1290, or email her at crchilds@hotmail.com.

GREATER VICTORIA INTERFAITH DIALOGUE - "MANY FAITHS, ONE COMMUNITY": JAN. 31

Sundays: Jan 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14 from 1:30 to 5:00pm at Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, 930 Balmoral Road (corner of Quadra). To register or for further information contact: Steven Baileys, Program Coordinator at 250-388-4728 ext. 116 or email him at sbaileys@icavictoria.org. Register online at: tinyurl.com/interfaithdialog.

SUNDAY SERENADE CONCERT: JAN. 24

Featuring Josh Layne on the harp. Sun. Jan. 24, 2:30pm at St. Mary's Church, East Saanich Rd. (at Cultra Ave), Saanichton. Tickets: adults - \$12, students - \$10, children 12 & under - \$5. For more information contact Sue Smith at 250-652-5392.

WORLD RELIGION DAY CELEBRATION: FEB. 6

Sat. Feb. 6, 1-4pm at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Rd. For the entire family. All faiths are invited to come together in peace and unity. Activities for all ages: interactive displays, musical and dance, performances, storytelling etc. Contact Steven Baileys at 250-388-4728 ext. 116 or email him at sbaileys@icavictoria.org. Come celebrate the "unity in diversity" of the world's faiths!

"AND ALL THAT JAZZ" CONCERT: FEB 7

With the Via Choralis Chamber Choir on Sun. Feb. 7, 2:30pm at St. Elizabeth's. Tickets at the door \$15, students \$12, children 12 & under are free. See poster in the foyer for more information.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

UVIC CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY: JAN. 29

Free Lecture Series "A Church for the 21st Century: The Spirit of Vatican II in Our Time". Fri., Jan. 29 at 7:30pm in the UVic David Strong Building, Room C103. Speaker: Tony Clarke, Polaris Institute, Ottawa. Theme: "The Ecological Imperative: New Challenges for Catholic Social Teaching".

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES: JAN. 27 & FEB. 3

UVic Centre for Studies in Religion and Society.

- Wed. Jan. 27 at 4:30pm. Speaker: Irina Novak, CSRS Graduate Student Fellow, Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic. Theme: "Animating Spirituality": *The Convergence of Technology, Consciousness and Cinema in Japan*.
- Wed. Feb. 3 at 4:30pm. Speaker: Avigail Eisenberg, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, UVic. Theme: "Reasons of Religious Identity: How Courts Assess Claims About What is Important to our Religious Identities".

Location: David Strong Building, Room C116. Consists of a 40 minute talk followed by discussion. **Free**, open to the public.