

Pastor's corner - April 11, 2010

While I was away during the month of March on the Development and Peace Solidarity Tour to East Timor (Timor Leste is the official name in Tetun, the local language), the Federal Government opened a new session of parliament and presented a new budget. Unfortunately, this new budget freezes our foreign aid spending at a time when we are already at one of the lowest levels of foreign aid spending (0.35%) among the richer nations. Governor General Michaëlle Jean in the throne speech: "I know Canadians will continue to care, and that spirit of solidarity will redefine their sense of sharing ..."

When Timor Leste became independent in 2000 Canada sent troops to help as well as aid; we even received a medal from the newly independent nation in thanksgiving for coming to the aid of this new and extremely poor nation. Since that time we have withdrawn the troops and other training personnel; any financial aid is now only given through the financial assistance which CIDA provides to organizations such as Development and Peace. At the same time Development and Peace has also been hit by declining donations. This year's Share Lent campaign (the only yearly appeal by the Canadian RC Church for financial support of partners in developing nations) in our parish has again shown a decline in donations, possibly because of the very successful emergency appeal for Haiti in January.

It seems that we are often asked to give financial contributions to all kinds of projects, large and small. The reason, of course, is that the vast majority of us have been blessed abundantly, even more than abundantly and that, as a result, we are also asked to share more and to do more to bring about in the world the socio-economic changes necessary for a more equitable and just sharing of the resources of the earth of which we are God's stewards.

Two reasons why I volunteered to go to Timor Leste: to challenge our own Canadian Government to renew aid to this new country and to make sure that D&P continues to support Timor Leste's people. Let us not forget that D&P is one of the few charitable organizations which spends only 8 % on administration, internal development and personnel. Almost all of the money is sent to local Caritas organizations to support small indigenous projects, women's support groups, cooperatives. In contrast, World Vision which spends an enormous amount on TV programs, administration and on hiring development officers here in the First World has no trouble in collecting huge sums, only about half of which actually goes to directly benefit the poor. I urge you to look into the books of the charitable organization you wish to support. At the same time do not become cynical; there are excellent organizations like D&P who truly do wonderful work and who deserve our support.

Helping D&P and other worthwhile projects is part of the mission of us as a Church, as Easter people who wish to give an account of the hope that has been passed on to us. That hope is founded and nourished by God's own love and compassion which became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ and which we are called to en flesh in our own lives, in the way we live, in the way we speak, in the way we act. As a parish we are called upon to support each other, to build our own as well as the human community around us, close by and far off. In the words of Ron Rolheiser, "Compassion, not celebrity, enlarges our lives and gives us immortality".

I also reconnected with the Dominican orphanage in Bidau and Soibada. Two of the orphans helped by the Dominican Sisters are graduating this year from university: one in political science, the other in engineering! The children signed a large (with pictures) thank you card addressed to you all for the financial and prayer support you have provided to them. You find it posted on the bulletin board in the foyer at St. Elizabeth.

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

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

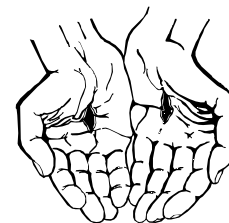
Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home.

See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2010

Acts 5.12-16 / Rev 1.9-11, 12-13, 17-19 / Jn 20.19-31



"Do not doubt but believe."
Jn 20:27

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 the 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):	\$ 3,395.00
Holy Thursday:	\$ 697.07
Good Friday:	\$ 1,603.59
Easter Sunday:	\$ 7,038.50
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

C.W.L. GENERAL MEETING: APR. 13

The C.W.L. General Meeting will be on Tuesday, Apr. 13 at 2pm. There will be a presentation on Mary's life, a talk on "Our Lady of Good Council", and the Crowning of Mary.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

TAIZE: APR. 16

Let us enter together into the mystery of God's presence through prayer and music in the style of Taize, Friday, April 16, 6pm at Church of Our Lord, 626 Blanshard St. Sponsored by the Downtown Churches Association.

PASSIONATE LIVES: APR. 22

Queenswood presents Passionate Lives, a dinner and lecture/performance series featuring guests who seek to bring truth, beauty and justice to the world through ministry, activism and art. See www.queenswoodvictoria.ca/passionate-lives for more info. The next evening and speaker will be on Thurs. Apr. 22. Dinner - 5:30pm, presentation - 7pm. Speaker: Frank Desiderio, csp, Paulist priest and executive producer. Cost: dinner and presentation - \$25, presentation only - \$15 (student rate available).

FREE TALK: MAY 7

Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Former Master of the Dominican Order who will be preaching the Victoria clergy retreat in early May will also give a public lecture open to all on Fri. May 7, 7pm at Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Rd.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APR. 12

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

TUESDAY, APR. 13

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
12:30pm CWL Executive Meeting
2:00pm CWL General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APR. 14

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm Parish Council Mtg.

THURSDAY, APR. 15

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

FRIDAY, APR. 16

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

SATURDAY, APR. 17

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APR. 18

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

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 14-16

All youth in grades 8-12 and recent grads: come to the 7th annual Diocesan Youth Conference! Theme: "From The Inside Out". Special guest will be Fr. Tony Ricard, a truly inspiring speaker from New Orleans. May 14-16 at St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. To register contact Roy Battilana at 652-0340 or download the registration form at www.rcdvictoria.org. Questions? Contact the Conference Planning Committee at 250-479-1331 ext. 232, or e-mail follero@shaw.ca.

GENERAL

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC PRESHCOOL

3 & 4 year olds welcome, 2 or 3 days per week available. Contact Brenda at 250-382-3815. St. Andrew's Elementary, 1002 Pandora Ave., Victoria. Web site: www.standrewselem.ca.

AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: APR. 11

To celebrate Sister Lucy's birthday come see the academy award winning movie "The Blind Side", starring Sandra Bullock, on Sun. Apr. 11, 1:30pm at the Odeon Theatre, 780 Yates St. Tickets: \$20 (includes admission, popcorn, pop and a cupcake). Tickets available at the Mt. St. Mary Foundation office, 861 Fairfield Road or by phone at 480-3140.

ABBNEYFIELD SING-ALONG: APR. 12

You are invited to a sing-along with the Sunshine Singers at Abbeyfield, 10017 Fifth Street on Mon. Apr. 12 at 6:30pm. Refreshments provided.

SPIRITUAL CARE ORIENTATION: APR. 14

VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) Spiritual Care Services is holding a Spring Orientation for new faith leaders and lay visitors who have not attended an orientation in the past five years. Wed. Apr. 14 from 9:30 - 11:30am at the Victoria General Hospital lecture room. To register or for more information call Karen Wilson at 727-4278.

SACRED HEART CHARITIES SALE: APR. 16-17

You are invited to Sacred Heart's Christian Charities Spring Clothing & Attic Treasures Sale at the church hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. on Fri. April 16 from 6-9pm and Sat. April 17 from 9am-2pm. Free admission, wheelchair accessible, all proceeds to charities. For additional information call Bernie Thompson at 658-2253

ST. ROSE OF LIMA GARAGE SALE: APR. 17

Sat. April 17 at St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall, 6221 Sooke Rd., Sooke from 9am to 1pm. For more information call 250-642-3945.

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK: APR. 18-25

Organ & tissue donations save lives. Individuals may register their wishes in this regard online at www.transplant.bc.ca.

PASTORAL CARE RETREAT: APR. 21

Archbishop Michael Miller will be leading a ½ day retreat sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of BC for those who work or volunteer in the pastoral care health ministry. Held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 315 Walker St., Coquitlam, Wed. April 21 from 9am to noon. The Archbishop will be speaking on "Spe Salvi" Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian Hope. Cost \$25 per person. Register before Apr. 16 at www.chabc.bc.ca or 604-524-3427.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: APR. 25

St. Mary's Anglican Church invites you to a Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Pam Orman as she enters retirement on Sun. Apr. 25, 10am at St. Mary's Church, 1973 Cultra Ave, Saanichton. A pot luck lunch will follow in the parish hall at 11:30am. RSVP by April 21 by calling 652-1611.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT SHOP

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has opened a new thrift store at 1010 Craigflower Rd. across from the Gorge Golf Course.

WORKSHOPS

FOREIGN WORKER'S RIGHTS: APR. 14

If you are a temporary foreign worker you can learn about your legal rights and have some of your questions answered with Mr. Robert Sheffman, LLB, Immigration Law Specialist, on Wed. April 14 from 6:30-8:30pm at the CGEU Bldg., 2994 Douglas St. For more info. and to register please call Gaylene Turner at 391-7270, ext. 113 or email: gturner@icavictoria.org.

WEEKEND RETREAT: APR. 23-25

Queenswood presents "How to Let Go of a Grudge" weekend retreat on Fri. Apr. 23 7pm to Sun. Apr. 25 at 1pm. Everybody says "Let go", but nobody tells you how. Now someone does! Facilitator Frank Desiderio's award-winning film, *The Big Question* sets the stage for this retreat. More info at queenswoodvictoria.ca/retreat/grudge.

CONFERENCE & CONCERT: MAY 28/29

"Evangelism and Transformation in a Secular Society", a conference led by Brian McLaren and Steve Bell, May 28-29 at Christ Church Cathedral, 930 Burdett Ave., Victoria. Brian McLaren is a well respected author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders and Steve Bell is a Juno award-winning musician whose music has provided a passport to the wider world. A concert by Steve Bell will also be held on Saturday evening providing an excellent opportunity to hear Steve in an outstanding venue! Steve's CD "Devotion" has been nominated for a 2010 Juno Award. Further info and registration forms are available at www.cccvictoria.wordpress.com, or call the church office at 250-383-2714.