

Pastor's Corner - April 18, 2010

Last weekend I spoke in my homily about the cynicism and distrust so present in our thinking and how the Book of Revelation with it's message of hope brings us to a more serene view. Our God is not only the God of our past but also of our present and future as well: "Do not be afraid;... I am alive forever and ever."

Elizabeth Scalia, an American writer for First Things Magazine (her blog name is The Anchoress) wrote: "On Good Friday; here's why I remain Catholic." Excerpts:

"The question has come my way several times in the past week: "How do you maintain your faith in light of news stories that bring light to the dark places that exist within your church?" When have darkness and light been anything but co-existent? How do we recognize either without the other? I remain within, and love, the Catholic Church because it is a church that has lived and wrestled within the mystery of the shadow lands ever since an innocent man was arrested, sentenced and crucified, while the keeper of "the keys" denied him, and his first priests ran away. Through 2,000 imperfect "sometimes glorious, sometimes heinous" years, the church has contemplated and manifested the truth that dark and light, innocence and guilt, justice and injustice all share a kinship, one that waves back and forth like wind-stirred wheat in a field, churning toward something "as yet" unknowable. The darkness within my church is real, and it *has* too often gone unaddressed. The light within my church is also real, and has too often gone unappreciated. A small minority has sinned, gravely, against too many. Another minority has assisted or saved the lives of millions. But then ... My government is founded upon a singular appreciation of personal liberty; some of those founders owned slaves. My family was known for its neighborliness and its work ethic; its patriarch was a serial child molester. The child molester was also a brilliant, generous, talented man, the only person who ever read me a bedtime story. I will love him forever, for that, even when I wake up gasping and afraid. I am a woman with very generous instincts, and I try to love everyone, but I am capable of corrosive scorn. Have I been much sinned against? Yes. So have you. Have I sinned against others? Oh, yes. So have you.

Like a pebble cast into a pond, our every action ripples out, reaching farther than we intended, touching what we do not even know, for good, for ill. It all either means nothing, or it means everything. As a Catholic, I believe it means everything

That doesn't mean I do not suffer for the sins of my church; we people in the pews are roiling with feelings of betrayal, shame, revulsion. Having survived sexual abuse in the family and the public schools, I identify deeply with the pain, the sense of powerlessness and abandonment that the victims of some of our priests and administrators have endured. I grieve for them and for my church, and for my pope, and for all of the countless good priests and religious who are tarnished by the actions of a depraved minority. I am saddened beyond words to know that these very real sins of commission and omission will repel people, who will miss the consolations of the church in light, out of concern for its shadows.

But the painful and incomplete news stories that have dominated this Holy Week helpfully illustrate how and why I am able to continue on in faith. Particularly during the Easter Triduum, we are thrust deeply into the crucifixion narrative of the Gospels. There, on the wood of the cross, we encounter Jesus, son of Mary, who knew shame, betrayal, abandonment, scorn, jeering, ridicule, unimaginable pain and sorrow, and submitted to them, in order to draw us into a consoling embrace that says, "I know what you are feeling; I know what you are thinking. You tortured ones, you shamed ones, you innocent ones, you slandered ones; I am the One who knows, and we are actually all in this together, and quite outside of time."

I want my church to shine. But I understand that everything, from our institutions to our innermost beings, are seen through a glass, darkly. Arms outstretched, listening for the Word, and its echoing liturgy, I make my way forward, in bright hope."

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 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

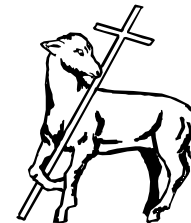
Sundays at 8:30am

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.

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 18, 2010

Acts 5.28-32, 40-41 / Rev 5.11-14 / Jn 21.1-19



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:	2010	2009
Monthly target: Approx.	\$23,000.00	
PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 3,395.00	
Good Friday:	\$ 1,603.59	\$ 1,299.81
Easter Sunday:	\$ 7,038.50	\$10,378.79
D&P / Share Lent:	\$ 4,568.50	\$ 4,002.00
April 11th	\$ 4,792.60	

Parish Council decided to donate the Holy Thursday collection of \$697.07 to Anawim House and St. Vincent de Paul, and to donate the extra \$788.95 collected from the recent Parish Mission to East Timor (as per Fr. Nigro's wishes).

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

CONFIRMATION & INITIATION CELEBRATION

On Sun. Apr. 25 at 10:30 we will welcome Bishop Richard Gagnon to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist with 24 of our children. Your participation in this celebration is appreciated. Coffee & tea will follow the celebration. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

8:30 MASS ON APRIL 25 CANCELED

Please note that there will be **no 8:30 mass** on Sunday, April 25 because of the above celebration.

SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL PASTORAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I have represented our Parish Community on this committee for almost 20 years, and I am looking for someone to replace me for this important group. We support the work of the Chaplain and work with staff to ensure that the spiritual needs of patients, staff, residents and their families are a priority in our local hospital. We meet 3 to 4 times a year at the hospital. I have been taking notes for these meetings which is not a major commitment. We are at an exciting time as we are finally, after years of planning, fund raising and waiting, about to witness the construction of the Interfaith Chapel. If you would like to become involved with this important work please call Susan at 250-656-0640. Thank you, Susan McConnell.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APR. 19

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

TUESDAY, APR. 20

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:00pm Knights of Columbus Rosary
7:30pm Knights of Columbus General Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 21

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
10:00am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, APR. 22

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

FRIDAY, APR. 23

9:00am Mass in the home of the Lovick's,
7798 W. Saanich Rd., 652-1653

SATURDAY, APR. 24

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APR. 25

8:30am **No Mass** at Our Lady of Assumption
9:30am Religious Education
10:30am **Mass at St. Elizabeth with Bishop - Sacrament of Confirmation**

IMPORTANT EVENTS

SALE for CHRISTIANS IN HOLY LAND: APR 17&18

This weekend Farid Qumsieh of Holy Land Ent. will be selling olive wood sculptures to promote steady employment for the minority Christians in the Holy Land, Bethlehem & Jerusalem. All types of payments are accepted. No donations please!

PASSIONATE LIVES: APR. 22

Queenswood presents "Passionate Lives", a dinner & lecture series. 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). For more info see www.queenswoodvictoria.ca/passionate-lives.

ST. ELIZABETH'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: MAY 8

Mark your calendar for **Sat. May 8 at 8:30 am**. Please keep items at home until that week.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY: MAY 7

Timothy Radcliffe, OP, Former Master of the Dominican Order will be preaching the Victoria clergy retreat from May 3-7. **He will also give a public lecture open to all on Fri. May 7, 7pm at Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Road.**

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 foltero@shaw.ca.

SUMMER CAMPS: AUGUST

The Diocese of Victoria invites all the youth of the diocese to a summer camp at Camp Barnard, Young Lake Rd., Sooke on August 3-8 (for grades 5-7); August 23-29 (for grades 8-12). For registration or more info contact the Diocesan office at 479-1331.

GENERAL

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.

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.

DEMONSTRATION AT LEGISLATURE: APR. 28

Come together at noon at the steps of the provincial legislature with leaders from many different faith communities (including Fr. Rolf) to protest cutbacks. "Begging for respect for the working poor, low income citizens, and vulnerable children."

ST. MARKS COLLEGE COURSES OFFERED

St. Mark's College at UBC offers graduate degrees and graduate certificates in Religious Education, Theology Studies and Pastoral Studies. For more information visit www.stmarkscollege.ca.

SALT & LIGHT TELEVISION

Salt + Light Television is available in our area on Shaw Digital Cable 160. For schedule & more info visit www.saltandlighttv.org or call 1-888-302-7181. Canada's Catholic network is also available nationwide via satellite on Bell ExpressVu (654).

WORKSHOPS

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.

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.

A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: APR. 23-25

Life in the Spirit Seminar on Friday, April 23, 7pm to Sunday, April 25 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 785 West Burnside Rd. For more info or to register call David MacIntyre at 250-383-9955, or email: victoriaccrs@gmail.com.

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.