

Since Easter Sunday we have celebrated and meditated on how the early Christian communities little by little experienced fulfilled in themselves the promise of Jesus in Luke 24:49 "See, I send down upon you the promise of my Father. Remain in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." That promise was renewed in the beginning of the Book of Acts and led to it's fulfillment at Pentecost. Acts relates how the mission of Jesus was continued in the Church, the Body of Christ, and how that mission ultimately extended to ALL people.

At the beginning those early Christian communities continued to see themselves as rooted in Judaism and intricately connected to the synagogue, to the Hebrew Scriptures, to the Mosaic Law(s). Like most Jews of the time they did not want any contact with "Gentiles", whom they considered idolaters, demon worshipers and immoral; contact with them meant religious defilement. On the other hand, they had started to welcome "newcomers" with other traditions and religious customs. But opening the doors to the larger world community caused conflicts and divisions among the early believers. It was Paul and Barnabas, mentioned in today's reading from Acts (and probably the other missionaries like Philip), who pushed and shoved the early Church into remembering how Jesus had said in words and action that God's gift of redemption was meant for the whole world. This was a profound shift even for Paul himself who after all was a devout Jew and who before his conversion had wanted to eradicate those heretics which he considered the Christians to be.

It is that missionary consciousness which we celebrate in the period after Easter when we remember how through our baptism we all are clothed with Christ and participate in the priesthood of Christ, how the gift of the Spirit celebrated at Pentecost is a gift to all of us and which must permeate all we do and say, our daily life: faith in action.

It is unfortunate that today we seem to have to relive elements of what the early Christian communities had to go through. Opening the doors to the larger world community is causing conflicts and even divisions in the Church of today (as well as in other faith communities) because that world is largely seen as idolatrous and immoral. We seem to lose sight of the fundamental goodness of that world. The profound shift which Vatican II and Pope John XXIII gave to the Church is even seen as the cause of all the problems we are facing as a Church! Different religious traditions and customs are not seen as enrichment but rather as source of division. Uniformity is demanded and a return to "the good old days" when things were "clear". The ecumenical movement, which seemed to hold such promise for Christian unity, is waning. True dialogue with the scientific world is almost non-existent. It seems that the richness, complexity, diversity and beauty of the world, God's creation and therefore "good", is scaring us. What is it we fear in such dialogue? What are we afraid of losing or changing? Why are we so hesitant about lowering the barriers that separate us? Are we afraid we will lose our heritage and, with that, our identity as well?

The example of Paul, who in his conversion suddenly realized that he was persecuting not the followers of Jesus but Jesus himself, should inspire and challenge us. For Paul all baptized are identified with the person of Jesus; an attack on any of them is an attack on Jesus. The early Christian community in the Book of Acts should lower our fears and assure us of the presence of God's Spirit in the midst of the turmoil of our world and of our Church.

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.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2010

Acts 13.14, 43-52 / Rev 7.9, 14-17 / Jn



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
Easter Sunday:	\$ 7,038.50
April 1:	\$ 4,792.60
April 18:	\$ 3,880.00
Monthly target:	Approx. \$23,000.00

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

CONFIRMATION & INITIATION CELEBRATION

This Sunday, April 25 at 10:30 we 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, as they continue on their journey of faith.

K of C ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: MAY 8

At St. Elizabeth's. Items will be accepted **ONLY** on Friday, May 7. We will only accept re-salable items. Please, **NO** clothes, shoes, mattresses, baby cribs etc. All items are subject to inspection to cut down on unsalable items. Thank you. For further info call Gord at 652-4379 or 588-1226 (cell).

PLANT SALE FOR BIRTHRIGHT: MAY 8

The annual plant sale in support of Birthright Victoria will take place during the K of C garage sale. Donations of plants for the sale will be gratefully received and may be dropped off at the church the evening of Friday, May 7. For more information, contact Art Menu at 656-0138.

SAANICH PENINSULA HOSPITAL PASTORAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

I am pleased to welcome Helene Dizy as my replacement on this committee, and I know she will represent our community well. Thank you, Helene. Susan McConnell.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, APR. 26

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

TUESDAY, APR. 27

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, APR. 28

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

THURSDAY, APR. 29

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

FRIDAY, APR. 30

11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital

SATURDAY, MAY 1

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAY 2

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

REMINDER

Please **fill in your name & address** on your St. Vincent de Paul donation envelopes (blue), as donations are recorded by name, not envelope number.

ANAWIM HOUSE

is experiencing very real difficulty because of the ever increasing needs of the poor. Their cupboards are almost empty and it is more and more difficult for them to continue preparing healthy and nutritious meals. They are asking for food items such as: pastas, canned tomato products, canned tuna or salmon, canned fruit, cold cereals, fresh or frozen vegetables, and meats. They also need cleaning supplies and toiletries. Thank you for your continued generous support! Donations can be dropped off at the box in the foyer marked "Anawim Society". **You can also donate online by credit card at canadahelps.org**; choose "Anawim Companions Society" and follow the prompts.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

DEMONSTRATION AT LEGISLATURE: APR. 28

Come together at noon for a 35 minute service at the steps of the provincial legislature with leaders from many different faith communities (**including Fr. Rolf**) to protest cutbacks. "**Begging for Justice**" for respect for the working poor, low income citizens, and vulnerable children." See poster in the foyer. For more info call 370-0121 or visit www.victoriafaithinaction.ca.

IMPORTANT VATICAN II TALK: APR 30

A Church for the 21st Century: The Spirit of Vatican II in Our Time, **Fri. Apr. 30, 7:30pm** in UVic David Strong Bldg., Rm. C103. "**A Look to the Future**" with **Gregory Baum, McGill University**.

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: 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.

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

THE PENINSULA SINGERS SPRING CONCERT: APR. 30 - MAY 2

The concert, "*Around the World in Song*" will be presented on Friday & Saturday, Apr. 30 & May 1 at 7:30pm and on Sunday, May 2 at 2pm at the Mary Winspear Theatre. Proceeds to Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Music Therapy Program. Tickets: adults \$20.84, children \$10.34 (including taxes).

COAST SALISH ART SHOW: MAY 3-24

at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 West Saanich Rd (opposite the Red Barn) from May 3 - 24 from 11am - 3 pm, Mon. to Sat. Special opening on Sat. May 1 from 7 - 9 pm with guest speakers, singers, dancers, drummers and refreshments. Artists include: Charles Elliott (Master Carver), Judy Bartleman, Jason Bill, Roger Charlie, James Jimmy, Chris Paul, Virgil Sampson, Dylan Thomas, Clifford Wilson.

MARCH FOR LIFE: MAY 13

Life is the first basic human right! Join the third annual march for life in Victoria on Thu. May 13. Meet at 2pm at Centennial Square, Victoria.

REUNION 2010: AUG 7

St. Louis College and St. Ann's Academy reunion for all alumni. For info and registration: www.slkota.ca or phone Dennis or Wendy Payne at 658-2196.

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.

WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER: MAY 1

Sat. May 1, 10am - 3pm at St. Philip's Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Rd., Victoria. For beginners and those who wish to refresh their practice in this method of silent meditative prayer. Facilitators: Christopher and Heather Page. Bring your own lunch. Nursery care and children's program available. For registration & info call 592-6823 or email stphilips@shaw.ca.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (G.O.F) : MAY 8

Sat. May 8, 12:15 - 4pm at St. Nicholas Parish, 1110 Caledonia. G.O.F. is a new approach to lifelong faith formation that prepares all ages to participate actively in the events and life of the Church. We invite fellow Catholics to join us. The focus will be the seasons and feasts of the Byzantine Liturgical Year. Registration: \$14. Call their church office at 384-2292 or Motria Koropecy at 658-3051.

QUEENSWOOD SEMINAR: MAY 21

• **Life-Work Balance Workshop** for teachers. Fri. May 21, 9am - 4pm at Queenswood, 2494 Arbutus Rd. Workshop facilitators: **Flo Follero-Pugh** and Dawn Schell. Cost: \$130. For more info or to register call 477-3822, email retreats@queenswoodvictoria.ca, or see QueenswoodVictoria.ca.