

Pastor's corner - August 2010

I like to reproduce here an article by Ron Rolheiser OMI which appeared in the Prairie Messenger of May 12, 2010, and entitled "Honesty and humility are needed to admit that we are living with anger":

"...William Young in his novel *The Shack* tells the story of a man whose young daughter had been kidnapped and brutally murdered. The man, struggling with a bitter anger, is invited by a mysterious note to come alone to the shack within which his daughter had been murdered. Expecting to find the murderer there, he prepares himself for brutal struggle. But he meets God in the shack instead. ...The wonderfully open, warm, embracing, nurturing, all-forgiving God that he meets does have one, hard, non-negotiable condition for getting into heaven: he has to forgive, not just his daughter's murderer, but everyone, absolutely everyone, if he is to ultimately join the community of the blessed. He can go to heaven, but not if he continues to carry his anger.

...letting go of anger and bitterness is a non-negotiable condition for going to heaven. Indeed, I'm convinced that there comes a point in our lives where we need only three words in our spiritual vocabulary: forgive, forgive, forgive. Morris West, in a short autobiographical essay that he wrote to celebrate his 75th birthday, phrases this more positively. He states that, upon arriving on your 75th birthday, you should only have one phrase left in your vocabulary: thank you!

Gratitude is the opposite of anger and we have too little gratitude in our lives. We are generally more angry than grateful. Moreover, to the extent that we even admit that we are angry, we tend to rationalize this by either dogma or cause: "I'm angry, but with cause! Mine is a righteous anger, like Jesus' when he upset the tables of the money-changers in the temple!" "Sure I'm angry, but why shouldn't I be, given how the conservatives have killed the openness of the past generation, re-entrenched a new intolerance into both the church and this country, and have no conscience for the poor!" "Sure, I'm angry, but why shouldn't I be, given what the liberals are doing to this church and this country! Just look at abortion and gay marriage!"

We should be cautious about flattering ourselves in this way. Unlike Jesus crying over Jerusalem, our tears are generally not warm tears of love and sadness over division and misunderstanding. Our tears, when there are tears at all, are generally cold tears of bitterness and anger at the sense of having been wronged or of having to live in our churches and our society with people whom we consider ill-willed, lazy, small-minded or just plain ignorant. We are more like the older brother of the prodigal son, doing mostly the right things, outwardly faithful to our religious and moral duties, but shackled with bitterness and deep-down anger that makes it hard, or even impossible, for us to enter the dance, to let go, to forgive.

Too few of us admit that we carry a lot of anger inside of us, that there are places in us that are bitter and resentful, and that there are still certain persons, incidents and events in our lives that we haven't forgiven.

As well, to camouflage our anger we like to make a public display of our generosity and goodness. We tend to make a show to family and friends of how nice we are by praising someone lavishly and then, almost in the same sentence, call someone else a name, slander someone or speak viciously or sarcastically about someone. This proclivity to divide others into either "angels" or "demons" is a sure indication of anger inside of us. We make a display of praising certain people and then bitterly complain how awful some other people are and how we are forever surrounded with idiots. Both the praise and the complaint testify to the same thing - we are living with anger.

Honesty and humility should eventually bring us to admit this. We all carry some angers and we should not deceive ourselves on this. We need courage and honesty to face up to this.

Perhaps we could take a lesson from groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and introduce ourselves to each other, or at least to our confessors, in this way:

"My name is Ron, and I'm an angry person. I rationalize this by telling myself and others that my anger is justified, that I'm like Jesus, kicking over the tables of the money-changers to cleanse God's house. But I have come to realize that this is self-deception, simply a way of rationalizing my own hurt. As I get older, I realize that I'm like the older brother of the prodigal son; I am standing outside the circle of warmth and community. But, the good news is that I'm in recovery."

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 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

PASTOR: Father Rolf Hasenack, O.P. **PARISH COORDINATOR:** Gary Koett

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Janet Staebell & Linda MacGowan (Co-Chairs)



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| <p>EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S 10030 Third Street, Sidney</p> <p>Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am. Daily on Tuesdays (9 am), Wednesdays (8:30 am), Thursdays (9 am), and First Fridays (9 am).</p> | <p>EUCHARIST AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton</p> <p>Sundays at 8:30 am</p> <p>Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11 am Remaining Fridays at 9 am in a private home. (See "This Week in Our Parish" inside bulletin.)</p> |
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SUNDAY READINGS FOR AUGUST 2010:

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Aug. 8 | 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Wis 18.6-9 / Heb 11.1-2, 8-19 / Lk 12.32-48 |
| Aug. 15 | ASSUMPTION OF MARY | Rev 11.19; 12.1-6, 10 / 1 Cor 15.20-26 / Lk 1.39-56 |
| Aug. 22 | 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Isa 66.18-21 / Heb 12.5-7, 11-13 / Lk 13.22-30 |

VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

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

Email: _____

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| PAD's (monthly total): | \$ 3,195.00 |
| July 4: | \$ 5,059.25 |
| July 11: | \$ 4,475.25 |
| July 18: | \$ 3,150.25 |
| July 25: | \$ 3,091.50 |

Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00

We welcome into our faith community in Baptism:

- **Misha Velasco**, daughter of Val and Mhylyn
- **Brooklyn Jesse Daly-Needham**, daughter of Dallas and Corey
- **Hannah Jasmine Yanos**, daughter of Donabel

We offer condolences to the family and pray for the repose of the soul of:

- **Albert Keimel**, who passed away on July 18
- **Irene Hoffman** who passed away on Aug. 2
- **Evdokia Vlassenko**, mother of Marianne (Don) Tarasoff, who passed away on Aug. 5

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

We welcome Jacquie as our new Religious Education Coordinator replacing Lynn who wishes to spend more time with her ailing mother. Jacquie appreciates our prayers and support, especially in the form of catechists and parents.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Catechists are needed to help in this fall's religious education program. Course materials and support are provided. Please consider becoming involved in this important and rewarding ministry. If you are interested, contact the parish office at 250-656-7433, or email sparish@shaw.ca.

TAIJI QIGONG: SEPT. 1 & 2

Taiji Qigong will resume on Wed. Sept.1 and 2.

THIS MONTH IN THE PARISH

TUESDAYS

9:00am Mass
7:00pm **Aug.10 - K of C Executive Meeting**

WEDNESDAYS

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration

THURSDAYS

9:00am Mass

FRIDAYS

9:00am **Aug. 13** - Mass at the home of George & Angie Swift: 652-9729
9:00am **Aug. 20** - Mass at the Legion Manor 7601 E. Saanich Rd.
7:30pm **Aug. 20 - Victoria Summer Choir**
11:00am **Aug. 27** - Mass at Saanich Pen. Hospital

SATURDAYS

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAYS

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

VICTORIA SUMMER CHOIR: AUG. 20

On Friday, August 20, 7:30 pm at St. Elizabeth's, members from 30 choirs including soloists and a string orchestra directed by Simon Leung, will perform "*Touching My Soul*", a mix of Baroque to Modern, folk to pop. Tickets \$15 available at Tanner's or Musicworks, 2353 Bevan Ave., or at the door.

MUSIC LICENSE ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The parish needs someone with basic computer skills to enter information on the websites of our music licences. Time commitment: approx. one hour per week. If you are able to assist, please contact Gary in the church office at 250-656-7433, or email sparish@shaw.ca.

BABY GRAND PIANO WANTED

The church would like to acquire a baby grand piano. If anyone has one that they would be willing to donate, please contact Gary in the church office at 250-656-7433, or email sparish@shaw.ca.



GENERAL

HOUSE SITTING AVAILABLE

A retired couple from Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, is looking for a house to sit during the fall or/winter. They wish to move here and will take that time to look for a new home. If you can help, call Gary in the office at 250-656-7433 or sparish@shaw.ca

SUMMER CAMPS: AUGUST

Senior Camp (Universal Call) Aug. 23 - 29 (for grades 8 to 12)

For fun, friendship and faith consider one of these camps at Camp Barnard, Young Lake Rd., Sooke. For registration or more information call 250-479-1331, ext. 232.

NEW CHAPEL GROUND-BREAKING: AUG 18

The Board of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation and the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Pastoral Care Committee invite you to a celebration of the ground-breaking for the new Chapel at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 10:30am at the site of the new Chapel (beside the entrance to the Extended Care Unit). Refreshments will be served in the Clinical Lecture Room from 9:30 to 10:30am. Please call the foundation at 250-652-7531 if you plan to come so they can ensure there is enough coffee for all.

BIRTHRIGHT FUNDRAISER: AUG. 21

On Saturday, August 21 join the 5 km walk round James Bay pushing baby strollers (baby optional), or sponsor someone walking. The walk starts at Fisherman's Wharf Park on St. Lawrence St. at 10 am. Decorate your stroller - there will be a prize for the best stroller. Please help raise funds for mothers and babies who need our help. For more information call Ann at 250-391-9892.



SPECIAL MASS & BUS TRIP CANCELLED

The bus trip to Duncan that was planned for Aug. 28 has been cancelled, because the recent 150th Anniversary Celebration at St. Ann's Church held on June 20 has replaced the Outdoor Mass at St. Ann's which had been announced for Aug. 28.

COULD YOU EVER COME BACK TO THE CHURCH ?

A course in Oct. and Nov. on Wednesday evenings, Oct. 6 to Nov. 17 from 7 - 9pm at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 753 Burnside Rd. West. Fr. William Hahn's course offers an opportunity for people to explore that inner tug to come home. Your thoughts and feelings and questions will be listened to and explored in a safe, accepting environment. The hope is that this journey will lead to healing and reconciliation and a coming home to the church. This course is only available to those who have left the church or are just coming home. To register call 250-479-7413 or email sitwoffice@shaw.ca.

FAITH & LIGHT ...

is a community that offers fellowship and support to individuals and their families with disabilities. We meet monthly to share in worship, fellowship and music, and are always looking for new members as well as individuals who would like to share their talents. If this is something that interests you or you have a family member with a disability, please contact Amber at 250-383-4009.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

SVDP is extremely low on summer clothing. The inventory is depleted and they still have one month to go. You can drop off ladies, children's or men's summer clothing Mon. to Sat., 9 to 5 at 9788B 2nd St., Sidney (or at their other locations).

PRAY FOR PRIESTS WEBSITE

The latest diocesan pastoral changes are now incorporated in the Group's website at www.prayforpriests.ca. Members of the group and all other parishioners may wish to review their choices of priests they wish to pray for. To do so, the visit the website and complete a sign-up form.

PLEASE SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH & EMPLOYMENT

Due to funding cutbacks, The Cool Aid Society is seeking your donations in order to maintain their employment, mental health, exercise and nutrition and counseling services. See www.CoolAid.org/stories to read how your donations really matter. You can donate online at www.CoolAid.org/donate (specify "REES" as the "Fund/Designation"), call 250-383-1977, or mail a donation to 102 - 749 Pandora Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1N9.