

## Pastor's Corner – October 2, 2011 – Posture During Mass

For the past five weeks we have been putting in the bulletin announcements about a very important event in our Parish and Diocese: an upcoming **Diocesan Conference on October 28 & 29** at St. Andrew's Regional High School to which all of you are invited. Unfortunately, so far there have been few registrations from our Parish! I would like to urge you to seriously think in taking the time to come together with Catholics from across the Island to hear some very dynamic speakers and to participate in various workshops. This First, hopefully annual, Diocesan Conference is centered on the "New Evangelization which essentially refers to certain principles and means of discovering, developing and celebrating our gifts and talents as Gifts from God which are sourced and rooted in our relationship with Christ, the Church and each others, for the purpose of furthering Christ's work of offering healing to a wounded world." The opening keynote address is given by a well-known international speaker, **David Wells** from Plymouth Diocese in England, who will earlier speak in the Vancouver Diocese. He will summarize developments related to the current state of Western Culture and outline those particular challenges that impact the Church. He will also provide a framework for exploring the relationship between our global reality and the Church's response for addressing these challenges. Susan Campbell, Director of Lay Formation in the Diocese of Prince George, will speak on the Canadian Bishop's recently released document **On Good Soil: Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults**, a practical and effective blueprint for revitalizing Church communities. Our Bishop Richard Gagnon will connect these global and national realities to our own "back yard." On Saturday Oct. 29 Ministry experts in **six core areas (Liturgy, Sacrament and Prayer, Vocation of Marriage and Family, Outreach and Social Justice, Faith Formation, Stewardship and Youth) will animate workshop groups** which will be asked to assess current conditions and recommend direction for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. In the afternoon Regional (several parishes together) Workshop Sessions will look at what this all means in each local parish. Our Parish will be linked with Holy Cross and Our Lady of Fatima. Please, register online or fill in registration forms provided at the Parish Office. In order to underline the importance of this Conference the \$25 registration fee will be covered by the Parish.

From time to time people come from other parishes with various liturgical practices different from the ones our community uses. It might be good to remember that **the practice here at Saanich Peninsula Parish is to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer, including during the words of the Consecration. There is no kneeling. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of unity (it is called "holy communion"- unity with) and as a sign of unity we are asked to stand together. Our reverence is shown by bowing together after the words of Consecration when I invite all of us to "bow to pay homage to Christ who is in our midst."** If someone finds it difficult to stand, by all means sit down. Let us remember "In Rome do as the Romans do!" Whenever we visit another parish we need to adapt to the postures and customs of that parish.

The normal way of receiving communion is to come forward with reverence and extending one's open hand above the other hand and receiving (not taking) the consecrated host by saying AMEN (the yes signifying our faith in receiving the Body of Christ and also signifying our willingness to become the Body of Christ, nurturing others, especially those in need, and building the Body of Christ in our family, community and world). If you wish to you can bow slightly before receiving, but, please, no kneeling. Receiving on the tongue is not encouraged. You are encouraged to receive communion under both species, bread and wine. Please, take the cup in both your hands and drink from it; then hand the cup back to the Eucharistic minister. If you are unable to come forward, a Eucharistic minister will only be too glad to come to you. Please, raise your hand.

Shalom,

*fr. Rolf, OP*