

Pastor's Corner - August 22 & 29, 2010

Three weeks ago I reproduced most of an article by Ron Rolheiser ("Honesty and humility are needed to admit that we are living with anger" - copies are available in the foyer). Here are parts of another one by Ron Rolheiser from the Prairie Messenger of July 14, 2010: "The most important task of midlife and beyond is to grieve, forgive."

The two themes go so well together. What I find amazing is that people on their deathbed seem to sense the same. My experience is that those who have tried to live these experiences and virtues, also die in peace!

"Sometime after his 70th birthday, Morris West wrote an autobiography he entitled "A View from the Ridge".

By ridge, he meant the angle that 70 years of living had given him. What he offers is an exceptionally mature perspective on life. When you get to be 75 years old, West says, your vocabulary should be pretty simple. You only need to have two words left: "Thank you!" **Gratitude is the real mark of genuine maturity, of spiritual health.** Don't ever be fooled about this. Moreover, for West himself, gratitude wasn't easy to come by. His life, had its share of hurts and rejections, not least by the church he loved. So his story also highlights that **gratitude is predicated on forgiveness, on letting go of hurts, on not letting the past bitterly colour the present. To be grateful is to be forgiving.**

And we all have hurts, deep hurts. Nobody comes to adulthood, let alone to old age, without being deeply hurt. **Alice Miller**, the renowned psychologist, puts it this way: All of us, from the time that we are infants in the cradle until we are self-possessed enough to write an autobiography like Morris West's, are not adequately loved, not adequately cared for, not adequately recognized, not adequately valued and not adequately honoured. Moreover, all of us also suffer positively some rejection and abuse. None of us is spared life's unfairness. She calls this the drama of the gifted child, namely, the drama of being a unique, sensitive, intelligent, deep and gifted person who in this life is never quite loved enough, recognized enough, respected enough or honoured enough, and who is sometimes positively rejected and abused. **Small wonder that it is easier to be bitter than grateful, paranoid than hospitable, angry than gracious.**

What can we do about this, beyond first of all admitting that we do nurse a grudge against life?

Miller suggests the most important task of mid-life and beyond is that of grieving. We need, she says, to cry until the foundations of our life are shaken. At a certain point in our lives the question is no longer: "Am I hurt?" Rather, it's: "**What is my hurt and how can I move beyond it?**" It's like having been in a car accident and carrying some permanent scars and debilitations. The accident happened, the limp is there, nothing is going to reverse time and so our only real choice is between bitterness and forgiveness, between anger and getting on with life, between spending the rest of our lives saying "if only!" or spending the rest of our lives trying to enjoy the air, despite of our limp.

An important idea within the Jewish and Christian concept of the Sabbath is the notion that, while the celebration, rest, enjoyment and prayer of the Sabbath is largely for its own sake, these are also in function of something practical, namely, forgiveness. **We are meant to rest regularly, pray regularly, celebrate regularly and enjoy life regularly both because this is what we will be doing in heaven and because, by doing these, we might find within us the heart we need to forgive.**

It's no accident that, often times, our vacations don't really do for us what they should. We get overworked and tired and we look forward to a vacation, some time away to rest, to relax with friends, to drink wine and enjoy the sun. Then we take a vacation and do, in fact, very much enjoy it. Sadly though, within days or weeks after we return we find ourselves as tired as we were before the vacation. What happened?

Our vacation didn't work because we didn't forgive anybody. We didn't let go of any grudges. The most tired and stressed part of us didn't get to go on vacation, didn't get to let go and relax and didn't find itself warmed by wine and friends. It stayed cold, anxious, stressed, overworked. There's a tiredness that cannot be cured by a good sleep, a good vacation or by the right time with the right friends with the right wine, and it's the deepest tiredness inside us. It's the tiredness that stings because of hurt, that's cold because it hasn't been loved, that's calloused because it has been cruelly cut and that burns with resentment because of the neglect and rejection it has experienced. This is a bone-deep tiredness that isn't cured by a vacation, but only by forgiveness.

There is only one ultimate imperative in life: Before we die, we need to forgive. We need to forgive those who hurt us, to forgive ourselves for not being any better than those who hurt us, to forgive life itself for some of the things that it dealt us, and, not least, to forgive God for the fact that life is unfair, so as not to die with a bitter and angry heart. Gratitude is the fruit of that struggle."

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)



EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

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).

EUCHARIST AT

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton

Sundays at 8:30 am

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.)

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 29, 2010

Sir 3.17-20, 28-29 / Heb 12.18-19, 22-24 / Lk 14.1, 7-14

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):	\$ 3,265.00
Aug. 1:	\$ 3,728.10
Aug. 8:	\$ 4,823.50
Aug. 15:	\$ 2,797.11
Aug. 22	\$ 3,659.50
D&P Pakistan:	\$ 2,104.77

Monthly target: Approx. \$23,000.00

We welcome into our faith community in Baptism:

- **Cara Eileen Higgins**, daughter of Sean & Lisa

We offer congratulations on the celebration of the Marriage of:

- **Alexandra Maxwell & Joseph Cecala**

COVENANT

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

See ststephensanglican.net for service times.

IN OUR PARISH

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR PAKISTAN

An additional special collection for the victims of flooding in Pakistan will be held after communion. Since the Government of Canada is doubling donations made, you are asked to donate ASAP. To meet the deadline our parish will send the accumulated amount on Sept. 7. Please make cheques out to Saanich Peninsula Parish marked "Pakistan", or send your donation directly to Development & Peace at 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd. West, 3rd Floor, Montreal, QC H3G 1T7.

D&P has already contributed \$50,000 from its emergency relief fund to its partner Caritas Pakistan, but much more is needed to help communities get back on their feet. A food kit that will feed a family for one week costs approx. \$35, a temporary shelter \$24, a hygiene kit \$12, blanket & clothes \$33. Imagine what your donation can do!

NEXT WEEK IN THE PARISH

TUESDAY

9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY

9:00am Mass
10:00am Sept. 1 - Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY

9:00am Mass
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SATURDAY

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY

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

PROMULGATION: DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

You are invited to join Bishop Richard Gagnon for the promulgation of the Diocese of Pastoral Plan on **Sun. Sept. 12 at St. Andrew's Cathedral, during the 11:00 am Mass**. This project could not have been achieved without the support of the many clergy, religious, laity (including our youth), Parish Pastoral Council chairs and members, Diocesan and parish staff - those who generously gave their time and input to this new pastoral planning process, and who continue to do so in time and prayer for a successful implementation. Thank you and blessings.

Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Planning Committee

CATECHISTS NEEDED

We are still looking for Catechists to help in this fall's religious education program. Course materials and support are provided. Please consider sharing your gifts with the children of our parish. If you are interested, call the parish office at 250-656-7433, or email sparish@shaw.ca.

TAIJI QIGONG

Taiji Qigong resumes on Wed. & Thu., Sept. 1 & 2.

DEV. & PEACE: CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED

After many fulfilling years I have stepped down from this position. I'd like to thank everyone for their support. I will remain involved and am willing to train the person who will take over. If social justice and aiding developing countries is a passion of yours, then this is the ministry for you - where you can truly make a difference. You will work with a small but dedicated committee in our parish and liaise with the Diocesan D & P Committee - you will be the contact person for our parish. You will help organize two campaigns in our parish: the fall and Share Lent campaigns. Please contact the parish office at 250-656-7433 or myself at 250-656-2064 if you are interested. Donna Thompson.

PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS RESUME: SEPT. 9

The Prayer Group will be gathering on Thurs. Sept. 9 at 2 pm in the small meeting room. Please bring your Bible, and come to praise and thank the Lord. For information call Cathy at 250-652-2365.

WALK OF HOPE: SEPT. 12

Fatima Warner, a parishioner, invites you to join her *Team Noemia Victoria* for the Walk of Hope in support of Ovarian Cancer on Sun. Sept. 12 at Royal Roads University. Walk begins at 10 am. If you can't join her, you can also make a donation online at tinyurl.com/TeamNoemia. From the Team Page, click the 'Join My Team' button to register. Visit www.winnerswalkofhope.ca for more info! If you are unable to walk or donate, your prayers for all Ovarian Cancer heroes are appreciated.

BABY GRAND PIANO WANTED

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

GENERAL

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.

MARCH FOR LIFE: SEPT. 12

The Victoria Right to Life Society is holding its annual fundraising Walk for Life on Sun. Sept. 12, 2 pm at Beacon Hill Park in the picnic area next to the children's playground (east of Arbutus Way, which enters the park from Southgate and Quadra). The walk starts at 2:30 pm sharp. All ages are welcome. Pledge sheets are available in the church office. For more info see poster on St. Elizabeth's bulletin board or call 250-383-1782.

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: SEPT. 16

The annual conference of the Catholic Health Association of BC will be held at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam on Thurs. Sept. 16. More info and registration brochure available at chabc.bc.ca, or call 604-524-3427. Everyone is welcome.

PROGRAMS IN EARTH LITERACIES

The series "*Meditation and Creativity*" will be offered once a month on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9 pm on Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30 at the First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd. Victoria. Facilitator: Mary Jane Wilson, CND, MA. Cost \$60 for the series, or \$20 drop in. Register at earthliteracies@shaw.ca or 250-380-9786.

COULD YOU EVER COME BACK TO THE CHURCH?

Wed. evenings, Oct. 6 to Nov. 17 from 7 - 9 pm at St. Joseph's 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 sjtwoffice@shaw.ca.

NET TEAM SUPPORT NEEDED

Elizabeth Fitzmaurice, 20 years old, of St. Joseph's Parish has been accepted to serve as a missionary with NET (National Evangelization Teams) of Canada, a non-profit organization. As part of her service she is seeking prayers and financial support to reach her goal of \$6,000. Donate online at www.netcanada.ca (tax receipts issued for donations over \$10), or contact her directly at 250-474-5314 (her letter is posted on St. Elizabeth's bulletin board).