

Pastor's corner – May 17, 2009

I would like to reproduce here segments of the homily given by Pope Benedict XVI in Amman, Jordan. As he spoke in a moderate Moslem country he underlined the importance of the role of women in society.

"...From the heights of Mount Nebo, I stood and looked out upon this great land, the land of Moses, Elijah, and John the Baptist, the land where God's ancient promises were fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah, Jesus our Lord. This land witnessed his preaching and miracles, his death and resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, the sacrament of a reconciled and renewed humanity. As I pondered the mystery of God's fidelity, I prayed that the Church in these lands would be confirmed in hope and strengthened in her witness to the Risen Christ, the Savior of mankind. Truly, as Saint Peter tells us in today's first reading, "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12)....Today's joyful celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice expresses the rich diversity of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

...An important aspect of your reflection during this Year of the Family has been the particular dignity, vocation and mission of women in God's plan. How much the Church in these lands owes to the patient, loving and faithful witness of countless Christian mothers, religious Sisters, teachers, doctors and nurses! How much your society owes to all those women who in different and at times courageous ways have devoted their lives to building peace and fostering love! From the very first pages of the Bible, we see how man and woman, created in the image of God, are meant to complement one another as stewards of God's gifts and partners in communicating his gift of life, both physical and spiritual, to our world. Sadly, this God-given dignity and role of women has not always been sufficiently understood and esteemed. The Church, and society as a whole, has come to realize how urgently we need what the late Pope John Paul II called the "prophetic charism" of women (cf. *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 29) as bearers of love, teachers of mercy and artisans of peace, bringing warmth and humanity to a world that all too often judges the value of a person by the cold criteria of usefulness and profit. By its public witness of respect for women, and its defence of the innate dignity of every human person, the Church in the Holy Land can make an important contribution to the advancement of a culture of true humanity and the building of the civilization of love. Dear friends, let us return to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel. I believe that they contain a special message for you, his faithful flock in these lands where he once dwelt. "The good shepherd", he tells us, "lays down his life for his sheep." ...May the courage of Christ our shepherd inspire and sustain you daily in your efforts to bear witness to the Christian faith and to maintain the Church's presence in the changing social fabric of these ancient lands.

Fidelity to your Christian roots, fidelity to the Church's mission in the Holy Land, demands of each of you a particular kind of courage: the courage of conviction, born of personal faith, not mere social convention or family tradition; the courage to engage in dialogue and to work side by side with other Christians in the service of the Gospel and solidarity with the poor, the displaced, and the victims of profound human tragedies; the courage to build new bridges to enable a fruitful encounter of people of different religions and cultures, and thus to enrich the fabric of society. It also means bearing witness to the love which inspires us to "lay down" our lives in the service of others, and thus to counter ways of thinking which justify "taking" innocent lives.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me" (Jn 10:14). Rejoice that the Lord has made you members of his flock and knows each of you by name! Follow him with joy and let him guide you in all your ways. Jesus knows what challenges you face, what trials you endure, and the good that you do in his name. Trust in him, in his enduring love for all the members of his flock, and persevere in your witness to the triumph of his love..."

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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Gary Koett
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Jai Francis **PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chair, Tim Leadem 250-656-5628

EUCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S
10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 10:30am
Daily at 9am Tuesdays, Wednesdays
& Thursdays and First Fridays

**EUCHARIST AT
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**
7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton
Sundays at 8:30am
Last Friday at Saanich Peninsula Hospital at 11am
Remaining Fridays at 9am in a private home
See inside bulletin

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: MAY 17, 2009

Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48 / 1 Jn 4.7-10 / Jn 15.9-17

ASCENSION OF THE LORD: MAY 24, 2009

Acts 1.1-11 / Eph 1.17-23 / Mk 16.15-20

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 Visitation Team, please call the office (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 pam- :
: phlets next to the bulletins in the foyer so you can get :
: to know us. :
: Name _____ :
: Phone# _____ :
: Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___ :
: Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___ :
:.....

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS

May 3 \$4,978.05
PAD's (38 donors) \$3,020.00

SECOND COLLECTION: TODAY

A 2nd collection will be taken after communion for **The Pope's Pastoral Works**.

OFFICE CLOSED

Gary is away on holidays and will return May 26th. The collections will be updated after then.

We offer condolences to the families and pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mary Sproule
Adeline Bosovich, the mother of Olga Sweet

COVENANT

ST. MARY & STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES

May 24 9:00 St. Stephen's BAS Holy Communion
10:30 St. Mary's BCP Holy Communion

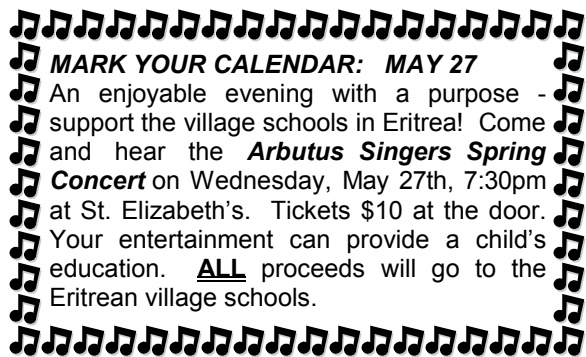
IN OUR PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION GROUP: MAY 20 & 27

The next Faith Reflection Group will meet on Wednesdays at 1pm at St. Elizabeth's. Sister Donna & Fr. Rolf welcome you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: MAY 27

Please note the date. Our next St Elizabeth of Hungary Conference of SVDP will be held this month on Wednesday, **May 27th at 1:30pm**.

 **MARK YOUR CALENDAR: MAY 27**
An enjoyable evening with a purpose - support the village schools in Eritrea! Come and hear the **Arbutus Singers Spring Concert** on Wednesday, May 27th, 7:30pm at St. Elizabeth's. Tickets \$10 at the door. Your entertainment can provide a child's education. ALL proceeds will go to the Eritrean village schools.

THE NEXT 2 WEEKS IN THE PARISH

TUESDAY, MAY 19 & 26

7:45am Eucharistic Adoration (1 hour)
9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
7:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg. (May 19)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 & 27

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group
1:30pm St. Vincent DePaul (May 27)
7:30pm Arbutus Singers Spring Concert (May 27)

THURSDAY, MAY 21 & 28

9:00am Mass
11:30am Friendly Hours
2:00pm Prayer Group
6:00pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, MAY 22 & 29

11:00am Mass at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital (May 22)
9:00am Mass at the home of Kay Richards 986 Northaw Cr. 652-2480 (May 29)

SATURDAY, MAY 23 & 30

5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, MAY 24 & 31

8:30am Mass at OLO Assumption
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's Confirmation (May 31)

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS: MAY 30/31

There will be a special celebration of Reconciliation of some of the older children on Saturday, May 30th. Also the Sacrament of Confirmation/First Communion Celebration will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st at the 10:30am Mass. We appreciate your participation in their celebration as well as your cooperation in seating these children and their families. The seats will be marked by names and ribbons. Following the celebration a light tea will be held for the children, their families and the parish. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they continue on their journey of faith.

CWL BAZAAR: JUNE 6 & 7

You are invited to the CWL Bazaar following the weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday, June 6th & 7th at St. Elizabeth's. You will find tables for children, baking, nu-tu-u treasures, raffle, books and may also enjoy a light lunch for \$5 on Sunday. All parishioners are invited to donate baking (bring before each Mass) and items (put in the box in foyer at St. Elizabeth's). This will be the CWL's only fundraiser for the year. For more information call Rhoda-Marie at 1-250-629-6292. Thank you in advance.

PARISH PICNIC—Mark your calendars: JUNE 10

Our parish picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 10th from 5:30–7pm at Heritage Acres, located off Island View Road & the Pat Bay Hwy. Bring your own picnic, food and dishes. Refreshments and dessert will be provided. Barbeque grills will be available. The train will be running for kids of all ages. Good fellowship and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome! For more information call Roy at 250-652-0340 or Lynn at 250-652-2543 or you may email me at lynn@spparish.com.

THANK YOU

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who donated items for our garage sale, attended or purchased items. Events like this would never succeed without the great support we receive from the parish community. Thanks to one and all who contributed. Gord.

D & P EMERGENCY RELIEF: SRI-LANKA

Development & Peace is now accepting donations for the Emergency Relief for Sri-Lanka civilians displaced by the current conflict. Donations by cheque can be made to Saanich Peninsula Parish (put D&P Sri-Lanka on subject line) or by phone at 1-888-664-3387 or on-line at devp.org. For more information call Donna at 250-656-2064.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

FIND YOUR FIT: FAITH, FUN & CAREERS: JUNE 6

"Find Your Fit" is a career discovery workshop for teens & young adults. God has gifted you in many ways, so match those gifts to options for work and service. Facilitators: Flo Follero-Pgh and Dawn Schnell. Takes place at Sacred Heart Parish on Sat., June 6th from 9am-4pm. Fee \$65 includes testing materials & handouts. To register call 250-544-0999 or email info@workflo.ca.

GENERAL

PRIEST APPRECIATION: MAY 29

The Knights of Columbus Council 1256 will be hosting the 2nd Annual Priest Appreciation & Vocations Fundraiser on Friday, May 29th at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, 4635 Elk Lake Drive. Doors open at 5pm and banquet dinner at 6pm. Also featured is a cash bar and a silent auction. Keynote speaker is the Right Reverend Father Abbot John Braganza, OSB of Westminster Abbey, Mission, BC. Entertainment by the Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band. Ticket cost \$75 with a tax receipt of \$40. For tickets call Grand Knight Roland Wauthy at 250-474-6255. Advance tickets only.

LITURGY OF RECONCILIATION: MAY 31

The Diocese of Victoria will be hosting a special Liturgy of Reconciliation at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st at 3pm. Evening Vespers/Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated with Bishop Richard Gagnon and Bishop Remi De Roo, Bishop Emeritus. Following the service there will be a reception at St. Andrew's Elementary School. All are invited to participate in this time of prayer, seeking healing and reconciliation which will assist our Diocese in moving forward into the future.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE: MAY 29-31

All youth in grades 8-12 are invited to the 6th annual Diocesan Youth Conference, "FSHS Network: Live 24/7". Special guest speaker, Mike Patin is a renowned coach, teacher, and inspirational youth minister. Dates: Friday, May 29 -31. At St. Andrew's High School, Victoria. For registration info, download the registration form at www.rcdvictoria.org. Questions? Contact DYCBroadcast Head-quarters at 250-479-1331 (ext. 232) or email follero@shaw.ca

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Needs your help! They operate a day program for over 60 mentally and physically challenged adults in Victoria and they are taken to many community events. Their wheel chair van and regular mini-van are in need of replacement. The costs for used would be \$54,000 & \$25,000 respectively. For a tour of the facilities and/or to help please call Ken Leason, the Manager, at 250-727-0007.