

SAANICH PENINSULA PARISH

Eucharistic Home Visit Ministry

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of this Ministry is to visit and bring communion weekly to those parishioners in our community, who are unable to come to our Saturday or Sunday celebrations.

The visits are made to home-bound parishioners.

The visits have a two-fold purpose: to bring communion and to have a social visit. Both are of equal importance.

As we would say: Normally a Parishioner regularly comes to the community (in church) – but if unable to do so, the community comes to the parishioner (in his/her home).

Each Wednesday members of our team make a visit to the Resthaven Lodge. On Thursdays a larger group of our Ministry workers pay a visit to the home of those members in our community unable to come on the Saturday or Sunday celebration.

This is how it works:

Gary in the Office has a Master List of those wishing to have a visit and receive communion. Any home-bound person, a family member, or anyone knowing of a situation as such, can contact Gary (250-656-7433) to have such home-bound person put on the home-visiting list.

Currently the Thursday list has from 12 to 15 names/addresses on it.

For the Thursday visits, we normally have a 4-person team assigned for each Thursday – in other words each volunteer visitor gets at least one turn each month.

On the Thursday morning we check with Gary, who will provide us with up-to-date list of the parishioners to be visited. Then members of the Thursday team will decide who is going to visit with which home-bound person.

By splitting it up this way, each one of us has only 3 or 4 visits, and thus an opportunity to spend some more special social time with the home-bound parishioner. We attend Mass at 9:00AM and then receive the necessary hosts for the visits.

During the visit, each one of us decides when it is a good time to give communion, and when to spend some social time. We try to be receptive to the wishes of our 'customers'. You will be amazed as to how interesting this social time is. You know, just like anyone of us, the homebound person loves to talk about children, family, where they came from, life's experiences, etc. etc. What they need of course is someone to listen to them once in a while. And they don't get many opportunities – we may be the only visit they have during the week.

And from our point of view, it makes the Ministry very interesting. So to us, it makes this Ministry a win-win situation.