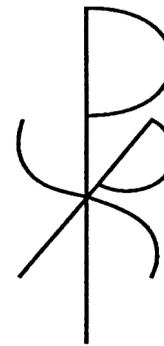


Last Labor Day weekend I said that we not only celebrate the dignity of work and our participation in God's creation but also the importance of **how we care** of Creation. **Pope Francis** wrote in this year's Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Sept.1): "On this Day of Prayer, I wish first to thank the Lord for the gift of our common home and for all those men and women of good will committed to protecting it. I am likewise grateful for the many projects aimed at promoting the study and the safeguarding of ecosystems, for the efforts being made to develop more sustainable agriculture and more responsible nutrition, and for the various educational, spiritual and liturgical initiatives that involve Christians throughout the world in the care of creation....there is a growing sense of the need for a renewed and sound relationship between humanity and creation, and the conviction that only an authentic and integral vision of humanity will permit us to take better care of our planet for the benefit of present and future generations. For **"there is no ecology without an adequate anthropology"** (*Laudato Si'*, 118). **I like to draw attention to the question of WATER:** a very simple and precious element, yet access to it is, sadly, for many people difficult if not impossible. Nonetheless, "access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Our world owes a great social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity" (*ibid.*, 30).

Water invites us to reflect on our origins. The human body is mostly composed of water, and many civilizations throughout history arose near great rivers that marked their identity. In an evocative image, the beginning of the book of Genesis states that, in the beginning, the spirit of the Creator "swept over the face of the waters (1:2)". In considering the fundamental role of water in creation and in human development, I feel the need to give thanks to God for "Sister Water", simple and useful for life like nothing else on our planet. Precisely for this reason care for water sources & water basins is an urgent imperative. More than ever we need to look beyond immediate concerns (*Laudato Si'*, 36) and beyond a purely utilitarian view of reality, "in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit" (*ibid.*, 159). We urgently need shared projects, concrete gestures that recognize that every privatization of the natural good of water, at the expense of the human right to have access to this good, is unacceptable. For us Christians, water represents an essential element of purification and of life. We think immediately of baptism, sacrament of our rebirth. Water made holy by the Spirit is the matter by which God has given us life and renewed us; it is the blessed source of undying life. For Christians of different confessions, baptism also represents the real and irreplaceable point of departure for experiencing an ever more authentic fraternity on the way to full unity. Jesus promised a water capable of quenching human thirst for ever (*Jn 4:14*). He prophesied, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink (*Jn 7:37*). To drink from Jesus means to encounter him personally as the Lord, drawing from his words the meaning of life. May the words he spoke from the cross – "I thirst" (*Jn 19:28*) – echo constantly in our hearts. The Lord continues to ask that his thirst be quenched; he thirsts for love. He asks us to give him to drink in all those who thirst in our own day, and to say to them, "I was thirsty and you gave me to drink" (*Mt 25:35*). To give to drink, in the global village, does not only entail personal gestures of charity, but also concrete choices and a constant commitment to ensure to all the primary good of water.

I would like also to mention the issue of the seas and oceans. It is our duty to thank the Creator for the impressive and marvelous gift of the great waters and all that they contain (*Gen 1:20-21*; *Ps 146:6*), and to praise him for covering the earth with the oceans (*Ps 104:6*). To ponder the immense open seas and their incessant movement can also represent an opportunity to turn our thoughts to God, who constantly accompanies his creation, guiding its course and sustaining its existence. Constant care for this inestimable treasure represents today an ineluctable duty and a genuine challenge. There is need for an effective cooperation between men and women of good will in assisting the ongoing work of the Creator. Sadly, all too many efforts fail due to the lack of effective regulation and means of control, particularly with regard to the protection of marine areas beyond national confines (*Laudato Si'*, 174). We cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic. Here too, our active commitment is needed to confront this emergency. We need to pray as if everything depended on God's providence, and work as if everything depended on us. Let us pray that waters may not be a sign of separation between peoples but of encounter for the human community. Let us pray that those who risk their lives at sea in search of a better future may be kept safe. Let us ask the Lord and all those engaged in the noble service of politics that the more sensitive questions of our day, such as those linked to movements of migration, climate change and the right of everyone to enjoy primary goods, may be faced with generous and farsighted responsibility and in a spirit of cooperation, especially among those countries most able to help.

Let us pray too, for all those who devote themselves to the apostolate of the sea, for those who help reflect on the issues involving maritime ecosystems, for those who contribute to the development and application of international regulations on the seas in order to safeguard individuals, countries, goods, natural resources (e.g. marine fauna and flora, coral reefs, sea beds) and to guarantee an integral development in view of the common good of the entire human family and not particular interests. Let us remember, too, all those who work to protect maritime areas and to safeguard the oceans and their biodiversity, that they may carry out this task with responsibility and integrity....." Francis.



Saanich Peninsula Parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN COVENANT WITH ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Parish office: 10030 Third St, Sidney
Phone: 250-656-7433
Email: spparish@shaw.ca

Mailing address: 10030 Third St, Sidney, V8L 3B3
Rectory: 250-652-1557
Web site: www.spparish.com

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Pastor: Fr. Rolf Hasenack, O.P.

Admin. Assistants: Melanie Ehrlich & Gary Koett

Associate Pastor: Fr. Thomas Chinnappa

Parish Council Chair: Mary McGovern

SUNDAY EUCHARIST at ST. ELIZABETH'S
 10030 Third Street, Sidney
Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.

at OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
 7742 West Saanich Road, Saanichton
Sundays at 8:30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Daily at St. Elizabeth's: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

Third Friday: 9:00 am at the Legion Manor, 7601 East Saanich Road, Saanichton

Last Friday: 11:00 am in the Chapel at Saanich Peninsula Hospital

Remaining Fridays: 9:00 am in a private home (for location see "This Week in Our Parish" ...)

RECONCILIATION at ST. ELIZABETH'S: Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm, or by appointment.

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Isaiah 35:4-7

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

Psalms 146:

**Praise the Lord,
 O my soul.**



24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Isaiah 50:5-9

James 2:14-18

Mark: 8:27-35

Psalms 116: I will

**Walk before the Lord
 of the living.**



VISITING EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

If you know of someone who is house-bound or in a nursing home/hospital and would

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: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

IN OUR PARISH COLLECTIONS

August Total.....\$13,731
 Sept. 2.....\$ 3,489
 Pre-Authorized Debits (August).....\$ 4,695
 Monthly Target.....\$23,000

We offer condolences to the family & pray for the repose of the soul of Palmer Salopree



PARISH POTLUCK: SUN. SEPT. 16

You are invited to bring your favourite dish to our **Parish Potluck Lunch Sun, Sept. 16 after Mass at St. Elizabeth's**. A wonderful way to enjoy great food, take time for a chat with fellow parishioners and take the opportunity to greet new parish members: **"strangers are only friends we haven't yet met"**

DAY OF PRAYER: SEPTEMBER 15

Bishop Gary is inviting us to a day of prayer, penance and fasting as we implore God for the healing of victims of sexual abuse and for all those who have suffered abuse at the hands of Church authorities.

CATECHISTS, SACRAMENT PREPARATION LEADERS RETREAT: SEPT. 15

Catechist Retreat & Workshop Sat, Sept. 15, 9 am - 3 pm Church of the Ascension, Parksville, Lunch provided. REGISTRATION: Online at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-catechist-retreat-workshop-tickets-47970458934> or Diocesan website <http://www.rcdvictoria.org/>. Contact Glen for information: (250) 479 1311.

URGENT CALL FOR CATECHISTS !!!

Carla & Jim Fretwell are unable to lead this year's sacramental prep program due to their daughter Wendy's critical illness (please keep the family in your prayers). In addition, Stasia Hartley is not available this fall. If you think that you can help, please contact Father Rolf at 250-656-7433.

NEXT 2 WEEKS IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, SEPT. 10 & 17
9:00 am Funeral: Palmer Salopree (Sept. 10)
1:00 pm Faith Reflection (Sept. 17)

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11 & 18
 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
2:00 pm CWL General Meeting (Sept. 11)
7:30 pm K of C General Meeting (Sept. 18)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 & 19
 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 10:00 am Taiji Qigong

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13 & 20
 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 11:30 am Friendly Hours Soup Luncheon
 2:00 pm Prayer Group (Cancelled, will resume October 4th)
 6:00 pm Taiji Qigong

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14 & 21
 9:00 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
 9:00 am Mass at Legion Manor (Sept. 21)
 10:00 am Mass at the home of Kay Richards (Sept. 14)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15 & 22
 4:00 pm Confession
 5:00 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16 & 23
 8:30 am Mass: Our Lady of Assumption
 10:30 am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30 am Parish Potluck (Sept. 16)
11:30 am Eritrean Luncheon (Sept. 23)

GOING TO THE MOVIES!

Showing at the Star Cinema in Sidney is "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word" Sun. Sept. 9 2:30 pm
 Wed. Sept. 12, 7:15 pm, Thurs. Sept. 13. 7:15 pm

OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIAL: SEPT. 15

Join local Bicolanos and Marian devotees in a mass for Our Lady of Penafrañca! Sat. Sept 15 at 11 am at St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria. Stay for a simple potluck after mass in the hall. Questions: contact Aida Follero or Karen Borre Estrada at follero@shaw.ca or 778-426-2207.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Foundations of the Faith Part I, Eight Wednesday evenings Sept. 19 from 7-9 pm at Pastoral Center, Victoria Topics: Evangelization, Human Person, Introduction to the Bible.

Credible Catholic: Countering the New Atheism, Six Tuesday evenings beginning Sept 25: 7-8:30 pm at St. Andrew's High School, McKenzie Ave. Register FREE online. Links on Diocesan website www.rcdvictoria.org or contact Glen Palahicky gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org or Gwen Jahelka gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org

UPCOMING IN THE DIOCESE

Sept. 18 at 7pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral: Pivotal Players, a DVD series by Bishop Robert Barron explores the lives of 6 extraordinary RC's: St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis, St. Catherine of Siena, Bl. John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton, & Michelangelo. 12 weeks, beginning Tues, Sept. 18. Contact Bernadette O'Connor email: det.oconnor@gmail.com

ERITREAN BENEFIT LUNCHEON: SEPT. 23

Be sure to attend the annual bake sale and luncheon to raise funds for our work in Eritrea. **Sun. Sept. 23:11:30 am** at St. Elizabeth's. It's a great time to socialize with friends over lunch, stock up on delicious baked goods and preserves, and find out more about the work supported by **Hanti Sidra One Global Family**

K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST: SEPT. 30

\$6 / person, 12 & under free. Good food & fellowship. Bring your appetite!

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN CANADA: SEPT. 30

Annually, the Bishops of Canada make an appeal for financial assistance to support their work and the work of each diocese. This Collection is an opportunity to help our diocese participate in the regional episcopal assemblies and the CCCB.

THANK YOU

Shirley Goldie thanks all those who prayed for her during her hip surgery. God bless.

DIOCESAN MESSENGER AVAILABLE:

September 15

WONDER WHERE FR. ROLF IS ?

As agreed to last October, Fr. Rolf continues to minister every Sunday at St. Jean Baptiste.

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Gary Koett will be retiring Sept. 30th., 2018. We thank him for nearly 10 years of serving the parish in the office.

WORD OF CAUTION: FRAUD & MONEY SCAMS

The Diocese writes: "Please, act with caution when it comes to responding to requests for money, even when someone claims to represent a charity and even if that person is a fellow parishioner, employee or clergy." (cf. letter on bulletin board) .

SEPTEMBER BECKONS A "NEW YEAR"

Even though most of our parishioners are way past celebrating a 'new year' that is often associated with the start of a new school year, somehow September is a time when our routines seem to begin anew after the summer. What a great opportunity to begin new ventures such as getting involved in one of our many ministries. Check out the 'meetings' or events in our parish calendar and **just show up** at the day & time indicated. Whether a new or a long time parishioner, new members and volunteers are most welcome.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE IN CRISIS?

Repair your marriage, rediscover romance and gain the tools you need for healthy, loving communication! Retrouvaille is a Catholic peer ministry which offers a two-month program for married couples with difficulties of all kinds. For confidential information or to register for the Lower Mainland program beginning Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, call Marc and Candice at 604-530-6710 or email at vancouverbc@retrouvaille.org. More information www.retrouvaille.org & www.retrouvaille.com

EARTH LITERACIES PROGRAMS

- *Courage Earth: where personal and political meet, with Lisa Gordon*
 6 Wednesdays, 7-9 pm Sept 19 to Oct 24:
 Society of Friends House, 1829 Fern St., Victoria.
- *Cooperating with Convergence: Mysticism and the New Story a Retreat Day with Margaret Walters*

Sat. Sept 29, 10am – 5pm | \$65, please bring your lunch. Location: Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary, 1772 Millstream Rd. Victoria
 Register: programs@earthliteracies.org 250-220-4601/250-888-7501 www.earthliteracies.org