

## **Pastor's Corner - October 16, 2011 - Liturgy Changes & Mission Sunday**

**Music:** The changes in the Sunday Liturgy about which I wrote in the spring will soon be implemented. The various groups which provide music were invited to a special workshop on the changes (Sept. 30 and Oct.1). Afterwards our participants came together under the leadership of Fatima Warner, our music coordinator, in order to take the first steps for our local faith community. Two of the new Canadian Mass settings were chosen, one for the Saturday mass and the other for the Sunday masses at Our Lady and at St. Elizabeth. Groups have been practicing and will start to introduce elements of the new music on Nov. 6. A great deal of work is involved on the part of all. In order to maintain a common and consistent approach two musicians (Michael McEwan and Ray Folk) together with their singers will introduce the new music at the Sunday celebration. Madeline Teo will do so at the 5:00 pm mass on the first and third Saturday of the month. Ann Reiswig will do so at Our Lady of the Assumption. The changes are coming at the same time as our very able, most consistent and longest-serving musician, Shirlee Tessier, is moving to Oak Bay. While unable to drive in the evening for the Saturday celebrations, Shirlee would like to continue to help out and participate in "her" and our community on Sunday morning. However, as we enter fall and winter weather, driving from Oak Bay may become an issue and we thought it wise to take the necessary time before including her in the schedule. I know that this may be seen in a negative way but let me assure you that there is no mal intent. All of us we are indebted to Shirlee for her leadership, her musical skills and her willingness to serve our community. We are forever grateful to you Shirlee! Once settled in her new home, we hope that Shirlee will continue to be with us whenever possible. Changes happen in all our lives and while we feel them at times as being losses, we are also invited to see them as opportunities.

**Mission Sunday:** Every time we pray the Our Father we pray for God's Kingdom, God's Reign, to become reality in our midst. Of course, this can have many different faces: sharing our resources such as food with the needy of our community, working towards true justice and peace, etc. Another important way is to renew our commitment to proclaim the Gospel in our daily lives, to which we are called at the end of each Mass: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." It is a commandment that Jesus himself gave to his disciples after his Resurrection. In fact, he first said it to Mary Magdalene who thus became the first "Preacher" of the Good News. We are all well aware that Christ's mission to redeem the world is still very far from completion. We continue to hear the call to preach the good news ("As the Father has sent me, so I send you" - John 20:21). World Mission Sunday which we will celebrate next Sunday Oct. 23, reminds us that the entire Church, all of us, we all participate in this mission of proclaiming the Gospel by creating and by being ourselves signs of hope. Pope Benedict in his message on the occasion of this year's World Mission Sunday says: "The universal mission involves everything and everyone. The Gospel is not an exclusive possession of those who have received it, but it is a gift to be shared and good news for others. ...the Church's missionary dimension is essential and continually present ... (all) should be involved in mission, constantly, as a way of life." Next week is World Mission Sunday. Every parish across the world will celebrate it, a global sign of the Universal Church and Mission. Your prayers and donations will help support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in the countries where there are great needs, such as Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Albania etc. World Mission Sunday is our chance to assist Catholic Communities throughout the world to become self sufficient and flourish. By sharing the gift of faith we can bring hope and love to those who need it most.

Shalom,

*Je. Rolf, OP*