

Pastor's Corner - March 27, 2011 - Building a World of Justice

Already the third week in our Lenten Journey during which we have been invited to heed the call to conversion which comes from the Gospel and from the teachings of the Church but also from the dramatic situation in which we find ourselves in this world of ours. The Solidarity calendar which you were given at the beginning of Lent connected us especially to the people Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, many of whom suffer from an overwhelming number of crises and injustices. Each day on this calendar invites us to reflect on or pray for some little building block in our quest to build the reign of God, a world of justice. **Jesus called us to compassion which literally means to "suffer with" and which is the basis for our reaching out to be in solidarity with. That solidarity needs to translate in action.**

Last week's bulletin insert reminded us that a world of justice includes the right of every person to participate in the building of a nation including the right to vote in elections. It gave two beautiful examples of how the Development and Peace partners in Burundi and Guinea helped in ensuring that elections there were peaceful and transparent. As we may enter our own election time here in Canada we might want to be thankful for that right but also work towards making that right respected and entrenched in countries such as Myanmar (Burma), Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Ivory Coast, etc., etc. This means that we need to cry out against oppression and violence and war. **But especially, we need to make sure that the basic human rights to food and water, shelter, education, work and an adequate wage, safe haven for refugees, justice, participation, true and effective foreign aid, etc. are part of our political platforms and of our discussions during the election campaigns. Christians need to force candidates and parties to address these issues. Systemic changes need to be discussed and proposed; not just more charity!** We need to challenge governments and corporations to look at what is called the triple bottom line: yes, a reasonable return on investment, but also and at the same time indispensable is social accountability and the necessity of environmentally sound practices. The Gospel demands that we have such a holistic approach because our God made us stewards of creation. All the people of the world are children of the same Father and sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ called to serve one another and especially those in need, those on the fringes of our society and communities.

Last year around this time I returned from participation in the D&P Solidarity Tour to East Timor and visits to my own Dominican communities there and in Kalimantan (Borneo). Direct contact with people who live in poverty here and elsewhere but who are rich in so many other ways is a wonderful way for us to become fully aware of the journey which the Gospel is proposing to us in life. All of us are not able to have that privilege but let us support all those who live with and work directly with the Anawim of God. We might remember how Archbishop Oscar Romero, deemed to be a "safe" bishop who would not challenge the establishment, was converted by the poor in El Salvador once he began to have direct and intimate contact with them. This past week on March 24th we celebrated the 31st anniversary of the murder of this Saint, still not recognized by the official church yet beloved and honoured by the people in Central and South America. He was murdered by an officer of the US-backed Salvadorian army which oppressed the people for decades. It was a truly historic event when US President Obama this past week lit a candle at his tomb in the cathedral of San Salvador and called him "an inspiration to many people in the world."

Shalom Fr. Rolf, OP

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 9:00 am - 1:00 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)



EUCCHARIST AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

10030 Third Street, Sidney

Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays at 10:30 am.
Daily on Tuesdays (8:30 am), Wednesdays and
Thursdays (9 am), and First Fridays (9 am).

RECONCILIATION AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

Saturdays 4 - 4:30pm

EUCCHARIST 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.)



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 27, 2011

Ex 17:3-7 / Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 / Jn 4:5-42

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: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Need Pre-Authorized Debit package? Yes ___ No ___

Need donation envelopes? Yes ___ No ___

PARISH REPORT

COLLECTIONS:

PAD's (monthly total):	\$ 4,070
March 6:	\$ 3,973
March 13:	\$ 4,390
March 20:	\$ 2,958
Monthly Target:	Approx. \$ 23,000

IN OUR PARISH

SOLIDARITY WITH JAPAN: UPDATE

A total of \$2,300 was collected in last week's second collection for Japan. Donations will be sent to the Dominican Sisters and Fathers in Sendai, Haramachi and Fukushima. If you wish to donate, please make cheques payable to Saanich Peninsula Parish marked "JAPAN".

SUDANESE BENEFIT LUNCH: SUN. APR. 3

After 10:30 mass. Come and share friendship & lunch (wonderful homemade sandwiches & goodies etc.). Bake table, treasure table. Lunch by free will offering. To donate food or gifts, contact Stephanie at 250-655-3345.

CWL LENTEN RECOLLECTION: APR. 12

The CWL invites all parishioners on Tue. Apr. 12, 2 - 4 pm. A time for reflection, prayer and discussion on Pope Benedict's encyclical letter *Caritas in Veritate: On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth*, led by Fr. Rolf. Refreshments to follow.

CWL MOTHER'S DAY DINNER & DANCE: MAY 6

Tickets for the CWL Mother's Day Dinner & Dance on Fri. May 6 are available in the church foyer before & after Sat. and Sun. Masses, from the parish office during the week, or from Aida Follero (250-544-1704).

THANKS TO NEW LECTOR COORDINATORS

Monica Rodrigues was unable to continue coordinating the Lector schedules due to other commitments. Aida Follero and Theresa Tether have generously stepped forward to take her place as Lector coordinators. We thank them for taking on this important job!

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

MONDAY, MAR. 28

1:00pm Memory Plus
1:00pm Faith Reflection Group

TUESDAY, MAR. 29

8:30am Mass
9:00am Eucharistic Adoration
11:30am Friendly Hours

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 30

9:00am Mass
10:00am Taiji Qigong
7:00pm RCIA

THURSDAY, MAR. 31

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

9:00am Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

4 - 4:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Assumption
9:45am Religious Education
10:30am Mass at St. Elizabeth's
11:30am Sudanese Benefit Luncheon
(see bulletin announcement)

CONSIDER PRE-APPROVED DONATIONS!

You are encouraged to donate to our parish through the use of a pre-approved donation rather than the weekly envelopes. Many people find it more convenient to contribute this way. Information packages are available from the parish office. If you have any questions, please call Gary in the parish office at 250-656-7433.

WEEKLY DONATION REMINDER

Please note that it's easier for the counters if you combine several weekly donations into one envelope, instead of using separate envelopes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SVDP) HOME VISITS

Members of St. Elizabeth's SVDP Conference are willing to visit people who are elderly, infirm, housebound, or would appreciate a home visit. Please contact Joe Rigby at 250-652-4333 if you know someone in the community who would benefit from a home visit. They don't need to be catholic!

IN OUR DIOCESE

SACRED HEART WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS:

- Sat. Apr. 2: "The Gift of the Spirit" presented by Sister Patricia Shreenan
- May 7: "The Journey Dance" presented by Marilyn Diehl.

For women only. Cost: \$10 at the door. Call Paula (250-744-2588), Mary (250-370-0083), or Marilyn (250-479-1611) for more information.

UKRAINIAN EASTER FOOD FAIR: APR. 9

Saturday, April 9 from 11 am to 2 pm at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Hall, 1110 Caledonia Ave. Sale of Ukrainian Easter breads (babkas and paskas, poppy seed rolls and other pastries), perogies, cabbage rolls, Ukrainian sausage, borscht, beet horseradish, and Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysanky). Stay for a hot Ukrainian lunch. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible. For more information call Robert at 250-386-7872.

CHRISM MASS: APR. 19

On Tue. Apr. 19 at 7 pm Bishop Richard Gagnon will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. For more information, please see the article on page 2 in the March Diocesan Messenger. All are invited to attend.

YOUTH VOICES VIDEO CHALLENGE

Youth Voices Challenge, sponsored by the Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island, invites youth aged 13 - 19 to produce a video, 3 - 5 min. long, based on one or more of Jesus' teachings. Top prize of \$1,500 for the youth group who gets the highest number of hits for their video. For further info and rules visit www.catholicfoundationofvancouverisland.org. **Registration deadline extended to Mar. 31.**

GENERAL

UVIC CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION & SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURES: MAR. 30

- Wed. Mar. 30, 4 pm: "Why Are Some People Not Vaccinated?" (results from Québec studies) with Maryse Guay, CSRS Visiting Research Fellow, Université de Sherbrooke. Social Science & Math Bldg., Room A104. Admission is free.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE PROJECT: MAR. 31

This is part of a series of 'open houses' aimed at fostering greater interfaith understanding. Coming up: Bah'ai Open House: Thu. Mar. 31, 7 - 9 pm at First Metropolitan Church, 932 Balmoral St., Victoria.

VIA CHORALIS CONCERT: SUN. APR. 17

Via Choralis presents the premiere of Nicholas Fairbank's *Sea Cantata*, including Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, op. 80, with Jennifer Mitchell (piano), Jared Richardon's *Winds of Kananaskis*, and two American folksongs arranged by Aaron Copland. Tickets: adults - \$20, 18 and under - \$10, are available from Tanner's Books, choir members, or at the door. For more information see www.viachoralis.ca.

CATHOLIC CRUISE TO ALASKA: AUG. 21-28

7-night Catholic Alaska Cruise with Father John Dorn, Aug. 21 - 28, 2011 on the *Carnival Spirit* out of Seattle, Washington. Ports of Call: Cruise Tracy Arm Fjord, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan & Victoria, BC. Prices begin at \$1,795 for two passengers which includes all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposits of \$50 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. For further info or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785, or email dpayttc@aol.com.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Will be held in **Dublin, Ireland** from June 10-17, **2012**. For information contact Denise Buckley, Diocesan Liaison at 250-339-1807 (email denisebuckley@shaw.ca), or call Christ the King Parish at 250-334-4716.