



THE GRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 13

Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2006

WELCOME TO THE GRRAPEVINE!

Lucky 13! Check out the column on Stewardship; there are a couple of questions for reflection. Also, note the article on special collections. We continue to invite your feedback, suggestions, etc. You can respond on the website, through email, in writing or in person. Let's keep the dialogue going. Once again, a reminder that our parish website address is: <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>.

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: The past two weeks included Board meetings for Catholic Independent Schools and Shepherd's Corner, a Diocesan budget committee meeting and a meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council as well as a trip to Fort Ware. Now I am off to Toronto for a Stewardship workshop for a week.

Giselle: This past weekend I was in Terrace for Lay Formation, where we also celebrated the Rite of Election for the Western Region. This past Tuesday, I was invited to speak as part of a Christian panel in the Comparative Religions class. And then there's the usual RCIA, Religious Ed & Sacramental Preparation sessions. This coming week it's off to Toronto for a week long institute on Stewardship.

SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

You are invited to join Rectorino and Venerando in celebrating their admission to candidacy for ordination at the Chrism Mass on April 3 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Venerando has returned to Prince George and is living at St. Mary's. He will be involved at St. Mary's and in several other ministries in the area. Both will be returning to Manila in the latter part of May to complete their studies and will return to Prince George after Christmas. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

SHARE LENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each year during Lent, Canadian Catholics participate in the Share Lent campaign. This is organized by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, established by the Canadian Bishops to help Catholics in our country respond to the need for social justice in our world.

Development and Peace, as the organization is generally known in the country, has a mandate that is fairly wide: to educate Canadian Catholics in the area of social justice, to participate in development projects throughout the world that will benefit the poor of our world and help them become self-sufficient, to respond to emergency needs in times of disaster.

The Share Lent collection is a key element of the mandate of Development and Peace, as it is the source of funds for the development projects and disaster relief. Because of the tremendous response of all Canadians last year to the Tsunami Relief effort, the Share Lent collection was considerably reduced from previous years. As a result, Development and Peace is making a special appeal this year for the Share Lent collection in order to be able to continue its two primary tasks: development projects in the Third World and education.

Social Justice is the concern of all committed followers of Christ, who came that all people might have life to the full. We, as disciples, carry on the mission of Christ, of being instruments of God's love and life for our sisters and brothers throughout the world. When we respond to the call to share our resources, we are being disciples and continuing the building of God's kingdom in our world. When people's lives are enriched, we are fulfilling our mission of following Jesus.

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, so that all who believe in him might have eternal life...(Jn 3:16)

LENTEN PRAYER

Lent is traditionally a time to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We have a variety of different prayer forms to offer you on our Lenten menu:

Morning Prayer	Weekday mornings	7:00 a.m.
Eucharist	Weekday mornings	7:20 a.m.
Eucharist	Monday evenings	7:00 p.m.
Lenten Vespers	Wednesday evenings	7:00 p.m.
Sunday Vespers	March 19	4:30 p.m.
Reconciliation	April 5 (IC Parish)	7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	April 6 (COS Parish)	7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	April 11 (SHC Parish)	7:00 p.m.

WHAT IS LENTEN VESPERS?

Vespers is a Latin word and refers to Evening Prayer. Once considered to be the exclusive preserve of monks and religious, Vatican II offered the Liturgy of the Hours (including Evening Prayer) to the entire Church. Vespers is a wonderful way to close out your day, to come and sit in the silence, to pray with the community, and to offer praise and thanks to God. This Lent, why not come and give it a try, on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



LENTEN FASTING

One way in which we can help build community and fast during Lent, is by simply turning off our televisions. It's hard!! But ultimately very rewarding.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If you would like to take part in a communal celebration of Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart Cathedral will be praying them on the following Fridays at 7:30 p.m. - Mar 17 and Mar 24.

LENTEN & EASTER CUSTOMS

We are looking for Lenten customs for our next edition and after that we would welcome Easter customs. Get your pens out and start writing! You can send things to us by email, regular mail, the web page or in the collection basket.

"PLEASE FORGIVE ME..."

Have you ever noticed how hard it is to say those 3 little words?? Forgiveness is not easy. It requires a lot of soul-searching and conversion. We need to let go of many things that hold us back: anger, pride, selfishness. But if we don't extend forgiveness to others, well... we probably can't expect to receive it ourselves. In addition, harbouring a grudge or holding onto our resentment only hurts ourselves! It is a slow poison that not only adds grim lines to our faces but hardens our hearts as well. Talk about self-destructive behaviour! Perhaps this Lent we could focus on those relationships in our lives that are in need of healing and reconciliation. There's not guarantee that our offer of forgiveness and reconciliation will be accepted, but we can only try. We are the hand of God's mercy reaching out to others, we are the heart of God's love yearning for a response, we are the voice of God's compassion always calling those who have been wounded to come home.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks to respond to the needs of the poor in our community, but they rely on our help to do so. If you are looking for some practical almsgiving, find the column with the first letter of your surname, and contribute some of the items listed in that column to our food bin. The food bin is the big blue Rubbermaid container at the back of the church.



A-C

Pasta
Canned Fish
Breakfast cereal
Pasta Sauce
Crackers

D-J

Canned Meat
Rice
Canned/Powdered Milk
Canned/Dry Beans & Peas
Cereal bars

K-N

Dry/Canned Soups
Dry/Canned Stews
100% Fruit Juice
Infant Formula
Tea

O-Z

Peanut Butter
Flour
Canned Fruit/Veggies
Baby Food
Hot Chocolate

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please remember the sick and suffering in our community and families:

Magdalene Martin
Marvin Lane
Joseph and Frances Glasser
(parents of Kathy Labonte)
Judy Nelson
(sister of Ann Robertson)



LISTENING CENTRES

Several of the Listening Centres that began with the OMI Mission in November are still meeting on a regular basis. They would welcome interested participants! Listed below are the active Listening Centres for St. Mary's Parish:

Suzanne Lefebvre	964-9580	College Hts.
Terry Bopp	564-2635	Westwood
Janice Haddock	563-0159	Ospika & Massey
Tom Makowsky	564-3838	Spruceland
Paul Laliberte	563-8465	Tabor & 1 st Ave
Angie Hoksbergen	562-9844	10 th & Freeman
Dorothy Reimer	562-3749	Central
Tony Cue	962-8680	Hart Hwy.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

Tomorrow, March 20, is the date on which the solemnity of St. Joseph is celebrated this year. Joseph is the principal patron saint of Canada and also of workers. This feast day is one of the few days during Lent when we can sing/recite the Gloria and have flowers in the Church! We don't know a lot about Joseph, only that he was a carpenter and a "just man".

BUILDING COMMUNITY

One way in which we can build community is by rejoicing with parents when a child is baptized, celebrating with couples when they are married, or mourning with families when a loved one passes on.

REJOICING AND REMEMBERING

Since the beginning of January, we have welcomed the following members in the sacrament of Baptism:

Theodore Peter Kellis
Ashley Isaac
Audrey Helena Kerry Callaghan
Rhiley Christian Joseph Milkovich
Breanna Kristina Milkovich
Katarina Maria June Milkovich



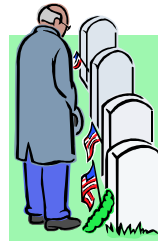
We also witnessed the marriage of:

Brian Milakovic
& Chantel Desharnais



In the hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:

Theresa Violet Vincent
Joseph Leroy Taylor
Ladislav Dernesch
Carmen McInnes
Janetta diBenedetto
Pauline Lobermayer



TREE OF LIFE

In case you looked at the list of recently deceased and wondered "Who is that?"; we have a solution. The Parish Pastoral Council has been looking at the idea of having a Tree of Life banner at the back of the church. It would include the names and pictures of those who have died in the last 12 months. What do you think??

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

A few months ago, the Parish Pastoral Council was brainstorming ways in which we could promote two-way communication within the parish. We hope that communication is flowing quite profusely from us to you... but we'd like to get a bit of feedback! One of the ideas suggested was that of a "Question of the Month" or "Question of the Season". It's sort of a circular problem though, because in order to ask a question, we need to know what sorts of questions to ask! But we'll give it a shot!

So, on the reverse of this piece of paper, you'll find some questions for your contemplation. After completing the question, simply cut along the dotted line and deposit in next week's collection basket or pass it along to Fr. Richard or Giselle. Of course, you can always email us!!



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

About a year ago, the parish staff and councils made the decision not to have a second collection when there are special collections scheduled. Instead, there are envelopes on the shelf at the door of the church for those who do not use envelopes and wish to contribute to a particular special collection. For those who have envelope sets, there are envelopes for each special collection included in the boxed set. On weekends when there is a special collection we simply add up the amounts on the envelopes for the special collection and remit that amount to the Diocesan Office to be sent on.

Diocesan Appeal - You might have noticed that there are a few special collection envelopes missing in this year's set. The Diocesan Pastoral Council decided to combine all the collections that help provide for needs within the Diocese. Therefore, the collections for Religious Education and Pastoral Development (formerly in January), Education of Priests (June) and Pro-Life (November) and a new need - the Diocesan Priests' Pension Fund - have been combined, and this collection will be taken up on November 19 this year. The money from this collection helps the parishes and communities of the diocese directly through the Office of Religious Education and the priests who serve the parishes.

There will be more information on this special collection in the future. As you plan your giving for the year, please keep this upcoming collection in mind.

STEWARDSHIP

The contents of this column will be based on the Pastoral Letter of the United States Bishops, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response".

In the introduction to the pastoral letter, the bishops outline the three convictions that underlie the content of the letter:

1. Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost to themselves.
2. Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life. It means committing one's very self to the Lord.
3. Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be. They are deeply aware of the truth that "The Lord's is the earth and its fullness; The world and those who dwell in it" (Ps. 24:1)
They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: THE GRRRAPEVINE

Hopefully, since you are reading this, you've noticed the GRRRAPEVINE lying around the Church and peeping out of various baskets and holders. What do you think about it?

(circle one answer for each question please!)

I think the Grrapevine is too short just right too long a waste of paper
I think there needs to be more educational material parish news spiritual reflection material

If I had control of the Grrapevine, I would: _____

