



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 15

EASTER TRIDUUM

April 13, 2006

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

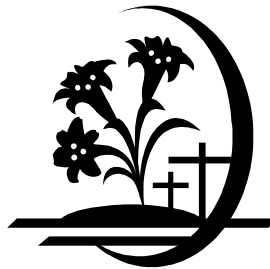
Richard: The Chrism Mass on April 3 was a great celebration of the local Church (our diocese), made more joyful by the admission of our two seminarians to candidacy for priesthood. My schedule got changed dramatically - instead of the meetings and celebrations in which I planned to participate, I made a quick trip to Alberta to visit my mother, who is recovering in hospital from a stroke. I will celebrate Good Friday with the community in McBride, and will return there Sunday afternoon for Easter Mass. The coming week will include a quick trip to Fort Ware to celebrate Easter with the community and the following week I will be in Winnipeg for a meeting.

Giselle: Easter time is incredibly busy! Managed to get through Confirmation & First Communion, the Chrism Mass and a Lay Formation weekend in Terrace. Plus the usual assortment of RCIA, Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, etc. Only one more hurdle (Easter) and then it's off to visit the Pope... well... maybe not quite... It's off to Rome!! May or not see Benedict. Once I get back, I have one day at home and it's off to Terrace for Lay Formation (a retreat weekend this time). Only one more Lay Fm to go after that! Yes!!

WELCOME TO THE GRRRAPEVINE!

Check out the column on Stewardship which will be a regular feature of the Grrapevine. 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/>

HE IS RISEN INDEED!!



In the Eastern Rite liturgies for Easter, the acclamation "He is risen indeed!" is used often; we need to constantly proclaim what we are celebrating. We must remember that the risen body of Jesus was not the same body as was placed in the tomb. Resurrection is not coming out of a "code blue" as in the emergency room. Resurrection is new life, not old life being resuscitated.

The early Christians painted butterflies on the walls of the ancient catacombs in Rome to grasp the meaning of resurrection. The Greek word for soul is the same as for butterfly. The early church saw the butterfly as a symbol for the resurrection, of the risen body of Christ. The caterpillar forms a cocoon, a *krystallos*, and remains in it for a time, as if in a dark tomb. It emerges with a totally different body, a beautiful butterfly. We no longer recognize it as a caterpillar any more than could Mary Magdalene recognize the risen body of Jesus.

On that first Easter morning, things had not changed: the Romans still ruled, the poor still starved, etc. But the message of Easter—that Jesus lives, that death has died, that evil and wickedness cannot win, that the word of the Lord cannot be imprisoned—these facts of faith lived then and live now. Goodness and love triumphed. Jesus squeezed life out of death. And we celebrate it every year.

SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

If you check out the website, there are some great photos of Rector and Vener as they continue to learn about and adapt to the Canadian way of life; even the concept of walking out onto the middle of a lake...! As well there are pictures from the Chrism Mass celebration, in which both were involved in various ways, along with being accepted as candidates for ordination. We have some photos on the bulletin boards for all to enjoy.

Rector has a date and place set for his ordination to the diaconate - May 15 in Kitimat, where he spent several months on a pastoral experience assignment. Please keep him in prayer as he prepares for his ordination.

The date is quickly approaching when both will depart for Manila for about seven months to complete their degree work and other studies in preparation for ordination next summer as priests.

Hopefully by now you have all had a chance to read Vener's vocation story in the Northern Catholic News. If you haven't had the chance yet, grab a copy of the newspaper from the back of the church or check out the website.

*Lift high the cross,
The love of God proclaim,
Until all the earth,
Proclaim his sacred name.*

EASTER MEMORIES

Jeannine Walker

Easter at the La-Riviere house was always a flurry of activity. My Grandmother was a milliner, trained in New York City in the 1860's. She lived with us after my Grandfather died in that horrible flu epidemic of 1918. Easter, of course, meant new hats for the girls. There were 7 of us girls, my mom, grandma, and a great aunt who also lived with us. We didn't realize when we were young that those 10 hats were THE 10 hats. There were never new ones, just the same 10 taken apart and re-decorated every year. Grandma made her own crepe paper flowers, dipped in wax to keep them looking ok for a long time...sometimes years.(no plastic in those days) The ribbons were looked after as if they were



g o l d .
God help
any of
us who
messed
up the
ribbons.

Our hats were always beautiful. My mother was a seamstress, and while we never had new clothes, we were well dressed. Again, in our innocence we didn't know that the clothes we wore were made from large skirts and dresses that came from the Salvation Army to be taken apart and made over. Or from boxes of "stuff" that came twice a year from our aunt in Edmonton. She sent us all her children's outgrown clothes...summer and winter without fail. The beauty of it was that my aunt had 15

EASTER CUSTOMS

Richard, OMI

For many of us, there are special memories of Easter, because of its place in the seasons - spring, when there is new life bursting forth all around us. In the Ukrainian Catholic Church (my grandparents' community) we began the Easter season by blessing and using pussy willows on Palm Sunday. The Ukrainians used willow because of its symbolism of resurrection - new life bursting forth from the seemingly dead branches, and because it was practical; they could not get palms in the Ukraine in previous centuries. I'm not sure how they always had the willows for that day, as very often we could not see any in the great outdoors, but they always had them for Church. Someone probably went out ahead of time and cut them and forced them indoors.



My most cherished memory is preparing for Holy Saturday afternoon. We would spend days getting the food ready to be taken to the church for the blessing of Easter food, the food we would use for lunch after Mass on Easter morning. There were lots of coloured eggs, which we dyed and decorated, the freshly made cottage cheese (home-made), the Ukrainian Easter bread, the garlic sausage and other kinds of sausage, usually freshly made as well, along with the beet relish (it was fun trying to dig up the fresh horseradish for this dish), freshly churned butter and a few other Ukrainian delicacies. It was always an adventure in Church, walking up and down the aisles and peeking into all the other baskets. The array of food would be mind-boggling! For us as children, it was always special to have blessed food at Easter - the only time in the year! It made a clear connection for us that we shared a holy meal in Church (Eucharist) and we continued to share a holy meal as we gathered as a family to eat the blessed food.

On Holy Saturday, parishioners are invited to bring some special or favourite foods to the Church to be blessed in preparation for our Easter meals. The blessing of food will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

I imagine that you have a big glass jar. If you fill the jar with lots of small stones or sand and then try to put a big stone in the jar, you won't be able to do it. There won't be enough space in the jar for the big stone, for the jar has already been filled with the little stones. But if you take the big stones and put them into the jar first, then you can always fill in the spaces with little stones and some sand and fill the jar up to the very top. So it is with our lives and how we fill up our days. We need to put the most important things in our lives, into our lives first. These are the big stones: faith, family, health, etc. And we have them in our lives first because if we fill up our lives with the less important things (work, TV, sports, etc.), then there's no room for the more important things. What is first in your life? How do you manage the time that you've been given? Do you put first things first??

(FIFTEEN!!!!) children, (we were only 10) and chances were good that SOMETHING in those boxes would fit a few of us. What didn't fit was made over. When we got back from Easter Mass (High Mass, complete with choir) there was the most beautiful (and yummy) meal...ham and potato salad. The salad was shaped like a hat with green onion "ribbons", radish and tomato flowers. The hat itself was always light green.(mayonnaise tinted with food coloring). Easter today is different. Still beautiful, but sadly lacking those elegant Easter Bonnets.

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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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



- Magdalene Martin
- Marvin Lane
- Joseph & Frances Glosser
(Kathy Labonte's parents)
- Judy Nelson
(Ann Robertson's sister)
- Anne Beaudette
(Fr. Richard's mother)
- Ugo Marotta
- Manuela Ferriera
- Maureen Powell
(niece of Helen Enns)
- Mike Cagliotti

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

No baptisms or marriages lately.

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

- Joanne Wessel
(daughter of Moe & Shirley Gannon)



CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION

Please join us in congratulating those who celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Communion on Sunday April 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Landon Altmeyer | Abby McCormick |
| Jordon April | Christian Oliveira |
| Tyler Broadfoot | Tyler Ramsay |
| Martina Burke | Miah Ransom |
| Rachel Burke | Sheltin Sardinha |
| Michael Chambers | Maia Savarella |
| Alayna Cook | Miranda Seib |
| Aidan Costello | Ryley Simpson |
| Brittany DaCosta | Emily Sinclair |
| Samuel Dalla Lana | Gabriella Spoletini |
| Niklas Duque | Alexandria Suck |
| Kyra Egan | Jacob Tiani |
| Carl Ewert | Cole Waldie |
| Ben Garcia | Grace Waldie |
| Lindsay Gervais | Ryan Watson |
| Ashley Isaac | Confirmed |
| Christopher Jandric | Dawn Stevens |
| Steven Jandric | Alexander Vanderlee |
| Adam Judge | Sara Vanderlee |
| Claire Lapoint | |
| Noah Matyas | |

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. |

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Have you noticed how much litter has accumulated over the past winter? And how many Roll-up-the-Rim cups are lying around? It's not very pretty!

Every year the City of Prince George sponsors a Spring Clean Up, a special day on which armies of volunteers are encouraged to come out and clean-up the city, by picking up trash and litter.



This year, the event is being held on Sunday April 23, from 10 am to 4 pm. If you register on the city website (www.city.pg.bc.ca), you even get free gloves and trash bags! They also have a map showing locations of big garbage containers for free drop off.

This is a community event, and it's a wonderful way for us to practice stewardship. We not only care for the earth, but we show care and concern for our neighbours. Plus, we set a good example for all those who might be tempted to throw coffee cups, chocolate wrappers and beer cans out the car window. This year, why not come out and pitch in! Let's make a difference in our community!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Last summer, Sacred Heart Cathedral decided to reduce the number of Mass times. They conducted a parish survey and, based on the response, cancelled the Sunday evening Mass. Since then, there have been some requests to offer a Sunday afternoon or evening Mass somewhere in the city. At our last Regional Meeting, the issue was discussed and the one option that received the most support was the idea of having a Sunday evening Mass in one location in the city, at which the different city priests would preside on a rotating basis. After additional discussion, St. Mary's Parish was suggested as the location. Summer seems to be the time when people most desire a Sunday evening celebration, and is a common practice in some other dioceses (e.g. Whitehorse). So, we decided to try this on an experimental basis during the summer months, presuming there is enough interest. And that's the question... is there enough interest? (over)

STEWARDSHIP

The introduction to the US Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship reminds us that Christians are part of the culture in which they live and are very much influenced by that culture.

Given the present emphasis in our culture on such things as individualism, materialism, consumerism and relativism, we can lose sight of some of the basic values of the Christian life: community, generosity, truth, compassion, care for others, forgiveness, peace, unity.

Understanding stewardship in terms of discipleship, following Jesus wholeheartedly, without counting the cost, we begin to recognize that there are many obstacles to our living out our call to follow Jesus.

Chapter 1 of the Pastoral Letter is titled "The Call". Our vocation is a call to follow Jesus, and we are to be good stewards or caretakers of our vocation. We are challenged to "discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities and roles to which God calls" us as disciples.

Remembering that a steward is a manager, a caretaker, one who is entrusted with some-

thing precious, of value. We need to take time to reflect on the meaning of our vocation for ourselves as individuals as well as for the church and the world.

Following Jesus means being with Jesus, living according to his teaching, living out the mission he has entrusted to us.

Do we appreciate the gift of our vocation, our call to live as disciples? What comes first - discipleship, faith, Christian life, or work, finances, position, prestige, other cares?

For the disciple, following Jesus comes first, all the rest flows out of that.

As we follow, listen, learn, grow, seek to be faithful, we discover how we are to live in the world, we understand the place of work, of finances in our lives, we learn to respond to the responsibility of family, relationships, community in different ways than the ways our culture teaches us.

In what ways are your values different from the values of our culture?

How are they the same? What needs to change in the way you understand your living out of the Christian vocation?

SHARE LENT

On April 2, we took up the annual Share Lent Collection. This collection is sent to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace to assist the organization in its efforts to build peace through development. Canadian Catholics have always been very generous in supporting this annual collection. Unfortunately, last year, the Tsunami Relief Appeal affected the Share Lent collection, and D&P has been short of regular funds. There is a special appeal to Catholics this year to be extra generous in the Share Lent Collection so that D&P can continue its work. There are always many appeals sent our way, and this appeal from Development and Peace merits our consideration.

ATTENTION ALL GREENTHUMBS!!!



Do you have a green-thumb? Are you blessed with an abundance of plants and/or cuttings? Can't throw those cuttings away?

Well... have we got the solution for you!!!! A parishioner has come up with the bright idea of having a plant sale in late May/early June. The plants would be sold relatively cheaply (\$2 or so) and all the proceeds would go to St. Vincent de Paul. If you've got extra cuttings that you don't know what to do with, or have started your summer garden from seeds and think you'll have extra... bring it on down!! It's a great way to use your gift (because not all of us are greenthumbs), build community (meet greenthumbs & brownthumbs) and reach out to the wider community. More information later... In the meantime... start planting!!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT CORRECTION

In the last issue, we had a tiny error in the financial statement. Our Net Income should have read -797.92. (oops—lost the minus sign somewhere).

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: SUMMER CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY EVENING EUCHARIST

(circle one answer for each question please!)

Do you think offering Sunday evening Eucharist in the city is a good idea? yes no don't care
How often would you attend a Sunday evening Eucharist during the summer? weekly biweekly monthly rarely
Other comments: _____