



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 18

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 4, 2006

## PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: I am off to McBride this Sunday for Eucharist there, and then will continue on to Vegreville, AB to visit my family during the coming week. Next weekend my parents celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and so we will celebrate as a family. I will return to Prince George on June 13.

The past couple of weeks have been busy with Diocesan meetings and parish work, along with some work in the woodworking shop and time spent in the garden. The vegetables are starting to come out of the ground, so I am looking forward to fresh veggies on the table.

Giselle: I am off to Terrace again for the LAST Lay Fm session in the West! I'm looking forward to more weekends at home in the future. And then it's off to Vancouver for a Stewardship Conference, along with two of our parishioners.

And of course, the usual round of baptism preparation, RCIA (almost done for the summer!), parish council meetings, planning ahead for the fall, etc.

Hopefully there'll be some time in the next few months for some hikes in the PG area and a lot of berry-picking... blueberries, chokecherries, raspberries, strawberries...

## WELCOME TO THE GRRRAPEVINE!

As we move closer to summer, we continue to reflect on the call to Stewardship and what that means in our daily living. We continue to invite your feedback, suggestions, etc. You can respond on the website, through email, in writing or in person. Our parish website address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>

### OUR FIRST EVER PLANT SALE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On May 20, we had our plant sale for St. Vincent de Paul, and it was a resounding success. We raised \$1016.50! It was great fun spending the morning chatting with fellow gardeners, looking over the offerings and enjoying the spring morning. A huge thanks to all who participated and contributed to the success of this event.



We are already planning next spring's sale - and it will be bigger and better. We learned a lot of things and got some great ideas to make the morning even more enjoyable. It is not too early to start planning. Richard already has 30 African Violet leaves in soil rooting for next year's sale. Anyone else ready to start propagating house plants? It doesn't take much to share a few plants or seedlings, and the resulting proceeds will be a blessing to many people who are served by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### SUNDAY VESPERS & ~~WEDNESDAY VESPERS~~

Wednesday evening Vespers is over for the Easter Season, but we'll start it again during Advent (which is months away!!).

And... just so you don't lose the knack for it... we're still celebrating Sunday Vespers at 4:30 p.m. every Third Sunday of the month. During the summer our celebrations are Sunday June 18, Sunday July 16 and Sunday August 20. Come & join us!!

## SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

Vener and Rector left on May 21 for Manila to complete their studies. They arrived safely in Manila on May 23 after spending over 13 hours in the air from Vancouver. Rector said he realized how much he enjoys the quiet life in Prince George, and especially the cooler weather as soon as he stepped outside the airport in Manila and was confronted with the heat, traffic and noise.

Both spent the first week visiting with family in their home provinces, and have now returned to Manila to move into their apartment and get things ready for the semester of studies. They have promised to send regular updates for the GRRRAPEVINE so we can keep up with their news.

## WEBSITE UPDATES

Our latest update to the website includes archived and current editions of the...

Sunday Bulletin & Grrapevine!!

If you've been away for a few weeks or are planning to be away over the summer, you don't need to lose touch with the pulse of the parish! Take a look and see what's happening in your community!

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve either the website or the Grrapevine, let us know, please!

## STEWARDSHIP

"Becoming a disciple of Jesus leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord." (*Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*)

This way of living is centred in Christ and has its origin in baptism. Each Christian is called to show forth in speech and life the new life in Christ which begins in baptism. Disciples are called to be witnesses - witnesses to their faith, witnesses to the message of Christ, witnesses to the love of God in our world. Our faith joins us in intimacy with the Lord, and this union helps us to grow in our sense of being part of Christ and of the community of faith.

Our mission is to "do God's will, to proclaim the good news of salvation, to heal the afflicted, to care for one's sisters and brothers, to give life - life to the full - as Jesus did." (*Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*)

Being a disciple is not just something that we add to our lives, another activity or task that we undertake alongside all our other activities. It is a total way of life and requires ongoing conversion. We see that everything we do, we must do as a disciple. All our actions and words give witness to who we are, not just some words or some actions. We are not disciples only when we help out at the soup kitchen, and at no other time in our day. Rather we are to live as disciples all the time, when we are driving to work, when we are doing our job, when we are enjoying lunch with co-workers, when we are bathing the kids or cooking the meals or mowing the lawn. Discipleship is to infuse all of our actions, thoughts and words.

Stewardship is the attitude that recognizes this gift of faith, this call to discipleship, and chooses to use this gift wisely and well, to share it with others, to use it for the good of others, and to give thanks to God for the gift. Stewards recognize all the gifts that God has given and know that God wants them to cherish those gifts and to use those gifts to serve others as to grow personally.

Remembering Paul's image of the Church as the Body of Christ, and his admonition that the Spirit gives many gifts, always for the building up of that body, we use God's gifts as God intends them to be used.

How do I see discipleship - as a whole way of life or as something that I add on to my regular life?

What gifts has God given me to use for the building up of the Body? Do I use them as God intends?

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### RCIA

Our last RCIA session is this Monday. In the fall, we will begin again. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming Catholic, please let us know at the parish office.

## SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

Pentecost was the festival of the grain harvest, fifty days after Passover. An old Jewish story relates how the Law was given on this day and was first offered to the seventy nations of the world, but they refused it; Israel alone accepted it. In the first reading, we hear of the pouring out of the Spirit, not on one people alone, but as a gift for all creation. The Spirit manifested itself by sound and sight. Notice that all present, the same group of 120 (see Acts 1:15), including Mary, Mother of Jesus, were filled with the Holy Spirit. They all began to proclaim the Gospel in different languages. The crowd that gathered was the first fruits of Israel - devout Jews from every nation under heaven. As such, the Gospel was ready to be proclaimed in every language, ready to permeate every dimension of human lives.

The coming of the Holy Spirit is the birth of the Church. It shows that the Church was not originally an earthly institution, nor is she given life by human planning and organization, but rather that the Church lives through power from God.

The psalm prays accordingly for a new Pentecost in our day that will radically transform our world. In this transformation, everyone will live by the Spirit. Just as the flesh is known by its works, so also the Spirit is known by its works, namely love, joy and peace. Only those who live by the Spirit truly belong to Jesus Christ.

In today's Gospel Jesus explains other aspects of the Holy Spirit. This Advocate will be an intelligent communicator - testifying about Jesus, guiding the followers to truth, glorifying Jesus, and sharing in the very being of the Father and the Son.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your spiritual life?

What parts of Jesus' description of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel do you see manifested in the Acts passage?

*Taken from At Home with the Word*

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### BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Our next series of sessions for the baptism preparation of older children (aged 5 to 10) will begin in the Fall.

Keep your eye on the Grapevine for more information in September. Please phone the parish for more information.

## GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit breathed new life and new gifts into the apostles. We too received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. Traditionally, the Church teaches that there are 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed at baptism Wisdom—a gift that enables us to see things from the divine perspective Understanding—a gift that helps us to grasp the truth Counsel—a gift that helps us to discern good & evil Knowledge—a gift that lets us see beyond earthly things Fortitude—a gift that helps us resist evil Piety—a gift that helps us show reverence for God & others Fear of the Lord—a gift that helps us to trust God & root our lives in God

We all have the gifts of the Holy Spirit, maybe some more than others. All of our gifts flow from these seven. The question is... do we know what gifts we have? And do we use them to build up the community, the Body of Christ?

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious formation of our children is very important and is the responsibility of the entire Christian community.

Do you have a good rapport with children? Would you be willing to help us form them in their Catholic faith?

We are looking for religious education catechists for the fall. Maybe think it over during the summer... You don't need a theology degree!!

## MAY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the May financial statement. The detailed financial statement is posted on the bulletin boards for your information.

Bank Balance:	4546.73
DDF Balance:	172213.50
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>811.98</u>
Total Assets	177,572.21

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	16386.25		
Fees	105.00	Admin	16301.49
Programs	2344.36	Programs	168.05
Other	571.78	Oper./Maint.	4132.75
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3725.00</u>	<u>Rental Oper.</u>	<u>1653.42</u>
Total Income	23,132.39		
Total Expense	22,255.71		
Net Income	876.68		

## FINANCES, MAINTENANCE, ETC.



We continue to maintain a reasonably healthy financial position at month end, due to your generosity.

The work on the sound system is almost completed, and some have commented on the improved quality of the sound. Continue to bear with us!

Thank you to all members of the parish for your continued support for the financial needs of our parish community. As we move into summer, much maintenance work needs to be done, and so we continue to rely on your generosity.

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Ave
Angie Hoksbergen	562-9844	10 <sup>th</sup> & Freeman
Dorothy Reimer	562-3749	Central
Tony Cue	962-8680	Hart Hwy.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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



Marvin Lane  
Bernadine Lefebvre  
Joseph & Frances Glasser  
(Kathy Labonte's parents)  
Anne Beaudette  
(Fr. Richard's mother)  
Alfredo doCouto  
Jennifer Willocks  
Kay McEwan  
Don Binnie

## REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following members in the sacrament of Baptism:



Dayton Taylor  
Sardinha  
Justin Blake April  
Isaiah Manuel Cruz

We witnessed the marriage of:



Travis Pakula  
& Kelsi Bruintjes

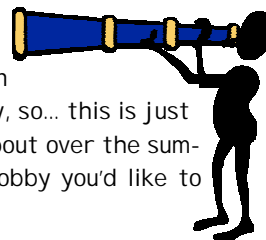
In the hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:



Bill McInnes

## BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR INFANTS

We periodically have a baptism preparation session in the parish to help parents prepare for the baptism of their infants. Our next session will be on Tuesday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. We probably won't have another until sometime in August.



If you thought St. Mary's was a happening place this past fall and winter... well... you ain't seen nothing' yet!! Everybody says that life in PG takes a hiatus between Victoria Day and Labour Day, so... this is just to give you a little foretaste of what's possibly coming in the fall... Something for you to think about over the summer. What gifts and talents do you have that you could share with others? Do you have a hobby you'd like to share?

THEO-TIDBITS

This fall, we would like to offer a series of short (2 or 3 evening) seminars on different topics. These seminars are an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and to learn a bit more about our Catholic faith. Each evening would be 1.5 hours long and would include a time of prayer, a time of instruction, a time of refreshment and a time for discussion, sharing and questions. We'd like to conduct a survey in a couple of weeks to see which topics you'd be interested in exploring. In the meantime, here's the list of topics so far. If there's something you'd like to see covered, but isn't on the list, give us a call or send us an email!

THEOLOGY

- God is Love—Papal Encyclical
- Trinity: Three in One
- Jesus the Christ
- Holy Spirit
- Paschal Mystery
- Sin & Grace
- Angels
- The End (of Time)

LIVING RIGHT

- Moral Reasoning & Conscience
- Bioethics
- Sexual Ethics
- Death Penalty & Euthanasia
- Annulments & Divorce
- War & Peace
- Theology of Incarceration
- Stewardship 101

CHURCH

- Theology of Church
- Early Church History
- Medieval Church History
- Modern Church History
- Overview of Vatican II
- Vision of the Church Today
- Theology of the Laity
- Theology of the Priesthood
- Popes & the Papacy
- Mary in the Life of the Church
- Miracles & Apparitions
- The Saints
- Roman Catholic > Latin Catholic
- Our Christian Siblings
- World Religions

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

- Liturgy
- Sacraments
- Liturgical Seasons
- Art & Environment
- What is the RCIA?

SCRIPTURE

- How to Read the Bible
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Matthew/Mark/Luke
- Johannine Literature
- Letters of Paul
- Book of Revelation

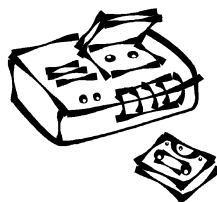
FAITH & CULTURE

COMMUNITY

- Parish Pastoral Councils
- Pastoral Care to Sick & Dying
- Collaborative Ministry
- Stages of Faith Development
- Women in Ministry
- Common Ground—Conservative & Liberal Working Together

- Faith & Reason
- Creation & Evolution
- Eco-theology
- Planning A Funeral
- Planning a Wedding
- Writing your Will/Living Will
- Harry Potter: Friend or Fiend?
- Holidays: Secular or Religious
- The Sacred and The Secular

HOMILETICS ON TAPE



Some parishioners have expressed an interest and a desire in having the Sunday homily/reflection taped. Theoretically, we have the technology, and could use our sound equipment in the church to produce a tape, which could then be duplicated and/or burned to a CD.

Parishioners could then borrow the tapes to hear an "instant replay" of the preaching on Sunday. They could borrow the tapes and share them with shut-ins or the sick. The possibilities are only limited by our imagination.

Over the summer, we hope to get all of our ducks in a row and be in a position to initiate this in September. If we get really technologically advanced, we may even convert the recording to MP3 or WMA have it available on the website!

CREATION HIKERS

A few of us here at St. Mary's are interested in forming a loose hiking group. We'd like to do a hike once a month or so. It's a chance to get out into creation and enjoy the fresh air! Our group so far includes a geology person and a forestry person. (All we need is a bird watcher!). We'd be happy to share a little bit of our knowledge about the rocks and trees that we see around us (that's stewardship!!! Sharing our gifts and talents with others!). Our first few hikes are going to be fairly tame, but we hope to upgrade to more strenuous hikes as the summer progresses. Our next hike is on June 24 and will take us to Fort George Canyon (5 km one way, flat most of the way). For more information, call Giselle at the parish office.



OOPS!!! SORRY!!

In the last Grrapevine, the wedding should have been between Ben Fonseca & Danielle Burchill