



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 19

SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 18, 2006

## PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: The 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary celebration for my parents was a wonderful time to visit with family and friends.

I got back to St. Mary's on Tuesday, and have been busy catching up, doing a bit of gardening, housework and all the other good things that are part of life. Work at the chancery and a Regional Meeting were part of the week. I leave this afternoon for Fort Ware and will return on Friday evening.

Things are starting to wind down in some ways, but the future is in the planning stages, and if all goes according to plan, the planning will take a lot of work, so no down time this summer!

Giselle: Lay Formation is finished! At least out in Terrace. Susan Campbell is back this fall and will be coordinating the new Lay Formation group in the northeast. RCIA meetings are also finished until the Fall. Still keeping busy with baptism preparation for older children, regional meetings, parish pastoral council meetings, etc.

This summer, a lot of time will be spent preparing for the Fall... we have BIG plans!!

And of course, I'll take a week off here and there to enjoy the sunshine and get some hiking done...

## WELCOME TO THE GRRRAPEVINE!

As we move into the 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/>

## SUMMERTIME

Summer is almost here and with it comes the usual slow-down in parish ministry. A couple of items which might be of interest to you:

During July & August, the Grrapevine will only be published once a month. We'll resume biweekly publication in the September.

If you are a Lector, Server or Extraordinary Minister of Communion, please check in at the sacristy before Sunday Mass during the summer to see if your services are needed. We don't schedule these ministries during the summer, and it helps if people volunteer ahead of time, rather than Fr. Richard having to nab people at the last second.

The city of Prince George has a Sunday evening Mass at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish.

If you're traveling during the summer, please continue to contribute using your Sunday envelopes. As long as you place it in a collection basket somewhere in Canada, your Sunday envelope should make its way back to St. Mary's Parish!

Have a Safe & Happy Summer!!!

## ROME: THE VIRTUAL TOURIST

As many of you know, Giselle went to Rome this spring and took a LOT of pictures. There have been some requests for a slide show, sooo... we'll have a PowerPoint presentation (a.k.a. digital slide show) on Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.



## SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

Vener and Rector have not sent any news the past week or so, but the plan was that they would register for classes during this past week and then begin classes this week. During the last phone call, Rector explained that he was getting some things ready in their apartment, so they would be able to move in completely at registration time. He was enjoying his "holiday" at home and spending a lot of time catching up with family and friends. Vener was spending most of his time off at home with family and friends. More news soon, we hope!

## CREATION HIKERS

Our next hike is on Saturday June 24 and will take us to Fort George Canyon (5 km one way, flat most of the



way). We will meet in the St. Mary's School parking lot at 9 am

(sharp!!) to figure out the carpool. Be sure to bring a lunch and a water bottle! And... maybe read the Gospel for Sunday July 25 ahead of time. We might have some time to sit on the rocks and toss some thoughts around. For more information, call Giselle at the parish office.

## STEWARDSHIP

The following are reflections on Stewardship from the International Catholic Stewardship Council – they give a summary of what we have reflected on so far with regard to Stewardship.

Receive, Nurture, Share, Return!

“From the Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, we find a very simple definition of stewardship. It goes something like this: Receive God’s gifts gratefully, nurture God’s gifts responsibly, share God’s gifts with charity and justice, and return God’s gifts in abundance. Let us consider these four concepts:

Receive

- Accept God’s gift of life on this earth
- Accept and acknowledge the talents God has given you
- Accept financial success and what it enables you to accomplish
- Accept God’s forgiveness for our imperfection
- Accept God’s help on a daily basis

Nurture

- Take care of your health
- Take care of your environment
- Take care to use the talents you have been given
- Take care to organize your time fruitfully
- Take care to use your finances wisely

Share

- Give time to your family, your parish, and your community
- Give your talents for the good of others
- Give of your worldly possessions to those in need
- Give financially in proportion to what God has given you
- Give encouragement so that others will live a life of stewardship

Return

- Leave this earth a better place
- Leave a legacy of generosity
- Leave a spirit of love
- Leave having used every talent to its fullest
- Leave NO DOUBT that God came first in your life!

Live in Love

Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God...(Eph.5:2)

Paul tells us to walk in love with Jesus, as Jesus loves us. Jesus died on the cross because he loves us that much. Our offerings, whatever they are, are given in love, in response to the love of Jesus for us. Our offerings are a living, tangible way of saying, “Jesus, we love you.”

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*When we do the best we can,  
We never know what miracle  
Is wrought in our life,  
Or in the life of another.*

*Helen Keller*

## SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

Today’s readings are about the covenants between God and human beings. Covenant began with the desire of God to form an intimate bond with the people, who would manifest God’s character in the world and carry out God’s purposes. Through Moses, God liberated the people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to Sinai. There God proposed the relationship: He would be their God and they would be God’s people, if they would keep the Ten Commandments and other norms for righteous living in the community. The people answered with one voice, “all that the Lord has said, we will heed and do.” Bulls were offered in sacrifice. The blood was poured out on the altar and sprinkled on the people. By this sign the people and God became covenanted partners.

But the episodes that follow in the history of our spiritual ancestors show the partnership wavering; that covenant was fragile; transgressions multiplied. In the second reading we learn about a new covenant that would permanently prevent sinfulness. It would not only cleanse people from guilt and do away with punishment for sin, but would also cleanse the conscience itself, permanently unite people with God. Jeremiah 31:31-34 had promised such a covenant for the time to come.

This new covenant Jesus established when he said of the cup, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.” Just as Moses sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the people to unite them with God, so Jesus poured out his blood to unite many with God. Jesus is the bread that has come down from heaven, the alleluia verse proclaims; his body is real food and his blood is real drink.

When you celebrate Eucharist, do you have a sense of the unity between you and God?

Between you and the other members of the community?

How does the Eucharist nourish your spiritual life?

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## FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Fair Trade coffee will now be available after the Sunday morning Masses on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Come and have a taste and buy some of this delicious coffee. Your support helps Third World farmers receive a living



PRAYER TIME  
FOR YOUNG & OLD

If making your home a "house of prayer" seems to be an impossible dream, remember what scripture tells us: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."

God is always present in our homes and in our lives. You don't need formal or fancy prayers to connect with God. You just have to be aware of God's presence and then gather with a prayerful intention.

Use your time together to find God in the ordinary and profound miracles of life ... a beautiful sunset, a silly story, a pretty flower or the recovery of a sick pet. Then, at the end of the day, make it a habit to relive those sacred moments. Gather as a family and have each person answer these four questions:

- What do you want to thank God for today?
- What do you want to ask God to do to help someone?
- What are you sorry for today?
- What do you want to praise God for tonight?

End with a "jingle prayer" such as:

*Thank you Jesus for our day,  
for guiding me at work and  
play, please bless in a special  
way ... (list people) ...  
Amen.*

BAPTISM PREPARATION  
FOR 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.

SOLEMNITY OF BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

As we celebrate this solemnity, we are called to reflect on the centrality of Eucharist in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Second Vatican Council taught that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives as Christian, it is the source of our unity as community, it is the source of our strength.

The question for each of us today is: What part does Eucharist play in my life? Do I see Eucharist as the source and summit of my life as a Christian? How important is it for me to gather with the community to celebrate Eucharist? Do I see Eucharist as a privilege and joy, or is it an obligation?

Whenever we gather for Eucharist, we are most fully who we are as Christians, as Body of Christ, as Church, for we gather as members of the Body of Christ, sharing our presence and our gifts with each other, celebrating the Lord's Supper in response to his injunction to "Do this in remembrance of me", being nourished and strengthened in our journey of faith, being sent to continue the mission of making disciples and proclaiming the Good News.

Our understanding of Eucharist has shifted in the past forty years. The Council calls us to a "full, active, conscious participation" in Eucharist. No longer are we to look at Eucharist in terms of something to be adored, contemplated. Eucharist is a call to action, to participate, grow in unity and strengthen our bonds of community, and then to move out to share what we celebrate with people outside the community.

Coming together as a community of faith on this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we reflect on our identity, we grow to become more fully who we are called to be, we are nourished and strengthened, our bonds of love are deepened and we celebrate the love of God for us and for the whole world.

SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART

Sacred Heart Cathedral & School will be celebrating the feast of the Sacred Heart on Friday June 23. There will be NO 12:10 p.m. Mass that day. Instead, there will be a 5:45 p.m. Mass followed by a parish BBQ (hotdogs & hamburgers).

LISTENING CENTRES

The Listening Centres are taking a break over the Summer, but will resume in the Fall. Stay tuned!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

- Marvin Lane  
Joseph & Frances Glasser  
(Kathy Labonte's parents)  
Anne Beaudette  
(Fr. Richard's mother)  
Alfredo doCouto  
Jennifer Willocks  
Kay McEwan  
Don Binnie  
Romulo Sabacan  
(Vener's father)  
Elaine Hodgson



REJOICING  
& REMEMBERING

No baptisms, weddings or funerals in the past couple of weeks.

We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Moe and Shirley Gannon on June 3.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

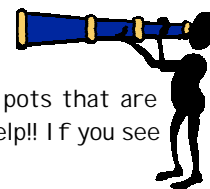
Do you have a good rapport with children? Would you be willing to help us form them in their Catholic faith?

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

SUNDAY VESPERS

This Sunday afternoon, at 4:30 p.m., we will be celebrating Sunday Vespers (basically sung Evening Prayer).

## LOOKING AHEAD



In case you missed the last two issues of the Grrapevine, here's a summary of some of the parish pots that are simmering on the back burner. These are ideas we'd like to get off the ground in the Fall, with your help!! If you see something in which you're interested, or on which you think you could help, give us a call!!!

### TABLE FOR TWO



Another bright parishioner suggested this idea as a way to build community. It's basically an evening out for two people (e.g. friend/friend, husband/wife, mother/daughter, etc). We'd host it in the conference room (individual tables with candles!) and provide a meal from Chef Richard and his capable assistants. It's free! No strings attached...

### THEO-TIDBITS

Have you thought about taking Lay Formation but are daunted by the time commitment? Want to learn more about your faith, but in smaller bites... well then think about Theo-Bits! These would be a series of sessions (3 or 4 evenings each) on different issues of our faith. We could start with the letters of Timothy and call it "Tim-Bits"! (Well... maybe not...)

### BIBLICALLY BASED BOOK DISCUSSION

That's a mouthful! But it's a neat idea. Read something like *A Purpose Driven Life* and dig into it deeper by looking at the scriptural footnotes in the book. It's sort of a bible discussion, but rooted in a cultural event. Any interested parties out there??

### PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Our last parish photo directory is dated 2000. And we thought it might be a good idea to do another one this year. Unfortunately, we've run into a tiny, little, minor, insignificant glitch. The company that does the directories (IPC) is no longer coming out to BC.



But... we're thinking about forging ahead regardless. Most of the work on the directory is organization (planning appointments, phoning parishioners, getting the parish list up to date, etc.) which we would have had to do with IPC anyway. In addition, if we go ahead on our own, we would need to take the photographs (any photographers out there with a digital camera?), layout the proofs on computer (MS Publisher aficionados out there?), and print the photo pages at one of the printing places in town (we're checking into the cost of printing the photo pages locally). Can you help??

### PEW SOFTENERS

We'd like to provide a basket of cushions at the doors to the church for the use of our seniors and elderly. Can you sew? Give us a call. All materials supplied!!

### SENIORS' SOCIAL TEA

We have a fair number of seniors in our parish, some of whom don't get out all that often. If we had people who could bring them to the parish on say, a Tuesday morning, we could offer a Seniors' Social with tea and crumpets (or tea and Tim-bits). Just a chance for some social time or maybe a few card games. Do people still play games with a deck of cards or is it all Internet games now?

### FANS OF FILM

Are you a film fanatic? Would you be interested in getting together maybe once a month to watch a movie and then have some discussion (theological or otherwise) around it? Give us a call...

### 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.



### PARISH HANDBOOK

We're looking at revising the parish handbook (the little blue pamphlet that came out in 2000). We'll update it and maybe include a bit more information on our parish. A good way to share what's happening in our community!

### OTHER

Do you have another idea or talent or hobby that you would like to share? Call us!

### WEBSITE UPDATES

As you head out for summer travels, you can keep in touch via the Sunday Bulletin & Grrapevine, which are on the parish website.