

## Richard and Giselle's "Home" Page

Number 2

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### WE ARE STILL HERE!

Welcome to our "Home Page", part of our effort to facilitate and improve communication between the Pastoral Team and the parish community. The contents of our publication, along with a lot of other information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>. And we've added a BLOG link on the page, for your discussion, comments, and suggestions!! We realize that many people do not have access to the Internet, so we will always publish a paper copy, which will be available at the doors of the Church.

### COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

#### WE ARE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST



You will notice announcements of a special celebration on October 29 of Eucharist at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 9:00 a.m., followed by a blessing of graves at the cemetery. This celebration is in anticipation of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), which falls during the week this year.

The Church, from the very beginning, has understood that we are part of the Body of Christ, and that we remain in communion within the Body always, whether we are living or dead. We use the expression The Communion of Saints to describe this reality.

The tradition of blessing the graves of loved ones is very strong in the Eastern Churches, and goes back to the origins of the community. While the practice may not be as strong in our own tradition, it is a tradition that can help us in many ways. Praying for the dead, remembering them by visiting the graves, blessing the graves and other practices help us in our grieving. These practices can also help us remember those who have died, keeping alive the sense that they still are very much a part of our lives, that we are indeed in communion with them and they with us. Remembering, we can more readily give thanks for the gifts that they shared with us, for the ways in which they blessed our lives. As we remember and give thanks, we can also be encouraged and challenged to live our lives in such a way that we are a blessing to others.

As we celebrate All Saints and All Souls, we remember and give thanks to God for all those who have gone before us in faith. We recall that our faith is a gift given by God, but nurtured by those who handed it on to us, and for all these gifts, we give thanks.

### PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Last month, Giselle gave a presentation at the World Religion's Conference at UNBC. A panel of speakers from different world religions addressed the topic "In Search of the Existence of God. Giselle was the Christian representative, and addressed the issue by noting the different ways in which we encounter the divine: in creation, scripture and Jesus.

Next week (Oct 24-28), Giselle will be attending the Canadian Association of Ministries Programmes conference in Charlottetown, PEI, as part of her Lay Formation duties.

Richard will be out of town for most of the coming week; on Monday in Fraser Lake at an Oblate gathering and meeting, on Tuesday to Kitimat with Rectorino, Wednesday will be a travel day and Thursday will be spent at Nautley at a workshop for Indian Residential School Survivors. He will return to Prince George on Thursday evening, and will be in the parish and chancery offices on Friday.

### BITS OF NEWS

Our seminarians, Rectorino Tolentino and Venerando Sabacan have completed their 6-week enculturation program at Newman Theological College. They are now beginning their pastoral year: Venerando is going to Dawson Creek and Rectorino is going to Kitimat. It is their (and our) hope to complete their studies here in Canada and be ordained for the Prince George Diocese. We keep them in our prayers.

Bishop Gerry returns from Rome on October 28 and will be here at St. Mary's on Sunday morning, October 30, while Richard toddles off to McBride.

### REMEMBERING CHURCH

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Catholic Church? This fall, after the OMI Parish Mission in November, St. Mary's Parish and Sacred Heart Cathedral will be hosting a series of gatherings to Welcome Home all inactive Catholics. Please phone Giselle at the parish office for more information.

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

This fall, we are continuing our RCIA sessions for anyone interested in becoming Catholic. Our regular RCIA meetings are held Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Mary's in the Conference Room (Freeman Street Entrance). Please phone Giselle at the parish office for more information.



### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We will begin the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday November 6. All children aged 4-8 are invited to attend. This is a chance for children to hear the Word proclaimed and explained in a language they can understand. These little people are the church of tomorrow, and we hope to instill in them a thirst for, and an appreciation of, God's Word. Please note: this is not a day-care or "Sunday School". Children who attend should be well-behaved and at least 4 years old. In order to give us an idea of how many children to expect, there will be volunteers and sign-up forms (bright pink) at the back of the church after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Any parents or others, who are willing to assist are invited to contact Giselle at the parish office. Thanks!!

### WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

On Saturday, October 29, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, we will be having a workshop for all those interested in assisting with, or learning more about, the Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you're at all interested in helping with Children's Liturgy of the Word, this workshop is for YOU!!



### SUNDAY BULLETINS FOR CHILDREN

Everybody likes to take something home after the Sunday Mass, perhaps to read over a coffee or an apple juice! Many parishes offer younger members their own bulletins which provide them with various activities to increase their understanding of the Mass and the Sunday readings. We have two bulletins for our children (at all the Masses)! For the younger ones (aged 3 to 5) we offer a black and white bulletins that can be coloured and have some simple activities. For the older ones (aged 5 to 7) we offer full-colour bulletins which contain more advanced activities. We encourage each child to take an age-appropriate bulletin. We're still trying to gauge the numbers, but while we have unlimited versions of the black and white version, we have a limited number of the colour version. If we run out, have patience, we'll try to get more next time!

### BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We have begun our preparation sessions for older children who would like to be baptized. This fall the sessions are being held at the Cathedral. We will hold another series of sessions after Christmas, hosted here at St. Mary's. If your child would like to be baptized, please phone Giselle at the parish office for more information.

FINANCES, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER PRACTICAL STUFF

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



Bank Balance:	-123.85
DDF balance	168,747.89
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>5,496.39</u>
Total Assets	174,120.43

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	13,408.31	Administration	17,278.87
Fees	450.00	Programs	1,250.63
Programs	290.00	Operation/Maint.	8,505.88
Other	900.00	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>1,595.85</u>
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3,625.00</u>	Total Expense	28,631.23
Total Income	18,673.31	Net Income	-9,957.92

Our monthly statement shows a deficit for that particular month. In fact, we had about \$5,300 in the bank at the beginning of the month, and we withdrew \$7,000 from our DDF savings account to pay our portion for the new doors in the gym and the boot room of the school. The replacement of the old doors in the gym and boot room is the only major project that is scheduled for this year. There may be a few smaller projects that arise, but our maintenance schedule is up to date now, and we should not have major expenses in that area for a couple of years. There may need to be some work done on the roofing after a couple more years.

The reason for the large expenditure in Administration is that we were catching up with our payroll. Payroll is done centrally in the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish is invoiced for the total. We had not had invoices for July and August until late in September, thus the large amount in that category for this month.

Good news: our income is up about \$2,300 over last year for the first three months of the fiscal year. Collections are higher, fees have increased; overall, each category in the income side has increased to some degree. Expenses also show an increase over last year, but that is accounted for by the installation of the new doors, so we have maintained our expenses at last year's level so far. Hopefully we will be able to reduce our expenses in some areas, and have an even better year than last year.