



# THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 41

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2007

## CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION

The following celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion in our parish on April 22:

Mateo Albinati  
 Jenny May Browne  
 Steven Buchanan  
 Gabrielle Caillier  
 Darian Campbell  
 Trystan Doman  
 Casandra Eastman-Garvin  
 Danielle Eastman-Garvin  
 Jeremy Gervais  
 Gabriel Goerlitz  
 Reece Gurrie  
 Eric Heywood  
 Nikita Kovacevic  
 David Loewen  
 Daniel McCormick  
 Julia Myatovic  
 Jordyn Norman  
 Savanna Ottalagana  
 Matthew Price  
 Miguel Gomes Ribeiro  
 Caitlyn Simunac  
 Marianna Tenorio-Pataky  
 Laine Thomas  
 Licia Thomas  
 Isabel Zimmerman

The following celebrated First Communion on April 22:

Kaleena Werbecky  
 Matthias Urbanski

## NEW TO THE PARISH??

Are you new to the parish? We'd love to hear from you!! Please introduce yourself after Mass, or fill out a registration form on the bulletin boards.

## SECOND ANNUAL PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 19 8:00 to 11:00 am

Our Second Annual Plant Sale is coming up in less than a month. It takes place on Saturday, May 19 from 8 am to 11 am in the School Parking Lot. We're going to have a LOT of plants for sale!! There will be perennials, bedding plants, vegetables (cherry tomatoes), geraniums, etc. All proceeds of the Plant Sale will go to help St. Vincent de Paul, so come and help us make it a great success.



We're also looking for gifted and talented people to help us get things off the ground... On May 19, we need help with the following:

- 6:30 am muscular people to help move tables and plants into position
- 8 to 11 am friendly people to ring up sales and help people carry their purchases to their cars
- 11 am tidy people to help us hose off the tables and carry them all back inside

This year, the Fair Trade Coffee folk will be in attendance as well. You can get a cup of coffee to sip as you browse (and you could buy pounds of it).

## PARISH CAMP-OUT



Did you know that the Diocese has a piece of property out at West Lake? Yup, it's true. As a parish, we haven't made use of it recently, but we thought it was high time we did something out there. So, on the Sunday/Monday of the July long weekend (July 1 & 2), we have booked the property for a St. Mary's Parish camp-out. After Mass on Sunday, we're all invited to come out to the property and pitch our tent or trailer or RV on the meadow and stay awhile. More details as the date comes closer. Mark it on your calendars NOW!!!

## CREATION HIKERS

Our first hike took place on Saturday, April 14. If you weren't there... you missed it!!! Eight people and 1 dog enjoyed the fine spring weather as we did an easy walk from the Cameron Street Bridge to Cottonwood Island Park. Our next hike will be led by Fr. Richard and will take place on Saturday, May 26. We will meet in the parking lot at St. Mary's at 8:30 a.m. and head off to Forests for the World, for a hike up to Shane Lake and the lookout. It won't be arduous, but a nice little jaunt through the woods and a chance to work out the kinks.

In case you're curious, take a look at the bulletin board for posters of our latest hikes.



## THEO-TIDBITS



Sr. Hazel Dalton UJ, Chancellor of the Diocese of Prince George, will give our next

Theo-Tidbits on Tuesday, May 8 & 15. She will present on the topic of Divorce & Annulments. If you're curious as to what the church teaches about divorce and annulments, come and check it out!!! Sessions will be held in the Parish Office Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m.

## PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Life continues at its usual pace— hectic. I spent a week in Alberta, with a couple of days at home with my family and three days at meetings of the National Federation of Presbyterian Councils. I will be leaving on Tuesday, this time to Toronto, for an executive meeting of the NFPC. Back on Friday evening to be here for the weekend. Looking ahead, I will be celebrating Eucharist with the Prince George Lay Formation group over the weekend as they have their retreat in preparation for completing the program. They will have their graduation celebration at St. Mary's on June 3 at the 11:00 am celebration. Bishop Gerry will preside at that celebration. I will be leaving on May 28 for a three week holiday. More details as the time comes up, and maybe even more when I return home. On May 18, we will be celebrating the ordination to the priesthood of Rectorino Tolentino and Venerando Sabacan. Truly a celebration to look forward to, a great day for our local church. The babies are spending time outside in preparation for the plant sale on May 19!

Giselle: Of course, she is on holiday in Europe, so this is just a brief report from Richard, giving the news I have. Giselle arrived safely in Trier and is enjoying life there in the sweltering heat, longing for a bit of our cooler weather—even a snow flurry would be a welcome change. However, I do think that she would rather be there than here right now!

## THE SPIRITUALITY OF TRAVEL

It's early morning. The first light of day creeps silently through the bedroom window. I lie there peacefully, enjoying the last moments of sleep. Then an unfamiliar sound. What is it? I wake, wipe the sleep from my eyes, and gaze out the window. Outlined against the horizon is a minaret and from it echoes the sound of the Muslim call to prayer. "Now I know where I am, miles away from home." I listen attentively. "What an amazing place!"

Through the ages, people of faith have found travel to be an enriching experience. From biblical saints, to pilgrims in the Middle Ages, to modern tourists who journey with relative ease to places our ancestors never dreamed of going, travel can broaden our perspectives and deepen our faith.

It can be unsettling to find oneself in unfamiliar places. The traveller forsakes the security of recognizable landmarks. Time zones shift, sleep patterns change. Routines are broken, plans made on the fly. "Where am I going and how will I get there? What if someone tries to take advantage of me?" The clash of strange language, customs, culture and geography can be quite bewildering. Yet for those prepared to take a risk, there are great rewards.

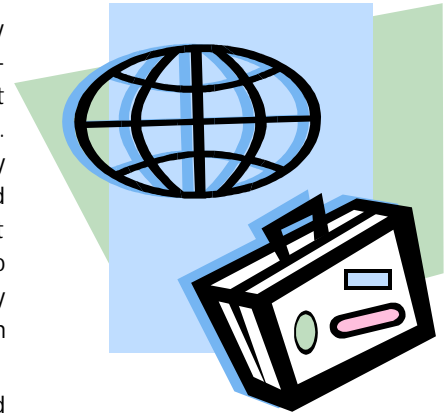
When we are genuinely open to it, travel can become a Spirit-filled adventure in faith. More than pseudo-travel - another vacation behind the walled confines of a luxury resort - Spirit-filled travel calls us to venture into what is new and unknown, trusting that our lives are safe in the hands of God. It calls for openness of mind, an eagerness to discover and learn from our surroundings. It calls for openness of heart, reaching beyond ourselves.

Each stop can be a holy feast with many delights to be tasted - some quite literally. Every place is different, every encounter unique: a shopkeeper in the marketplace, a fisherman who shows you his catch, a child who plays some unknown game with her friends.

We learn to appreciate Strangers - people whose skin colour, life experience, religious practices are different from our own. As we reach out, we ourselves receive many gifts of hospitality. Something as simple as a handshake and a smile can form the beginning of a deep and lasting friendship. We discover what it means to live together as guests upon our planet.

Travel doesn't have to involve long distance or great expense. It may simply mean taking a bus to another part of the city and going for a walk. Taking a drive to a nearby town in the country. Or getting to know a neighbour who lives down the street. Refugee centres need volunteers. Schools and other organizations offer exchange programs. Visiting groups require billets.

Spirit-filled travel reminds us that in life, as in faith, it's not just arriving at the destination that counts. It's the process of getting there. When we're willing to take the risk, open our eyes and ears to God's presence, open our minds to new perspectives, open our hearts to new relationships, our world is enlarged and our lives are blessed. Faith invites us to share this great adventure!



GROWING TOGETHER is a series of five Sunday bulletin inserts for the ecumenical education of Christ's faithful. Prairie Centre for Ecumenism 600 - 45th Street West Saskatoon, SK 57L 5W9 CANADA © 2007

## REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following member in the sacrament of Baptism:

Finlay Pastro



No weddings or funerals these past weeks.

## LAY FORMATION

The current session of the Lay Formation Program in Prince George is coming to an end, and a new session will be starting in September.

The Lay Formation Program is a two year program, held one weekend a month for ten months each year. The focus is on learning more about our faith, the teaching of the Church, Scripture, Theology, ministry, liturgy, etc. It is a rich and exciting journey discovering in a deeper way what it means to be a member of the Church and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The object of the program is to help participants grow in their faith as well as in understanding of their faith. For some, this means a greater involvement in the ministry of the parish. For others, it means involvement in other areas of our broader community. In any case, ministry is not the main focus of the program; growth in faith is the main focus.

Is your curiosity piqued? There are brochures available at the main entrance of the church in the brochure holders. You can also contact Susan Campbell at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre if you would like to get more information from the director of the program. There are application forms available—just ask Fr. Richard for one (he has them in the sacristy). It is our hope that we can fill the upcoming session again—there is room for up to 20 participants in each program. So, if interested, register early.

## MINISTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR

In some ways, the ministry of Pastor is a very hard one to define, as there are various roles and many different kinds of work that need to be done, but not all are necessarily part of the ministry of pastor as such. The Rite of Ordination instructs the priest to meditate on the Sacred Word, to put it into practice in his life, to preach the Word, to teach and explain the Word, to celebrate the sacraments for the members of the community, to be present to the sick and suffering members and in all things, to be the presence of Christ to each person encountered. That in itself is a tall order. The Code of Canon Law adds other responsibilities to the role of pastor besides those mentioned above. In the Code, the pastor is given the responsibility of assisting the sick and especially the dying, to seek out the poor, the suffering, the lonely, those who are exiled from their homelands, and those burdened with special difficulties. He is to strive to ensure that spouses and parents are sustained in the fulfillment of their proper duties and to foster the growth of Christian life in the family. He is also to recognize and promote the specific role which the lay members of Christ's faithful have in the mission of the Church, fostering their associations which have religious purposes. He is to endeavor to ensure that the faithful are concerned for the community of the parish and that they take part in and sustain works which promote this community.



In addition, the pastor is responsible for the proper administration of the goods of the parish, is to ensure that the proper records are kept, is to submit financial statements and copies of the records to the diocesan office. Often the pastor also has responsibility for the good maintenance of the parish plant, for hiring and dismissing staff, etc. In our local church, pastors are administrators and financial managers as well as pastors. In everything, however, the concern of the pastor is to promote the building up of the Body of Christ through prayer, the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the sacraments.

## FRUITS OF THE HARVEST



Do you have fruit trees or bushes in your backyard? Do you have time to pick all of the fruit? If you're already dreading the harvest season, because you have too much fruit and don't know what to do with it... Well, we have a solution that might benefit everybody!!!

There are some people in the parish who love to pick fruit or berries. And there are others who love to make jams, jellies or pies from the aforementioned fruit and berries. If we put all three of these groups together (provider/picker/preserver) we could have some fun and use our gifts to harvest God's gifts to us!

We thought that maybe those of you who have fruit trees or bushes that are too much for you to handle, could phone the parish office and leave your name and number and the type of fruit that is overwhelming you. We could then post this information on the bulletin boards or here in the Grapevine and then the pickers and preservers could contact you and arrange to harvest your crop.

In return, the pickers/preservers could give a portion of their product to the provider and a portion could go to St. Vincent de Paul. Let us know what you think!!! This is a bit early, but we thought we'd plant the seed now and watch it grow by the fall!!!



**WEBSITE**

Our website has lots of cool information on past and future parish events. Why not take look! And if you have a bright idea... let us know!  
[www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg](http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg)

**A REAL DEAL FOR YOU**

We are trying to make our spring plant sale more of a community event, so we will be serving coffee. Someone suggested that having a muffin or cookie with coffee would be a nice idea. So, here's the deal: bring muffins or cookies (a dozen or so) to share with others at the plant sale, and you will get a voucher for one free plant. Let's all get together on this event and make it a morning of visiting, building community, enjoying the spring atmosphere (pray hard for nice spring weather!) and helping others. Who knows what kind of connections you might make at the sale or what gardening or other tips you may pick up. Come out and enjoy!

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Please call 964-2805 to register for the following Engaged Encounter weekend.  
 May 11-13

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Below is the synopsis of the April financial statement.



INCOME		EXPENSES		ASSETS	
Donations	22030.89	Administration	18384.02	Bank Balance	4.14
Fees	650.00	Programs	181.68	DDF Balance	1773529.49
Programs	000.00	Oper./Maint	6892.39	Accts. Rec.	936.15
Other	1050.73	Rental Operation	980.18		
Rentals	3725.00				
<b>Total Inc.</b>	<b>7456.62</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>26438.27</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>174465.64</b>
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1018.35</b>		

We continue to maintain a fairly healthy financial situation in the parish. We have been doing a fair bit of maintenance over the past months, now that we have a regular maintenance person again. Catching up always makes the expenses look high, because they are all shown in a short period, rather than over the long haul, as they would normally be. As we move into summer, there will be more maintenance work done, specifically painting and roof repairs, so the maintenance expenses will continue to be fairly high over the next while, but we are catching up. Thank you to all for your continued generous support of the work and mission of the parish.

With Praise and Thanksgiving to God,  
 the People of God, the Bishop and Clergy  
 of the Diocese of Prince George, British Columbia, Canada,  
 together with the Families of Mendoza-Tolentino & Dela Cruz-Sabacan,  
 cordially invite you to the

**ORDINATION TO THE  
 SACRED ORDER OF THE PRESBYTERATE**

of

**REV. MR. RECTORINO M. TOLENTINO, JR.**  
 and  
**REV. MR. VENERANDO DC. SABACAN**

through the Laying on of Hands  
 and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit  
 to be conferred by

His Excellency  
**MOST REV. GERALD WIESNER, O.M.I.**  
 -Bishop of the Prince George Diocese-

7:30 p.m., Friday, May 18, 2007  
 Sacred Heart Cathedral  
 887 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, British Columbia,  
 V2L 3V5, Canada

Remain in  
**My LOVE...**  
 John 15:9

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S**

Sun May 6	Mon May 7	Tues May 8	Wed May 9	Thurs May 10	Fri May 11	Sat May 12
9 am—Mass 11 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	7 am—Morning Prayer 7:20 am—Mass	
		7:30 pm— TheoTidbits	7 pm—Vespers	7 pm—Pr. Group		7:00 pm—Mass