



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 45

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 8, 2007

JUST FOR TODAY...

... I will have the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my actions.

... I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm over-weight, I'll eat healthily and exercise.

... I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking."
... I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration."

... I will accept what is and face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those I cannot."

... I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine."

... I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow.

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

At a recent Pastoral Council meeting, we took time to look back over the past year and reflect on the life of our community, and especially on the activities that were initiated this year. What we noticed is that there were a lot of new initiatives this year, notably Theo Tidbits, Table for Two, Bible Study, Anniversary celebrations, Creation Hikers, Brown Bag It. What one can note in this is the diversity of purpose - education, faith formation, outreach, celebration, nature appreciation/exercise. In everything, the underlying purpose is to help build a greater sense of community among the members of the parish. We know that will not happen in huge gatherings to any great extent, but will happen in smaller groups of people gathering for a shared purpose or interest. Those involved in these smaller groups form community together, but they also interact with people involved in other groups and other people in the parish who have not been involved. In this way, it is our hope to continue to build a sense of community, of belonging and help individuals connect with more people in the parish. For next year we hope to organize a few more activities and events, again with the purpose of responding to needs in the community and to foster the development of a greater sense of community and involvement.

PRISON MINISTRY

Jesus told us that whenever we visit or care for those in prison, we are doing visiting or caring for him. While visiting prisoners may not be feasible for many people, there are ways in which we can still minister to those in prison.

Frank Jamin is the chaplain at the local correctional centre. He has expressed a need for bibles and other spiritual reading (e.g. prayer cards, booklets, Catholic Digest, etc). Perhaps you have some good reading material in your house, or maybe you've got too many bibles (is that even possible?). There are people at the prison who hunger and thirst for the Good News. We have a basket on top of the Food Bank cabinet.

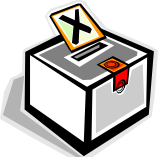
CREATION HIKERS

Our next hike is coming up later this month. We're not sure where yet. Stay tuned to the Grrrapevine for more information.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It is that time again! Two years ago, all the members of the council were new, so we had no need of elections last year. In the meantime, a couple of members resigned in mid-term and were replaced by appointed members.



Three members of council have come to the end of their first term, and so we need to have elections this year.

There will be nomination forms in the church over the next six weeks or so and we invite all members of the parish to prayerfully consider who might serve on our council.

Before nominating someone, please be sure that you have that person's consent. Our elections will be held in mid-September.

WEBSITE

Check out our website!
www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The four days in Fort Ware were the usual round of visiting elders, celebrating Eucharist and baptisms, doing maintenance on the cabin, getting firewood, and this time, adding on to the woodshed. We can now have almost two winters' worth of wood under a roof. It was cold enough there that we built a fire in the cabin each evening to take the chill off! Funny summer we are having.

I will be in McBride all this weekend, with a wedding on Saturday and Eucharist on Sunday. In my spare time I continue to work on the flower garden in the front yard of the apartment, watch the veggies grow (and weed, of course) and hopefully there will be time to do a bit in the woodworking shop.

Giselle: I've just returned from a few days in Terrace. My sister and her 3 month old daughter were up visiting my mom, so we had a little family reunion! It was nice to get back into the land of mountains even if the weather wasn't entirely cooperative.

Summer is finally here and that means more hikes and hopefully some berry picking. There was even an experiment with Wild Roes Petal Jelly in June which might lead to Fireweed Flower Jelly. Have to see how the first batch turned out!

And of course, just sitting here reading books and preparing material for the Fall series of bible studies, book discussions, etc. It promises to be a busy autumn!

LAY FORMATION WANTS YOU!!

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.

As well... you might get a tap on the shoulder from a member of the pastoral team or perhaps from previous participants in the Lay Formation programme, inviting you to consider this grow experience. Give it some thought!



LIMBO IN LIMBO?

At the end of April, Pope Benedict XVI authorized the publication of a report that expresses the hope that babies who die without baptism are able to get to heaven.

The report by the International Theological Commission concluded that there are serious theological and liturgical grounds for the hope that such babies are saved and enjoy the beatific vision. The commission says that the theological hypothesis of "limbo" was apparently based on an overly restrictive view of salvation.

Although the commission's documents are not considered official expressions of the Magisterium, they do help the Holy See to examine important doctrinal issues. The Catechism of the Catholic Church in No. 1261 explains: "As regards children who have died without baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them.

"Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all [people] should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,' allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism.

This Fall, we'll take a look at the International Theological Commission's report in a bit more detail. The document outlines some of the history that preceded the creation of limbo as a theological concept and shows how our theological interpretations have changed over time. The report is extremely hopeful and addresses the concerns of many grandparents who wonder what will happen to their unbaptized grandchildren. Remember, our God is a merciful, loving and compassionate God!



REJOICING &
REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following member in the sacrament of Baptism:

Owen Johansen

We witnessed the marriage of:

Amanda Jane Ethier &
Andrew Korvemaker

In faith and in the sure hope of the resurrection we bid farewell to:

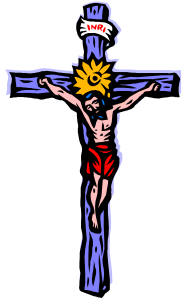
Ugo Marotta

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. At the same time, any pickers could phone the parish office and learn of potential harvesting. Cherry and strawberry season is almost upon us!!



SACRAMENTALS: SIGN OF THE CROSS

The sign of the cross is an action that immediately identifies an individual as a Christian. It is a way of designating a Christian relationship with God and praying for the growing significance of this relationship. The sign of the cross is one of the more ubiquitous sacramentals that we encounter in our Christian lives.

When we make the sign of the cross we are actually professing a mini-version of the creed, professing out belief in the Father, and in the Son and in the Holy Spirit. When we make the sign of the cross, we are renewing and remembering our baptism in which we died with Christ and rose to new life. We remember that in baptism we were joined to the body of Christ.

The sign of the cross is often one of the first things that we teach our children, and as many of you know, the children have a habit of mirroring your actions, and many parents worry that their children are "doing it wrong". In the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church (that's us), it is normal for us to make the sign of the cross by touching our forehead, our stomach/chest, our left shoulder and then our right shoulder. However, in the Eastern Rite of the Roman Catholic Church (e.g. Ukrainian Catholic), it is normal for them to make the sign of the cross by touching forehead, stomach/chest, right shoulder and then left shoulder.

Similarly, we are sometimes asked if it is OK to make the sign of the cross with the left hand. There used to be a superstition in the past that associated left-handedness with evil, hence making the sign of the cross with one's left hand was seen as courting evil. And as many of you older folk who are left-handed know, even in schools one was often forbidden from using one's left hand for writing. Today, we have moved beyond such superstition (hopefully), and recognize that as long as the intention in making the sign of the cross is correct, then it matters little how one makes the sign.

We can, however, slip into the habit of making the sign of the cross without any real conscious thought as to what we are doing. When we make the sign of the cross, do we remember our baptism, remind ourselves of our belief in a Triune God, ask God to help us in our daily lives? Remember who we are... sons & daughters of a loving and merciful God who gave his life in order that we might live!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the June financial statement, which is also our year end.

INCOME		EXPENSES		ASSETS	
Donations	19906.67	Administration	15064.68	Bank Balance	613.83
Fees	300.00	Programs	426.28	DDF Balance	171396.44
Programs	0.00	Oper./Maint	5210.11	Accts. Rec.	2680.85
Other	127.00	Rental Operation	1017.49	Total Assets	174691.12
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3725.00</u>	Total Expense	21808.56	Net Income	2250.11
Total Inc.	24058.67				

As we come to the end of another fiscal year, it is a good time to look back and see what has been accomplished. After a year of little maintenance, this year we have done some catching up, and have spent more money on maintenance than normal. Even though we often end each month with little in the bank, we have been able to consistently pay our bills and cover the operation of the parish. That does not mean that we cannot improve our situation: we have not put any money into our savings account over the past several years, and have in fact taken more out of the account in the last few months to cover some of the maintenance. Thank you to all for your continued generous support of the work and mission of the parish.

RCIA WORKSHOP

This fall, the Diocese is sponsoring a workshop entitled "The Vision of Initiation Ministry" facilitated by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. This is a great opportunity for those involved in the RCIA process or the initiation of children and teenagers to learn a bit more about the process. More information in this week's edition of the Northern Catholic News. Contact the parish office if you're interested!!

ANNIVERSARY MASS

Our next Anniversary Mass for those couples who celebrate anniversaries in June & July, will take place on Saturday, July 21 at the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Goodies will be served in the Conference Room afterwards.

OUR WORSHIP SPACE: THE AMBO

The word ambo derives from the Greek verb *anabainein* ("to go up") and was the name given to the elevated platform from which the scriptures were proclaimed in the large churches of the early Middle Ages. In smaller churches of the time, the priest and lector stood at the altar rail; only the bishop stood at the chair (the cathedra) for proclaiming and preaching. A later development saw elaborate, elevated pulpits attached to church pillars for better visibility and audibility. The liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) called for the location of the ambo to be a natural focal point for the assembly during the liturgy of the word.



The ambo is a place for the act of proclamation. By its form and appearance it honors Christ present in the word, and hence evokes reverence and attentiveness when the word is sung or spoken from it. Here is the place for the proclamation of the scripture readings, the leading of the singing of psalms, for preaching God's word and perhaps for leading prayers of intercession. All other announcements and speeches are to be made elsewhere.

The ambo should be beautifully designed and carefully proportioned to suit its function—not as a shrine for the lectionary, but as a cradle for the word that embodies the story of our salvation, the mystery of the word made flesh among us.

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LOOKING AHEAD

At our Pastoral Council meetings, we generally take some time to look ahead, to try and assess the needs of the community and then come up with a strategy to meet that need. We have a couple of ideas on the horizon that we would like to try and implement in September.

One idea that has been germinating is a gathering, on a regular basis, for senior members of the community. It could take various forms: an afternoon tea and social, a soup and bun lunch, some prayer time (perhaps even Eucharist on occasion), some teaching or information sessions, and anything that those gathered would like. It would be during the day-time, in order to facilitate attendance, we would try or organize car pooling and rides and we could use the Conference Room, which is totally accessible. We are looking for suggestions and feedback. This really is meant to serve the needs of members of the parish and help build community, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact us (phone Giselle or Richard, or write a letter - you can even drop it in the collection basket and save postage!).

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Sun July 8	Mon July 9	Tues July 10	Wed July 11	Thurs July 12	Fri July 13	Sat July 14
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 pm—Infant Baptism Prep.	7 pm—Infant Baptism Prep.		7 pm—Pr. Group		7:00 pm—Mass