



# THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 58

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 20, 2008

## FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CHOCOLATE

Just a reminder that Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate will be available for sale at the back of the church after Mass this weekend. The chocolate is really yummy!



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Just a reminder that next weekend is our monthly pancake breakfast. It's a great way to build community.



## TABLE FOR YOU...

We are planning another *Table for You... and Your Friends* for the UNBC/CNC crowd on January 25. Hungry students need to be fed!

If you're interested in helping out with Table for Two, please give Fr. Richard a call at the Parish Office. We'd love to have help, either with cooking or with cleanup.

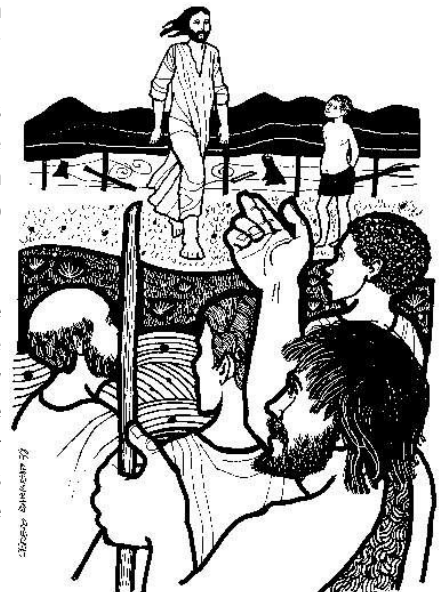
## CALLED TO ORDER

The chair calls a meeting to order when it is time to begin. At the call to order, all members cease whatever they are doing, put aside any personal agendas and begin the business at hand. Their focus now is on the business to which they have been called, not anything else.

We have begun Ordinary Time. It is not ordinary in the sense that there is nothing special about it, that it is lackluster, without character, etc. Rather, the intention of Ordinary Time in the life of the Church is to orient, or "order us", call us to order as the people of God for our common work, for our mission. Ordinary Time helps us organize our thoughts and intentions and common commitments toward the work Christ gives us.

The Scriptures for this weekend help "order" us, call us to order that we might get on with our mission. They give us some very clear and graphic descriptions of our identity and our mission. Listen to Isaiah: "You are my servant, in whom I will be glorified ... who formed me in the womb to be his servant ... to bring back Jacob to him ... I am honoured in the sight of the Lord ... my God has become my strength ... I will give you as a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth". Paul, writing to the Corinthians says: "called to be an apostle ... sanctified in Christ Jesus ... called to be saints". In the Gospel, John the Baptist states: "I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed ... I myself have seen and have testified".

As we listen and reflect, we realize that God has chosen us as servants to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. We are strengthened by God for this work, we are sanctified, given new life and then sent to proclaim to the world and share with the world what we have seen, heard, experienced and live. It is an awesome call that God gives us, but not one that is beyond our capacity, because we do not have to fulfill this call on our own. First of all, God is with us, giving us the gifts we need through the Holy Spirit. Secondly, we are called to this mission as a community - we share the mission, support each other in the mission and carry it out together. In the Gospels, we are told that Jesus went about the countryside, proclaiming the Good News and doing good. That is our mission now - to proclaim the Good News and to do good to those we meet each day. Are we mindful of that mission as we begin each day, and as we live out the day? Do we listen for the Spirit to guide us in the mission? How do we respond? So often the Spirit speaks quietly through the promptings of our hearts, but we dismiss that as simply our own intuition or thought and do nothing. The readings this weekend call us to be attentive to who we are and what we are called to do.



## PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Luckily it has not been too busy the past couple of weeks, although I did spend more time at the Chancery than in the parish. With board and council meetings and various projects to work on at the Chancery and council meetings and appointments at the parish, some days were quite full! It will be good to have Giselle back, although she suggested she might need a week to recuperate from the workshops - the idea was not encouraged. There are lots of things coming up on the horizon; I am excited about the next few months and look forward to some new initiatives as well as some repeats from past years. Hold on to your seats!

Giselle: I'm back! It feels like I've been away for a month! The Returning to Spirit Trainer's Workshop was an amazing experience. I stretched and transformed and grew and made some new friends. I even managed to find a few walking partners which was nice. We had long (14 hour) days and it was good to get out every once in a while and enjoy the gorgeous scenery (near Canmore Alberta). I'll be continuing my involvement with the Returning to Spirit organization by attending a few workshops during the next year as well as a couple of training sessions.

Now it's back into the thick of parish life. Looking at my schedule, I see that February is bursting with upcoming activity and excitement. I'm looking forward to some rest and relaxation as well, snow shoveling!

## THEO-TIDBITS

We are very excited about our upcoming season of Theo-Tidbits! If you haven't picked up a bookmark schedule from the poster on the bulletin board, here's a summary for you! We hope you can make time in your schedule to attend at least a few of the events that we have planned. All events are in the Parish Office Meeting Room (downstairs) at 1088 Gillett Street (unless otherwise indicated).

Tuesday February 5—6:15 pm—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Followed by a presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Location: St. Mary's Parish Office Meeting Room (downstairs)

Sunday February 10—10 am & noon—Golden Compass: Led Astray

Come and discover a bit more about the (in)famous movie and book. What is the best way to handle such entertainment or literature?

Location: Conference Room

Tuesday February 12—6:30 pm—Golden Compass: Led Astray

Come and discover a bit more about the (in)famous movie and book. What is the best way to handle such entertainment or literature?

Location: Conference Room

Monday February 18—7:00 pm—Encyclical: In Hope (Part 1 of 2)

Bishop Gerry will give us the Coles Notes version of the latest encyclical from Pope Benedict.

Location: St. Mary's Parish Office Meeting Room (downstairs)

Monday February 25—7:00 pm—Encyclical: In Hope (Part 2 of 2)

Bishop Gerry will give us the Coles Notes version of the latest encyclical from Pope Benedict.

Location: St. Mary's Parish Office Meeting Room (downstairs)

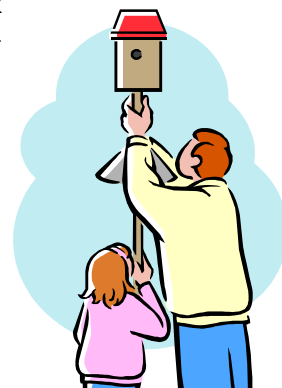
We also have some more sessions scheduled for March. Keep your eye on the Bulletin & the Grapevine for more details!

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## KIDS BUILD THINGS

In the surveys that we have done over the past while, family activities are always mentioned as being important, desired and needed. At Parish Pastoral Council, we put our heads together and came up with an idea that could provide some family fun on Saturday morning, April 19. Knowing that children like to putter and build and discover new things, we are planning a morning of bird feeder building.

We will have pre-fabricated bird feeders available - the kids just need to choose which feeder they want to build (parents can build too!), pick up the kit which will include all the parts needed and instructions, then get to work putting it all together. We will also have paint and other finishes available, and so the finished project can be painted or decorated before leaving. We figure on closing the morning with a hot dog lunch or some other simple meal. There will be a small cost for the hardware that is needed for each project. We will have a large poster with the various designs and you can pre-order your feeder. This would be preferable, as it will assist the planning and pre-fabricating crew. Keep an eye out for the posters.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

St. Paul urges the Christian community at Corinth to be united with other Christian communities. Christian stewards cultivate solidarity and hospitality among all Christians. So, during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, it is appropriate to pray that all communities who follow Christ might be brought together into one Confession of Faith.

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### REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following in the Sacrament of Baptism:  
Louis Filipe Rodrigues

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### SPRING PLANT SALE

It is still early to start the tomatoes, but not too early to start thinking about our Spring Plant Sale for St. Vincent de Paul. The sales over the past two years have been wonderfully successful and have made a significant contribution to the work of the Society in the late spring and early summer. So, if you have a green thumb, it may be time to start warming-up exercises! You can contribute in other ways as well—last year we had coffee and goodies, so the morning became a time for relaxation and visiting as well as getting some plant material for the garden or house. So, we are looking for bakers, servers, cashiers and helpers of all sorts. The sale will be held on the Saturday of the May long weekend. Put it on your calendars and start planning your planting schedule.

## HOW DO YOU PRAY?? INTER-PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE—PEOPLE SMART

In a previous issue of the Grrapevine (#52), we introduced the idea that different prayer forms may be more comfortable for us based on our giftedness in the areas of multiple intelligence. We were also invited to take a Multiple Intelligence Survey (link on our website) to discover where our intelligence strengths lie (verbal, numeric, images, music, movement, nature, etc). Over the next few issues of the Grrapevine, we'll take a look at the different multiple intelligences and draw connections with different prayer styles.

Those who have a strong inter-personal intelligence (people smart) have an ability to detect and respond appropriately to the moods, motivations and desires of others. They tend to learn through personal interactions, through sharing, comparing, relating, cooperating and interviewing.. They often have lots of friends, show a great deal of empathy for other people and exhibit a deep understanding of other points of view. They love team activities of all kinds and are good team members. They are often skilled in conflict resolution, mediation and finding compromise when people are in radical opposition to each other. They try to see things from other people's point of view in order to understand how they think and feel.

Those who have a strong inter-personal intelligence, might enjoy group prayer such as the Liturgy of the Hours or a guided bible study, as well as intercessory prayer and spiritual direction.

Those of us who are not strong in the inter-personal intelligence, might find such prayer forms tedious and difficult. It's all a matter of finding out what works best for us. We just need to try some of them!

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### SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM: VOWS

For most people, the word vow conjures up the phrase "for better, for worse, in sickness or health, forsaking all others, till death do us part."

Unlike a contract, which specifies exactly what is expected — I will fix your roof by a certain date; you will pay me a certain amount of money — a vow is an absolute commitment, a sign that you have entered into a special kind of relationship called a "covenant." When a couple marries, each one vows to be faithful to the other no matter what circumstances arise. The decision is made. They have only to live by it. It sounds simple, but the community of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends witnesses to the fact that it is not easy — but it is worth it.

When we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we forsake all others — Satan, his empty works, his empty promises — and profess faith; that is, we commit ourselves to live in covenant with the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for now and for always, no matter what comes. Saint Paul says that nothing can separate us baptized from the love of Christ: not trial, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness or danger, not even death (Romans 8:37-39). Being faithful is not always easy, but the saints and martyrs and all the blessed ones who have gone before us and the ones who walk among us attest that it is worth it. And we know that God will always be faithful to the covenant, as promised to Noah when God spread the first rainbow over the earth and vowed never again would all be lost (Genesis 9:14).



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UNBC SCIENCE & FAITH  
LECTURE SERIES

The UNBC Interfaith Chaplaincy and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship invite you to a free public lecture entitled: *The Value of Wilderness in a Conservation Ethic*. The lecture takes place on Thursday January 31 at 7 pm in the UNBC Weldwood Lecture Hall (7-238). The presenter, Dr. Donald Faber-Langendoen, is an international scholar and a Christian from the Reformed tradition. As a Senior Ecologist with the Conservation Science Division of NatureServe, he works on conservation status (endangered ecosystems) and ecological integrity assessments.

*"The land is like  
the garden of Eden  
before them,  
but a desolate wilderness  
behind them"*  
(Joel 2:3)



ORDINARY TIME: WINTER

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, "The words 'Ordinary Time' in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is ordinary." She was right. The Ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Roman document, General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, says: "Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmas-time, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." (#43)



How do we celebrate "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects"? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmas-time and Lent, and the other in summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King. When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. We systematically read through the gospels. The first readings from the first testament of the Bible were chosen for their relationship to the gospel passages. The second readings come from the various letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ "in all its aspects" unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ's life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

"What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living." (Saint Andrew Bible Missal [Brooklyn: William J. Hirten Co., 1982.])

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MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Are you planning to get married in 2008? See the poster on the bulletin board for different marriage preparation options. We are offering a 6 week session starting Jan 24. Phone Fr. Richard for info.

NEW TO THE PARISH??

Are you new to the parish? Have you filled out a parish registration form yet? They're available on the bulletin boards at the entrances of the Church. Better yet, introduce yourself to Fr. Richard or Giselle after Mass. We'd love to meet you and get the chance to know you.



WEBSITE

Check out our website! We have photos of past events! There's also news and schedules of upcoming events. And back issues of the GRRapevine & Sunday Bulletin.

[www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg](http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg)