

# THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 60

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

February 24, 2008

## ST. MARY'S FIRST ANNUAL ART SHOW

This weekend is our Parish Art Show!!! If you're here on Saturday night, why not join us in the gym after Mass for the Marriage Anniversary Mass reception. And take some time to stroll through the displays. If you're here on Sunday morning, then join us for the Parish Brunch and stroll through the displays! See what talent we have in the parish!

Sat Feb 23—8:00 to 9:30 pm  
Art Show & Marriage Anniversary Reception

Sun Feb 24—9:00 to 1:00 pm  
Art Show & Parish Brunch

## CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will take place on Monday, March 10 at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.

This year, the Chrism Mass is particularly special because we are celebrating 100 years of our diocese. Several bishops, as well as the Apostolic Nuncio assigned to Canada will be in attendance. This is going to be a BIG event!!!!

All parishioners are invited to attend this wonderful celebration of the diocesan church! This is also when the Holy Oils are blessed and consecrated! Please join us!!!

## WATER — SOURCE OF LIFE OR TEMPTATION?

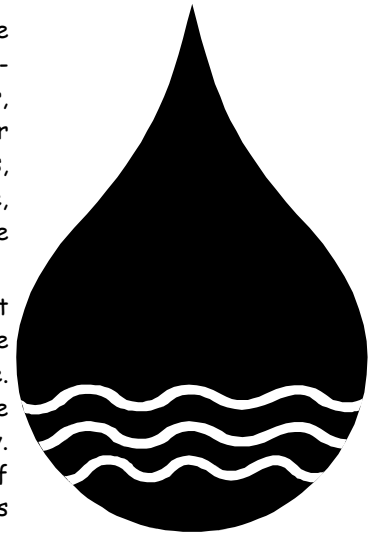
Some things stay with you. Part of a line from the 'Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner', which we were supposed to memorize in school, has remained: "Water, water everywhere." The readings today have water everywhere. Water is the key to life in so many ways, but it can also be a source of temptation to limit life, exercise power or lead us astray in other ways. We have both notions in the readings today.

In the first reading, the people grumble against Moses and God. They have no water! They are sure that God has led them out into the desert to die. They border on hopelessness and despair. They are ready to abandon God and return to Egypt, to slavery. Water, or the lack of it, becomes the focal point of their weak faith and incomplete response to God's covenant. They don't trust God's love for them. They

want to have some certainty, some guarantees. Never mind the promises of freedom and a return to the land promised to their ancestors. What is our 'water' today? What leads us to question God's love and faithfulness? What things in life and in the world prevent us from trusting totally in God's love for us and in the promise of life that God has given us in Christ? What do we value more than the gift of faith that we have been given, or our call to discipleship? Are we willing to trust God's love and promises as we experience the uncertainty of life in this world? For many of us, the need to have some control over our destiny leads us away from that trusting, faithful relationship with God which was the original relationship between God and us at the beginning of creation.

In the Gospel, water again plays a key role in the story. Water becomes the pivotal symbol which leads the woman to respond to Jesus' call to new life. Water is a powerful symbol as well as a real need for us. Without water, we perish. Without water, the earth perishes. Water is a symbol of life as well as a source of life. Science speculates that the first forms of life on earth emerged from the water. Certainly Jesus uses the symbol of water to remind us of the life we have been given. In baptism, the waters wash us clean of sin, renew and refresh us and give us new life. The people of Israel walked through the waters of the Red Sea to new life. The Samaritan woman comes to faith in responding to Jesus' request for water and their subsequent discussion about the water, about life, faith, religion and God's love. Jesus offers her living water, and she welcomes the gift. As she receives the gift, then she shares that gift with others.

We are reminded of the gift of life we received through the waters of baptism. Do we understand the gift and its implications for our lives? Do we respond to the call of the gift? What is different about us because of this gift? As the Samaritan woman shared the gift she received, so we are called to share the living water and the gift of new life with others.



## PASTORAL TEAM

**Richard:** A lot has happened since the last edition! The last trip to McBride was an easy one, and I have since been to Vancouver for an Oblate gathering and to Fort St. John for a meeting there. The flights to and from Vancouver were routine, but the drive to Fort St. John was anything but! First, there was the closure because of the avalanche, so uncertainty about going there. The road opened the day before departure; we arrived at the Mackenzie junction to find barriers across the highway - buses and trucks in the ditch, road closed! Luckily, it opened a few minutes after our arrival at the barricade and we continued on gingerly through the slush!

**Giselle:** It's hard to believe that February is almost over... it seems like it just started! The last few weeks have been busy with meetings, bible study and various other parish activities. Looking ahead... I see more of the same! I will be away in early March, attending a Returning to Spirit workshop as a rookie trainer (along with Sr. Jean Marie). A few people from our diocese are going as participants, so it should be fun!

**Do not be daunted  
by the enormity  
of the world's grief.  
Do justly, now.  
Love mercy, now.  
Walk humbly, now.  
You are not obligated  
to complete the work,  
but neither  
are you free  
to abandon it.**

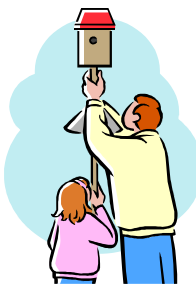
## KIDS BUILD THINGS

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.

There is a large poster on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the Church.

If you want to be part of this fun day, choose the design(s) that you want to build then put your name and phone number on the list below the chosen design. We will have those kits that were ordered ready for you to assemble and finish. There will be a charge of \$2 per kit to help cover the cost of hardware.



## THE HOLE IN THE BRIDGE

"If we see someone drowning in the river, we try to save the victim. But suppose we find another person struggling in the water an hour later at the same place, then two or three the next day. If we finally realize that they are falling in the river because there is a hole in the bridge, we might change our response. We could still wait by the riverside to aid the victims or we could take a hammer and nails and try to rebuild the bridge." (The bridge represents our social structures (government, church and society).

Adapted from Jim Dinn of Pax Christi

This is the work of Development and Peace. Aid is provided as a short-term solution, and quickly there after D&P works to find the whole in the bridge/social structures and fix it.



**I believe,  
I give**

**Share  
Lent**  **CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR  
Development  
and Peace**  
1 888 234-8533  
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## THEO-TIDBITS



Bishop Gerry is concluding his series on Pope Benedict's encyclical this Monday, February 25 at 7 pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room (downstairs).

Our next Theo-Tidbits series is entitled the Spirituality of Gardening and will take place on Thursday March 6 and Thursday March 13, both evenings at 7 pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room.

## 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.



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

"Is the Lord in our midst, or not?" This question from today's first reading was one of seemingly endless protests by those who followed Moses into the desert.

Just as it was for the Israelites wandering in the desert, so it is for Christian stewards today who confront those interior struggles that come with living a life of faith.

We must remember to exercise good stewardship of our prayer life; to take time to pray, and to ask the Lord for spiritual nourishment and the wisdom to know that the Lord is in our midst.

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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?? NATURALIST INTELLIGENCE—NATURE 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 last few issues of the *Grrapevine*, we have taken a look at the different multiple intelligences and drawn connections with different prayer styles. This is our last installment in this series!

Those who have a strong naturalist intelligence (nature smart) have a profound love for the outdoors, animals, plants and almost any natural object. They are fascinated by and noticeably affected by such things as the weather, changing leaves in the fall, the sound of the wind or the warmth of the sun. They have an affinity with and respect for all living beings. They like to be outside, with animals, geography and weather, interacting with the surroundings.

Those who have a strong naturalist intelligence will enjoy prayer forms that take them outside. A walk in the woods or along the river feeds their spirit and leads them to a closer relationship with the creator God. Prayer walking or prayerful reflection while gardening might appeal to those who are nature smart.

Those of us who are not strong in the naturalist 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: GODPARENT

Now is a good time to recall our own godparents and all those whose godparents we are, and to let them know that we are thinking of them. A call or a note is always welcome, and who wouldn't like knowing that the role they played on that happy day is still remembered fondly? If our godparents or godchildren are no longer living, we can remember to pray for them each day, on the anniversaries of their deaths or baptisms, or on the anniversary of our baptisms.

Promise yourself that you'll recall your godchild's baptismal anniversary with a card, or a "patron saint" present, or a water toy (even if he or she isn't a kid anymore). Celebrate your own baptismal date with a candle and a call to your godparents; maybe you could even wear something white or particularly festive. Put a pretty bowl of water in the center of the dinner table, and float a flower in it. Tell your spouse and your children about your godparents. On your children's baptismal date, tell them about their baptism, and about what their names mean. Do the same for your godchildren.

A special bond is formed between godparent and godchild at baptism. It is a good thing to celebrate.

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**THE TRIDUUM:  
THREE DAYS OF EASTER  
VIDEO SERIES**

The Three Days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are the centre and climax of our Christian year. It all begins on Holy Thursday afternoon and ends on Easter Sunday afternoon.

As we approach this solemn time in our liturgical calendar, we thought it would be good to spend some time preparing. Over the next three Sundays (Mar 2, Mar 9 & Mar 16), we are offering three short videos on the different celebrations of the Triduum.

**Holy Thursday Video—Sunday March 2 at 10 am** in the Conference Room. This 30 minute video explores what we do in the first hours of the Triduum.

**Good Friday Video—Sunday March 9 at 10 am** in the Conference Room. This 30 minute video explores what happens in the afternoon of Good Friday.

**Easter Vigil Video—Sunday March 16 at noon** in the Conference Room. This 60 minute video explores the greatest celebration of our liturgical year. "This is the night", the night spend around a blazing fire, then around a newly-lighted candle, then with the scriptures, from which we proclaim once again the stories of our salvation. Finally, the saints process to the font, where those who have been long preparing renounce evil, profess faith in Christ, and enter the waters. Then they are anointed with chrism and join the rest of the joyful assembly in eucharist.

**GREENING THE PARISH**

Practise the 5Rs - Reverence, reduce, repair, reuse and recycle as much as possible in your Church:

- REVERENCE for all Creation.
- REDUCE the amount of waste that is produced by your Church by purchasing carefully, including buying only what you really need, buying durable long-lasting products and buying products with no (or only minimal) packaging.
- REPAIR items that no longer work, rather than throwing them away and buying new ones.
- REUSE as much as possible including paper, jars and cans, cardboard boxes, paper and plastic bags, paper clips, string, etc. Some items can be given to the Sunday School for craft and art projects.
- RECYCLE unwanted items that cannot be repaired or reused. Clothing, appliances, books, magazines and many other items can be passed on to others who use them.

**LETTER FROM BISHOP GERRY**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I have a very short but important message for you today concerning the work of Development and Peace for the poor of Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Development and Peace stands for the poor in two ways: 1) By raising money through Share Lent for community projects in the Global South, and, 2) By doing educational work on global issues here at home. As part of Caritas International and with other partners, Development and Peace also plays a key role in providing emergency relief after disasters such as the 2005 tsunami in South East Asia.

The theme for this year's Share Lent campaign is "I believe: I give": Our belief is that justice and international solidarity leads us to pray, to act and to give. Today the gap between rich and poor nations grows even more huge and harmful, while warfare rather than peace is the tragic norm in many parts of the world. Two billion poor people in Asia, Africa and Latin America - a full one third of humanity - do not have the health programs, the educational opportunities, the housing or the clean water to which they are entitled as God's people.

But there is hope for the poor of the world and Development and Peace helps give us that hope. For example, in Sierra Leone, West Africa, an organization called the Network Movement for Justice and Development has worked with local groups and churches in 90 communities to carry out development projects in parts of the country that were devastated by civil war and by the diamond mining and smuggling that fuelled that war. This partner of Development and Peace also works to involve more women, young people and other marginalized groups in local decision making. When we support Development and Peace through our donations on Solidarity Sunday we support hundreds of partner groups like the Network Movement for Justice and Development who work tirelessly to improve the lives of the poorest of the poor. The need is enormous but we can be assured that our donations will make a difference, sometimes the difference between life and death.

In the past the people of this diocese have responded very generously to appeals for solidarity and for financial support for the poor of this world. I support the work for justice being done by Development and Peace overseas and in Canada. I urge you to pay close attention to the message from Development and Peace that will be presented during Lent, and please give as generously as you can when the Share Lent collection is taken up in your parish.

+ Gerald Wisner, mi