



THE GRRRAPEVINE

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

Number 64

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 4, 2008

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Although popular devotion to Joseph, husband of Mary, may have begun in the West as early as the 8th century, it was not until the 15th century that his name was entered into the Church calendar. Since that time, devotion to Joseph has been marked by growing enthusiasm and, in 1955, Pope Pius XII proclaimed a second feast day in his honour: May 1, Labour Day in many countries. A carpenter, Joseph exemplifies working people who are dignified by their labour and bring Christ into the work-place.

As we celebrate the Feast of Joseph the worker, we are reminded that all of us contribute to the life of the world and our communities through our work, and that our work is also the primary place where we can and do give witness to our faith.

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.



3rd ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 17
8:00 to 11:00 am

St. Mary's Church Parking Lot

Welcome to our third annual sale for St. Vincent de Paul. We would be delighted to accept donations of plants for the sale, as well as to sell you lots of plants.

Plant donations can be dropped off at the gym Friday from 4:30 - 6:00 pm or in the morning, from 6:30 am on.

Donations of muffins, cookies or other baking for the coffee table can be dropped off Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Baking donations get you a plant coupon!

Volunteers are needed:

6:30 - 8:00 am for set up

8:00 - 11:00 am to assist shoppers, to work as cashiers, etc.

11:00 - 11:30 am to clean up

Call the rectory if you can help - this will help us plan.



WHY DO YOU STAND LOOKING UP TOWARD HEAVEN?

This question is addressed to the disciples as they gaze after Jesus, who has returned to the Father. The question could have several meanings and responses. For us, 2000 years after the event, the question could be a call to action (as it could have been for the disciples). Just before leaving the disciples, Jesus commissioned them to be his witnesses. In a very real sense, they are now to get about their business of proclaiming the Gospel to all people. Standing around, missing the Lord, wishing he was there, hoping to get a glimpse of him will not fulfill the mission they had been given. The mission is for all of us who are baptized. We are not to stand around gazing at the heavens, but are to be about the Lord's work.

In Matthew's Gospel there is a short phrase that is very important for us as we contemplate the mission that Jesus has given us. When the disciples saw Jesus, Matthew says that they fell down before him. We would expect the eleven to acknowledge Jesus as Lord. However, Matthew adds the phrase "but some doubted" (some translations use the word hesitated). Those who doubted, who had questions or qualms, also acknowledged Jesus, but probably relied on the faith and response of the other disciples to help them in their response. So it is with us. We are all called to continue the mission of Jesus. We can feel inadequate, inferior, lacking in faith or talents, etc. However, we have been called. Jesus gave us the community of faith for a reason - to help us live out our mission. We encourage each other, support each other through prayer and presence, we respond together to the Lord's call. We do not have to do it on our own. We fulfill the mission together.

Now is the time to stop looking toward heaven and get on with our mission, but to do it together, as a community, with the support and encouragement of one another.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: It has been a busy time since the last GRRRAPE-VINE. The trip to Alberta went well, except for the blizzards I drove through in the south. It was good to spend a couple of days at home with my family. This weekend I am in McBride, and then on Tuesday morning I leave for Toronto for meetings. I will return on Friday to be here to celebrate Confirmation and First Communion on Saturday. As the May long weekend approaches, there is transplanting to be done for the sale, and other projects to get ready for the gardening season and to have all ready for the warm, summer weather! All in all, life is good.

Giselle: These last couple of weeks have been quite busy! Sacramental preparation, baptism preparation, book discussion and Theo-Tidbits have all been on the go. Last weekend, I was in Terrace visiting my mom for her birthday. This weekend, I am in a tiny place call Manigotagan, about 2 hours north of Winnipeg. This is another intense week of training for Returning to Spirit, specifically for the Seminar Series that Sr. Tarianne, Sr. Jean Marie and I are delivering here in the Diocese. I get back on May 7, am here for a few days, just long enough to attend the Confirmation & First Communion celebrations, and then it's off to Winnipeg again, this time to deliver an RTS Workshop. After I get back from that (!), I'll be taking a week off for some camping and fun!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the April financial statement.

Bank Balance:	2053.02
DDF Balance:	159636.77
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>2943.86</u>
Total Assets	164633.65

INCOME

Donations	14949.50
Fees	390.00
Programs	40.00
Other	330.00
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3750.00</u>
Total Income	19459.50

EXPENSES

Aministration	11532.09
Programs	42.03
Operation/Maint.	4228.82
<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>3190.28</u>
Total Expense	18993.22

Net Income 466.28

This month's financial statement looks a little more like other months, as there were no large special collections, The expenses for rental operations included the painting of an apartment in preparation for rental as well as some other routine maintenance.

Once again, thank you to all the parishioners for your generous response in providing for our financial needs.

GREENING THE PARISH

Use green materials: Some paper use can't be avoided, so use recycled paper and envelopes that have been processed and coloured using eco-friendly methods. Pens and pencils can also be made of recycled materials, and refillable pens and markers are preferable to disposable ones. Use biodegradable soaps and recycled paper or cloth towels in the bathroom and kitchen, and provide biodegradable cleaners for the custodial staff. Buy in bulk so that shipping and packaging waste are reduced, and reuse the shipping boxes. Recycling printer cartridges is often free, and recycled replacements are cheaper than new ones.



Bicycle Benefits is a progressive bicycling program designed to reward individuals and businesses for their commitment to cleaner air, personal health, and the use of pedaling energy in order to create a more sustainable community.

The program's continual growth decreases parking demand, increases helmet use, and improves cyclists' safety and health by putting more people on bikes.

Cyclists purchase a helmet sticker (\$5) from one of the participating business sponsors. This sticker then gives them discounts on various in-store products! Here in PG, the following business support BicycleBenefits (so far)!

Ave Maria
Cycle Logic
Northern Cycle & Sport
Pizzarico's
Sassafras Savories
Stride & Glide Sports
The Waddling Duck
Wasabi Sushi & Wonton House
The Chinese Store

Ride your bike downtown! Save on parking! Don't contribute to pollution. Practice stewardship of creation. Exercise and contribute to your health! Plus get discounts!

It's a great way to contribute to the health and well-being of our local PG community. Think about it when you go down to the Farmer's Market on weekends! For more info visit their website: www.bicyclebenefits.org

May 12-16 is:
National Bike Week

REJOICING AND
REMEMBERING

We welcomed the following in
the Sacrament of Baptism:

Desmond Tom
Neuvaeh Kerfont
Dylan West
Ava Comba
Alejandro Perez
Ronnie Dela Cruz Jr.
Naledi Mphafi
Logan Schroeder
Emily Schroeder
Wakeisha Fox Wesley
Victoria Alexander
Sandra Alexander
Sariah Alexander
Deon Patrick
Tommie George
Calum Bester
Jacob Bester
Miranda Bester
Kelly-Ann Pighin
Haven Dunphy
Quinn Dunphy

We rejoice as the following
were united in the Sacrament
of Matrimony:

Glenn Philip Gomes &
Katherine M. Jakeway

In the hope of the resurrec-
tion, we bid farewell to:

Cindy Anita Abou
Adriano Masin
Mary Pfliger

ANNIVERSARY MASS

Our next Anniversary Mass
celebration will take place on
Saturday, May 24 at the 7:00
pm Mass. We invite all cou-
ples who are celebrating anni-
versaries in the months of
April, May & June to attend.
Refreshments and goodies
will be served afterwards in
the Conference Room! This is
a great way to meet parish-
ioners who normally go to
other Mass times!

NATIONAL FAIR TRADE WEEK—MAY 4 TO 10

Trade

Trade means buying and selling. We are all involved in trade locally by shopping and working in stores. We also participate in trade internationally. Canada buys goods grown and produced around the world to supply our demands. There is more to trade than meets the eye. The processes that products go through before they reach our country, let alone our store shelves, can have a damaging effect on people and the environment.

Trade has the potential to lift millions of people out of poverty. However, at the moment, trade is unfair. "Many people around the world, even entire countries, have been forced to give up hope in employment as a means to development and empowerment. Trade regulations are at the root of the problem.

Trade regulations control how countries do business with each other. The purpose of the rules is to ensure that countries compete openly and fairly. However, the rules themselves are often unfair, negotiated in favour of the wealthiest countries and their business interests.

The World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the main international organization that controls how trade operates. There are WTO rules for almost everything, including goods (e.g. rice or textiles), services (e.g. health or education), and patents (e.g. on HIV and AIDS drugs). There are 150 member countries in the WTO, including Canada. These countries agree on the trade rules through processes of negotiations. Critics often point out that the wealthy member countries, of which Canada is one, are very influential and operate in ways that are unfair, unjust and destructive.

Regional Trade Negotiations

Trade agreements made between two countries or regions are called bilateral or regional trade rules. Regional trade rules are often negotiated in secret where they cannot be scrutinized by parliaments or local people. Canada, for example, is negotiating a Canada-Central America Free Trade Agreement behind closed doors. The danger of these rules is that poor countries are forced to make compromises that are not good for their economies.

Changing the trade rules

The only way to reform unfair trade is to change the rules. No matter how hard people in the developing world work, they will always come up against an unfair system unless it changes.

TransFair Canada and fair trade

Fair trade is an international system of doing business based on dialogue, transparency and respect. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions for producers and workers in developing countries, including:

- Fair compensation for their products and labour;
- Sustainable environmental practices;
- Improved social services; and
- Investment in local economic infrastructure.

Fair trade products always carry the "Fair Trade Certified" logo. The logo ensures that farmers grow their crops sustainably and receive a fair and stable price for their products. TransFair Canada is the Canadian affiliate of Fairtrade Labelling Organizations (FLO) that works with 49 developing countries to certify fair trade products. Look for the Fair Trade logo.

EVERYDAY APPROACHES TO CARE FOR CREATION

SIMPLE STEPS FOR THE HOME

1. Recycle – everything from traditional recyclables, like old newspapers and used beverage containers, to high-tech ones, such as printer cartridges and cell phones. Extensive recycling programs mean that the amount of energy needed to recycle an already-processed article into something new is far less than the energy required to mine or log all new materials and then process them for the first time. Buying products that are recyclable and contain post-consumer materials also helps save energy.
2. Wash clothes in cold water. Not only will cold water help remove stains, but the energy savings will help lower both your energy bill and your emissions.
3. Use reusable containers and utensils for leftovers and bring-your own lunches. Plastics production uses lots of energy, so sticking to containers that you can reuse again and again will reduce emissions and actually be cheaper for you.
4. Fix or replace leaky pipes, heaters, generators, and appliances. When not functioning properly, these items can use large amounts of energy and increase your already-pricey power bill.
5. Consider replacing incandescent light bulbs with more energy efficient ones. New technology means that ugly, glaring fluorescent bulbs are a thing of the past, and new fixtures are up to 66% more efficient and last thousands of hours more than incandescents. Also, just by replacing the five light sources you use most with more efficient ones, you could save \$60 in energy costs.
6. Buy local. Today, the average meal travels 1,500 miles from farm to table, a trip that can produce tremendous amounts of fossil fuel use from packaging and transportation in diesel-run vehicles. Buying local, seasonable foods for your family means that you enjoy healthier, riper, more environmentally-friendly foods and that you help support your local farm community.
7. Carpool – when you drive, share rides with your family, friends, and neighbors. Not only does carpooling decrease the amount of emissions from private vehicle transportation, but you also face less stressful traffic on the roads and pay less money for gas.
8. Take a walk. Instead of driving to the local post office or grocery store, or across the parking lot, stretch your legs and walk there. Although it might take a few minutes longer, you'll get great exercise, save gas, and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Eat your vegetables. While getting a sufficient amount of protein is important, cutting back even slightly on meat consumption will help decrease the greenhouse gas emissions used in its production. Meat production is an

energy-intensive process; large quantities of energy are required to cultivate, harvest, and ship animal feed, to transport animals to slaughterhouses, to slaughter animals, to process and package meat, to refrigerate meat, and to transport meat to stores. Also, many who live in poverty, especially in the Third World, almost never consume meat because it is too expensive, so by cutting back on our consumption, we can stand in solidarity with our impoverished brothers and sisters.

10. Plant a tree. Planting a tree in your backyard or neighborhood can provide shade, a playground, fruit, and a sense of community, as well as acting as a carbon “sink,” which means that it absorbs carbon. Just one tree can absorb thirteen pounds of CO₂ per year, and an acre of forest will sequester, or take in, about 2.5 tons of CO₂ annually, which can make a big difference. (http://www.treelink.org/docs/29_reasons.phtml)

SIMPLE STEPS FOR MY PARISH

Suggest to the responsible parties (i.e. pastor, facility manager, administrator), the following for consideration:

1. Use more efficient and area-appropriate lighting. Many new types of lighting are available that use up to 75% less energy than the traditional incandescent light bulb and that can help light each area of your parish the best. New lighting styles save energy, money, and time, and can add to the mood of each part of the parish.
2. Conduct an energy audit of your church, and identify ways to reduce energy use.
3. Incorporate climate awareness into your volunteer efforts by organizing farmers markets and local goods bazaars, educating inner-city youth about climate change, collecting cans and bottles in an area that does not have curbside recycling service, or planting a community garden.
4. Focus on no-cost or low-cost opportunities to save on your parish's energy bill, such as adjusting the thermostat during unoccupied times, using e-mail alerts instead of paper memos or bulletins, installing timers on electric water heaters and similar equipment, installing awnings or shades to block the hot summer sun and keep the church cooler, and caulking and weather-stripping doors to keep the bought air in. These are among many easy ways to lower the utility costs of your parish while exhibiting stewardship.
5. Educate parishioners about the easy ways to save on energy costs and the many reasons we are called to do so. As stewards of creation, we should consider the simple things that we can do, such as reducing our energy use and dependence on fossil fuels, to help safeguard our climate and our brothers and sisters in Christ.