

THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 66

9th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

June 1, 2008

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Jesus said: "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven..." This teaching near the end of his famous "Sermon on the Mount" reminds us that discipleship in the Lord requires more than just going to Mass. It means putting the Eucharist into action in our daily lives. Christian stewardship involves making those day-to-day decisions to make the "Good News" of Jesus Christ come alive. What will we do this week it come alive?

LOCAL FOOD GUIDE

We are working on revising a local food guide that was published last year by the Food in the City Task Force.

Eating local is one of the ways in which we can reduce carbon emissions, thereby slowing climate change. The average meal has traveled 3000 km to be on your dinner table tonight! And yet, here in the greater PG area, we have access to locally grown beef, pork, chicken, lamb, duck, bison, llama, rabbits and ostrich. As well, there are vegetables of all kinds, herbs, fruit, breads, jams and honey.

We hope to include the local food directory within the bulletin or Grrapevine in the next couple of weeks. Stay tuned!

HOSPITAL MINISTRY PROTOCOL

Rooted in a desire to provide a compassionate and an efficient ministerial presence, the hospital chaplains, pastoral assistants, pastoral life directors, and parish priests of the central region ask for your cooperation with the following "Hospital Ministry Protocol":

- (1) Parishioners are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in their parish community before entering the hospital (i.e. this can be arranged by speaking with your parish priest);
- (2) Family members or friends are asked to contact the Nursing Station (or, in the case of the Hospice Home, one of the nurses) when a priest/hospital chaplain is needed due to an emergency situation (e.g. serious psychological or physical illness; someone near death; etc). The nurse will arrange for the pastoral visit through the Hospital Switchboard Attendant. This way, a duplication of calls can be avoided and the chaplain or priest-on-call can be informed of the situation(s) that need attention. Please, do not call the parish office or leave messages on voice mails or answering machines in emergency situations. Ask the Nursing Station to make the call.
- (3) If a patient would like to receive Communion and/or have a ministerial visit with a priest/chaplain in a non-emergency situation, they can express this desire to Sr. Beverly Bobola, O.P. (our on-site Hospital Chaplain) OR a family member/friend can call the parish office and the parish secretary will pass on the message to Sr. Beverly.

Thank you for your cooperation with this protocol! We hope that it will best serve the needs of our city and region!



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.

BIKE/STROLLER PARKING

We are happy to offer FREE bike and stroller parking at the weekend Masses. Sorry, no valet service! The gym will be open before and after the Masses for you to park your bike and/or stroller. During Mass, the accordion gate will be locked for security. We encourage you to ride your bike or walk your stroller to Mass!



COMMUTER CHALLENGE

How did you come to church this weekend? Walking? Biking? Carpooling? Public Transit? Sharing a taxi with other seniors? We encourage you to sign up at the back of the church for the commuter challenge! Thanks for caring about the environment!

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The past couple of weeks have been busy catching up with parish and diocesan office work and meetings. As I continue to meet with people in the parish, I notice a lot of enthusiasm for involvement in parish life. It is wonderful to experience that enthusiasm, one example of which is that we have five nominations for Parish Pastoral Council so far. This is good news indeed!

On Sunday I will leave for Fort Ware after Mass, and will return on Friday afternoon. Then we will be heading into the last weeks of school and the beginning of the summer break. I look forward to a bit of gardening and just enjoying the outdoors when I return from Fort Ware. Here's hoping!

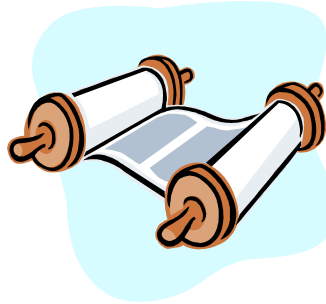
Giselle: I'm off to Calgary this weekend for an intense week of RTS workshop training. I'm hoping the weather there has improved over the last couple of weeks when it was cold and wet!

It's great to have Sr. Jude on board and we are looking forward to having another team member to create some wonderful new ideas for our parish.

As the school year winds down, most of the programs have ceased as well, and it's almost time to begin looking ahead to the fall. Any ideas or suggestions out there!? You know we'd love to hear from you...

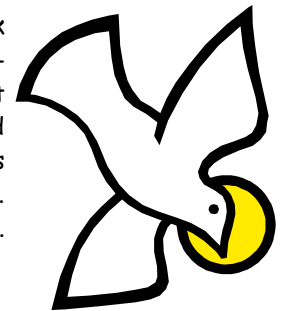
And of course, hiking and berry season is almost upon us...

LAW AND SPIRIT



This weekend, we have Moses and Jesus teaching from the mountain: Moses urges the community of Israel to respond to God's call and to sincerely keep the commandments that God has given. Moses sets before them "a blessing and a curse", and they are to choose which one they want. The blessing comes from "diligently observing all the statutes and ordinances" of the Lord. It is the Law that becomes paramount in Israel and in the extreme, becomes a good on its own, quite divorced from a loving, personal relationship with God.

Jesus warns that simply following the Law or pronouncing his title is not enough to have the life that he came to bring. Rather, he reminds us that we are to be in an ongoing relationship with him and seek to put his words into action in our lives. That does not mean a slavish, unthinking following of laws or commandments, but rather a new way of responding to the work of the Spirit within us. We are to listen to Jesus' words, reflect on them, understand their underlying meaning, reflect on how we are called to live that out in our daily lives, and then put it into practice. It is a lot more work, but Jesus reminds us that it is this living out of his word that gives life. Rigid adherence to the letter of the law does not give life. We are to choose the kind of response we give to his word.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the May financial statement.

Bank Balance:	1353.48
DDF Balance:	147810.94
Accts Receivable:	2464.19
Total Assets	151628.61

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	15209.00	Administration	18627.42
Fees	150.00	Programs	691.61
Programs	2480.98	Operation/Maint.	14750.74
Other	778.17		
Rentals	4530.00	Rental Operation	2083.42
Total Income	19459.50	Total Expense	36153.19
		Net Income	-13005.04

While we show a very high loss in the net income for the month, we did not spend money we did not have! We transferred money from our DDF (savings) account to the chequing account to pay for a vehicle for Sr. Jude to use in her ministry. The vehicle purchase shows in the Administration expense, which explains the high amount there. In our normal operations, we are doing very well - paying all the bills each month with some money left over to start the next month. A good position to be in. Now, we would like to start putting some money back into our savings account each month for future major expenses.

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



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

JUNE IS BICYCLE MONTH!

FOOD PRICES HERE TO STAY: EXPERTS

As protests over rising food costs spread around the globe, experts warn that high prices are here to stay, and Catholic bishops are calling for governments to take emergency measures to keep their poorest citizens from going hungry.

Already this year, demonstrations linked to spiraling food prices have struck more than a dozen countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Protests forced Haitian Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis out of office April 12, and demonstrators have been killed in Cameroon, Peru and Mozambique.

The price increases are fuelled by a variety of factors that "are all coming together at once," said Lisa Kuennen, director of the public resource group at Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

Drought last year in Australia and Canada pushed wheat prices up, while flooding destroyed crops in various countries, she said. High oil prices have increased the price of petroleum-based fertilizers and increased transportation costs.

The rising standard of living in China and India has led to increased demand for luxury foods such as meat and milk, driving up demand for grain.

Part of the blame for rising prices is falling on increasing use of biofuels such as ethanol made from corn or diesel fuel made from vegetable oils.

Price increases hit poor countries and their poorest citizens hardest.

The price of tortillas, a staple food in such countries as Guatemala and Mexico, has risen one-third to one-half in the past few months, forcing some workers to spend one-third of their earnings on tortillas. Africa has been hit hard by rising prices.

The scope of the food crisis is putting an extra strain on aid organizations. The UN World Food Program had budgeted \$2.9 billion this year to aid some 70 million people this year. By April that figure had grown to \$755 million.

Great Britain has pledged an additional \$900 million in assistance to the World Food Program, and the U.S. government has decided to release \$200 million of its emergency food aid reserve. Aid workers say it is important to allocate money to rebuild the reserve as soon as possible. Between 2001 and 2006 the U.S. government donated an average of 4.4 million tons of food a year to needy countries.

Some countries have begun providing food subsidies, and many have limited exports of certain staples. China has blocked rice and maize exports, while India has stopped exporting milk powder and Bolivia has banned the export of vegetable oil.

(B.C. Catholic—May 5, 2008, page 9)



GREENING THE PARISH

...people everywhere are coming to understand that we cannot continue to use the goods of the earth as we have in the past.

—John Paul II, *The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility*

Green sleeves: You might be amazed how sharp work clothes from thrift stores can look. If you buy new, get clothes made with organic or recycled fibres. Avoid clothes that need to be dry cleaned, and if they so demand it, seek out your local "green" dry cleaner. Consider clothing made from hemp fibre, the strongest naturally occurring fibre known.

TEN THINGS TEENS WISH PARENTS KNEW, BUT WON'T TELL THEM

Read the list and hear your youngster's voice.

10. I have a deep desire for a sense of mystery—Please don't spoil life for me by telling me everything that you have learned unless it seriously impinges on my safety or well being. I really want to explore the mysterious unknown and learn some things for myself.

9. I love Adventure—This is why I've seen Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings and Chronicles of Narnia twice. These movies offer me the opportunity to explore the unknown. I'd rather do this for myself, but will settle for the movie version.

8. I love My Friends—I know that you may not like all, if any, of my friends, but I love them and, really, I need them. They often provide for me a sense of security and validation that I am only finding in them. I understand that you will want to caution me about them, but when you do, just remember that you are cautioning me about someone whom I rely upon dearly.

7. I need You—You think that because I push you away that I don't want you around when nothing could be further from the truth. The fact of the matter is that I desperately want a *meaningful* relationship with you. I have plenty of friends and don't need you to be my friend. I want you to be my mentor, parent and leader.

6. I am deeply spiritual—I want to hear about matters of faith, doctrine and religion, but please present them to me in a manner keeping with my need for acceptance, and understand my desire to be extremely private about my faith life.

5. I really want to be more than sitcom and reality TV

tells me I'm destined for—I have dreams, hopes and aspirations. I also have goals! I haven't written them down because I'm not quite that Type A. But I want to be somebody who's successful, though I am not at all sure what that means right now. Please don't lower the bar for me or allow me to lower my own standards for who I am or of what I am capable.

4. I want to make an impression—I have a deep pressing need to be unique and to be special to somebody. This is one of the reasons I am preoccupied with having a boyfriend, girlfriend or a best friend. They make me feel special and unique. Even if I am not unique to the world in general, I am special to them.

3. I desperately NEED for you to tell me you are proud of me!—I work so hard to please you and do what it is you ask, often hoping that it will merit for me some more of your time. I know you are busy trying to earn a living for our family, but I need to hear you say that you are proud of me. Am I on the right track? If so, please tell me, because I mostly feel like I am wandering and floundering.

2. I want to make a contribution—This is why I am often jumping at any opportunity to serve and give to the less fortunate. Even though I don't say it enough, I am grateful for everything you have done for me. The way I show that is through serving others.

1. I love you!!!—This is the hardest thing in the world for me to say to you, which is why I hardly say it enough. Thank you for loving me and giving me life.

(Western Catholic Reporter—May 19, 2008, page 19.)

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORD

1. The wonder of its formation—the way in which it grew is one of the mysteries of time.
2. The wonder of its unification—a library of books, yet one book.
3. The wonder of its age—most ancient of all books.
4. The wonder of its sale—bestseller of any book.
5. The wonder of its interest—only book in the world read by all classes.
6. The wonder of its language—written largely by uneducated men, yet the best from a literary standpoint.
7. The wonder of its preservation—the most hated of all books, yet it continues to exist.
The word of our God shall stand forever.

Anonymous

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

On Thursday, June 5, at 2 pm, we will be celebrating an Anointing Mass at St. Mary's. During this celebration, those who wish may celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick, or of Anointing.

There is still an understanding by some that the Sacrament of the Sick is to be reserved until death is imminent. The Second Vatican Council reiterated the teaching that the sacrament is for all the sick, a teaching which comes from the earliest tradition of the Church.

This sacrament is not just for those who are dying, but is to be celebrated with all whose "health is impaired by sickness or old age".

The guidelines state that those preparing for surgery, those whose health is impaired by old age, those who are sick at home or in hospital as well as the dying should celebrate this sacrament. It is meant to be a sacrament of healing, strength and hope.