



THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 69

20th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

August 17, 2008

BAPTISM PREPARATION

All parents asking to have a child baptized are required to take a baptism preparation program in the parish, especially if it is the first child to be baptized. Since we normally hold these sessions every two to three months, please take the time to ensure that you have taken the program before you wish to have the baptism. This may mean doing the preparation before your baby is born, which is a wonderful way to help prepare for the birth of your child!

Our next sessions will be held on **September 8 and 9** at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office meeting room (1088 Gillett Street). Please call ahead to register (250-564-4097) if you are planning to attend; this helps us in our planning as well.

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!



INVITATIONS

The word "evangelization" is not terribly familiar to us as Catholics and many seem to somewhat intimidated by it. I think that may be because we associate it with going door to door trying to sell our brand of Christianity to people who are quite satisfied with their own.

The Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* calls evangelization "the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life." The document goes on to say that this is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.

The teaching of the Church, especially the document, *On Evangelization in the Modern World* reminds us that "...evangelizing ...constitutes the essential mission of the Church...the Church exists in order to evangelize." (no.14) ...the work of evangelization is a basic duty of the people of God" (no.59)

This mission to evangelize and the corresponding grace of the Spirit are sealed and confirmed in the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Since most of us experience Church in our parish communities this is where we are called to continue the mission of Jesus. We are all called to create an evangelizing environment that welcomes and sustains an active and vital faith community. Each local faith community exists to continue the mission of Jesus: the proclamation of the Good News and the building of Reign of God. **Each fully initiated member is called and gifted for this mission.**

A hallmark of Christian stewardship is hospitality: welcoming, being inclusive, and making time for others. This is the demand of the Lord in all three of today's readings; whether those others are "foreigners", "Gentiles", "Jews", or a "Canaanite woman." There is a temptation to exclude others who are not of our faith, race, economic status or political persuasion. As Christ's stewards, how are we at welcoming others, offering kindness and being inclusive? Do we treat people as "insiders" or "outsiders"?

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, Sr. Jude or Giselle after Mass. We'd love to meet you and get the chance to know you.

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed new members into our community through the sacrament of Baptism:

- Evan Jensen
- Jonathon Delorme
- Tristan McCallister-Murrin

We rejoiced in the celebration of Marriage:

- Dallas Schmelzel & Chelsea Roberts
- Adam Ethier & Myrica Heard
- Timothy Woolnough & Bonnie Ollenberger
- Aaron Tkachuk & Jennifer Rubadeau
- Antonio Stancati & Michelle Lawrence

In peace and the sure hope of the Resurrection, we bid farewell to:

- Mabel McInnes
- Eva Bird
- Robert Davidson
- Lucienne Collin
- Valentino Tomasino

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The weeks have whizzed by—it is hard to believe that we are past the middle of August already. This weekend I am in Smithers and next Sunday I am off to Fort Ware after the Masses here.

Giselle: Hi! I am still alive, in Dauphin, MB this past week, leading a Returning to Spirit workshop. Since early July, I've been in Calgary, working on preparing the RTS financial files for an audit. I had hoped for some holidays, but none seem forthcoming at the moment! I am looking forward to being back in PG around Aug 24... maybe in time for some berry picking. I can only imagine at the fall parish activities that Richard and Jude have been concocting while I've been away...

Jude: Having had a wonderful holiday in Michigan gave me a chance to visit family and friends and take in a Scripture course at our Motherhouse in Adrian. The visiting was especially good because most of my family was able to come together from across the country as we had a memorial service for my last aunt who had died in the spring. But I am very happy to be back and looking forward to the fall activities. One, I particularly look forward to may not occur as we have not heard of anyone who may be interested in the RCIA. Many candidates have shared in other years that they thought about it for a long time but no one ever invited them. If you know someone who may be interested, don't hesitate to invite them.

STEWARDS: GOD'S AMBASSADORS OF LOVE

When we read, watch or listen to the daily news broadcasts we are bombarded by their seeming obsession with negative news. Stories about war, crime, motor vehicle accidents, economic crises, substance abuse, and loss of human lives due to an abundance of violence of all kinds can have a numbing effect on us. And the temptation to descend into a slow-motion cynicism appears all too great. However, it is especially during these times that we should be mindful of the positive events that take place in the world every day; those events large and small that won't get the media's attention, but are important to understanding God's love in the world. These events are enacted daily by Christian stewards: God's ambassadors of love.

Let me refer to a personal experience. Due to a fall in my home earlier this year, I was at risk of losing the sight in my left eye. From the moment my injury occurred and soon thereafter when they were apprised of my situation, family, friends, professional colleagues and neighbors provided assistance and ongoing support from the time of my immediate need for medical attention, throughout the time of my eye surgery and continuing through my recovery period. Their collective love and care for me at different moments and circumstances during these times was priceless and taught me much about God's loving presence.

At this moment, neighbors are helping neighbors, strangers are being fed, conflicts are being solved, people are offering words of kindness, support and compassion to those who are most in need. When we do our best for others in God's name, when we promote His love in our family, our neighborhood, our community, and our world, we are ambassadors of His love. Let's make this effort daily, from the time we wake up in the morning until the last minute of the day for "...the Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

Thanks to Marylu Vazquez of the Archdiocese of Monterrey, Mexico for the contribution

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the July financial statement:

Bank Balance:	247.35
DDF Balance:	147308.11
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>-889.16</u>
Total Assets	146666.30

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	1694.27	Aministration	14036.29
Fees	790.00	Programs	78.85
Programs		Operation/Maint.	4910.55
	Other		683.38
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>4390.00</u>	<u>Rental Operation</u>	<u>2217.71</u>
Total Income	17622.65	Total Expense	21243.40
		Net Income	-3620.75

The new year seems to be off to a slow start financially. However, our expenses overall were pretty close to budget, and with a carried over balance from June and a refund on salary expense, we managed quite well.

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

*** **Evergreen Pharmacy**
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

STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION: THE RENEWAL OF OUR MINDS

The Sunday newspapers are filled with back-to-school sales ads. School principals and teachers are preparing their schedules, curricula and classrooms. Practice for fall sports has already begun and new students are going through requisite orientations. As the anticipation for the new school year begins, it seems fitting to reflect on the discipline of Christian stewardship as it relates to education.

Education is a life long activity, which begins at birth and continues until a person passes on to the Lord. It is so important to the development of an individual and society that it is cherished and fostered in every age and culture. Education can be formal or informal; for the very young and for society's matriarchs and patriarchs; and for all whose minds continuously react to personal needs, societal expectations, material circumstances, and ever changing political and economic realities.

For the Christian steward, the acquisition of knowledge and problem-solving skills, however, is not an end in itself. The good steward recognizes that we have been given stewardship of the earth and have a responsibility to make the world a better place. Knowledge and skills must be put to work to create practical solutions for human challenges.

In one's own prayerful discernment, some stewardship questions at this time of year might include:

For students: Do I take my studies seriously? Am I living up to my potential? Do I live and actively give witness to my Catholic faith at school?

For parents and others entrusted with the care of students: As the primary educators, are we inspiring a life-long passion for learning? Are we cultivating a sense of hard work and good study habits? Are we helping our charges not only to achieve in the classroom, but to grow in their faith?

For Catholics who are educators: Are we doing the best we can to help our students reach their God-given potential? Are we helping them to become responsible, productive citizens? Do we give witness to our own Christ-centered values in the learning process so that these values will be a part of their own journey of faith?

During his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI had much to say about the relationship between education and our responsibility to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. Education concerns itself with the continued renewal of our minds. Our Holy Father urges us to use this ongoing renewal to grow in faith. For good stewards, education is a profound way by which we learn to do good, seek justice, relieve the oppressed and draw people of all ages into communion with God and each other (cf. *Isaiah 1:17*).

POPE'S QUESTIONS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

"Dear young people,

Let me now ask you a question.

What will you leave to the next generation?

Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure?

Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects Him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom?

How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?

What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come?

What difference will you make?"

- Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day, Sydney, Australia July 20, 2008

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA

In 1908, Catholic Missions In Canada was established under papal mandate at The Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada to provide financial and spiritual support to Catholic missionaries - priests, sisters, brothers and lay people - whose lives were dedicated to proclaiming the blessings of the Catholic faith throughout the poorest dioceses in the Dominion of Canada.

The aims of our founders were to strengthen the Catholic Church in the Dominion of Canada. In 1908, there was an urgency to provide humanitarian and spiritual care to newly arrived Catholic immigrants pouring into Canada's western provinces.

Our mission today, 100 years later, is to foster and extend the blessing of the Catholic faith throughout the dioceses of Canada which cannot economically support their local church and its ministry.

Catholic Missions in Canada today supports over 600 missionaries in 27 mission dioceses across Canada.

Our missionaries reach over 1.2 million Catholics living in some of the poorest and most remote regions of Canada - from Newfoundland to British Columbia to Nunavut and in First Nations Reserves across the country.

The funding of Catholic Missions in Canada amounts to over \$4million each year in support of 6 critical areas:

- *Missionaries (priests, sisters, deacons, brothers and lay leaders) need funding for their living expenses, their heating bills and their transportation costs;
- *Religious Education programs for both children and adults;
- *Building and repair of churches, rectories and religious centres;
- *Lay pastoral leadership programs that train the faithful to lead others in the celebration of the Catholic faith in the absence of clergy;
- *First Nations Ministry, which allows our First Nations peoples to celebrate their Catholic faith in remote communities;
- *Education of Seminarians to help ensure the future of our faith. In 2007 alone, Catholic Missions in Canada provided a total of \$360,000 to support the education and formation of 40 seminarians across Canada.

We ask you to join us in celebrating 100 years of Missionary work by the Catholic Church in Canada! With your help, we look forward to continuing the sacred work for as long as God's Word remains unknown throughout the dioceses of Canada.

To find out more about the work that Catholic Missions in Canada is doing today, pick up a complimentary package at the back of the church this weekend!

UPCOMING THEO TIDBITS

Just a couple of things to whet your appetite for the fall:

THE SOCIAL TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

Presenter: Sr. Tarianne DeYonker, OP, Dates: November 12, 19 at 7:00 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH: Book Discussion (\$10 fee for book)

Facilitator: Fr. Richard, Dates: October 9, 16, 30, November 6, 20 at 7:00 p.m.

THE CUP OF OUR LIFE Book Discussion using Joyce Rupp's book, reflecting on various aspects of our lives and how we relate to God and God to us.

Facilitator: Sr. Jude Van Baalen, OP Dates: to be announced

AUGUST 15: FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

The feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven is an ancient liturgical feast in the Church, infallibly proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is celebrated in art and in devotional prayer such as the fifth glorious mystery of the rosary. It was proclaimed that the Blessed Virgin Mary, "when the course of her earthly life was finished...was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven." In its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, the Second Vatican Council declared:

The Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort of the pilgrim people of God (n.68).

Mary's assumption into heaven is a sacred sign of what we all hope for when we die as members of the Body of Christ. Mary has gone before us to share in the eternal banquet with the Lord, and continues to pray for us, comfort us and will remain with us when we travel from death into that same eternal life.

While we no longer celebrate the Feast of the Assumption as a holy day of obligation in Canada, it is good for us to reflect on the meaning of this feast in our lives of faith and to celebrate the gift of God's love in our lives.