



THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 72

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 2, 2008

KIDS BUILD THINGS

WHEN: Saturday November 15, 9:30 - 2:00

WHERE: St. Mary's Gym

WHY: for fun and creativity.

We will have a variety of projects that people can work on - various things like napkin rings, door signs, plaques, etc. that can be painted, wreaths of cones and



nuts, candle holders, shelf cats to assemble and paint, photos and card stock to make up your own greeting cards, and who knows what else! Come and see, stay and enjoy. The day is designed to be a relaxing time of building community and expressing our creativity.



We are not doing a sign up - just come whenever, choose a project and work away.

There will be snacks and juice (coffee for us addicted ones) and a simple lunch during noon hour.

*People say,
"What is the sense
of our small effort?"
hey cannot see that we must
lay one brick at a time,
take one step at a time.*

Dorothy Day

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

On October 31, little goblins, ghosts, su-perheroes, and princesses descend upon our doorsteps seeking treats and good-ies. If we think about it, our relationship with God is often similar to the Hal-loween experience. We, like children on Halloween, eagerly come to God's doorstep when we want something. We come to God for blessings, requests of help for ourselves or someone else, for strength in times of trouble, and, most importantly, for the gift of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist at Mass. All of these are available to us if we but knock at God's door. But are we to be merely like chil-dren who continually ask for more with-out ever thinking about God's will for us and the gifts He gives us?



If our relationship with God is based solely on our asking and God giving, we are like the neighborhood children com-ing to our door for candy. There is no relationship. God is always at the door waiting for us to knock. He wants to give us love, joy, faith, and blessings. God is like the neighbor who does not give just one candy bar per child but who dumps a whole handful of candy into each bag. However, unlike candy on Halloween, God's gifts come with a purpose and responsibility. God does not give us His gifts just to keep to ourselves. He gives them to us to be shared, and shared abundantly, with others. With love and generosity the gifts are given so with love and generosity they are to be shared.

Our time, our talents, and our treasure, everything that we are and do, are gifts from God to be shared. As recipients of God's gifts, we are not to use them solely for our own benefit, but use them for the benefit of others, as Jesus instructed us. As we stand at the doorstep of God to receive His gifts, we must receive them graciously, cultivate them responsibly, share them with others in love and jus-tice, and return a fitting portion back to God in gratitude. If we do this, we are no longer just neighborhood children knocking on God's door, but truly His sons and daughters.

ALL OF US TOGETHER

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. St. Paul reminds us often in his letters that through our baptism we are incorporated into the Body of Christ, shar-ing his life, contributing, each in our own way to the life of the body. If any members of the body are not functioning, Paul reminds us, the body doesn't function properly.

As we celebrate these two feasts, we are reminded of those who have gone before us in faith. We reflect on their lives and their faith. As we reflect on the saints, we are given models for Christian living. We see how they lived their faith lives, and we are invited to follow their example. We also reflect on all the other members of the body who have gone before us, those we know and those we don't. Their lives too are models for us. We also pray for them, that they are being welcomed into the heavenly banquet.

In keeping with Paul's understanding of Church we also realize that those who have gone before us are still part of the body, and are intimately connected to us in the Communion of Saints. We are invited to rely on their relationship with us, to seek their intercession and to live our lives in communion with all the saints - living and dead.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The time away in Victoria was refreshing, and it was good to spend time with the priests from across Canada with whom I work in our organization. I will be in McBride this Sunday, which is my original schedule; with Roger here, I also go at least one other weekend during the month now. The road has become even more familiar!

Giselle: This past week I was co-facilitating the RTS Reconciliation workshop. This coming week I am co-facilitating another RTS workshop in Victoria. Then I'll be home for a few weeks!

Jude:Over the last week, I was involved with many "church people" in a workshop called *Returning to Spirit*. It is a process of reconciliation between the Church and our First Nation brothers and sisters. Though I am the veteran of many, many workshops over the years this was the most powerful and practical of any of them. I would recommend it to anyone interested in *Becoming Churchin* the truest sense.

Roger: I have spent a few days in Smithers this last weekend to replace Fr. Rectorino Tolentino as he was here for meetings. Even though the fall colors are going it was a nice drive. Its nice to see a small group of people dedicated to see their parish blossom as in Smithers and Houston. I look forward to working with the RCIA people. This is likely the best method of faith education we have to offer in the church.

HOLDING CANADIAN MINING TO ACCOUNT!



Yes, it's that time of year again. Time for Development and Peace's Fall Action Campaign. If your memory is good enough to go all the way back to last year, you may notice that we are lobbying our government on exactly the same issue as last year. That's because they have not heard us yet. We will be just like the widow in the gospel of Luke pleading with the judge for legal protection. The widow pleads over and over again using persistence until the judge finally gives in to her wishes. Canadian mining corporations own 60% of the world's mines. When these mines operate in Canada they are operating under a regulatory framework that protects us from environmental degradation and human rights abuses. These same mining corporations operate in developing countries where there are no regulations to protect the people and the land. These companies are letting the dollar rule at the cost of human lives and the environment.

Interested to learn more about the issue???? This year you can look forward to a number of ways to become informed on the issue.

- 1) Make sure to read through the D&P flyer in this week's bulletin
- 2) Join us for some fair trade goodies and coffee and for a viewing of a 9min film after all masses this weekend
- 3) At the masses next weekend the gospel will be Luke 18:1-8 the story of the widow pleading with the judge. The youth will be acting out a modern day setting of this gospel.

At the masses next weekend we will be inviting you to sign our action card urging the Canadian government to introduce legal mechanisms to hold Canadian mining to account.

Last year St. Mary's parishioners signed 250 cards!!! This was added to the cards signed all over Canada. Development and Peace presented the government with over 200,000 signed cards last year.

Our local chapter of Development and Peace has been in conversation with both Dick Harris and Jay Hill on the matter. Recently Jay Hill has said that he has heard from his constituents on this issue a number of times and that he is in support of our request. Let's remind him and his government one more time on how important this issue is. Let's be like the persistent widow in Luke's gospel.

Thank you to all our parishioners for your on going faithful support of the work of Development and Peace.

Nadine Hale (St. Mary's Development and Peace Representative)

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the October financial statement.

Bank Balance:	25.16	INCOME	EXPENSES
DDF Balance:	137,308.11	Donations	25889.27
<u>Accts Rec.:</u>	<u>918.31</u>	Fees	940.00
Total Assets	138251.58	Programs	10.00
		Other	617.50
		Rentals	3785.00
		Total Inc	31241.77
		Net Income	-9538.73
		Admin	25317.85
		Programs	1004.64
		Oper/Maint	12912.39
		Rental Oper	1545.62
		Total Exp	40780.50

ALL SOULS

Yesterday (Nov 1), we celebrated God's own ingathering: the saints. Today, we remember the faithful departed. Having in common the tender care of God, together we all form one magnificent community, the communion of saints. Mexican families celebrate this communion with zest, picnicking in cemeteries during *Días de los Muertos*, the Days of the Dead.

In your home, you could display photos of your family's beloved dead this November. Near the photos, place a white candle on a white cloth, recalling Easter Resurrection. Burn your Easter Candle, while telling favourite stories about each remembered loved one.



REJOICING & REMEMBERING

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

Edward John O'Neill
Marcella Hebert
Michael Mallais
Mary Aubichon

ALL HALLOWS

All Saints came about in response to the Celtic feast of Samhain. We Christianized it. And now, Halloween, All Hallows Eve has, is a secularized take-off of All Saints! All three share the common themes of death and the presence, in life, of the dead.

PUTTING OUR TALENTS TO GOOD USE

In our last issue (Sept 14), we looked at some of the ways in which we can share our gifts with the wider community. In this issue, we continue the reflection on our gifts.

PROPHECY is living according to God's values and announcing them in situations where they do not appear to be present.

Some ministries that use the gift of prophecy:

- *Joining a social justice group like D&P or Kairos*
- *Starting a letter writing campaign on an issue*
- *Building a ramp or otherwise welcoming those with disabilities*

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS requires looking at situations from God's perspective and asking what God would want us to do.

Some ministries that use the gift of discernment of spirits:

- *Serving on the parish council*
- *Working on parish finances*
- *Asking people to volunteer for projects*

TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES is the ability to communicate God's Good News and hear it when others speak it.

When did you experience the gift of Communication/Listening?

Some ministries that use the gift of Communication/Listening:

- *Lector*
- *Leading a committee*
- *Working on parish publications*
- *Comforting the grieving*
- *Welcoming new people*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three res. Respect for self, Respect for others, and Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
19. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.
20. Read more books and watch less TV.

THEO-TIDBITS



Our new season of Theo-Tidbits has started!

Our current series is entitled: **Stewardship of the Earth** and takes place on **Thursdays (Nov 6/20)**. Fr. Richard will be leading this series.

In November, Sr. Tarianne DeYonker op will come and offer two Wednesday evening sessions on **Social Justice (Nov 17/19)**.

All sessions held in the Parish Office Meeting Room (1088 Gillett Street) at 7 pm.

*Don't be afraid
to take a big step
if one is indicated.
You can't cross a chasm
in two small jumps.*

David Lloyd George

UNSUNG HEROINES: SHIPHRAH AND PUAH

Exodus begins with a horrifying account of racial prejudice and attempted genocide. In Exodus 1:8-22 Pharaoh attempts to destroy the Hebrew people by having new born males murdered. After years of the Egyptians welcoming the Hebrews in honour of Joseph, the Hebrews had become plentiful and the Egyptians began to fear them. In this climate the Pharaoh hatches his plan.



Pharaoh order the Hebrew midwives to kill all newborn males. Shiphrah and Puah are faced with a difficult decision: obey a man in authority over them or obey God. Verse 17 tells us, "But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live." These two women defied authority, facing possible punishment for their disobedience and chose to serve God and his people.

These two women discerned God's plan for their lives, even when that plan meant rebelling against authority. Far from chiding these two "rebellious" women, "God dealt well with the midwives...and gave them families" Midwives were generally barren women, often shunned and marginalized by the community. In their disobedience to the Pharaoh and obedience to God, they are transformed from nurturers of life to bearers of life.

This story stands in stark contrast to the message women often receive that tells them to submit to all authority without question (Col 3:18; 1 Tim 2:11-14). In Acts 5:27-29 Peter made a similar decision. "When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority.'" (Also see Dan 3:1-30/Dan. 6:10-28).

BECOMING CHURCH

The active phase of the Diocesan Annual Appeal has concluded, and the diocesan goal of \$400,000 has been met and exceeded. At St. Mary's we have exceeded our goal of \$39,158 by approximately \$12,000 so far. That means that we will be receiving back from the diocese a substantial amount of money.

A heartfelt and sincere thanks is extended to all who contributed gifts and/or pledges to the appeal. Each gift is unique, according to the means of the giver and each gift is precious. Some people indicated that they were not able to give a gift at this time, and you also are to be thanked for your consideration of the appeal. To all members of the parish, we extend an invitation to participate in the ministry of the diocese through prayer, which is of primary importance.

The Appeal Steering Committee established an Allocations Committee at its recent meeting. The task of this committee will be to consider the needs of the various offices, groups and ministries that were indicated in the appeal case and to allocate the funds. There will be a full report given on how the funds are used for the work of the diocese. Of course, the parishes benefit from the appeal as well, since a lot of the work that will be supported by the appeal is for and with the parishes and communities of our diocesan church.

In the next few weeks the parish finance and pastoral councils will be meeting, and part of their agendas will be to reflect on the needs of the parish, especially in light of the money that we receive from the appeal. We will have the freedom to respond to some new needs and undertake some new initiatives with this income. Thank you for making that possible through your gifts.

For those who are still considering a gift to the appeal, it is never too late. Simply fill in the form on the envelope and enclose it in the envelope and drop it in the Sunday collection basket. This first appeal year ends on August 31, 2009. So you have lots of time to fulfill your pledge or to make a gift for the first time.

Once again, thank you for your generous response to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Becoming Church. Together, we can do wonderful things and continue to build the Kingdom of God.