



THE GRRAPEVINE

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

Number 83

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2009

OUR PARISH STAFF NEWS

After five years of ministry at St. Mary's, **Giselle Jakobs** moved to Calgary at the end of March to work full time with Returning to Spirit. She will be in and out of the diocese doing Returning to Spirit Workshops over the next eight months, so who knows when we might run into her. She will be here in the parish May 16 & 17, and we will have a farewell for her then. More details to follow. Our prayers go with Giselle for a fruitful ministry.

Right after Easter, **Fr. Roger Lavoie** will be going to Terrace to replace Fr. Terry Brock for some time. Fr. Terry's mother is terminally ill, so Fr. Terry is going home to New York to spend time with her and with the family. Fr. Roger will return to St. Mary's when Fr. Terry returns to Terrace. Fr. Roger has been serving Mackenzie for these past seven months; Fr. Louis Kwena will go to Mackenzie in the interim.

That leaves Sr. Jude Van Baalen and Fr. Richard at St. Mary's for the next while, which will mean lay led services on Sundays when Richard is in McBride, especially over the next couple of months while Bishop Gerry is on the Confirmation tour and will not be available to help out here on weekends.

PLANT SALE



MAY 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

1088 Gillett Street
at
St. Mary's Church
Parking Lot

All proceeds will be donated
to
St. Vincent de Paul

Any green thumbs out there? We welcome donations of seedlings, houseplants, perennials etc. for the sale. It's not too early to start getting ready!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:

- set up (6:30-9:00 a.m.)
 - work cash table
- make, serve coffee
- assist customers
- clean up (noon-1:00 p.m.)

WE ALSO NEED:

- Plant paks, either four cell ones or the open 3 1/2" X 5" size.
- Hanging baskets 10" diameter or larger.

These can be dropped off at the rectory or in the box at the entrance of the church. We **DO NOT** need any other pots at this time.

Join us for the plant sale—it is always a time of wonderful fellowship, a welcome to spring, an opportunity to help those in our community who are struggling as well as an opportunity to get some wonderful plants for your garden.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The tomb is empty! Jesus Christ has risen today! Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. Easter is a time of joy, a time of celebration. To have faith in the risen Lord is also to believe that we are disciples who bear witness to Christ in a broken and troubled world. To be good stewards of this faith obliges us to be living witnesses to Christ's peace at home and in public in all our words, actions and relationships. We are called to be witnesses every moment of every day.

Jesus cannot be found buried. He is risen. Alleluia!

Share Lent

Thank you for giving.



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR
Development and Peace

1 888 234-8533
www.devpo.org

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: I've been busy lately transplanting seedlings for the plant sale in May. It is amazing how many individual plants come out of a little container of seedlings! We will have lots of tomatoes, marigolds, broccoli, etc. for sale in May. Now we just need the weather to co-operate. I will go to McBride on Easter Sunday for an afternoon Mass, and will stay over until Monday. Then it will be back home to St. Mary's for a few weeks. It will be nice not to be on the road for a while.

Jude: Again I would like to thank all the good people who participated in the Living Room Dialogues. The feedback was good and many suggested we do it again. We will. Next week we will start a new book with the Spirituality Study group on Wednesday morning. There are enough books (Chasing Joy) for a couple more if you would like to join us, please do. 10:00am in the Conference Room. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Roger: Lent and fasting are almost over, with fasting being a difficult goal to achieve as food is always looking us in the eye, wherever we go. Holy week brings to mind a variety of feelings. The joy of spring is here, (somewhat), as we hear the robins. Holy week brings me to reflect on the events of Holy Week which are both sad and joyous. In the three days of the triduum I ask myself as I place myself beside the Lord; can I allow this event to change me to be more like Our Lord?

HOW WILL YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

What does it mean to be a Catholic family? A Christian? A follower of Jesus? These are questions you have already begun answering for your child, sometimes with words, but always with your actions. Does Jesus' place in our lives and in the life of our family make a difference? Does it have an effect on:

- the amount of time for family in our busy schedules?
- the way family members talk to one another?
- our television and movie-viewing habits?
- the music we listen to
- our internet-surfing habits?
- how we talk about others?
- the way we spend our money?
- how children treat their parents?
- places we choose to go?
- the objects, pictures in our home?
- what we wear?
- the ways in which we serve others?



If we live a truly Christian life, we may look different from others. Sometimes we may even be laughed at or ridiculed. Jesus said "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you" (John 15:20). But Jesus also promised to be with us, to strengthen us with His grace to be the people and the families He is calling us to be. All He needs is our willingness.

THE EXPERIENCE OF EASTER



We are an Easter people. The joy of Easter is celebrated not only during the liturgical season we call Easter. It is celebrated every day of the year. The Mass is the Paschal Mystery, and every time it is celebrated, we participate in the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As St. Paul teaches, we die with Christ and rise with Him in the Holy Spirit. We are transformed into new creations. We are renewed. Stewards of God's abundant gifts hold dear the promise of renewal and pledge themselves to the work of reconciliation, healing and proclamation of the risen Lord. For

Christian stewards, each day is a new dawn for living in the light of Christ. There is much about dying and rising with Christ that we do not know; much about the Paschal Mystery we do not understand.

But stewards of God's love are always open to learning more; to being called out of their ignorance and into the light of faith which comes with an ever-deeper understanding of its peace and joy.

Easter is a good time to reflect on how we experience the joy of Christ's peace. It is also a time to ask ourselves how we can experience the gift of Easter each day of our lives.

ORIGINS OF THE TRIDUUM

In the early Church, there was only Easter. In a vigil of prayer which lasted through the night on Holy Saturday until dawn on Easter morning, the early Christians celebrated as one great feast the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. One night! For the early Christians, that one night had many layers of meaning. The evangelists tell us that Jesus Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection took place in the context of the Passover, the most important celebration in the Jewish calendar. Passover (the Hebrew word, *pesach*, literally means "passage") marked the night when the angel of God destroyed the firstborn of the Egyptians, freeing the Hebrew people from their long slavery. At Passover, the Jewish people looked back through the whole of their history, remembering God's special love for them from the very dawn of creation.

This holiest of days for the Jews became the holiest of days for Christians, who, during their long vigil, likewise looked back through sacred history and saw the scriptures brought to fulfillment in the raising of Christ from the dead.

By the fourth century, and increasing historical awareness led to the development of the Paschal Triduum, Holy Week and Lent, as Christians began to commemorate the Lord's Passion in "real time", as it were, following him day by day from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to his arrest and Crucifixion, to his Resurrection, in a commemoration that closely followed the Gospel narratives, day by day and hour by hour. By the time of St. Augustine in the fourth century, the Baptism of adults was a central feature of the Triduum.

As Christianity spread and infant Baptism became the norm, resulting in a sharp decline in adult baptisms, so the importance of the Triduum declined, until it became almost non-existent. Between 1951 and 1955, Pope Pius XII restored the Triduum and encouraged the evening celebrations and the baptism of adults at the Vigil.

OUR MINISTERS REFLECT

I was asked to help out a number of months ago so I attended the ministers' workshop in February. I found it very interesting and informative but more importantly, I found I enjoyed building more relationships with my faith family. I got to know many of them better and I realized how much I have in common with all of them. I found myself drawing from their positive energy.

After the workshop, I thought I would just sit back and watch for a while until I felt more comfortable standing up in front of everyone. Well, God had other plans so the very next weekend I was asked to help out. It seems they were short one minister. I was very nervous at first but the other ministers assured me that everything would be fine and that they would help me through it. Of course everything was fine and I was surprised at how good I felt afterwards. It is a great feeling when you can serve others especially those you feel close to. I really feel that I am part of something important. Something really big. I get to watch my church family come up, one by one, to be fed and nourished by the same God who guides and protects me in my life. We all come from where ever we are at in our lives to be united in one very important cause. To be united with God and one another.

I get a profound sense of belonging and peace in being a part of the celebration. I feel great joy in reaching out with my church family and celebrating with them. I am still nervous when I participate but the wonderful feeling of being part of something so big and so important far out weights my initial trepidations.

If I could, I would thank my church community for letting me serve them and the blessings I receive in return. As so often is the case, I feel I take away far more than I can possibly give when I get to celebrate with them. Terry Hawkes

RETURNING TO SPIRIT

Returning to Spirit is a healing process that is of benefit to anyone who takes part in the workshops. While it was originally developed to help people deal with the effects in their lives of the residential school experience, one does not have to had residential school experience in their family background to benefit.

The RTS process consists of three parts:

Part 1 is a 5 day workshop for **aboriginals**

Part 2 is a 5 day workshop for **non-aboriginals**

Part 3 a 5 day workshop where the two groups come together for **Reconciliation**.

So, aboriginals take Parts 1 & 3, non-aboriginals take Parts 2 & 3.

Upcoming workshops here in Prince George:

Part 1—May 18-22, 2009

Part 2—July 6-10, 2009

Part 2—Dec 7-11, 2009

Part 3—2010

For more information, or to register, contact:

Part 1 Mary-Anne Jamin-
250-964-4424 (ext
235)

Part 2 Stacy—964-4424



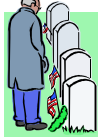
**REJOICING &
REMEMBERING**

We welcome the following new members through the sacrament of baptism:

Avery Johansen
Quinn Pastro

In the sure hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:

Jeannie Chalmers
Kent Krpan



**NORTHERN CATHOLIC
NEWS**

The Northern Catholic News is now online! Follow the links under What's New on the diocesan webpage www.pgdiocese.bc.ca. The website is now updated regularly and there are several new items, such as a talk given by Bishop Gerald Wiesner in March on Becoming Human, and new pictures on the Lejac Pilgrimage page.

UNSUNG HEROINES: Jael the Assassin

Have you ever tried to play both sides of the fence? Did it work for you? Nope, it doesn't work for most people. But Heber the Kenite gave it a try. The Kenites were nomadic people who travelled with the Israelites through the desert after the Exodus. Many of the Kenites were metal smiths and probably made weapons. Heber himself was a descendant of Moses' father-in-law and entered the Promised Land with the Israelites. Now, when the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they ran into the original inhabitants, the Canaanites, and relations were not always pleasant. In Judges 4 and 5, we hear of a battle between the Israelites and the Canaanites. And where's Heber the Kenite? Well, he's removed himself from the Israelites and he's actually friendly with King Jabin of the Canaanites. Heber's playing both sides of the fence. Which is fine, until Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army shows up in Heber's camp, exhausted from battle and with the Israelites hot on his trail. Shelter Sisera and incur the wrath of the victorious Israelites? Or give Sisera up to the Israelites and incur the wrath of King Jabin?



Luckily for Heber, he doesn't have to deal with this dilemma. Jael, Heber's wife, takes matters into her own hands. She sees Sisera approaching and invites him into her own personal tent. As a Kenite, Jael was probably one of Heber's many wives, so she has her own space. Ordinarily, the Middle Eastern laws of hospitality would apply, but in this instance, Jael is not inviting Sisera into Heber's tent, but into her own. She doesn't have to adhere to the laws of hospitality and is free to help Sisera, or not. Sisera feels safe in her tent and falls asleep. But Jael has decided to take matters into her own hands. She takes up a wooden mallet and tent peg and kills Sisera and then presents the dead body to the commander of the Israelite army.

Jael is praised by Deborah, one of the judges of Israel, and is actually called "most blessed of women" (Judg 5:24). High praise for an assassin! Indeed, the only other woman who receives such a high accolade is Mary, the mother of Jesus. What could possibly connect these two women? Both were instruments of the Lord, both were open to whatever appeared and followed the Spirit. Of Jael, it was said "for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman" (Judg 4:9). God calls all of us to our own path, a path that may not be obvious to others, or even approved of by others. Do we follow the call of the Spirit?

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Below is the synopsis of the March financial statement.

Bank Balance:	682.47
DDF Balance:	148899.63
Accts Receivable:	922.48
Total Assets	150504.58

INCOME

Donations	29283.18
Fees	800.00
Programs	589.74
Other	67.50
Rentals	3715.00
Total Income	34455.42

EXPENSES

Administration	22934.49
Programs	2144.80
Operation/Maint.	8487.94
Rental Operation	2546.60
Total Expense	36113.83
Net Income	-1658.41

In looking at our statement for this month, things look a little dire at first glance. However, we are doing fairly well - we had some large expenses that are one-time or irregular, like the bursaries for Lay Formation, religious education supplies, marriage preparation supplies, youth ministry, maintenance and social events as well as the city utility bills. All in all, we spent a lot of money, but there was also good income for the month, with a balance left over from last month, so we still have money in the bank and start off the new month with a healthy rental deposit. Generally the Easter weekend collection is considerably higher than normal, which will also improve our bottom line for the end of April.

Once again, thank you to all for your generous contribution to the life of our community.