



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Pastor's
Corner

January 31, 2010

WHEN MARRIAGE FAILS, THE CHURCH FAILS

It happened in Quebec. Which failure came first? We don't know for sure, but there was a strong correlation between the high rate of divorce and the low church attendance, and also the high rate of teenage suicides.

Of course I am speaking of collectivities not of individuals. Some of you are separated, and are receiving graces upon graces from the Lord, and are bearing much fruit for your families and for the Church. Many saints started in life with a terrible marriage. Many came from dysfunctional families. God can turn every evil into an occasion of grace and holiness. But statistically speaking there is a connection between marriage failure and low church participation. Which one is the cause of the other is hard to tell. When the spouses are angry at each other, envious, jealous, arrogant, and resentful or selfish, it becomes very hard for them to pray and to give the witnessing of a joy-giving faith to their children and grandchildren, to their workplaces, to their social and religious groups. Their kids tend to doubt, sometimes unconsciously, the goodness of God and His power to overcome evil. Ultimately, they doubt in the institution of marriage. They question the Church's teachings on marriage. Their images of God the Father, Jesus the Brother and Mary the Mother are darkened by their own tumultuous relationship with their dad and mom.

When each of the spouses in turmoil go to work, they bring with them a load of stress and anger. When they try to pray at the Sunday mass, worries bar the way. A hidden anger at God makes it difficult for them to have a personal relationship with Him.

Today we are not only aware that marriage breakdown makes life in society difficult, but we are also aware of the conspiracy of socio-cultural and socio-economic threats against marriage. It almost looks like a conspiracy orchestrated by the evil powers. The devil knows that he has to topple down the institution of marriage and family in order to have free reign on us. (con't...)

(Pastor's corner ... con't)

The communist party in Eastern Europe knew that. Today marriage is under attack by the economy, the politics, the workplace, the universities, by pornography in all its forms and even by some so-called Christian churches. Are we going to do something about it?

God Bless You. *Fr. Pierre*

PARISH NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY AT THE OLYMPICS

We are so excited!!! Youth Ministry got 40 tickets to the Olympic Games. Do you want to be a part of this once in a lifetime experience? Then **come and join the Youth Ministry events between now and Feb. 15 and get a chance to win** one of those tickets. It will be an event to remember...like forever....

SR. YOUTH MINISTRY

A night of fun and more fun. Come and enjoy the awesome improve skits by Sr. Youth Ministry on **Monday, February 1 at 6:30pm in the Rectory Basement.**

PARISH LIBRARY -- WE'RE OPEN TO SERVE YOU

This weekend, January 30 and 31 we are open after the Saturday evening mass as well as all Sunday morning masses. We will not have books on display in the foyer. Please come and see us in the church basement.



B. C. CATHOLIC

The Catholic Press collection, held throughout the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is next weekend. If you subscribe under the "Blanket Parish Subscription" (whereby the parish submits your name) then the subscription rate is roughly half of the regular rate and the suggested donation is \$20 per year to cover the cost. **In the last couple of months, Archbishop Miller has announced his goal that within two years, at least one-half of registered Catholics in the Archdiocese receive the paper.** We currently have 255 subscribers, but in order to meet the Archbishop's goal, St Mary's needs to add about 800 more names to the list. To help us achieve this goal, for this year only we will submit subscription for those who donate \$10 or more. Your generosity will help us with the important job of connecting parishioners with the Church of Vancouver. For anyone who does not have a box of Sunday envelopes, you may use a plain envelope with the words BC Catholic on it. If you are not familiar with the BC Catholic, a few back issues have been left in the foyer for your perusal.

PARISH NEWS

MARRIAGE CAN BE GREAT, NO REALLY!

Learn to enhance your marriage or future marriage in a FUN and RELAXED setting. It is never too late (or too early) to get some practical tips on how to relate more effectively with your spouse. No group sharing is required. Individuals are also welcome to attend on their own. Topics include: Attitude, Peace with the Past, Listening, Dating & Sense of Humour, Forgiveness and more. **This marriage workshop will take place here at St. Mary's on Tuesday February 2 at 7:00pm.** Registration has closed but last-minute entries will be accepted at the door. The cost is \$20 per person.

PRAYING WITH PRIESTS FOR PRIESTS

All priests and lay faithful are invited to gather together in prayer for our priests during this Year for the Priests. We pray together each month on the first Thursday of the month. This month, the gathering will be here at **St. Mary's on Thursday February 4 after the 7:00pm Mass (approximately 7:40pm).**

SMYAC COFFEE NIGHT

On Friday, February 5 at 8:00pm you are invited to SMYAC's (St. Mary's Young Adult Community) coffee night in the Seminar room. Join the young adults as there will be a presentation on Human Trafficking. All are welcome.



OLIVE WOOD RELIGIOUS CRAFTS

In order to promote steady employment for the minority Christians in the Holy Land, Bethlehem & Jerusalem, Christians are seeking our support in purchasing and supporting the families there to encourage them to be rooted in the Land of Christ. Let us show our solidarity by buying the religious crafts for personal collection or gifts. **Next weekend, February 5 & 6** a variety of these items will be for sale in the foyer. All types of payments are accepted: no donations or collection please.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION

On Thursday March 18, there will be a meeting at 7:00 pm in the church basement. This meeting is for new families who wish to enter St. Mary's School in September 2010. You must attend to receive an information package because **they are not handed out from the school office.**

Please pray for repose of the souls of our dearly departed :

Jeff Tan: Funeral was celebrated on Thursday, January 28

Francisca Pinto: Funeral on Tuesday February 2 @ 10:00am

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord
 Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them
 May Their Souls Rest in Peace, Amen*



PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

USE OF SUNDAY ENVELOPES - UPDATE

Many new boxes of envelopes have been assigned and placed in the foyer for new parishioners who have recently registered. The backlog is now down to about two weeks, so if you do not find your envelopes this weekend please try again next weekend. However, the number of unclaimed envelopes in the church basement remains at about 200. As soon as we run out of new envelopes to assign, we will take away the envelopes from downstairs and start reassigning them to new parishioners. Also - - we are still receiving in the collection basket, envelopes from previous years. For various reasons (mainly to do with accurate recording) we have asked that this not be done. PLEASE use only 2010 envelopes for your donations. If you do not have one is it possible that they are still downstairs? If you have looked and cannot find your box, check upstairs and if not there, sign up on the blue form to notify the office that you are still waiting.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Archbishop Miller will celebrate the Mass of Anointing on **February 4 at 11:00am** at our Lady of Sorrows Church, 555 Slocan Street in Vancouver. This Mass is in recognition of World Day of the Sick which falls on the 11th of February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, but we are holding the Archdiocesan celebration a week early to avoid travel and parking problems related to the Olympics. Everyone is welcome to attend.




VOCATION LIVE-IN

On the weekend of **February 19-21** there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life. This will take place at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. For more information please call 604-826-8715.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on the 30th of April, 2010, email 1009@retrouvaille.org OR call 604-530-6710 OR visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Sun. Jan. 31:** 3:00pm K of C District Basketball (Gym)
- Mon. Feb. 01:** 6:00pm Bingo (School Gym)
6:30pm Senior Youth Ministry (Rectory Basement)
6:45pm CWL Executive (Rectory Dining)
7:00pm Lay Apostles (Church)
7:30pm Marian Prayer Group (Rectory Living Room)
- Tue. Feb. 02:** 6:30pm PREP & Teen PREP (School)
6:45pm Bible Sharing (Rectory Dining Room)
7:00pm Denis Boyd Marriage Workshop (Church Bsmt)
7:00pm Christian Meditation (Rectory Basement)
- Wed. Feb. 03:** 10:45am Fairhaven Mass (7401 Sussex Avenue)
6:30pm PREP (School)
7:00pm RCIA (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room/Sacristy)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Thu. Feb. 04:** 6:30pm Youth Ministry Leaders (Rectory Library)
7:00pm Mass followed by Adoration (Church)
8:00pm Lay Missionaries of Charity (Rectory Bsmt)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Fri. Feb. 05:** FIRST FRIDAY
8:00am Mass followed by all day Adoration (Church)
9:00am "Scripture&Coffee" Bible Study (Rec. Dining)
3:00pm & 6:15pm Divine Mercy (Church)
7:00pm CCO Cornerstone (Church Basement)
7:00pm Mass / Adoration / Confession (Church)
7:40pm Healing Prayer (Crying Room / Sacristy)
8:00pm SMYAC Coffee Night (School Seminar)
9:00pm Benediction (Church)
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- Sat. Feb. 06:** 9:00am 2000 Hail Mary's Group (Rectory Dining)
1:00pm Handmaids of the Lord (School Gym)
1:30pm Couples for Christ- SFC (Rectory Library)
3:00pm Legion of Mary (Church Basement)
3:15pm Baptisms (Church)
6:00pm CFC -- FFL (Church Basement)
6:00pm Couples for Christ (School Gym)
- Sun. Feb. 07:** 2:00pm Youth for Christ (Church Basement)

PARISH INFORMATION

MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00am and 7:00pm**
** followed by Adoration at 7:45pm & Benediction at 9:00pm
Saturday: 12:00noon; 5:00pm is **Anticipation Mass**
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Sunday: Before & After all Masses
Saturday: 11:15am to 11:55am, 4:15pm to 4:55pm, 6:10pm to 7:00pm
Weekdays: After ALL Masses (except Thursday Evening Masses)
--- An appointment for confession may be made by phone

HOLY COMMUNION Available to shut-ins. Contact Parish Office.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Adoration Throughout the day after 8:30am

Masses: 8:00am & 7:00pm

Benediction: 9:00pm

BAPTISMS: To register your child, contact the Parish Office.

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 6:45pm; Friday @ 9:00am; Saturday @ 12:40

MARRIAGES:

Contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the wedding date to register for the required diocesan Marriage Preparation Course. One of the couple must be a registered Catholic parishioner of St. Mary's for at least one year before contacting the Parish Office.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Thursdays: 8:00am Saturdays: 12:00noon

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Contact the Parish Office.

PREP: Catechism Program for children attending public schools

TEEN PREP: Interactive Catechism Sessions for Teens

Coordinator: Eli Bautista Tuesday and Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00pm

E-mail: stmarys.prep@yahoo.ca

ST. MARY'S YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY (SMYAC)

Leaders Jason Costa and Jonquil Francis

Email: smyac_team@yahoo.ca Website: www.smyac.com

YOUTH MINISTRY (YM) E-mail: stmarys_ym@yahoo.com

Coordinator: Arda Akoglu Website: www.saintmarysyouth.com

ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms Brenda Krivuzoff (Principal) Website: www.stmary.bc.ca

Office Phone: (604) 437-1312 Office Fax: (604) 437-1193

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays to Fridays: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturdays: 11:00am to 2:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Pierre Leblond, O.P.

Assistant Pastor

Fr. Marcel Dumont, O.P.

Youth Ministry/Volunteer Coordinator:

Arda Akoglu

Office Manager

Ossie Fernandes

Parish Secretary:

Margherita Bordignon