

**We are the Community. We are the Church.**

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the First Mass  
at Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street  
on September 5, 2015*

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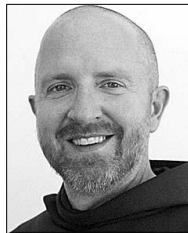
September 6-7, 2014

## Message from Friar Dan Gurnick, OFM

**F**r. Paul Szczur, SDS, and Fr. Raphael Hong, our Polish and Korean languages pastors, join me in inviting all past and current Sacred Heart parishioners to participate actively in the year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the First Mass at our church here at Nelthorpe Street on 5 September 1965. As you are aware, our church was established as a mission in 1936 at Palmer Road and became a parish in 1941.

This weekend we kick-off the celebrations that a committee of volunteers, headed by Vincenza Cameron, is organizing. This endeavour was initiated by my predecessor, Fr. Alfred Alilio, who contributed his own ideas for the celebrations.

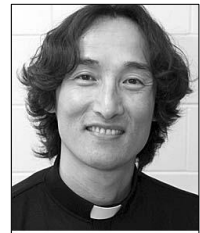
The theme is: "We are the Community. We are the Church." All the activities will be strongly inclusive of present and current parishioners, of all ethnic origins, and including all those who were baptized, who received their first communion, and who were confirmed in this church at Nelthorpe.



Friar Dan Gurnick



Fr. Paul Szczur



Fr. Raphael Hong

Current plans for celebration include a special history-cum-photo book — a souvenir of this important milestone that will also have a roster of current parishioners. Other events and legacy projects that will be announced in weekly inserts [and numbered for easy reference] in the church bulletin. More plans will be announced in the coming weeks and through the year.

We encourage parishioners to volunteer their services and talents to make this year-long celebration a huge success.

Sacred Heart is your community. Sacred Heart is your Church.

## Did you know?

### Our new, young pastor, Friar Dan, was ordained in 2010

**F**riar Dan Gurnick [his preference is "Friar" rather than "Father"] was born to Leslie and Edward Gurnick in Drayton Valley, Alberta, on 3 August 1973. He grew up with a sister, Caroline, and a brother, Michael, on an acreage outside Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. "We played a lot of hockey in our back yard and made many trips to Lake Louise's ski slopes."

Friar Dan was a shy person in his youth. "When I was an altar boy, a priest asked me if I wanted to be a priest. My response was silence, due to my shyness."

As a teenager, he worked on the farm next door. He graduated from Will Sinclair High School in 1991 but was at a loss on what to do with his life. "I decided to work in a sawmill rather than pursue further studies."

After a year, at age 19, he bought a duplex, and was a

landlord for 10 years while also working in the oilfield, as a construction worker, at a recycling depot, and with the mentally challenged. He also owned and operated a paintball field. His paintball jersey number was 47, which is why his email address is: friardan47@gmail.com.

After injuring his knee skiing, Friar Dan went back to school and got an architectural technology diploma at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. "My goal in life was to plan and build my own little earthly kingdom."

His mom ensured he went to Church every Sunday, yet he admits: "I found Church a little on the uneventful side."

At age 28, while he had good jobs and a girlfriend, he was "unsettled and something stirred within me. From one perspective, my life was complete." However, during a

visit to Tumbler Ridge in B.C., "the priest there inspired me by the way he celebrated Mass, and how he interacted with the people. I told my mom on the way home that I believed God was calling me to the priesthood. Sometimes I wonder where those words came from."

He reluctantly entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton where, for the first time, he "truly learned how to pray." During a summer off, he and a friend went to Moquegua, Peru, to help build a chapel on an orphanage farm. Here he learned about the Franciscans and then decided to leave the Edmonton diocese and entered the Franciscans' St Francis friary in Edmonton in September 2003.

He found formation with the Franciscans a challenge with many trials, but the annual retreats in August was always a highlight. "I feel blessed with all the experiences I had in

formation: leading a drama improv class in a women's prison; drumming on the streets for peace; working at Edmonton's Mustard Seed Church; and completing the academic requirements for priesthood in April 2009."

Friar Dan made his solemn profession on 20 August 2009 and was ordained a priest on 23 January 2010 by Archbishop 'Emeritus' Joseph N. MacNeil. Since being a priest, he has served at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sherwood Park, Alberta, and many prisons in the Edmonton area. He came to Victoria in September 2013. Currently, he resides at St. Joseph's friary in Victoria where he is the friary's guardian and looks after the Franciscan postulancy — first year of discernment and formation. "I feel blessed to now be a part of the Sacred Heart community."



## Catholicism in the continents

Since "inclusion" is a key objective of the 50th anniversary celebration, information for a better understanding of the Catholic, or 'Universal,' Church in the six continents will be a regular feature here.

There are today about 1.13 billion Catholics in the world, or 17.28 per cent of the world's population. Catholics make up about 53 per cent of the world's Christians.

Christians make up 33.4 per cent, or about 2.1 billion, of the world's population while Muslims are 22.7 per cent, Hindus are 13.8 per cent, and those without any religion are nearly 10 per cent. Other religions make up the rest.

Catholics as a percentage of each of the continents' population are: **South America** — 82.4 per cent [or 310 million Catholics]; **North America** that includes Central America and the Caribbean — 47.6 per cent [255 million]; **Europe** — 44 per cent [273 million]; **Oceania** — 19.8 per cent [7.9 million]; **Africa** — 17.7 per cent [158 million]; **Asia** — three per cent [124.5 million].

Thus South America has the most number of Catholics, followed by Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Oceania. As a percentage of the world's total number of Catholics, South America leads with 27.4 per cent, followed by Europe [24.3 per cent], North America [22.6 per cent], Africa [14 per cent], Asia [11 per cent] and Oceania [0.7 per cent].

The five **countries** with the most Catholics [with number of cardinals] are: **Brazil** [145.4 million with nine cardinals]; **Mexico** [123.2 million with four cardinals]; **Philippines** [75 million with three cardinals]; **United States** [64.6 million with 19 cardinals]; and **Italy** [57.6 million with 46 cardinals].

The next five are France [44.55 million], Colombia [38.4 million] Spain [37.1 million] Argentina [34.4 million] and

Poland [35 million] — all that are more than Canada's total population where 44 per cent of Canadians are Catholics.

However, the 10 countries with the highest percentage of Catholics are: San Marino at 95 per cent, Andorra, Malta, Cape Verde, Monaco, East Timor, Portugal, Paraguay, Italy and Equatorial Guinea at 87 per cent.

## Our Pastors



### Fr. Carl R. Albury:

**Born:** 7 March 1899 on Harbour Island, Bahamas

**Ordained:** 6 March 1932 in Winnipeg

**Joined Victoria Diocese:** 1933

**Appointed Monsignor:** 17 February 1978 by Pope Paul VI.

**Died:** 5 October 1982

Carl Thomas Albury was born to Jimima Ellen Albury and William Alonzo Albury.

He attended private grade school and Harbour Island High School in Nassau before graduating *summa cum laude* from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

In 1926, he returned to Nassau to edit a newspaper, but two years later he joined the Grand Seminary in Montreal.

He was ordained four years later in Winnipeg, to become the first Bahamian to be a priest.

He taught at St. Paul's College in that city for a year before coming to Victoria as an assistant at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

In 1936, Fr. Albury was appointed by Victoria Bishop John McDonald to establish the Sacred Heart mission, which he administered from the Cathedral.

He left in 1937 to become pastor in Cumberland, Courtenay.

