

We are the Community. We are the Church.

13

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

November 29-30, 2014



Our Sacred Heart parish school began in 1942

In '42, the parish acquired a house at 1130 Palmer Road, a few houses uphill from the church, for a new rectory.

That year, in spring, the Sacred Heart Parish School opened in the basement under **Bessie Weber**, a teacher for three months. She was succeeded in September by **Ruth George**.

On 22 July '43, four Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters, fondly known as the "Hollywood Sisters," arrived by boat from Los Angeles, California, to teach at the school, at the invitation of **Bishop John Cody**, to supplement the existing teaching staff.

The four were **Sr. Mary Rita [Clark] [d]**, the superior, **Sr. Jane Frances [Lenahan] [d]**, **Sr. Mary Maureen [Regan] [d]**, and **Sr. Mary Elizabeth-Ann [Agnes Flynn]**

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were founded as the Daughters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Spain in 1848 to rebuild society through the education of young women. In 1871, 10 sisters came to California to start a new mission and by 1906 the congregation had their own motherhouse and began to look to separate from the Spanish parent institute, with the separation completed in '24.

Sr. Rita was Sacred Heart Elementary School's first principal and taught the senior pupils in one of the two classrooms in the rectory's basement. **Sr. Frances** handled the junior students.

The two sisters received from Sacred Heart Parish a salary of \$35 per month with the parish picking up the tab for hydro, fuel and water. Two sisters, **Sr. Maureen** and **Sr. Elizabeth-Ann**, made daily trips to the Tsartlip and Tsawout reserves on the Saanich



Peninsula to teach at a school for the First Nations' children. **Sr. Mary Socorro [Meza] [d]** joined them in '46.

These two sisters, residing at the convent but teaching in the Saanich Peninsula, received a government salary of \$100 a month with the parish providing transportation to the reserves and back.

A resolution dated 21 May 1943 of the congregation's general council in Los Angeles, headed by **Mother Mary Eucharis [Harney] [d]**, also authorized the purchase in 1943 of the parish's rectory at 1130 Palmer Road for \$2,700 for their convent and school.

Continued on next page

In turn, the parish acquired a house at 3905 Quadra Street for a new rectory along with a vacant lot at the corner of Quadra and Union streets.

Sr. Rita and was succeeded in midterm by **Sr. Elizabeth-Ann**.

On 11 June '44 there were eight children in the *first* Holy Communion class and on June 25. the Sacred Heart School's first graduation class stepped forward to receive diplomas.

In '46, **Fr. Thomas Mangan**, Sacred Heart Church pastor, spoke of plans for a new school building on property near the top of Palmer Road was bought for a new school building, but zoning regulations forced its sale.

This prompted the parish to buy a site at 880 McKenzie Avenue and **Bishop Cody** turned the sod in '46.

Hardly had the foundation been poured when sharply rising costs forced postponement of the work.

Meanwhile, young and tiny **Sr. Mary Corita [Kent]** [d] shared her artistic skills with the students. She also designed the frontispiece of the new altar for the church in 1950 and the embroidered dove on the canopy over the altar — and in '85 she designed the U.S. Christmas stamp.

Fr. Geoffrey Penfold, Sacred Heart Church pastor, after being hospitalized in '56, initiated the drive in '57 to raise \$40,000 for the new Sacred Heart School building at 880 McKenzie Avenue. That summer, a group of zealous parishioners under the late



Confirmation Day - Bishop James Hill
Sacred Heart Church, June 7, 1953

Maurice Connor campaigned in earnest to raise the money to proceed with the school building program.

In '58, the diocese authorized the parish to get a \$90,000-loan and a further loan of \$18,000 in '59.

Work began on St. Patrick's Day in '58 at a site with an elevation of 30 metres along McKenzie Avenue. Five months later, in September '58, the new school building opened.

Continued in bulletin #14



Catholicism in the continents

Focus on Asia

In Istanbul, Turkey, is Hagia Sophia [or 'Holy Wisdom'] It was one of the largest churches in the world from 537 until 1453, when it became a mosque. In 1931 it became a museum.



Turkey is also home to the Seven Churches of Asia — Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea — where the Revelations of John were sent.

Apostle John is said to have taken the Virgin Mary to Ephesus in western Turkey, where she spent the last days of her life in a small house, the House of the Virgin Mary. It still survives today and is a holy site for pilgrimage. It is also a Muslim shrine.

The cave of the Seven Sleepers, seven Christian youths who hid inside a cave around 250 AD, is outside Ephesus. They hid to escape a persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor. There are many versions of how they slept in the cave for three centuries and awoke to find Christian buildings around them.

Turkey is where all seven Ecumenical Councils — Nicaea [325], Constantinople [381], Ephesus [431], Chalcedon [451], Constantinople [553], Constantinople [680], and Nicaea [787] — were held, all recognized by the western and eastern churches.

The first Council of Nicaea, declared the Nicene Creed, which defined the essentials of present-day Christianity.

Our Pastors



Continued from bulletin #12

Fr. Jan Planeta

On his arrival in Victoria, Fr. Jan Planeta served as assistant at St. Andrew's Cathedral. He also assisted new Canadians and provided them with spiritual help.



He came to Sacred Heart Church as an assistant to Fr. Geoffrey Penfold in the spring of '55.

Bishop James Hill appointed him pastor of Sacred Heart Church in '56. This was the year when Sacred Heart Church's Holy Name Society conducted the first parish census.

On 28 December '58, Fr. Planeta returned the house, owned by the Sacred Heart Parish at 1130 Palmer Road, for use as a rectory after the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters moved to their new convent. The house's basement became the parish hall and a small lending library.

On 29 June '59, he celebrated, at Sacred Heart Church on Palmer Road, his 25th anniversary as a priest.

On 9 March '63, Fr. Planeta initiated a fund-raising drive to wipe out the parish's \$78,000 debt and raise funds for a new church. He asked parishioners to make a suggested initial donation of \$400 and to increase their weekly donation to the church.

Continued in bulletin #14