

**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*

**14**

**December 6-7, 2014**



## **Parish school closed in 1970 after 28 years**



**Continued from bulletin #13**

**W**hen the new school building opened in September '58, it had 152 students in four classrooms, the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters moved into the new convent next door. On 12 October '58, **Bishop James Hill** blessed the new school and convent. **Mother Mary Regina [McPartlin]** [d], mother general of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, and **Mother Mary Eucharis [Harney]** [d] attended.

The house at 1130 Palmer Street, vacated by the sisters, was returned in December for use as church rectory and the basement became a parish hall and a small lending library.

**Sr. Mary Paula Kraus** [d], who came in '45, was on her second tour of duty at Sacred Heart, was principal. She was at the school the longest, first for six years then for another three, both times as school principal. She conducted the girl's choir for Sacred Heart Church.

On 26 February '59, parishioners, religious, former pupils and her children joined in celebrating her silver anniversary. That year, the school got two new classrooms to accommodate 205 students. The students' first uniforms were Royal Stuart tartan jumper and white blouse for girls and grey pants, white shirt and a navy-blue tie for boys.

**Sr. Kraus** announced her departure at the end of the '60 school year and **Sr. Catherine Rose Babbitt** took her place.

On 17 February '64, Sacred Heart Parent-Teachers' organization was formed and on 20 April Sacred Heart elected its first school board.

From '67-'69, **Sr. Mary Constance Hanley** [left to become **Mary Lissy**], a Hanley-family parishioner who taught at the school from '60-'62 and '67-'69, was appointed to succeed **Sr. M. David Rigali** [d].

Another parishioner, Barbara Smith joined the IHM in '55 and became **Sr. Mary Davida** but left to become **Barbara Mikus**.

The Sacred Heart faith community's 50th Anniversary [1936-1986] publication gives this anecdote about another sister: "In front of the former rectory on Palmer Road stands a giant blue spruce tree, planted there when it was a tiny seedling by **Sr. Mary Ethel Swain**, when the I.H.M. sisters lived there in the 1940s. 'I thought it was supposed to be a miniature,' **Sr. Ethel** says as she looks at it now in amazement."

By '67, the parish was paying a subsidy of \$4,666.43 to the School — about 12 per cent of parish revenues — plus contributions to St. Anne's Academy and St. Louis College.

In spring '68, when **Fr. Donal Lehane** was pastor, a parish vote was held and 299 of 493 parishioners — or 61 per cent — voted to close the school and in September the parish council reported on its meeting with **Bishop Remi de Roo** with the diocese agreeing to provide additional financial assistance: the salary of one sister.

On April 6 of the next year the parish council approved a subsidy of \$3,500 for the school, decided to amalgamate the school board with the parents-teacher organization and to keep the school open for the next school year.

Meanwhile, in the late '60s and in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, the sisters started making changes, but the cardinal archbishop of Los Angeles insisted that if the IHM Sisters were to continue teaching in the schools of the archdiocese, they would have to maintain a number of rules he believed were essential to female community life.

The sisters objected to the cardinal archbishop dictating their attire, bedtimes, and hours of prayer and the Vatican congregation that oversaw religious life refused to intervene.

The mother superior remained firm in implementing the reform and, on 1 February '70, about 90 per cent followed her and were dispensed from their vows.

They went on to form a non-canonical group that admits both men and women known as the Immaculate Heart Community.



Sacred Heart School 1954 - Juniors



Sacred Heart School 1955 - Grades 1, 2, 3, & 4

In *Witness to Integrity -- The Crises of the Immaculate Heart Community of California*, **Sr. Anita M. Caspary**, noting that 13 sisters staffed local schools, two of them serving native peoples, in the Victoria Diocese, writes that **Bishop Remi de Roo** gave the "most forthright and positive support for our renewal decrees from a church authority," adding that "Early on he gave his permission for the sisters to experiment in their apostolate."

That year, Sacred Heart School closed its doors and the next year, on June 30, the diocese purchased 2.9 hectares of the parish's 4.12-hectare property that housed the school and the convent.

The deal involved, among other things, the adoption of the parish's \$120,000 debt plus a \$34,000-payment to the parish for the land.

The diocese was anxious to use the school for the Victoria Indian

Cultural Education Centre and the convent for Laren House Society's transitional school.

In '83, the two buildings became the diocesan St. Andrew's Regional High School, relocated from Pandora Street.

Over the years, more than 30 Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters were involved in Sacred Heart School. They included: **Sr. M. Rita Clark** ['43, '44][d]; **Sr. M. Jane Frances Lenahan** ['43, '44][d]; **Sr. Maureen Regan** [came in '43, assigned to school for Tsartlip and Tswaut First Nations but stayed with sisters at Sacred Heart School][d]; **Sr. M. Elizabeth Ann Flynn** [came in '43, assigned to school for Tsartlip and Tswaut First Nations but stayed with sisters at Sacred Heart School][d]; **Sr. Mary Paula Kraus** ['45-'50; '54-'59][d]; **Sr. Maria Socorro Meza** [came in '46, assigned to school for Tsartlip and Tswaut First Nations but stayed with sisters at Sacred Heart School]; **Sr. Corita Kent** ['45-'47][d]; **Sr. M. Ethel Swain** ['47-'49]; **Sr. Catherine John Flynn** ['48-'49; '54-'55][d]; **Sr. M. Aquinas Tash** ['49-'50][d]; **Sr. Mario Nigro** ['50-'51]; **Sr. Philomena Brown** ['51-'54]; **Sr. M. Jeanette Melendrez** ['51-'54]; **Sr. Marie de Lourdes Kolberg** ['55-'56][d]; **Sr. M. Conception Scheline** ['57-'58]; **Sr. Marie Pilar Boubion** ['58-'60][d]; **Sr. M. Annunciata Stein** ['59-'61][d]; **Sr. Catherine Rose Babbitt** ['60-'62]; **Sr. Mary Constance Hanley** ['60-'62; '67-'69]; **Sr. M. Lucinda Roza** ['60-'61][d]; **Sr. Moira Lyons** ['61-'62]; **Sr. M. Anthony Zeyen** ['61-'62]; **Sr. Maria Inéz Martinez** ['65-'67]; **Sr. Annette Marie McCullouch** ['65-'67]; **Sr. M. Cordis Murphy** ['65-'67]; **Sr. M. David Rigali** ['65-'67][d]; **Sr. M. Lorraine Smith** ['65-'67]; **Sr. Jeanne Pierre Cartier** ['67-'68]; **Sr. Thomas Francis Pyle** ['67-'68]; **Sr. Joanne Sibbing** ['67-'69]; **Sr. Maria Avila Alnwick** ['68-'69]; and **Sr. Georgeanne Dominiguez** ['68-'69]. Other IHM sisters -- about 18 -- served the educational needs of children of the Tsartlip and Tswaut First Nations but stayed with sisters at Sacred Heart.



**Catholicism  
in the continents**

**Our Pastors** 

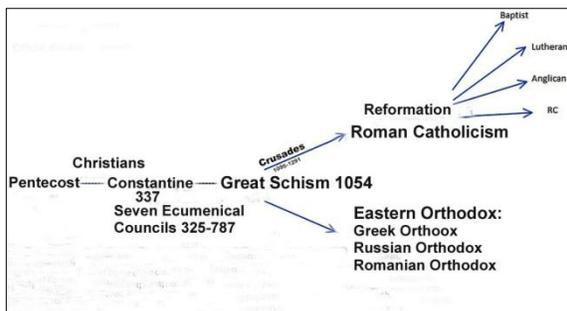
## Focus on Asia

Christianity began in Asia and divided in Asia. Last week, Asia was the focus of the Catholic Church when **Pope Francis** went to Istanbul [formerly Constantinople] in Turkey to meet with **Patriarch Bartholomew 1** of the Orthodox Church to try and heal the Great Schism of 1054 in the Christian Church that divided Rome and Constantinople.

This east-west schism resulted in what later became commonly known as the Eastern Orthodox [Greek] Church and the Roman Catholic [Latin] Church. It was due to ecclesiastical differences and theological disputes with the prominent issues being the source of the Holy Spirit ['filioque'], whether leavened or unleavened bread should be used in the Eucharist, the Pope's claim to universal jurisdiction and the place of Constantinople in relation to the Pentarchy — Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem.

The next was the Western Schism within the Catholic Church from 1378 to 1418

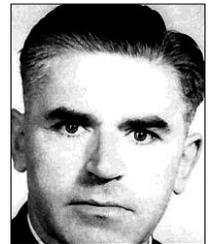
driven by politics rather than any theological disagreement.



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## Fr. Jan Planeta

Fr. Jan Planeta was Sacred Heart pastor during Vatican Council II that opened under Pope John XXIII on 11 October '62 and closed under Pope Paul VI on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in '65.



It was during the Vatican Council II years that the parish, led by Fr. Planeta, on 14 December '63, decided to build a new church and rectory at 4040 Nelthorpe Street above the Sacred Heart parish school site. By 13 September '64 the parish approved plans by Victoria architect John Di Castri for the new church, its design influenced by Vatican Council II. Fr. Planeta turned the sod on 4 October '64 and construction began on 1 November '64.



On 15 August '65, Fr. Planeta's niece, Christine Blaszczyk, and William Atkinson were the first couple to be married in the new Sacred Heart Church, before the first Mass was celebrated there on 5 September '65.

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