



We are the Community. We are the Church.

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

April 18-19, 2015

A tradition of welcoming and including refugees

In 1 Timothy 2:5-6: *"there is only one God, and only one mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ, who is a man, like them, and gave himself as a ransom for them all."*

Thus, He died for all humans, irrespective of their national or ethnic origin, color, physical features, religion, political beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, age, mental or physical disability, or conviction of a criminal offence.

And when **Jesus** directed us to love our neighbor, He did not exclude anyone.

Where, then, do each member of the Sacred Heart faith community stand in the **continuum** in our attitude towards any single one or more of the diversity of humans mentioned above:

**HATE >>> DISCRIMINATION >>>
DENIAL >>> RESISTANCE >>>
TOLERANCE >>> TOKENISM >>>
ACCEPTANCE >>> RESPECTFUL and full
INCLUSION, or, unconditional LOVE?**

The answer is indicated by the Sacred Heart faith community's love for its neighbors through its long history of helping refugees. It began nearly 60 years ago, when it responded to the Hungarian refugees' need in '56. It was the 'Refugee Year' and **Fr. Jan Planeta**, our pastor, led the parish in welcoming them and inviting them to stay at parishioners' homes.

Five years later, in '61, the parish sponsored a family — including four children — from West Germany and they were looked after until they settled down.

In the fall of '78, the word came that Victoria would be receiving the "boat people" — refugees from Vietnam. Our faith community immediately began preparing for their arrival. Parishioners, particularly the youth, collected canned food and by

Christmas '78, food cans and packages were piled up to the ceiling behind the altar in preparation for their arrival.

When the first government-sponsored refugees arrived on 1 August '79, **Fr. Guy Merveille**, pastor, and many parishioners were ready to welcome them. Parishioners **John [d]** and **Delia [d] Magee** and **Larry** and **Maureen Dietrich** accommodated a few in their homes until '82.

*Love your neighbor
as yourself.
MATTHEW 22:39*

Some of the refugees were given temporary residence in the rectory and eventually the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society conference took over the task of assisting them.

From '82-'97, the parish had a refugee committee. It was chaired by **Roberto Racca** with **Jim** and **Connie Haffey**, **Donald** and **Julia Lacy**, **Nina Law**, **Bonny Racca**, **Don [d]** and **Eileen Shaw [d]**, **Barry** and **Theresa Tether**, **Rudy** and **Miep van Lierop**, **Jack** and **Adelaide Whitehead**, and **Kello** and **Mary**

Wilson as members.

In '84-'85, the refugee committee and the St. Vincent de Paul Society assisted a refugee family from Uganda.

The committee also helped these refugees;

- '90: a woman from Eritrea — she lived for five months with **Rudy** and **Miep van Lierop**;
- '92: a couple and their two children from Poland;
- '94: a man from Ethiopia;
- '95: a mother and her son from Somalia and a mother and son from Czechoslovakia;
- '96: a mother and six children from Nigeria.

In '07, Sacred Heart parish joined other churches in sponsoring and supporting a Sudanese/Filipino refugee family's immigration to Canada.

Definition of a refugee: *n. a person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country in time of persecution, war, etc.*



The child Jesus a refugee?

"... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said, Rise up, take with thee the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt; there remain, until I give thee word, for Herod will soon be making search for the child, to destroy him. He rose up, therefore, while it was still night, and took the child and his mother with him, and withdrew into Egypt, where he remained until the death of Herod." — Matthew 2:13-14

They serve at the table of the Lord



Ten reasons to become an altar server [some more serious than others]:

10. You do not always have to sit with your parents at mass.
 9. You get the best view of what is going on.
 8. You learn cool church words like "alb".
 7. By carrying the missal, the cross or the candles you build upper body strength.
 6. Sometimes you get to ring the bells.
 5. Little kids look up to you.
 4. Older ladies love you and pray for you.
 3. Sometimes you even get to tell the priest what to do.
 2. You might get extra chocolate at Easter.
- And, most important of all:
1. By serving God and helping the priest you can make a difference!

Sacred Heart Parish is blessed to have a dedicated group of young people in the altar server ministry.

In this ministry, young people, who have made their first communion, assist the priest during mass.

By working together as a team, our altar servers make our community's liturgical celebrations possible.

Altar server duties include lighting the altar candles, which remind us of the light of Christ, holding the missal for the celebrant so he can lead us in prayer, and preparing the altar at the offertory.

Altar servers also act as runners for the priest when needed, for



example, when the batteries in his microphone suddenly run out during a liturgy!

Altar serving is a wonderful confidence-builder for many children: while they often

feel nervous when they begin serving, they see, as they go along, that this is a ministry designed for young people, that they can do it, and that the faith community trusts them to carry out this important work.

Our community also has dedicated adult servers who sometimes serve at funerals, when our young people are in school.

To become an altar server, contact **Mary Ellen Ross:**

meross@telus.net



Focus on Europe

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The Nicaea Council, initiated by Constantine, deemed the Arian interpretation to be a heresy, but Constantine aligned himself with the Arians and just before his death was baptised into the Arian version of Christianity by his distant relative Arian Bishop Eusebius of Nicomedia.

The bishops of Europe who attended the Nicaea Council included:

- Marcus of Calabria, bishop, in southern Italy;
- Saint Gregory the Illuminator [257-331] who converted Armenia from paganism to Christianity in 301 and the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official religion;
- Horus [c 256-359] who became bishop of Cordova, Hispania [today's Spain] in 295;
- Nicasus, bishop of Die from Gaul [present day France]
- Dominus of Stridon in Pannonii [bounded north and east by the Danube], bishop of the province of Danube

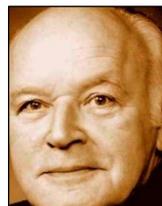
Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, who had exposed him to Christianity, long before Christianity's Great East-West Schism of 1054 between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, founded the Stavrovouni Monastery around 327-329 A.D. on a hill in Cyprus.

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Fr. Harold Stewart Heard, C.S.Sp.

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While in France, Fr. Heard learned that his parents were dying and he received permission to visit his parents in England. His parents died within a few days of each other without knowing that they were living near each other and that they were near the end of their lives.

These events prompted Fr. Heard to take a break from his priestly studies. Because of this gap in his education, he was given the choice to become a brother or leave the order. He decided to be a brother and to spend two years learning to be a draftsman with no modern-day equipment — skills he would need in planning, mapping, and designing buildings needed for his future missionary work in Africa.

After the two years, he requested to move from being a brother to be an ordained priest. This required him to spend an extra two years in the seminary, thus seeing his close friend, Fr. Joe Jackson being ordained ahead of him.

After World War II began in '39, Fr. Heard, along with 29 senior seminarians, boarded a Polish troopship to escape to England the day before France fell on June 17, '40, and returned to Castlehead. He was ordained on November 1, 1941, at Castlehead, England, as a Holy Ghost Father by the congregation's provincial.

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