

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*

36

May 9 - 10, 2015

Pastoral parish council, finance committee and parish staff

Service to parish is their calling

On 28 October '65, the Vatican II Council document *Cbristus Dominus*, the Decree on Bishops, stated: "It is highly desirable that in every diocese a special pastoral council be established, presided over by the diocesan bishop himself . . . to investigate and consider matters relating to pastoral activity and to formulate practical conclusions concerning them."

This was at the diocese level.

It was the '83 *Code of Canon Law*, Canon 536, that legislated about *parish* pastoral councils: "If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune after he has heard the presbyteral council, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity. A pastoral council possesses a consultative vote only and is governed by the norms established by the diocesan bishop."

Sacred Heart Church had already established a parish council in November '67 when **Fr. Donal Lehane** was pastor and its first elected members were involved in the parish's financial and administrative affairs. In '12, **Fr. Alfredo Allio**, pastor, established a finance committee separate from the parish council.

The parish council co-ordinators/chairs over the years have included: **James Wood** ['67-'72]; **Dr. Jack Nash** ['72-'73]; **Tom Turner** ['73-'74]; **Vaughan Thompson** ['74]; — in '74 the pastor, **Msgr. William Bulloch**, elected to handle the council's responsibilities — **Dan Taft** ['76-'78]; **Pete Brady** ['78-'80]; **Ray Bower** ['80-'82]; **Ken Cotter** ['82-'84]; **Dorothy Sage** ['84-'86]; **Roger Weiker** ['86-'88]; **Jack Whitehead** ['87-'88]; **Norman Cox** [88-92]; **Kathy Weswick** ['92-'93]; **Claire Holmes** ['93-'94]; **Ernie Sketchley** ['94-'97]; **Heather Sluchinski** ['97-'98]; **Bernie Shaw** ['98-'99]; **Pat Mitchell** ['99-'00]; **Jim Haffey** ['00-'01]; **Mary Lou Konrath** ['01-'02]; **Jim Haffey** ['02-'03]; rotation of council members as chairs ['03-'04]; **Mary Ann Belfry** ['04-'05]; **Mary Ellen Ross** ['05-'06]; **Eric Flanagan** ['07-'12]; and **Stan Dzbik** ['13- present]

Bill Finlay, a parish stalwart, looked after the books and the banking for 30 years. When he retired in '03, **Yvonne Martin** took his place.

Today there is a parish finance committee with members appointed by the pastor for a three-year term, renewable once.



The committee's first chair ['03-'14] was **Yvonne Martin**. She was the parish's bookkeeper from '03 to '15 and recently the parish hired **Matthew Martin** to take her place. The current committee chair is **Bob Payne**.

Historically the pastor was solely responsible for the parish finances. The finance committee assists the pastor with the administration of the parish's temporal goods and prepares the parish budget every

fall based on requests from the various parish ministries, and the priorities of the pastor and the pastoral parish council.

The parish's first lay employee, appointed to assist the pastor in various activities, was **Cheryl Stinson**, serving for 20 years from '78 to '98, followed briefly in '98 by **Noel Burns**. From '99 to '01, **Darcy Kimmitt**, was the co-ordinator. In '97, **Marilyn Bojko** first joined the parish staff on a part-time basis and later, from '01 to '12, was the parish's facilitator of ministries/secretary. **Adriana Rodriguez** was her administrative assistant appointed in January '08 and she served until January '11, leaving for the birth of her daughter. **Heidi de Contreras** replaced **Adriana** until December '11, when she left to be secretary for St. Patrick's Church. Volunteers did the many tasks in the parish office until the parish hired **Katherine Newton** as administrative assistant/secretary in '13.

Bursary: a parishioner's \$30,000 legacy that continues to give

Mary Walsh passed away on 18 March '84 at age 94. But 31 years later, she continues to help young people, by providing financial support for educational fees at high schools and post-secondary, and for parishioners who want to upgrade their skills.

Born in Victoria on 1889, she was a Sacred Heart parishioner from the day the church opened on Palmer Road in '36, just a few blocks away from the family farm on the 4200-block Quadra Street, north of Beckwith Avenue. Today it is a residential area.

Her parents immigrated to Victoria after the Great Irish Potato Famine of 1845-'49 and after her grandfather died from the plague in 1847. Her parents bought the farm on Quadra Street in 1970 and began dairy farming.

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Mary had three younger siblings, **Patrick, Peg** and **Phillips** and after her parents passed away, **Patrick** and **Mary**, both unmarried, took over the farm. **Patrick** passed away on 27 December '75 at age 78 and **Mary** lived for another nine years

Sacred Heart parishioner and **Mary's** neighbor **Laverne Knapik**, says the family were devout Catholics with **Mary** attending St. Ann's Academy until grade eight.

Patrick and **Mary**, in their later years, switched from dairy farming to raising chickens and **Mary** spent her last years at James Bay Lodge and Glengarry Hospital and sold the farm to Denford Construction Management Ltd., real estate developers.

She donated \$30,000 from the proceeds of the sale to Sacred Heart Church as her legacy.

The parish used \$2,300 of the donation to purchase in '85 copies of the hard-bound *'Glory and Praise'* hymn book and, that same

year, the remaining \$27,700 was invested — with the Victoria diocese administering the investment.

The interest earned from the investments each year is distributed as the Mary Walsh Bursary Awards by Sacred Heart Church.

This year, bursary applications are available in the church foyer. There are four bursaries available for high school and post secondary school students and/or those who want to upgrade their current skills. Deadline for application submission is 1 p.m. on Friday, May 22, hand delivered or mailed to the parish office.

Since '85, the parish has awarded 185 bursaries to Sacred Heart parishioners for a whopping total of \$49,547. The committee has **Rudy van Lierop** and **Rafael Melendez Duke** as co-chairs.

With such demonstrated results, parishioners are encouraged to consider similar legacies in their wills or by adding to this established bursary.



Focus on Europe

Continued from bulletin #35

France: According to tradition, three siblings from Bethany — **St. Mary** [who anointed **Jesus** -- **John** 12: 1-8], **St. Martha**, who, along with **St. Mary**, witnessed the raising of their brother, **St. Lazarus** from the dead by **Jesus** [**John** 11:1] — and some companions left the Holy Land because of persecutions. They traversed the Mediterranean in a frail boat and landed in Saintes Maries-de-la-Mer [Saints Marys of the Seas] in southern France.

Confusing as it may be, Saintes Marie-de-la-Mer is, however, named after three **Marys** — **St. Mary Magdalene**, **St. Mary Salome**, and **St. Mary Jacobe**, the three women who are believed to be the first witnesses at the empty tomb after the resurrection of **Jesus**.

According to another tradition, it was they, with their uncle, **St. Joseph of Arimathea**, who either sailed or were cast adrift and landed at a place that became first known as Notre-Dame-de-Ratis [Our Lady of the Boat] and today as Saintes Marie-de-la-Mer.

Still another tradition claims that **St. Joseph of Arimathea** accompanied **Apostle Philip**, **St. Lazarus**, **St. Mary Magdalene** and others on a preaching mission to Gaul. **St. Lazarus** and **St. Mary Magdalene** stayed in Marseilles, while the others travelled north. At the English Channel, **St. Philip** sent **St. Joseph**, with 12 disciples, to establish Christianity in the most far-flung corner of the Roman Empire: the Island of Britain. The year 63AD is commonly given for this "event".

Now, it is said, after the three Bethany siblings, **St. Mary**, **St. Martha** and **St. Lazarus** landed in France, tradition names **St. Lazarus** as the first bishop of Marseille while **St. Martha** purportedly went on to tame a terrible beast in nearby Tarascon. Pilgrims today visit the siblings' tombs at the abbey of Vézelay in Burgundy.

In 496AD, **Clovis 1** [466-511], the first king of the Franks, converted to Catholicism and this led to a widespread conversion to Christianity among the Frankish peoples and installing Catholicism all across modern-day France and Germany.

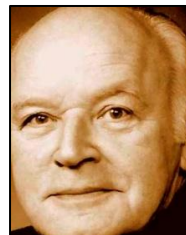
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Fr. Harold Stewart Heard, C.S.Sp.

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In May '86, **Fr. Heard** joined **Fr. Sigismond Lajoie** and **Fr. Joe Jackson** in the celebration of Sacred Heart Church's 50th Anniversary of its establishment as a mission in '36 and its 30 years at Palmer Road before moving to Nelthorpe Street.



Fr. Heard retired in '97 from St. Jean Baptiste Paroisse Francaise and rented an apartment in Victoria. He had a major heart attack and passed away six days later on 2 August '99

The funeral services were at Sacred Heart Church because St. Jean Baptiste Paroisse

Francaise would not have been able to accommodate all who wanted to attend.

Bishop Raymond Roussin presided with **Fr. Heard's** long-time, close and trusted friend, **Fr. Joe Jackson**, C.S.Sp., giving the eulogy. **Fr. Heard** was buried at Ross Bay cemetery and is now next to **Fr. Joe Jackson** ['38-'03].



Fr. Harold Heard, C.S.Sp., at installation of Bishop Joseph Ganda as first native-born archbishop of Freetown and Bo, Sierra Leone, in '80

'Our Pastors' continued in bulletin #37