



## We are the Community. We are the Church.

# 43

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

June 27-28, 2015



*“In ideal June weather, with the sea calm as a mirror, we reached Vancouver Island. How beautiful it looked to us with its forests of green trees, grassy slopes and picturesquely rocky coast. The steamer rounded a headland, we entered the bay, and there Victoria lay before us.”*



These lines, recorded 5 June 1858 in Sr. **Mary Lumena's** diary introduced many generations of Victorians, British Columbians, and Pacific Northwest people to the Sisters of St. Ann. Four intrepid missionaries, their laywoman companion, and hundreds of their successors went on from that June day to

sacrifice and serve this region' people, establishing more than 140 schools, hospitals, missions and ministries throughout B.C., the Yukon, and Alaska. Two days after the sisters arrived, little girls from Fort Victoria appeared at the log cabin and St. Ann's Academy was founded.

The academy closed in '73 but was restored to its architectural prominence in the '90s. It now serves as an interpretive centre for historical detail concerning the congregation's many good works, and as offices for provincial government ministries.

*Besides Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, who ran the Sacred Heart Parish School . . .*

## Sisters of St. Ann involved in Sacred Heart Church

**S**acred Heart Parish participated in St. Ann's Academy's life in many ways. Students, who were parishioners, attended the school and the parish graciously gave financial support.

For some years before the academy closed, the parish made financial contributions towards its operation [a '71 parish annual report reported a \$500 contribution in '71 and \$520 in '70 to St. Ann's and St. Andrew's schools, while the parish's Sacred Heart School received \$1,337 in '71].

In turn, the Sisters of St. Ann were active in Sacred Heart Parish, in many ways, offering religious education, joining ministry and outreach, or, simply, finding a welcoming place of worship.

For many years, in the early '70's, **Sr. Mary Frances Louise**, SSA, stopped in at the parish rectory to ensure that **Fr. Donal Lehane** and his friend, and later, colleague, **Fr. Gary Hartmann** had a special dinner, or a bit of baking or other treats and goodies.

For many years, **Sr. Sylvia Scott**, SSA, now **Mrs. Louis Hofstetter**, excelled in music ministry in the parish as director of the youth folk group and band in '67, and choir leader from '71-

'73. **Sr. Dorothy Agnes**, SSA, now **Miss Bernice Sheehan**, assisted with catechetics in the early '70's.

**Sr. Assunta Campese**, SSA, attended Sacred Heart Parish for 12 years, until she moved from Queenswood in Gordon Head. She is at present a pastoral care assistant at Mount Saint Mary Hospital, where she organizes attendance at chapel services, one-on-one pastoral care visits, and activities such as hymn singing, prayers, such as the rosary once a week and the May crowning of Mary, which the residents appreciate.

Sacred Heart Parish numbered among its participants two young women who entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann, and continue to be companions to the faithful in Victoria today.

**Sr. Eileen Curteis**, SSA, and **Sr. Patricia Shreenan**, SSA, are both active in spiritual work.

In '08, when the Sisters of St. Ann celebrated their 150th anniversary in Victoria, an awestruck commentator, upon learning of their influence, observed: *“These women truly changed Victoria for good and forever!”* **Amen!**

# Catholic Women's League work for 'God and Country'

Soon after the Sacred Heart mission was founded in '36, the women organized an Altar Society to clean the church, look after the linens and raise funds.

On 24 November '40, at a meeting at 4 p.m., the Catholic Women's League Charter #939 was formed at Sacred Heart Church. A few days later, on 5 December, the group took on a new name: the Sacred Heart Council of the Catholic Women's League.

The Catholic Women's League was founded in Brighton, England, in 1906 under the then title League of Catholic Women Workers. It was organized in Canada, nationally, on 17 June '20 and granted federal incorporation on 12 December '23. It was established in Victoria in '21, and, in '34 **Fanny Penfold Coffey**, the aunt of Sacred Heart pastor **Fr. Geoffrey Penfold** ['49-'63], was elected national president.

Sacred Heart's CWL is pledged to work for "God and Country" and to seek its members' spiritual development. It is active in community projects, such as helping senior citizens, 'Birthright', 'Capital Families,' and international programs.

Parishioners who have headed this organization are: ■ **Mary Stockwood** [d], '40-'42; ■ **Agnes Heather** [d], '42-'45; ■ **Zita Webb** [d], '45-'48; ■ **Mary Dobbie**, '48-'49; ■ **Marie Houston** [d], '50; ■ **Delia Magee** [d], '51; ■ **Jean Hanley** [d], '52-'53; ■ **Bernice Rolfe**, '54-'55; ■ **Agnes Connor**, '56-'57; ■ **Connie VanderHaegen**, '58-'59; ■ **Louise Johnsen** [d] '60-'61; ■ **Mary**

## Concern with care Working with love in League with others

**Schwam**, '62, '63; ■ **Ella Webb** [d], '64, '65; ■ **Margaret Griffin**, '66-'67;

■ **Yvonne Ready**, '68-'69; ■ **Aurora McKillop** [d], '70; ■ **Beryl Sheard**, '71; ■ **Isobel Wood**, '72-'73;

■ **Connie VanderHaegen**, '74-'76;

■ **Mary Wilson**, '77-'78; ■ **Beryl Sheard**, '79-'81; ■ **Ella Webb** [d], '82-'84; ■ **Anne Weiker** [d], '85; ■ **Daphne Dalsin**, '86-'87; ■ **Ilene Shaw**, '88-'89; ■ **Lee Chambers**, '90-'91; ■ **Mary Wilson**, '92-'93; ■ **Anne Weiker** [d], '94-'95; ■ **Nan Reinke**, '96-'97; ■ **Theresa Tether**, '98-'99; ■ **Nan Reinke**, '00-'01; ■ **Marilyn Boyko**, '02-'05; ■ **Kathy Keswick**, '06-'07; ■ **Maria Campos**, '08-'11; ■ **Anamaria Medina**, '12-'13; and ■ **Lidia Moodie**, '14-'15.

**Delia Magee** [d] and **Ella Webb** [d] received the Bishop's Diocesan Medal for Service to Church and Community.

CWL members meet once a month at the parish and have guest speakers to enable members to learn about new topics. CWL members support different projects, charities, fundraising efforts and education bursaries and pray for our community and world needs.

All women, age 16 and up, are invited to become members and there is regular memberships for Catholic women, and associate memberships for non-Catholics. Contacts: **Lidia Moodie** — [lidiamoodie@gmail.com](mailto:lidiamoodie@gmail.com) — or **Carolina Solano** — [carolinasolanoc@gmail.com](mailto:carolinasolanoc@gmail.com)

Degree, the equivalent of a Masters in Theology and a Masters and Licence in Canon Law before I came to the Diocese all obtained at my own expense."

## Our Pastors



**FACT CHECK:** "Our Pastors" in bulletin #42 featuring Msgr. Michael Lapierre, had these two sentences: "Earlier that year he celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest after being made a "monsignor" on 1 November '93. This humble, Ontario-born priest, formerly a hospital orderly, was by '00 serving as rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral."

The first sentence refers to '04 when Msgr. Lapierre became our pastor. Msgr. Lapierre says he was ordained in '84. That makes it his 20th anniversary in '04, not 40th. While the year he was made a monsignor — '93 — was correct, Msgr. Lapierre adds: "I was nine years ordained when made a monsignor at the request of Bishop De Roo and named by Pope John Paul II."

In the history of the Catholic Church of Vancouver Island, *Victoria: From Demers to De Roo*, author Patrick Jamieson states on page 374 [readable online]: "Michael Lapierre, a former hospital orderly, went on to become diocesan chancellor and received domestic prelate status in the mid 1990's." Msgr. Lapierre states in his e-mail to the parish office: "I was not an Orderly. I was a Registered Nurse both in Alberta and in B.C. and worked as Evening supervisor on a 42 bed Thoracic Surgical unit for seven years."

He also adds: "I was never rector at the Cathedral but spent six months there, after ordination."

He also added details about when he was working as a registered nurse and he pursued theological studies: "I had a Philosophy



## Catholicism in the continents

### Focus on North America

There are 25 countries that are officially included in North America, including Canada, United States, Mexico, Central American and Caribbean countries.

They have a total population of 567.8 million. The five largest countries by population are: the United States [321 million]; Mexico [121 million]; Canada [35.8 million]; Guatemala [16.2 million]; and, Cuba [11 million]. They are followed by: Haiti [10.9 million]; Dominican Republic [9.98 million]; Honduras [8.95 million]; Nicaragua [6.5 million]; and El Salvador [6.45 million].

Mexico has the largest number of Catholics [92.9 million], followed by the United States [75.4 million], Canada [12.7 million], Guatemala [7.5 million] and Haiti [6.8 million].

Christopher Columbus, in his first journey in 1492 first landed on 12 October on Walting's Island in the Bahamas, then on 28 October in Cuba, before one of his ships, Santa Maria, sank off the coast of Hispaniola Island [now Dominican Republic and Haiti], landed on the island, planted a wooden cross on the summit of Santo Cerro [Holy Hill] and established the first Spanish settlement in North America.

Continued in bulletin #44