



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*

July 11-12, 2015

Save the Date

**5 p.m., Saturday, September 5, Sacred Heart Church:
50th Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Bishop Gary Gordon;
potluck dinner celebration to follow**

Couples for Christ: Building Church of the Home, Building Church of the Poor

This international lay ecclesial Catholic movement, which began in 1981 in the Philippines to renew and strengthen Christian family life, came to Sacred Heart Parish soon after **Fr. Alfredo Alilio** became pastor in 2011.

The group brought its choir to sing occasionally at weekend masses and to serve coffee after the 10 a.m. mass. The CFC has also conducted Christian Life Programs [CLPs] at Sacred Heart.

The CLP is CFC's main program for evangelization, and the entry point for people to join the community.

CFC leaders from Vancouver mainland and the Philippines started CFC in Victoria in August '97.

The first CLP was held at St. Patrick Church. The 16 participants who finished the program, which included **Willy** and **Lily Santiago**, formed the first, small, cell group called a "household" composed of three to six couples or individuals.

Today, CFC Victoria and its family ministries have grown to more than 300 members. They belong to eight parishes in the Victoria diocese, including Port Hardy and Courtenay. It has flourished over the years with the encouragement and support of past and present Victoria pastors and bishops.

Although categorically a Catholic renewal movement, CFC is open to non-Catholic Christians as members. Those who wish to join go through a CLP that leads applicants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them. After an orientation, there are 12 weekly sessions. They involve teaching, group discussions and fellowship. After completing the program, they are invited to join CFC.

CFC is a "womb-to-tomb" renewal organization with members from the youngest to the oldest in its family ministries: Kids for Christ; Youth for Christ; Singles for Christ; CFC Handmaids of the Lord; and CFC Servants of the Lord.

Those who wish can join the community through any of the ministries, and thereafter move from one ministry to the next as state of life changes.

CFC's mission is: ***'Building the Church of the Home and Building the Church of the Poor.'***

It is geared towards its vision: ***'Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth.'***

CFC ensures a future full of hope where the fullness of life in Christ will be enjoyed by God's people through its global work of evangelization.

To build the church of the home, CFC helps families strengthen their prayer life; and grow in community brotherhood, and service to God and people.

Households meet weekly for mutual support and encouragement in Christian life under the direction of a household leader. The household meeting normally lasts about 2.5 hours



50th Anniversary bulletins can be viewed at: <http://www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary>

and is conducted preferably in the home of a group member on a rotation basis. A typical household meeting involves three important ingredients: worship and prayer, sharing or teaching or discussion, and fellowship.

To consolidate CFC's efforts in '*Building the Church of the Poor*', essentially a social-outreach undertaking, CFC created ANCOP. It stands for '*Answering the Cry of the Poor.*'

ANCOP is a registered non-profit in Canada. Its purpose is to help alleviate poverty by improving the living condition of the poor through decent housing and child education.

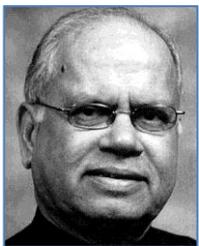
Our Pastors



Fr. Anthony Gonsalves, OFM

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In '72, **Fr. Gonsalves** went to Manila, the Philippines, for a six-month program under the Jesuits, which earned him the post of director of early formation for friar-students at Dar-ul-Naim, the Franciscan formation house, in Lahore in the Punjab province.



He was at this house for eight years.

Besides his contribution to Franciscan formation, he taught English and world history at St. Mary's Minor Seminary for future diocesan priests and provided religious classes at two convents guiding aspirants to their congregations. These were busy years, he says.

By '80, he was back on Mirpurkhas to serve as assistant in the parish, to run a boys' hostel of 60 students, and to initiate a minor seminary for the Hyderabad diocese for prospective diocesan clergy.

In '86, he became the novice-master at Darakshan in Karachi and to experiment residing in a large apartment with middle-class Muslim neighbors. Those who shared this experience are in Pakistan's leadership positions today.

After six years, he moved to Gujrat in the Punjab province as pastor of the church in the city and to six other centres where both schools and communities were established.

Fr. Gonsalves moved to Canada in '93 where he has held these positions:

- '93-'00: pastor, St. Francis Church, Edmonton, under Archbishop Joseph McNeil and Archbishop Thomas Collins;
- '00-'03: guardian at St. Francis Friary on Edmonton Street, where his ministry was mainly confessions and counseling; he also cared for a secular Franciscan fraternity, teaching Bible themes and Franciscan formation;
- '03-'07: pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Victoria under Bishop Richard Gagnon;
- '07-'11: guardian at St. Michael's Retreat House in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, and pastor at two rural parishes in Saskatchewan: Lumsden and Regina Beach;
- '11-'13: guardian of St. Joseph's Friary in Victoria;
- '12-'13: administrator, Holy Cross Parish, Victoria;
- '13-present: chaplain, St. Clare Sisters Monastery, Duncan.

ANCOP rallies the public to participate in the spirit of generosity as it addresses the needs of the poor for shelter, education, health, livelihood and community development support. ANCOP operates in the belief that as the poor is blessed, the poor too becomes a blessing to others.

CFC is present in 120 countries across the world. In Canada, it operates in various provinces and in 15 cities including Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec, Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Vancouver.

In 2000, CFC received an initial Vatican recognition as a private lay organization of pontifical right. Five years later in 2005, Vatican gave CFC a definitive and permanent recognition as an international association of the lay faithful, and approved its statutes.

CFC's leadership earned special seats as participants to the Extraordinary Synod on the Family led by **Pope Francis** in 2014.



Catholicism in the continents

Focus on North America

Continued from bulletin #44

The first Catholic Mass held in the current United States was in 1526 by Dominican friars **Fr. Antonio de Montesinos** and **Fr. Anthony de Cervantes**, who ministered to the San Miguel de Guadalupe colonists for the three months the colony existed.

Meanwhile in 1518, **Hernán Cortés**, marqués del Valle de Oaxaca, a Spanish conquistador, set off to explore Mexico after a 1511 expedition to Cuba led by **Diego Velázquez**. **Cortés** was to command his own expedition to Mexico, but **Velázquez** canceled it. **Cortés** ignored the order and set sail for Mexico with more than 500 men and 11 ships that Fall. He was following a letter of instruction that said: "The first aim of your expedition is to serve God and spread the Christian faith."

In February 1519, the expedition reached the Mexican coast. There he strategically aligned some native peoples against others to overthrow them. He fought Tlaxacan and Cholula warriors and then set his sights on taking over the Aztec empire. He marched to Tenochtitlán, the Aztec capital and home to ruler **Montezuma II**. **Cortés** took **Montezuma** hostage and his soldiers raided the city. **Cortés** left the city after learning that Spanish troops were coming to arrest him for disobeying orders.

After facing off against Spanish forces, **Cortés** returned to Tenochtitlán to find a rebellion in progress. The Aztecs eventually drove the Spanish from the city, but **Cortés** returned again to defeat them and take the city in 1521. **King Charles I** of Spain, also known as **Holy Roman Emperor Charles V**, appointed him the governor of New Spain the following year. The first missionaries arrived shortly after the fall of the Aztecs. Most of the missionary work was done by Catholic orders—the Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians and Jesuits. Thirty-five years after the first dozen Franciscans arrived, there were 800 missionaries in Mexico alone. It is said that the Franciscans alone baptized five million—roughly one per cent of the world's population at the time.

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