

**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*

**46**

July 18-19, 2015

## **Fr. Anthony 'Tony' Gonsalves**

**February 4, 1940 — July 10, 2015**

Sacred Heart Parish's 11th pastor, **Fr. Anthony 'Tony' Gonsalves**, OFM, passed away at 4:45 p.m. on Friday evening, enroute with another friar, to join the Franciscan Poor Clare Sisters at their evening prayer. This was his routine as their chaplain. Their monastery in Duncan is just across from the San Damiano Friary, where he resided.

"He collapsed in our driveway in the midst of a conversation and had a massive heart attack. We called 911, and did CPR, but they were unable to do anything for him. He was only 75 and will leave a huge hole among the many people whose lives he touched with his goodness," the sisters stated in their Facebook page.

"**Fr Tony** was a gentle compassionate man, whose faith was lived out much like that of **Pope Francis**. Mercy and compassion were always how he dealt with people in difficult situations, always modelling God's forgiveness. He was truly a man of joy, who loved his Franciscan vocation and priesthood," the sisters stated.

**His profile was published under "Our Pastors" in bulletin #44 on July 4-6, 2015, and #45 on July 11-12, 2015, and can be viewed at: <http://www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary>**

**Fr. Tony** retired as pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Ladysmith and St. Joseph's Parish in Chemainus on July 1, just 10 days earlier, to serve full-time at the friary and the monastery.

He came to Sacred Heart Parish in October '04. During his three years as our pastor, the faith community celebrated the 40th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Sacred Heart Mission — before it became a parish — at Palmer Road in '36.

He modelled the simplicity and ways of **Jesus**, particularly when it involved religious ritualism [see **Mark 7: 6-8** and **Luke 11: 37-52**]. Before the recent revisions of the Roman Missal, when celebrants had more discretion in their interpretations of liturgical norms, **Fr. Tony** literally brought the 'Good News' to the people. Instead of proclaiming the Gospel from the ambo, he proclaimed the 'Good News' in the midst of the faithful from the centre aisle.

**Fr. Tony** also followed the practices of another Franciscan, **Fr. Sigismond Lajoie**, OFM, who served the parish for 20 years. In following the footsteps of **Jesus**, they went to the people in the pews to greet them "peace" when parishioners turn to each other to extend their hands in peace. They were open to lay persons, particularly eucharistic ministers, being around the altar in preparation for communion distribution [at the Last Supper,

**Jesus** had his disciples around Him: "When evening came, he sat down with his twelve disciples, and while they were at the table

... — **Matthew 26:20**].

They both also encouraged the congregation to be in communion with the priest, representing **Jesus**, during the mass by standing — including during the Eucharistic prayer — and sitting when the priest does. Rarely does the priest kneel during the mass. **Fr. Sig** also gave this reason for standing during most of the mass: "so that the faithful are ready to step out to serve the Lord at any time." **Fr. Tony** went a step further. Out of respect for the eucharistic ministers distributing communion while standing, he encouraged the congregation to stand until after the communion and the presiding priest sits down.

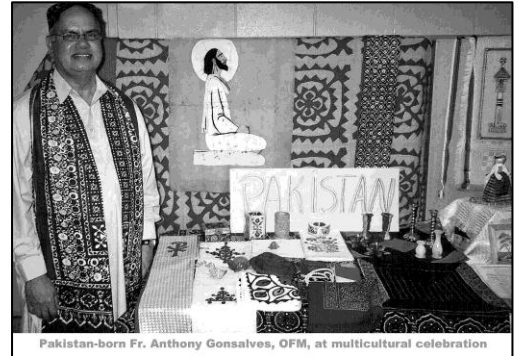
Sacred Heart Parish's first Asian pastor had plans to visit India this year. He was born in "British" India before Karachi, his birth place, became part of Pakistan after the partition of India and Pakistan in '47. His parents, though, were from "Portuguese" Goa, now part of India, and he considers himself to be a Goan.

In '06, **Fr. Tony** gave a series of informative talks on Islam, since he grew up in Muslim neighborhoods in Pakistan.

And with the ethnic diversity of the Sacred Heart faith community increasing over the last few decades, **Fr. Tony** introduced the first multicultural celebration in January '06 with ethnic displays, dances, attire and food. This celebration has been held nearly every year since.

He had time for everyone and something special happened when people entered his "office", says **Marilyn Bojko**, his Sacred Heart parish assistant. "They truly were captivated by his amazing ability to understand each and everyone's life situation, and to do what he could to be part of whatever people needed him to do.

"Family was utmost to him! And we at Sacred Heart were blessed to be cared by such a "family" man," she says. "He was also a great story teller and he wished us to share in this quality, so that we would listen to each other's stories, and thereby learn about each other from our very own unique stories."



Pakistan-born Fr. Anthony Gonsalves, OFM, at multicultural celebration

After Friar Dan Gurnick's last mass, on Saturday morning, 4 July '15, as the 15th pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, he received an electric bike as a parting gift. Happy Trails! This Franciscan will be missed

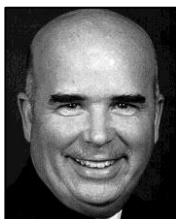


## Our Pastors

### Fr. Sean Flynn

**F**r. Sean Flynn was Sacred Heart Parish's 12th pastor, from '07 to '10.

He was born at St. Joseph's hospital in Victoria on 9 January '54 to



**Betty and Emmett Flynn.** He is the fourth of seven children. He has three brothers and three sisters.

He went to St. Patrick's Elementary School, Central Junior Secondary and Victoria High school, where he graduated in 1972.

Immediately after high school graduation he joined his family's printing business, the only

"job" he says he ever had. At Flynn Printing, he had multifaceted responsibilities including customer relations, shipping, processing jobs, mathematical calculations, invoicing, bindery work and sales.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Parish in Oak Bay, where he was baptized, until he was 31 years old. Then he was a parishioner for seven years at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Esquimalt before being a parishioner at St. Andrew's Cathedral for another seven years. This was when he received his calling to be a diocesan priest.

At age 45, he entered St. Joseph's seminary in Edmonton in '99 graduated in '05 and **Bishop Richard Gagnon** ordained him at St. Andrew's Cathedral on 17 July '05.

After his ordination, he spent a year with **Fr. Rolf Hasenack, OP**, at St. Elizabeth's Parish in Sidney. He was then appointed pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish on Salt Spring Island before becoming pastor at Sacred Heart Parish.

He is currently pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Mill Bay and Our Lady Queen of the World in Shawnigan Lake.

**Fr. Sean's** story to ordination is a story of blessings: a wonderful family, a story-book childhood, and great friends. There were adventures and challenges that were all special and a delight. He feels to share them could border upon excessive ego, vanity, and pride. What can be shared, he said, is the moment in life that brought this 45- year-old man to say 'yes' to the Lord.

Once, while with some friends, a moment arose when one posed the question: "If you could do anything in life what would it be?" His heart pounded but he held the response within.

Soon after this revelation, **Fr. Sean** was confronted from a face from the past: a visitor to the printing shop. This person asked:

"What are you still doing here? I thought you were going to be a priest." Priesthood was a well-guarded secret. How could this distant acquaintance pose such a declaration?

Again, shortly after this encounter, **Fr. Sean** said he went to pray at the cathedral regarding this "astounding revelation." As he entered the church, all the folks went on their knees to pray for priesthood vocations, he said. The "yes Lord" was a must.

So his adventure at Sacred Heart becomes a memory of the beginning of an even fuller life of joy, he said. **Fr. Sean** was new to the priesthood when he arrived at Sacred Heart. He said he takes his memories of his time at Sacred Heart with him in praise and glory of God.



## Catholicism in the continents

### Focus on North America

Continued from bulletin #45

**T**he priests in Mexico built new towns and villages for their converts. They constructed huge churches, larger than many of the cathedrals in Europe. Despite decrees barring their entry into the New World, *hebreo cristianos* [Hebrew Christians], *nuevo cristianos* [New Christians], *Moriscos* [Moors], and other "heretics" began to show up. To deal with these non-believers, the Spanish Inquisition made its way across the Atlantic. On the recommendation of the Inquisition, thousands of "heretics" throughout the continent were tortured until they died or confessed to charges they faced.

As the inquisitors labored to purge the continent of non-Catholics, the new Spanish governors encouraged the spread of Catholicism among the native populations, and not just because it gave them political support from the Vatican. The Catholic church was key to their ability to control the continent with only a small military.

Guatemala was home to great Mayan cities, such as Tikal, Piedras Negras, Uaxactún and Zacualpa, before the coming of the Spanish conquistadores in the 16th century.

Spaniard **Pedro de Alvarado** founded Santiago de los Caballeros city on 25 July 1524. With **Alvarado** came the first missionaries: Augustinians, Mercedarians, Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits. They all contributed to the Mayan natives' evangelization and fostered western culture through schools of various types. Among the early missionaries, one wrote a catechism in Quitché, one prepared one in Kakchiquel, another was the author of catechisms in both Indian languages, and a fourth, while preparing catechetical material, invented five characters not in the European alphabet to express Indian sounds.

Continued in bulletin #47