

**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*

**August 22-23, 2015**



*Saturday, September 5, 5 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Mass  
followed by a potluck celebration:*

- ❖ *Presided by Bishop Gary Gordon and concelebrated with Fr. David Hogman, Fr. Philip Bae, Friar Dan Gurnick, Fr. Alfredo Alípio, Fr. Sean Flynn, Fr. Peter Ho, and Friar Jean Pierre;*
- ❖ *Installation of Fr. David Hogman as Sacred Heart's 16th pastor;*
- ❖ *'Unveiling of 50th Anniversary Legacy Hymn Contest's winning entry: 'Hymn to the Sacred Heart,' to be sung by Helen Krauch, its composer;*
- ❖ *Potluck dinner and entertainment in the parish hall.*

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*"I readily acknowledge that many women share pastoral responsibilities with priests, helping to guide people, families and groups and offering new contributions to theological reflection. But we need to create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church. Because "the feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society, the presence of women must also be guaranteed in the workplace" and in the various other settings where important decisions are made, both in the Church and in social structures." — Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* ["The Joy of the Gospel"] issued 13 November '13*

## **How can parish women provide "more incisive female presence" in our church?**

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**A**fter **Marilyn Bojko's** initial job as a coordinator of seniors' activities at St. Andrew's Cathedral in the early 80s, she and her husband, **Sieg**, opened their own automotive repair shop in the mid-80s and happily worked together for 12 years.

When their business closed, **Marilyn** began her work on Sacred Heart terrain, first for a brief time at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, as a temporary replacement receptionist. From that position, **Marilyn** was hired, initially, as a temporary employee.

**Marilyn's** employment with Sacred Heart grew into responsibilities that eventually were identified as parish secretary, parish facilitator of ministries and coordinator of religious education for children. **Marilyn** was also part of the Bishop's advisory committee, for the development of the children's sacramental two-year program.

"I am sincerely grateful to be given the opportunity to be of service to the Sacred Heart community, to the pastors and parishioners who, probably, unbeknown to them, mentored me

and helped me to recognize and love the absolute lived truth of community. Sacred Heart Faith Community continues to, and will always be, deep in my heart," **Marilyn** said.

**Katherine Newton** was born on 30 June '67 in Singapore to **Mary** and **Eugene Newton**. She was the last of nine children, "but not in the least spoiled," she assures.

In Singapore, she attended St Anthony's Convent — primary school — and East Payoh Secondary School.

**Katherine** has a teaching certificate in early childhood education [intermediate-level] from the Regional Training and Resource Centre in Early Childhood Care and Education for Asia and a London Chamber of Commerce and Industry diploma in sales and marketing.

Her professional life included working as guest services officer and then as the guest services manager at the Hyatt Regency Singapore [eight years], and then at the Four Seasons Hotel [three years] in Singapore.

She met **Rafael Oei** at St Alphonsus Church — a Redemptorist mission church — in '79 where **Rafael** was an altar server, choir member, and church organist.

As both their families were actively involved at St Alphonsus Church, **Katherine** and **Rafael** were brought up serving the church community. They founded and were core members of the Mustard Seed [later re-named Vine & Branches] Prayer Group [from '77]; assisted with school missions; helped to organise the church's first and subsequent lenten vigils, and youth and family masses with their spiritual director, **Fr. Simon Pereira** CSsR.

**Katherine** and **Rafael** were married at St Joseph's Church on 2 January '93. **Katherine** had her first child, **Nicole**, in '94 and then a son, **Sean**, in '99.

She arrived in Victoria on 28 July '03 and attended various churches before discovering Sacred Heart Church.

"We attended church services elsewhere until we heard about the 'church on a hill.'

"Our first mass happened to be on the Sunday when the late **Bishop Raymond Roussin**, S.M., welcomed **Fr. Sig** back from his long illness. We fell in love with Sacred Heart Church that day, and decided that it was 'home.' We came back for the weekday mass the very next day but discovered that there was no mass on Mondays.

"Returning again on Tuesday, we met and spoke with **Fr. Sig**. He

is part of the reason why we never left Sacred Heart Church in search for another parish.

"Our family volunteered to do whatever was needed at Sacred Heart Parish. **Sean** and I started as ushers. **Rafael** started as pianist and organist before becoming music director. Nicole started as an altar server," she says.

**Katherine** was also usher coordinator from '05 to '07.

On 1 June '12, **Katherine** was appointed the parish's administrative assistant after two rounds of interviews. There were more than 20 applicants for the job.

Her duties are to assist the pastors and manage the parish office. The most difficult challenge she faces in the job is "being a light and face of **Jesus**, especially when being screamed at!"

Her most enjoyable experiences are having opportunities for personal spiritual retreats while hiking up hills [like Christmas Hill behind the office], and to socialize during parish events.

She has served two pastors to date: **Fr. Alfred Alilio** for two years and **Friar Dan Gurnick** for 10 months.

"I am happy and grateful to realize that I have God as my "Big Boss" and that He provides me the opportunity to receive His Holy Body and Blood during mass to start my day," she says.

**Katherine** and all the other women in the parish are already striving to be a "more incisive female presence in our church," as **Pope Francis** seeks.

## Our Pastors

### Fr. Alfred Alilio

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**Fr. Alfred "Al" Alilio's** first assignment after ordination was to attend the Catholic School of Evangelization for Asia in Lucena City, Philippines, from July '91 to December '91.

On 5 December '91, he was appointed parochial vicar [associate pastor] at St.

Catherine of Alexandria Parish at Pagbilao,

Quezon, and attending priest at St. Anne's Parish in Malicboy, Pagbilao, Quezon. In '93, he was assigned as parochial vicar to St. Jude Thaddeus Diocesan Shrine in Cotta, Lucena City.

In '95, his sister sponsored him to come to Canada. **Fr. Al** served from August '95 to June '99 as associate pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Brampton, Ontario, and also as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus at this parish and spiritual director of the Legion of Maria — Curia.

**Fr. Al** was a guest at the parish of St. Mary's-Stony Hill in Watchung, New Jersey, U.S., from September '99 to July '00.

He returned to Canada to become associate pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Barrie, Ontario, from October '00 to June '03, where again he served as chaplain to the Knights of Columbus and spiritual director of the Catholic Women's League.

From '04 to '06 he was associate pastor at St. Joseph's Parish in Kingston, Ontario, chaplain to the Knights of Columbus and in '05, spiritual director of Mater de Curia, Legion of Mary.

**Fr. Al** became an administrator for two Ontario parishes, St. Laurence O'Toole in Spencerville and St. Theresa in North

Augusta, from July '06 to July '08. After these two parishes, he was assigned as administrator at St. John's Parish at Perth, Ontario, until July '10.

After a sabbatical year, **Fr. Al** came to Sacred Heart Parish on 1 August '11 as pastor. He was transferred in '14 to St. Patrick's Parish in Oak Bay where he is currently the pastor.



## Catholicism in the continents

### Focus on South America

Continued from bulletin #48

The Pew Research, published in the Catholic Herald on 17 November '14, also states: "Some countries in the region, such as Uruguay, have almost as many Protestants and religiously unaffiliated people as Catholics. If the trend continues, 'even Brazil, home to the largest Catholic population on earth, will no longer have a Catholic majority by 2030' according to Andrew Chesnut, religious studies professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and author of a book on evangelicals in Brazil.

"The survey underscores the urgency of the Pope's pleas for action in Latin America, where Catholicism has been intimately associated with culture, governance and history for more than 500 years. **Pope Francis** has called for Catholics to adopt a more missionary mindset and take their faith to people on the periphery of society — places where Protestants often find converts."

When the Europeans came to America — named after explorer Amerigo Vespucci — there were crucial differences between the British and Iberian conquests: the British were more adroit at creating laws which legitimized their land acquisitions and power.

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