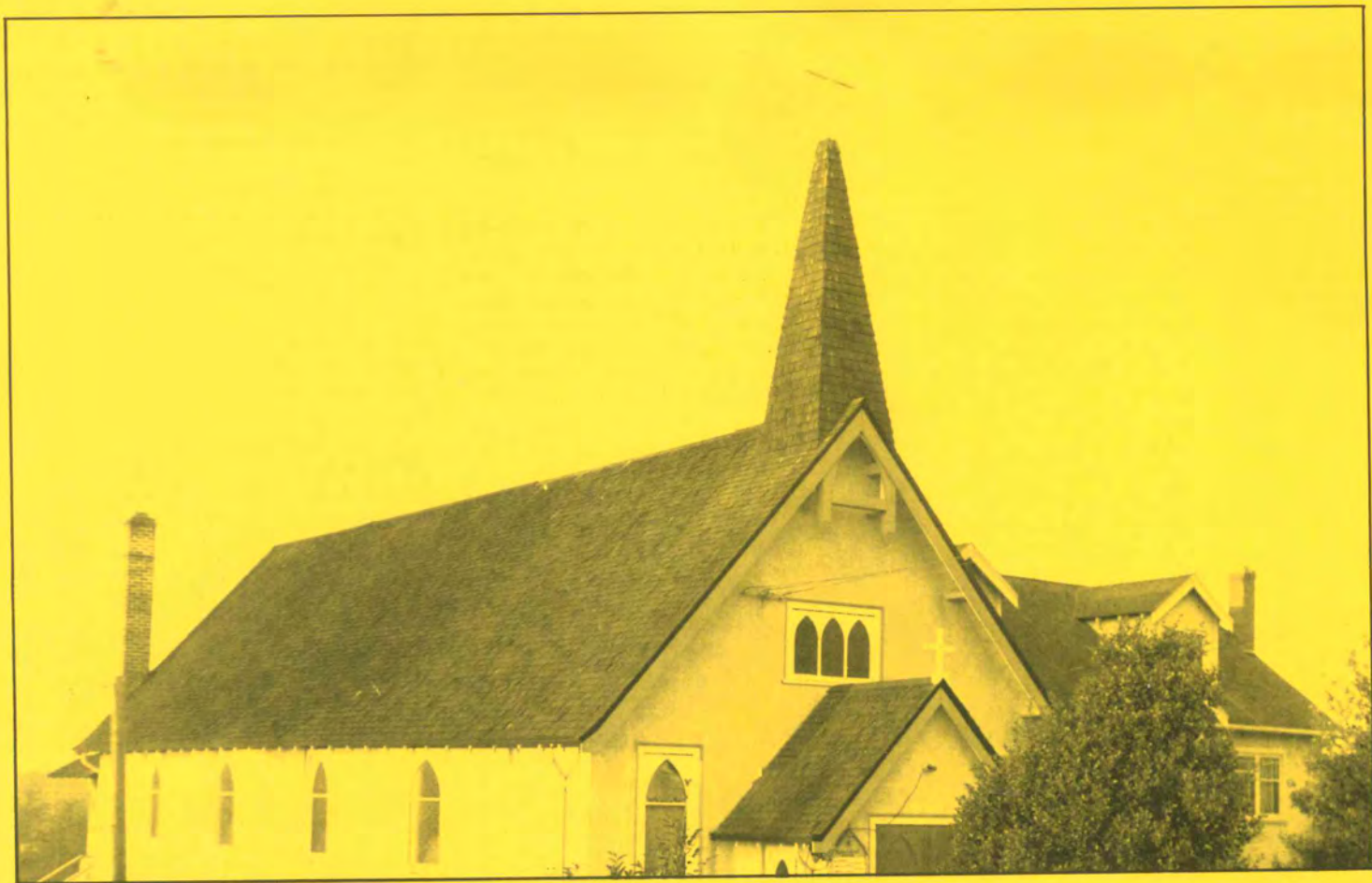


Sacred Heart Faith Community

1936 - 1986





Sacred Heart Church at 1130 Palmer Road



Bishop Remi De Roo, S.T.D.



BISHOP'S OFFICE

#230 - 1555 MCKENZIE AVENUE, VICTORIA, B.C. V8N 1A4 PHONE (604) 721-4423

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

Your fiftieth anniversary is a splendid occasion to look back with gratitude and give thanks to God. Many blessings have been showered upon the people of Vancouver Island through the life of Sacred Heart Parish. And so in the name of our diocesan church I extend to you congratulations and best wishes. May God continue to fill your hearts with peace and joy as you serve one another in Jesus' Name.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Remi J. De Roo,
Bishop of Victoria

OUR PASTORS:

Our faith community owes much of its strength, vitality and spiritual well-being to our devoted pastors, administrators and other priests, who served as assistants, or, who came to our parish just to help out:

- **1936-37: Fr. Carl T. Albury**, appointed by Bishop McDonald, established the mission in 1936 and administered it from St. Andrew's Cathedral until he left in 1937 to become pastor in Cumberland/Courtenay; born in Nassau, Bahamas, he attended a private grade school and Harbour Island High School before graduating *summa cum laude* from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1926; he returned to Nassau to edit a newspaper; in 1928, he joined the Grand Seminary in Montreal; he was ordained in Winnipeg on Mar. 6, 1932, and taught at St. Paul's College in that city for a year before coming to Victoria as an assistant at our cathedral; later he was elevated to monsignor; he died on Oct. 5, 1982;
- **1937 - 41:** the mission was administered by priests at our cathedral, including the late **Fr. James Crowthers**, the late **Fr. Joseph Augustine (Gus) Gaudette**; the late, **Fr. Theodore Geukers**, **Fr. Wigglesworth**, and the late **Fr. Roy Monahan**;
- **1941 - 49: Fr. Thomas Mangan**, a Redemptorist, appointed by Bishop Cody as our first, full-time pastor; born on Sept. 27, 1899, in Lindsay, Ontario, he graduated from the Collegiate Institute and St. Mary's College, Brockville,

OUR BISHOPS:

Four bishops of our Vancouver Island diocese have given our Sacred Heart faith community spiritual leadership and guidance during our 50-year history:

- the late **Bishop John McDonald**, D.D., the diocese's 10th bishop (1934-37), established the Sacred Heart Mission;
- the late **Bishop John C. Cody**, D.D., nurtured our new and growing parish during his term (1937-46);
- **Bishop James Hill**, D.D., served our faith community from 1946 until his death on March 29, 1962;
- **Bishop Remi De Roo**, S.T.D., appointed in 1962, presided over our church's move to Nelthorpe St., steered us decisively in the post Vatican II Council years, and serves to this day as our diocese's spiritual leader.

before entering Mount St. Alphonsus, in Esopus, New York; he was ordained in 1927 by the late Cardinal Hayes; on his return to Canada, he conducted missions and retreats before becoming pastor at St. Alphonsus Church in Edmonton; on Mar. 19, 1949, he suffered a stroke and died on June 10, 1951;

- **1949 - 63: Fr. Geoffrey Penfold**, appointed by Bishop Hill; born in 1906, he grew up in Montreal; he entered the Jesuit novitiate in Guelph, Ontario, and was incardinated in our diocese in 1934; he then went to St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, was ordained in Montreal in

1938, and came to Victoria that year; in 1956 he was hospitalized, but continued to serve as our pastor; he became a monsignor on Feb. 11, 1960, and died on Jan. 8, 1963;

- **1956 - 67: Fr. Jan Planeta**, appointed by Bishop De Roo; born on Mar. 25, 1909, in Radwan, Poland; he was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral in Tarnow, Poland, on June 29, 1984; he was arrested by the Gestapo on Oct. 16, 1939, for teaching catechism to his parish's children; he spent five months in jail, another five months in a labor camp and then at Dachau until April 29, 1945; in 1950, when he was chaplain in a camp for displaced persons in Germany, our diocese sponsored his immigration to Canada; he came to our parish as assistant to Fr. Penfold in the spring of 1955; on January 29, 1959, he celebrated in the parish his 25th anniversary as a priest; on Dec. 17, 1967, he left to serve at Quilicum Beach and Parksville; he was in an accident on November 9, 1969; he died on Dec. 4, 1969;
- **1967 - 73: Fr. Donal Lehane**, our first parishioner to be ordained, was appointed by Bishop De Roo; born in Ireland in 1915, he came to Victoria as a boy; he attended St. Louis College here before entering the Seminary of Christ the King in Burnaby; he completed his training at St. Peter's College in London, Ontario; on June 7, 1970, he celebrated in the parish his 25th anniversary as a priest; he is now chaplain for St. Ann's residence for elderly sisters in our garden city;
- **1973 - 76: Fr. William Bulloch**, appointed by Bishop De Roo; born on May 8, 1910, in Gananoque, Ontario, he attended public schools

in Toronto, Loyola College in Montreal, and, after conversion to Catholicism, St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto; he was ordained on June 3, 1944, for our diocese; he served at Nanaimo, Qualicum Beach, St. Andrew's Cathedral and Ladysmith before coming to our parish; he retired in 1976 and was elevated to monsignor on December 14, 1977; he is an accomplished musician and actor;

- 1976 - 79: **Fr. Guy Merveille, O. PRAEM.**, appointed by Bishop De Roo; he was born in Liege, Belgium, in 1937; at 18, he entered the Norbertine Monastery and was ordained in 1961; in 1966, he went to Philadelphia, New York, where he studied at the Pope John XXIII Ecumenical Centre; in 1971, he began work on his doctorate in sociology; in June 1976, he returned to his abbey in Belgium where he received permission to come to our parish; he was transferred to Gold River in 1979; he is now chaplain at a couple of institutions in Montreal;
- 1979 - 84: **Fr. Harold Heard, C.S.Sp.**, appointed by Bishop De Roo; he was born in Sunderland, England, in 1913; he attended seminaries in France (Abbaye Blanche, Mortain and Chevilly) and in Louvain, Belgium; he escaped to England the day before France fell (on June 17, 1940), and was ordained on Nov. 1, 1941 at Castlehead, England; this 'Holy Ghost Father' served for 35 years in Africa before coming to Victoria in August 1978 to serve the St. Jean Baptiste Paroisse Francaise; 10 months later he came to our parish; he is now pastor at St. Jean Baptiste Paroisse Francaise;
- 1984 - present: **Fr. Sigismond Lajoie, O.F.M.**, appointed by Bishop De Roo; born in Winturburn, Alberta, on Jan. 15, 1927, he was raised in



Fr. Carl T. Albury



Fr. Thomas Mangan



Fr. Geoffrey Penfold



Fr. Jan Planeta



Fr. Lehane



Fr. William Bulloch



Fr. Guy Merveille,
O.PRAEM.



Fr. Harold Heard, C.S.Sp.

Therien, Alberta, and studied at St. Anthony's College in Edmonton; he entered the Franciscan novitiate in Sherbrooke, Quebec, in 1946; after three years at the Philosophy Scholasticate in Quebec City and four years at the Rosemont Franciscan School of Theology, he was ordained in 1954 in St. Paul, Alberta; from 1954 - 58 he was principal at Lourdes High School in Maillardville;

then he served for 24 years at Port Alberni; during this assignment, he studied, from 1971-73, for a master's degree from the School of Theology at Berkeley, California; in 1982 he was appointed administrator at Sooke and the diocese's chancellor; now, besides being our parish's administrator, he is the diocese's vicar general.

Other priests have helped to minister to our spiritual needs over the years. They include:

- 1961 - 63: Fr. Leon Belanger;
- 1963: Fr. William Amyot, S.F.M.;
- 1963: Fr. Arthur Leonard;
- 1967 - 68: Fr. Bernard Hanley;
- 1967 - present: Fr. Anthony Kwarta;
- 1972 - 73: Fr. Paul Blancard;
- 1976: Fr. Gerhard Hartmann;
- 1976 - 84: Fr. Leo Robert;
- 1977 - 78: Fr. Joe Ponic;
- 1979: Fr. Eugene Trainor
- 1985: Fr. Peter Ho;

Our parish reflects our nation's multicultural character. Sunday masses in Polish, Portuguese and Vietnamese have been celebrated in the church or at the Pope John XXIII Hall. Priests who have served the bigger ethnic groups in our parish include:

- **POLISH:** Fr. Anthony Kwarta; he began celebrating mass on Easter Sunday, 1967, for Canadians who immigrated from Poland;
- **PORTUGUESE, ITALIAN, SPANIARDS:** Fr. Daniel Johnston; on May 7, 1972, he began residing in our parish's rectory to serve Canadians who immigrated from Portugal, Italy and Spain; he became ill in our parish and was transferred to Boston, where he died on Dec. 10, 1982.
- **VIETNAMESE:** Fr. Peter Ho; he began celebrating mass in 1985 for Canadians who were refugees from Vietnam.



Fr. Sigismond Lajoie,
O.F.M.

A HERITAGE TO BUILD UPON:

As a parish within the Vancouver Island diocese, our faith community is part of a rich heritage of Catholicism on the island. Its dynamic contribution to this legacy began in 1936:

- 162 years after the first Catholics came to Canada's west coast in 1774 — Spaniards, including Franciscan friars Juan Crespi and Thomas de la Pena as the chaplains, aboard the *Santiago*;
- 146 years after the Spaniards built the first Catholic church on Canada's west coast at Fort San Miguel, at Nootka, on Vancouver Island, and erected wooden crosses for His Catholic Majesty Charles IV at Sooke and Royal Roads in 1790;
- 93 years after Fr. Jean-Baptiste Z. Bolduc, a priest from Canada, celebrated the first

Sunday mass in Camosun (now Victoria) on Mar. 19, 1843; it was attended by 1,200 natives, Hudson's Bay Company's Chief Factor James Douglas, several Canadians and two Catholic ladies; after the service, Fr. Bolduc baptized 102 Indian children;

- 90 years after the Vancouver Island diocese was established on Jun. 28, 1846;
- 89 years after Fr. Modeste Demers was consecrated as the diocese's first bishop on Nov. 30, 1847.

Thus, when the Sacred Heart Mission was opened, there were already several Catholic churches in the Greater Victoria area. These included:

- 1858 - 86: St. Andrew's Cathedral at Humboldt St.; it moved, in 1886, to the St. Ann's Academy grounds to become St. Ann's

Chapel; 1884-92: the cathedral was located on the present Standard Furniture parking lot on View St.; 1892-present: cathedral and rectory at 740 View St.;

- 1858-78: St. Joseph's Church in Esquimalt near Admirals Rd.; 1878-1930: relocated between Constance and Wellington streets on Esquimalt Rd.; 1930-present: renamed Our Lady Queen of Peace Church and relocated to 849 Old Esquimalt Rd.;
- 1927 - 62: St. Margaret's Church in Strawberry Vale, at Chancellor Ave.; closed after St. Joseph's Church was established at 785 West Burnside Road.
- 1938: Catholic Chinese Church at 852 North Park St.; it was run by the Scarboro Foreign Mission fathers and the Notre Dame des Anges sisters; it now no longer exists;
- 1912: Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 2060 Haultain St.; replaced in 1960 by St. Patrick's parish at 2067 Carrick Rd.;
- 1876 - present: Our Lady Of The Assumption Church at 7742 West Saanich Rd.;
- 1908 - 80: St. Elizabeth Church in Sidney; new church opened in December 1980 at 10030 Third St. in Sidney.
- 1923: St. Francis Xavier mission at Otter Point; closed a few years later;
- 1926 - present: St. Rose of Lima Church named Our Lady Of The Rosary Church at 798 Goldstream, Langford;
- 1926 - 1942: St. Rose of Lima Church, named after America's first canonized saint, on Sooke Rd.;



- 1928 - present: St. Thomas mission at Rocky Point Road, Metchosin;

Since the Sacred Heart Mission was established, other churches have been built:

- 1951: Our Lady Of The Rosary Church formerly St. Richard's mission, at 798 Goldstream, Langford;
- Nov. 27, 1957: St. Jean Baptiste, first French-language church, at 311 Richmond Rd.;
- 1960: St. Patrick's Church at 2067 Carrick Road;
- May 19, 1963: St. Joseph's Church at 785 West Burnside Road;
- 1967: Thomas More experimental parish at 4081 Gordon Head Road; now closed;
- Feb. 27, 1983: Holy Cross Church at 4053 Gordon Head Rd.;
- Oct. 6, 1984: Our Lady of Fatima Church at 4653 Elk Lake Rd., first Portuguese-language parish;
- 1985: St. Leopold Mandic Church at Gordon Head Rd. for Canadians who immigrated from Croatia; they moved from St. Jean Baptiste Church at 311 Richmond Rd.;

THROUGH THE FIVE DECADES:

For the last 50 years, our faith community has been an important and integral part of the diocese's growing Catholic community.

These have been years of challenges and changes, both within the Catholic Church and around it. They have been, perhaps, the most exciting years in mankind's history.

The parish's history is, basically, a chronology of the achievements of dynamic and dedicated people -- bishops, priests, nuns and parishioners -- and the changes within the Catholic church. Here are some highlights:

- *Early spring, 1936:* Bishop McDonald directed Fr. Albury to establish a new mission; he recommended a church be built at 1120 Palmer Rd.; Bishop McDonald loaned \$200 to buy the property, Fr. Albury borrowed \$1,500 to pay the sub-trades, contractor Patrick Mahoney built the church without any fee for himself, and the St. Ann sisters donated stained glass windows for the sacristy; the church had a seating capacity of 120 with more space for parishioners in the choir loft; it was named Sacred Heart Church but was better known as the Lakehill Mission;
- *May 3, 1936:* Bishop McDonald blessed our new church;
- *May 4, 1936:* Fr. Albury celebrated the first mass in our church; it was attended by 60 families;
- *Mar. 11, 1937:* Isabelle P. McMillan and Desmond Burdon-Murphy were the first couple married in our church; Fr. Albury celebrated the nuptial mass;

- *Mar. 14, 1937:* Josephine and Clifford Renouf's daughter, Joanne, was the first person baptized in our church; Fr. Albury officiated;
- *Dec. 5, 1940:* our parish's Catholic Women's League organized;
- *May 13, 1941:* Bishop Cody made the mission a parish and appointed Fr. Mangan as our first full-time pastor; he lived in the church's small sacristy.
- *1942:* Bishop Cody blessed our new rectory at 1130 Palmer Rd.;
- *1943:* rectory converted to a convent; house at 3905 Quadra St., now replaced by an apartment building, acquired for a new rectory; Evelyn Cote, Fr. Mangan's cousin, was the receptionist, secretary, housekeeper and choir director;
- *May 28, 1944:* first public May procession held;
- *July 31, 1946:* diocese's centennial; 'The Tenth Decade' pageant held at the Royal Theatre;
- *1949:* Fr. Penfold established the Altar Boys' Club;
- *Jan. 1951:* Our Lady of the Cape statue visited our parish;
- *Oct. 5, 1954:* Our Lady of Fatima pilgrim statue visited our parish;
- *Aug. 1956:* first parish census conducted by Holy Name Society;
- *Dec. 1958:* house at 1130 Palmer Rd. returned for use as a rectory after the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters moved to their new convent; basement became parish hall and a small lending library;
- *March 9, 1963:* to wipe out a \$78,000 debt and raise funds for a new church, parishioners were asked to make a suggested initial donation of \$400.00 and to increase their weekly donation to the church.

- *Dec. 14, 1963:* parish decided to build new church and rectory at 4040 Nelthorpe St. above parish school site; Maurice Connor appointed building committee head;
- *July 12, 1964:* Bishop De Roo made first official visit to our parish;
- *Sept. 13, 1964:* parish approved plans by Victoria architect John Di Castri for our new church;



**Sod-turning for Sacred Heart Church at
4040 Nelthorpe Street**

- *Oct. 4, 1964:* sod turned by Fr. Planeta for our new church;
- *Nov. 1, 1964:* construction of our new church began;

- *Aug. 28, 1965:* Fr. Planeta's niece, Christine Blaszczyk, and William Atkinson were first couple married in our new church;
- *Sept. 5, 1965:* first Sunday mass in our new church celebrated by Fr. Planeta;
- *Sept. 19, 1965:* Lawrence Webb began construction of our rectory from working drawings by Kenneth Brown.
- *Mar. 4, 1966:* our new rectory completed; Fr. Planeta moved in 3 weeks later;
- *Apr. 2, 1966:* parish's Guides and Brownies attended mass and then planted a cypress sapling to mark British Columbia's centenary;
- *May 1, 1966:* Fr. Albury, parish's first administrator, celebrated last Sunday mass in our old church; church building later sold and eventually demolished; rectory building is now the home of Adolphe and Grace Rochon, parishioners;
- *Jun. 26, 1966:* our new church dedicated by Bishop De Roo;
- *Mar. 1967:* 'red bag' collection started;
- *May 8, 1967:* 500 parishioners attended open-air mass to celebrate Mary's Day; children in Polish and Italian costumes trekked downhill to the Blessed Virgin shrine next to the parish school, piled flowers around it, danced around the maypole, and had a picnic;
- *Nov. 5, 1967:* our first parish council, composed of 8 members, elected;
- *Mar. 20, 1969:* Harry Van Dyk appointed hall manager;
- *1971:* first board of trustees formed to administer our parish's finances and assets and handle the maintenance of buildings and grounds;
- *May 2, 1972:* first Portuguese-language mass celebrated at our church;
- *1974:* our present Rodger's organ purchased;

- *July 10, 1977:* our parish became first depositor in the diocesan Mutual Investment Credit ("MIC") fund;
- *Dec. 1977* our rectory's carport converted into the Pope John XXIII meeting hall and chapel; altar is from the I.H.M. sisters' convent at Palmer Rd., and later in their chapel at McKenzie Ave.; carving on the front is a replica of the order's insignia;
- *Oct. 6, 1984:* Our Lady of Fatima Church, at Elk Lake Rd., opened for Portuguese-language services;
- *Jan. 27, 1985:* Diocesan Foundation campaign launched with our parish's visitation team consisting of 8 women and 19 men;
- *Mar. 9, 1986:* Canadians, who immigrated from the Philippines, joined our faith community in thanksgiving and celebration of the ouster of the dictatorship in the Philippines; CHEK-TV gave a report on the celebrations in the evening newscasts;

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS:

Our faith community is proud that over the years we have had more vocations per capita than any other parish in the Greater Victoria area.

Nine Sacred Heart parishioners were ordained priests:

- *June 7, 1945:* Bishop Cody ordained **Donal Lehane**; he was our pastor from 1967-73;
- *June 4, 1950:* Bishop Hill ordained **Michael O'Connell**; he was born in 1923, attended St. Louis College in Victoria, studied with the Benedictines at Burnaby, and received his licentiate from St. Paul's seminary at the

PRAYER GROUPS:

Some parishioners belong to the 'Prayer-Companion' movement or the charismatic groups. Their influence is felt in our faith community.

In 1981, the 'Friday Morning Prayer Group' was started by our parish's social justice committee. It is open to everyone.

University of Ottawa; he headed the Ecumenical Office of the Canadian Bishops' Conference in Ottawa from 1974-77; he was the diocese's vicar general from 1963-74 and chancellor in 1963; Msgr. O'Connell is now pastor at St. Patrick's Church Campbell River;

- *May 20, 1951:* Bishop Hill ordained **Philip Hanley**; born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, in 1925, he moved to Victoria in 1933; he attended St. Louis College in Victoria, the Seminary of Christ the King in Burnaby and received his licentiate in theology magna cum laude from St. Paul's Seminary at the University of Ottawa; he spent a year at the International Catechetical Institute of Lumen Vitae in Brussels, Belgium, then attended the Gregorian University in Rome where he obtained his doctorate in theology, *magna cum laude*, in 1965; Msgr. Hanley is now rector at our cathedral;
- *Apr. 24, 1955:* Bishop Hill ordained **Raymond Cunningham**; born in Nanaimo, he attended the Seminary of Christ the King in Burnaby; on May 1, 1955, Fr. Cunningham celebrated his first mass at our church; for many years he was pastor at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Saanich and

St. Elizabeth's Church in Sidney. Now he is assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Church, Victoria;

- *Apr. 28, 1957:* Bishop Hill ordained **Bernard Hanley**; he was born on Aug. 7, 1929, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, attended St. Louis College in Victoria, Christ the King Seminary (first in Burnaby, and later at Mission), and received his licentiate when he was in Belgium; he is now pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Esquimalt;
- *Jun. 26, 1965:* Bishop De Roo ordained **Joseph Gubbels** and **Fred Magee**;
 - * Gubbels was assigned to Peru where he served eight years as an Oblate missionary before leaving the priesthood on Nov. 10, 1974; now he is in adult education at Fairview, Alberta;
 - * Fr. Magee, O.M.I., attended St. Louis College in Victoria, the novitiate at Arnprior, Ontario, the Holy Rosary Scholasticate in Ottawa, and is now chaplain at the Waupoos Foundation in Ottawa, where he ministers to the poor;
- *Jan. 14, 1976:* Bishop De Roo ordained **Gerhard Hartmann**; he was born in 1930 in East Germany, spent seven years in slave labor in Russian camps until 1952, escaped through West Berlin in 1953, converted to Catholicism in Victoria in 1965, studied in Notre Dame University in Nelson in 1967, and, six years later, received two degrees from the Jesuit-run Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington; now he is pastor at St. Patrick's Church, Victoria;
- *Mar. 27, 1977:* Bishop Fergus O'Grady, O.M.I., ordained **Grant Croswell** to the diaconate in our church; *Sept. 5, 1977:* Bishop Adam Exner ordained Croswell, O.M.I.; now he is pastor at Sacred Heart Church, Merritt;

CHANGES IN THE LITURGY AT SACRED HEART CHURCH:

- *Dec. 8, 1984:* Bishop De Roo ordained **Peter Ho;** a Vietnamese refugee who found his way to our parish in 1982; he completed his studies as a seminarian at St. Paul's Seminary at the University of Ottawa; now he is assistant pastor at our Cathedral.

There are many other Sacred Heart parishioners who joined the seminaries and the novitiates. Some found that the religious vocation was not their calling and left before being ordained or being professed. Those who did make their final professions include:

- **Br. Alfred Cassidy;** he continues to work in the Catholic-education field in Kamloops with the Irish Christian Brothers;
- **Br. Herbert Spruyt, O.M.I.,** he holds an administrative position with the Oblates in Edmonton, Alberta.
- **Sr. Eileen Curteis, S.S.A.;** she teaches at St. Patrick's School, Victoria;
- **St. Patricia Shreenan, S.S.A.;** she is superior/administrator of St. Ann's residence, Victoria;
- **Sr. Mary Constance;** she joined the I.H.M. sisters and was Sacred Heart School teacher and principal; now Mrs. Mary (nee Hanley) Lissy, she teaches disabled children in the Greater Victoria school district;
- **Sr. Mary Davida;** she joined the I.H.M. sisters and taught the native Indians in Tofino; now Barbara (nee Smith) Mikus, she resides in Delta;
- **Sr. Mary Renee;** she joined the I.H.M. sisters and is now Renee (nee Turner) Provitt;

- *1949:* congregation gave responses -- previously the exclusive role of altar servers -- in Latin;
- *Dec. 8, 1953:* first evening mass celebrated;
- *1963:* less kneeling; epistle read in English; congregation joined choir in singing English hymns at low masses; parishioners placed their own hosts in the ciborium to be brought up at the Offertory; intercessions in English;
- *Feb. 21, 1964:* all readings during mass read in English for first time;
- *1965:* last Gospel discontinued; prayers at the end of mass shortened; first solemn high mass sung in English with congregation joining in the singing.
- *June 1965:* our new church designed after the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy was issued; its form follows the liturgy: parishioners form a positive assembly around the altar and ambo, allowing the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist to be more clearly articulated; the altar enables the priest to face the congregation; there are no communion rails -- communicants receive the Eucharist standing; lay men and women serve as readers and administer the Eucharist; the Altar of Reservation is in a separate area but still related to the Sanctuary; the Baptistry is the extension of the Nave; the choir is beside the Sanctuary; the celebrant is at the rear of the Sanctuary where he can preside over the assembly; the forecourt at the church's entrance allows for social exchanges between parishioners and permits a change of attitude before entering the House of God. The courtyard and church



Fr. Lajoie celebrates mass

entrance provide easy access to persons in wheel chairs;

- *March 7, 1966:* diocese returned to the "old-time religion" with hymn singing, congregational participation and prayers in English (the mass was frozen in Latin in 800 or 900 AD) -- these were the forms of worship found in the early church up to the 6th century;
- *1976:* family mass on Sundays with children serving and bringing the gifts to the altar; children invited to the altar after the Gospel and given a brief and informal catechetical lesson on the readings, the Gospel, or on other matters; children baptized and welcomed by the community during Sunday mass;
- *1984:* parishioners participated as a community in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults;
- *1985:* new, hard-bound 'Glory and Praise' hymnals used; gold chalice belonging to the late Bishop Cody is now used;

CHOIR AND FOLK-SINGING GROUPS:

Many parishioners have given their time and made use of their musical talents and great voices to serve our faith community in its liturgical celebrations.

Beryl Sheard set the example. She has been involved for 20 years in this ministry. Those who had key roles include:

- 1936 - 43: youth choir -- Edith Webb and Martin O'Connell, organists;
- 1943-49: Evelyn Cote, organist and director;
- 1949-1959: girls' school choir -- Sr. Paula, director, and Theodora Gubbels, organist;
- 1959 - 66: adult choir -- Marie Young, organist and director;
- 1966: adult choir -- Beryl Sheard and Alan Magee, organists, and Sr. Georgeanne, I.H.M., director;
- 1967: youth folk group and band -- Linda Cox, organist, and Sr. Sylvia Scott, S.S.A., director;

PARISH COUNCIL CO-ORDINATORS/ CHAIRMEN:

Vatican Council II promoted our increased involvement in the financial and administrative affairs of our parish. Thus, on Nov. 5, 1967, our first parish council was elected, with a parishioner chairing the council of eight members.

In 1974, our pastor elected to handle the council's responsibilities. Two years later, at a parish meeting, our parish council was reactivated.

- 1971 - 73: Sr. Sylvia Scott, S.S.A., choir leader;
- 1973: adult choir -- Beryl Sheard, organist, and Heather Sander, director; youth folk group -- Bob Walker, director, joined by his family and the Taft family; adult choir -- Beryl Sheard, Vern Wilson and Aideen Lydon, organists, and Aubert Hupse, director;
- 1973 - 75: morning choir: Dan and Suzanne Taft and family;
- 1975 - 81: Saturday evening choir: Dan and Suzanne Taft and family;
- 1978: two children's choirs in uniform (Our Lady of Fatima Choir, ages 12 - 13, and Sacred Heart Choir, ages 13 - 19) -- Anthony Nicholas, director, and Beryl Sheard, organist; evening: Aideen Lydon, organist;
- 1979 - 82: folk group -- Jim Korman, director;
- 1981 - 84: Sunday evening choir: John and Daniella Gawthrop;
- 1982 - 85: folk group -- David Nicodemus, director

- 1967 - 72: James Wood;
- 1972 - 73: Dr. Jack Nash;
- 1973 - 74: Tom Turner;
- 1974 - 74: Vaughan Thompson;
- 1976 - 78: Dan Taft;
- 1978 - 80: Pete Brady;
- 1980 - 82: Ray Bower;
- 1982 - 84: Ken Cotter;
- 1984 - 86: Dorothy Sage

- 1985 - present: folk group -- Tara Carrieres, director; 8:30 a.m.: Beryl Sheard, organist; Saturday evening mass: Aideen Lydon, organist, and Heather Sander, flutist;



Organist Beryl Sheard and Fr. Planeta



1985 folk group for Sunday family mass

Parishioners on Bishop's Council:

Ella Webb served on the Bishops Council from 1974 - 75. Doran Doyle was appointed in 1985 and still serves as a council member.

EDUCATION:

Catholic education was available in the Greater Victoria area for many years before the Sacred Heart parish school was established. Those that were in existence when it opened in 1942 included:

- St. Ann's Academy (1858 - 1973) on Humboldt Street;
 - St. Louis College for boys;
 - St. Joseph's School of Nursing at 841 Fairfield;
- Since the opening of the Sacred Heart parish school, these institutions have closed and others have opened, including:
- St. Andrew's School (1964) at 1002 Pandora St.;
 - St. Joseph's School (1955) at 757 West Burnside Rd.;
 - St. Patrick's School (1955) at 2368 Trent St.;
 - St. Andrew's Regional High School (1983) at 880 McKenzie Ave. (previously at Pandora St.);

SACRED HEART SCHOOL:

Our parish's school was for 28 years an important part of our faith community. Here are some highlights:

- *Spring, 1942:* parish school opened in rectory's basement; Bessie Weber, teacher for 3 months.
- *Sept. 1942:* Ruth George succeeded Weber;
- *Summer 1943:* 4 Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters arrived from Los Angeles, California, at Bishop Cody's invitation, to teach; Sr. Mary Rita was the school's first principal; she was succeeded in mid-term by Sr. Elizabeth Ann rectory at 1130 Palmer Road, purchased for \$2,700 for by I.H.M. sisters for convent and school.

- *June 11, 1944:* 8 children in the first Holy Communion class;
- *June 25, 1944:* school's first graduates;
- *1945:* drive for funds to build our parish school; each family asked to contribute \$50;
- *1946:* property near top of Palmer Rd. bought for new school building, but zoning regulations forced its sale; finally, site chosen at 880 McKenzie Ave.; sod-turned by Bishop Cody and Fr. Mangan;
- *Apr. 1957:* drive initiated by Fr. Penfold to raise \$40,000 for new school building;
- *Mar. 17, 1958:* construction work began on school and convent at 880 McKenzie Ave., Saanich;
- *Sept. 1958:* I.H.M. sisters moved to new convent; new school building opened with 152 students in 4 classrooms;
- *Oct. 12, 1958:* Bishop Hill blessed new school and convent; Mother Mary Regina, mother general of I.H.M. sisters, and Mother Mary Eucharia attended;
- *Sept. 1959:* school got two new classrooms to accommodate a total of 205 students; first uniforms for students were: for girls, Royal Stuart tartan jumper and white blouse; and, for boys, grey pants, white shirt and navy-blue tie;
- *Aug. 1960:* Sr. Catherine Rose (Rosemary Babbitt) succeeded Sr. Mary Paula as school principal;
- *Feb. 17, 1964:* Sacred Heart Parent-Teachers Organization formed;
- *Apr. 20, 1964:* first school board elected;
- *1968 - 70:* Sr. Mary Constance, a parishioner who had first taught at the school from 1960 - 63, appointed principal to succeed Sr. Mary David (Florence Rigali);

- *1970:* school closed;
- *Oct. 3, 1971:* diocese purchased school and convent; school site now used for diocesan St. Andrew's Regional High School;



Sacred Heart School's first class



Class of '49



Class of 1962



Remember the snowfall of '69? _



Everyone came for the farewell party for Sr. M. Paula

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:

These nuns from Los Angeles created quite an excitement when they arrived on July 22, 1943, but they soon endeared themselves to all and served our parish for 27 years.

Sr. Mary Rita, the first principal, taught the senior pupils in one of the two classrooms in our rectory's basement while Sr. Jane Frances handled the junior students. Two sisters, Sr. Mary Maureen (Regan) and Sr. Mary Elizabeth-Ann (Agnes Flynn), made daily trips to the Tsartlip reserve at Brentwood to teach at a school for Indian children.

Sr. Mary Paula (Paula Kraus) was at the school the longest: first for 6 years then for another 3 years, both times as school principal. She had exceptional talents and conducted the girl's choir for our church.

Young and tiny Sr. Mary Corita (Corita Kent) shared her artistic skills with her students at our parish school. She also designed the frontispiece of the new altar for the church in 1950 and the embroidered dove on the canopy over the altar. Recently, she designed the 1985 U.S. Christmas stamp.



SUMMER VACATION RELIGIOUS CLASSES:

The first of these classes were held from July 24-29, 1943, for children attending public schools. They were sponsored again by the parish from July 2-12, 1963, and July 12-26, 1964.

CATHECHETICS PROGRAM:

In summer 1968, Fr. Lehane called for volunteers to assist in a Catechism program for students attending public schools. Rose Bannister co-ordinated the program. Small classes were held in the teachers' homes on days that were suitable to both the students and the teachers.

After the parish school closed in 1970, parishioners were prompted to enter the challenging era of lay involvement in an expanded catechetics program. Parent participation increased. Dr. Jack Nash and Jim Wood ran the Saturday evening (grade 9 and 10) and Sunday morning classes with the assistance of Sr. Dorothy Agnes, S.S.A., (Bernice Sheehan). There were 17 classes in total every weekend.

In 1972, the Victoria Office of Religious Education began co-ordinating the 'Come To The Father' catechetics program, which had replaced the Baltimore Catechism. This home-correspondence program was co-ordinated in the Greater Victoria area by Sr. Ann Mallon, S.S.A. and a catechetics team.





In 1972 and 1973, Sr. Dorothy Agnes, S.S.A., ran the program for our parish. She was succeeded by Ann Brady, who co-ordinated the 'Catecare' program from 1974-76.

In 1977, Claire Gratton was hired to co-ordinate the program for the parish. Two new sacramental programs were incorporated into the course in the fall, when 132 students registered. The next year, Mary Bennett handled the course.

In 1979, Cheryl Stinson was appointed co-ordinator for the home-correspondence program, now called 'Born of the Spirit'.

The program was changed in 1981 to a

combination of Sunday classes and the home-study course. The classes were held in the parish hall, the hall's kitchen and stage, the Pope John XXIII hall and coffee room, and the rectory's office and living room.

The 1982, permission was received to use the classrooms at the St. Andrew's Regional High School.

The classes, held after the 10:00 a.m. mass, are taught by volunteers. The combination of home study and Sunday classes is still used. Classes are held in our parish hall, our Pope John XXIII hall, the diocese's school building and the portable classrooms.

My Most Memorable ^{Day} At Sacred Heart

My most memorable experience at Sacred Heart Church was my First Holy Communion Day on Mother's Day 1983. I received the precious body and blood of Jesus in my soul for the very first time and it was a very happy occasion for me and all my family members and also for all the other girls and boys who made their First Communion that day. Father Hard celebrated the special Mass for us. It was also a special day for all the mothers present on that day, and I was honoured to be chosen to deliver the First Reading.

Tania Brisa



ADULT EDUCATION:

An adult education program was initiated in September 1977 with Dr. Edward Pires serving as its co-ordinator until March 1981.

There was renewed interest in Church history, the history of theology, ecumenism, social issues and concerns, canon law, the child and the family, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Bible study through an examination of some of the great themes of the Bible, and in Bible personalities, such as St. John, St. Paul, the Holy Spirit and the Mother of God.

Since then, the adult education program has hinged around movements and programs such as pre-marriage counselling, marriage encounter and, more recently, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Three persons who went through the latter program were recently admitted into our faith community.

CHRISTIAN CHARITIES:

Since the church was established in 1936, parishioners have responded generously to the needs of peoples, both near and far. There were special collections for the missions and in response to special appeals and emergency assistance when disasters struck. Food and clothing were sent to India's poor. Refugees were sponsored, welcomed, housed and fed.

The Poor Clares received gifts of food from individual parishioners and an annual parish hamper.

While the first parish bazaar was held in 1936, the first to raise funds for charities was held from Nov. 11 - 12, 1978. This bazaar was organized because pew collections for the 'red bag' were discontinued in 1976. The bazaar was the biggest. It included a High Himalayas Fashion Show, an extremely popular Spaghetti dinner, and a massive Garage Sale. A record total of \$10,446 was raised for charities.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In our parish's early days, a monthly collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society was taken at the church door in a special portable wooden box. Later, a portion of the 'red bag' collection was given to the society and special appeals were made when local needs increased. In 1986, a special monthly envelope from parishioners started going to the society.

And, over the past few years, a weekly box of groceries, donated by parishioners, is taken to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Social Concern Office for distribution.



St. Vincent de Paul Society members take groceries for the needy

Our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society conference was organized on July 17, 1967, to assist with the visits and the distribution of aid to the needy in the Greater Victoria area. Over the years, our parish's conference has been headed by the following:

1967: Adolphe Rochon; 1968: Ken Webb; 1969: Jack Walker (d.); 1970, 71: Pat Murray (d); 1971 - 76: no meetings were held though some members continued to work for the society; 1977, 78: Jeannette Cowan; 1979: Mike Doyle; 1980, 81, 82: John Magee; 1983: Mike Doyle; 1984: Larry Dietrich; 1985, 86: Ed Pires;

Two members deserve special recognition for their service to the poor and needy: Myrtle Presidente and John Magee.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

In 1969, our first parish council formed a committee, called the Benevolent Society, to look after parishioners in need of temporary assistance. This task was later turned over to the co-ordinator, Christian charities.

'RED BAG' COLLECTION:

The first collection, called "Bread for the Hungry," was taken during a Mass in March 1967 by the parish's mothers and their daughters. The 'red bag' now consists of a large container placed on the centre aisle at the back of the church. Records show that more than \$100,000 has been donated to date. This includes proceeds from the annual parish bazaar.

Half of the donations placed in the 'red bag' goes to local charities, such as St. Vincent de Paul Society, Pro-Life, Capital Families, and, Birthright. The other half goes to charities overseas. This year they include:

- **Fr. Murray Abraham, S.J.**, who runs many programs and an agricultural college in Kurseong, India;
- **Br. Bob Mittleholtz, S.J.**, who administers to patients with leprosy and tuberculosis in the Jesu Ashram in Siliguri, India;
- **Fr. Edgar Burns, S.J.**, who runs adult education,

medicare and other programs in Darjeeling, India;

- the **Serabu Hospital** in Sierra Leone; West Africa;
- **Fr. Roland Roberts, S.F.M.** (Canadian order of Scarboro Foreign Missions) who runs an infants' hospital in St. Vincent;
- the **Franciscan missions.**

HELPING THE REFUGEES:



Canned food stacked to the ceiling

Fr. Planeta knew the plight of the refugee from personal experiences. Thus, in 1956, the 'Refugee Year,' he quickly organized our parish to respond to the Hungarian refugees' needs.

When the refugees arrived, Fr. Planeta led our parish in welcoming them and invited them to stay in our homes.

In 1961, the Gutkowsky family -- including four children -- from West Germany was sponsored by our parish. They were looked after until they settled down.

It was, therefore nothing, new, when, in the fall of 1978, the word came that Victoria would be receiving the "boat people," refugees from Vietnam. Preparations began immediately for their arrival.

Parishioners, particularly the youth group, brought or collected canned foods from the community. By Christmas, food cans and packages were piled up to the ceiling in front of the wall behind the altar.

When the first government - sponsored refugees arrived on Aug. 1, 1979, Fr. Guy Merveille and many parishioners were ready to welcome them and to help them adjust to their new "home." Some were given temporary residence in our rectory.



Vietnamese 'boat people' with Fr. Guy

Eventually, the work of assisting these refugees was taken on by our parish's St. Vincent de Paul conference.

A special case was Peter Ho, the Vietnamese refugee who arrived in Montreal in 1981 and came to our parish the next year. He was a seminarian ready for ordination when he had to flee Vietnam because his life was in danger. He finally reached a United Nations refugee camp where he applied and was accepted for entry into Canada. Fr. Heard introduced him to Bishop De Roo, who placed him in the care of our parish. He lived for a year with different families, to acculturate him, before he went to St. Paul's University, Ottawa, for further studies.

In 1984-85 a refugee family from Uganda was also assisted by our parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:

In keeping with Vatican II Council's teachings, this committee was formed in 1980 by our parish council to promote social awareness and to initiate action to bring about changes, wherever injustices or denial of human rights exist.

First committee co-ordinator was Doran Doyle. Next was Lois Marcoux.

In 1982-83 the parish helped to sponsor the "exposure" trips of Maeve Lydon and Christine Tritt to Third-World countries. They returned to describe the conditions and the plight of the poor in these nations.

The committee's most recent endeavor is a study of the bishop's kit on women's role in the church.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:

Our parish has been involved in this organization since 1967, when it was given the mandate by the Canadian bishops to promote



'Development and Peace' activists

international solidarity and to fund socio-economic projects in developing countries.

Jack Kreiser, a former parishioner and diocesan president, Development and Peace, (1969-70), ran an intensive educational program in our parish on the organization. Our parish's Development and Peace committee was formed in 1976 with Mary Travis serving as the committee's representative on parish council.

Now, a sub - committee on social justice carries on the education and fund-raising work.

CARE OF THE SICK AND SHUT-INS:

Our parish has always tended to its sick and shut-ins. More and more parishioners are becoming involved and are being trained to give spiritual solace and to administer the Eucharist for those unable to come to church.



Cheryl Stinson visits Mary Walsh

ALTAR SOCIETY:

Soon after the mission was founded, the women organized an Altar Society, to clean the

church, look after the linens, and raise funds for the parish. Dorothy Smith remembers her mother, Minnie Button, cleaning up the church, after the plasterers, had completed their work and making numerous trips to the neighbor's house for water.

On Dec. 5, 1940, the group took on a new name: The Sacred heart Council of the Catholic Women's League.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Under this organization, our parish's women are pledged to work "for God and Canada" and to seek the spiritual development of the members. They also are involved in parish projects, particularly fund-raising events, which allowed them to use their culinary and creative skills and to socialize.

More recently, the league has become active in community projects, such as helping senior citizens, 'Birthright,' 'Capital Families,' and international programs. It also has been promoting a study of the Canadian Bishops' kit on "Women in the Church".

Parishioners who have headed this organization are:

1940-42: Mary Stockwood (d.); 1942-45: Agnes Heather (d.); 1945-48: Zita Webb (d.); 1948, 49: Mary Dobbie; 1950: Marie Houston (d.); 1951: Delia Magee; 1952, 53: Jean Hanley (d.); 1954, 55: Bernice Rolfe; 1956, 57: Agnes Connor; 1958, 59: Connie VanderHagen; 1960, 61: Louise Johnsen (d.); 1962, 63: Mary Schwam; 1964, 65: Ella Webb; 1966, 67: Margaret Griffin; 1968, 69: Yvonne Ready; 1970:

Aurora McKillop (d.); 1971: Beryl Sheard; 1972, 73: Isobel Wood; 1974, 75, 76: Connie VanderHaegen; 1977, 78: Mary Wilson; 1979, 80, 81: Beryl Sheard; 1982,83, 84: Ella Webb; 1985: Anne Weicker; 1986: Daphne Dalsin.

Over the years, the CWL has recognized the following members by awarding them the Maple Leaf Service Pins: Delia Magee, Ella Webb, Anne Weicker, Isobel Thompson, Margaret Klubi, Beryl Sheard, Mary Wilson and Carmen Rose.

The Bishop's Diocesan Medal for 'Service to Church and Community' has been awarded to Delia Magee and Ella Webb.



Leaders of Catholic Women's League

ALTAR CARE GROUP:

For many years, a small band of hard-working women have been cleaning the Sanctuary, altar and ambo and taking care of the linens. They continue their dedicated work to this day.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY:

In the 1950s, this organization's members were involved in many parish activities: they ushered at church services, counted the Sunday collections, participated in work bees, conducted the parish census, canvassed, raised funds, campaigned for government assistance for Catholic schools and took the altar boys on outings.

MEN'S CLUB:

In 1965, a new Men's Club was formed to continue the work being done by the Holy Name, Society. Besides the change in name, non-Catholics were now accepted as members. This increased membership and fostered a spirit of goodwill and co-operation.

When the group disbanded, members joined the parish's parent-teachers organization or served in a church ministry or on the parish council.

YOUTH GROUPS

The parish has had many youth groups over the years.



Holy Name Society members with Fr. Mangan

One was the Catholic Youth Organization. It was formed in 1936-37. Meetings were held in the church's sacristy on Palmer Road. The group played badminton in the Women's Institute's Gymnasium, now the Jaycee Hall, on Lodge Ave., and frequented a restaurant on Quadra Street, for apple pie and hot chocolate. Later, the group met in our new parish hall located in the rectory's basement -- which some of the youths had helped to build -- until it was taken over by the school.

Another youth group for girls in 1936 was the Children of Mary.

In the 1950s, our youth met at the homes of the Rolfe family and the Rochon family, both on Tattersal Road. The youth group maintained the church and the pamphlet rack, and, for 3 or 4 years, placed the nativity scene on the rectory's lawn.



Parish's first youth group



Youth help Larry Webb lay tiles on church's basement hall



Youth group entertains parishioners at X'mas party

In 1952, the senior girls in our parish school belonged to the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And in 1954, the altar servers had a group called Ad Altare Dei.

In the next decade the youth joined other parishes' Catholic youth Organizations at meetings at the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral and St. Louis College.

The gymnasium on Lodge St. was rented again in 1961 when Fr. Leon Belanger organized an older boys' basketball team. Later, Bob Weicker organized teams for the younger boys and girls attending our parish school.

Co-ordinators for our parish's youth activities, from 1967 to the 1970s, were William Bowles and Mary VanSwieten.

In 1968, our youth helped to tile the cement floor of the large hall under the new church. A fund-raising project, called the 'Tile and Smile,' was organized; Parishioners were invited to donate, with a smile, the cost of a tile. They also helped in laying the tiles.

A new youth group was organized in the 1970s. Meetings were held at Bill and Fran Taylor's home: Included were Bible study sessions and discussions with Fr. Paul Blancard and, later, Fr. Leo Roberts, as spiritual directors.

When Fr. Guy (Merveille) was parish priest, the youth program attracted considerable attention. Even some 10-year-olds got in on the fun. There was the skate-a-thon, in 1977, and exciting outings, such as the trip to Disneyland and a summer camp at Shawnigan Lake.

More recently, the youth group has been: a. participating in diocesan youth conferences; b. attending retreats at Queenswood; c. sponsoring discussion meetings, dances, ski trips, and other recreational activities; and, d. participating in parish events such as bazaars, family dinners, children's Christmas parties and our annual parish picnics, where they organize the sports events.

Cheryl Stinson, Brian Graham, Jim Korman, Teresa Nicodemus, Lou Marcoux and, now, Cynthia Carrieres have been the parish's youth co-ordinators.

Last year, the group celebrated the '1985 -- Year for Youth', enthusiastically and creatively.

THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

The Vatican II Council prompted the growth of the ecumenical movement. Ella Webb and Mary Travis have represented our parish on the local Council of Churches.

Our parish has participated, in common action, with groups such as:

- Ecumenical Women's Outreach (its first organizational meeting was held in Sacred Heart Church on Oct. 4, 1969);
- Project North;
- World Day of Prayer;
- Inter-church World Development Education Committee; and, more recently,
- Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, and,
- Ecumenical Bible Discussion Group.

On Jan. 25, 1984, the parish hosted an inter-church, day-long workshop on justice. It was followed, in the evening, by the celebration of the Lima Liturgy by a large assembly of faith communities.

THE PAPAL VISIT:

It took almost a year to plan the attendance of some 200 parishioners at the Papal Mass in Abbotsford in the morning and at the 'Celebration of Life' at the B.C. Place Stadium in the evening of September 18, 1984.

The diocese honored, among others, two of our parishioners, John and Delia Magee, by selecting them to receive the Eucharist from His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, at the Abbotsford mass.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING:

Our parish has strongly supported the scouting and guiding movement by, among other things, allowing the use of our church's facilities.

In 1961, a Catholic brownie pack was organized. Later, a guide company, sponsored by the parish's Catholic Women's League, was formed with Maria Kissinger as chief guider.

Brownies and Guides planted two red maples in the courtyard when the church was newly opened, two dogwoods and a cypress to mark B.C.'s centenary, and a special 'girl-guide rose' to commemorate in 1985 the 75th anniversary of guiding in Canada.

On Feb. 23, 1986, two parishioners, Patrick and Elizabeth Kelly, were honored by the Lakehill District for 20 years of service to the scouting and guiding movement.

WAR SERVICE:

Many parishioners served their country during World War II. Their names are listed on two plaques in the foyer of the church.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Most of the parish's social activities -- bazaars, garden parties, dinners and teas -- were planned as fund-raisers. However, they were also conducive to socializing, even among the workers.

There also were many functions to promote a community spirit among our parishioners: wine-and-cheese parties, dances, Christmas

parties, Easter breakfasts, pot-luck suppers, picnics, and even weekend family camping trips.



Parishioners sell plants and produce at parish bazaar

In recent years, St. Patrick's Day celebrations have been organized by Irish musician Aideen Lydon, with Chester Stefanek's Irish coffee as a highlight. Chester, of course, is a native of Poland!

There also have been glee clubs, bridge clubs, square-dancing groups, bowling teams, handicraft and discussion groups.

Seniors have received special attention at different times with one of the most successful groups being Mary Paone's do-it-yourself "Over 55's Dinner Club."

Other social events have been held to celebrate such occasions as ordinations and anniversaries.

YES, IT HAPPENED:

A small boy, attending a benediction for his first time, quietly watched the altar candles being lit. After they were all aglow, he exclaimed loudly and happily, "Happy Birthday!"

Fr. Penfold and two altar boys, who were carrying lighted candles, were progressing along the main aisle, stopping at each 'Station of the Cross.' They arrived at one pew where a little girl was standing. Suddenly, the girl took a deep breath and blew out one of the candles. A look of dismay came on the faces of Fr. Penfold and the girl's parents.

At the church at Palmer Road, a new parishioner was surprised when ushers collected a 10-cent pew 'rent' from every adult in their cupped hands! An old-timer explained that it was easier to make change that way.

When the dialogue mass was introduced, parishioners were hesitant to voice the responses. One Sunday, the pastor asked another priest to celebrate the mass while he walked up and down the aisle encouraging everyone to respond loudly in Latin.

Fr. Heard was commencing his homily one day when the side doors started to shake noisily, due to Mount St. Helen's volcanic eruption. "Would someone step out and see what's going on?" he asked. A young man opened the door, looked around and returned shaking his head. Then someone else in the congregation spoke up: "It's just the navy doing exercises in the straits."

It was All Saints' Day and a Sunday. To commemorate the occasion, Fr. Guy (Merveille) had asked all the children to attend the family mass dressed in the costume of a biblical character. And they all did. Fr. Guy himself entered the church completely covered by a blanket and was led down the aisle by Adolphe Rochon, who was ringing the bell. The pastor was the leper whom Christ cured. Each child in costume then explained which biblical character he or she represented. After the show-and-tell, Fr. Guy explained that the halloween celebration of the evening before was, in medieval times, All Hallows Eve, a holy or hallowed evening observed on Oct. 31, the eve of All Saint's Day, when people dressed up as the saint or biblical character they admired most.

In 1967, there was no baby for the Christ child in the manger in the church. Fr. Lehane suggested the congregation "just use your imagination." In 1969, there was a real baby (Charles Underwood) as the Christ child in the Christmas pageant.

The homily was solemn and serious. Fr. Bulloch had his congregation listening attentively when he declared slowly: "And the Lord said." He then paused, for effect. But then the audience heard: "Mooooo! Mooooo!" It was one of the cows in the pasture behind the church.

During Fr. Peyton's 'Rosary Crusade' in 1949, our parishioners took part in the open-air evening rally at Royal Athletic Park. Girls from the parish rode on a float with the lighted statue of Our Lady. Some families participated in the 'Living Rosary.' Gerard

and Elizabeth Gubbels, with their 11 children, took their position as one bead of the rosary.

When Kim Knight was learning about the mass, she came home one day quite excited. "Mom, I'm going to be an altar boy," she said. Her mother replied: "Honey, you can't be an altar boy. Only little boys are altar boys." Kim was not impressed. "Yes I can. Yes I can. Fr. Phil said if Diane and I want to be altar boys, we can." The following week who should be serving mass? Diane and Kim. The pastor had allowed them to be "altar boys."

When parishioner Adolphe Rochon asked Fr. Guy (Merveille) to bless his new station wagon, it inspired a sermon on the need to balance material and spiritual things in our lives. To visually impress the lesson on the parishioners, the two men conspired to bring the vehicle right into the church. Due to the width of the church's inner doors, the vehicle got only as far as the foyer. There it stayed as puzzled parishioners walked into the church. The incident, and the lesson, are remembered by those who were there that day.

Our parish was 'on the air' when Fr. Mangan starred in the 'Radio Catholic Faith Broadcast' program. Josephine (Dobbie) Patterson opened the program with the hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers' and closed with 'O God of Loveliness.' Evelyn Cote accompanied on the piano.

Dorothy (Smith) Sage is doing the same thing she did as a teenager at the church on Palmer Rd.: singing solos in church.

The late Mary Walsh used to donate chickens for the annual dinner at our parish bazaar. Bazaar convenor Adolphe Rochon went to pick up the chickens. He was quite surprised when told that the chickens were still in the hen-house on their perches. He left with the squawking chickens in sacks and was fortunate to find a couple who agreed to pluck the chickens, provided they were alive. This proviso was important because the couple had an unusual method for feather removal. Needless to say, they got the job!

At a parish garden party at the Fitzgerald farm, a competition was held between two dance teams doing a quadrille. To everyone's surprise, our parish team won over a well-trained city team. The judges ruled the city team lost because one of their dancers was chewing gum while competing.

In the parish's early days, when parishioners felt that things weren't going the way they wanted, they would return to the cathedral for mass. There the byword was: "Here come the refugees from Sacred Heart!"

At the annual St. Patrick's Day concert during Fr. Mangan's time, the big moment was when the late Joseph Dobbie would come on stage to do his energetic rendition of "MacNamara's Band." He would have the audience rolling in laughter as he strutted back and forth across the stage.

Parish picnic-goers in the early 1980s were amazed to see our pastor pitching for our parish council's softball team. And what a mean ball Fr. Heard could throw! The youth team, as the 'challengers,' had met their match!

The late Connie Hardy, a parishioner, was "The Rosary Lady." During the war, she passed the time in London's air raid shelters making and repairing rosaries. She provided over 1,000 rosaries for service men and for the missions. Many of her friends still own one. One of her black-and-white drawings of Pope John XXIII hangs in the parish's Pope John meeting room.

Our parish school's senior girls had prepared a balloon dance for the annual St. Patrick's Concert. Green balloons were ordered. However, they were delivered only a few minutes before the show. When the parcel was opened, it was found that orange balloons had been sent instead. As it was too late to get green balloons, the dance was performed with the orange ones with apologies to the Irish in the audience.

At another concert, young Freddy Magee was doing an Irish jig. However, whenever the music stopped he would just keep on dancing, forcing the pianist, Dodie Gubbels, to start over and over again. The audience loved it.

At a parish 'Turkey Dinner' the stove's top elements gave up. Isobel Thompson loaded pots of green peas and carrots into Anne Weicker's car and the duo rushed to Weicker's house to finish the cooking. They hurried back in time. Only those behind the scenes realized how they had aged in half-an-hour.

Card parties were good fund raisers. When the Webb family had them in their home, they had to move all the furniture out of the house to make room for more tables.

In front of the former rectory on Palmer Road stands a giant blue spruce tree, planted there when it was a tiny seedling by Sr. Mary Ethel when the I.H.M. sisters lived there in the 1940s. "I thought it was supposed to be a miniature," Sr. Ethel says as she looks at it now in amazement.

A group of catechumens, who were recently being given a church tour, wished to see the confessionals. Lights were turned on. One confessional was full of stored items. A second was empty except for numerous cobwebs!

At parish social functions, the Gubbels children, all talented musicians, entertained the parishioners with 'The Gubbels Boys' Band.'

Daphne (Luchinsky) Dalsin recalls being carried by her father as the family walked to the church on Palmer Road. Her mother carried her little sister Jocelyn. The smell of the new wood of the church and the sound of the choir and the pump organ are memorable for her.

Mike and Stella Scherr's home was next to the parking lot of the church at Palmer Road. They recalled being amused to see Fr. Penfold climbing the rectory's roof to adjust the directions of his TV antenna.

Living next door to the church had many advantages or disadvantages, depending on your view point. Mike and Stella Scherr can give you theirs. They always were on 'emergency duty.' They acted as proxies in over 30 baptisms and weddings.

“Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself.”

-- James, II, 17

Our Sacred Heart Parish, over the last 50 years, has been a living faith community. The pages of this booklet briefly provide some evidence of it.

Many individuals of our faith community have worked for our parish in the spirit of the words in the New Testament: ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive”*** -- Acts, XX, 35.

While some names appear, in an ‘archival’ context, in this booklet (every key anniversary has a subjective show-and-tell!), there are, indeed, many, many more persons, whose unselfish efforts and dedicated works are recognized with silent, solemn and sincere gratitude. Our Sacred Heart Faith Community thanks you and offers its prayers for you.

We also remember and pray for our departed parishioners, who built the Sacred Heart Parish and gave us the priceless legacy of a living faith community.

We now pledge, on our Golden Anniversary, to continue enriching this heritage and to pass it on to our children and the new members of our parish so that the Sacred Heart Faith Community will “live” through its works for many decades to come.