

# Fourth Sunday Of Easter April 17, 2005



*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;*

*I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

## *World Day of Prayer for Vocations & First Communions*

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – APRIL 18 to 22**

**Monday & Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Wednesday to Friday 8:30 a.m.**

### **PRAY FOR JOHN PAUL II & FOR CARDINALS IN CONCLAVE**

We have lost our hero, the 1<sup>st</sup> mentor of our vocations, our fearless and courageous leader, our teacher and friend, who each day inspired us to reach for the best we can be, disciples of Jesus. This is the time to plumb the depths, and thank God for the countless ways in which Jesus has himself touched us, healed us, encouraged us, shaped and formed us, challenged us, stretched us, and sent us out, through the person, the life, the ministry, the mystery, and the leadership of our Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ on Earth, Pope John Paul II. We will never forget his words: “Do not be afraid to open wide the doors to Jesus Christ!” Please write a thought, sentiment, or prayer of gratitude to God for the gift of our Holy Father’s life in our *“Book of Condolence and Hope”* in front of Pope John Paul’s image at the sanctuary. At the door you will find a leaflet “Prayers upon the Death of Pope John Paul II and for the Election of His Successor.” Please join us in offering these prayers in communion with the whole Church and with the support of people of good will from other religions and nations. Let us pray intensively each day for the cardinals in conclave, that they be attentive to the Holy Spirit, of one mind and heart, as they seek to know and to do the Father’s will, for the glory of God, the good of the faithful and of all humanity, and the growth of the Church.

### **“A REFLECTED LIFE IS A LIFE MORE FULLY LIVED.”**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of **St. Thomas à Becket Parish** will run from September 5, 2005 (Date our Mission had its first Sunday with founding Pastor Fr. Charles Cahill at 4 Masses) to October 11<sup>th</sup> 2006 (Date Archbishop Paul-Émile Cardinal Leger decreed the foundation of the Parish). If we are to have something to celebrate, we must pause and reflect, and seek out motives for gratitude and joy in the faith we have lived out these past several years.

Who are we, where have we been, what is God doing among us, what have we accomplished, and where are we going? In what way(s) is my life a gift I continue to receive from the Lord? In what way(s) to date have I made my life a gift of love for others: at home, in school, at work, in public office or institutions, in the marketplace, in the neighbourhood, in local activities and associations, among friends, at Sunday worship, at Becket, in the wider Church, or in solidarity with the poor? What changes must I make in the use of the time, talents, and treasure God entrusts to my care as his good steward of all the good things He intends for the good of all his children?

The Lord has blessed us all abundantly even through difficult times. Let us all reflect and report on God’s graces and our responses to them. We

will become one mind and heart as we reflect on the past, report all that the Lord has done, and **“Give an account of our stewardship.”** Take the two forms at the doors – the green one is more personal and the white one is more communal – reflect and pray on the questions, answer them, and hand in the communal one. You can access and print out both exercises from our Parish website – just go to Menu and click on Resources.

Our reports will be formulated into a Parish History of God’s Grace at Becket. Our wonderful Parish Staff are already on board and working with your pastors. Would you like to help? God bless you! Fr. Gilles

### **VOCATIONS SPOTLIGHT “RICH MAN POOR MAN LUNCH”**



Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special celebration of our Christian vocation. The world-wide Church unites in prayer on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The God Shepherd calls us and guides us on our Christian journey. By our baptism we are all called, chosen, and sent to carry on the mission of Jesus. You are invited to participate in this annual celebration! Come join the Vocation Awareness Network **today in the Church Hall from 12:30 –2:30** for another spirit filled workshop entitled “God Calls Us by Name and Leads Us.” Three speakers will witness on Marriage, Ordination and Consecrated life. Welcome All! (Free lunch included).



### **FAITH FIRST**

For families wishing to bring their children more fully into Christ, please attend one of the Faith First pre-registration information meetings to be held on **May 24th** and **25th, 2005** in the Church at 7:30 pm. Registration for all levels will be held the following week on **May 31st** and **June 1st** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Up-coming children's gatherings for children receiving Confirmation on May 14th in levels 5,6,7, & 8 will be held on Tuesday, April 19th. Children must bring their workbooks and attend the gathering according to their group number. Please verify your Faith First calendar for times. Children will receive their Confirmation family tickets and Completion certificates at this gathering

### **CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST AT BECKET**

Many of our Faith First families will be celebrating their child's First Holy Communion at most of our weekend Masses during the months of **April and May 2005**. Join us as we pray for these children and their families. “Dear friends, there is no doubt that an unforgettable meeting with Jesus is First Holy Communion, a day to be remembered as one of life's most beautiful. The Eucharist, instituted by Christ at the Last Supper on the night before His passion, is a sacrament of the New Covenant -- the greatest of the sacraments. In this sacrament, the Lord becomes food for the soul under the appearances of bread and wine. Children receive this sacrament solemnly a first time -- in First Holy Communion -- and are encouraged to receive it afterward as often as possible in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus.” Pope John Paul II, excerpt from his "Letter to Children" written in 1994 during the "Year of the Family".



## THERE IS ONLY ONE STANDARD FOR ALL

Every year, adults who are docile to the work of grace within them request full initiation as members of the Body of Christ that gathers in the Roman Catholic tradition here at Becket. They sincerely try to prepare for Baptism, for Confirmation or to make their profession of faith as a Roman Catholic Christian, in order to respond more deeply to the Lord's call. In addition, each year there are 636 children or more enrolled by their family in a Faith First catechetical journey driven by the leadership and example of their parents. These people are coming to worship the Lord at Sunday Mass more often than ever. They explore and study their faith, preparing to encounter and receive Jesus more personally in the forgiveness of their sins and in Holy Communion with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

By the example of Pope John Paul II, we respect Christians of the other churches and traditions; so if you are such a Christian from another church and practice your Protestant faith, we pray that you grow in your faith and in holiness. However, our churches are not in communion, and in the Roman Church, we do not have open communion, but rather try to obey the Lord's call to first reconcile with our brothers and then come to the altar. If you would honor the Lord and respect Him in the Roman rite, you won't seek Holy Communion here, but rather in your own church.

On the other hand, if you don't really practice your faith in your own tradition but only here; then we invite you to seek full communion with us through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We will be so happy to journey with you until the next cycle of initiation at Easter. It may be that another pastor or priest gave you the impression none of this matters, and have in fact been taking communion. That may put you in the precarious situation of feeling in communion with us – which is true in part – we do enjoy a spiritual and true communion together by virtue of our one Baptism in Christ. Sadly, though, our communion in Christ is not complete without communion with the shepherds He sends to lead us and guide us in our faith. Disregarding Roman tradition and practice regarding dispositions for receiving Holy Communion shows – intentionally or not – some degree of contempt for the authority Jesus entrusts to his shepherds, which is really contempt for the Lord himself. I apologize for any priests who may have mislead you in this regard until now. Please consider this matter and bring it to the Lord yourself in prayer, and ask for the strength to take the necessary steps not to receive his Holy Mysteries unworthily and endanger your faith and eternal life through disobedience or pride.

The time has come. Today is the Day of Salvation. Reconcile yourself to the Lord and his Church. Put aside personal will, and take up humility and obedience. Imitate Jesus, who humbles himself to the point of death on a cross (Phil 2:6-11)

Stop putting it off... talk to one of the priests here...you'll be glad you did! "May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen"



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Helping Others</u>
April 10, 2005	\$ 5692.00	\$2535.0

## **C.W.L. CORNER**

The St. Thomas à Becket Council of the Catholic Womens League will be hosting the residents of the Father Dowd Residence. There will be a Mass at 12:15 p.m. celebrated by Father Jim McDonald, chaplain of the Father Dowd Residence. A reception and entertainment will follow in the parish hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass and seniors are welcome to attend the reception as well. Just call Elinor at 620-0951 if you will be attending the reception.

### **CWL ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The 84<sup>th</sup> annual archdiocesan convention of the Catholic Womens League will take place on May 7 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Hall – 4455 West Broadway Montreal. All members of the League are encouraged to attend and we would like to have any of your friends who would be interested in learning more about the Catholic Womens League to feel very welcome to join us. We are fortunate to have as guest speakers Dr. Robert Walley, founder of Matercare International. Tickets are \$28.00. Call Elinor Gallagher 620-0951 or Maureen Gomes 633- 9424.

### **BECKET PANTRY NEEDS**

We need baby clothes and articles (furniture) for a newborn and clothes for a baby girl (up to 18 mos). *Please call the office before dropping off items.* We also need daytime and evening **drivers** who would be willing to make deliveries of non- perishables to needy families. Office: 626-4111.

### **AROUND TOWN**

#### **BECKET PLAYERS 2005 WAY OFF BROADWAY & CABARET**

Tickets are now available for this year's show at the Box Office, Saturdays, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M or at 624-3029: Shows: April 22 (Gala\*) 23, 29, 30. May 6, 7, 13, 14. All shows begin at 8 P.M. Tickets: \$10.00 or \$20.00 (\* except Gala) Food and beverages available at the show.

#### **THE PADUA DIALOGUE - 20 -WEEK SERIES**

**Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.** 1950 St- Antoine St. 932-7597. **April 19** – *Building Peace*, Muriel Kearney and Jean Trudel. **April 26** – *Leave out Violence (LOVE)*, a group of youth from LOVE.

#### **CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC SERVICES OF MONTREAL**

The Healing Ministry of C.C.S.M. cordially invites you to participate in a Eucharistic Celebration at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 899 Chomedy Blvd., Laval, on Fri., April. 29, 7:15 p.m. with Fr. Michael McKenna as celebrant. Anointing of the sick and prayer teams available afterwards.

#### **CONDOLENCE FROM ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

On behalf of the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels Church I offer you our condolence on the death of Pope John Paul II. He was an inspiring leader for all Christian people and has left a tremendous legacy to the Christian church through his writing and the example of his life. We are praying for you during this time of bereavement and for all those responsible for electing a new leader for the Roman Catholic Church.

**Fr. Ian Liversuch**

## CANADIANS, THE NEW CONQUISTADORS?

Guatemalan visitor Ruth deValle will speak on the dispute over a Canadian open-pit gold mine in the San Marcos region of Guatemala. The dispute has taken two lives and further death threats have been issued. Sunday April 24, 6:00 p.m. (beginning with dessert) at St. John's Church (St. Edward the Confessor) 98 Aurora, Pointe Claire (2 blocks west of St. John's blvd.; 2 blocks north of Douglas Shand).

St. Thomas à Becket Parish Justice and Peace Committee would like to share this Pastoral Letter on the Christian Ecological Imperative from the Social Affairs Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Originally printed October 4, 2003 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Patron Saint for Ecology) We will reprint this letter in 5 parts over the next 5 weekends.

### *“You love all that exists... all things are Yours, God, lover of life”<sup>1</sup>*

The beauty and grandeur of nature touches each one of us. From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine. Humans live within a vast community of life on earth. In the Jewish and Christian religious traditions, God is first described as the Creator who, as creation proceeded, “saw that it was good.”<sup>2</sup> God's love for all that exists was wondrously evident then, remains so now, and invites the active response of humankind.

To enter into ever-deeper relationship with God – this “Lover of Life” – entails striving to develop right relations with nature and with other human beings. But life on earth today is plagued with an unprecedented and accelerating ecological crisis. Deforestation, species extinction, climate change, ecosystem collapse, contamination of air and water, and soil erosion are just a few of the enormous ecological problems which we face in Canada and elsewhere in our world. How many of us remember a childhood spent playing under the sun, a beach we were once able to swim at, a river we were once able to drink from – but no more! The closing of the once overwhelmingly bountiful cod fishery in Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador is a particularly painful example of this crisis. Indeed, every region has been affected in some negative manner. Environmental health concerns are frequent, arising from the Sydney Tar Ponds in Nova Scotia to urban smog alerts in Toronto or Montreal, from contaminated mine sites in northern Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories to the safety of food that every Canadian family will eat.

God's glory is revealed in the natural world, yet we humans are presently destroying creation. In this light, the ecological crisis is also a profoundly religious crisis. In destroying creation we are limiting our ability to know and love God. “The ecological crisis is a moral issue” and “the responsibility of everyone,” says Pope John Paul II.<sup>3</sup> “Care for the environment is not an option. In the Christian perspective, it forms an integral part of our personal life and of life in society. Not to care for the environment is to ignore the Creator's plan for all of creation and results in an alienation of the human person.”<sup>4</sup>