



St. Pat's Family Group at the Mt. Tolmie Way of the Cross 2014

It's all in the family at St. Pat's Family Group

By Steve and Laura Pearse

The St. Patrick's Family Group has been running for about 12 years, meeting once a month. Our focus is to encourage each other to raise our families in the faith, and inspire our kids to become responsible, competent Christian adults.

Using various media or discussion material, we have lively discussions in the parish library while the kids play in Lourdes Hall. In addition to discussing the arcane secrets of

raising children well, we frequently discuss marriage, social issues, discipline, education, and spirituality, always with a view towards authentic Catholic teaching.

After the discussion we gather together for a big pot luck dinner and social, always the highlight of the evening!

We would like to gather ideas of what our present and new parish families would like to see discussed. So many wonderful families have

participated, and many have "graduated" as the kids grow up and leave home, but all have formed lasting bonds of friendships—both the parents and the children!

We look forward to meeting new families and reconnecting with the old. We all need encouragement and inspiration in raising our families to be the best they can be. Our children are the future, and our job as parents is our greatest mission. ✚



The 10:30 mass choir

Members of St. Patrick's Parish choir lift their voices

By Susan Smedley

St. Patrick's Parish Sunday morning choirs are bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and ready to praise the Lord in song.

A small and faithful group is active at the 8:30 Mass. They gather with the choir director and organist, **Susan Smedley**, every Monday evening in the choir loft. In their half-hour together they start with a short prayer, work on five-to-ten minutes of vocal and musicianship exercises, and spend the rest of the time practicing hymns and service music for the following Sunday, usually in simple unison style so that they can lead the congregation's song most effectively.

"We always spare a few minutes for discussing the parish news or what's happening in the wider world," Susan says. "It keeps us connected to each other. I can see that we care for each other when we listen for more than our music."

The larger 10:30 Sunday Mass choir meets on Thursday evenings

at 7:30 again in the choir loft, for an hour. Again, prayer and vocal exercises, as well as announcements about parish and local choral news, take up the beginning of the hour that the group spends together with Susan, their director. Since the 10:30 has traditionally been the major liturgy of the Sabbath at St. Patrick's, the music is a little more formal and the choir learns parts and sings in soprano, alto, tenor and bass harmony as much as possible. The Mass has also developed into a family-oriented celebration including the Children's Liturgy of the Word, so the choir leads the singing of the children's procession. Some of the hymn choices are made from Glory and Praise as well as the livelier type in the Catholic Book of Worship, considering the worship tastes and abilities of all ages.

As with the 8:30 choir, the 10:30 members are loyal to their ministry and faithful in attending. Why is that? Helen offers this reason: "Singing in the choir has added a

valuable dimension to my prayer life. Participating in the practice sessions not only improves my singing ability but results in a sense of gratitude, appreciation, peacefulness, enjoyment and prayer—all which further affirm my faith. Indeed, life is richer because of this commitment."

Both the 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday choirs would be excited to have more people join them in their singing ministry. There is no audition, experience or music-reading ability required. The only need is regular commitment to Sunday mornings and as many weekly practices as possible.) Anyone interested is welcome to talk to Susan after Mass, or to contact her by phone at 250-208-3834. **Norah** sums it up well when she says, "You want fellowship? You want learning? You want fun? You will get them all in our choir singing." ✚

Development and Peace at St. Patrick's

By Nancy Stuart

The St. Patrick's Development and Peace Committee has been active at our parish for more than for 40 years. Together we learn about social-justice issues around the world.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the church's overseas development organization, raising money for long-term projects and responding, as Caritas Canada, to

emergencies around the globe.

One of the most recent emergencies was Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, one of the strongest tropical storms ever recorded and the deadliest Philippine typhoon in modern history.

Our parish committee was proud to support the Philippine relief effort. In total, we support more than 100 partners in over 30 countries in the Global South—Africa, Latin America and de-

veloping Asia—working to improve impoverished communities.

Members of our committee inform and update St. Patrick's parishioners on justice issues affecting our brothers and sisters in the Global South. Currently, we're learning how small family farmers need our support to continue feeding the developing world.

During Lent, Development and Peace members raise money through the Share Lent campaign to fund projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Also during Lent, we host a Friday simple meal and Stations of the Cross. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact **Nancy Stuart** at 250-477-6952 or nancy-stuart@shaw.ca ☩

D&P Members Jorge de Contreras, Cathy Reece, Nancy Stuart, Jennifer Doyle, Brigitte Sobkin, Helen McLellan



Responsible Ministry: Safety and dignity for all St. Patrick's parishioners

By Sandy Jones

The Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Policy at St. Patrick's places the highest priority on the safety, care and dignity of all parishioners, young and old.

The policy requires all employees and volunteers fill out a job/volunteer application form, sign the Covenant of Care Agreement, and, if applicable, obtain a criminal record check. Completed forms are kept confidentially at the parish office.

The policy outlines practical ways to demonstrate and ensure safety for all. When supervising children and/or vulnerable adults, for example, it is important for two adults be present. During Children's Liturgy, when a little one needs to use the washroom, two adults should accompany the child.

A second example is when administering Communion to the home-bound, there should be two adults making the visit. A third example is when youth group is over and all the teens have been picked up, except one and the other adult instructor has already left. In such a case, the second-to-last parent picking up their teen should be asked to remain until

the last teen's ride arrives.

These policies ensure two adults are always present when working with or supervising children or vulnerable adults. It demonstrates that we as a parish take very seriously the safety and care of all our parishioners.

Additional best practices for transparency and openness is to leave the door open if one of the adults has to leave the room, even if for a moment. Better yet, all office doors should have a window—something both Father Al and Deacon Harrison had installed when they arrived to our parish. This way, there is still privacy but visibility too.

These are just a few practical ways to ensure the safety and care of all persons in our parish community. We encourage you to become more familiar of the Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Policy by downloading the shortened version at <http://ow.ly/EKIVU> Also, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Sandy Jones**, Parish Responsible Ministry coordinator at sandy-jones@shaw.ca ☩

St. Patrick's Hobby Group spins a great yarn!

By Margaret Hyde

If you're a person who enjoys knitting and other handicrafts, the St. Patrick's Hobby Group is a great place to make friends, hone your skills and support our parish and many worthy causes—all at the same time.

From scarves and mittens to toques and kids' sweaters—the members of our group make an amazing variety of creations using their home-spun talent and wisdom.

Our group meets once a month to discuss what items we should make for the annual church bazaar and other events. Members continue to work on projects at home throughout the year. We have a small budget but generally rely on donations of yarn and material.

Last year, we raised \$1,047 at the bazaar held in October and \$677 at the Christmas sale held in November. These funds are used by the Catholic Women's League for various charities. Surplus items—including scarves, mitts and toques—have been donated to Anawim House and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Last year, our group was proud to donate children's sweaters to Syrian relief efforts and knitted toys and hats to the Franciscans' group for single mothers.

The Hobby Group meets on the second Monday of each month (though sometimes it is the third Monday if a public holiday happens.) Meetings last about an hour and there is usually a notice in the bulletin. We don't meet in the summer.

Our group presently has about ten members and we are always on the lookout for more crafty people to join our ranks. ✚

St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus Council 7934



In November, Father Al, Paul Redchurch PSD, Joe Schauerte, GK Frank Peters from Victoria Council and GK Mark Redchurch celebrated Brother Joe's 65th year as a knight and his 90th birthday.

The Order of the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Father Michael J.

By Mark Redchurch

Since 1982, variations of the phrase, "Let's ask the Knights to do it" has been uttered countless times throughout St. Patrick's Parish and the surrounding community. And the Knights have responded, to the best of their ability and with the resources available to them—both physical and financial.

St Patrick's Council 7934 received its charter on February 13, 1982, during the Order's centennial year and is the second council to be formed in Greater Victoria—seventy five years after Victoria Council 1256, the second oldest council in British Columbia and from which St. Patrick's Council drew the core of its charter members.

While the years have taken from us a number of our founding members, we still have active in our ranks Charter Grand Knight **Paul Redchurch** who, from 1994-96, served as State Deputy for British Columbia and Yukon, and Charter Deputy Grand Knight **Evan Fagan**. Also still with us are **Joe Laturus, Pat O'Neill, Alex Piercy, Gordon Reilly, Joe Schauerte, Tony Southwell, Silvio Tognela** and **Gene Zappella**. A full pictorial honour roll of all Past Grand Knights of the council, along with a selection of recognitions received for our activities, is on display in the parish hall.

McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, with a focus of caring for the well-being of its deceased members' widows and children and the spiritual well-being of its members through Catholic fraternal association.

St. Patrick's Council is made up of members with a variety of cultural backgrounds, both single and married, lay and clergy, all having attained the age of 18. We reflect a microcosm of the 1.9 million members world-wide in 14,900 councils which operate in fourteen countries.

St. Patrick's Knights, like their brother Knights world-wide, are much more than the stereotypical pancake makers, burger flippers, ticket sellers or hall setter-uppers. They are men both active and involved in their parish and school, in their communities and in their work places in a variety of ministries and endeavours.

In future issues of Parish Life, we hope to offer a closer look at the activities of "These Men They Call Knights." If you would like to learn more sooner, or have an inkling to be one of our number, Grand Knight **Mark Redchurch** would be pleased to hear from you. Please call him at 250-370-0558 or e-mail redchurch.kofc@shaw.ca. ✚

Happy 50th Birthday, Father Al!



Father Al Alilio celebrated his fiftieth birthday on January 28 this year! **Couples for Christ**, the **CWL** and the **Knights of Columbus** hosted a party for him in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall that same evening. There was much food (remember: long noodles mean a long life), many guests on hand both from St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart Parishes, and the young people from CFC sang for Father. This all made for a happy and memorable celebration.

Congratulations, Father Al. We all wish you a very long and happy life! ✠

Father Harrison Ayre Ordained A Priest

By Michael Smyth

During the August long weekend of 2001, Father Harrison Ayre received a phone call from his grandmother that would change his life.

Father Harrison was studying computer science in Victoria at the time and he needed to find an apartment.

"My grandmother called me and said she read in her church bulletin about a priest who had a place to rent," Father Harrison recalls.

"It was Father John Laszczyk from the cathedral in Victoria. I just needed a place to live, and I didn't realize at the time that he wanted to share his house with men interested in the priesthood.

"Well," Father Harrison says with a laugh. "I guess it worked!"

Father John became his friend and mentor and set Father Harrison on an amazing spiritual journey that culminated in his ordination as a priest by Bishop Gary Gordon on Saturday Feb. 7 at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

"It was wonderful, joyful, very emotional," recalls Father Harrison, now the associate priest at St. Patrick's, working alongside Father Al Alilio.

The standing-room only gathering of around 850 included Father Harrison's mother Estelle, his father Lindsay, his brother Jonathan, his sister Ashley and many friends and relatives.

Father Harrison, who is 32 years old and from Pitt Meadows, says around 250 people travelled from out-of-town for his ordination.

The next day, Father Harrison celebrated a thanksgiving mass at St. Patrick's, during which he presented his

parents with some traditional gifts.

He gave his mother the cloth – known as a purificator or, more traditionally, the manutergium or "hand towel" in Latin – used to wipe his hands after they were anointed with oil by the bishop during the ordination rite. He gave his father a purple stole.

The purificator came in handy again for Father Harrison, as he used it to dry his own tears of joy during the presentation to his parents.

"I knew I was going to lose it, because the whole weekend was super-emotional for me," he recalls.

"I thought my dad would keep it together okay, but when I gave him a hug, he was just shaking. I don't think there was a dry eye in the church."

Father Harrison's journey to the priesthood began with his 2003 confirmation and first communion after completing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

He began to hear God's call while completing his studies at the University of Victoria. He graduated in 2006 with a degree in philosophy, and took a job as office manager for the Diocese of Victoria.

As he began thinking more deeply about the priesthood, he was invited by Catholic scholar George Weigel to attend the 2007 Tertio Millennio Seminar in Krakow, Poland.

"It was my first time being exposed to the deep intellectual life in the church and I loved it," recalls Father Harrison, who met several men training to be priests at the seminar.

"They all encouraged me and told me, 'Give it a shot, go to the seminary.'"

He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton in 2008. The call to the

priesthood grew even stronger for Father Harrison during a missionary year working with the poor in San Francisco and Gallup, New Mexico, and as a seminarian intern working in Courtenay-Comox.

"It all culminated in the understanding that God was definitely calling me to do this and I needed to say yes to it completely," he says.

Father Harrison has many interests away from church. He loves jazz music, sampling craft beers (especially from Belgium) and rumour has it he is something of a shark at the poker table when he gets together for a friendly game with pals.

He's also an accomplished swing dancer, a passion that began in high school and flourished during his university years.

"I took lessons, watched videos, got really good at it and fell in love with the whole dance culture," he says. Father Harrison has collected thousands of classic jazz songs on his computer and – when he finds the time – competes, gives lessons and DJs jazz dances.

Father Harrison hopes these interests serve as an inspiration for St. Patrick's parishioners.

"Christ wants us all to have a life of joy and peace," he says. "I've discovered you can encounter Christ in every aspect of daily life and my mission as a new priest is to help people know Christ's love."

He is grateful for the warm welcome he has received at St. Patrick's, for his beautiful ordination and for that phone call from his grandmother back in 2001. ✚



Top: Domingo Aquino adjusts banner celebrating Father's Ordination; above: Father's cake; below right: Pat O'Neill, Father and Tony Joe enjoy some chips; below left; Father celebrates his first Mass; left: Bishop Gary Gordon at Ordination.





Father Al, Yvonne Hayward, Pauline Scherr, Deacon Harrison



Deacon Harrison, Bruna Perusi, Father Al

Maple Leaf Service pins for two distinguished CWL members

By Lorrie Van Somer

Two wonderful ladies who have devoted countless hours of service to the St. Patrick's Parish community were honoured by the Catholic Women's League recently.

Bruna Perusi and **Yvonne Hayward** were recipients of the CWL Maple Leaf Service Pin at our annual luncheon in December. This pin is awarded to members who have demonstrated an outstanding effort to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our midst.

Mrs. Bruna Perusi has been a St. Patrick's church member and a CWL member for more than 40 years. She has been a Granma for Moms and Tots for more than 25 years and has provided hospitality for many CWL functions, funeral receptions and our church bazaar. In one way or another, Bruna has been involved in more than 100 functions at our parish spanning her 40 years here.

Bruna's favorite things to do are to bake and cook food, serve food, set-up and clean-up of the church hall and to be a great listener and support to others. Bruna is a mother to three grown children, a grandmother to two and a friend to many. She always greets people with a smile and a big hello or arrivederci!

Bruna is a great example of God's love in her service to others. The St. Patrick's CWL offers her congratulations and a heartfelt thank-you for all she does for our parish.



Mrs. Yvonne Hayward also received the Maple Leaf Service Pin from St. Patrick's CWL President Pauline Scherr at our December luncheon. Pauline managed to keep the honour a surprise for Yvonne, a delicate task as Yvonne and Pauline currently share the CWL presidency.

Yvonne has been a St. Patrick's church member for 24 years, since moving here from Calgary, Alberta. She has been a CWL member for more than 25 years. She has been a Granma for Moms and Tots for more than 20 years, served as CWL president for three two-year terms, held numerous chairs on the executive and a choir member for more than 20 years. She serves as a Communion Minister and contact for the Home Visiting program for more than 10 years. She is always ready to help at church functions, in the parish kitchen at our church bazaar.

Yvonne's quiet demeanour and listening ear make her a wonderful example of God's love for others. She is a mother and grandmother who always takes the time for her family and her community. The St. Patrick's CWL offers her congratulations and a heartfelt thank-you for all she does for our parish.

The Catholic Women's League is open to new members. If you would like to know more about what we do, please speak to a member or check out our information board in the parish hall. ☩