

3. Vocation Culture in the Diocesan Community

3.4 The Priests



“Come and see” (Jn 1:46) is the invitation of Philip to Nathanael to go and meet Jesus. This invitation needs to come from us priests of the Archdiocese of Vancouver to the young people. We already have seen from the data (over 80%) that the most influential person in the vocation of the priesthood candidate is the priest himself but unfortunately the majority of us in Vancouver do not personally do what Philip did. Why? And what must we do?

With these questions, I had the privilege of asking over a hundred priests in the diocese before I left for Rome. There is a sense of shame for being who and what they are due to the lack of apostolic zeal, tiredness from work, missing our spiritual life and prayers, too busy, etc. After reflecting on the reason “why” the priests themselves suggested to me what we priests must do so that we can be proud of our vocation and have the courage to call the young men to follow Jesus. I synthesize their answers and suggestions bellow.

Our Discernment

Our parents’ deep faith was for many of us a significant factor in awakening us to our call to the priesthood. For others, a religious sister or a beloved teacher helped with this process. But by far, the greatest factor that set our discernment in motion was our contact with a priest. We became excited about our vocation through a love for the liturgy, a sense of service and a desire to evangelize. We had a respect for the sacredness and the work of the priest. We saw the service that the priest gave to the parish and wanted to become part of that work. We also saw the priesthood as a means of entering into a deeper and closer relationship with Christ and of drawing others into that relationship.

During our seminary years the camaraderie of our fellow seminarians, the support of the faculty, and our excitement for the things of God confirmed and strengthened our vocation to the priesthood. We witnessed the joy in the life of priests we encountered; this joy kindled in us the desire to follow in their footsteps. Furthermore, the encouragement of our spiritual directors, the support of the priests we knew and the testimony of missionaries strengthened the call and our desire to proceed to ordination.

Our Ministry

We have moved beyond our starry-eyed vision of the priesthood, yet despite our human failings, we for the most part find joy amongst the struggles we faced within our ministry. These struggles are largely seen as making us better priests because we have a more realistic and mature view of our faith, which makes us more merciful first with our own weaknesses, then with the weaknesses of others. This discovery of reality and maturity has increased in us the virtue of humility and has given us a greater commitment to our vocation. continued



Welcome to St. Ann’s Parish

Our Vision Statement: to be a Christ-centered community of missionary disciples.

Our Mission Statement: to work and pray to be a welcoming, Eucharistic community that spreads the good news of Christ. We each strive to share our gifts within and beyond the parish for the glory of God.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANN’S

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON MONDAY, APRIL 2ND. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. that morning.

NOVENA TO THE DIVINE MERCY continues **April 2nd to April 7th**: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday after the morning Mass, Tuesday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

MASS will be celebrated at Bevan Village on **Tuesday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**

WILLS & ESTATE MEMORIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP: **Tuesday April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.**, St. Joachim room.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING: **Thursday, April 5th, 7:00 pm**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST PRAYER MEETING: meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joachim room.

First Friday ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held on **Friday, April 6th** after morning Mass, ending with Prayers for Vocations at 6:30 p.m., Benediction at 6:45 p.m. and then Mass at 7:00 p.m. Please come and spend some quiet time with our Lord in prayer and thanksgiving.

K4J PROGRAM: **Saturday, April 7th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

There are **3** more ALPHA EVENINGS: **Saturdays, April 7, 14, and 21**. We look forward to seeing the adults and youth who are doing this Alpha Course come out for dinner and conversation. The last evening (April 21) will be a potluck dinner.

The community of St. Ann’s is happy to welcome our newly baptized Catholics from the Easter Vigil Mass: GUGI MIN, HEY-JUNG YOUN, JAEHAENG KIM, M’AURY FARRINGTON, AND SAMUEL MEYER. We also welcomed and confirmed two new Catholics: SHANNON WHITE AND ROSS MCLEOD. Many blessings as you enter into a new life in Christ!

BULLETIN ADS: If you would like to advertise your business on the back of the bulletin we still have **2 vacancies** remaining. The cost is \$200 for the year with your ad published bi-monthly. Please contact office by April 3rd/4th then email a digital copy of your ad (a little smaller than business card size) to parishoffice@stannsabbotsford.ca. Thank you.

We may sometimes become discouraged and feel like giving up, we see hope within the youth groups of our diocese and joy within many of our parishioners, which lead us to believe there are good things to come. We view our priesthood then, as a privilege in that we have been chosen to touch people’s lives so intimately with the love of Christ particularly through the sacraments. Therefore we are inspired to bring this love of Christ to others, to be available and open so that the happiness that is available in Christ can be integrated into more lives.

Moreover, the aptitude for pastoral work which we all possess gives us the courage and self-confidence to carry on. The Mass puts us in awe of Christ’s love for mankind and gives us a sense of being in the right place to grow deeper in that love.

**INTENTIONS FOR MASS
APRIL 2ND TO APRIL 8TH, 2018**

Monday 9:00am	Julianne Kirsch, rip.
Tuesday 7:00pm	Nicole Kamps, rip.
Wednesday 8:00am	Helga Stevenson, int.
Thursday 8:00am	Edna Wagner, rip.
Friday 8:00am 7:00pm	Mark & Kathleen Toth, int. Fr. Tim McCarthy, rip.
Saturday 9:00am 5:00am	Matilde Carrao, int. Bonnie Brenner, int.
Sunday 8:00am 10:00am Noon	Erwin Czerwinski, rip. Mike Zaholuk, rip. Intentions for the Parish

**FEAST DAYS & READINGS
APRIL 2ND TO APRIL 8TH, 2018**

Monday	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18
Wednesday	Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48
Friday	Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14
Saturday	Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15
Sunday—Divine Mercy	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31



SATURDAY, APRIL 21 5PM at St. Ann’s Parish

in St. Joachim room
Appies, additional wine and pop or beer available to purchase (cash only)

Come join a night of fun! Enjoy a glass of wine while you follow a step-by-step painting demonstration & leave with your own masterpiece! Proceeds go to support the Syrian Family.

Tickets available at the Parish Office \$40pp Silent Auction

Hope For Women Dessert Concert - April 13th, 7:30pm

Come and enjoy a fabulous night of mouth-watering desserts and music at **Hope For Women Pregnancy Services Dessert Concert Fundraiser** featuring Her Brothers and Souls Rest. A freewill offering will be taken to support the lifesaving work of Hope for Women Pregnancy Services. Location: Heritage Alliance, 3440 Mount Lehman Rd, Abbotsford. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. For tickets call 604-853-0303 or email info@hopeforwomen.ca

If you or a family member would like a visit or to receive the sacraments while in the hospital or at home, please contact the Parish Office at 604-852-5602. As many Catholics are unaware at the admitting interview, that without indicating that they are a Roman Catholic and would like a visit from a priest, their name will not be included on the hospital list. We have 3 lay people and a deacon who visit the hospital on Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. each week.



St. Ann’s CWL Presents:
Mother & Daughter Fashion Show and Ice Cream Social

Saturday, April 21st, 2-4pm
Tickets: \$10 available at Parish Office
Fashions compliments of Suzanne’s

A reminder that our theme for the SPRING FAIR & GARAGE SALE coming up on **May 25th and 26th** is: "You are the face of Christ for those who come to our event." Each of you are an important part of our joy-filled, caring community. With you, this parish event is sure to be a success!

NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT 2018

On **April 27th & 28th**, join thousands of Catholics from across North America at the premier conference on the New Evangelization. The event will be held at the Infinity Convention Centre in Ottawa and webcast to host sites across Canada and the US. This year’s Summit is once again featuring world-class Catholic speakers: Michael Dopp, George Weigel, Patrick Madrid, Curtis Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, and more. Register online today (<https://www.newevangelization.ca/>)! St. Ann’s is one of only four LIVE streaming sites in the Vancouver area.

RETROUVILLE WEEKEND FOR COUPLES

April 13 - 15 at Barnabas Landing, Keats Island

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouville can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouville is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouville is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouville can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about an upcoming Retrouville Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: Marc & Candice at telephone 604-530-6710 or visit our websites: www.retrouvaillevancouver.com and www.retrouville.org

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