



THE ANGELUS

Your Neighbourhood Parish Newsletter

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, 24 July
FEAST OF
ST MARY MAGDALENE
 8am - Said Mass
NO 9AM SERVICE TODAY
 11am - Procession and
 Solemn Festal Mass
(followed by a luncheon)

All Welcome

DAILY WORSHIP

SUNDAY

8:00 am Said Mass
 9:30 am Modern Language Rite
 11:00 am Solemn Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY 6:00 pm
 TUESDAY 7:15 am
 WEDNESDAY 10:00 am
*followed by coffee hour
 & study group*
 THURSDAY 7:15 am &
 10:00 (in Italian)
 FRIDAY 6:00 pm
 SATURDAY 10:00 am

CONFESSIONS

BY APPOINTMENT

Opportunities to Grow

SMM participates in a diocesan program designed to promote parish health known as Natural Church Development. Each year 30 parishioners answer a survey that identifies our strengths and challenges as a parish and late in 2010 we completed our third survey. Our results show good progress. Our strongest characteristics are Inspiring Worship and Gift Based Ministry and both are obvious features of our parish life. Our challenge comes in a characteristic known as Passionate Spirituality and it is one that we share with the entire diocese. Both the words, "passionate" and "spirituality" appear to set off alarm bells for Anglicans, who view "passion" as irrational enthusiasm and "spirituality" as new age. But the parish team has recognized opportunities and has taken advantages of other initiatives in progress, both within the deanery and in our own parish community.

The first was an opportunity to host a Lenten series for Parkdale Deanery, Entitled "Everyday faith", it was led by Sister Constance Joanna and Sister Elizabeth of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and covered many kinds of prayer in a down-to-earth and practical way. We learned ways to enrich meditation, to understand Lectio Divina, and to practise contemplative prayer. In the course of the five sessions, we were able to share our own perceptions and questions with members of the other Parkdale parishes. The series was universally praised by all who attended as an enriching and valuable one.

The second was also a Parkdale Deanery initiative. Basing the plan on a model used in another deanery, three volunteers, Sharon Chandler from St. Matthias, Dorothy Peers from Epiphany & St. Mark and Brian Clarke of SMM recruited writers from all seven parishes to write reflections on a reading



for each day of Lent. Short daily offices were included to provide a simple booklet for daily prayer entitled Food for the Soul. A diocesan grant funded the project and copies were distributed to parishioners in all seven parishes of the deanery. An online version also provided resources and we heard from users as far away as Texas and Seattle. Many of us were very moved by the strength and imagination of the responses and found the booklet a real addition to our personal spiritual practice.

Fr. John Whittall launched an equally successful series of workshops for seekers on Saturday afternoons. While it was intended for those looking for a non-threatening environment to explore questions of faith, it also attracted many parishioners who enjoyed exploring along with them. Fr. John opened the series and recruited three other presenters. Wendy Telfer gave a workshop on the connection between theology and social justice. This was an initiative growing out of earlier meetings in 2010 to explore how we could put our faith in practice. Like the others this season, it attracted 20-30 participants.

The Wednesday morning study group continued their spirited discussions following the morning mass. After a

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From the Rector



Our building is a wondrous place, showing different aspects of its personality at different times of the day. It is its most mystical, I think, at night, after the sun has gone down, and when the lights are out. Coming into the liturgical space there is the soft shimmering light of candles throughout the space, evidence of the prayers that have been offered in that space during the day that has now passed. Just enough light to allow safe passage through the space. (And, no, I've not yet encountered the Gray Lady – the SMM ghost!)

Although our entire space is steeped in prayer (the lingering smell of incense also being a reminder of those prayers), our statues and our icon provide, within that space, particular places of focus for prayer. Although praying in front of statues and icons is not part of the spirituality and piety of everyone (thank God for our diversity!), it is a vital part of the spirituality and piety of a wonderful cross-section of those who pray at SMM.

Over the past year I've developed a simple ritual which, which I observe in the evening, whenever I can, – a ritual of moving through the space, lighting a candle at each statue and at the icon, and offering prayer. I begin at the Statue of Our Lady. There I

offer whatever prayers are the most urgent, the most pressing. Moving to the Statue of St. Mary Magdalene, our Patron, I light a candle and offer prayers and thanksgiving for our parish community. At the statue of St. Benedict, I offer prayer for the monastic orders which are part of our life – the Sisters of the Church, certainly, but also the Sisters of St. John the Divine, the Order of the Holy Cross, and the Society of St. John the Evangelist. At the statue of St. Anthony of Padua, I give thanks for the presence in our midst of our faithful Italian and Portuguese women (Anthony being the perfect saint – born in Portugal and dying in Italy). At the statue of St. Joseph, I uphold in prayer all those who work, and who cannot work, and who are unemployed, and who are neglected and forgotten. And then, finally, at the Icon of Christ Pantokrator (Christ, Ruler of All), I offer prayer that Christ, who is all in all, will be behind and before, above and beneath.

What a wondrous space it is. Let us continue, in our diverse ways, to fill it with prayer.



At our Patronal Festival we will be saying farewell to Canon Maylanne Maybee, our deacon. It is a sadness for us to be doing so, but we do wish her well in her new role as Principal of the Centre for Christian Studies

in Winnipeg. The Centre is at the forefront of the training and formation of people for diaconal ministry. They've picked the ideal leader in Maylanne, someone who has been at the forefront of establishing the ministry of the diaconate in Canada as an independent order with its own vocation and integrity.

Maylanne first came to SMM thirty years ago, and has served here with the exception of a period of a few years when she was at our neighbouring parish of St. Stephen's. As a way of giving thanks for Maylanne's ministry and presence at SMM over many years, we are inviting contributions to a fund designated to restore a treasured set of high mass vestments. These white vestments (characterized by red orphreys and exquisite embroidery) were donated to the parish by Bill and June Greig. They are now quite worn and the embroidery needs to be placed onto new fabric. Maylanne herself feels strongly that these vestments ought to be renewed and recently generously suggested her own thank-offering. It is from her initiative, then, that we are inviting contributions to this fund, in thanksgiving for Maylanne's ministry here. Please make your contribution payable to the parish and mark it "Thanksgiving for Maylanne".

**Yours faithfully,
Fr. David
Rector**



Picnic in the Park

How does a parish relate to its neighbourhood? This question was posed in a course presented by the diocese last fall and ten SMM parishioners tried to respond to it. The rector observed that Healey Willan Park in our backyard was one of the places where we could meet our neighbours and get to know them better.

So the annual picnic held on June 19 was an obvious place to start. A sign-up sheet indicated that lots of parishioners were more than willing to help out, and they offered their services as information providers, coffee servers and even washroom attendants. Kim Kendrick's Orff Group performed for the crowd with a small front row audience who were even willing to abandon the freshly opened wading pool. A beautiful summer day was the beginning of a conversation with the neighbours that we hope will continue.

An Exciting Joint Venture

Who is our neighbour?" is a question that is increasingly more complicated in a global world. SMM is currently exploring the joint sponsorship of an Iraqi refugee family. The Iraqi Christian community composed of Chaldeans, Assyrians and others face systemic elimination similar to genocide. This is not the first time that the parish has been called on to help their fellow Christians.

But the impetus this time came from an unexpected source, Miriam Diamond is a member of First Narayever Synagogue on Brunswick Avenue and also a neighbour of parishioners, Paul and Sally-Beth MacLean. The Social Justice Committee of the synagogue had been approached by Jewish

Immigrant aid Services to consider a sponsorship of a Christian Iraqi family and they were moved to respond. Who else could better understand a history of persecution than those whose families were destroyed in the Holocaust. A casual conversation between the neighbours created an immediate desire to explore the opportunity together.

An approach to the outreach and social justice committees at both SMM and First Narayever encouraged further exploration and a joint steering team was formed. Our participants, Brian Clarke, Sally-Beth and Paul Maclean, Wendy Telfer and Richard Woolrich asked for some time at our June Advisory Board meeting and the presentation by Paul MacLean and Mariam Diamond received unanimous approval to continue exploring the feasibility of the project.

The joint sponsors have to make a commitment to raise approximately

\$30,000 in both cash and in-kind donations. The commitment includes responsibility for the family for a period of one year and includes housing, clothing, food and help with integration into Canadian life, such as language classes, schooling, shopping, health services and ultimately financial sustainability. The volunteers will be supported throughout by the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and the Anglican United Refugee Alliance. Financial support will be sought from individual parishioners as well as others in our neighbourhood.

When the project receives final approval and proceeds, a family that is already one of 2500 pre-approved by the Canadian Government is expected to arrive sometime in 2012. As our first inter-faith project in our neighbourhood we fully support this innovative attempt to work together for those who truly need our help, concern and assistance.

The New Advisory Board

At their 2011 meeting, the parish vestry approved a new structure for the Advisory Board designed to better represent the needs and programs of the parish. Consisting of the rector, Fr. David Harrison, wardens Heather McGregor and Rob Castle, deputy wardens Elizabeth Cowling and David Widenmaier, lay delegates to synod, Norah Bolton, Elizabeth Cowling and Catherine Riddell, music director, Stephanie Martin and elected members at large, Tom Bastedo, Patricia Maltby and Eva Martin, it also includes co-chairs of five key portfolios. Victoria Hathaway and Phyllis McCurdy take responsibility for Worship. Brian Clarke and Richard Woolrich champion the areas of Outreach and Social Justice. Eva Martin and Julie Ketchman are responsible for Christian Formation of both adults and children. Norah Bolton and Elizabeth Beatty share responsibility for Communications. Jo Ann Dawson and Viola Lang's portfolio is Parish Life and Hospitality.

The program chairs report on current

activities, seek the input of others on their proposed plans and keep in touch with their areas of activity in all congregations. Among the recent highlights:

- A working group has been formed to review and improve the parish website. Parish bulletins are now more extensive and eliminate balancing several books to follow the liturgy. An email list is well under way to enhance the sharing of information
- Out of the Cold concluded for the year with a party for the volunteers hosted by Martin and Anita Greig. We particularly appreciated the volunteers from all congregations, who came out so faithfully and served as many as 125 guests for our monthly community dinners. The presence of 15 Pathfinders was a welcome addition – especially when they brought Easter Eggs to the guests on Good Friday. Two young women from St. Joseph's High School still kept turning up long after their volunteer hours were fulfilled because they thought the program was so worthwhile. Several volunteers still contribute time and food to Out of the Heat during the summer and this has now become a regular part of the SMM commitment.
- New volunteers have joined the group

providing coffee and refreshments after services and on feast days and more are still welcome. We were pleased to provide hospitality for the May Festival and a recent visit of the Chattanooga Tennessee Boys Choir. The kitchen is also going "Green" with new bins helping us to recycle waste more effectively. The team is also thinking more seriously about packaging and cutting down on garbage. There are also plans afoot to provide more information on kitchen routines and use of equipment and appliances.

- The Worship Committee has been hard at work to complete one of the remaining tasks of our recent renovation – the gallery windows. A working group composed of Rob Castle, Elizabeth Cowling, Jo-Anne Dawson, Victoria Hathaway, Viola Lang, Anne MacDonald, Lorna Scott and Fr. David have met to establish design and environmental concerns under the guidance with Eve Guinan, who was also involved with the Sanctuary Windows in 2007-08. A design has now been chosen and presented to the parishioners.
- Christian Education has had a boost this spring from initiative of the Parkdale Deanery working group as well as a strong program for children at the 9:30 mass.

A Musical Feast

While Holy Week is often viewed as the apex of musical life at SMM, it certainly doesn't stop there. This June Stephanie Martin provided *Concerts Spirituels*, a series deliberately planned as a "Fresh Expression", reaching out to those who may have no conventional experience of worship but can respond to the deep spirituality of liturgical music.

The flyers invited people to "Come as you are, pay what you can", and a large audience responded. The series opened with our Gallery Choir, joined by the SMM Baroque Ensemble. Willan's *Lady Motets* were a natural

choice, in addition to the featured Vitoria *Missa Salve* and there was also a stunning performance of former organist Andrew Agar's composition by our own Simon Walker. The second concert featured a brand new chamber group of singers, Ensemble Theotokos, performing Guerrero's *Simile est Regnum*, along with the SMM Baroque Ensemble. The Pax Christi Chamber Choir concluded with Palestrina's *Missa Aeterna Christi Munera* for a moving conclusion to the series, which ended with a lavish post concert reception thrown by Allan Risk. The series was a financial success, thanks to the generous donations of the audience, as well as the donated time and talents of all the performers.

Since Tenebrae is such an

important tradition, Stephanie is planning to enhance that experience as well. She has recruited an art history graduate student to work with Schola Magdalena member and professional editor, Julia Armstrong, to create an illuminated chant booklet for Tenebrae worshippers in the future. While Stephanie and others have left for the ordination of Christopher Adler (a former parishioner and ritual choir cantor) in France, she has left music for the summer in the capable hands of organists Matthew Whitfield and Simon Walker. As well as his regular appearance as a violinist at 9:30 mass, summer intern, Josh Colucci, has recently released his first summer recording which can be purchased along with others by the choirs.

Opportunities to Grow

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marathon reading of Brian McLaren's, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, they turned to *Uncommon Gratitude* by Joan Chittister and Archbishop Rowan Williams during Lent. They then reverted to a more traditional study of the Gospel of John for the remainder of the spring. The rector took the opportunity to recruit two loyal members, Viola Lang and Ted Parkins to re-open the parish library and, although a re-organization is now in progress, you can now access this excellent resource regularly again.

Richard Woolrich is also glad to have you revisit the tract rack and buy up current contents so we can acquire some new ones.

For the last nine months the 9:30 service bulletins included photocopied hymns from *Common Praise*, the *Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada* published in 1998 and used in most Anglican parishes throughout the country. SMM already had two hymn books – the *New English Hymnal*, chosen some time ago because of its wealth of hymns within our tradition, and a supplement containing others, as well as liturgical additions. We have long been used to balancing a number of books during worship and it was time to look at another additional

resource. In June, we borrowed several copies of *Common Praise* and, after a light supper, a representative group from all congregations launched into a one and a half hour hymn sing. Some hymns were chosen in advance by our music director and music interns and then we were free to name our own choices. As well as getting a feel for the contents of the book, everyone agreed that the exercise was a lot of fun and should be repeated. At the June Advisory Board meeting, *Common Praise* was approved as an additional music resource and several volunteered offers to purchase copies as gifts. They appeared the following Sunday and now will serve as an additional music resource.



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