



Above left: Mr. David Virtue with Bishop Gérard LaPlante. top right picture: Mr. Gerhard Oberauer with his family, in his arm Simon, Gerhard, Jimmy, his wife Maria, David, in front: Manuel, Rebecca, and Lukas

**Mr. David Virtue & Mr. Gerhard Oberauer visiting the Old Catholic Church of BC**

**Mr. David Virtue**, the former Province newspaper religious reporter, stayed and visited with us from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of April while attending a conference in Tsawwassen, BC. He resides now in Pennsylvania but has been in contact with the Church for the last 30 years. Bishop Gérard LaPlante and Mr. Virtue met in 1978 in Vancouver, when Mr. Virtue was the religious reporter for the Province newspaper. He is a member of the Episcopal Church of the USA and writes on his website and other magazines on the life of the Church.

**Mr. Gerhard Oberauer** is originally from Salzburg, Austria and met Bishop Gérard in 1983, when he came to Canada. The Church helped him to immigrate into Canada, and he joined the Old Catholic Church via St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. During the years he has traveled with Bishop Gérard LaPlante in Europe, Africa and in Canada; he built a memorial monument for the parents of the Bishop in Causapschal, Quebec and was featured for this work by the CBC-French Network. Mr. Gerhard Oberauer married his wife Mrs. Maria Lerch in November 1992 at St. Raphael's and they are now the proud parents of 6 children, 5 boys and 1 girl who range in age from 2 to 18 years old. Gerhard is also a member of the board for the Old Catholic Church of BC & Society. He and his family reside in Valemount, BC.



above pictures: Mr. Gerhard Oberauer installing protection wire for the bell tower and the chimney