

Christmas 2002

The Church overflowing at Midnight Mass with many people standing outside unable to come in. Fr. Jürgen's sister Birgit joined us from Germany for the Christmas Holidays and for much needed help at our Christmas Dinner.

2003

	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Con rmations	Ordinations
2003	15	18	96	9	0

January

On the 14th we had the funeral of Mr. Thomas Tannis Markovitch at the Church. This was our first Gypsy funeral and as such very colorful. The visitation at the funeral home was three full days with lots of food and many relatives.

We celebrated the 88th birthday of Mrs. Baldasso in the back of the Church. Originally from Italy, she immigrated to Canada in 1950. She lives now with her son and is very very grateful for the Church and being a member here.

Fr. Jürgen injured his back at work while moving a casket at the end of January. He was bed bound for several weeks and returned to work part-time in April.

April

On the 4th our long time member Eddy Ydenberg passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Eddy and his wife Doris attended St. Raphael's for close to 25 years and were two of the oldest members. Originally from Holland, he came to Canada after he served in the war. He was well liked and many stories are connected with him. Since he lived close to the Church there were many times he would stop by or call, or the Priests would visit with him. The Requiem Mass was celebrated on the 10th. A very stately service. The Church was overflowing

with many family and friends, including the former Premier of our province, Mr. Bill Vander Zalm and his wife.

At the end of the month Fr. Gordon took ill and had to go to the hospital for a week. He returned all well and rejuvenated.

May

We received as a donation from Mrs. McKenzie a concrete fountain, made in Chicago 1932 for the rectory gardens. It has been fixed up and is now working perfectly.

After many years finally a new roof is put on the Church. The roof hasn't been renewed for at least 40 years - not bad for shingles designed for 15 years! The new roof has a 40 year warranty and we hope we don't need to touch the roof for a long time. This work was made possible by a very generous donation of Mr. Doug Stewart and his wife Huguette, who have been long time friends and supporter of the Church. The Bishop married them more than 20 years ago, and we have known them since. The work was done by Whannock Roofing, owner Mr. Clayton Gagnon Sr., who helped us over the years many times to fix the roof and repair it. The roofing crew were: Mr. Clayton Gagnon Jr., Mr. Rees Geannott, Mr. Richard Abbott, and Mr. Darrell Wiebe.

August

New gutters were installed at the Church to complement the new roof at the beginning of the month by Mr. Ray Mattice and his crew. They also put new gutters on Fr. Gordon's carport and the garage.

On August 29 we received the sad news that one of our long-time members, Mrs. Susan Green suddenly passed away. Her death was a shock for everyone, because though she had been sick not even her doctor expected her to die. She was born 9 September 1945 in Calgary, Alberta, and was a High-School teacher in Richmond for most of her life. She and her husband, Robert have been faithful

to our Church, and their two children were baptized here. She retired in July of this year. The Requiem Mass was held at St. Raphael's on September 10, with more than 200 people in attendance, many were forced to stand outside in the rain. Her ashes were laid to rest in our small cemetery at the Church, next to the ashes of her parents and sister.

September

Mr. Jürgen Alsbach and his father Mr. Theo Alsbach came for a visit. After a big dinner on Saturday, and a small Church reception on Sunday they left together with Bishop LaPlante for a well deserved trip to Northwestern USA.

October

Fr. Jürgen went to Germany to visit with his family. His parents are celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary and he was happy to be part of this special family celebration.

November

Fr. Gary Wulf and his wife from Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Redmond, Washington came for a visit. Fr. Gary is also a working Priest, and he recently retired from US Postal Service. Holy Trinity Anglican Church is in Communion with the Old Catholic Church, because a few years ago Holy Trinity needed a Bishop and asked Bishop LaPlante whether he could help them. Bishop LaPlante graciously accepted and became their Bishop as well.

In November, we also had the wedding of Mr. Nishanth Luke Thangasamy and Mrs. Rojimasarella Pauline. They are both from South India; he belongs to the Church of India, she is Catholic. Both are students here in Vancouver. After the wedding in the Church, everyone was invited for a small reception in the back. Mr. Thangasamy, who enjoys music very much, sang with Fr. Gordon on the organ. They came to us through our long time member Mr. Ramesh Bastiampillai, who has helped the Church in many different ways over the years. We are very happy for the new couple and wish them all the best for their life together!

December

"O come all ye faithful..." the Church and parsonage have been set up for the wonderful celebration of Christmas. This year we received as a gift a wonderful handmade nativity crèche, a gift from Fr. Antoine. The manger was made by Fr. Damien and is the centerpiece in the dining room of the Church. Everyone is admiring the delicate details and all the efforts that went into making this beautiful manger.

2004

January

In the past two years, we have celebrated a Requiem Mass once a month at Ocean View Burial Park, Burnaby, BC at 11 am on the first Saturday of each month. In November we had big problems securing our usual time slot and after a letter was written to the President of the Company, our usual time slot has been secured for the rest of the year.

February

We are now in full communion with Holy Trinity Anglican Church, in Redmond, Washington, USA. Quote from the minutes of annual meeting: "... Father Gary asked for a vote to have Bishop LaPlante as our Bishop...there was unanimous vote in favor of the Letter of Communion...Father Gary said that the Bishop is the most unassuming Bishop he has ever met, very humble, and the Bishop believes that he is a priest first and a Bishop second...If our Churches have a communion agreement, there will be no money exchanged, and each parish will be completely independent." Bishop LaPlante accepted their request in February, thus establishing the Communion.

March

Our good friend of the Church for many years Fr. Eric Cormier passed away on March 26, 2004. He was 77 years old and for many years, he and Bishop LaPlante have corresponded regularly on Church matters. He was a Roman Catholic Priest of the Moncton, N.B. Diocese and while in Vancouver

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Holy Thursday 1998, ordination to the diaconate of Fr. Terrance Theys; ordination (sub condition) of Fr. Mack McFerran to the Priesthood. Back row: parishioner, Fr. Gordon, Fr. Mack, Bishop LaPlante, Deacon Terrance Theys, Fr. Jürgen, front row: Mr. & Mrs. Camilo and Benny Bastiampillai with their sons Randy and Ricky; Mrs. Doris Fistravec, Mrs. Louise Heide, Mr. Zulmira Demelo



Wedding of Mr. Jürgen Alsbach to Ms. Nicole Dechent in Schmalenberg, Germany; clergy: Pastor Irmgard Moser of the Dorfkirche Schmalenberg, Bishop LaPlante, Mr. Jim Gee assisting.



Left: Fr. Gordon with Mr. & Mrs. Roald and Jane Kovacik from Sooke, BC



Antique Cast Iron cross
(to be placed on our lots at
Valley View Cemetery)



Picnic at St. Raphael's 2002; adults clockwise: Mrs. Maria Coates, Mr. Joseph Haddad, Mr. Jim Gee, Mr. Mark Tasaka, Mr. Scott Baxter.

he served at St. Jude Roman Catholic parish. He visited St. Raphael's when he was in Vancouver, and Bishop LaPlante met him on several occasions in New Brunswick, where he resided. A dedicated Priest with a sharp mind he will be missed from our midst.

Easter

We were very busy during Holy Week and had the Church packed to the brims on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. Fortunately, we had extraordinary good weather with over 20C, Many visitors and members had to stand outside - the Church simply could not hold all the people.

On Holy Saturday, we had 8 baptisms, on Easter Sunday, 1 baptism. Five Children of the baptisms are already 2nd generation Old Catholic! We had 3 baptisms from Burundi (Andreas and Harmony Weber are from Burundi, the father is German, the mother Burundi) as well as Igor Iragabanje. We also had 5 confirmations and 5 First Communions.

On the second Sunday of Easter, we celebrated two very special baptisms of Mrs. Myrtle Sawiuk, 82 years, and Mrs. Margaret Marino, 85 years old. They are two sisters, born in Rocky Bay, BC, a true pioneer family. Their parents were born in BC on Vancouver Island and most of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren live and work in our province. Their father worked in the logging camps in BC, their husbands in the mining and fishing industry. Both of them were married 3 times and both of them are now widowed having survived their husbands.

They always had a deep love and appreciation for the First Nation people in our province and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have intermingled and intermarried with the nations of our province. They are a living example of the tolerance and acceptance, which so much reflects the teaching of the Old Catholic Church of BC.

The father of the now 82 and 85 year old sisters had a disagreement with a Roman Catholic priest and

therefore vowed not to have his children baptized. It took the healing angel of St. Raphael of the Old Catholic Church to lead the two sisters to the waters of baptism. They knew how important it was because their children and grandchildren were all baptized. Mrs. Myrtle Sawiuk had her great-great-grandson baptized at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church last year. When Myrtle told her 85-year-old sister Margaret of her plans to be baptized at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, she also wanted to be baptized. Margaret's spiritual journey has led her from the Roman Catholic Church to the Jehovah's Witness to the Old Catholic Church of BC. Myrtle came to us via the Anglican Church.

Many of their family showed up on April 18 on this very special day and after the Holy Mass a gathering was held with the family, the priest, and parishioners of the Old Catholic Church in the rectory gardens.

Here is a listing of all the people that were baptized Easter 2004:

Easter 2004 Holy Saturday Night
10 April 2004 8 p.m.

Baptised were:

Ryan Stephen Lokken	9 months
Caitlin Marliese Lokken	4 years
Joseph Douglas Lokken	8 years
Taylor Alexander D'Arcy Proulx	7 years
Brandon Andreas Korman Proulx	13 years
Igor Stephane Irabaganje	4 years
Harmony Samantha Muco Weber	14 years
Andreas Desire Gisabo Weber	19 years

On Easter Sunday 11 April 2004 11 am
baptized & confirmed:

Edward Russell Braumberger	16 years
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On 2nd Sunday of Easter

Mrs. Margaret Hannaha Marino	85 years
Mrs. Myrtle Thelma Sawiuk	82 years

Confirmed were:

Holy Saturday Night 10 April 2004 8 p.m.

Ingrid Inabeza18 years
Andreas Desire Gisabo Weber19 years
Harmony Samantha Muco Weber.....14 years
Ian Meilleur Irabaganje.....8 years
(above all from Burundi)
Edward Russell Braumberger16 years

First Communion

Nicole Maria Coates6 years
Kevin Ryan Coates8 years
Connor Yoshimi Tasaka7 years
Ian Meilleur Irabaganje.....8 years
Joseph Beau Jeremy Comeau.....8 years



May

At the end of the month, a dear friend of the Bishop and the Church - Mr. Jürgen Esser - moved back to his family farm near Canim Lake, BC in order to facilitate the sale of the ranch. We wish him Godspeed and hope he will be back, as he was well liked by everyone in the Church. For his farewell breakfast, we invited Mrs. Louise Heide as well, because she has been the oldest member in our Church having been at the Church for more than 30 years. Now mostly homebound it was a great joy for her to join again in the fellowship of our community. New gutters were installed on the rectory to compliment the new roof. Everything works fine and it was rain tested the next day with superior results.

At the end of May, we also received the sad news that our roofer Mr. Clayton Gagnon Sr. died suddenly at the age of 54 of a heart attack. He has been a friend of Bishop LaPlante and the Church for more than 25 years and his death came as a shock to everyone. He helped install gutters at the Church over 27 years ago, and the new roof in 2003. Bishop LaPlante officiated at his funeral in Maple Ridge, where he was also buried.

June

Mrs. Bev Maslo - who wants to be the member of Parliament for our riding - joined us for worship service and to meet the Bishop, clergy, and people of St. Raphael's. She was very impressed of our Church and remarked that our Church truly reflects this area with having people from all over the world in our Church and the Our Father recited in eight different languages.

Summer

We celebrated the 81st birthday of Fr. Gordon with a big turkey dinner, as this is his favorite supper. The next day on Canada Day, we showed our Canadian flag and not surprisingly were the only one in our block to do so. Bishop LaPlante left then for Bellevue, Washington to be with Holy Trinity for the 4th of July celebrations. Fr. Gary Wolf came back

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Above: Blessings of the animals 1999, (no rabbit, bird, cat or dog were harmed at the ceremony - a miracle in itself!)



First Requiem Mass at Chapel Courtyard, Ocean View Cemetery 2002 ; left to right: Fr. Al Hyndman, Fr. Stephen, Bishop Mack, Bishop LaPlante, Mrs. Dolores Durocher, Mrs. Louise Heide, Fr. Jürgen.



Left to right: Bishop LaPlante, Mrs. Mureil & Fr. Gary Wulf, Fr. Al Hyndman

Baptism of Kurrushany Ellen Thanyndran February 23, 2003; left to right: Bishop Mack, Mrs. Benny Bastiampillai (Godmother), grandmother of Kurrushany, Mr. Camilo Bastiampillai (Godfather), Mr. Benjamin & Mrs. Pamila Thanyndran (holding little Kurrushany), Bishop LaPlante, Fr. Juergen, family member.



with him from the US and together with Fr. Jürgen, they celebrated the wedding of Mr. Jack Tangredi and Ms. Jody Conibear. Lt. Tangredi is a F-14 fighter pilot with the US Navy, and originally from Connecticut, Ms. Conibear a schoolteacher from Calgary, AB. The wedding took place at the Brock House in Vancouver, where a canopy was banked by the American and Canadian flag. An honour guard of 8 US Navy Pilots was also present. The next Sunday the newlyweds came to Sunday Mass and expressed their appreciation for the wonderful work Bishop LaPlante did at their wedding. We wish the couple all the best and hope to see them again back in Vancouver.

July

A new monument for our Cemetery in Surrey

The Church purchased from Mrs. Louise Heide 9 plots for the use of the Church at Valley View Cemetery in 1993. Over the years other members have used the cemetery services, so that in total more than 14 plots have been sold because of the Old Catholic Church of BC. Since 1995, we wanted a monument built for the Church. Many years of discussions with the cemetery followed. At one point, they wanted us to pay more than \$150,000 for a small monument. Of course, we refused. Bishop LaPlante had found a very suitable cross, which was designed and used in a native cemetery. We restored the antique cross and the cemetery gave us a natural stone on which the cross will stand. On the stone will also be a plaque from our Church in two languages.

September

During the visit of Mr. Jürgen Alsbach and his father the Hon. Mr. Theo Alsbach, retired Supreme Court Judge from Germany, new Plexiglas was installed at the alley side of the Church. In late October this work was completed by installing new Plexiglas on the garden side of the Church and on the rectory. They make quite a big difference because they cut out the draft and the noise from the street and outside.

One carpenter commented that if we would have not installed the Plexiglas this year, next year we could have started to install new windows, which would have been much more expensive.

November

Bishop LaPlante was invited to participate in the official opening ceremony of the newly built Richmond Funeral Home in Richmond, BC. Together with the Mayor of Richmond Mr. Malcolm Brodie, and the Senior Vice-President of the Arbor Group (owner of Richmond Funeral Home), Mr. John Earle, Bishop LaPlante cut the ribbon and gave a special blessing to the new facility.

For one week in November we received a visit from Fr. Sylvain Tremblay from Montreal and Fr. Claude Lacroix from Quebec City. Fr. Claude studied at Laval University before joining the Carmelite Order in France for 9 years. In 1985 he was ordained Priest by an Old Catholic Church in Quebec and has been a working Priest since then. He will be our representative in Quebec with Fr. Sylvain.

December

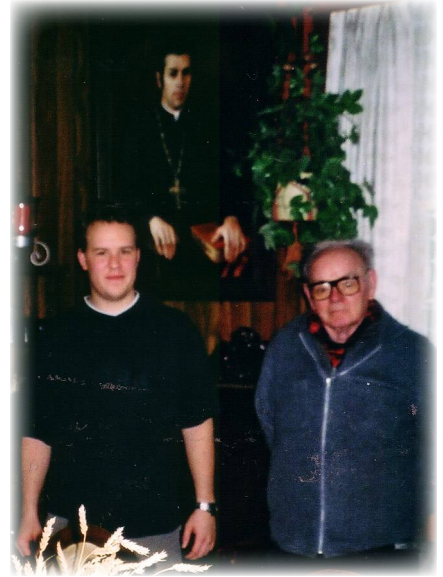
In the month of December, we had the good news that Mr. Jürgen Esser will stay with us again for a few months in the beginning of the New Year, because he accepted an offer to work for a German company in Vancouver. We are happy to see him back here.

We also had some bad news, as the mother of Mr. Jim Gee, a long time friend of Bishop LaPlante and board member of the Church, died suddenly just before Christmas due to complications of a stroke she suffered two years ago. Mrs. Gee was an extremely caring mother and grandmother who worked very hard for her family. She always put her sons and grandchildren ahead of everything else. The family gratefully thanked Bishop Gérard LaPlante of the Old Catholic Church of BC for his assistance through a difficult time. A private family service was held by Bishop LaPlante on December 23, 2004. RIP.

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Golden wedding anniversary (50 years) of Mr. & Mrs. Sztankovics.
Left to right: Fr. Jürgen, Mr. Gerhard Sztankovics, Bishop LaPlante, Fr. Gordon 2001.



Fr. Gordon with Mr. Matthew Klymchuk 2002.



Easter Dinner 2004; left to right: Mrs. Vivian Ricky, Mrs. & Mr. Larry Thompson, Mrs. Dolores Durocher, Mrs. Doris Fistravec, Bishop Cisneros, his wife Ruth, in the back Mrs. Deidre Fitzpatrick, Fr. Gordon, Fr. Jürgen, Mrs. Marilyn Sztankovics.



Mr. Napoleon and Mrs. Delores Durocher Summer 2001



Baptism of Dr. John Peverzo 24 April 2001;
Left to Right: Fr. Antoine, Dr. Peverzo, Bishop LaPlante

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Visitors from Holy Trinity Anglican Church at a joint picnic at St. Raphael's Summer 2003.



Easter Dinner in the back of the Church 2001 left to right: Mr. Fitzpatrick Jr., Mrs. Maria Baldasso, Mrs. Deidre Fitzpatrick, Fr. Jürgen, Ms. Elisabeth Cameron, Fr. Gordon, Mr. Celeste Baldasso, Mr. Fred Foster, Bishop LaPlante, Pastor Larry Thompson, Mr. Salim Ghannoum from Syria, Mrs. Rosemary Sherry, Mr. Jean Doucet .



Board member Mr. Jim Gee slicing the turkey for Easter 2003



89th Birthday celebration of Mrs. Maria Baldasso February 2003; left to right Mr. Celeste Baldasso, Mrs. Rosemary Sherry; Mrs. Maria Baldasso, Fr. Gordon, Bishop LaPlante, Mrs. Thompson, Fr. Jürgen.



Distributing bread after the Holy Mass

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



The rectory with new roof summer 2003



Board meeting of the People's Society of BC; left to right: Mr. Benny San Miguel, Mr. Len Gallo, Mr. Jack Rubin, Mrs. Linda Chen, Bishop LaPlante, Mr. Peter Lam, Mr. Douglas Sharpe, Mrs. Sharon Aldcroft, Fr. Jürgen, Mr. Tim Adams



Clergy greeting parishioners after Holy Mass.



April 2003 at the funeral of Mr. Eddy Ydenberg left to right: legion member, Bishop Mack, Mr. & Mrs. Vander Zalm (former Premier of BC), Bishop LaPlante, Mrs. Sztankovics, Fr. Jürgen, friend of Mr. Ydenberg, Pastor Larry Thompson, Mrs. Heide



Mr. Len Gallo and Ms. Bronwyn Clark, longtime friends and supporters of St. Raphael's

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Painting the Church May 2002.



Church and rectory with the old roof.



Painting the Church May 2002.



Church and rectory with the new roof.



80th Birthday celebration for Fr. Gordon: left to right: granddaughter, Mrs. Joyce Kiesselbach daughter, Fr. Gordon, Bishop LaPlante, Mrs. Suzanne Nordin, Fr. Jürgen .

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



The gracious donors of the new roof Mr. & Mrs. Doug and Huguette Stewart.



First weddings: Mr. Philippe Napoleon and wife 1975.



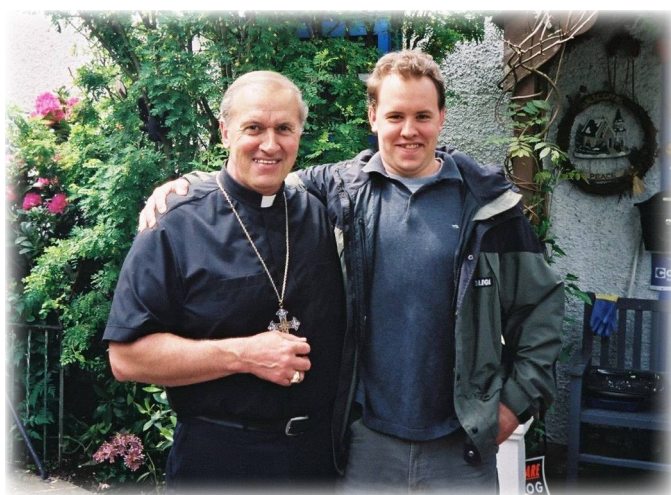
The roofing crew with Bishop LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen, on the left Mr. Clayton Gagnon who tragically died May 2004.



2003: Bishop LaPlante with Mr. Philippe Napoleon and Mr. Tony Klymchuk



Bishop LaPlante with Mr. & Mrs. Tony and Barbara Klymchuk, little Matthew Klymchuk 1983.



20 years later the Bishop with now grown Matthew Klymchuk.

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



Board of the Church 2003: left to right: Mr. Alan Vaugier, Fr. Gordon, Mr. Fred Foster, Mr. Jim Gee, Bishop LaPlante, Mr. Don Roy, Fr. Jürgen.



Retiring the fundraising chart for the new roof after 12 years



Left: The new fountain in the rectory gardens Summer 2003

Below: Five Generations left to right: Mrs. Debbie Newman, Mrs. Dolores Durocher, Mrs. Myrtie Sawiuk, Mr. Victor Newman, Baby Deishone Newman.



First Communion 2004: Bishop LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen with Kevin Ryan Coates, Connor Yoshimi Tasaka, Erin Tasaka, Nicole Maria Coates

THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BC



April 2004: The newly baptized Mrs. Myrtle Sawiuk 82 years, and Mrs. Margaret Marino 85 years, with Bishop LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen.



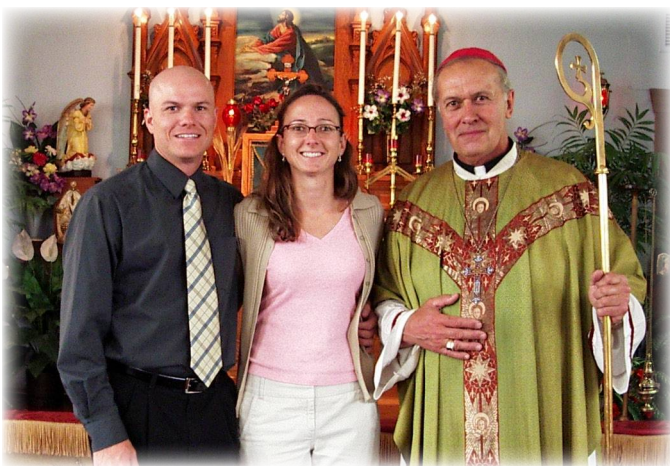
Requiem Mass for Mrs. Maria Sinkovits May 2004.



Metis Wedding July 2004; left to right: Bishop LaPlante, Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Rhonda England, Fr. Jürgen, Mr. Ed Traugott.



Wedding July 2004: left to right: Bishop LaPlante, Bishop Mack, Bride Ms. Lori Martin, Groom Deacon Fr. Patrick Milbank, Fr. Jürgen



Newly weds Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Jody Tangredi with Bishop LaPlante (he trains ghterpilots for the US Navy).



Metis Wedding July 2004: inside the Church.



Above: Wedding of Mr. Romain Comeau with his wife Wendy and Bishop LaPlante.



Baptism of Lennox Fox Wong-Chor, left to right: Mr. Warren Wong-Chor (father), Mrs. Wong-Chor (grandmother) holding Lennox Mrs. Astrid Wong-Chor, Fr. Jürgen, Mrs. Fox (grandmother) Ms. Rafale Chouinard (godmother), Mr. Donald Po-Ting Hsu (godfather)



German Wedding in Vancouver; April 2003
Fr. Jürgen with Mr. & Mrs. Detlef Richter and Kerstin Haertl