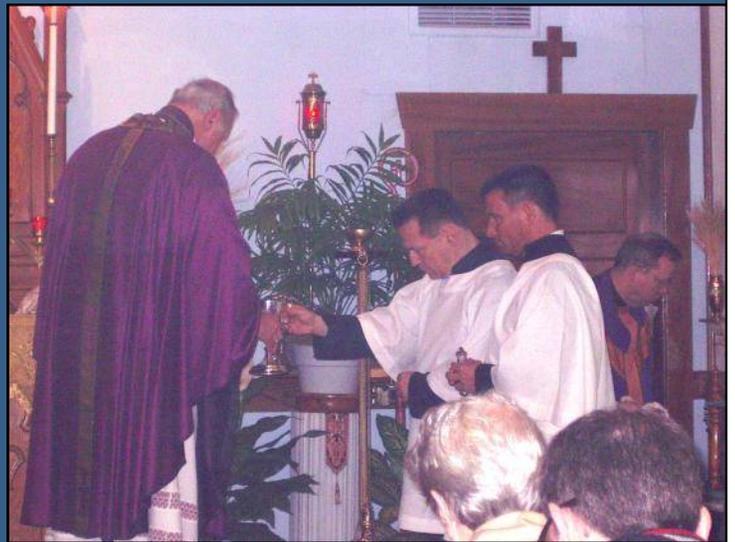




10 March 2008



Top left picture: left to right: Fr. Gordon Hangerud, Mr. Victor Doucet, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Jean Doucet; inside the vestry before Holy Mass; top right picture: During Holy Mass: Bishop Gérard LaPlante assisted by Mr. Jean and Victor Doucet on February 24, 2008

10 March 2008

This Acadian family from Bathurst N.B. was and still is a part of the life of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church and Bishop LaPlante. All of the 5 brothers have lived at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church at one time or another. The first arrival was Patrick, only 15 years old he arrived on 18 April 1978 at the door of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church unknown to Fr. LaPlante. He died because of a car accident at the age of 17 (see the following pages for the story). His brother Victor came in May 1979 and stayed until 1984. He then returned to New Brunswick, where he married (Bishop LaPlante officiated at the wedding) and has a 17 year old Daughter. His brother Jean stayed at the Church between 1994 and 1995, and is an active member; he serves at the Altar and assists in many different ways. Victor came for a visit this past week, and together they assisted at Holy Mass. For more than 30 years the family has been a part of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.

After Holy Mass greeting the members and visitors; left picture: clockwise starting lower left: Mr. Jean Doucet, Mr. Victor Doucet, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Helen Cameron, Mrs. Rose Muirhead. Left Picture: Mr. Jean Doucet (left) with Mr. Victor Doucet (right)



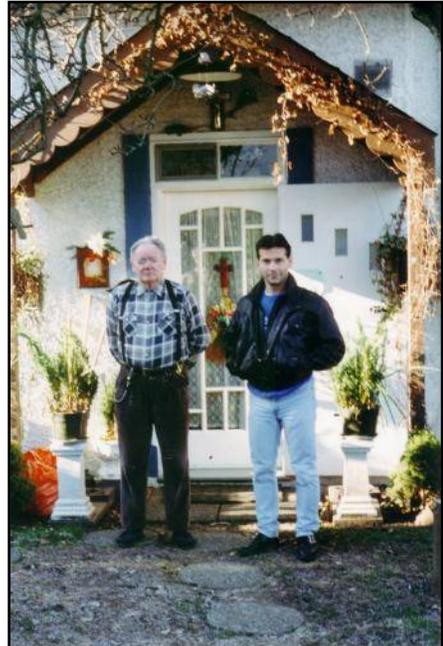


Above left:
 Bishop Gérard LaPlante with the Doucet brothers inside St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in 1980: left to right: Wilfred, Michel, and Victor Doucet

Above right:
 At the ordination of Fr. Pat Stewart to the Priesthood, 3 April 1980, left to right: The Rev. Fr. Jim Roberts, Roman Catholic Priest of the diocese of Vancouver, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Pat Stewart, Mr. Victor Doucet, server

Below left:
 Bishop Gérard LaPlante in Bathurst, New Brunswick at the committal of Mr. Patrick Doucet; next to him the Rev. Fr. David Boudreau, O.F.M., Roman Catholic Priest of the diocese of Bathurst, New Brunswick

Below right:
 Fr. Gordon Hangerud and Mr. Jean Doucet in the garden of St. Raphael's December 1994

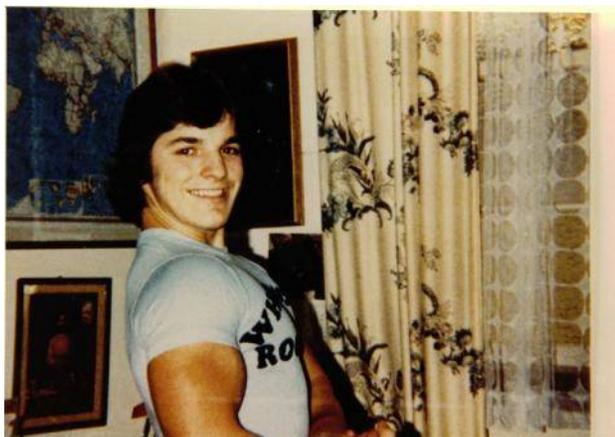


The Doucet Family from Bathurst, New Brunswick

This Acadian family from Bathurst N.B. was and still is a part of the life of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church and Bishop LaPlante. All of the 5 brothers have lived at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church at one time or another.

The First arrival was Patrick. Only 15 years old he arrived on 18 April 1978 at the door of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church unknown to Fr. LaPlante. After reading in "Sante + Force" (Publisher Mr. Ben Weider) about Father LaPlante, Patrick came to St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church for help. Lodging and a job were found for him by Bishop LaPlante. Tragically a car accident on 5 September 1980 and negligence from Vancouver General Hospital resulted in his death at the age of 17 years. A Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop LaPlante. The Church, members, and friends, helped financially for his remains to be transported via Air Canada to Bathurst for Burial, where Bishop Gérard LaPlante concelebrated at his Requiem Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

Bishop LaPlante and the Doucet family have maintained regular contacts since 1980 by letters, phone calls, and visits to the Church. Bishop LaPlante visits the family yearly when going to the Gaspé Coast. One of the brothers, Mr. Jean Doucet, attends St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church; he lives in New Westminster and studies to be a future deacon.



Mr. Patrick Doucet
1963 - 1980
Rest in Peace



17 March 2008



Top left picture: Entering the Church with the sons and grandsons of Mr. Robillard serving as pallbearers
top right picture: Mr. Paul Robillard, the oldest son, remembering his father

Requiem Mass of Mr. Jean Paul Robillard at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church
5 March 2008

Tenacity and Loyalty

Mr. Jean Paul Robillard died at the age of 82 years. He was a friend and supporter of Bishop Gérard LaPlante and the Church. His first wife Ruth converted from Judaism to the Catholic Church and as a member attended Holy Mass regularly at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. She died in 1988 and was buried from the Church. A Requiem Mass was held for her at the Church on 22 April 1988. At Mr. Robillard's funeral his oldest son Paul gave the eulogy and described his father as a good businessman, who was known for his tenacity and loyalty. St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church was full with family and friends of the deceased. The burial was held at Oceanview Cemetery in Burnaby, BC, where his first wife is also buried.

left picture: During the Requiem Mass: Bishop Gérard LaPlante assisted by Fr. Jürgen Schmode
right picture: The censing of the body





17 March 2008

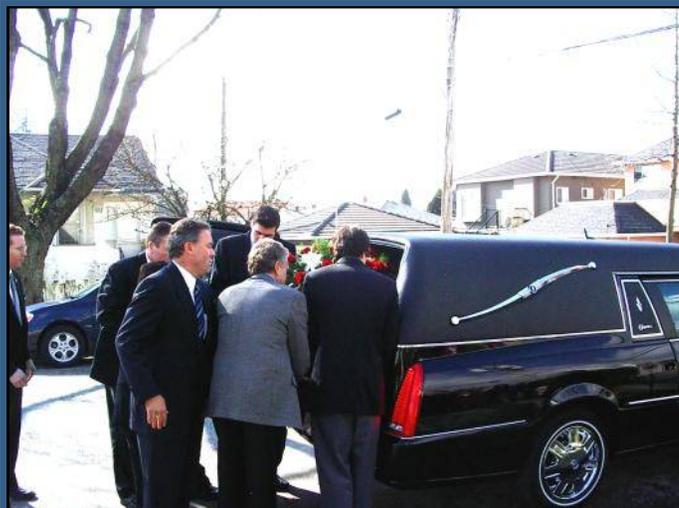


Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante addressing the family and friends;
top right picture: leaving the Church

The obituary of Mr. Jean Paul Robillard as published in the "Vancouver Sun" on 1 March 2008

Mr. Jean Paul ROBILLARD Jean Paul May 18, 1926 - February 27, 2008 It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Jean Paul after a lengthy illness. Arriving in Vancouver at the age of 12 from Saskatchewan, "John" learned his second language at General Brock School and, at an early age, guided his French speaking parents, Joseph Albert and Marie Alice, through their new life in the West. With a character and determination formed amidst the drought and depression of the Prairies in the 30's, Jean Paul taught himself the trade and business skills he needed to make a better life. Then he proceeded to succeed beyond his expectations. Before it was over the little boy from Willow Bunch had driven, walked, skied, sailed and flown to every part of the globe, built a successful real estate business, attended trade missions and, most importantly, blessed his family and friends with humility, strong values and sense of humor. It is those blessing that will endure. Predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Ruth, Jean Paul is survived by his sons Paul (Gillian), Roger (Shannon) and Mike (Cheryl) and second wife Connie and his grandchildren; Cole, Trent, Elise, Kirstin, Jacqueline, Brett, Chanelle, Troy and Danae. Vigil Prayers will be offered on Tuesday, March 4th at 7:30 pm at Hamilton Harron Funeral Home 5390 Fraser Street Vancouver; Requiem Mass will be celebrated on March 5th at 10 am at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, 715 E 51st Ave Vancouver; Bishop Gerard LaPlante officiating; burial to follow at Ocean View Burial Park. "Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, there's no place like Saskatchewan; we sit and gaze across the plain and wonder why it never rains..." song from the '30s

left picture: placing the casket in the hearse.
right Picture: the congregation after the Requiem Mass.





23 March 2008



Top left picture: The Church on Holy Saturday night ready for the Easter Vigil
Top right picture: The last snow of the season

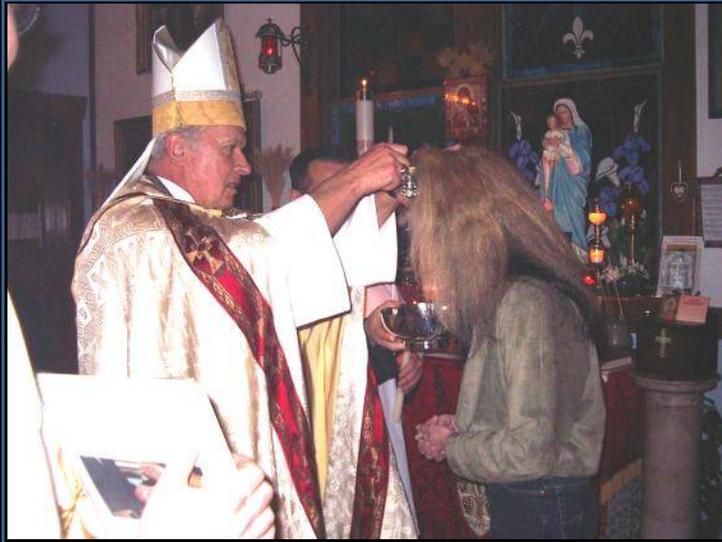
Christ is Risen!
Easter 2008

Picture below : Inside packed St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church
on Easter Sunday Morning during Holy Mass





23 March 2008

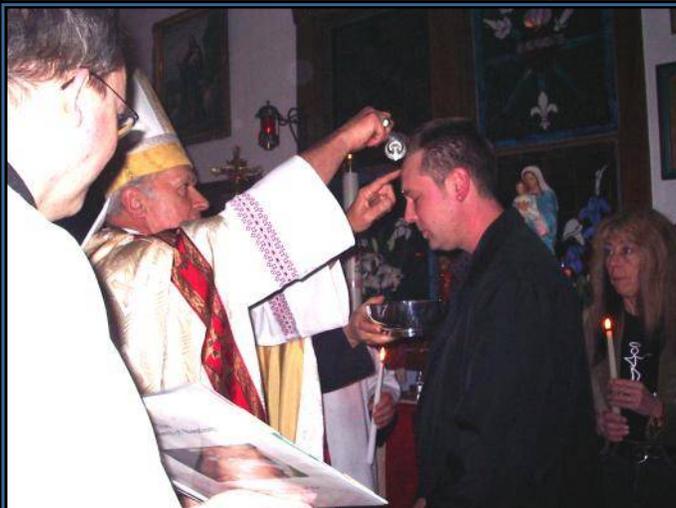


Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante baptizing Mrs. Teresa Sutherland, nee Gilligan;
top right picture: The confirmation

The Baptisms and Confirmations on Holy Saturday Night—Easter Vigil

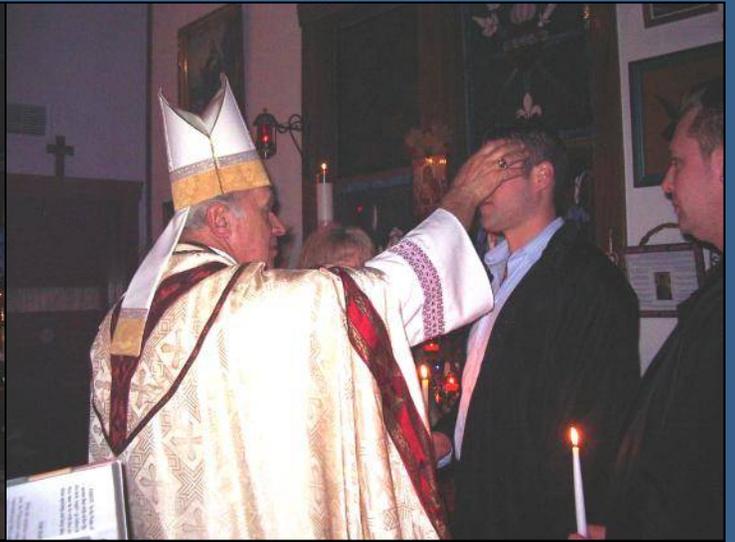
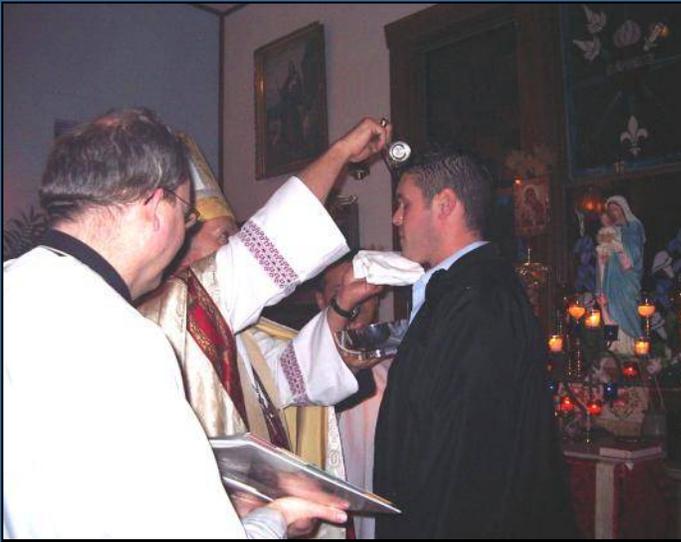
On Easter the Church traditionally baptizes the newly convert. This year we had four adult and one infant baptisms. On Holy Saturday night we had three baptisms, all from the Gilligan family, who are of Irish descent. Fr. Jürgen met the family at the funeral of Mr. Edward Gilligan Sr. in 2006, who had three daughters and a son. The youngest daughter—Teresa—never got baptized (she is also a good friend of the reporter, who published two stories of the Church in the Vancouver Echo). Teresa started to attend St. Raphael's and wanted to get baptized. Two of the grandsons of Mr. Edward Gilligan Sr.—Dustin and Ted Jr.—were also not baptized and desired baptism, too. This Easter Vigil then, Bishop Gérard baptized and confirmed Teresa, Dustin, and Ted Jr. Gilligan.

Below left picture: The baptism of Mr. Ted Gilligan Jr.;
right Picture: The confirmation





23 March 2008



Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante baptizing Mr. Dustin Gilligan;
top right picture: The confirmation



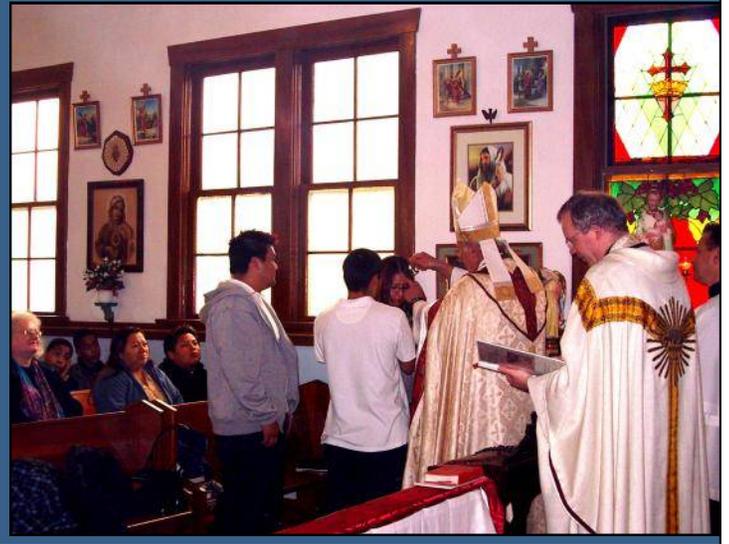
Left picture: Fr. Gordon Hangerud was very happy to provide the musical back-drop during the service—at 84 years of age!

Below left picture: After the baptism; right Picture: left to right: Fr. Jürgen, Mr. Ted Gilligan Jr., Mrs. Teresa Sutherland, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Dustin Gilligan, Mr. Jean Doucet





23 March 2008



Top left picture: The baptism of Marcos Lorenzo-Wells top right picture: Below left picture: The baptism and confirmation of Ms. Rosalita Lynn Wells by Bishop Gérard LaPlante

The Baptisms and Confirmation on Easter Sunday

On Easter morning we had the baptism of a mother and her son. Ms. Rosalita Lynn Wells is Blackfoot First Nation from Lethbridge, Alberta, her husband Mr. Ramiro Lorenzo is of Mayan descent, originally from Guatemala. Their son Marco was born in Surrey. The Lorenzo family has been attending St. Raphael's since 2004. Mr. Francesco Lorenzo, the brother of Ramiro, was baptized and confirmed in November 2005 at St. Raphael's, his boys were baptized in our Church. The family of his wife Miriam, nee Tomas, also attends St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. Miriam's sister Gloria is the godmother of Marcos.

Below left picture: left to right: Mr. Pedro Lorenzo (Godfather), Mr. Ramiro Lorenzo, Ms. Rosalita Lynn Wells, holding Marcos, Ms. Gloria Tomas (Godmother), Bishop Gérard LaPlante

Below right Picture: left to right: Ms. Gloria Tomas (Godmother), Fr. Jürgen, Ms. Rosalita Wells, Bishop Gérard LaPlante with Marcos, Mr. Jean Doucet, Mr. Ramiro Lorenzo, Mr. Pedro Lorenzo (Godfather)



23 March 2008

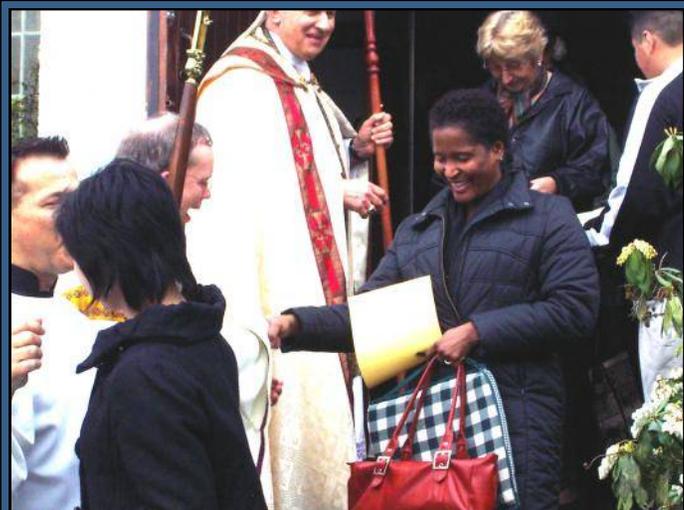


Top top right picture: Happy faces for Easter; Bishop Gérard LaPlante, member Mr. Gilles Guay, visitor and poet Mr. Samuel Thomas

We are no more strangers and foreigners,
 but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

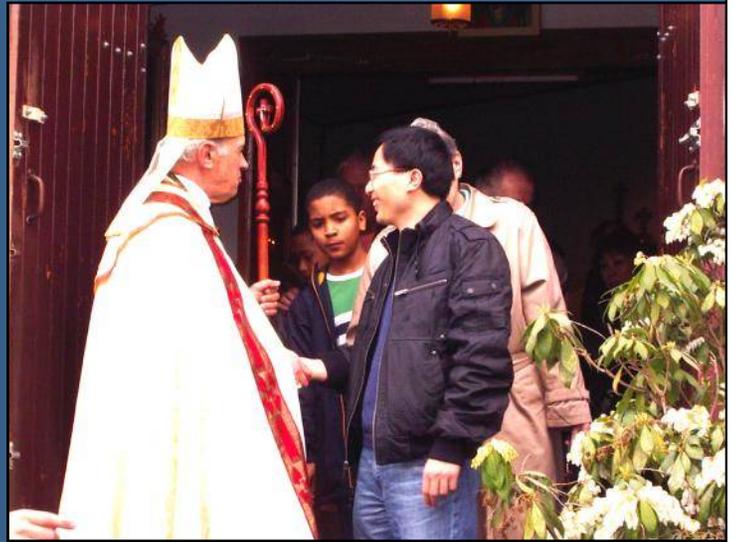
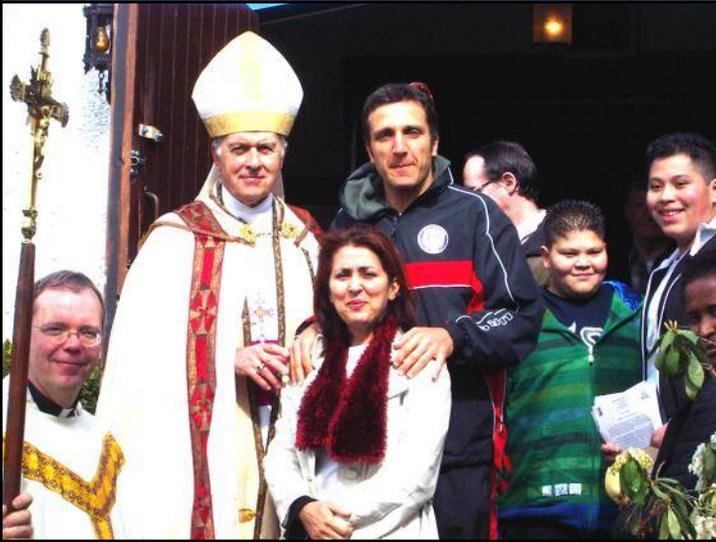
Every Sunday we recite this part of our liturgy and this Easter Sunday was a true reflection of it. The Our Father was recited in more than 12 different languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Mayan, Italian, Mandarin, Tagalog, Dutch, Polish, Croatian, and Latin. Beyond the representatives of these countries, we also had members from Sri Lanka, Austria, USA, Jamaica, India, Lebanon, Taiwan, Macau, Trinidad, Guatemala, and Mexico— to name a few more. All tightly packed into St. Raphael's attendance for the services of Holy Week exceeded all expectations. We are a truly Catholic –universal– Church with members from all parts of the world.

Below left picture: member Mrs. Josie Claude (originally from Haiti); below right Picture: The distribution of bread after Holy Mass— at St. Raphael's every Sunday for more than 30 years.





23 March 2008



Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Lyla Haddad (originally from Lebanon); Mr. Lu Yi Ling (originally from China)



Left: Mr. Jean Doucet & Mr. Lu Yi Ling. Mr. Lu works with Computers in Victoria, BC and came over the week-end for a visit. His mother attends a Church in mainland China and he shared with us the experience of the Church in that country.

Below left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with member Mr. D on D yer, who has been attending St. Raphael's for more than 33 years. right Picture: every member from a different country: Mr. Waring from Canada, Mrs. Woslowski from the Philippines, Mr. Paul Theys from Belgium and Mr. Martin Tomas from Mexico





23 March 2008

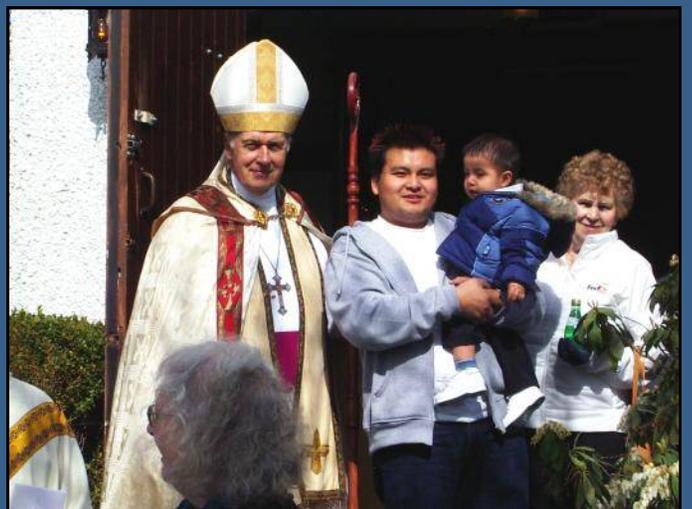


Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante Dr. Margaret Dobson (originally from Poland); top right picture: Mr. Tony Klymchuk—of Ukrainian descent— with his wife Barbara, members for 30 years.



left picture: members of the Heide family greeting clergy and friends. Mrs. Louise Heide—a member for more than 30 years—passed away on March 26, 2007 and her children came to commemorate the anniversary

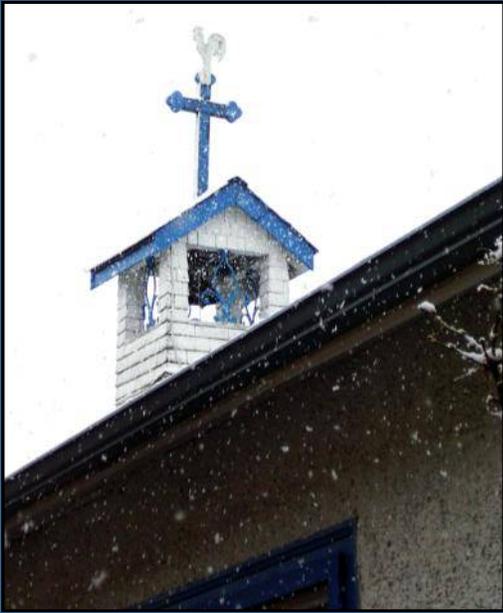
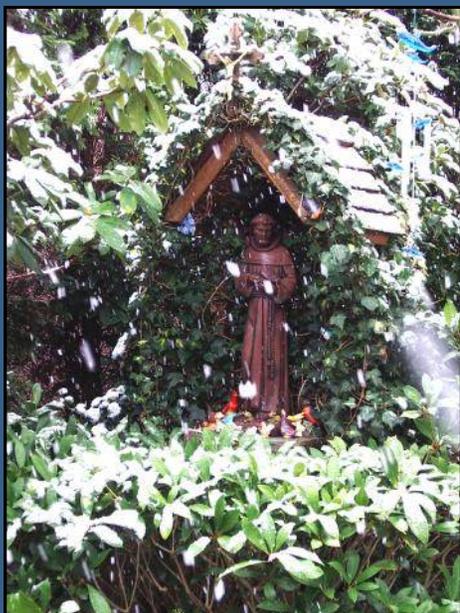
Below left picture: The former trade commissioner of Austria, Mrs. Egger with Bishop Gérard LaPlante
right Picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with Marco and his father Mr. Ramiro Lorenzo; Mrs. Doris Fistravec

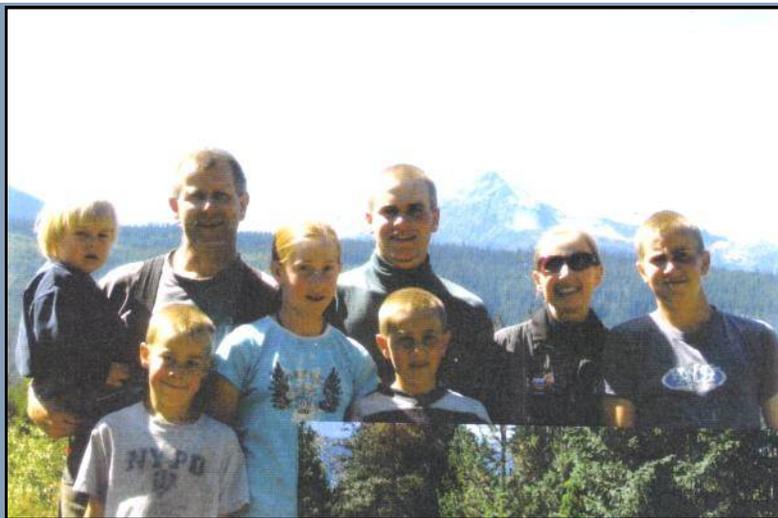


23 March 2008



The last snow storm of the season





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 24th – 26th 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 Causapscal, 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



Above left: left to right: Mrs. & Mr. Benny and Camilo Bastiampilai with Bishop Gérard LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen Schmode top right picture, during the reception: left to right: Mr. Tony Klymchuk, Mr. Samuel Thomas, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Camilo Bastiampilai, Mr. Jean Doucet, Fr. Gordon Hangerud

25th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Camilo and Benny Bastiampilai

The Bastiampilai family has been a member of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church for more than 13 years and both of their sons were Altar servers. Originally from Sri Lanka, they have made their home in Vancouver since 1994; Camilo works with Grimm Sausages and Benny is a manager with an A&W Restaurant in North Vancouver. The mother of Camilo traveled from Toronto to be with his family on this special occasion.

At the end of Holy Mass, the couple renewed their wedding vows and were presented with a special cross as a gift from the Church. Afterwards, everyone was invited by the family for a picnic in the back of the Church.



above left picture during the reception: Mrs. Rose Muirhead and Mrs. Kathy Tasaka; above right: Mr. Hamid Zamani Sadr, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Mr. Camilo Bastiampilai, Mr. Samuel Thomas, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Bastiampilai from Toronto, Mrs. Benny Bastiampilai, Ricky Bastiampilai, Mrs. Rose Muirhead, Mr. Tony Klymchuk, Mrs. Zaplotinsky



15 June 2008



Above left: Mrs. Dolores Durocher, Mr. John Githiga Karanja, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Tony Klymchuk, Mr. Michael Wanyoike, Mrs. Sonja Muller top right picture: the garden in spring bloom

Mr. John Karanja from Kenya and Mrs. Sonja Muller visiting
This last month we also saw the visit of Mr. John Githiga Karanja from Kenya. He is a soccer player and will play for the Whitecaps soccer team; also in the picture is Mrs. Sonja Muller who got married last year with Mr. Walter Botwinski, who has now been promoted to Major in the US Army.

The rainy weather was good for the garden of St. Raphael's. As you can see by the pictures, everything is blooming with strong colors this year and it is a joy to see.



above pictures: on the left: even the sparrows have a little church in the garden! On the right: the seating corner was redone by Mr. Harry Werner