

Above pictures: left: Fr. Jürgen Schmode and Mr. Salim Ghannoum after Holy Mass; right: the icon received as a gift from Mr. Salim Ghannoum for the Old Catholic Church of BC

Visit from Syria

On Sunday, August 17, 2008 we had a special visit from Aleppo, Syria, by Mr. Salim Ghannoum and Mrs. Ingrid Yaghmour. Joining them was the sister of Salim, Mrs. Amira Boudjok and her family, husband Riad and son Peter, who live in Burnaby.

Mr. Ghannoum studied English at Langara College in the spring of 2003 and attended St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church during that time. After his return to Syria, he always maintained contact with the Church and we were eager to see him again. He completed his studies as a teacher and is now head of the Science department of the Aleppo College, the highest American institution in Syria at the present time.

Salim is very involved with the Scouts in Syria and helped to re-establish them in that country. During this spring, he took his group - the only scout group that has boys and girls, Christians and Moslems - and they first planted flowers at a mosque and then at a Church. After everything was completed, they took a picture with everyone, the Priest, the Iman, and the Scouts in front of the Church.

Mr. Ghannoum is in Vancouver for continuing education during the month of August and will return to Syria in early September.

below pictures: left: the visitors from Syria with members and Bishop Gérard LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen; right: left to right: Mr. Salim Ghannoum, his nephew Peter, and Fr. Jürgen Schmode





Above pictures: left: Fr. Jürgen Schmode baptizing Chloe Mae Gervan.

Above right: The Baptismal party, left to right: Abigail Colautti , Goldameir Ramos, Fr. Jürgen with Chloe, Fr. Jean Doucet, Mrs. Minerva & Mr. Robert Gervan, Mr. Kevin Gervan

Baptism of Chloe Mae Gervan

This family joined us in the summer through the recommendation of a co-worker - Mr. Linklater - and are regular members. Mr. & Mrs. Gervan have two children and are both working in Vancouver.

Mrs. Laura Fortin presents Sweetgrass to the Church

The Fortin family has been attending our Church for over 20 years. They are Métis originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She brought a special gift: Sweetgrass. In the First Nation tradition it is a sacred plant, and used in peace and healing rituals. Leaves are dried and made into braids and burned as vanilla-scented incense. In Europe Sweetgrass was strewn before church doors on saints' days in northern Europe, because of the sweet smell that arose when it was trodden.

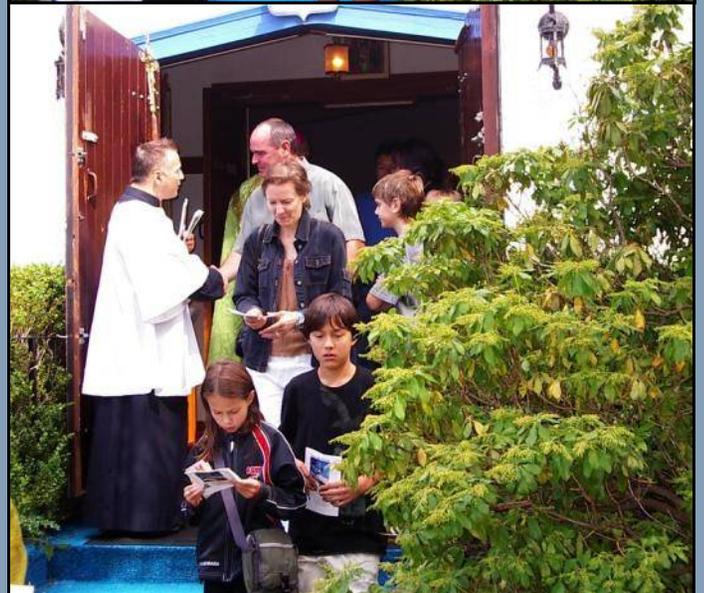
The Picture on the second page show the members leaving the Church; the bread is distributed and pictures are taken.

below pictures: left: the box with Sweetgrass, a present from Mrs. Laura Fortin, seen in the right picture between Fr. Jürgen and Bishop Gérard LaPlante. She was accompanied by her grandson.





Typical Sunday following Holy Mass



The Old Catholic Church of B.C.



L'Église Vieille Catholique de C.B.

„Coast to Coast“

7 September 2008

„D'un océan à l'autre“



Three Ordinations at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Redmond, Washington, USA on September 7, 2008

Bishop Gérard LaPlante ordained two new deacons and a new Priest; Mr. Jean Doucet and Mr. Stephen Terry were ordained to the diaconate and Deacon Dana Updegrove was ordained to the priesthood. Deacon Jean will be at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in Vancouver, Deacon Stephen and Fr. Dana will work with Fr. Gary Wulf at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Redmond, Washington. Special guests included the Rev. Fr. Charles Barnes, Jesuit, the parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic parish in Spokane, Washington, Mrs. Barbara McKenzie, Mr. Pete Bloomsberg, Professor of Mathematics, Bellevue College, and Mr. Jim Gee from Vancouver, representing the board of the Old Catholic Church of BC.

This year Bishop Gérard LaPlante ordained three new deacons and a new Priest; the life of the Church goes on and we pray for the new members of the clergy that they may remain faithful to their calling and to their Lord Jesus Christ.

Inside the sanctuary of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Redmond, WA: On the left side, the candidate for the ordination to the Priesthood, Deacon Dana Updegrove with the server Mr. Sam Bloomsburg; on the right side the candidates for the diaconate, Mr. Jean Doucet left, and Mr. Stephen Terry, right.





Biographies of the three new members of the clergy

The Reverend Father Dana Mark Updegrave

The Rev. Fr. Dana was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in the Midwest. After High School graduation in Houston, Texas he joined his family in Idaho where he took his first studies. He worked for the aerospace industry as a mathematician and engineer, and became a teacher and then professor in his field. His interest for the faith led him to study theology. He loved the liturgy and eventually joined Holy Trinity Anglican Church after his move to Bellevue Washington. He was ordained Deacon at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Redmond, WA on 22 November 1998 by the Most Reverend Robin Bradley Connors. He is a working Priest and will assist Fr. Gary Wulf.



Fr. Dana Updegrave receives the laying on of hands

Fr. Dana received several degrees, a Bachelor of Science in 1977 from Idaho State University, a Master of Science in Mathematics in 1979 from the University of Tennessee, a Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1987, and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Mississippi in 2008. He is a full-time professor of Mathematics and Philosophy at Bellevue Community College since 1991.

Fr. Dana is married with Dauna and has two grown children.

The Reverend Deacon Stephen Terry

Deacon Stephen Terry is a native of Seattle, Washington, where he was baptized at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. He grew up in California and studied at Wayne State University in Michigan, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and took further studies at the University of Connecticut in Clinical Psychology. He has worked in technical and computer support for most of his life and has volunteered for the Anglican Church for many years. He will assist Fr. Gary Wulf and Fr. Dana Updegrave at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.



Deacon Jean Doucet (left) and Deacon Stephen Terry receive the laying on of hands

The Reverend Deacon Jean Doucet

Deacon Jean Doucet was born in Bathurst, New Brunswick, where most of his family still live. He is Acadian and speaks French and English. After graduating from the University of Moncton with a Bachelor of Arts, his work led him to Louisiana and Quebec before settling in Vancouver, British Columbia and working in the home renovation business. The Doucet family has a long time connection with Bishop Gérard LaPlante and the Old Catholic Church of BC going back to his brother Patrick Doucet, who came to Vancouver in 1978. He will assist Bishop Gérard LaPlante and Fr. Jürgen Schmode at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.

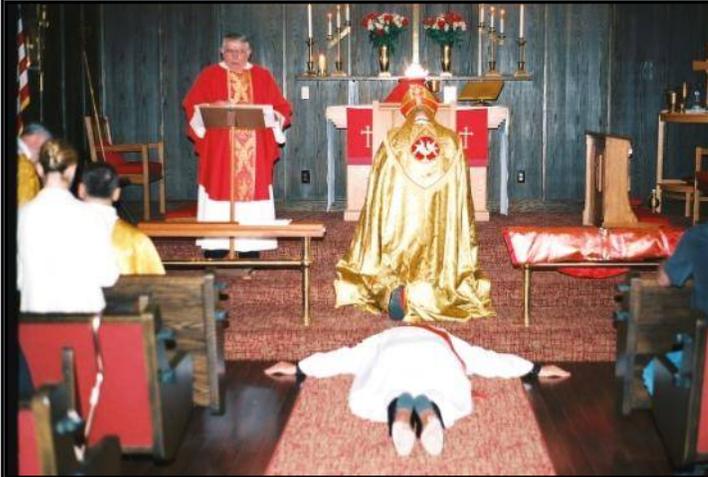


**The
ordination
service**





The Ordination Service



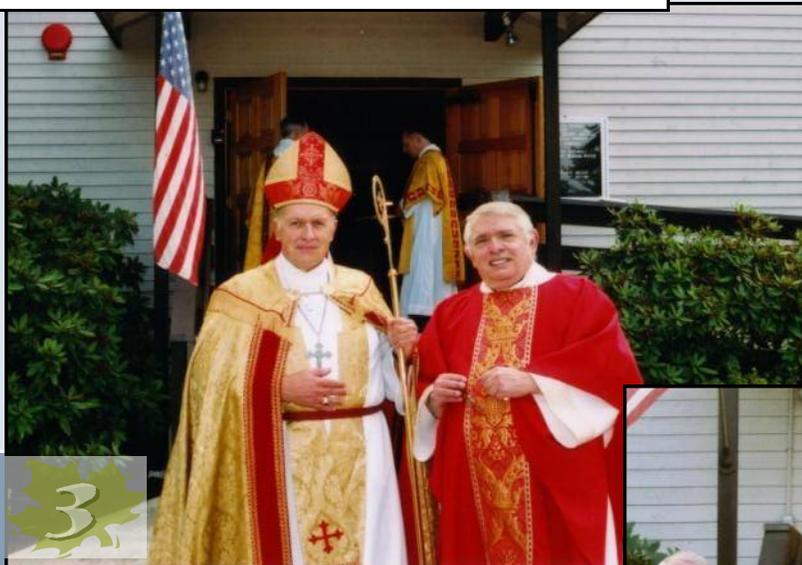


7 September 2008



Picture 1: After the service, left to right: Fr. Deacon Stephen Terry, Fr. Dana Updegrave, Fr. Gary Wulf, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Deacon Jean Doucet

Picture 2: in front of Holy Trinity Anglican Church: Fr. Deacon Stephen Terry, Fr. Charles Barnes, SJ (friend of Fr. Dana; he is the parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Parish in Spokane, Washington), Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Deacon Jean Doucet, Fr. Gary Wulf



Picture 3: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with Rector Fr. Gary Wulf;

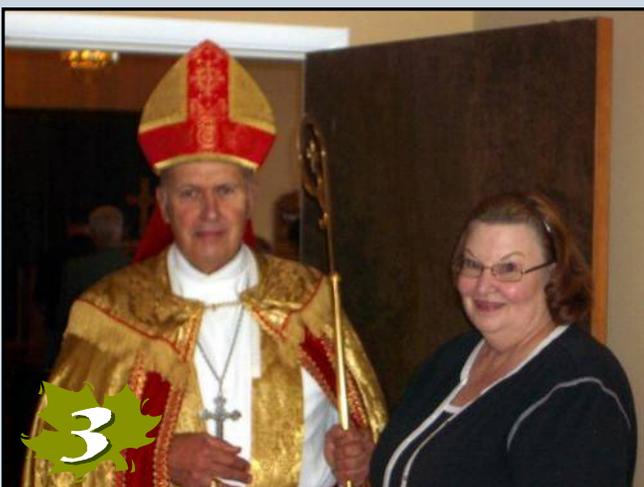
Picture 4: Fr. Gary Wulf, board members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Mrs. and Mr. James Andrew, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Deacon Jean Doucet



7 September 2008

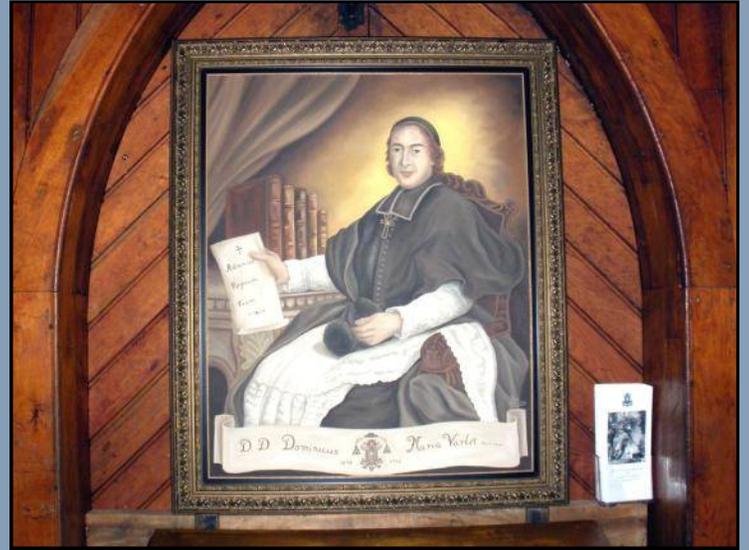


Picture 1: The new pulpit of Holy Trinity Anglican Church; **Picture 2:** Mr. Jim Gee on the right with clergy; **Picture 3:** Mrs. Barbara McKenzie with Bishop Gérard LaPlante



Picture 4: at the rehearsal with left to right: Mr. Jean Doucet, son of Mr. Bloomsberg, Dr. Pete Bloomsberg, Mr. Sam Bloomsberg, Bishop Gérard LaPlante **Picture 5:** Special treat for the reception; **Picture 6:** The choir led the congregation singing





Top left picture: St. James Anglican Church in Lac Beauport, Quebec, where the Good Shepherd Old Catholic Mission celebrates Holy Mass ; **top right picture:** A painting of Bishop Dominique Marie Varlet, the father of the Old Catholic Church movement

Visit of Mrs. Marilyn Sztankovics and Mrs. Rickey-Merk in Quebec

Below left picture: Mrs. Vivian Rickey-Merk and her sister Mrs. Marilyn Sztankovics - members of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church for many years - inside St. James on September 21, 2008.

They were well received and enjoyed their visit with Fr. Claude Lacroix and the people of Good Shepherd Old Catholic Mission. **Right picture:** Mrs. Marilyn Sztankovics and Fr. Claude Lacroix





Maintenance around St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

Pictures 1 + 2: Mr. Darcy Katernick and his brother Mr. Hal Katernick repainting the trim; **3:** lawn care by Mr. Dustin Gilligan; **4:** Mr. Horst Steinbach and Sally painting the stairs to the rectory **5 + 6:** power washing around the Church by Mr. Steinbach





Above left picture: greeting the members after the Thanksgiving Mass and distributing the bread. Above right picture: Mr. Dennis Milne and his wife Mrs. Claude Josie Beauliere, their new born baby, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Beauliere's sister from Haiti, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Deacon Jean Doucet. Dennis and Claude Josie got married at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in August 2002, he is from Ireland, she from Haiti. This is their first child.

Thanksgiving at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

Below left picture: Thanksgiving dinner at St. Raphael's: left to right: Mr. Derek Sun, Deacon Jean Doucet, Fr. Gordon, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Jane Hundley, her husband Mr. Hal Katernick (both from the USA), Hal's sister Mrs. Kathy Labinsky, Hal's brother Mr. Darcy Katernick; below right picture: Mrs. Jane Hundley, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Hal Katernick





Organ exchange at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

Holy Trinity Anglican Church donated their unused Church organ to us. In exchange one of their members, Mrs. Jane Hundley asked whether she could have our old organ. On Saturday, 13 October 2008 her husband, Mr. Hal Katernick rented a truck, took the Conn organ from Bellevue, Washington, to St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church and took our Baldwin organ back to Bellevue.

Picture 1: The old organ before the move. **Picture 2:** members Gabriel and Wilson from Kenya playing the old harmonium. **Picture 3:** Fr. Gordon Hangerud - our organist for 30+ years - and Mr. Gus Labbe **Picture 4:** The new Conn organ installed





19 October 2008



Organ exchange at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church cont.

Clockwise from the top left picture: Picture 1: The empty space for the new organ
Picture 2: the moving crew: left to right: Mr. Silas Lacendre, his father Mr. Larry Henry, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Mr. Gabriel Wanjoike, Mr. Hal Katernick
Picture 3: Out with the old and **Picture 4:** in with the new organ





Top left picture: Baptism & Confirmation of Mr. Samuel Rogers at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church on October 22, 2008, left to right: Mrs. Dolores Durocher, Mr. Samuel Rogers, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Schmode ; **top right picture:** Heritage sign of St. Paul's Indian Church, which is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in the Vancouver area.

First Nation Wedding in North Vancouver

Mr. Samuel Rogers and Ms. Patricia Martes were married by Fr. Jürgen Schmode on October 26, 2008 at St. Paul's Indian Church (Roman Catholic). The groom is Squamish First Nation, his bride is from the Philippines. After getting to know St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, Mr. Samuel Rogers desired baptism and on the Wednesday before the wedding, he was baptized and confirmed by Bishop Gérard LaPlante.

Below left picture: Fr. Jürgen Schmode with the couple and the wedding party **Right picture:** The picture after the wedding in front of St. Paul's Indian Church (Roman Catholic)





26 January 2009

New Years Day baptism at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church



left picture: The baptismal party in front of the altar: On the left the Hunter family with their son Ryan, Fr. Jürgen holding Brendan, on the right the Quinn family.



right picture:
During the baptism of Brendan

January 1, 2009 starts with a baptism

Fr. Jürgen Schmode baptized Brendan Hunter on the first Holy Mass of the year. The parents, Mr. Shawn & Mrs. Dawn Hunter were married by Fr. Jürgen in 2003, this is their second child. Their first child Ryan was baptized on March 26, 2005 by Fr. Juergen. The Godparents Mr. Barry & Mrs. Nathalie Quinn are friends of the couple; their kids were also baptized at St. Raphael's: Tianna on April 20, 2003, Mackenzie on July 24, 2005 both by Bishop LaPlante.



Left picture: Fr. Sylvain Tremblay and his wife Marie welcome new baby

On December 25, 2008 little Catherine-Samiha Tremblay was born in Montreal, Quebec. Fr. Sylvain writes: "What a beautiful gift God has given to us; we are now parents. May the Lord protect this child throughout her life." Everyone at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church wishes them God's blessing and much happiness.



20 February 2009



Top left picture: Maja Alsbach is always a happy baby ; **top right picture:** Inside St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany: Bishop Gérard LaPlante officiating at the baptism of Maja; behind him Deacon Herbert Swoboda, front left with his back to the camera the former Vicar General of the Old Catholic Church of Germany Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, the Godmother Mrs. Daniela Klimatschka and the parents Mrs. Astrid & Mr. Jürgen Alsbach

Baptism in Koblenz, Germany

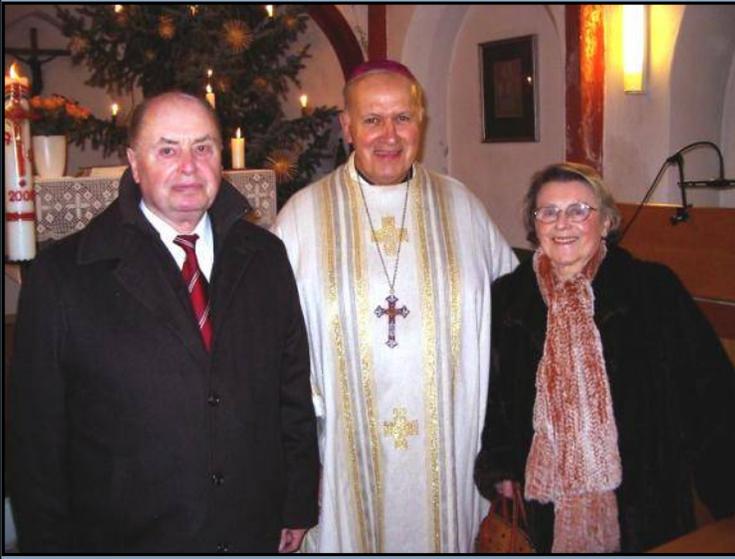
On a joyous Sunday, January 18, 2009, parents, grandparents, friends, and parishioners gathered at St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany to witness the baptism of Maja Carlotta Alsbach, born July 29, 2008 to Mr. & Mrs. Jürgen (Astrid) Alsbach. For the occasion Bishop Gérard LaPlante of the Old Catholic Church of BC (Canada) - a friend for many years - traveled to Germany to administer the sacrament. Mr. Jürgen Alsbach was a member of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church in Vancouver, BC; he joined *(continued on the next page)*

Below left picture: Family Alsbach with Bishop Gérard LaPlante **Right picture:** left to right, back row: The Rev. Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, Bishop Gérard LaPlante. Front row: A family friend, Mr. Theo Alsbach (grandfather), Mrs. Daniela Klimatschka (godmother), Mrs. Hanni Alsbach (grandmother), Mrs. Astrid Alsbach holding Maja, Mr. Jürgen Alsbach





20 February 2009



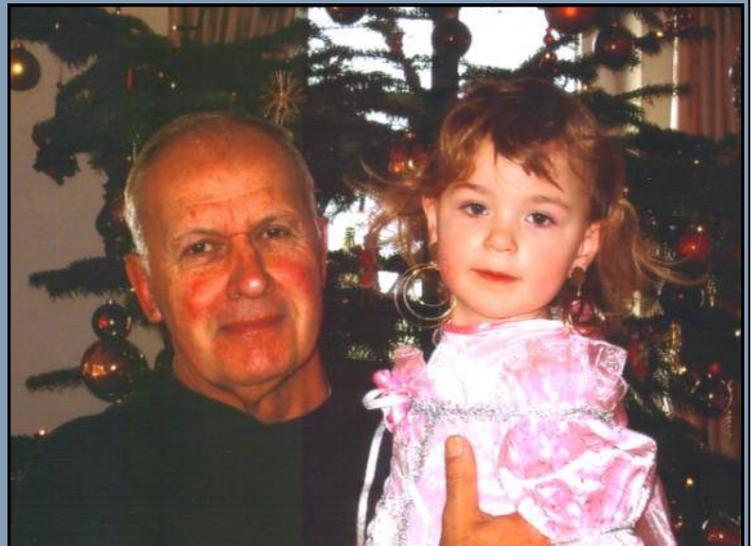
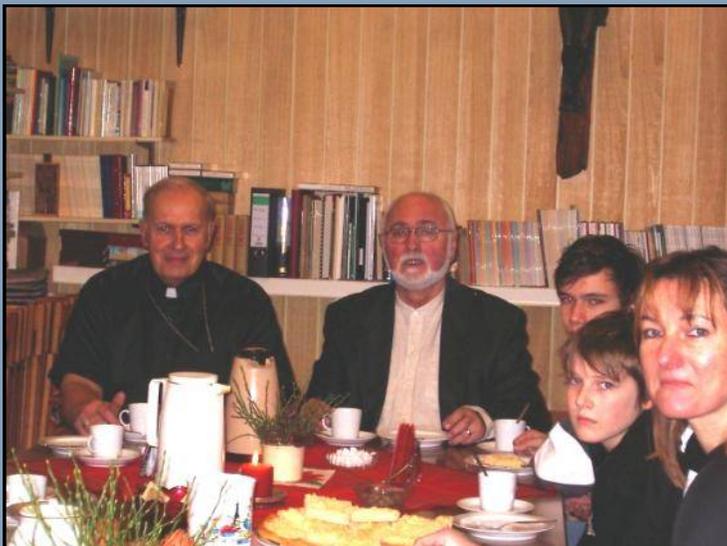
Top left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with the grandparents, Mr. Theo and Mrs. Hanni Alsbach. **Top right picture:** In the fellowship hall of St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church in Koblenz, Germany after the baptism.

Baptism in Koblenz, Germany *page 2*

(Continued from the first page) the Old Catholic Church of Germany (Utrecht Union) and is a board member of St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church. Following the baptism Holy Mass was concelebrated by the Rev. Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig and Bishop Gérard LaPlante, assisted by Deacon Herbert Swoboda. Also present were Mr. & Mrs. Benno (Maria) Riehl, who were married in January 1991 at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. They joined the Old Catholic Church of Germany and their two girls were baptized at St. Jakobus Old Catholic Church.

Thanks to the missionary spirit of the Old Catholic Church of BC and it's Bishop Gérard LaPlante, all these people are now parishioners of the Old Catholic Church in Germany.

Below left picture: Bishop Gérard LaPlante (left) with Fr. Hans-Werner Schlenzig, the former Vicar General of the Old Catholic Church of Germany. **Below right picture:** Bishop Gérard LaPlante holding Lina Alsbach, Maja's older sister. Lina was baptized by Bishop Gérard LaPlante in June 2006 at St. Jakobus as well.





24 March 2009

Mr. Don Roy passed away



Mr. Donald Roy
December 23, 1947 - March 23, 2009
Vice-President of the Old Catholic Church of BC

On Monday March 23, 2009, Mr. Don Roy entered into eternal rest at Richmond Hospital. He received Last Rites the previous day by Bishop Gérard LaPlante. He is survived by his wife Marie, his son Andrew, his mother Desneiges, sisters Claudette and Suzanne (Raymond) many nephews, and other family members and friends.

He was a friend of Bishop Gérard LaPlante and a member of the Old Catholic Church of BC for over 30 years. He served on the board of the Church as Vice-President. His religious life was nurtured and sustained by the Old Catholic Church of BC. His father, who passed away on November 27, 1982, was buried by this Church as were his brothers -in-law Gordon Albert Hurlburt in 1984 and Donald McKenzie in 1994. Don was married in this Church and his son Andrew was baptized and confirmed at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.



Left photo: Mr. Don Roy (third person from the left) with fellow board members left to right: Mr. Jim Gee, Mr. Brian Harker, Mr. Don Roy, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Fred Foster, Fr. Jürgen Schmode in April 2008.



Mr. Don Roy (second from right) in 2003 with fellow board members

Mr. Don Roy at the baptism of his son Andrew in 1986 at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

During his High School years, Don was a renowned boxer, winning the Golden Gloves and the National Amateur Championship in 1965. He was also actively involved at the Kiview Boys Club, where many of his fondest childhood memories occurred. After serving our country in the RCAF, Don joined the Workers' Compensation Board and loyally served the injured workers of B.C. for 33 years.

A funeral service will take place on Friday, March 27, 2009, at Richmond Funeral Home, 8420 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC; Bishop Gérard LaPlante. On Sunday, March 29, 2009, Holy Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, 715 East 51st Avenue, Vancouver, BC at 11 am.

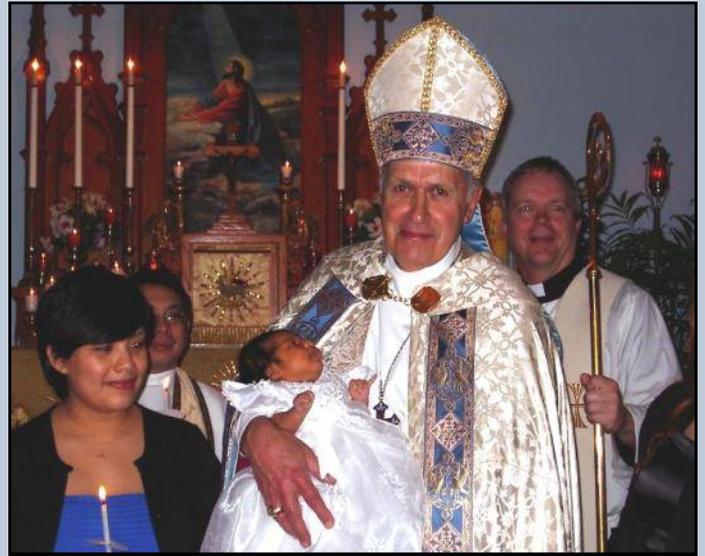
He will be remembered as a respectful, courteous and loyal person, who gave willingly to support his Church and his family.



Mr. Don Roy outside the church after the baptism of his son Andrew in 1986



20 April 2009



Top left photo: Inside St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church on Holy Saturday Night just before the service; top right photo: The youngest child of the night, Angelina Dolores Gaspar Lorenzo, born March 15, 2009. Left to right: The mother Ms. Gloria Gaspar, Fr. Martin Lotho, Bishop Gerard LaPlante with Angelina, Fr. Jürgen Schmode

Easter 2009

As in the past, Holy Week and Easter were busy at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. We had several baptisms and confirmations on Holy Saturday; all are parishioners of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. Baptized were two babies: Ronaldo Tomas Francisco, Angelina Dolores Gaspar Lorenzo

cont.

Picture below: Clergy and people on Holy Saturday Night after the baptisms and confirmations.





Top left picture: left to right: Mr. Domingo Francisco, Mrs. Jerusha Francisco, Fr. Martin, Bishop LaPlante with Ronaldo Tomas Francisco, born December 23, 2008, Fr. Jürgen, Mrs. Petronila Francisco, Mr. Pascual Tomas, Ariana. **Top right picture:** The Lorenzo family: left to right: Miriam and her husband Francisco, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Ezekiel, Fr. Jürgen, in front Francisco Jr.

Easter 2009 *continued*

and one adult, Ms. Nadine Jennifer Norton who was also confirmed by Bishop Gérard LaPlante together with Ms. Valeria Arias Vasquez. The families of Ronaldo and Angelina are from Guatemala and are First Nations – Mayan. Ronaldo's sister Ariana was baptized at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church on January 1, 2007. Angelina is the first child of Pedro and Gloria Lorenzo. The mother Gloria was confirmed by Bishop LaPlante in November 2005. Ms. Nadine Norton is part of the family of Mrs. Patricia Fortin, who are Métis; they have been members for more than 30 years. Ms. Norton is originally from Ontario and now lives in Vancouver with Mrs. Patricia Fortin.

Below left picture: Baptism on Holy Saturday night; Bishop LaPlante holding little Ronaldo Francisco
Below right picture: The Confirmations on Holy Saturday Night: Mrs. Pat Fortin, Ms. Nadine Norton (baptized and confirmed) Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Valeria Vasquez (confirmed), her uncle Mr. Mauricio Vasquez.





20 April 2009



Top photos: Easter Sunday morning during Holy Mass at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church

Easter 2009 *continued*

Ms. Valeria Vasquez and her mother are from Colombia; Valeria is still in high school and her mother works as a nurse aid.

On Easter Sunday the Church was filled to the brim; so that many people were forced to stand. The Our Father was recited in 12 different languages: English, French, German, Tagalog, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Nigerian, Aramaic, Dutch, Croatian, and Latin.

Below right photo: Members line up to receive Holy Communion;

below right photo: Fr. Martin Lotho, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Deacon Jean Doucet after Holy Mass on Easter. Fr. Martin is a native of the Philippines and has transferred to us from the Igreja Catolica Apostolica Brasileira nas Philipines.





20 April 2009



Top right photo: left to right: Fr. Jürgen, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Francisco, her mother holding newly baptized Ronaldo Tomas Francisco;
Top left and below left photo: Clergy greeting the parishioners as they leave the Church. Bread and pastries were distributed after Holy Mass as done every Sunday for the last 25 years.

**Easter
2009
continued**



above right photo: on the right of Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mr. Andrew Roy. His father Mr. Don Roy was the Vice-President of the Church for over 25 years and passed away suddenly on March 23, 2009. (Please see the news on our website www.oldcatholicbc.com) Mr. Andrew Roy—who studies law at the University of British Columbia—will continue in the footsteps of his father and serve as a director on the Church board.





Above left picture: Olivia Ann is baptized by Bishop Gérard LaPlante; on the right the Godparents Mr. Scott Campbell and Mrs. Rosanna Beraldin, on the left Mr. David Barnes, holding his son Jack, Mrs. Ricki-Lynn Barnes holding Olivia Ann. The little girl on the pew smiling into the camera is Lauren Ann Barnes.

First Sunday after Easter 2009

Baptism of Olivia Ann Barnes

On the first Sunday after Easter, April 19, 2009, we celebrated the baptism of Olivia Ann Barnes. She is the daughter of Mr. David Barnes and his wife Ricki-Lynn. She is the third child to be baptized from *cont.*

Photo below left: inside the Sanctuary; on the left the Barnes family: Mr. David Barnes holding Jack, Mrs. Ricki Barnes with Laura, Bishop Gérard LaPlante holding the newly baptized Olivia; on the right the Godparents Mrs. Rosanna Beraldin and Mr. Scott Campbell. **Photo below right:** The Barnes family with clergy and parishioners in front of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.





27 April 2009



Photo top left: The Barnes family with clergy and parishioners in front of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. Picture on the right: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with Mrs. Claude Josie and her daughter Camea, who was baptized by our Priest in Montreal, Fr. Sylvain Tremblay .

First Sunday after Easter 2009

the Barnes family at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church: Lauren Grace was baptized on July 10, 2005, and her brother Jack Robert on November 25, 2007. The Barnes family have been parishioners of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church for many years. When David's mother passed away, her service was held at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church and her ashes were placed in front of the Church.

Pictures below: Clergy and parishioners after Holy Mass





27 April 2009



Above pictures: Greeting parishioners and handing out bakery items

First Sunday after Easter 2009

As we have done it for over 30 years, bread and pastries are distributed after Holy Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to share these gifts with their neighbours and people in need.

Below pictures: Greeting parishioners and handing out bakery items

