**PARISH OFFICE & STAFF**

*Office & Mailing Address:*  
30 Elma Street West  
Okotoks, Alberta T1S 1J7  
Phone: 403-938-3122  
Fax: 403-938-0524  
Email: office@stjamesparishrc.com

*Office Hours:* Monday to Friday:  
8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1:00—3:30 pm  
**Closed 4th Friday of the Month**

**St. James Church Address:**  
338 Avenue & 32nd St. East

**Pastor:** Fr. Jaroslaw Dziuba, SDS (Fr. Yarek)  
pastor@stjamesparishrc.com

**EMERGENCIES ONLY:** Fr. Yarek at 403-613-2680  
Please speak clearly and state your name and phone number.

**Dominical Vicar:** Fr. Stephen Smith

**Deacon:** Deacon Ken Waddle; kwaddle@xplornet.ca

**Religious Education & Youth Ministry Coordinator:**  
Sr. Lucille Field, S.I.T.G.  
religioused@stjamesparishrc.com; youthministry@stjamesparishrc.com

**Administrative Assistant:** Deborah Quinlan

**Part-Time Secretary:** Vi Lake

**Bulletin Deadline:** Thursday, 12 Noon. Send to: bulletin@stjamesparishrc.com

**New Parish Website:** http://stjamesparishrc.com

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**MASS SCHEDULE — WEEKLY**

**WEEKEND MASSES - SUNDAY**  
9:30 a.m. — Black Diamond  
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. — Okotoks

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**Okotoks:** Tuesday 7:00pm & Thursday 9:00am  
**Black Diamond:** Wednesday & Friday, 9:00am

**MASS INTENTIONS (April 14-19, 2013)**

*SUNDAY*  
9:30 am  t Irmgard Sieweke  
10:00 am  t Albert Guay  
7:00 pm  People of the Parish

*TUESDAY*  
7:00 pm  t Rose Paquette

*WEDNESDAY*  
9:00 am  t Phil Perrault

*THURSDAY*  
9:00 am  t Terry Siqueira

*FRIDAY*  
9:00 am  t John & Ann Marie Webb

**First Saturday of the Month**  
9:00 am — St. Michael’s, Black Diamond

**Reconciliation**

- Tuesday is the primary time for reconciliation after Mass.
- Sundays 30 minutes before Mass:  
  **Okotoks:** 9:30 to 9:55am; 6:30 to 6:55 pm or by appointment  
  **Black Diamond:** 9:00 am to 9:25 am or by appointment

**Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
St. Michael’s, Friday, 9:30-10:30am  
St. James, Tuesday, 7:30-8:30pm

**Sacrament of Marriage**  
Phone the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance to set a date for marriage with the Parish Priest.
PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mom’s Group
Calling ‘Mothers of all ages’ to come join us
Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30am at St. James Church. There is supervision for children.
April 17th - Guest Speaker
April 24th - Hot Topic

St. James CWL—Okotoks
Membership fees for 2013 is $25.00. The fees can be dropped off at the parish office or placed in the collection basket with envelope marked “St. James CWL”. The deadline is April 30th.

K of C—St. Michael’s Church, Black Diamond
Meetings: Every 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 pm at the church.
For information call Steve Dookie, Grand Knight, at 403-933-5757.
Pancake Breakfast: 3rd Sunday after Mass.

K of C—St. James Church, Okotoks
Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every month after the 7:00 pm mass at the church. Annual fees are $30.00 and can be brought to the meetings or dropped off at the parish office. For information contact Patrick Lamontagne, Grand Knight at 403-899-7472.

YOUTH GROUPS
Girls T & T—New date is April 26th at St. James Church from 6:30-8:30pm. There is a special guest coming to introduce “Balloon Craft”. Please plan on coming and joining in the festivities.

Book Club meets Tuesday, April 23 after the 7pm Mass. The book of the month is “A Morbid Taste for Bones” by Ellis Peters.

Philippine Fiesta
Come celebrate Filipino Culture and Food at our Fiesta on Saturday, April 20th at St. James Parish, at 6:00 pm. It is Pot Luck with BBQ pork provided. Tickets are $5/adult. Please contact Joy at 403-483-4823 for tickets.

Married Couples Weekend Retreat
May 10-12 at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre.
Contact Linda and Jordy at 403-830-6210 or Jerry and Ann at 403-286-8445.

CENACLE OF PRAISE
“Victory in Joyful Praise”
with Fr. Yarek and St. Michael’s Choir

When: Thursday, April 25th, 7:30 pm
Where: St. Michael’s Church, Black Diamond

Why: God has given us far more than we will ever realize. Thank Him for this before you become ungrateful and lose out on all He has yet to offer.
“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening.” (Psalm 92:1-2)

Women and Faith 2013 Conference
Ladies, invite a girlfriend and join us at St. Michael’s Catholic Community, Calgary on May 3rd and 4th for an evening and full day of inspiration. For more information go to www.WomenandFaith.ca or email info@womenandfaith.ca for a registration form.

Pastoral Care — St. Francis de Sales, High River are offering opportunities for persons to take the course locally.
• Pastoral Care Refresher at St. Francis de Sales April 18th from 9:30 - 12:30. No charge. Email lwojcik@xplornet.com or phone 403-652-7291.

Early Mid-Week Retreat Reminder
Mount Saint Francis Ladies Mid-week retreat, Cochrane on Tuesday, September 10th-Thursday, September 12, 2013. Contact : Kathy Oczkowski 403-246-0660 or Roni Cooper 403-271-8812.
Sale of Safeway and Sobeys Gift Cards
Safeway and Sobeys gift cards are sold at face value every second Sunday after the 10 am and 7 pm mass as well as at the Parish Office. Cash, cheque, debit and credit card can be used for payment. An average of 7.5% of the value goes toward supporting Parish activities. Our goal for 2013 is to sell $11,000 per month or $132,000 annually which will contribute $10,000 towards the Parish.

Actual

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<th>April 1-13, 2013</th>
<th>Year to date</th>
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Men’s Group
"...Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil." The closing of the Our Father will be the topic covered through studying the book 'Unbound' in which we will learn about healing the spiritual, emotional, and past woundedness in our hearts that make it difficult to find God. Deliverance prayer is a method of praying to discover how we are being held captive by Satan and his forces, and more importantly, how to claim our lives back in the Sacred Name of Jesus that we may live in the freedom of Truth and Spirit that God wants for us. We meet at St. James Parish every Monday at 7:30 pm.

Stewardship—3rd Sunday of Easter
Do you love me? (John 21:16). Alleluia! Follow me. Jesus asks Simon only one question: do you love me? And he entrusts Simon with the stewardship of his flock. If you love Jesus, follow him. Through you Hi lambs and sheep are tended and fed.

Let us welcome, into our parish community, all the children who have received the Sacrament of Baptism today:

- Kason Blair
- Emma Breton
- Jaren Dunphy
- Dominic Laflamme
- Vincent Laflamme
- Aiden Ludwig
- Colton Marshall
- Peyton Marshall
- Therese Roy

ROSARY MISSION—Moves Mountains
with Janis Clarke
- Monday, May 6th - 7pm Mass; Mission 7:30pm
- Tuesday, May 7th - 7:30pm Mission
- Wednesday, May 8th - 7pm Mass; 8pm Prayer Ministry

Held at St. James Church, Okotoks

Gifting Options
Envelopes are great, so is cash, but make it easier by switching to Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). PAD ensures regular cash flow for the parish and eliminates “seasonal ups and down”! You can set the amount you wish to donate and to which fund (operating, Together in Action, etc.) each month. We can debit bank accounts or credit cards. Call the Parish Office, 403-938-3122, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm to have a form mailed or emailed. Forms are also available on the information table in the narthex—check the Registration Binder (Blue).
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2013

Registrations for First Holy Communion are ongoing. Come to the Office during office hours. If your child was not baptized at St. James or St. Michael’s, please bring a copy of their baptism certificate.

CONFIRMATION 2013 — Usually Grade 8 and up. All events will be held at St. James Church.
- Classes – April 21, at 9:00-9:45am or 6:00-6:45pm
- Rehearsal – Saturday, April 27, 6:30 pm
- Confirmation celebration – Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 10:00 am Mass

FIRST COMMUNION 2013 — Usually Grade 2 and up.
All events will be held at St. James Church or St. Michael’s Church unless otherwise stated.
- Registration date – April 16, 6:30 to 7:00 pm
- Parent Information Night – April 16, 7:00-8:30pm
- Retreat for parent and child: April 21, 1-3 pm
- Commitment Mass – May 5, 10am & 7pm
- Class for parent and child: May 5, 1-3 pm (includes rehearsal)
- First Communion celebrated on Sunday, May 26, 2013 and June 2, 2013 at St. James and St. Michael’s.

Baptism Preparation — If your child is seven years old or younger the baptismal preparation sessions for parents are on the dates noted below. You are required to attend one session which consists of two classes on two consecutive Tuesdays. The session is held from 7:00 -9:00 pm at St. James Church.
Preparation sessions are on:
- May 21 & 28, 2013
- September 17 & 24, 2013
You are encouraged to take classes prior to your child being born. Preregistration is required at the parish office. Registration fee is $20.00 per couple.

Marriage Preparation — The Marriage Preparation sessions are mandatory for those preparing for marriage. Pre-registration is required. Sessions are at St. James Church, Saturdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm on the following dates:
- May 25, 2013
- October 26, 2013
Registration begins at 8:30-9:00am. Registration fees and workbooks are $60.00 per couple.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Registration is ongoing for all those interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Inquirers are instructed in the Catholic Faith and introduced to the life of the Church. For more information please call Sr. Lucille at 403-938-3122. The sessions are every Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 pm at St. James Church.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens (RCIT) — This program is designed for all youth from grades 6-9 who desire to receive the Catholic Sacraments they have missed and for any youth who wishes to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. For more information please call Sr. Lucille at 403-938-3122.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEIPT OF COMMUNION

For Catholics — As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Code of Canon Law, canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our Fellow Christians — We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directive of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Church, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law 844 § 3) does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these churches.

For those not receiving Holy Communion — All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians — we also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013  THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

But, do you love me? Jesus was not trying to make Saint Peter squirm when after his Resurrection he asked his apostle three times, “Do you love me?” It was less an undoing of Peter’s denial and more a response to Peter’s own need to say the words and to hear himself say what he believed. In the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* Tevye asks his wife, “Golda, do you love me?” She answers with a litany of all the chores she does for him and the family, but Tevye keeps asking until she finally admits, “I suppose I do,” and with both of these replies Tevye is satisfied. Words and deeds of love—both are essential. Examine your own words and deeds—do they measure up?


“Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Do you love me . . . ?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ ”

MONDAY, APRIL 15  EASTER WEEKDAY

Why do we follow Jesus? The great thing about the gospel stories is that they show the all-too-human way in which folks scurry after Jesus in the wake of a really big miracle like his multiplying of the loaves and fishes or walking on water. In doing so they hold a mirror up to us. Sure, we care about his message, but most of us also like having a friend in high places to have our calls answered! Here’s the thing, though: Jesus isn’t looking for a fan club or stardom; he wants us to pay attention to his gospel and respond to his call. He wants us to get to work, not wait for a show. Are we ready to take the stage ourselves and play a role?


“When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they . . . came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.”

TUESDAY, APRIL 16  EASTER WEEKDAY

Do you see clearly? Early in the 20th century quantum physicists discovered a mysterious phenomenon they called “the disturbing observer.” They had learned that merely observing a quantum particle changes it in unpredictable ways. As a result scientists have had to develop elaborate methods for their experiments to compensate for the changes their observations cause. What is true at the quantum level of reality holds true at the visible level as well, only the effects are much more subtle. In other words, your attitude toward a person or event has an unpredictable effect on what you perceive. Today, be aware that what you observe is partly of your own making. Are you judging or loving?

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274)

“What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?”

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17  EASTER WEEKDAY

Expect the unexpected God never wills disaster and suffering, yet even in the midst of the most trying circumstances you can have every hope for something good to emerge. In the early church, persecution forced the faithful to scatter. Yet that was not the end of the church in Jerusalem but a spreading of the gospel out of the city and beyond. In the midst of tragedy, a new mission was born. The stories of many saints give witness to this hope. When arrested by the Nazis, the martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe said to his companions, “Courage, my sons. Don’t you see that we are leaving on a mission?” When you face unexpected circumstances, how might you open yourself to a new mission?

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275)

“Now those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.”

THURSDAY, APRIL 18  EASTER WEEKDAY

Ask and you shall receive Often in life you can use a mentor: someone wiser and more experienced to show you the ropes. A couple married longer than you knows a little something about getting past the rough spots. A retired colleague can share a few tricks about problem-solving at the office. In a story from the Acts of the Apostles, an Ethiopian eunuch was clearly on a faith journey: not a Jew, yet traveling to Jerusalem to worship and read Hebrew prophecy. He’d done all the prep work for faith: walking the walk, doing his homework. Now all he needed was a guide. Cue Philip. As the saying goes: “The teacher appears when the student is ready.” Need a mentor? Prepare to receive one!

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276)

“He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone instructs me?’ ”

FRIDAY, APRIL 19  EASTER WEEKDAY

Follow the light Impressionist painter Claude Monet, a master at capturing the effects of light on landscapes, often found the process harrowing. He would paint the same scene with a dozen canvases and still not be satisfied. While trying to capture the color of an Italian landscape, Monet wrote: “I’m afraid what I’m doing is just dreadful and yet I really am understating it; the light is simply terrifying.” Monet’s *Water Lilies*, his final masterpiece in the study of light, was completed well after he had lost most of his sight. In the end, he had overcome his fears and learned to be the light. Our mission as Christians is similar: To painstakingly master our doubts and become one with the Light of Christ.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277)

“On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ”

SATURDAY, APRIL 20  EASTER WEEKDAY

Give the helpers some help In many households, parishes, and workplaces, there is one person without whom things simply couldn’t function. Whoever that might be in your environment (maybe it’s you!), being the essential person is an exhausting proposition. Poor Tabitha-Dorcas in the Acts of the Apostles is deemed so necessary to her community that the widows of her town can’t let her go even after she dies; Saint Peter is obliged to bring her back to life. The “indispensables” are useful to have around but they can use our help. Let’s offer them assistance with prayers, resources, and kind words of gratitude.


“A disciple named Tabitha (which translated is Dorcas). . . . was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving.”

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre for April 14th 2013, 3rd Sunday of Easter

Centennial Statue of Mary Immaculate and the Historical Banners
The statue and banners will be at the following parishes during the next few weeks:
St. John Evangelist Anglican Use, Calgary (Inglewood)  April 06 - April 10
St. Thomas More, Calgary  April 11 - April 15
St. Gabriel the Archangel, Chestermere  April 16 - April 20
Sacred Heart, Strathmore  April 21 - April 25
St. Augustine, Taber & St Joseph’s, Vauxhall  April 26 - April 30
You are most welcome to attend any of the Services organized by these communities during these special dates.

Office of Vocations
World Day of Prayer for Vocations: You are invited to a holy hour of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life on Sunday April 21, 2013. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 7:30 p.m. Homilist: Fr. Pius Harding, O.S.B. Place: St. Anne's Parish, Calgary. For further information contact Fr. Gaffney at 403-245-2753.

Information Day on the Diocesan Priesthood
This day is for men between the ages of 17 and 35 years. It includes talks given by Bishop Henry and priests of the diocese, as well as the celebration of the Eucharist.
Location: Sacred Heart Church, 1307 – 14th St. S.W., Calgary, (new Lower Hall/14th Street entrance)
Date: Saturday, May 11th, 9:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.
For further information and to register contact: Office of Vocations
Phone: 403-245-2753: E-mail: migaffney@telusplanet.net.

Health Care Apostolate
The Diocesan Palliative Care Education Program will take place at the FCJ Christian Life Centre over two weekends: April 26 & 27, and May 3 & 4, 2013. The Diocesan Palliative Care Education Program will also take place at St. Francis de Sales Parish in High River, Alberta over two weekends: May 24 & 25 and May 31 & June 1, 2013. Both programs are held on the two Friday evenings and all day Saturdays. Registration fee is $75 for either program. For more information or to register, please call 403-218-5507 or email healthcareprograms@calgarydiocese.ca.

The Spring Diocesan Pastoral Care Training Program will begin on Tuesday May 7th for 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm – 9:30pm until June 11th. The program will be held at the FCJ Christian Life Centre, 219 – 19th Ave. SW. This course will introduce you to the basic visiting skills required for Pastoral Care Ministry in the Church. Course fee: $75. For more information and to register, call us at 403-218-5501 or email: alicia.zubot@calgarydiocese.ca.

Social Justice Ministry
Prison Ministry - Individuals are needed to assist with Bible reflection and leading in praying of the rosary. If you are interested, please contact our Prison Ministry Chaplain Deacon Luis at 403-695-2099 or email: luis.hong@gov.ab.ca.

Stewardship Office
Charity Benefit Concert: Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 7:00 to 10:00pm join us at St. Mary’s Cathedral Hall for an evening of fun, food and music! The Stewardship Office in partnership with the University of Calgary Catholic Community is hosting the annual Charity Benefit Concert featuring local artists to raise funds and awareness in support of Mission Council’s international mission project called the Renewal Centre in Lahore, Pakistan. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the event are available. For more information contact Eden D’Souza at stewardship@calgarydiocese.ca or 403-218-5520.
Life and Family Resource Centre (LFRC)

Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians Societies meeting May 31-June 2, with the theme: "Ethical Challenges in Health Care". For more information visit http://quebec2013.ca

The flyer can be found at: http://www.canadiancatholicphysicians.com/index.php.

The Calgary Diocesan Marriage Preparation program “For Better and For Ever”, accepts all couples preparing for marriage. Smaller group settings allow us to focus on couples in one or more of the following circumstances: living together, previously married, beginning marriage with children, couples 45+, or those who wish to have their marriage blessed in the Church. For information and/or to register call LFRC at 403-218-5504 or email lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca.


Calgary Pro-Life Association is raising funds to support our educational resource programs. Get sponsors and come walk with us at the Hike for Life on May 11, 2013 at Prince’s Island Park 8:30 am - Noon. Also look out for our Mother’s Day Roses being sold after all Masses May 11 & 12. Call 403-243-0691 or email pro-life@shaw.ca or visit www.calgaryprofile.com.

33rd Annual Hike for Life – Calgary Pro-Life Association on Saturday May 11, 2013

Place: Prince’s Island Park, Calgary; Time: 8:30 am – Noon; Contact: 403-243-0691 or www.calgaryprolife.com.

Project Rachel, an ecumenical ministry of reconciliation and healing, is available to all who have had a past abortion experience. Clients will be referred to professional counselors who are specially trained to deal with the trauma associated with this experience. Call Project Rachel at 403-218-5506 or toll free at 1-877-597-3223. You can also e-mail projectrachel@calgarydiocese.ca.

Calgary HomeSHARE connects senior homeowners with adult homeseekers who assist 4-10 hours / week with simple household tasks in exchange for safe, affordable accommodation. Check FAQs at www.calgaryseniors.org for more information, phone 403-266-6200, or email homeshare@calgaryseniors.org for application forms.

St. Patrick and Holy Family Parishes, Medicine Hat

Youth Ministry Coordinator: St. Patrick and Holy Family Parishes are in need of a highly-motivated and confident coordinator of Youth Ministry. The successful candidate for this position will have: Personal Catholic faith conviction and active participation in a Catholic parish, good organizational skills, self-motivation to work flexible hours with a minimum supervision, good communication skills, commitment to the teaching and practices of the Catholic faith, education and/or experience in youth ministry. Specific tasks for this position: continue to develop youth ministry at St. Patrick and Holy Family, encourage and assist those engaged in youth ministry in the parishes and schools, work with three levels of youth: elementary, junior and high schools. For further information, contact Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat at 403-527-6933. Candidates are invited to submit a resume before May 31, 2013 by email: frphilip@holyfamilymh.ca.

For more information email library@calgarydiocese.ca Or contact Carol Hollywood or Jane-Rose Ediau, Library & Archives, 403-218-5510; Fax: 403-264-0526 Address: Catholic Pastoral Centre, 120 - 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2S 2T2
Offce of the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The Fourth Sunday in Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday and is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. In this year’s Pastoral Letter, I want to do four things:

1. In case you might have missed it, I would like to quote at length from Pope Francis’ homily on Holy Thursday:

   A priest who seldom goes out of himself, who anoints little – I won’t say “not at all” because, thank God, our people take our oil from us anyway – misses out on the best of our people, on what can stir the depths of his priestly heart. Those who do not go out of themselves, instead of being mediators, gradually become intermediaries, managers. We know the difference: the intermediary, the manager, “has already received his reward”, and since he doesn’t put his own skin and his own heart on the line, he never hears a warm, heartfelt word of thanks. This is precisely the reason why some priests grow dissatisfied, become sad priests, lose heart and become in some sense collectors of antiques or novelties – instead of being shepherds living with “the smell of the sheep”, shepherds in the midst of their flock, fishers of men. True enough, the so-called crisis of priestly identity threatens us all and adds to the broader cultural crisis; but if we can resist its onslaught, we will be able to put out in the name of the Lord and cast our nets. It is not a bad thing that reality itself forces us to “put out into the deep”, where what we are by grace is clearly seen as pure grace, out into the deep of the contemporary world, where the only thing that counts is “unction” – not function – and the nets which overflow with fish are those cast solely in the name of the One in whom we have put our trust: Jesus. Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may always be shepherds according to God’s heart.

2. I want to express heartfelt gratitude to our international priests, who with great generosity have heard the Lord’s call, have left their home and family, and have “put out into the deep” and responded to our call to help us meet our pastoral needs because we are short of home-grown priests. Their faith and servant-witness instruct us about basic evangelization and should inspire all of us to work hard to nurture vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

3. I would like to invite all of you to consider inviting someone with potential to our annual information day on the priesthood, don’t be afraid to suggest the priestly vocation to our youth, and to consider having a period of prayer/adoration for vocations in your parishes once a month.

4. We do not have any ordinations scheduled for this year but we do have a number of seminarians enrolled in St. Joseph’s Seminary who are discerning their call. We also need your financial assistance. Tuition, room and board subsidies for seminarians are dependant upon revenues taken from our Seminary Fund. In addition, we support our international seminarians with a modest living allowance. I am once again asking for your help by way of a second collection. Please be generous. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ

* F. B. Henry
Bishop of Calgary.

CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTRE
Suite 290, 120 - 17 Avenue S.W. • Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2S 2T2
Telephone: (403) 218-5526 • Facsimile: (403) 294-0272