



The Messenger

St. Edward the Confessor Mission

St. Edward's Children Prepare for First Communion

For the past six months eight children have been preparing to celebrate their First Holy Communion. Along with their parents, they have been attending regular meetings with Fr. Ernie and receiving the necessary religious instruction. As a prerequisite to making their First Holy Communion the church requires that they must first receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. The children received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the Lenten season. Let us pray for them as they continue their faith journey.

*Please join us as we celebrate the
First Holy Communion
of the children of St. Edward the Confessor Mission*

Stephanie Chouchani

Emily Larson

Keely McGann

Cristina Pompura



Samantha Pompura

Daniel Powell

Alexa Schena

Sierra Schena

*on Sunday the tenth of June 2007
at nine o'clock in the morning*

C.A.C Christian Action Chrétienne

C.A.C is a non profit organization dedicated to helping needy families on the West Island with emergency food and financial assistance. Non-perishable food donations such as canned goods, breakfast cereal, pasta products



are always needed and gratefully received. We invite you to bring your food donations with you to Mass and leave them at the back of the church. We tend to forget the less fortunate during the sum-

mer months but they need a helping hand all year round.

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An Ernest Reflection—*Eucharist and Social Justice*

As I sat down to write this short article on Holy Thursday it was quite natural that my thoughts turned to the Holy Thursday mass. At a first glance the Church's choice of the gospel reading for Holy Thursday seems rather strange. Three of the evangelists describe to us how Jesus took the bread and the cup and gave them to his disciples, telling them to eat and drink his body and blood. Yet our gospel reading is from John, the sole evangelist not to speak of the institution of the Eucharist. Certainly, not what one would expect.

John, however, includes an event missing from the other gospels – the episode of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and the accompanying command to wash one another's feet "as I have done to you." That command is very similar to the words used by Luke [and Paul] following the institution of the Eucharist. As John's gospel was written well after Luke's [and Paul's letter to the Corinthians] might we not conclude that John is explaining to us what Eucharist is all about – serving others? The biblical scholar, Xavier Léon-Dufour, S.J., suggests that the command of remembrance, as presented by the Synoptics and Paul, tells us that Jesus is present to us when we celebrate the Eucharist, whereas John's command tells us that Jesus is present when we serve others. Eucharist and service go hand in

hand.

Keeping that in mind, let us take a look at a few of the liturgical components of the Eucharist. After participating in the liturgy of the Word, we bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar. Whether they are purchased or home-made, we would never think of bringing moldy bread or rancid wine. They would be unworthy gifts to offer God.

However, do we ever

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stop to think of what has gone into the making of the bread and the wine. As the presider's prayers over the

bread and the wine say - "What earth has given and human hands have made" and "fruit of the vine and work of human hands" respectively - they are gifts of both nature and workers. Are they truly worthy gifts, if nature is abused or workers are ill-treated or poorly paid? Remember how God rejected the gifts of the Israelites and said what he truly wanted was justice (Is 1.10-17)? Are gifts produced by slave labor any more worthy of the Lord than moldy bread or rancid wine?

What about the Lord's Prayer that we say or sing just before communion? It contains a number of petitions that can be quite disturbing. For instance, we pray "thy kingdom come". Now that is not a request that

we go to heaven. We are asking that God's kingdom, or reign, come to us now, here on earth and, as Paul says, "the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness [justice] and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14.17). Can we really pray for the coming of God's reign if we ourselves are unwilling to work for and accept it, much less actually oppose it?

Similarly, can we say "give us this day our daily bread" if we tolerate the systematic denial of food for millions of people around the world? Not as Pope Benedict would seem to say in *Sacramentum Caritatis*: "Give us this day our daily bread obliges us to do everything possible, in cooperation with international, state and private institutions, to end or at least reduce the scandal of hunger and malnutrition afflicting so many ..."

Or yet again, can we honestly ask God to forgive our debts as we forgive the debts of others, if we do not work for the eradication of the foreign debts of poor countries that cause so much suffering for their people? The Jubilee Year has come and gone but much of the so-called debt of poor countries still remains.

Immediately after the Lord's Prayer, the presider prays that Jesus' peace be with us. We then extend to one another a sign of that peace. What do we exactly mean by "the peace of Christ?" As Pope Paul VI has told us, if we want peace we should work for justice. In other words, without justice, true peace cannot exist.

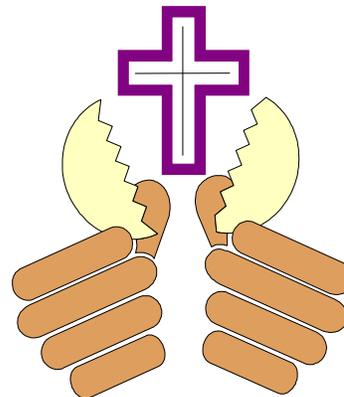
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An Ernest Reflection—*Eucharist and Social Justice* (cont'd)

Then, of course, there is Holy Communion, which first and foremost means being united with Christ. But how is this possible if we are not at least striving to be united with each other and especially with the poor and marginalized? Did not Jesus apply the following to himself when he said in the synagogue at Nazareth: “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release

to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4.18-19)?

We clearly live in perilous times. War, hunger and global warming threaten the very foundations of human civilization. The Eucharist not only calls upon us to serve our brothers and sisters but gives us the strength and wisdom of Christ to do so.



Eucharist

Fr. Ernie

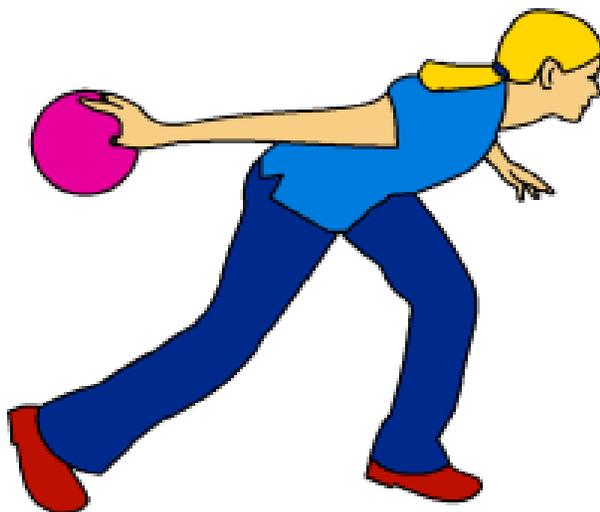
Fun for All — Bowling at St. Edward’s

On Saturday May 12th the Parish held a Bowling afternoon (2:00 -4:00 p.m.) prior to 5:00 p.m. Mass. The event was held at Bowl-O-Drome on Gouin Blvd. in Pierrefonds.

Although the event was sparsely attended all of those who went enjoyed themselves. Deacon Gerry put on a real show and walked off with the trophy in the Adult Section.

While Sandra Buchanan won an award

for the most energetic enthusiastic participant and Daniel Powell received a prize for the most unusual style and his brother Brian



was the Junior Champion.

We plan to have a similar event in the Fall. So lets get more participation and challenge for Gerry and Brian - open to all.

Watch for the Poster on the Bulletin Board after Labour Day and sign up for an afternoon of fun and camaraderie.

We may try to combine this with a Pot-Luck or Spaghetti Supper. Feel free to submit your comments or suggestions to Tom Donahue of the Pastoral Council.

Story by Tom Donahue

**BOWLING
RETURNS
IN THE
FALL**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

The Wisdom of Children

- When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" Don't answer him.
 - Never tell your mom that her diet isn't working.
 - Stay away from prunes.
 - Don't pull your dad's finger when he tells you to.
 - If you want a kitten, start by asking for a pony.
 - Never let your three-year-old brother in the same room as your school assignment.
 - Felt-tip markers are not good to use as lipstick.
 - Don't pick on your sister when she is holding a baseball bat.
 - Never try to baptize a cat.
-

Fundscrip — Join Our Fundraising Project

Fundscrip is fundraising program that is currently being used in hundreds of schools, churches, and non-profit groups in Quebec and across Canada.

The retailers that participate in the Fundscrip program donate a percentage of what you spend in their stores.

How Fundscrip Works

By purchasing gift certificates through St Edward's before you shop and then spend-

ing them just as you would cash, you earn cash rebates on all of your purchases. It is easy for you to place your FundScrip orders. There are no minimum orders

Fundscrip web site at: www.fundscrip.com or contact Michèle Buchanan at: michele.craig@sympatico.ca or 514- 697-4057.



If you're **SHOPPING**
you're **FUNDRAISING**

This Fund-raising project has been approved by the Board of Wardens and the Parish Council of St. Edward the Confessor Mission.

and you can order as often as you like every two weeks or a few times a year.

For more information consult the

WHY NOT SIGN-UP !

Have you visited Ed on the Web?



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