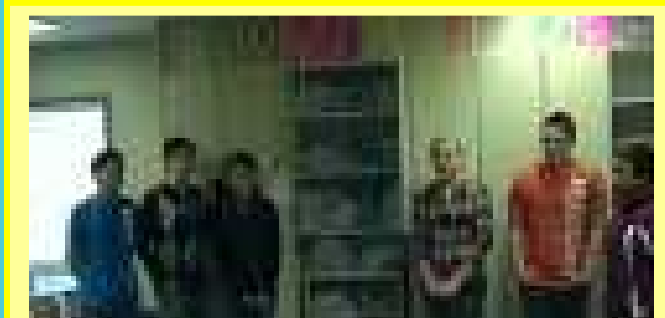


# St. Augustine of Canterbury R.C. Church

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## Youth Ministry E-Newsletter



### THINKFasters 2011

#### **AN APPEAL TO DONATE TO SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL BY OUR THINKFASTERS 2011**

Six youth and two adults embarked on a quest for a 25-hour fasting from solid food on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. They learned about pro-life issues especially against contraception, environmental issues especially against bottled water and how they are called to be saints in the third millennium. The youth also raised a total amount of \$437.00 to go towards Development & Peace projects for the poor in the global South.

Breanne Pedlow raised the most donations with a total of \$157.00 followed by Stefan McGonigle at \$110.00. Adrienne Pasaporte, Brian Kehler, Catherine Dubois and Jeremy Phillips also raised amounts of \$30 to \$50.00.

During their Thinkfast, the youth participants have made an appeal to our parishioners to help support Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper Program for the poor. Please see their appeal at ...

Youtube: An Appeal for Saint Vincent de Paul by our Thinkfasters 2011 or at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9cDtYUWpSU>.

# Youth Support Pro-Lifers

Amidst great speakers and good food, the youth of Saint Augustine of Canterbury relished their experiences and service project for the Brandon Area League for Life Annual Dinner with guest speaker Michael Coren and the Brandon University Students for Life Supper with the Sisters of Life.

Brittainy Boschman, Brad Ellis and Stephanie Kehler helped out during the annual dinner. "I enjoyed it! It was a good experience," comments Brittainy, a Grade 9 student.

Chris Pugh, president of the Brandon University Students for Life invited the youth to come to a night of pizza at Canad Inns and conversation with the visiting Sisters of Life. MInette Esguerra, Caroline Dubois, Roselle Esguerra and Hilary Macalanda, Simon and Joseph Lee all came out to the invite along with two of the Sisters of the Missionary Apostles of Christ in the Eucharist (M.A.C.E.) Sister Marlene and Sister Maybelle.

One of the visiting sisters narrated the beautiful story of her vocation and calling. The youth were listening intently and had interesting questions for her and the congregation.

**The Sisters of Life is a contemplative/active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life. Conforming their lives to Christ, the Sisters take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life.**

Congratulations, and thank you to our Brandon University Students for Life for hosting the successful event!

# A Choice: Natural vs. Chemical



Sr Marlene Anne Aquino, M.A.C.E. spoke about the evil of contraception and its devastating effect. She gave as an example what is happening in the Philippines a predominantly Catholic country that upholds pro-life values. She gave this talk to the THINKfasters on Friday, April 18, 2011. Sr Marlene is the Parish Religious Education Coordinator.

The question on life that is causing great ripples in the world today is about making a choice between **GOING NATURAL** or **GOING CHEMICAL**. We all know the consequences of chemical reactions in the air or matter. Let us be specific, chemical, when ingested into the human body causes chemical reactions. No wonder the world is going agog about natural and organic food vitamins and minerals.

Same with contraception. The CHURCH OFFERS the NATURAL WAY. JUST ABSTENTION WHICH IS ONE HUNDRED PER CENT EFFECTIVE AND FAIL PROOF. WAIT FOR THE PROPER TIME. The material world proposes a number of ways, albeit immoral and short of being oppressive, to circumvent this through artificial and chemical contraceptions.

Let me tell you a story that happened in my country.

Some two decades ago, the Philippine government was to embark on a massive anti-tetanus injection for 12-year old girls. Some areas were pilot-tested. The campaign was fully supported by certain institutions in the USA (USAID, WHO). By God's wisdom, one lady researcher in the Department of Health started to ASK questions: why limit the vaccination to girls? Why 12 year olds? The government reason was that many Filipino women die from Tetanus infection.

Not happy with the explanation she made further researches and discovered the following:

- a) There were only a few women who die from tetanus infection at childbirth but tons of men from the construction industry die of tetanus infection.
- b) When a girl is injected with the anti-tetanus vaccine, she becomes sterile about 6 years later when she gets to be of child-bearing age because of **DEPOPROVERA**, a chemical found in the vaccine.

When the lady researcher exposed this evil, she started receiving death threats and decided to go and hide in the province. One month prior to the full implementation of the program, God intervened. The President of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines, Mr. Sonny de los Reyes traveled to the different parts of the country as part of his duty. The lady researcher heard of his trip and opened up the truth to him. She was immediately placed under the witness protection program and brought back to Manila as a witness in the court proceedings calling for a hold-order against the campaign.

*How did God intervene?*

Mr Sonny de los Reyes was the first Head of the Population Commission of the Philippines (POPCOM) that had American funding with the purpose of curbing population growth. As Commissioner of POPCOM Mr de los Reyes realized that his job was promoting evil and consequently resigned from office and became a PROLIFE advocate. The POPCOM was a byproduct of the Kissinger Agenda of 1974 which President Ford adopted as US Policy in 1975. It is found in a classified document called National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests (NSSM200). In short, the USA feared that it won't be able to get much needed natural resources for its economic and military advancements from countries rich in natural resources if world population would increase. (Watch the film AVATAR to understand where this kind of greed comes from). They targeted 14 highly populous underdeveloped nations for depopulation. These nations were also rich in natural resources. The strategy was to make the leaders of these least developed countries (LDCs) embrace the need to depopulate without making them suspicious about the real reasons behind the agenda. This evil plan was exposed when the report was declassified. The least developed countries that would affect US interests were: India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Turkey, Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil.<sup>1</sup>

However, by this time the leaders and some citizens of these nations have been brainwashed and are the ones now pushing for population control. This is specifically true in the Philippines with the much controversial congressional debates going on for Reproductive Health Bill and Responsible Parenthood Bill which promote the use of contraception that would dangerously lead to abortion.

When Pope John Paul II used the term Responsible Parenthood, he did not and never would have encouraged the use of contraceptives. The CHURCH is SOLELY FOR WHAT IS NATURAL and encourages abstention and promotes the virtue of patience and waiting for the good of the beloved.

Let us be TRUE SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST. Fight against contraceptives and abortion and other artificial and chemical means to avert life. Let us fast for a good moral order among the youth. Let us abstain from what is immoral. Let us uphold what is the Natural purpose of God.

<sup>1</sup> A short talk delivered to the participants of ThinkFast 2011, a Lenten program for youth held at St. Augustine's School on March 18-19, 2011. Sr. Marlene was invited by the Parish Youth Minsiter, Sr. Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE.

<sup>1</sup> See Wikipedia : National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests (NSSM200) was completed on December 10, 1974 by the United

# Mardi Gras!

The theme for this year's Mardi Gras is "From Feasting to Fasting: From Mardi Gras to Lent." The first half of the meeting is loud, boisterous, and carnival-like; the second part of the meeting is quiet, reflective, and prayerful.

Mardi Gras Dessert Buffet was held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8:30 pm. For the first half, we had youth-led games, face painting, desserts, and child's craft activities. The second half, we had testimonies about prayer (Carol MacKenzie) fasting (Scott Hayward) and almsgiving (Linda Chegwin).

We thank our organizers for the event:

## ADULTS

Sally Scalletta

Imelda Esguerra

Jay-Lynn Deschambault

Mary Françoise Edouard

Arlene Nabong

Elena Stiny

John & Jennifer Houlihan

Heather & Mike Bolech

Rosa Hutchings

Scott & Louise Lamont

Debbie Baker

Gwen Gumieny

Velma Scott

## YOUTH & KIDS

Eric Bolech

Breanna Silversides

Ben Bolech

Roselle Esguerra

Brynne Pedlow

Kendra Lucy

Kimberlee Hutchings

Delaney Houlihan

Minette Esguerra

Adrienne Pasaporte

Samantha Baker

Bea Nabong

Jenna Lucy

Blair Hutchings

Sydney Houlihan

Kali-Jo McDonald

Special thanks to Deacon John and Father James and the MACE Sisters for their prayers, presence and support!





## **HELP WANTED: Volunteers for Youth Ministry**

On the weekend of February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, members of the Volunteer Recruitment Team held a youth ministry adult and youth volunteer recruitment weekend for all who are interested in helping out with youth ministry. They had a volunteer interest & involvement checklist which indicates the level and areas of involvement an adult or youth can participate with in the parish youth ministry events and activities.

Participation of the laity is an important consideration in youth ministry. Only when youth and adults are involved in shaping and forming the lives of our youth that youth ministry becomes a vehicle for evangelization and renewal. The Holy Spirit moves among people who are united with one purpose and goal: To see Jesus in one another and to grow in His love together.

Do you want to serve Jesus through our youth? Please consider becoming a volunteer for our parish youth ministry. Copies of the volunteer checklists can be found in our parish youth ministry website: <http://www.saintaugustines.ca/sites/youth/>. Please see or talk to our parish youth ministry coordinator, e-mail [youth@saintaugustines.ca](mailto:youth@saintaugustines.ca) or call 727-4728.



## **Witness Talk: On Fasting**

***Fasting is one of the three practices of Lent; the other two being prayer and almsgiving. Fasting means to have only one meal per day.***

***I fast in order to make up for my sins and to give up something which I truly value like meat and dairy products and to give it up for God. Through fasting I also imitate Jesus, my Lord, who fasted for forty days in the desert before He began his missionary life.***

***I fast and abstain from meat on Fridays. Our Catholic faith obliges me to fast as well as abstain from meat only two days in a year: that is, on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday. Yes, that's right!  
I also fast from food an hour before receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, as required by our faith, and because of my deep respect for Jesus whom I'm going to receive in my heart, body and soul.***

***I'd like to share with you a story I find inspiring. It is the story of Saint Rose of Lima who observed fasting in her life. St. Rose was born in 1586 in Lima, Peru. She was the daughter of a soldier from Puerto Rico, who was very wealthy. St. Rose's baptismal name was Isabela, but she received the nickname Rosa, because a servant saw her face turn into a beautiful rose when she was a baby.***

***St. Rose was very beautiful. Because of this, many young men wanted to court her but she would often cut her hair short, not put on make-up and try to make her face very simple and unattractive so that the young suitors would leave her alone. She imitated St. Catherine of Siena by fasting three times a week. She was very close to God and felt a vocation to give herself to God alone. She became a Dominican nun and used to love praying before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament a lot and was very committed to her duties.***

***I like that Saint Rose was very kind to the poor and did many loving things for them. She prophesied the exact date of her own death at the age of 31 proving how close she was with Our Lord. All of us can ask her special protection against family quarrels and against people who misunderstand our good intentions.***

***I hope you liked my sharing with you. Dominus vobiscum (The Lord be with you)!***

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of:

1. Society For The Propagation of The Faith
2. Holy Childhood Association
3. Society of St. Peter The Apostle
4. Missionary Union

As the name for these societies suggests, they come directly under the umbrella of the Holy Pontiff.

## **Society For The Propagation of The Faith**

This society was founded in 1822 by a young woman by the name of Pauline Jaricot who was born in Lyon, France. Pauline became aware of the need to inform people about missions in foreign countries and the resistance which missionaries were confronted with, as well as the need for financial assistance. The beginnings were very small. She began collecting one cent a week from workers who worked in a textile factory owned by her sister. She also asked them to pray daily for missionaries. The movement gradually gained momentum and in 1822 it was adopted by a group of priests and laity.

The Society is directed at adults whether laity, priests or religious. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the universal mission needs of our Church. Every person is a mission field and all of Christ's followers are called to be missionaries. Missionary animation encourages prayer and communion among the peoples of the universal Church and the whole world.

Today, 585,000 men and women serve as catechist in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. They spend hours walking from village to village, gathering people together, teaching them about our faith in Jesus, meeting local prayer leaders to discuss problems and to try to find solutions.

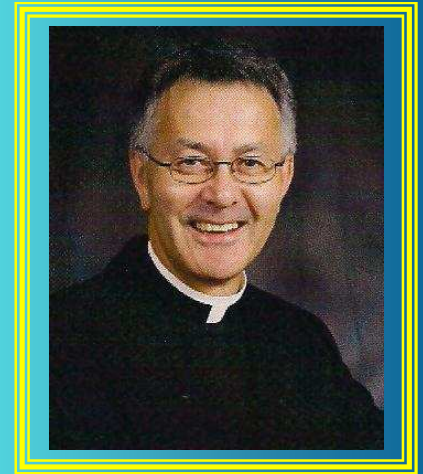
## **Holy Childhood**

Holy Childhood Association is an international children's organization founded in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson in France. Its purpose is to encourage all children to be aware of the needs and activities of children throughout the world, and especially in mission dioceses. This it does through education, prayer and financial assistance. Its motto is *Children Helping Children*.

The Popes have asked all primary school children to foster interest in HCA. In that way, school children especially can support other children in other lands through learning activities, prayers and fund-raising. Any money raised by children is used exclusively for the needs of children in missions.

Money raised by the HCA helps provide children with food, clothing, shelter, health care and education. Monies collected have been used to dig wells and bring irrigation to the parched villages of Ethiopia and to provide nutritional supplements to children in the Middle East. Schools have been built in Sri Lanka, healthful meals have been given to children in Angola and religious education has been paid for in Colombia.

Students are encouraged to see their involvement as an expression of 'faith n action' and they are called to understand their missionary role in the Church and their obligation to help others.



“As the name for these societies suggests, they come directly under the umbrella of the Holy Pontiff.”

### Society of St. Peter The Apostle

The Society of St. Peter The Apostle was founded in 1899 by a French lay woman by the name of Jeanne Bigard and the collaboration of her widowed mother, Stephanie. A series of family tragedies led these sensitive and devout women to a spirituality of prayers and reparation.

They began by directly communicating with sixteen missionaries. They came to know them well and learned about their needs, difficulties and successes.

An appeal from Kyoto in Japan so touched their hearts that they donated a magnificent gift to the mission in that city. Their gift helped that small band of Catholics to build a church. Two years later there was another appeal for help, this time to support Japanese aspirants to the priesthood. Jeanne recognized this as one of the great needs, not only of Japan, but the universal Church.

It gave birth to the idea of forming a society to promote indigenous vocations in every mission land. Jeanne died in a hospital in Paris two years after the death of her mother, having sacrificed her wealth and her health in the cause of St. Peter the Apostle Society.

To this day, the society is responsible for the education of seminarians and novices indigenous to the young Churches. Here in Canada, vocations are scarce, but in the young missionary countries, they are on the increase and need our help, especially financial assistance.

A hundred years ago there were few native priests in Africa, Asia, South America or the Pacific. Jeanne Bigard did not accept the notion that missionary activity was only for Europeans. Rather, she believed that all nations should have priests from amongst their own people. She recognized this as one of the great needs of the Church.

It is true that the African priest can best understand African people; the Asian priest best understands his people and culture; a Latin American priest understands the Latinos.

