



Campus Ministry Newsletter



Our Deanery priests visiting the Shroud of Turin exhibit at Our Lady of Mercy last Spring.

News from STM's Campus Ministry Program

Dear Shelnutt Family,

Following is an update on some of STM's Campus Ministry activities. As always, I welcome your feedback and ideas for engaging our students in service to others, especially the poor and marginalized. In this newsletter we will share with you the Campus Ministry program at St. Thomas More as well as some programs that have occurred these past few months. The goal of the Campus Ministry program is to incorporate the Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education at STMC.

Our students have been very generous with missions and service to others this past year. In addition to approximately 20,000 hours of service they have set a new record with mission collections. All students are required to complete thirty hours of service over the course of the school year. Opportunities for outreach include the Thursday morning breakfast program at Holy Trinity Cathedral from 7am-9am, Fish Friday in the downtown Eastside, Plant-a-Row Grow-a-Row and many more.

Mr. David Mattiazzo
Director of Campus Ministry

CURRENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES

STM Bids Best Wishes To Outgoing Chaplain Father Mariano and Warmly Welcomes New Chaplain, Father Thomas Smith

Fall 2010

Please visit [Campus Ministry downloads](#) to read previous newsletters.

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Upcoming Events

Sundays @ 9:30am
Plant-a-Row Grow-a-Row has begun. Meet in STM parking lot at 9:30am every Sunday.

Sept 16th 9:45am
STMC Opening Mass

Sept 28th/29th
Grade 8 Retreats
St. Mary's Parish

Oct 7th
Thanksgiving Service

Oct 10th, 9:15am
Plant a Row Grow a Row
Harvest Party STMC Parking Lot

Oct 15th
We Day GM Place

Nov 10th
Remembrance Day Mass

Feb 2012
Guest Speaker Pam Stenzel
www.pamstenzel.com

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For the past few years our St Thomas More community has been blessed with Father Mariano Barreto as our school chaplain. Unfortunately at the end of June, Father Mariano has left to become the Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Coquitlam. Father Mariano has been an active part of our community and he will be missed. In addition to celebrating weekly masses in the chapel, Father Mariano has attended our grade level retreats, social justice events as well as classrooms visits. He has had a very positive impact on our students and has been able to relate to them on a personal level. Best of luck to Father Mariano-our prayers are with you.

We are excited to announce that Father Thomas Smith from St. Francis de Sales will be our new school chaplain beginning this fall.

Father Thomas will be celebrating both class masses and offer the sacrament of reconciliation for our students on a regular basis.



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STM Opening Mass This Thursday To Honour Archbishop Miller's 35th Anniversary as a Priest

This year the Most Reverend Archbishop J. Michael Miller celebrates his 35th year in the priesthood. St. Thomas More Collegiate is pleased to dedicate our opening Mass to honour this very special occasion.

While Archbishop Miller will not be in attendance, our prayers are with him.

All families are welcome to join us at any school Mass.



An Update on Our Missions from Brother Cassidy

I would like to say a sincere "Thank You!" to all our STMC family (parents, students, staff, alumni, friends and benefactors) who continue to make our Missions efforts such an outstanding success. In the past six and a half years, we have raised **over \$100,000** and that is an outstanding achievement!

This has allowed us to help our Mission schools in **Kenya**, in **Lima, Peru**, and in the island of **Dominica** in the West Indies. We have also contributed to such good local efforts as **sandwiches for the needy, local soup-kitchens, outings for senior citizens** and the **Catholic Christian Outreach**, an extraordinary movement on secular university campuses. Most of the money goes to provide educational opportunities for young people in our catholic schools in Third World countries. *This is a life-saving venture for them, one that they appreciate immensely.*



Just recently we sent \$4000 to a center for drop-outs in Portsmouth Dominica and \$1500 to "Bueu Gusto". This food program, started by a Christian Brother, Bro. Jim Glos, feeds 70 highschool students every school day in one of our high schools in Lima, Peru. Bro. Glos sends his heartfelt thanks to the generous STM family.

As of last year, we have set a new school record with over **\$23,500**. The bar has been set for this year and we look towards breaking a new record. This is the STMC spirit at its best, extending a practical hand-up to those in need.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Bro. Cass

Reverence for Life at STMC

At St. Thomas More we look for opportunities for our students to stand up for the right to life. Last May, forty students from STM as well as other Catholic schools in the area were involved in a Pro Life Rally in Victoria.



Upcoming Events

October 3rd Youth for Life @ Vancouver College

October 8th Leadership Day @ Redeemer Pacific College

December 3rd Reverence for Life Conference @ Holy Cross

May 12 March for Life

Stay tuned for more details...

Plant-A-Row Grow-A-Row

STMC is currently in its second year with Plant a Row - Grow a Row. Plant-a-Row Grow-a-Row is all about gardeners planting an extra row or two to donate to the Food Bank and the New Westminster Union Gospel Mission.

Last year we collected almost 3,000 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables which were donated to needy families in our community..

In troubled economic times like these, it is more important than ever that the Food Bank is able to supplement their supply of non-perishable food with fresh fruit and vegetables. A special thanks to the **Padron, Landolt, Belgrave, Buonassissi** and the **Woodson** family for running this program. The conclusion of this year's event will be celebrated with a Harvest Party in early October. More details to follow.



When: Every Sunday from 9:30am -10:30am

Where: STMC parking lot

For more information please contact Mr. Mattiazzo.

Join the STMC Green Team

Our goal is to help the environment in and around our school, but also to make an impact in our community.

Not only do we fundraise for our school, but through our fundraising programs, we're helping the environment too. Want to reduce your environmental footprint? **Join the Green Team. It's that easy.** Visit [The Green Team's web page](#).

Grade 8 Retreat

An essential component of the Grade 8 Religion curriculum is to be involved in an off-campus spiritual retreat. Every year our grade 8's are led by staff and senior students in a retreat that focuses on the Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education. More information to follow.

When: September 28th for students in Lui's Religion classes and

on September 29th for students in Mr. Zimmermann and Mr. Mattiazzo's religion classes.
9:AM - 2:30P.M.



Where: St. Mary's Parish Vancouver (5251 Joyce St. Vancouver)
604-435-9611

What: Community and Blessed Edmund Rice

Peru Trip Summer 2011

St. Thomas More Collegiate is planning to organize its second trip to Peru next summer. More information coming soon:

- Daily prayer and reflection
- Building/renovation of two homes in the community of Canto Grande
- Orphanage Visits
- School visits
- Villa La Paz- working at a medical clinic / Maternity Ward for teen mothers
- Networking with youth from Peru
- City and countryside tours
- Cusco and Machu Pichuu excursion



Approx. Dates: July 4th-18th.

Blessed Edmund Rice Team 2010/2011

This year we look to expand the Blessed Edmund Rice team at St. Thomas More Collegiate. We welcome new staff members Mr. Chapman and Ms. Richardson alongside Mr. Mattiazzo to help lead this team. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday September 15th at lunch. All students have an opportunity to be a leading member or an associate.

The BERT team is a group of leadership students who meet bi-weekly to discuss and help to promote the Essential elements of a Christian Brother Education here at St. Thomas More Collegiate. This group will be involved in a variety of programs throughout the year:

- prayer life at STMC (prayer team to lead prayers on the daily announcements)
- liturgical team
- organizing and implementing social justice at STMC
- agape ministry
- collecting out and handing out clothing/food donation for the poor and marginalized in the Lower Mainland
- networking with other Christian Brother schools
- many more activities.

Youth for Christ at STMC

Beginning this fall, St. Thomas More Collegiate is planning to have its own Youth for Life Team. Youth for Christ is Catholic ministry for students to become leaders in the church. Stay tuned for more details.

"I joined Youth for Christ when I was the age of 13. I really didn't want to go to the camp until a friend of mine and his mother invited me to attend. At the end of the camp, I felt renewed. As if the Lord is with me more than ever. So I decided to continue on my journey through YFC. It's been 5 years ago since I joined my first camp. But recently I had a camp. It was held at Saint Francis de Sales and I was chosen to be the Camp Leader. It was the honor to serve at such a high placing during



camp. I've served at three other camps, but this camp was something special. It truly reminded me that the Lord is with me no matter what happens in my life, no matter how much I'm down, the Lord is always there for me. And I would just like to say thanks to YFC, for all it's doing for me. - Mitchell Perez Gr. 12

A RECAP OF SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES LAST SPRING

Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Last Spring, STM partnered with Our Lady of Mercy to host an exhibit and lecture series on the Shroud of Turin. Following is the letter we received from the organizer of the travelling exhibit:

"I just wanted to thank you all for the wonderful opportunity to come to beautiful Vancouver - rain and all! - and to talk with your students. It was an experience I will not forget. Somehow I survived the 11 lectures with my voice intact and came back to do 3 more this week in the US. I went carefully through the many notes I received from the students and wanted to show you a few of the comments that, I think, says it all. The Vancouver Shroud Association did a wonderful job at Our Lady of Mercy and you made me feel at home in the school..."

Some comments from our students:

"I didn't know much about the Shroud until today and it definitely deepens my thoughts on the death of Jesus. Thanks!! (Age 14).

"I really liked learning about...the evidence that showed the Shroud really was real. I believe in God but was never really sure if the whole "rising from the dead" was real. (Age 15).

"I personally thought this was very interesting and inspiring. I learned a bunch of new things and it was mind boggling how all the evidence kind of fits the puzzle. It was very cool." (Age 15).

"The Shroud is an amazing piece of religious history. All the scientific evidence that match the religious events are astounding. The evidence is very thought provoking..." (Age 16).

"I think the presentation on the Shroud was fascinating. It blew my mind how it was preserved and how the blood stains look like Jesus' face. (Age 16).

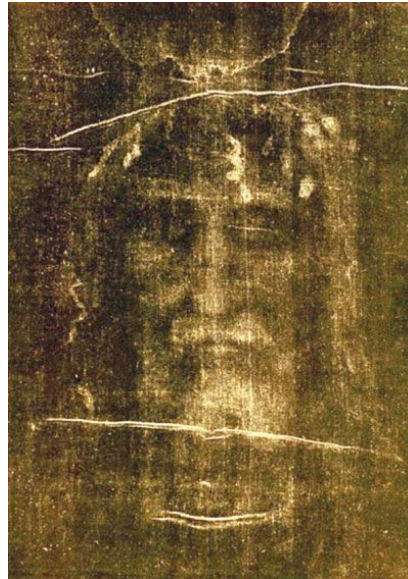
"It taught me many things about the death of Jesus. It helped me deepen my faith. I felt more compassion for Jesus as I learned the extent of his scourging. (Age 15).

"I thought the Shroud presentation was interesting and helped grow my faith and make everything more believable." (Age 14).

"To me, I thought the Shroud was very interesting. Before I saw the Presentation I was starting to doubt Jesus' existence. After all the facts and evidence I saw, I began to believe again." (Age 15)

I am leaving for Rome and Turin in two weeks to see the Holy Shroud and do some filming in Rome. I am adopting your school to fit somehow into the film - your students are great and a lot of fun. I noted that Mr. Hall is about 5'10, had a moustache and has AB blood - perhaps the DaVinci Code is right and he is in the bloodline! Work on the beard.

John C. Iannone
www.shroudinfo.com



Year of the Priest

Last spring, our STMC Community had a special ceremony to honor and celebrate the Year of the Priest. We recognized 22 priests from our deanery with a special plaque and ceremony. The Knights of Columbus were also part of the ceremony.

We are pleased to share this letter of thanks we received from the pastor of one of our feeder parishes:



"I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you and the staff along with the student body for your hospitality to the priests of the New Westminster Deanery on March 9th. The plaques that were present to each of us was much appreciated by all - thank you.

"It was indeed good for us all to be with you - such a vibrant faith filled community! Please continue the good work that you are all doing at St. Thomas More."

Father David Hughes
Holy Spirit Parish
Head of the New Westminster
Deanery

Reflections on the Grade 12 Retreat

Last spring the grade 12 class embarked on their senior retreat and all in all it was a huge success. The retreat leaders along with Doc Smith did a great job organizing and preparing for the trip, and their hard work showed. The retreat was three days for the students to get in touch with each other. Strengthening old friendships and making new ones, during the many periods of free time. Whether it was by playing games, canoeing or chatting over one of the many cups of tea available in the mess hall, the grade 12's really broke out of whatever shells they had left, in order to make the most out of their time at Camp Luther. The retreat



was not all fun and games though, there were also many group sessions where topics could be discussed in small groups. This offered a chance for great soul searching insight for many students, and a chance to remove a huge burden off their shoulders for others. Each group session was started by a presentation by two of the retreat leaders. Each of the leaders bravely shared an example, of the topic in question, from their own lives to introduce the session. Some presentations were heart warming, some touching and others gut wrenchingly true, but each set the stage for deep small group discussions. The students were offered the chance of a question and answer session with four adults from the community. Mr. Shoveler, Mr. Muise, Ms. Bohiemier, Mrs. Purse and Brother Cassidy took to the stage to answer questions about life after high school, answering career vocations, and struggles with faith. The panel session garnered some good answers and some humbling revelations. The Grade 12 class would like to thank Doc Smith and Mr Steel for running the retreat, as well as all the teachers and parents who made taking 120, 17-18 year old students camping for three days. They would also like to thank their 12 fellow students who assumed the role of leaders.

Zach Lynn, Grade 12

David Mattiazzo
St. Thomas More Collegiate
604-521-1801

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