

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

798 Goldstream Ave., Victoria, BC V9B 2X6
Phone: 250- 478 -3482 email: olor@shaw.ca

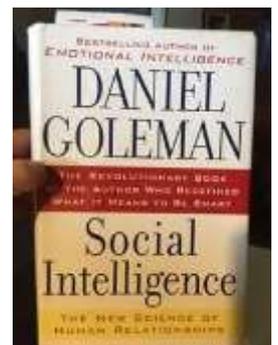
From the Pastor's Desk
Easter 4&5 2020

Fr. Dean Henderson

Last Friday I adjusted the WIFI extender to ensure the sanctuary at Saint Rose of Lima could support my debut zoom Mass which I had enthusiastically invited all of you to join. “Finally” I thought, “I’m coming into the trendy new norm of sacramental service”. “Rehearsing” with the positioning of the computer, preparing my first homily in weeks (a humdinger if I do say so myself) I eagerly anticipated greeting many of you, my too physically distant flock with the best spiritually motivated technology I thought I could manage. Sunday at 11:00 a.m. rolls around and nada; I was mystified, then horrified no one could log on. I am so sorry. It was both a humiliation and discouragement which I’ve tried to ‘offer up’ to our sovereign but suffering Lord. I think I’ve figured out what I did wrong, but time for a holiday from trying to adjust to the ambiguous role of a priest in Covid isolation. Perhaps as one parishioner said in phone conversation hits the nail on the head: “Hang in there Father, we need you to keep the faith”. So by God’s grace, that’s fundamentally what I’ll do and hope upon return May 13th we’ll be much closer to resumption of our communal worship. During the next couple of weeks, we’ll not be able to have St Rose of Lima open and I’ll next be there on the 15th of May.

Louis from St. Vincent de Paul has been in touch with me and is keenly aware of the financial stress this has been on many in the Western Communities. If you or anyone you know is in need of some grocery gift card help please call her directly at 250.658.1932. Thanks Louis and SVP for stepping up to the plate with compassion. Thanks also to the Prentiss family for coming in to take care of organizing our bottles and tackling the garden’s expanding week infestation. Regarding the bottles; we need to cease collecting until further notice.

To cope with the varied stresses of social isolation, and with less opportunity for gathering, many of us are walking more than usual and finding some emotional, even spiritual benefits. As one parishioner said to me last week, “when I walk I feel close to God”. That was the theme of the homily you missed as I recalled the Lord walking with the disciples along the road to Emmaus. If you’re not already doing it, invite the Lord along for your walks, talk with him, pray the rosary or the repeat the simple “Jesus Prayer”: “Lord Jesus Son of the Loving God, have mercy on a sinner like me”. Be aware that May 1st, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and May Day in some countries welcoming the Marion month, the Bishops of the world are consecrating their Dioceses to Our Lady for healing intentions. Perhaps at noon Friday you could say the Angelus or Rosary in communion with the Universal Church. Another activity the coronavirus creates more time for is reading. This too can be a spiritual encouragement. The book below is one I picked up in a neighborhood street book case. It includes confirmation of our God given relational nature from the field of neuroscience. “The most striking finding on relationships and physical health is that socially integrated people – those who are married, have close family and friends, belong to social and religious groups, recover more quickly from disease and live longer.” I love it when science provides evidence for fundamentals of our faith.



May the Lord bless you,
and his holy Mother and step Father intercede for you and those you love,

Fr. Dean