

Wednesday Weekly

April 8, 2015

1. Fr. Dominic Apaatah

We welcome back to the diocese Fr. Dominic Apaatah, who served for several months last year in Christ the King parish in Kitimat. His bishop in Ghana has allowed him to return to the diocese for a period of three years. In the coming months, Fr. Dominic will be replacing in several parishes before receiving his full-time assignment in the summer as part of personnel changes.

2. WCB

A reminder that the 1st quarter (January to March) report of payments the parish or school has made to individuals and to contractors who are not registered with WCB are due. This includes replacement ministry personnel. Please send your report to Payroll Services by April 15th if you have not already done so. If you have any questions, please call Lynn Monteith at 250 964-5646 or e-mail at: lynn-monteith@pgdiocese.bc.ca. Thank you!

3. Youth and Young Adult Ministry Update

Young Adults:

- All are welcome to join us at Mass on the UNBC campus Wednesdays at 11AM in room #7-158.

Youth:

- Have you registered for the 20th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference?? All those in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend. DYC is being held May 1-3 this year and will feature keynote speaker, Chris Padgett. Early-bird registration ended APRIL 10TH. Tickets are now \$65 and scholarships are available. Be sure to register quickly! All registration can be done online at <http://dyc2015.eventzilla.net/>. It is going to be one amazing weekend! Any questions? Email youth@pgdiocese.bc.ca.
- We are also seeking practicing, Catholic young adults interested in volunteering as small group leaders and general volunteers. Email youth@pgdiocese.bc.ca if you are interested!

4. Bill C-356 (An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Dementia).

The Private Member's Bill (C-356), The National Strategy for Dementia Act, was introduced by Claude Gravelle, a Member of Parliament, and calls on the Government of Canada to increase funding for research; to promote earlier diagnosis and intervention; to strengthen the integration of primary, home, and community care; to enhance the skills and training of the dementia workforce, and to improve support for caregivers. The final vote for this bill is scheduled for May 6.

On March 13 the Conservatives announced they would oppose the bill, introducing instead their own motion that focused more on research initiatives and listing some main issues to address moving forward. Research is good but a non-binding motion rather than a law means no mandate to act, no real leadership from Ottawa, no help now for those patients, their caregivers and healthcare providers. As MP Claude Gravelle stated, "What the Conservatives call their national dementia strategy is in fact a research strategy alone, a plan that does not immediately help patients, caregivers, and the dementia workforce. As important as research is, it does not help keep our loved ones with Alzheimer or related dementia diseases in the home."

Parishioners are encouraged to contact their local Member of Parliament if they support Bill C-356.

This action has been successful recently with the palliative and end-of-life care motion (M-456) where enough people contacted their Conservative MPs who then voted for the bill, despite their own government's opposition.

Further information can be found on the following links:

- <http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/parlvu/DayView.aspx?date=20150313&lang=en>
- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Pub=hansard&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2>