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AN EASTER Message

A Happy Easter!

The words Lent and Easter are very much a part of our English vocabulary, a position they rightly deserve on the basis of the length of time they have been in our language. Both are old Anglo-Saxon words and therefore came to England from Germany. But originally Lent meant the Season of Spring and Easter was the Goddess of Spring. They had nothing to do with Christianity or the Christian faith at all!

Think of the tremendous courage and imagination of our forefathers in taking these native and pagan words and using them to express the heart of the Christian message. They were not afraid of the secular society, or of Christianity being corrupted by unworthy influences. Rather, they took old words and gave them a new significance, a significance that remains with us still.

In doing so they zeroed in on the basic New Testament insight into the Christian message. The New Testament starts with the account of the Man who died on the Cross and was raised from the dead on the third day, not with the birth of that Man, not with his powerful teaching and mighty deeds, not with the fellowship of the Church. That message of a Man who died and rose again was the primary message for the early Christians.

As I read the accounts of the Resurrection the fact that impresses me is not the evidence of the empty tomb but the conviction of absolutely astounded people that the Man they had seen die upon the Cross, whose body they personally had laid in the tomb, was now indeed, and in very truth, alive. This conviction comes out in the startled exclamation of Mary - "Rabboni"; in the two disciples en route to Emmaus who recognize familiar hands in the customary breaking of bread; in the company of disciples who were glad when they saw the Lord; in a Church that lives and grows and meets the needs of people against insuperable odds.

That risen body represented to those who met Him a Sign — a sign that evil which had seemed so triumphant on the cross was now defeated, that the false witnesses had indeed been proved false, that the perversion of justice by the high

priest and the Roman governor was shown up as the perversion it was, that goodness and forgiveness and love were the basic qualities and facts of human life. That body was a sign of God's love and God's purpose for this good world which he had created.

That risen body represented to those who met Him a Sign — a sign that death which seemed to have been the final disaster in a life wasted unnecessarily was not the final goal for human life but that God who had created human life had a richer goal still in store for it in fellowship with Himself. Man not bound in by failure and defeat and disillusionment could have a new regard for his function and purpose and value in this world and work for the true betterment of that world by relating it to the loving purpose of the good God.



In that Sign the apostles and the Church went forward, to share the new quality of life they had found in Jesus Christ, to give human beings freedom over their instincts and their passions, to help them to seek the best good of others and to seek it even among their enemies and those who detested everything they stood for. In that Sign they have gone all over the world, into every nook and cranny of human affairs, into every need of humankind. In that Sign they have brought the life more abundant to every person who would have it and in so doing have enormously enriched the human world.

I wish you, then, all the richness and fullness and joy that the Risen Christ can bring into your heart and into your life this Easter. A Happy Easter in the best possible meaning of that phrase!

By
Rev. George A. Young
B.A., B.D.
Emmanuel Anglican
Church
Richvale



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Easter Bunny Will Make His Rounds

Getting ready for Easter this sweet little miss says "Hello" to the Easter Bunny. We believe she was making certain of a large cache of Easter eggs in her basket next Sunday morning.

What little girl (or little boy, for that matter) wouldn't be thrilled to shake hands with a bunny of this size! The rabbit was loaned for this picture by the local Woolworth's store and the little girl was loaned by her father, the photographer.



In the Spotlight

By BONNIE SHEPPARD

The Hill Is Alive With The Sound Of Music

It was due to begin at eight o'clock but by seven-forty, they were seating people in the aisles and vestibules. Local rock group? Political rally? Not by a long shot! It was the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Choir presenting "The Seven Last Words of Christ", a Sacred Cantata by Theodore Dubois at St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Six weeks ago, ten (count 'em — ten) choirs began to prepare for this night: Emmanuel Anglican, Our Lady Queen of the World Roman Catholic, Richmond Hill Presbyterian, Richmond Hill United, St. Gabriel's Anglican, St. John's Anglican, St. Mary's Anglican, St. Matthew's United, St. Paul's Lutheran and the York Chorale. Whew! One hundred and thirty-five voices raised in song. In what is normally a pretty hectic time of year for church choirs — Easter and all — these choirs have been squeezing in two extra practises per week as well as the regular weekly practise.

When this many people are involved in any undertaking, their numbers alone present problems. For example, extra platforms had to be constructed to accommodate everyone. And once space had been provided for all the persons in the choral groups — low and behold, no room for the organ. So-o-o an organ was very kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Cover of Richmond Hill and the day was saved. The co-ordinator for this massive effort was Les Nicholls and he did a great job.

Edward Luka handled the musical direction and I overheard it described by one choir member as "fantastic". He directed the whole program entirely without the score and that in itself tells you a little

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Thornlea Teacher Gets Shell Fellowship Award

The chairman of the science department at Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill, Donald Olds, is one of five Metro area high school teachers who have been awarded Shell Canada Merit Fellowships in chemistry.

Twenty fellows have been chosen from throughout the province to attend a four-week institute at McMaster University in Hamilton commencing June 28.

The Shell fellowship program, now in its second year, is designed to bring science teachers up to date on rapidly-expanding knowledge in the chemical field and its implications for high school teaching. Emphasis is placed on the interchange of ideas between teachers and university faculty.

Each fellowship provides payment of tuition fees, a stipend of \$300, travel allowance and accommodation on the campus. It also covers any required material for laboratory workshops. The company's total expenditure on the program exceeds \$200,000 annually. In addition to the summer institute, Shell's continuing aid to education includes sponsorship of several fellowship and scholarship programs.

WHITBY — An autopsy has confirmed that Katharine Joan MacGregor, 16, of Claremont, died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Provincial Police said March 30.

A friend who picked the girl up in his car when she left a baby-sitting job about 1 a.m. Sunday has been interviewed by police but no arrests have been made or charges laid, police said. The investigation is continuing.

The girl's body was found about noon March 28 on a sidewalk in Pickering Township.

Letters to the Editors

PRaises James Ryan

Dear Mr. Editor: Our beloved Town of Richmond Hill and its surroundings are, as we know, in the vortex of a transition period. There are to be changes, adjustments which, so we are assured by "those who purport to know," will be all for our good! Well, we are, for the most part, taking things good-naturedly although transition periods are rarely comfortable and often bewildering. So much so indeed, that we of this district's laity may be in some danger of being misled, and among the changes find we have parted with institutions of value which cannot be substituted or replaced.

I am thinking, in particular, of the marvellous work done through these many years by our excellent Canine Control Officer James Ryan. No amount of rudimentation or organized institutionalism could quite replace that man's personal dedication or inborn technique. So, surely amid all these changes he, with his shelter for unwanted, unclaimed and friendless creatures, will remain unmoved.

Of all the assets of our town, he and his animal shelter are among the most laudable. Not only because, with the innate poetic skill of an Irishman, Mr. Ryan has made TARA, as he calls his place, a thing of beauty but because there he has combined beauty with brains and enclosed both virtues in an aura of compassion. No creature's distress goes unheeded by James Ryan — if once he knows of it — no job is too difficult, no exertion too troublesome and no danger too great.

He has been called out in the dead of night to travel miles through inclement weather just to aid a poor goat that had been tossed from a speeding truck and lay helpless on the highway with a broken leg. He has,

with the protection of the police, entered a deserted house to carry out a poor abandoned dog, sick with pneumonia — the victim of human quarrels — nursed the creature back to health and found a suitable home for it. He has gone forward bravely on more than one occasion, and tackled a rabid animal which was endangering people, only to be badly bitten himself and consequently having to submit to that terribly painful cure.

He has, and still does, run the gauntlet of uninformative criticism, ignorant fault-finding, and sometimes plain spite. Spite, as we know can react in many ways from puerile complainings to the venom of such people, who listen sulkily to the courteous but emphatic admonitions of the canine control officer about allowing dogs to run loose. Then, instead of restraining the creatures according to the law, when his back is turned, deliberately release them.

Yet, Mr. Ryan continues to carry on his fine work of humanity and compassion. He knows, as well as we do, that sick animals will mean sick humans before too long, if nothing is done, and he knows, also, that extermination is by no means the answer.

That is why, when he can, he does his best to nurse, gentle, troubled, often neglected and abandoned creatures back to health.

James Ryan has been among us for approximately 10 years, yet his name and the reputation of his splendid work of consecrated compassion is renowned throughout the Dominion.

Surely Richmond Hill has reason to be proud of such a gallant retainer and will do everything to make sure that he stays actively among us, furthering his work of pity and goodwill for many years to come.

EMMA HALL,
89 Rockport Crescent,
Richmond Hill.

LOVE IS VITAL FOR EVERY CHILD

Dear Mr. Editor: The other day, in the doctor's office, I met a young girl who must have been one of the thalidomide victims, to judge by her physical characteristics. I was very impressed.

At the time of that dreadful chemical mistake, we were told that the lives of these children would be tragic. Even people like Morris West, in "The Shoes Of The Fisherman", indicated that the lives of these children would be without value and without joy. He was wrong.

This child had been raised with LOVE in its most beneficial form and it was obvious that she was in every way a whole person. She had artificial legs and no thumbs, but her sensitiveness and charm were not hampered. After all the doctor's offices she must have visited, she could still find interesting things to ask about and to do. She was curious about a letter opener, so she and my (perfectly healthy) child had a funny little joke together while she cut up a small piece of paper.

My children will never think of handicapped persons as things which I'm grateful and I have been confirmed in

my belief that every life has value. She is a beautiful person. I'm glad we met her and I'm glad she has the wonderful parents she has.

Physically, this is evidence of the work supported by the Annual Easter Seal Campaign. I shall increase my contribution this year, now that I have been made fully aware of what can be done.

MRS. CAROLINE COOK
84 Garden Avenue,
Langstaff.

THE SEAL HUNT

(Editor's Note — In the following letter addressed to Barney Danson MP, York North Ronald Pery, 298 Palmer Avenue, Richmond Hill decries the brutality of the annual seal hunt in Canadian waters.)

Dear Mr. Danson: I trust that you have read, or will read, the article in the Toronto Star, concerning the seal massacre, written by Professor James Eays.

I cannot believe that a civilized community such as is being built in Canada can allow this periodic annual outburst of unnecessary suffering to be perpetuated — one might also say perpetrated — quite brutally to satisfy the vanity and snobishness of wealthy women the world over; the desire of a small number of fishermen to secure added and no doubt necessary income; and to provide wealth for the purveyors of luxury clothing.

Surely the material cost of compensation for the fishermen is not beyond the capacity of our very affluent society — however unevenly the affluence may be spread — and it would be a small price to pay for an easier conscience; a greatly enhanced international image; and most important of all, the awareness that Canadians will not stand for unnecessary suffering and are prepared to pay for its banishment.

RONALD PERRY,
298 Palmer Avenue,
Richmond Hill.

FIGHT POLLUTION AT HOME

Dear Mr. Editor: While listening to a radio discussion on pollution I started to think about our own small area and what could be done to improve it.

I have noticed piles of garbage behind several factories on Newkirk Road. These are not only unsightly, they are also a danger to children who search through them looking for something worth salvaging.

Several families in the area seem to own four or five cars; which they park all over the lot, violating local bylaws, and others allow rubbish to accumulate in their back yards, creating an eyesore for the neighbors.

When people do take the trouble to bundle up garbage it is often torn open and scattered by dogs running loose. It is, I believe, against the law to let dogs run at large, but apparently the law is not enforced.

There would be a lot less litter and pollution if people in each neighborhood would get together to form committees to police their own area. They would, of course, need the help of local authorities in enforcing bylaws, but it could be done.

Let us do our part. With a little work we could be proud to say that we are residents of Richmond Hill.

MRS. MORRIS
257 Demaine Crescent,
Richmond Hill.

SUNNY CLASSROOMS

Dear Mr. Editor: In a recent issue of "The Liberal" there was a report of parents appearing at a meeting of the York County Roman Catholic School Board to ask for curtains or drapes for classrooms plagued by sunshine.

Surely the problem could be solved by using a little imagination. Why not make use of the creative talents of the youngsters in the classroom? Divide them into teams and make each team responsible for painting Bon Ami murals on the offending windows.

One team would be responsible each week, creating snow pictures to cut the glare of the sun, then removing them at the end of the week, leaving the windows clean for the next team.

"DO MORE WITH LESS"

Family Court To Serve South

It was good news to learn that the Provincial Court (Family Division) has opened a court in South Thornhill to handle juvenile and family matters, even though, for the present, it will serve only the old police village of Thornhill and the northern part of certain Metro boroughs.

We would be the last to go along with any move that would weaken the solidarity of the Region of York or aid Metro's campaign to annex our southern municipalities, but we cannot agree that locating a provincial court in this area is "an insidious infringement of our southern boundaries" as was suggested at a recent meeting of York County Board of Education.

Up to the present the people of North York, Scarborough and Etobicoke have had to battle city traffic almost to the waterfront to get to the family court on Jarvis Street. The people of Thornhill have had to drive 40 miles over hazardous highways or wait by the roadside for buses that run infrequently to carry them to the court in Newmarket.

We don't argue that the court in Newmarket is not needed. The people of Sutton and Keswick have a right to a reasonably accessible court, too, but no one will deny that there are far more court cases emanating from the Thornhill - Richmond Hill area than from Sutton and Keswick — not because the people as individuals have more problems, but simply because there are a lot more people. The greatest concentration of population is in the south, not in the north, and if essential services cannot be provided within the region, these people may be forgiven for casting an exploratory line to the south.

The court at 55 Doncaster Road is close to the mainstream of traffic,

just east of Yonge Street, and it is where the people are. Since March 15 it has been holding sittings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings to hear juvenile matters, and before the month is out will probably have broadened its services to include family matters, deserted wives, etc.

"We don't want to rush things, we want to get going slowly and smoothly," explained Provincial Judge James Felstiner.

He has been hearing cases referred by regional police of the area, and has been meeting with school board officials with a view to working with board attendance counsellors responsible for pupils in Thornhill schools.

Rather than being criticized for having the effrontery to offer aid to the people of old Thornhill, the court should be encouraged to broaden its service to include all of Markham and Vaughan and Richmond Hill. People who have problems that take them to the courts have enough troubles without being put to unnecessary time-consuming inconvenience, such as travelling to Newmarket.

The trustees who supported a staff recommendation that the board use only the Newmarket Court had a point in that it would create extra work for some attendance counsellors in the Thornhill area, but let us hope they will have second thoughts.

It would make more sense if they were to recommend that all juvenile cases in School Areas 3 and 4 go to the Doncaster Court. Such a proposal is a bit premature in view of the fact that court is just getting started, but if the people are behind it, it should not be too long in coming.

Ottawa Takes Another Step Down Road Socialist Society

This summer almost every worker in Canada will be hit by a tax that will finance a new welfare program disguised under the name of unemployment insurance. The federal government is attempting to implement the new program by describing it as merely "improvements" in the existing unemployment insurance system. But the "improvements" amount to a new form of welfare to provide money to persons without jobs.

Federal Labor Minister Bryce Mackasey has attempted to play down the welfare aspects of the program. He has insisted it is still basically job insurance. Mr. Mackasey admitted, however, that the "improvements" are important social legislation which will affect all Canadians directly or indirectly.

The most startling feature in the "improvements" is that they make unemployment insurance a universal scheme, adding about 1,600,000 Canadians to the books of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In the past, anyone earning more than \$7,800 a year, and not on an hourly wage, was excluded. So were certain groups such as policemen, firemen, teachers and municipal employees. Officials estimate that 700,000 of those who will come in under the new plan are people earning less than \$7,800 who are in one of the presently excluded groups. The others are from the over \$7,800 group.

This extension of unemployment insurance to include almost everyone is the strongest reason for criticizing it. In effect, it means the levying of a new tax of up to \$62 a year. They will get little or nothing in return for their money.

The major beneficiaries will be persons who have difficulty holding jobs, or persons in seasonal work who go on unemployment insurance benefits every year. Under the so-called "improvements" it will be easier for people to obtain benefits and the possible benefits will be higher — up to \$100 a week for 51 weeks.

In defending his "improvements" Mr. Mackasey has said such criticisms do not recognize the new nature of the Canadian economy. Anyone could lose his job, according to the Minister. An extension of the unemployment insurance program is needed, he said, to protect the so-called white collar and upper income employees who might be laid off at any time. Certainly, the experiences of many Canadians who lost their jobs during the past winter of unemployment would back Mr. Mackasey's argument that people need income protection no matter what their job level.

However this does not excuse introducing what is really a major new welfare program in the disguise of amendments to a long-established, government-run insurance scheme. People have accepted the existence of unemployment insurance.

This extension of unem-