

HEADS UP FOR KIDS

Thought I would begin this month's article by providing all of the kids and teens out there with a 'heads up' on the fact that Sunday May 8th..... YES, I did just say **SUNDAY MAY 8th**. is **Mother's Day**. Kids, here is an opportunity to win back all of these Brownie points lost in the preceding four months of this year, by a timely intervention with a nice suitably worded card, and perhaps, if the allowance will stand the stress, a bunch of daffodils (\$5 to \$10) or a box of chocks (the 'zero calorie' kind that she loves). Teens, think of the benefits to giving a little bit of appreciation.....! Your room might be able to stay untidy for a few more days before you are gently reminded to "clean up that tip;" your attention might not be drawn to washing the dishes for yet a few more days, and hey, Mom might be persuaded to loan a few \$\$\$\$'s for a burger and fries next week, all for a little bit of thoughtfulness!

For me, I wish my mum/s were still around so that I could spoil them in some little way....but I spoil them in my heart, which is where they have rested for the past 20 or so years.

On a different note folks, this month celebrates the time of Pentecost in the Christian Church. Pentecost, coming 50 days following the death of the leader Jesus, marks the time when the Spirit of Faith and Hope descended on his followers and gave them courage and confidence to carry on with their mission. For us today, Pentecost is a time of God-given transformation; a time to move ahead with new initiatives; a time to take all of the positive thoughts and ideas on which we may have been ruminating, and put them into action.

Today we are seeing "little pentecosts" happening around the World. In the Lebanon, the people of that land are now grasping at the new opportunities for self govern-

ment, now that the Syrian army of stabilization and occupation has moved back to the other side of its own borders. In the Middle East, there has never been such a time of hope that the conflicts between the Palestinians and the Israelites will be placed behind them allowing growth, renewal, and peace to be the order of the day. New initiatives between India and Pakistan may resolve their long-standing conflicts once and for all. A strong and united Europe has taken its place among the world's super powers and only time will tell as to the benefits they will offer to humanity worldwide. China is rapidly venturing forth into the 20th. Century (that's right, I did say the 20th. Century as they have a bit to go yet) and will become the industrial powerhouse of the 21st. century. Etc etc. The world is being transformed.

Pentecost is above all else a time for kick-starting a dream of a new and more just society. It is a time to ask ourselves, among other things, if our country and our world is the kind of place which we would like our grandchildren to inherit from us. When we entertain thoughts like these, most of us simply throw up our hands and say: "what can I do.? I am only one little person... a flea on the proverbial camel's back. Nobody will listen to my voice... a voice crying in the wilderness of our political system."

WRONG! You do have a voice, and if you choose to use it, then you can make contact with your political representatives and let your feelings be known. Make no mistake, if EVERY MPP received a letter from each of their constituents, or even 50% of them, complaining about, for example, their government's attempts to alter Medicare to the detriment of those less able to take care of themselves, then that action would cease. If you feel you have no political representative to represent you, then approach your church and ask them to begin to make its voice known. The separation of church and state works well providing the state maintains a social conscience and acts on behalf of, not only the wealthier members of the community, but ALL members. If that begins to break down, then it is time for other organizations like the Church to take up the challenge of bringing governments to account for their actions or lack of thereof.

On that same note, I'll close this month with a story told in the USSR some years ago: *Premier Khrushchev was speaking before the Supreme Soviet Assembly and was severely critical of the late Premier Stalin. While he was speaking, someone from the gathering sent up a note: "What were you doing when Stalin committed all these atrocities?" Khrushchev shouted, "Who sent up this note?" Not a person stirred. "I'll give you one minute to stand up!" The seconds ticked off. Still no one moved. "All right, I'll tell you what I was doing. I was doing exactly what the writer of this note was doing - exactly nothing! I was afraid*

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ST. PHILIP'S ACW

Calendar of Events - 2005

Canoe Trip	May 23 rd
Garage & Rummage Sale	May 28 th
Pork & Corn Roast	August 3 rd
Turkey Supper	September 21 st
Garage & Rummage Sale	October 1 st
Christmas Tea & Bazaar	November 26 th