On Sunday, June 15, 2008 we celebrated 10 baptisms in our Church, within two families - the Contois and the Henry family. Both families are First Nations and Métis.

The Contois family

We met the Contois family two years ago, when Fr. Jürgen had the funeral of three family members in a six week period. Since that summer the family attends St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church. The entire family is Ojibwa from Winnipeg, Manitoba. They belong to the Long Plain Band. Baptized of the family were: Sierra Yellow-Quill 2 years, Amore Martinez Yellow-Quill 6 years, Tyler Martinez-Yellow-Quill 7 years, Brendan Hunter 6 years, Simone Durette 10 years, Ciara Herman 11 years (friend of the family of Ukrainian – German descent).

The Grandmother of the family, who sits in a wheelchair but manages to come to Church very often with the help of her daughter Theresa, celebrated her 75th birthday on this Sunday and the entire congregation, congratulated her.
The Henry family:
We have known the extended family for over 20 years. Larry Henry is of Cree and French/Irish background, his wife Lori is Cree and Carrier First Nation and works in counseling of First Nation people; their children: Silas 13 years old, and Renee 11 years old go to school. Larry, Lori, and Silas were also confirmed by Bishop Gérard LaPlante on this day.
Above left: baptism of Silas LaCendre

Above right: baptism of Lori Anne LaCendre

above left picture baptism of Larry John Henry;

above right: group picture with all the newly baptized
Above left: taking another picture with grandmother Mrs. Contois. She had 12 children - all born around Winnipeg, Manitoba - and raised all together 20 children. This was her 75th birthday.

Above right: greeting the parishioners after Holy Mass; Mr. Jean Doucet is shaking hands with a new member who just arrived from Mexico a few days earlier.
4 Baptisms at St. Raphael’s Old Catholic Church

On Sunday, June 22, 2008 we had 4 baptisms in our Church, all from the Baliban family.

The Baliban family

We met Mr. Ilie Baliban while he was fixing the building at the corner of 51st & Fraser. After a short discussion we showed him the Church and during the time together we learned that four of his five children were not baptized. We invited him in and arranged for the baptisms. Mr. Baliban is originally from Romania and a former air force pilot; he works now as an independent contractor for electrical repairs. He came to Canada in the late 1980’s first to Quebec, later to Toronto, where he met his wife Margarita, a schoolteacher, who is originally from the Philippines. They moved out to Vancouver in the early 90’s and have made their home in Richmond.
Above left: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with newly baptized Jessica Baliban in the arms of her godfather Mr. Harvey Wilson, top right picture: greeting the parishioners after Holy Mass, seen her with Bishop LaPlante long time member Mrs. Demelo

above pictures: on the left: Dr. Birch and his partner greeting Bishop Gérard LaPlante On the right: the baptismal party with parents, godparents, relatives and friends in front of St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church
Remembering Mr. Josef Sinkovits

On Tuesday, June 24th 2008, we received the sad news that our long time member Mr. Josef (Joe) Sinkovits had passed away in the hospital after a brief stay.

Joe and his wife Maria (RIP) joined our Church in 1981 through the wedding of their son Gerhart and had been members ever since. Their grandchildren were baptized in our Church and their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated at St. Raphael’s Old Catholic Church.

Joe was born in Rechnitz, Burgenland, Austria, where he grew up with his brother. As soon as he was 18 years old, he was drafted into the military and fought during the war throughout Europe including Stalingrad. After the war he took over the family vineyard and married his wife Maria. They immigrated to Canada in 1954, first living in Winnipeg, and a few years later moved to Vancouver, where he worked as a printer until his retirement in 1988. His passion was wine making, hunting, and fishing; he loved to have friends (continue on the next page)

above left picture: Joe is hugged by Mr. Napoleon Durocher, on the right of him Mr. Camilo Bastiampilai. At the picnic of the Church in 2003; above right: at the 50th wedding anniversary of Joe and Maria Sinkovits in June of 2002, left to right: Fr. Jürgen Schmode, Mr. Gerhart Sinkovits, Mr. Joe & Maria Sinkovits; Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Fr. Gordon Hangerud, server
above picture: a long time ago: The graduation paper from his school in Rechnitz, Austria; Believe it or not: Behavior - very good

continued ...and family over for special events and many times Bishop Gérard and Fr. Jürgen where guests at his home. He supplied the Church with his delicious home-made wine. Many children of the Church remember him, because he always carried candy in his pocket, which he distributed after Holy Mass.

He died after a short battle with cancer surrounded by his sons and their families on June 24, 2008 at the age of 85 years. He is survived by his 2 sons, Joe (Nazira) and Gerhart (Darlene), 4 grandchildren, Mikail, Aleia-Marie, Tianna and Brycen. He was predeceased by his wife Maria in 2004.

above picture: 27 June 2004 - The ashes of his wife Maria were blessed at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church.

Prayers will be offered on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at 10:30 am. at St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, 715 E. 51st St., Vancouver, BC

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Old Catholic Church of B. C. in Josef's name would be appreciated by the family.
Left picture: Letter from Joe’s brother written on 20 September 1944 from the Russian front.

He ends the letter with: “… I hope for a healthy reunion. Your brother Ludwig.”

A few days later he was killed in action; the site of his burial is unknown.

By that time Joe’s parents had already passed away and he was the only one left in his family.
In February 2008 Niklas was awarded his Ph.D. in Economics by the Stockholm School of Economics. His thesis “Trust-Building and Communication in SME Internalization” was published the same year. On the request of the Swedish government he was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese government to do post Ph.D. research in Tokyo. The young family will move there in September after a brief stay in Sweden.

Over the years they have always stayed in touch with the Old Catholic Church of BC, visiting us when in Vancouver and sending us pictures when back in Sweden.

Molly is their first daughter and after their stay in Sweden for a month, she will meet her great-grandmother who resides in Tokyo.
Bishop Gérard LaPlante mourns his brother

Mr. Jean-Claude LaPlante - second oldest brother of Bishop Gérard LaPlante - passed away on July 11, 2008 at the age of 77 years. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Ghislaine Couture, seven children and seven grandchildren.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Jacques Catholic Church in Causapscal, Quebec on July 16, 2008 with Bishop Gérard participating. Interment followed in the local cemetery.

On the funeral bulletin the poem reads:

A chapter closed
A page turned
A life well lived
A rest well deserved

May he rest in peace.

Thank you
Bishop Gérard LaPlante and his family want to thank all who have sent sympathy cards and other expressions of condolence. Your thoughtfulness in this time of loss is greatly appreciated.

The picture of the funeral bulletin

The picture on the funeral bulletin is a drawing by famous artist Mr. Bill Boudreau. It portrays the LaPlante family home, where all the children were born. The family lived on the second floor, the first floor was the sawmill. After the death of the father, Mr. Alphonse LaPlante in 1993, Mr. Eddy LaPlante and Mr. Jean-Claude LaPlante continue mill operation. The mill has old forms and moldings. Many people are looking for these old fashioned products. Since new mills can’t produce them, their products are again in demand.
Newly ordained Deacon Jacques-Jean Guilbert

On July 27, 2008 Bishop J. Gérard A. LaPlante ordained Mr. Jacques-Jean Guilbert from Québec City, Québec to the deaconate in the presence of Fr. Sylvain Tremblay and Fr. Fernand Frigon from Montreal, and Fr. Claude Lacroix. The parents of the new deacon, friends, and parishioners of the Good Shepherd Old Catholic Mission filled the Church to witness the ceremony and to welcome the new deacon.  Continue next page
Newly ordained Deacon Jacques-Jean Guilbert cont.

The new deacon was born in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec on April 24, 1962 where he was baptized the same year in St. Eugéne Catholic Church and confirmed by Bishop Albert Sanchargrin in 1970. He studied at the Université Laval, receiving his Bachelor in Theology in 1989, and his Certificate in Pedagogy in 1991. He is currently enrolled at the Université Laval for a Master of Theology degree and expects to graduate in 2009. He is assisting Fr. Claude LaCroix at the Good Shepherd Old Catholic Mission in Québec City, Québec.

Continue on next page
Above left: left to right: in the garden of Fr. Claude Lacroix: Fr. Claude Lacroix, Mr. Jacques Duchèsne, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Mrs. Monique LaPlante, the sister of Bishop LaPlante. She and her husband Mr. Duchèsne drove the Bishop from Causapscal on the Gaspé coast (ca. 500 km away) to Québec City.

top right picture: Mr. Duchèsne, Mrs. LaPlante, Fr. Lacroix, the new Deacon Fr. Jacques-Jean Guilbert.

above pictures: on the left: Bishop Gérard LaPlante with his sister Mrs. Monique LaPlante and her husband Mr. Jacques Duchesne inside the chapel of Fr. Lacroix.

On the right: Mr. Duchèsne, Mrs. Monique LaPlante, Bishop Gérard LaPlante, Deacon Jacques-Jean Guilbert.
Processional Chapel

This small Processional Chapel is located at Ile d’Orléans in Québec. This kind of chapel was used for the Corpus Christi Procession and many chapels still exist today. They are open to the travelling public for prayers and meditation. The interior of the tabernacle of this chapel was designed and painted in Oil by Sister Raphael, n.d.p.s.