**Our Lady of Mercy School**

7481 10th Ave.

Burnaby, B.C.

V3N 2S1

**Important Dates**:

Tuesday, September 13 Picture Day Full Uniform Required

Thursday, September 15 Meet the Teacher and General Parent Meeting

Friday, September 16 Professional Day Office and School are Closed

Please visit [www.ourladyofmercy.ca](http://www.ourladyofmercy.ca) for full calendar details

**Lowering of the Flags**

Our Lady of Mercy school is saddened by the news of Queen Elizbeth ll’s passing. In memory of Her Majesty The Queen, all CISVA schools have lowered their flags to half-mast.

*Almighty God,*

*You are the author and sustainer of all human life;*

*Grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen, whom you granted a long and happy reign as Monarch of these lands*

*may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life promised to all those born again*

*in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit.*

*Eternal rest, grant to her O Lord,*

*And let Perpetual light shine upon her.*

*May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,*

*Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

*Amen.*

**General Parent Meeting and Meet the Teacher**

It is great to be back and to be able to hold meetings in person. This year we are combining a general meeting for parents and meeting the classroom teacher.

Agenda for Parent Meeting

Where: School Gym

When: There are TWO sessions to choose from. Only choose ONE

 You can attend either at 6:30 pm or 6:55 pm

PEC Will cover new programs such as Activity Messager and Hot Lunch that will hopefully make parent’s lives easier, as well as Youth Cat

 Our website is getting a facelift. Come to the meeting to learn more.

Mrs. Grout An explanation of OLM’s Mission Statement

 An explanation of OLM’s Philosophy and promise for Communicating Student Learning to Parents

Mrs. Ladouceur An explanation and presentation on the Learning Resource Center

Mr. Abaquin

**Meet the Teacher**

Where: The Grade Teacher’s Classroom

Times: There are TWO sessions to choose from. Only choose ONE

 6:55 pm or 7:20 pm

**Mrs. Grout’s Pilgrimage**

Terry O’Neill who writes for the B.C. Catholic wrote an in-depth article on our pilgrimage to Austria and Germany. We were blessed to have Father Hughes and Father Mark as our spiritual leaders.

 Terry wrote:

“Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey towards heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2691”

With daily Masses in historic churches and chapels and daily Rosaries many of us experienced personal moments of spiritual richness. As our pilgrimage ended, our priests encouraged us not to keep these moments to ourselves, but to share them.

In the B.C. Catholic article, *“Spiritual blessings from an earthly pilgrimage”* Terry O’Neill has captured many of these moments and I encourage you to go on-line to read them.

I would like to share with you my moment. Thank you for listening.

There were many spiritual moments throughout my pilgrimage but there is one I’d like to share. First, a brief background of the surrounding area. My moment of grace took place in a modest Baroque pilgrimage church in Passau, Altstadt adjacent to St. Paul’s Monastery, Bavaria. During our walking tour of Passau, the guide talked about Mariahilf, the miracle pilgrimage church and the monastery, however, it was not scheduled for us to visit. Noticing our disappointment arrangements were made to visit Mariahilf.

MariaHilf pilgrimage Church rises on a hill above Innstadt. The pilgrimage was founded in 1622 by Cathedral Dean Baron Marquard von Schwendi when he had a chapel built at this site with the miraculous painting of Mariahilf by Lucas Cranach the Elder. The “heavenly ladder” (321 steps) built in 1628, is a covered pilgrimage route up the hill from Passau. The walls of the staircase are adorned with pictures, hearts, crosses, and other mementos with prayers of miracles and thanksgiving.

But this was not where my spiritual encounter took place. I was touched by grace in a side room in front of the statue of Mary and Jesus. Sitting there quietly praying, I filled out a prayer card for a personal intention and lit a candle. That’s when I experienced reality in a different way. I believe it to be a higher state than normal everyday life. Everything around me disappeared. I had no awareness of time, sound, or my environment. I was hyper focussed on Mary. There was a moment of grace, a recognition, that something greater exists, and for a moment I was a part of it. I felt a calming, a knowing, that Mary knew everything. I experienced her gentle, loving, calm energy and demeanour. I felt the power of unconditional love, agape, and I knew that everything would be okay.

Literally translated, Mariahilf, means Mary’s Help otherwise known as Our Lady of Mercy.