



RETIRING BCC BOOKKEEPER Arline Stevens (left) with her replacement, Heather Löfstrom. (Photo contributed)

BCC bookkeeper retires

Arline Stevens, bookkeeper at *The BC Catholic* for the past 17 years, retired at the end of April.

She was honored at an Apr. 24 Mass celebrated by Archbishop Adam Exner OMI followed by a luncheon reception, at which BC Catholic editor Father Vincent Hawkswell presented her with a piece of luggage from the Catholic Services staff.

Mrs. Stevens and her husband Jim, also retired, plan to continue dancing, sailing and traveling. First on the agenda is a six weeks' trip to visit relatives in England.

The Stevens left England for eastern Canada 30 years ago. They now live in White Rock.

"I will miss my coworkers," Mrs. Stevens said, "but I won't miss the daily commute. I'm looking forward to having time to smell the flowers."

In Mrs. Stevens' place, *The BC Catholic* has welcomed Heather Löfstrom, originally from Saskatchewan. She first moved to BC in her high school years, and has just returned to BC after living for a number of years in Ontario. □

Taping of confession to be investigated

EUGENE, Oregon (CNS)—Officials of the Archdiocese of Portland are investigating the secret tape-recording of a priest hearing confession for an inmate suspected of murder.

When Father Tim Mockaitis, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Eugene, administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to inmate Conan Wayne Hale in the Lane County Jail, the conversation was being recorded by Lane County jailers, but the priest and penitent were unaware of the taping.

Prosecutors said they obtained the tape, and a court order allowed investigators to listen to it, but its admissibility in court is still in question.

Hale, 20, is being held on \$180,000 (US) bail on charges of burglary and theft in connection with the murders of three teenagers. He has not been charged with the murders but is a suspect. His trial is scheduled for June.

In a statement, the archdiocese said that while an investigation of the taping is still underway, "the bonds of sacramental Confession are held by the Church to be inviolable."

"The strict confidentiality of the Sacrament not only has long standing ... in the Church, but is a privileged relationship recognized in Oregon law. This incident appears to have been a violation of this private, confidential, privileged relationship," the statement said.

Oregon law exempts Catholic clergy and ministers of other faiths from being questioned about private conversations, but according

to District Attorney Doug Harclerod it does allow the recording of conversations inside jails and does not exempt sacramental Confessions.

"We are trying to solve a triple homicide. We will use all legal means to do that," Harclerod was quoted as saying May 8.

Harclerod said, however, that this was the first time he knows of where a conversation has been recorded without the knowledge of the minister or priest.

"Certainly, as far as the Church is concerned, that is privileged information and should not be used in a court of law," Father Mockaitis told the *Register-Guard*, a daily newspaper in Eugene.

Archdiocesan officials said they are exploring possible legal action, noting that the incident has implications for clergy and ministers of all faiths.

The Church's lawyers have met with Eugene officials in an effort to find out who authorized the recording and how often such private meetings have been recorded. □

THE SISTERS OF SERVICE OF CANADA
congratulate

UNA BLENKHORNE

the recipient of the
SISTER CATHERINE DONNELLY
Theology and Mission Bursary
for 1996

Investors Group
INVESTORS GROUP FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

- Low investment return?
- Paying too much tax?
- Estate planning
- Charitable remainder trust.



Call **BOB RESCH** for a Personal
Financial Consultation
Bus. 682-5431 Res. 986-8457
Cellular 351-0012

Father Beauregard remembered

By **FR. V.J. HAWKSWELL**
Father Gérard Beauregard, who died Apr. 25 at the age of 87, was different—no question about that.

But the more I think about the man I remember and the more I hear from other people since his death, the more I think about St. Paul's words to the Corinthians: "If any one of you thinks he is wise in a worldly way, he had better become a fool"—in the eyes of the world.

You can certainly call a priest "idiosyncratic" who dresses as he did, with sweaters and scarves he has knitted himself fastened at the neck with safety pins; who lives in the men's hostel in the Catholic Charities Building in a tiny room crammed with books.

But he was peculiar in other ways, too.

He had a marvelously comprehensive, up-to-date knowledge of current affairs which he would try to share with me not only as I hurried from the parking lot to *The BC Catholic* office every day, but more often in the wee hours of the morning when I was trying to get the paper put together.

He had not only a thorough knowledge of French, his native language (he was born in Québec), and English, but also some knowledge of Portuguese, Italian, German, Persian and Slavonic languages, including Ukrainian—acquired so as to be better qualified for what he called the "missionary" Archdiocese of Vancouver. He spent a good deal of time translating devotional works from French to English.

In 1979, when he was 70, he completed a 12-week writing skills course offered by *The Province*. In 1981 he finished a First Aid Course. Between 1981 and 1983 he completed 11 courses in power engineering at the Vancouver Vocational Institute, in which all but one of his marks were in the 80s and 90s.

Many people, including Monsignor David Monroe, now Vancouver archdiocesan vicar general, who knew him well, spoke of him as a genius.

Fr. Beauregard was generous. When loonies first came out, he would go to the bank and get rolls of 25, which he would then distribute to the street people among whom he spent his days downtown.

Even in his later years, when I knew him best—when his peculiar eccentricities had become most marked—I thought of him as a holy man. There is no other word for it.

Others remember too

A number of people wrote letters to Archbishop Exner after Fr. Beauregard's death, some of which he quoted at the priest's funeral.

Marnie and Rose Norris, who remember Fr. Beauregard from



FR. GERARD BEAUREGARD with his little flock of parishioners at St. Gerard's Mission on Bowen Island at the opening Mass, Sept. 5, 1971. (Photo by Cecilia Sothey)

his few years in the North Thompson Valley in the late 1930s, wrote from Golden, "We were very small children at the time and would not remember him if it were not for the happy effect he had on the people he visited."

The car in which he tackled "pioneer conditions, uncertain weather and trails unsuited to automobile traffic" was "held together and kept operating by fencing wire, pieces of Rosaries and prayer," they said.

Rita Harris, who wrote from Airdrie AB, knew Fr. Beauregard in 1937 when he was at St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver.

"He was there for us as we were growing up," she said. "He sang with us, swam with us, skied with us. He cheered us on at our ball games. One year he spent his meager salary to buy baseball caps for us."

Built St. Gerard's

Peter Wright, who lives on Bowen Island, described how Fr. Beauregard built St. Gerard's Church, which parishioners of the mission unanimously agreed to name after his patron saint.

When he first started to visit Bowen, he celebrated Mass in the Union Steamship's Evergreen Hall, travelling over on the Bainbridge ferry with a backpack containing what he needed for Mass.

Gradually, however—after he had persuaded the Union Steam-

ship Company to donate a corner property in the Deep Bay area—he started also bringing over spike boots and harness belts for climbing trees, a double-bladed axe, a safety hat and ropes with which to cut down the alders that covered the lot.

At his solicitation, money and donations came from all over: an organ from the Sisters at St. Vincent's Hospital, a crucifix carved by a parishioner out of a yellow cedar log, Stations of the Cross painted by another parishioner, a set of pews and altar furnishings from the Canadian Forces, a tabernacle he fashioned himself and gifts of money from all over Bowen Island—everybody, Catholic or not, knew Fr. Beauregard.

Fr. Beauregard celebrated the first Mass at St. Gerard's Sept. 5 1971.

Yes—Fr. Beauregard was different, eccentric, peculiar, idiosyncratic.

But so was St. Joseph Benedict Labre, who tramped penniless through Europe from shrine to shrine, living on handouts and discarded scraps and, toward the end, sleeping in a poor men's hostel like Fr. Beauregard.

And so was Christ, Who also refused to live in a house and live a normal life.

Perhaps we've had a saint among us. □



FORAN
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

Headaches, Neck and Back Pain

266-1461

8041 Granville St. (at 64th)

MSP, ICBC, WCB Accepted
Over 35 Years Experience

Sinclair Travel

Providing Travel Services since 1987

For all your travel needs,
corporate or vacation
Call **682-1720** Fax **682-1718**



Fernande & Peter Husar, Owners

757 W. Hastings, Vancouver V6C 1A1
(located in Sinclair Centre)