

MAR. 1993

# island catholic news

FEATURE:  
Bishop De Roo's  
Five Year Report  
pages 7 - 10

VOL. 7 NO. 2 MARCH 1993 Independent Monthly Serving Vancouver Island

ONE DOLLAR PER COPY

## Comox Valley Priest Featured on CBC's Man Alive

Charles Brandt of Black Creek Receives National Attention for His Many and Varied Works

**F**ather Charles Brandt, the hermit priest of Black Creek, will be the subject of CBC's *Man Alive* on Monday, April 12 at 10:00 P.M.

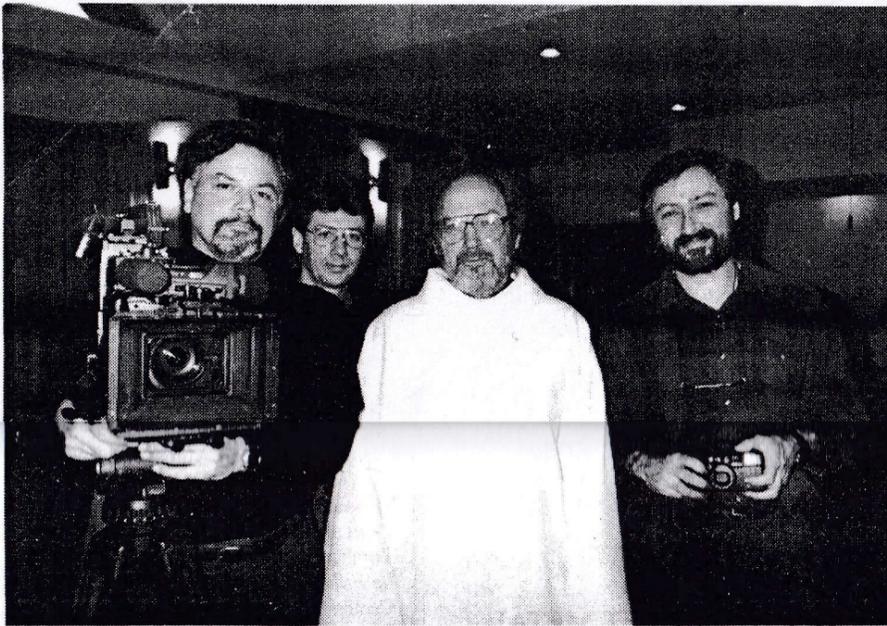
Producer David Cherniak said he became aware of Fr. Brandt as a result of recent articles in the *Vancouver Sun* and *Harrowsmith* magazine. "The themes that Charles is interested in are *Man Alive* themes, especially the relationship between spirituality and the environment," he noted, adding "the Judeo-Christian tradition lost its connectedness with the world during the industrial revolution and materialism became one with spirituality. For the vast majority of people their main form of worship is materialism. It is the principle behind Charles' work that this illness can't continue and it is the reason we agreed to do this."

The program will feature an interview between Brandt and host Peter Downie and includes filmed excerpts of the many activities Brandt was involved in during the last week of January. These include a meeting of Oyster River Management Committee members with McMillan Bloedel and Fletcher Challenge, at the Oyster River Hatchery, book binding at the Hermitage where Brandt makes his living, fly-fishing on the Oyster and Campbell Rivers, and conservation monitoring in the library at the Haig-Brown house in Campbell River.

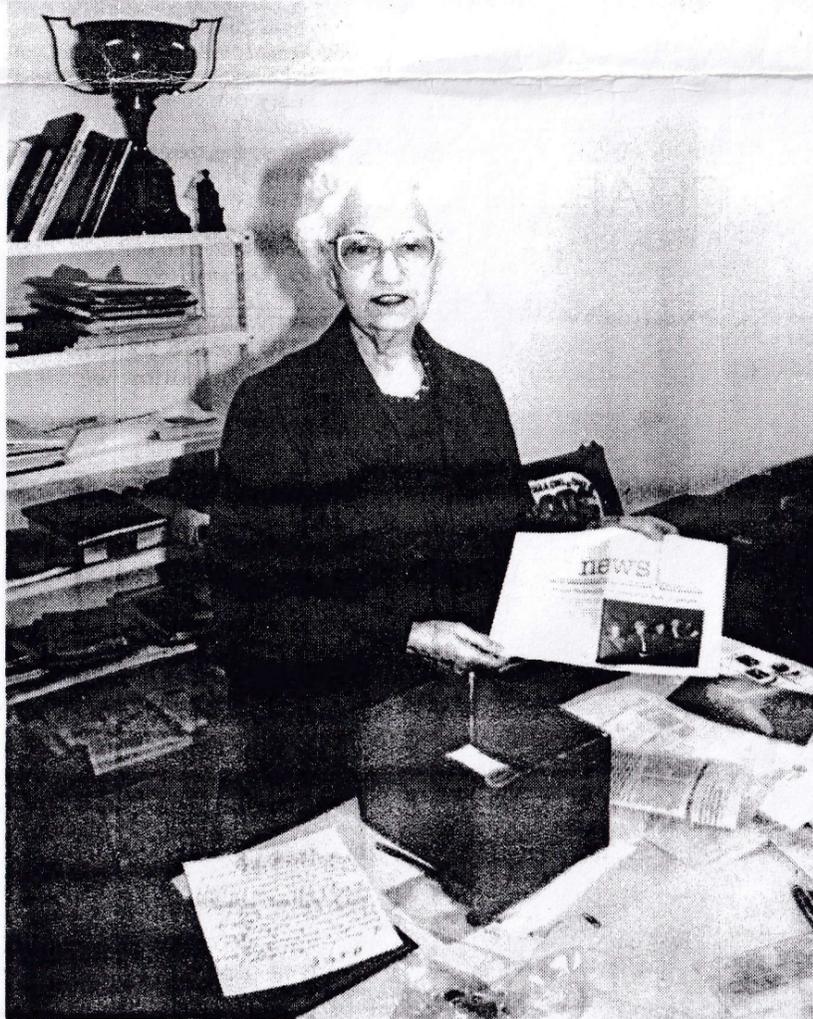
Another of the events covered was Fr. Brandt's meditation group which is part of the world-wide *Meditatio* community of Christian meditation groups. In introducing the meditation process he quoted Dom Bede Griffiths of the Saccidananda Ashram in India where he lived for two years: "We open our deep consciousness to the infinitely transcendental consciousness of Christ and are carried on the stream of love to the Father."

"We almost lost the contemplative tradition at the time of the Reformation as the Church went into evangelism," Brandt continued, "but now it is being revived to fill our great hunger for closer union with God."

At the end Brandt directed the meditation group to make the ten minute walk to their cars in a silent,



MAN ALIVE CREW — after the filming of a mass celebrated by Fr. Charles Brandt at St. Patrick's, Campbell River. Left to right: Steve Adamcyrck (camera), Larry Kent (sound), Fr. Brandt and Man Alive producer David Cherniak.



MESSAGE TO A FUTURE GENERATION — Vera McIver, Diocesan Archivist, displays the contents of the time capsule which was replaced in St. Andrew's Cathedral on Feb. 7. Story and photos pages 2 and 3.

walking meditation, at peace with the earth, letting all drop away—hostility, anger and great plans, for there is no destination. "The earth itself is revelatory," he said. "Nothing is more beautiful than the walk to the street."

Another event filmed for *Man Alive* was Fr. Brandt's monthly mass at St. Patrick's, Campbell River. As it was a mass for Christian unity it gave Brandt, a former Anglican minister, an opportunity to expand on his vision of oneness for the earth. "The need for unity is encapsulated in the communion antiphon taken from Jesus' great prayer that all may be one—family, friends, and universe...The ecumenical movement and the environment are related issues for we should be in communion with each other and we have a great need to be united with our brothers and sisters."

"Why is there disunity in the world today?" he asked, "because we are a dysfunctional society. We have been relating to other people and to God but not to the earth. If we would overcome this dysfunction we should be guided by the spirituality of the aboriginal people who do get along with the earth." He noted that the Synod documents encourage new models of community based on a new relationship with the earth.

"What is our ultimate destiny? It is to find love in human form, to journey out of emptiness and into love." In conclusion he said, "We celebrate the past, grieve the disaster of the present and move to the future held together with unity and love."

Summing up the message he hopes to convey in this encounter with *Man Alive*, Brandt told *ICN*, "The old way of approaching environmental issues is confrontational, for example the current problem with the elk here, and my point of view is that the contemplative dimension helps us find unity with all creation, fusing the environmental and the contemplative—that is what I stress."

The exposure of Charles Brandt's message on national television should help promote his philosophy.

Joan Brown,  
North Island Co-ordinator  
*Island Catholic News*