

UNITING IN FAITH FOR HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL AND CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTRE

A *Uniting in Faith* fundraising campaign for the Holy Family Cathedral and Diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre is underway.

See Pages 12-14 for:

- BISHOP'S MESSAGE
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
- INSIGHTS FROM CAMPAIGN CHAIRS
- FUNDING GOALS AND TIME LINE
- SPACE AT THE CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTRE



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

Visit us on the web at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Spring 2008



Easter joy

Kayla Blom happily holds up the egg she was decorating with Easter symbols at a recent family gathering organized after a Sunday Mass by Children's Liturgy of the Word volunteers at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon.

Diocese gathers for Chrism Mass

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parish representatives from across the diocese gathered March 17 at St. Patrick's Parish in Saskatoon to begin Holy Week with the Mass of Chrism, a celebration of diocesan unity.

Bishop Albert LeGatt blessed the three sacred oils which were then taken back to each parish for sacramental use throughout the year: the oil of the sick; the oil of catechumens used at baptism; and the sacred chrism, a mixture of oil and perfume used during baptism, confirmation, ordination and the dedication of churches and altars.

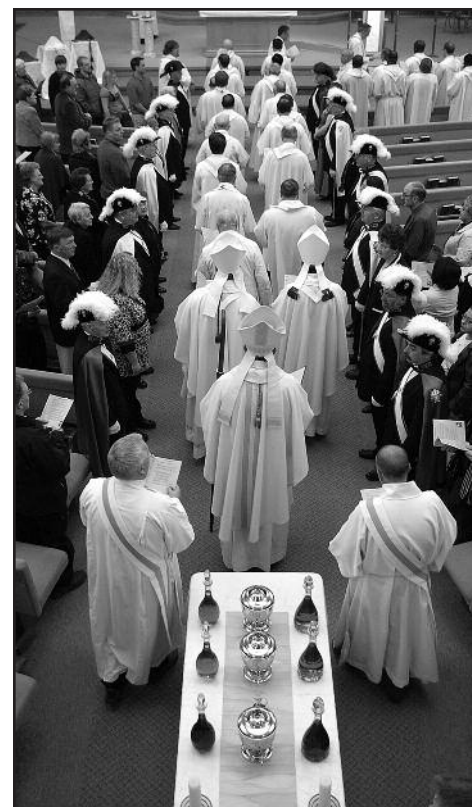
During the annual celebration the bishop also asked priests from across the diocese to renew their priestly commitment, recalling the first Eucharist at which Jesus Christ shared the call to priestly service.

Some 50 priests stood to express their resolution to unite themselves more closely to Christ and to imitate him in teaching the Christian faith and in bringing peace and love to those they serve. The bishop then asked the people to pray for our priests "that God will bless them with the fullness of His love and help them to be faithful ministers of Christ."

In his homily the bishop reflected on diocesan identity. "We can once again ask ourselves, as the entire people of this diocese, the church of Saskatoon, what is our vision? Who are we as the church here – in our rural and urban reality, in central Saskatchewan in this time of our history? Who are we called to be as the body of Christ, the living sacrament, the living sign and instrument of Christ's presence and mission to the people of our place and our time?"

In reflecting on the question of identity Bishop LeGatt hearkened back to the image of thousands gathered for celebration of the Eucharist at the Credit Union Centre during the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in October.

"I will always recall the image of all those people, two from each parish in our diocese, bringing their candles to place them all together. Each light, each candle spoke of their particular efforts in their parishes to make them a place of prayer, of welcome, a place of support and growth and all this nourished and gathered by the Eucharist which is indeed the centre of our Church and of who we are," LeGatt said. "All set together, these candles shone out powerfully – a symbol of our faith alive."



Priests of the diocese participate in the entrance procession.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

CHRISM MASS - PAGE 2

Tour recalls hurt caused by residential schools policy

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

About 500 people attended the Saskatoon portion of a national *Remembering the Children* tour of Aboriginal and church leaders held as a promotion and preparation for a much-anticipated Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Establishment of the commission is one element of an Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement reached between the government, churches and Aboriginal organizations in 2006. Once it is established, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will spend five years promoting public education and awareness about the Indian Residential School system and its legacy, as well as providing former students, families and communities with an opportunity to share their experiences.

Aboriginal leaders joined church leaders from the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and United Church denominations in the *Remembering the Children* tour, which also included stops in Ottawa (March 2), Vancouver (March 7) and Winnipeg (March 10).

Rev. Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, which hosted the Saskatoon stop March 9, opened the event with words of greeting, and Elders Ethel and



The Saskatoon event ended with a Round Dance.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Hector Ahenekeu led the gathering in prayer.

Hector Ahenekeu described how he had been asked to arrive early at the Western Development Museum venue to lead a traditional smudging ceremony. "When my dad was young and starting school this was looked down upon," he said of the ceremony. "How things have changed. To see the bishops come up for smudging, it was really something. I want to thank them for

smudging and not looking down on it."

Alison Uitti performed a song entitled "We Are All Treaty People," which she wrote after learning about the history of what has happened to Aboriginal peoples in this country.

During the *Remembering the Children* tour, Aboriginal and church leaders spoke poignantly about the history and the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools, and of government policies of assimilation.

Between 1857 and 1969, thousands of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were removed from their homes and families and taken to Indian Residential Schools. The schools established across Canada by the federal government were staffed and administered by church organizations, including Roman Catholic dioceses and religious orders, Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches. Children attending the schools were forced to relinquish their language and culture, and family ties were broken, sometimes forever. There were also cases of physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations said that he has seen first hand the damage caused by residential schools. "The devastation that occurred behind those so called institutions is

still alive and well today," Joseph said, describing how the intergenerational effects can be seen in addictions, in dependency, in the children on the street, and in the prisons.

Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, related the residential school experiences of a friend, who was taken from family and home as a child. He described some of the conditions she endured, adding "But the real pain came later, when she realized she has no home to go to... not only were they taken from their home, but they were forced to live in such a way that it made it impossible for many of them to return home," he said.

Ted Quewezance, executive director of the National Residential School Survivors' Society, related his own experience, encouraging his listeners to think of a beloved child or grandchild as they heard his story of being taken away from his grandparents. "That's all I had was my grandparents, and the government of Canada, Indian Affairs, came and dragged me away from my grandpa and they told my grandpa 'if you don't let this little boy go, you'll be going to jail.'"

Sexually abused from the age of five to the age of 11 by those in positions of trust, he told of the devastation of eventually revealing

REMEMBERING - PAGE 2

Church leaders apologize for harm done

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his experiences to his family, to his wife and to his children. He also related the trauma of going through disclosure in court, and of being called a liar. "I'm still here. And many many survivors across the country are still here."

He also said the legacy of the residential schools continues to haunt our society. "A lot of people were institutionalized when they were little boys and little girls, and they graduated into the correctional centres, into the penitentiaries. That's why they're there today," Quewezance said.

"We are now in a process of reconciliation," he said, noting that this will be a different process for each individual. However, he expressed hope that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission would assist in healing, and help in raising public awareness about what happened in this country.

Although it may not be perfect, the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement has now been reached, and common experience payments are going into the hands of survivors, Quewezance said. Elders are investing money in their grandchildren and children, "and many of our survivors have spent that money really well. They have injected those dollars into their local economies and benefited cities in and around this country."

However, money will not bring about healing, he stressed, calling for a true process of reconciliation. "A million dollars will never take the pain or the memory away," he said, while also describing the hurt of hearing statements about "there go the Indians again, getting more money."

Ensuring that the truth about the residential schools be told is an important part of the agreement, Quewezance said. "What has happened to us as little boys and little girls in those residential schools is one of the best kept secrets in this country," he said. "I personally ask each and every one to follow, to read the information. The Truth and Reconciliation

MORE NEWS ON THE WEBSITE:
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Commission will be coming and we have to tell our stories."

Rev. Dr. David Giuliano, moderator of the United Church of Canada, said he has been shocked to realize how few Canadians know about or understand the impact of the Indian Residential School system. The main purpose of this tour is to call non-Aboriginal Canadians to an awareness of the schools and of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he said.

"But it's not enough for the truth to be told. There have to be people who are willing to listen and to be transformed by what they hear," Giuliano stressed.

Church representatives each described their denomination's involvement in the residential school system, and shared apologies and words of regret with the gathering.

Speakers representing different church organizations included Guiliano, Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, Moderator of the 133rd General Assembly, The Presbyterian Church in Canada; Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate, the Anglican Church of Canada; Most Rev. Albert LeGatt, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; Most Rev. Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas, and Sr. Rita Bisson, PM.

"I wish to express my deep regret and deep sadness over the loss of culture and language and spiritual values experienced by many who attended these residential schools," Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt said, "and for the sense of hurt and loss this brought about. And I am especially saddened by hearing about individual cases of abuse: physical and sexual."

LeGatt also noted that many priests, brothers and sisters served with devotion, working to educate children within a system that was flawed from the outset. "My hope is

that we will find together, in listening to each other, in dialogue and in renewed efforts to build relationship, a way to reconciliation and healing."

Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, also apologized for the loss of culture, language, parenting skills and family life that happened through the residential schools.

"For the wrong doing, the physical abuse, the sexual abuse committed by any of the personnel who staffed the schools and for the harm this caused the children and their families. I am deeply sorry. I apologize. I ask forgiveness," Lavoie said.

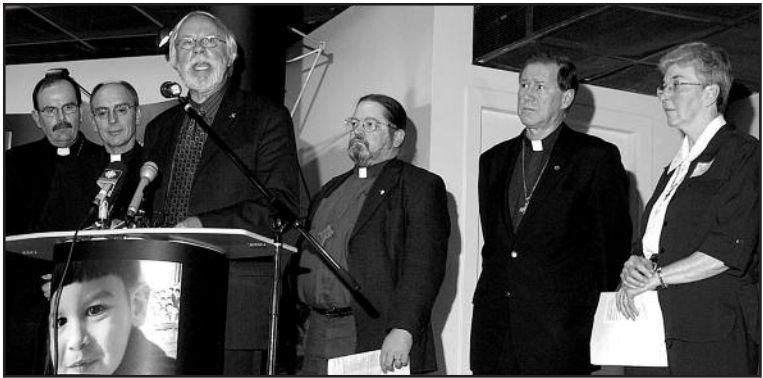
However, Lavoie also acknowledged that many members of religious organizations did their best to provide care within that flawed system. "Such persons helped many, at least in our diocese, to have a positive experience at residential schools."

Sr. Rita Bisson, PM, then detailed some of the healing initiatives being undertaken by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

"The Anglican Church of Canada was complicit in a program that took children far from homes and their families, from their traditions and their culture ... all in the interest of trying to remake them in our image," Hiltz said of his church's involvement.

In addition, there were cases of physical, emotional and sexual abuse against children in the schools, he said. "We know that many of these children were scarred for life. Many went missing. Many died. Many have taken their stories and experience in silence to the grave; and many have survived their horrendous experiences," said Hiltz. "In remembering the children, the Anglican Church of Canada has so much for which to be sorry."

Giuliano also read portions of the United Church of Canada's apologies to First Nations peoples, a general apology in 1988 and another in 1998 related to Indian



Church leaders pledged to work for reconciliation and justice.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Residential Schools.

After repeating the apologies of their churches, both Hiltz and Giuliano detailed concrete healing programs that have been launched and supported by their church communities.

Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, described the experience of looking at the photos of children in the residential schools contained in the denomination's archives. He described beautiful young faces and reflected upon the trauma so many experienced.

"I have difficulty in thinking about how the church that I love cooperated in efforts to assimilate First Nations, Métis and Inuit children to the white, Euro-Canadian society," Kouwenberg said, before quoting from the apology issued by the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1994.

In interviews after the event, several local participants reflected on the messages presented as part of the *Remembering the Children* tour.

Verna Vandale, Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic Parish in Saskatoon said the event is another step on the road to healing for former students. Reflecting on her own experience in residential school, she said that some of the leader messages were extremely powerful and heartfelt, while others were a bit disappointing in their lukewarm tone.

"Because of the crowd, I have a sense that more and more people are listening. There wouldn't have been as many attending if they

weren't," she said. "In that listening they are validating our experience. I find a lot of hope in that."

The existence of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, which combines First Nations spirituality and the Catholic faith in serving a congregation of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal parishioners, is another powerful sign of hope, she said. "We are a parish that's working towards healing, both in our culture and in our faith."

Being able to let go of the hurt and heal the brokenness caused by the residential school experience requires a sense of being heard, she said of the Truth and Reconciliation process. "Healing is needed so we are able to let go of a lot of these issues. We won't ever forget them, but we can let them go," she said. "I'm not healed, but I'm healing."

Our Lady of Guadalupe member Gayle Weenie, another local person attending the event, noted that a face to face encounter is always more powerful than a public statement. "What about going to the children and saying I'm sorry. That's what's going to count," she said. "But it is a step in the right direction."

Rev. Amanda Currie of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, said that she was particularly moved when former students of residential schools were invited to stand. "Their courage and their strength had an impact on those who were here."

The event concluded with a meal, and a round dance, with music provided by the drumming group "Young Thunder."

More information about the tour is available at the website: www.rememberingthechildren.ca

Chrism Mass: sign of diocesan unity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the same way, the International Eucharistic Congress in June will be a powerful symbol and image of the entire universal church, he noted. "It is our faith in Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist, giving us his body and blood, his total self, so as to transform us into a Eucharistic people."

The very gathering of the Chrism Mass is also a strong image,

a picture of the identity of the diocesan church, he said. "This Chrism Mass manifests our communion in Christ - bishop, priests, deacons, lay people - we are all united in the one royal priesthood and sacrifice of Christ which continues to be present in and through the Church.... So that the kingdom of God may be established and salvation may be brought to all."

Each one has particular gifts and talents, lived out in particular

areas of service, but all are filled with the same Spirit, and are called to join Christ in his mission, LeGatt said.

Knowing that the Spirit is at work, we need not fear, the bishop added. "We have no need to be anxious or fearful, we should not be ambivalent or indifferent, and we must not be angry or controlling or dismissive. When the Spirit guides us, then we find that place within our heart and within our church to indeed rest in the Lord and confidently do his work through the Spirit."

It is important to be attentive to where the Spirit is guiding us today, LeGatt added. "The Spirit has a vision for the diocese of Saskatoon, for our parishes and for each of our lives. May we always be open to his ways, the ways of Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega."

Faithful headed to Quebec City

Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism, reports that over 50 people from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will be attending the International Eucharistic Congress, June 15 to 22, 2008 in Quebec City.

About half of those will participate in the Ministry to Tourism pilgrim journey all-inclusive program from June 14 to 23. The others have made independent arrangements.

The organization of the Congress is still accepting registrations (\$230 for the week). Ministry to Tourism is presently only accepting application for space on its comprehensive program on a space request or wait-list basis, Kleiter said.

For registrations and details contact Kleiter at 306-244-3747; email: kleiter@shaw.ca or call Lois McKay at 306-373-0993; email: agmckay1@shaw.ca website: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

With funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, this newsletter is published twice per year (spring/summer & fall/winter)

by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications Coordinator

Phone: 306-242-1500 or 306-651-3935

or toll free at: 1-877-661-5005 Fax: 244-6010

Mail: 100 - 5th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7

Email: communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Web page: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon Operating fund revenue and expenses

For year end June 30, 2007
Audited by Deloitte and Touche

	2006 Operating Fund	2007 Operating Fund
Support and revenue		
Bishop's Appeal	\$1,053,091	\$1,078,572
Parish assessments	906,866	942,380
Investment income	160,853	213,009
Donations	417,392	551,987
Brazil collections	18,305	17,012
Ministries	104,791	123,773
Sundry	224,741	188,355
	<u>2,886,039</u>	<u>3,115,088</u>
Expenses		
Pastoral services	981,327	955,838
Outreach grants & donations	564,656	662,142
Clergy and vocations	340,758	392,207
Brazil mission	66,440	138,187
Administration	763,415	834,355
Parish support	126,766	123,441
	<u>2,843,362</u>	<u>3,106,170</u>
Revenue less expenses before the undernoted:	42,677	8,918
Unrealized gains (losses) in the market value of investments:	<u>11,789</u>	<u>133,977</u>
Revenue less expenses:	54,466	142,895
Fund balance, beginning of year:	<u>685,659</u>	<u>740,125</u>
Fund balance, end of year:	\$ <u>740,125</u>	\$ <u>883,020</u>



About 600 people participated in this year's Good Friday event.
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Justice and peace highlighted in downtown Way of the Cross

Justice and peace issues were the focus of prayers at 14 stations along a downtown Way of the Cross through the streets of Saskatoon Good Friday, March 21. About 600 people participated in the two-hour event, which has been organized for the past 12 years by the Justice and Peace Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The program put together by organizers Tony Haynes and Carol Zubiak involved a number of community and faith groups preparing and presenting reflections at prayers at stations such as the courthouse, a medical arts building, a newspaper office, a youth centre, the Canada Employment building, a bank, downtown churches and a mall.

The event began on the steps of the courthouse on Spadina Avenue, with a smudging ceremony led by elders Charlie and Jean Sutherland. After Anglican Bishop Rodney Andrews and Roman Catholic Bishop Albert LeGatt participated in the ceremony, the gathering prayed in the four directions.

The L'Arche Saskatoon community began the Way of the Cross with a reflection on inclusive communities., before participants

walked to the next station, singing hymns along the way.

Other themes included literacy, led by Sts. Martyrs-Canadiens parish in both English and French; living wages, led by Catholic Christian Outreach; discrimination against homosexuals led by PFLAG; and justice and reconciliation led by the Mennonite Central Committee.

Members of Nashi reflected on the issue of human trafficking and the sex trade, while youth from Holy Spirit parish sang a song at the seventh station, addressing the problems facing children at risk.

Reflections and prayers were also offered about prisons by the diocesan office of restorative justice; capitalism by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish; the war in Afghanistan by the Saskatoon Peace Coalition; and affordable housing by *Equal Justice for All*, a city-wide anti-poverty advocacy group, as well as by Campus Ministry.

L'Arche welcomes first core members to home

BY WYNDHAM THIESSEN & MARGARET SANCHE

In the middle of a cold, dark Saskatchewan winter, new life was stirring in Saskatoon. On Feb. 15, 2008, the first core member (individual with an intellectual disability) was welcomed into the first L'Arche home in Saskatoon—and L'Arche Saskatoon was born.

Several weeks later, L'Arche Saskatoon was officially received into the International Federation of L'Arche as a probationary community.

Three assistants and two core members now live in the home—which was given the name “Christopher House”—and, in time, two more core members will also be welcomed.

The house has undergone extensive renovations, including the installation of a sprinkler system for fire prevention purposes, the removal of some walls and the building of others, the installation of a lift to make the main floor wheelchair accessible, and the construction of an addition with three wheelchair accessible bedrooms and a washroom. Fundraising to meet the significant costs associated with these renovations is ongoing. A formal house opening

will be held later in the spring, to give L'Arche Saskatoon's many supporters and friends an opportunity to see the house and to celebrate the birth of this new community.

The work of broadening and deepening L'Arche Saskatoon's community life continues in different ways. For the past 10 years, the local L'Arche group has held monthly gatherings for individuals with intellectual disabilities and friends and family members. Once a month, 60 or 70 people meet to share a meal together, and to spend time in fellowship with one another—doing some sort of activity, singing, having fun together, and hanging out.

In April 2007, the first monthly L'Arche prayer night was held, bringing together people from different denominations to sing and pray together in the spirit of L'Arche. L'Arche ecumenical prayer nights are now held each week on Wednesday evenings (except when there is a Friends of L'Arche gathering)—either at Christopher House, or in churches of different denominations. Support from the community has been a vital factor in bringing the project to this point.

The vision of Jean Vanier and L'Arche that has inspired this work in the diocese of Saskatoon is, at root, very simple: L'Arche is about people, with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life together in the spirit of the gospel.

This gospel vision is what has inspired the Friends of L'Arche gatherings and the founding of Christopher House, but it is not just a vision for L'Arche: it is a vision for the world. L'Arche Saskatoon's work, in the service of God, is to further this vision of a city and of a world in which all people—regardless of their abilities or disabilities—can find a place of belonging and share their gifts with others.

All are welcome to attend L'Arche prayer nights or the Friends of L'Arche gatherings.

For more information, or to become involved in the work of L'Arche in Saskatoon, visit the website at www.larchesaskatoon.org, or contact community leader / executive director Wyndham Thiessen at wthiessen@larchesaskatoon.org and for more information about L'Arche in Canada, visit www.larche.ca

BAA ANNUAL REPORT

2007 ALLOCATIONS

Catholic Christian Outreach	\$ 5,000
Catholic Deaf Ministry	\$ 5,000
Catholic Family Services	\$ 60,000
Communications	\$ 64,000
Ecumenism	\$ 26,000
Education of Laity for Ministry	\$ 17,000
Education of Priests & Future Priests	\$ 79,000
Friendship Inn	\$ 27,000
Grants in Support of Rural Ministry	\$ 40,000
Hospital Chaplaincy	\$ 36,000
L'Arche Saskatoon Project	\$ 5,000
Lay Formation Program	\$ 114,000
Liturgy Commission	\$ 10,000
Marriage & Family Life	\$ 15,000
Ministry Development	\$ 52,000
Native Religious Ministry	\$ 79,000
Newman Centre/Campus Ministry	
- St. Thomas More College	\$ 5,000
Office for Justice & Peace	\$ 9,000
Priests' Pension Fund	\$ 92,000
Resource Library	\$ 30,000
Rural Catechetics	\$ 98,000
St. Paul's Hospital	
— Spiritual Care	\$ 7,000
St. Peter's College	\$ 25,000
Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation	\$ 5,000
Scripture Resources & Small Christian Communities	\$ 26,000
Support of Life	\$ 8,000
Teen-Aid	\$ 36,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 48,000

PARISH SHARING INCENTIVE \$ 286,799

Administration \$ 88,132*

TOTAL RECEIVED TO MARCH 15, 2008 \$1,397,931

* Amount projected to June 30, 2008

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal 2007. Your faithful stewardship of God's gifts impacts every person in our diocese.

This report indicates the disbursement of gifts among the faith education programs, ministries and services designated in the 2007 Appeal. Of additional note:

- The total pledged to date is \$1,439,398.
- Fifty-six parishes receive Parish Sharing Incentive rebates to begin or expand parish initiatives.
- Appeal expenses for administration and educational materials remain at 6% of the total pledged.

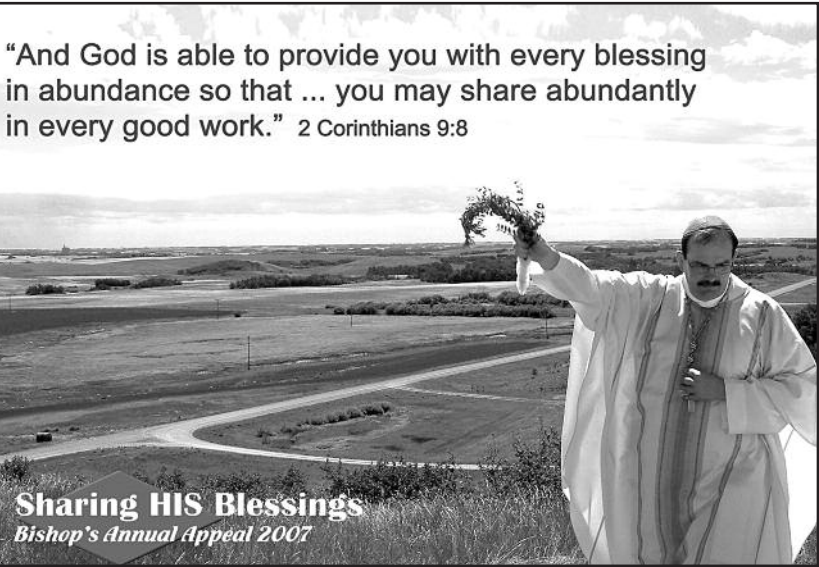
I thank you all: those who support the Appeal through prayer, those who share their financial gifts, and those dedicated volunteers who carry out this ministry in their parish communities. May God bless you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Albert LeGatt

Most Rev. Albert LeGatt
Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon

Bishop's Annual Appeal
100 - 5th Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7
Phone: (306) 242-1500 ext. 242
Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
E-mail: baa@saskatoonrcdiocese.com



"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that ... you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Sharing HIS Blessings
Bishop's Annual Appeal 2007

Sharing HIS Blessings
Bishop's Annual Appeal 2007

NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Sask., (Canada)

Brazil Mission visit invites reflection on hospitality and humility

BY LOUISE BITZ

In January 2008, three students from Bishop Mahoney High school, and seven students and two teachers from Holy Cross High School visited the diocesan mission in Brazil.

One week was spent in the area of Ibateguara and São José da Lage with Fr. Les Paquin and Sister of Mission Service Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot; and one week in the parish of Marechal Deodoro, Maceió, hosted by the Ursulines of Bruno: Sr. Claire Novecosky, Sr. Louise Hinz, Sr. Ana Lucia Duarte da Silva and the two novices, Sr. Francisca da Silva and Sr. Roseane da Silva

On their last evening in Brazil, participants were asked what was of particular importance to them about the experience. The Saskatoon visitors made the following comments:

Chantal St. Amand – There has been a transition in my faith here. It happened in all kinds of small ways, every day, but I think the most significant turning point came when Sr. Marie-Noelle took us to meet Maria and Alfredo in São José da Lage. Maria has “lived on the floor” for many years; she cannot move her body into a normal upright position, and is stuck in a huddled position. But her faith in God is so profound. She invited us all into her simple little home, where she huddled on the floor, and smiled warmly as she told of the faithfulness and care of her husband when her affliction struck so suddenly, and of the faithfulness and care of God, who has never left her side. I was stunned at the depth of her faith, her cheerfulness as she copes with such a debilitating physical condition, and her will to do the best she could every day. She inspired my faith.

Christine Warner – I was really moved by the atmosphere of love and hospitality in the places we visited. Even though the people we met had so little, they were willing to give us anything they could to make us feel welcome. The people were so genuine and warm, so friendly and joyful. I saw that the people in the mission could have focused on all the negative aspects in their lives, but instead I learned that many of the people choose to be joyful and choose to stay joyful. I saw this with some of the sugar cane cutters, who cut cane in the heat of the day almost every day of their lives, but they sing while they cut, and in doing so, they express their joy.

Marissa Banadyga – Playing our many



Students and teachers from two Saskatoon high schools visited the Brazil Mission in January, meeting up with Bishop Albert LeGatt (back row, centre) and Margaret and Robert Sanche of Saskatoon (standing at far right). The group spent a reflection day at Catita monastery, accompanied by missionary Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS (third from right).

soccer games in the mission was a highlight for me. When we played the soccer game with the kids at Marechal, we took off our shoes. Both teams played barefoot in the grass. For one hour, we were just kids playing together, with nothing dividing us.

Ron Blais, teacher – Being with strangers and able to communicate, even though we did not share a language, was a surprising and memorable part of the experience for me. The language struggles became a bond not a barrier. To me, the Brazilians’ efforts to be present with us spoke volumes for solidarity.

Peter Oliver – I have been really affected by the relationships we made. Ibateguara was really special that way, because we spent so much time with the young people of Fr. Les’s parish. They were our family and our friends. They have a place in my heart now, and I want to come back.

Jessalyn Monette – The place on our pilgrimage walk called the Fountain of Plenty was big for me. When we were walking along the forest path at the monastery at Catita, and unexpectedly came upon the waterfall called the Fountain of Plenty, it was so refreshing and so exhilarating. That is like life. There is struggle, but always there will be moments where we are just gifted and refreshed.

Bruno Sebastião – The people here have

a saying. It’s about drops of water landing on a rock over time. One drop, then another.... on the rock, day after day. It looks like nothing is happening, but through time, the rock is changed. Roughly, the saying translates into “Insistence without resistance.” And that is what we witnessed here. It was especially obvious when we climbed the Serra da Barriga, on the same path that African slave Zumbi had climbed hundreds of years before, on the first successful slave revolt in the Americas. That was all about insistence and perseverance for the cause; eventually, the rock of slavery was worn down and freedom took shape. We saw similar dedication in the families we met in the landless encampment, as they persevere in their struggle to gain a small portion of land to support their families. We also saw this perseverance at the Fazenda da Esperanza (Farm of Hope); the men there have committed one year of their lives to becoming free from their drug addiction, but it’s day by day for the goal. It’s all about perseverance.

Kim Haakenson – The experience of hope that we saw at the Fazenda is really important to me. Everywhere in life, there will be people who struggle, and I hope there will be places and people of hope to help them through.

Louise Bitz, teacher – The waves, the

land, and the people taught me the same thing. When we played in the waves in the ocean, I was conscious of the power of the water. The water was yet another example of hospitality and humility, just like in Luke 14, where Jesus teaches: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour... one who exalts himself shall be humbled and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted.” The waves invite us to play... in a sense, they host us, but let us remember to stay humble, because we could risk our lives in them if we get cocky. In this life, we need to know our place, not be arrogant, not think that we are invincible. That’s what humility is. This whole trip has been about hospitality and humility. I think hospitality always beckons humility. God’s hospitality invites our humility, just as the waves, the land, and the people here did.

Postscript by Margaret Sanche, BMAC

Those who visited the Brazil Mission in January gathered with the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee March 4 to talk about their experiences and reflect on the personal changes they had undergone since their return to their lives in Saskatoon.

They spoke of their increased awareness of the materialism and consumerism in our culture and their reluctance now to buy things they don’t really need; they noted that they are more aware and careful in their use of water and had a new-found interest in issues regarding the lack of clean water and sanitation in so many parts of the world; some said they are now more conscious of poverty and its impact on people in our own city and that they intend to become active in working for justice for the poor, both here and in other parts of the world.

All were more aware of, and were grateful for, the educational and employment opportunities available to them here in Canada -- possibilities which are simply not available to most people in Brazil and elsewhere in the world. Several said that, after seeing the sugar cane fields and learning about the exploitation of the workers, in a spirit of solidarity they are boycotting the soft drink companies which are major users of Brazilian sugar.

One student spoke about how the Brazil trip had given her a profound experience of God’s loving presence with her, and noted that prayer has now become an important part of her daily life.

All spoke of the strong witness of faith given by the missionaries who have committed themselves to living the Gospel message of hope and journeying side-by-side with God’s people in our diocesan mission in northeastern Brazil.



Diocesan missionary Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, walks with the people of Marechal Deodoro parish, accompanied this day by high school visitors from Saskatoon.

Vows given on feast day

By Sr. Claire Novecosky, OSU

"Follow me: I will make you a light of the nations." Sr. Roseane responded to this call and accepted to live the challenge with the Ursuline family.

On Jan. 27, 2008, the feast of our beloved foundress, St. Angela Merici, Sr. Roseane da Silva officially made her commitment to follow Jesus – poor, chaste and obedient – in the Ursuline way of life.

Besides the joy of having another young woman give herself freely to the mission of Jesus, the presence of Bishop Albert LeGatt and Robert and Margaret Sanche from Saskatoon, plus a busload of family and friends from Roseane's home parish, added to the happy occasion. For most of those present, witnessing the profession of religious vows was a first experience.

Bishop Albert LeGatt's words of encouragement to Roseane that, as a member of the Ursuline congregation, she continue to carry out the mission of Jesus and work for the implantation of God's reign wherever she is called, inspired all present.

In the litany addressed to St. Angela, the many invocations indicated the foundress's many qualities which all Ursulines strive to imitate in their work. Angela was described as: friend of the needy; comfort to the suffering; peacemaker; model of faith, courage, loyalty and patience; open to risk; woman of prayer; optimistic and joyful; wise, innovative and guided by the Holy Spirit.

On that special day, the members of the Ursulines of Bruno in Alagoas, Brazil prayed that we might share in Angela's spirit and mind so that, by her example, we can put the mark of the Gospel on the world of today.



Sr. Roseane da Silva (right) made her temporary vows on Jan. 27, 2008 as a member of the Ursulines of Bruno for three years. She is at present studying theology at the university, a four-year course. She also accompanies a youth group on weekends, preparing them for the sacrament of confirmation. Sr. Francisca da Silva (left, no relation to Sr. Roseanne) is in her second year of novitiate. She is in charge of the kindergarten program at the Pastoral for Children three days a week. On weekends, she too leads a youth/adult group preparing for confirmation. Both participate in an intercongregational formation program which consists of four weekends during the year with other young religious in formation.

Horrific accident illustrates why travel time is prayer time

By Fr. Les Paquin

Just over a month ago, two vans filled with passengers destined for the big city of São Paulo left Ibateguara. The journey takes more than 30 hours, depending on weather conditions and traffic.

At 6 a.m. the following morning, the vans stopped for a change of drivers. Tragically, the young man who took the wheel of one of them fell asleep a few minutes later, losing control of the vehicle; it was literally ripped apart by an oncoming semi-trailer.

Of the 18 passengers who had been crammed into the van (none of whom was wearing a seatbelt), five were killed, three had broken limbs and bruising, four were taken to intensive care and put on life support, and miraculously, six emerged without a scratch.

The accident, having occurred in the State of Bahia, brought additional headaches to the bereaved families.

The mayor of Ibateguara stepped in, providing transportation and taking care of all lodging and medical expenses, and personally heading to the scene of the accident to try and unravel some of the red tape. That turned out to be very complicated, as the two vehicles had neither government certification nor insurance. In other words, they were illegally transporting passengers to São Paulo. The second van was seized and the owner ordered to pay a fine which was the equivalent of \$1,800 Canadian for each passenger. Compassionately, authorities waived the fines on the van that had been involved in the accident. The nightmare continued back in Ibateguara as shocked relatives waited for the bodies to be brought back home.

Clandestine transportation has two advantages; cheaper fares and door-to-door service. Typically, passengers are very poor, having saved for months and even years to make such a trip.

Rumours circulated as to the cause of the accident. The mother of the driver said she had begged her son not to make the trip as he was tired after spending the previous night partying at a festa in a nearby town. As the story goes, the owner of the vehicles apparently insisted that the tired driver make the trip. Whatever actually happened, it would be no consolation to the next of kin.

I was called to do three of the funerals. Here funerals are held in the homes, with a wake or a prayer vigil the night before. There would be no wakes this time around as the accident had occurred three days previous (because there is no embalming here, burials usually take place within 24 hours of a death). Under impossible conditions we tried to pray, but the grief and shock were too much for some of the people, who fainted or were taken to the health post to be treated for high blood pressure.

The first funeral was for a 76-year-old woman, the mother of a large family and faithful parishioner who had gone to visit some of her children in São Paulo.

Next we went to a mud and stick house for the funeral of a 43-year-old woman, a single parent with four children living in São Paulo. She worked in the streets collecting materials for recycling and had been saving money for six years to go and visit her children in the city. Two of the three children who were traveling with her ended up in intensive care and we still haven't heard what has become of them.

The third funeral, held in a neighbouring village, was even more difficult; it was for an eight-year-old boy who, along with his family, had been visiting his grandparents over the summer holidays. The father was late arriving for the funeral, having been to the hospital to tend to his injured wife and daughter. The hysterical father became quiet as we prayed for his son and his family. Words were hard to come by; it was a horrible and yet avoidable tragedy; a tragedy repeated much too often in Brazil.

Travel in Brazil is dangerous for a variety of reasons: drunken drivers, drivers without licenses, drivers who have bought or been given their license without driver training, cell phone use, imprudence, little or no policing of highways, highway bandits, poor road conditions, wandering horses and cattle, dilapidated vehicles, an overabundance of motorcycles and rugged terrain and climate. Only those riding in the front seat are obliged to wear seat belts. Accidents are usually fatal. Very few people own cars in our city, so the public transportation system is taxed to the limit. Clandestine transportation abounds as both owners and passengers try to save a few dollars.

Most drivers hang a rosary on the rearview mirror. I travel as little as possible. When I do travel, I say a prayer and keep my eyes on the road at all times, ready for the unexpected. I have had too many close calls. The last words I hear from those who I am with before traveling is "Va com Deus" - "Go with God" or "God go with you."

That pretty well sums it up; travel time is prayer time.



Sr. Ana Lucia Duarte, Sr. Louise Hinz, BMAC Chair Margaret Sanche, Bishop Albert LeGatt, Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, Sr. Claire Novecosky, and Fr. Les Paquin (left to right) met together in January to talk about the future of the mission.

Bishop LeGatt visits mission

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Albert LeGatt traveled to Brazil in January, where he spent time with the Saskatchewan missionaries and the people they are serving in the archdiocese of Maceió.

"The energy and the enthusiasm of the missionaries is always really uplifting, because they really have embraced the people and the work there," said the bishop, reflecting on his visit and the warm welcome he received everywhere he went.

Bishop LeGatt's stay overlapped with a visit by a group of high school students from Saskatoon. The day he spent with the students was one of quiet and reflection in a monastery in a remote valley, in which students were taking time to integrate their whole Brazil experience to that point. "It was a very rich reflection," he said.

The bishop's visit included taking part in local celebrations, such as a patron saint celebration, visiting a cane field and a sugar cane mill, and spending time at the Farm of Hope, established for those suffering from addictions.

Bishop LeGatt and fellow travelers Margaret and Robert Sanche spent time with Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS, at

São José da Lage; with the Ursuline community at Maceió, celebrating Sr. Roseane da Silva's profession of temporary vows; and with Fr. Les Paquin in the parish at Ibateguara.

During the visit, the mission team met with Bishop LeGatt and Brazilian Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC) chair Margaret Sanche to discuss the future of the diocese of Saskatoon's mission efforts in Brazil. The Saskatchewan group also met with Dom Antônio Muniz, archbishop of Maceió.

"The new archbishop is certainly someone who is progressive and trying to set a plan for the future, a vision for the archdiocese," said LeGatt.

Archbishop Muniz continues to see a role for missionaries in his diocese, even though there have been many changes over the past few decades. "For instance, 40 years ago, two thirds of the clergy in Brazil were foreign. Now, it would be closer to 10 per cent," said LeGatt, reflecting on efforts to strengthen and empower the local church.

The value of building bridges between the dioceses of Saskatoon and Maceió for mutual growth and enrichment was discussed, as was the idea of having more participation by lay

people from the diocese of Saskatoon in the mission, on both a short and a long term basis.

At the meeting it was decided that high school and other group visits to the mission would be organized to take place only every two years; that some Brazilians from the mission areas would be invited to visit the diocese of Saskatoon from time to time; and that long-term involvement in the Brazil mission by adult lay people from our diocese would be encouraged, with preparation to include a discernment process, language training and a program of formation.

As well, the missionaries will look into the possibility of long-term involvement by Saskatoon laypeople in special projects such as the Rainbow of Hope, the Pastoral des Crianças, and the Farm of Hope. In addition, an ongoing goal of the missionary efforts will continue to be the formation of laypeople in Brazil.

"Although the time may eventually come when there are no missionaries as such from the diocese of Saskatoon in Brazil, it is our hope and desire that the relationship between our communities can continue, possibly in new ways," LeGatt said.

St. Francis Foundations session features young men who have left gangs

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The reality facing youth plagued by poverty, addictions and violence was poignantly explored during a Foundations session March 11, 2008 at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon.

Two ex-gang members joined diocesan priest Fr. André Poilievre and John Howard Society representative Stan Tu’Inukuafe in describing the human face of youth crime and the challenges facing young people who try to break the cycle and find healing and wholeness.

A mentality of “locking them up and throwing away the key” is not realistic, and in most cases, prison does little to heal, rehabilitate or equip offenders to function as productive, healthy members of society, said Poilievre, who has worked with at-risk youth, prisoners, and addicts in a number of settings.

Poilievre, Saskatoon winner of the 2007 YMCA Peace Medallion for his work with at-risk youth, was born in Prud’homme, ordained in 1962, served at parishes, taught at St. Paul’s high school, served as a hospital chaplain, and was director of the Catholic Pastoral Centre. He went up north for five years, and upon his return, taught at Joe Duquette high school (now called Oskayak school) in Saskatoon, as well as serving as prison chaplain. Several years ago, Poilievre began to be approached for help by young men trying to get out of gangs, and he has ministered to such young men ever since.

Poilievre began the Foundations presentation with a reflection on what it means to be human, considering the four elements of human existence – body, mind, emotions and spirit – and the ongoing journey to be healthy. For many of the young people he walks with,



A parishioner thanks one of the ex-gang members for his presentation.

Poilievre said there is no wholeness, and they are suffering from the pain of many circumstances and situations that have been foisted upon them since conception – through no fault of their own. It’s a pain that many try to medicate with drugs and alcohol, which make the problems worse.

“All these kids in Kilburn Hall [youth detention centre] are not bad kids that deserve to be there. They’re hurting kids. They don’t need to be punished. They need to be healed,” Poilievre said, describing the hurdles facing a young person trying to break out of gangs, addiction and violence. “We’re afraid of them, so we lock them away,” he said. “If they’re hurting already, let’s hurt them some more: will that heal them?”

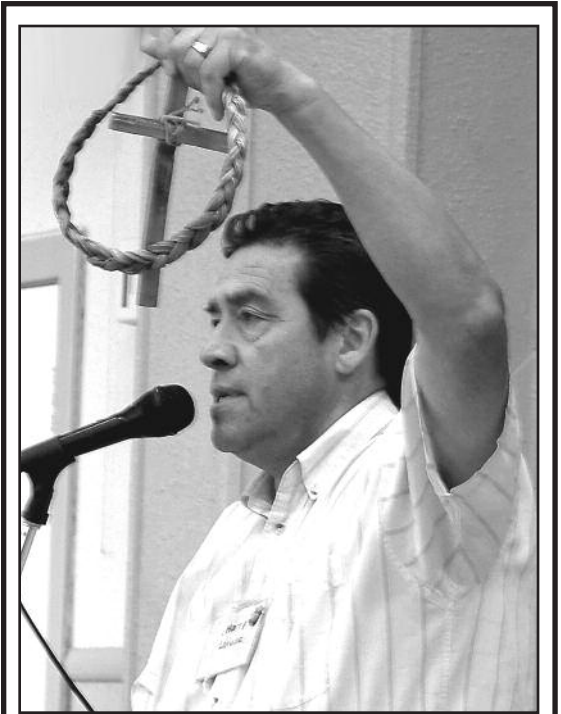
Recognizing and coming to terms with the realities that have hurt and damaged us and overcoming those realities by forgiving and moving beyond blame are crucial steps in coming to healing and wholeness – but the process is so painful for some of these young men that it is not easily entered into, he said. And for those who do begin a journey of healing, a lot of support is needed – support which too often is not available, he added.

When Poilievre journeys with youth struggling to change their lives, he requires that they deal with addictions, get out of gangs or off the street, and be honest with him and with themselves. “It’s a long journey, and it’s a painful journey,” he said. “But there is nothing more serious or more important than these young men who are working to turn their lives around.”

His friends Dwayne and Rodney then described their experiences growing up surrounded by addictions and violence, their involvement in gangs, their experiences with the criminal justice system, and their journey to find wholeness. Parishioners listened carefully to the poignant stories, and expressed appreciation to the young men for speaking honestly about their situations.

Tu’Inukuafe described the impact of this cycle on education and job prospects, and the huge challenges facing young people struggling to free their lives of violence, addiction and crime. “What happens when they’re ready to do that? Who do you go to?” he queried, describing how as a society we use many resources for crime suppression and for prisons, but do not invest in the mentoring and support programs that would help people break out of the cycle when they are ready to do so. He added that there is a role for concerned people to reach out to youth at places like Kilburn Hall, providing tutoring or mentoring. Programs like Big Brothers and Big Sisters are also a way to make a difference, he said.

Poilievre questioned where we as a society and as a church put our priorities. “Where do we put our energies, our resources, our funds? Just in helping people who are already healthy?” he said. “We have to start thinking ‘this is my brother, my nephew, my son.’ This is not a stranger from the moon.”



Restorative Justice

Treaty Commissioner’s Office representative Harry Lafond places the cross within a circle of sweetgrass as part of a presentation held during a Restorative Justice Workshop Nov. 14 at St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon. Lafond said when one person in the circle of our community is not well, the whole circle suffers. He called for reconciliation and unity as the path to heal hurts and division.

Lourdes Lenten suppers include justice issues

BY DIANE KOTSCHOREK

Justice and peace issues were discussed during Lenten soup and bread suppers held this year at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon.

At a session Feb. 13, Fr. André Poilievre spoke about his work with young men coming out of prison and those who are trying to escape from involvement in gangs. A former gang member accompanied Fr. Poilievre, speaking about his personal experience.

These young people are not bad, they are hurting, Poilievre said, describing poverty, unhealthy home situations, alcohol and drug addictions that lie behind gang activity.

Using the model of the

medicine wheel, he talked about the need to be healthy in all four areas: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

In walking with young men leaving the gangs, Poilievre asks that they be honest, humble and willing to give the required years of effort to the endeavor.

Poilievre described the situation at the correctional centre, where there is virtually nothing offered in terms of training or education programs. He encouraged people to inform themselves and take political action to bring about changes in the system.

Marla Hartman spoke at another session Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Lourdes, describing the

homelessness situation in Saskatoon, and efforts to establish a Saskatoon Overnight Shelter (SOS).

With rent increases and apartments being converted into condos, many low income people, the working poor and those without employment are facing homelessness.

Social assistance rates are not adequate to pay for rent, Hartman said. The committee working on establishing the shelter has encountered many hurdles, and an appropriate facility has not been found. Government funding has also fallen through. The group is now considering its options, and will take steps to inform the public of future plans.

Diocesan Youth Retreat Team coordinator hired

BY SARAH FARTHING
YOUTH MINISTRIES OFFICE

The enthusiasm and experience of the new coordinator for the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT) will be an asset for youth ministry in the diocese.

Jonathan Courchene was hired by the diocesan Youth Ministries Office in February to keep up with an increasing demand for the team’s ministry throughout the Saskatoon diocese and beyond.

Courchene, who was a member of the DYRT in high school, has youth ministry experience that includes a year of study at the Catholic School of Evangelization in St. Malo, Man., and a year of travel with the Youth on Fire Outreach Team. He has also spent a number of summers as a counselor at a Catholic summer camp. Courchene spent the past two years as the Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Meadow Lake Deanery in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert. During this time, he also began working with supervisor and mentor, Warren Dungen, in developing a four-year youth ministry program for future publication.

This fall, Courchene moved to Saskatoon to begin a social work degree at the University of Saskatchewan. He became involved as a volunteer with Face to Face Ministries and with Catholic Christian Outreach. He says that he is now excited to take a paid position with the DYRT.



Jonathan Courchene, Retreat team coordinator

Courchene says his favourite thing about working with youth is their genuine “openness to accepting the gospel where they’re at.” The youth minister’s challenge, he adds, is to be as open and genuine as the youth are. “We have to be real, to live our faith daily and be an honest example, not just teach.” Youth retreat ministry has special appeal, Courchene notes, because retreats are where genuine and visible transformation often occurs.

Retreat team dates in May and June are filling up fast, and the team is already taking bookings for the 2008/09 school year. For more information about the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT), or to request a booking, please contact Jonathan Courchene at 242-1500 (toll free 1-877-661-5005), or by email at dyrt@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Outreach to prisoners during Lent and Easter

BY VIRGINIA SCISSIONS, NDS

On Ash Wednesday 2008, Dianne Anderson from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon’s Office of Restorative Ministry, working with a number of volunteers, blessed inmates at Saskatoon Correctional Centre with ashes and the words: “Know that God loves you.”

Volunteers distributing ashes Feb. 6 included Gerry Grimard and Louise McKinney of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, Roger Schmitz of Holy Spirit parish, and Lucy and Gary Clark of St. Thomas More parish.



Dianne Anderson Restorative Justice Ministry

The Ash Wednesday service began with the celebration of a Liturgy of the Word in the prison chapel. Young men from the Correctional Centre participated by reading aloud the Word of God, presenting a reflection on the meaning of Ash Wednesday, and offering prayers on behalf of their families, friends, and fellow inmates.

A recording by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish music ministers was used during the celebration. At the conclusion of the service, the young men who were present shook the hands of each of the volunteers and expressed gratitude for their presence.

Following the service in the chapel, Anderson and the volunteers went out into the overcrowded prison, to the units outside of the main building, and to the dormitories and cells within the main building.

At each section, Anderson invited the men to come forward for a blessing. She explained briefly the significance of Ash Wednesday. Many young men, whether Roman Catholic or not, came forward for

the blessing. Those in the dormitories stood, while those in the cells knelt so that their foreheads could be touched through the small slot in the door of their cells. Once again, there were expressions of gratitude. One young man responded: “God bless you too.”

During Lent, ministry in the prison continued and included the praying of the Stations of the Cross in the prison chapel on Good Friday March 21. The men talked and reflected on each station, kneeling in silence at 3 p.m. before coming forward to venerate the cross, said Anderson, adding it was a touching experience for participants, including five parish volunteers.

On Easter Sunday, Anderson again delivered donated chocolate rabbits collected in the parishes for the men at the Correctional Centre. “A great big thank you to all who donated bunnies,” she said, noting how much it means to the men to be remembered in this way.

STM students lead high school Development and Peace retreat

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

As Canadian Catholics prepared to mark Solidarity Sunday by collecting Share Lent funds, a group of 35 high school students and their teachers gathered at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon March 7 for a day-long retreat exploring Development and Peace.

The students were from five Catholic high schools in Saskatoon (Bethlehem, Bishop Murray, Bishop James Mahoney, E.D. Feehan and Holy Cross) as well as from John Paul II High School in North Battleford, said organizer Gertrude Rompré of the STM chaplaincy office.

During the second annual retreat, students heard about the origins and operation of the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace, before examining the issues raised through Share Lent and the fall campaign.

Led by the STM Just Youth group, participants then put the message into their own words, preparing skits, songs and cheers which they took out to the University of Saskatchewan campus, encouraging people to sign fall action cards. The group obtained 123 signatures in the space of 40 minutes.

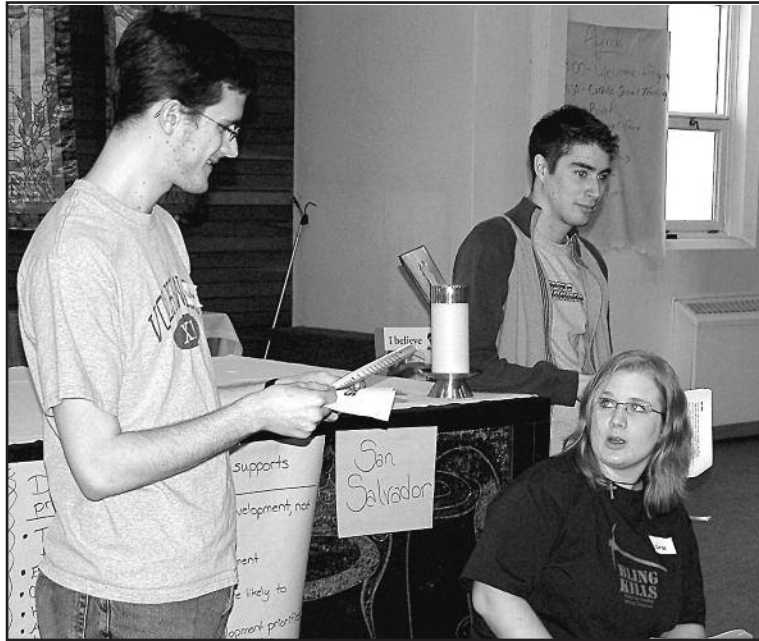
Saskatchewan Development and Peace animator Michael Murphy was one of the speakers during the day, providing an overview of the organization and its



Michael Murphy

41-year history of raising awareness and funds "so that communities in the global south can fund worthwhile development projects."

Murphy also addressed the impact of environmental crises on poor countries in the global south – Asia, Africa, South America and the Middle East. "This is a subject of increasing concern to Development and Peace," he said, maintaining that the impact of climate change, severe weather and oil shortages will create the greatest hardships for



St. Thomas More students led the high school retreat.

communities in the global south

"The consequences of poverty are profound. When it comes to the global environmental crisis, the poor will be impacted by it and hurt more by it, simply because they are poor," Murphy said.

These countries lack the resources to reduce the impact of the environmental crisis, and have little "political clout or influence" on the world stage, he noted, pointing out, for instance, that when the G8 countries meet to discuss the

state of the world, no African country is represented. "So Africa does not count, and something like the AIDS epidemic goes unaddressed."

When it comes to global warming and instances of severe weather, flooding and drought, poor countries are also extremely vulnerable, Murphy said.

For instance, when the Tsunami hit in Asia, it devastated many of the fishers and small scale farmers who lived in the

coastland. "Many poor people live in low-lying areas susceptible to flooding, or will be affected by drought," he said.

Murphy noted that recent blizzards in China will have an effect on that country's ability to produce food this year. In addition, the world's largest exporter of food, the United States, is seeing more and more cropland being dedicated to the production of biofuels rather than food. Whenever food or water shortages occur, it is the poor countries that are hit hardest, he said.

In addition, environmental standards are often not as stringent in poor countries, and the mining or resource extraction practices of corporations often leaves behind a legacy of pollution, particularly of water resources, Murphy added.

He told the students that their individual actions can have an impact, suggesting concrete steps such as eating less meat; riding a bicycle or using public transit rather than using cars; lowering the heat in our homes; flying only when necessary. He also encouraged them to consider careers in environmental sciences.

In addition, everyone can lobby government representatives to take action to halt global warming, he said. "With a will, humankind can find ways out of this, but it will take a push."

L'Arche spirit permeates Intercordia experience of learning combined with overseas service, say STM participants

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Jean Vanier is best known as the founder of L'Arche, the international organization of faith-based communities that pairs volunteers with people who have developmental disabilities in order to create transformative relation-

ships. Vanier is also the creator of another program: Intercordia.

Intercordia is a community service-learning program (CSL) based on the L'Arche model of transformative relationships. Intercordia gives university students the opportunity to travel

overseas to work and learn in various grassroots community projects.

Vanier, in a streaming video on his website, states that Intercordia was formed "to help people go to places where there was poverty and pain – but not essentially to go and do something but to be... to discover the culture that is there, to discover the beauty of that culture, and so the people of Intercordia, they are changed more than what they can do for others."

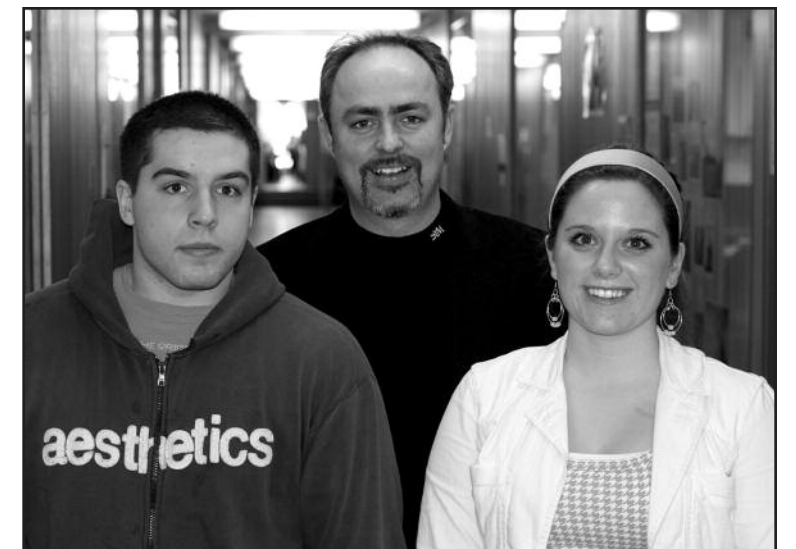
It was this basic premise that inspired St. Thomas More College students Mike Bristol, 20, and Carolyn Wright, 19, to consider participating in the project, managed by STM's Engaged Learning Coordinator, David Peacock.

"Intercordia forms partnerships all over the world with mainly small, rural community-based agencies. It then partners with universities and Colleges like STM. We prepare the students academically and together we try to match students with projects that are in a similar area of their study or interest," explained Peacock.

Mike Bristol is traveling to Nicaragua to work on an organic coffee farm and with eco-tourism. "My mom is a prof in the study of organic agriculture [so] I've been hearing about organic farming ever since I could talk," said Bristol. "I've been to more field plots than I can remember," he said.

"I heard a presentation when I was on STMSU [the student union] and I knew right away that is exactly what I want to do with my summer... My friends said, 'We knew you'd do something crazy, but Nicaragua didn't come to mind!'"

Wright, a major in biochemistry and a volunteer at the Royal University Hospital, is going to work at a medi-clinic in Ecuador.



STM Engaged Learning Coordinator David Peacock (centre) with Intercordia participants Mike Bristol, and Carolyn Wright.

- Photo by Blake Sittler

"When I heard the presentation I was sitting there thinking, 'What an opportunity for someone crazy and adventurous and daring' and then I thought, 'I could do that.'"

Before travelling, the students must first undergo an interview to apply to the program. Then they take a sociology class entitled *Social Change and Global Solidarity*, taught by STM Professor Darrell McLaughlin, and participate in four day-long seminars.

"I like the seminars because our group of nine students have really bonded... it'll help when we're away to have that support system... I can't go home and talk about this with [anyone who hasn't experienced it] but with this group I can," said Wright.

"The students use the class to prepare to delve into the bigger sociological issues and history of the particular country they are visiting," said Peacock. "So there is the sociological theory but then also the experience abroad."

While abroad, the students also record in journals their impressions and insights, and write an integrative essay upon their return. That earns another three credits in sociology.

Peacock noted that one of the other unique aspects of this program is that the students will be

living and working in the communities and not merely studying at foreign universities.

"These students are going out a little further... it's a deeper immersion in more remote areas," he said.

"The goal of this is not to build a school and dig a well... it's really just living with those people and understanding them... it's about solidarity and experiencing their lives," noted Wright.

"Intercordia's slogan is, 'See the world through the eyes of your heart' and I think that idea of promoting understanding and appreciating other cultures is what's most important about this experience."

Wright and Bristol, along with seven other program participants, will be leaving to their respective destinations in early May and will return in August.

"We try to prepare these students and tell them that they can't expect to change very much in three months but they can form some genuine cross-cultural relationships... and that is the beginning of social change," said Peacock.

For more information on the Engaged Learning Program at St. More College, visit their website at www.stmcollege.ca/csl.html



- Submitted photo

Jeûne Jeunesse aux Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens

PAR L. RIVARD

C'est lors de la fin de semaine du 15 - 16 mars que 12 jeunes et 3 animateurs de la paroisse des Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens se sont réunis l'École canadienne-française dans un but spécial.

Sous les auspices de Développement et Paix, le groupe avait planifié de participer un je ne de 24 heures. Ce je ne représentait pour eux non seulement l'occasion de vivre l'expérience de la faim et ainsi se tenir en solidarité pendant 24 heures avec les démunis du monde mais aussi de se conscientiser par rapport la justice sociale dans le milieu des plus vulnérables.

Les lectures, activités et dialogues qui ont eu lieu ont certainement favorisé chez ces adolescents de 13 - 15 ans une prise de conscience importante qu'ils ne sauront bientôt oublier.

Le Seigneur a besoin de cette jeunesse si énergétique et optimiste! Qu'ils puissent aller dans le monde faire Son travail et créer un monde meilleur pour tous.

Twenty-four hours is a short time indeed, in which to fast, pray, learn and discuss global hunger and social justice. That is however, the time Sts-Martyrs-Canadien's Youth Group devoted to the Development and Peace youth fast they organized on the weekend of March 15. The short time was well spent on issues surrounding hunger, clean water and social justice. The twelve teenagers aged 13 to 15 brought their usual enthusiasm and energy to the project.

Muenster parents work to bring Catholic religion classes to public school

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A group of parents successfully worked to have Catholic religious education offered at Muenster public school this year.

Since September, students from kindergarten to Grade 6-7 at Muenster School have the option to take one 45-minute religion class each six-day weekly cycle.

The time period is open to any denomination or faith group to use, said Julie Hofmann of the Catholic group *Families for Religion*.

"Any religious instruction can happen at that time ... it just happens that Catholic people in the community have organized something." Students of any faith are also welcome to participate in the Catholic program, she added, noting that 91 students are taking part, not all of them Catholic. Students whose parents do not want the "pull out" religion program (presented by a teacher hired by the Catholic parents' group) remain in the classroom with their regular teacher when the religion class is in session.

There is provision in provincial education legislation for parents to request and receive time for religious education in the regular school day, explained Hofmann.

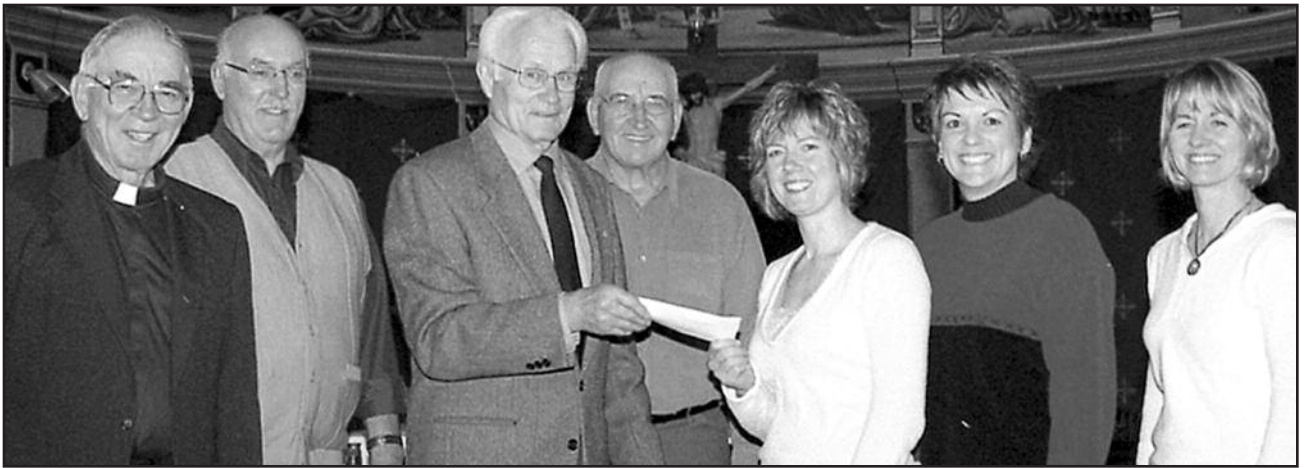
Similar arrangements in other public schools – including those at Bruno and Watson – were studied by the Muenster-area parent group known as *Families for Religion*. "We spent a lot of time on the phone with people from those communities. It was a big support in terms of finding out how to approach this, and how it is working elsewhere," said Hofmann.

With membership from the Catholic parishes in Muenster and St. Gregor, *Families for Religion* first approached the local School Community Council in June, requesting time for Catholic religious instruction.

The parent group worked hard to show that the idea had a broad base of support in the community, said Hofmann. Surveying parents of all Muenster School kindergarten to Grade 7 students, obtaining "show of support" signatures from community members, and developing an action plan for hiring a teacher were among the steps taken by the parent volunteers.

"We did our homework and we also called on members of the community to come and speak on our behalf, which they did," said Hofmann.

A survey of the parents of all 106 students from kindergarten to Grade 6-7 showed that 80 per cent of parents were in favour of the religion class and would participate; 15 per cent would not participate, but were not opposed; four per cent undecided; and one per cent opposed. "What that survey clearly told us was there were a lot of people who wanted



From left to right: Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Muenster; Knights of Columbus memers Jordan Bergerman, Richard Muench (Grand Knight) and Ray Hofmann with *Families for Religion* committee members Julie Hofmann, Laurie Szautner and Corrine Breker. - Submitted photo

something like this."

Having religious education in the school is an important support to parents, said Laurie Szautner, a member of *Families for Religion* who has children in Grade 5 and Grade 3 participating in the program. "This is important to me because I want our children to learn about faith and about God at the level of their own understanding and comprehension. I want them to live a life following Jesus. I want to teach them to love and respect and have forgiveness."

Religious instruction in the school is something that has not been available for a number of years, and many community members were in favour of the initiative, Szautner said. "Many have spoken in support: grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles and aunts, even those who didn't have children directly involved. Many said they thought that it was important that this be a part of their learning, just like math or language arts."

The support expressed for the program by the community has been gratifying for volunteer organizers, Szautner said. "We have just had magnificent support from our community, from our parish communities and our Knights of Columbus."

A "ham and lamb" fund-raising supper organized by the local Knights council raised \$1,200 for the religion program, which will help to cover costs of hiring a teacher. Parents also pay a registration fee that helps to cover the cost of materials. St. Peter's parish, Muenster, and St. Gregor parish have also been extremely supportive, as has the local business

community, Szautner added. "We are also getting good support from the school."

Retired local teacher Phyllis Wasserman and kindergarten-level instructor Pam Saretsky use the Pflaum program in the religion class, which is based on the Sunday readings.

Corrine Breker, the mother of children in Grade 3 and Grade 6 participating in the program, said the materials are colourful, story-based and effective. "My kids really seem to be enjoying it, they're learning, and at church on Sundays they will often say 'we heard about that at school.'"

Sacramental preparation is also part of the program for children preparing for first reconciliation, confirmation and first communion. St. Peter's pastor Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, said students who recently received the sacrament of reconciliation seemed well prepared. He said that he hopes parents would continue to be actively involved in the process of sacramental preparation along with the religious instruction that is happening in the school setting.

Extra events and initiatives are planned as a way to keep parents connected and involved, said Szautner. "We need to have parental involvement, to have fellowship together, maybe evolve into a youth group, or have events like a family movie night."

There was a lot of effort involved in establishing the religion class in the school, Szautner admitted. "It was a long road and there was a lot involved, but it was all worth it," she said. "We have handled some growing pains and now want to make sure that we are creating and keeping a sustainable program."

Bethlehem Catholic high school opens on Saskatoon's west side

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

Bethlehem Catholic High School held a blessing and official opening Nov. 16. More than 700 people, including students, staff, parents and special guests celebrated the long-awaited event.

The \$22-million school, funded by the Province of Saskatchewan and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, is part of the Blairmore Centre development on the west edge of the city of Saskatoon. Bethlehem is part of a larger project, that includes Tommy Douglas Collegiate and the Shaw Centre, the city's new recreation facility, which will include a high-performance pool.

Mayor Don Atchison congratulated the school and community, describing the future aquatic centre as a top facility in North America and among the top three in the world. "The process was all about trust and knowing we can all benefit," said Atchison.

Numerous trustees, dignitaries, staff, and students also spoke at the grand opening celebration, with school bands and choirs performing at various points throughout the program. Principal Scott Gay served as master of ceremonies.

Bishop Albert LeGatt of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Michael Wiwchar of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon blessed the building. "It is the completion of a dream, and the beginning of a dream – guided by the spirit of Christ," said LeGatt.

"This is a historic day for our school division," said Jim Carriere, chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board of education. "Our new school is a celebration of the distinct mandate of Catholic education. Our faith-based purpose will be clearly evident through the community that is built here, as our students are taught that they can reach out to make a difference in the world."

The high school has already exceeded enrolment expectations although it began in

fall 2007 by only accepting grade 9 and 10 students.

Bev Hanson, director of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School district, noted that it had been 12 years since a new Catholic high school was built in the city on the opposite end of town (St. Joseph), and before that, over 40 years since E.D. Feehan Catholic high school opened on the west side.

Bethlehem high has taken a particular focus on social justice, and the opening ceremonies included a focus on their threefold partnerships with organizations WaterCan, a Canadian organization focused on water, sanitation and hygiene in poor and developing countries; UNESCO, a global network of educational institutions; and Kip Keino High School, a partner school currently under construction in Kenya where many children do not receive adequate education.

"Our Catholic faith and our relationships in Saskatoon and in the wider world are an important part of who we are at Bethlehem," said Principal Scott Gay. "We wanted a tangible, lasting symbol of those bonds."

Teaching students about their responsibility to reach out and make the world a better place is one of the guiding themes at Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The division describes itself as *Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World*.

Bethlehem high school has already received architectural design awards, with the most prominent feature being a large star-shaped skylight visible from both inside and outside the building.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is the largest Catholic school division in Saskatchewan, with approximately 15,200 students in 44 schools in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. The school division strives to see children grow academically, emotionally and spiritually.



St. Angela Faith Ignite team takes part in a trust exercise. - Photo by Shelane Knihnistki

School's 'Faith Ignite' program strives to evangelize students

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An evangelization team of 80 students from Lloydminster presented two days of workshops, concerts, dramas and testimonials at St. Angela's Catholic school in Saskatoon in December.

The Positive Choices Leadership Tour from Holy Rosary High School of Lloydminster included several high-energy concerts incorporating music, dance, clowning and drama.

St. Angela invited students from several other Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to attend the school shows, as well as hosting an evening performance by the visiting Lloydminster team for families. Leadership workshops about "building your praise and energizing your worship" were also provided by the visiting high school students to St. Angela students in Grades 5 to 8.

St. Angela School hosted the event as part of an initiative in the school called *Faith Ignite* created to inspire staff, students, parents and the community "to get excited about having a personal relationship with Jesus and to let their faith ignite in their lives and in the world," explained

St. Angela teacher Curtis Wagner.

Faith Ignite started in 2006 in response to a survey that said many students believe Christianity to be boring, irrelevant and a non-significant part of their lives.

"Making an impact on students is a journey and it cannot be accomplished over night or by simply putting on one event," he said, describing how the school's *Faith Ignite* team works to get feedback from students, staff and parents.

The program's objectives include inspiring students to read the Bible and pray regularly, help students develop a desire to share their faith with others, and increase self esteem, teambuilding, social and ministry skills and leadership ability.

The tour from Lloydminster is one of a long list of events organized by *Faith Ignite* since its formation at St. Angela School.

Other events have included guest speakers, concerts, and rallies, as well as school liturgies with contemporary music, inspirational stories and multimedia content. Plans are also underway for retreats, movie nights, faith discussion groups and social justice service projects, Wagner said.



Macklin youth with Fr. Darryl Millette at the diocesan Chrism Mass.
- Submitted photo

St. Peter’s College at Muenster offers unique university experience in rural monastery setting

By VAL KOROLUK

During spring each year, thousands of Saskatchewan Grade 12 students are making career and education choices. A recent survey of Saskatchewan high school students found that the main reason students chose to attend university was to improve future employment opportunities and career goals and to ensure future success.

The survey also found that the reasons students chose to attend a particular institution were quality of education, quality of faculty, tuition costs and programs available. St. Peter’s College at Muenster, Saskatchewan meets these factors and has become the first choice for many students.

Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, St. Peter’s College offers a wide range of university classes to fill a variety of degree requirements.

St. Peter’s College is noted for keeping the class sizes small which allows the highly qualified faculty the opportunity to provide students with an innovative learning environment and personalized help to ensure their success. St. Peter’s College also offers educational value with numerous scholarships, lower tuition and cost of living.

There are exciting student activities and opportunities for enhancing leadership skills. Clubs, sports, student government and campus ministry are



Located in a rural setting, St. Peter’s College is affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan.
- Submitted photo

some ways that students become involved.

The long history and tradition of excellence in academic programming, personal enrichment and social responsibility is supported by a Catholic Benedictine heritage. Alumni, investors, donors, partners and stakeholders help to continue and expand the tradition of excellence at St. Peter’s College through their involvement, commitment and support.

If you are interested in finding out more about St. Peter’s College, call Student Services at (306) 682-7857 or visit the website at www.stpeterscollege.ca

Foundation celebrates 15 years of support for Catholic schools

By EV SAFRONETZ

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation is celebrating 15 years of providing vital funding and support for Catholic schools.

The Catholic community in Saskatoon recognized the importance of faith based education and in 1911 St. Paul’s Roman Catholic Separate School Division was established. By 1993, the School Division had grown from 69 students in one school to over 13,000 students in 39 schools.

In response to the increasing demands on its personnel and financial resources, the division recognized the need to partner with the Catholic community and the Saskatoon community at large to maintain the religious dimension within its schools. With the support of Ken McDonough, then director of education, the Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation was established in 1993. The development of the Foundation, which was incorporated in 1994, was undertaken by René Poisson. As Executive Director of the

Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation from 1993 to 2002, Poisson was instrumental in establishing and growing the Foundation to provide vital funding and support for initiatives leading to educational excellence, spiritual growth, and enhanced learning opportunities in Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

The Foundation has provided over \$2 million to the schools through its fundraising initiatives, grants, donor-directed funds, flow thru grants and in-kind gifts.

Schools and parent communities have received support for retreats, rosary clubs, attending Eucharistic Liturgies in local parishes, Byzantine Rite awareness, cross cultural awareness, literacy programs, special needs assistance and student leadership initiatives.

The Youth and Liturgy Project trains Grade 6 students and teachers to plan, prepare and conduct liturgical celebrations (*see related article, right*). This project has now been expanded to provide follow-up training at the high school level.

Kid’s Kitchen is a pilot project in partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and CHEP Good Food Inc. Grade 4 and 5 students from four community schools have participated in a five-week cooking program where they have learned kitchen safety, food safety, Canada’s Food Guide and food preparation skills.

Students in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools benefit from the 32-acre ‘outdoor classroom’ of the Ed and May Scissons Environmental Centre. Students experience hands-on learning in archaeology, aquatic ecosystems, birding, geography, water colors, animal tracking, the wonders of water and wilderness survival. A new initiative for the Foundation is the school year calendar that highlights all the important school related activities and dates. This calendar is made available to every family associated with the school division.

Many scholarships and memorial awards are under the administration of the Foundation. Legacy of Leadership, a new initiative with respect to memorial donations, is being established to recognize the contributions of deceased employees and students attending Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

These memorial donations will be used to support Catholic leadership for students and staff of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

For more information about the Foundation, or about its programs, fundraising initiatives and planned giving opportunities call the office at 659-7003, or email catholicsschoolsfoundation@scs.sk.ca or check out the website at www.scs.sk.ca/foundation

Macklin youth group organized

By PIUS SCHACHTEL

This past year St. Mary’s Parish in Macklin has seen the development and growth of a Youth Council.

Youth from grades 10-12 were invited to attend a focus meeting to help determine if our teens were interested in having a church youth group.

The response was over-

whelming as an eager and energetic group of high school students responded to the invitation.

A round table discussion was held where the students could express their ideas about events they were interested in doing in the community. The message was very clear in the objectives brought forward:

- The group would be ecumenical: “open to all denominations.”
- The youth want to organize events for the younger children.
- The youth want to do things that are fun and don’t involve peer pressure to use alcohol or drugs.
- The youth group would offer a chance to strengthen and challenge faith with group discussions involving Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky and resources from the diocese.

In September, the new group was launched with an outdoor movie night for youth in Grades 7-12. They brought lawn chairs and blankets and enjoyed a great movie under the stars.

In January, the kindergarten to Grade 8 students were treated to a movie with popcorn. Youth also held a “Sledding and Fire” day at a local hill, with a bonfire for roasting wieners and marsh-

mallows. Even Fr. Marvin took a run down the hill. The wind was blowing and many fingers were cold. We drank our hot chocolate, kept moving and had a lot of fun.

The youth leaders have revealed so much energy and enthusiasm and their spirit of volunteering should be celebrated. In February, the senior youth attended a Bobcats hockey game in Lloydminster and had pizza for supper.

As the faith community moved towards Easter, six members of the Youth Group attended the diocesan Chrism Mass at St. Patrick’s Parish Centre in Saskatoon Monday, March 17. Here they were given the opportunity to present the gifts of bread and wine. The youths’ excitement and enthusiasm about the event was quite evident in the conversations on the way home.

Twelve members of the group presented the sacred oils, bread and wine, as well as gifts for the poor, at the Holy Thursday celebration at St. Mary’s parish.

The youth group plans to continue moving forward as it grows and changes. Many more activities are planned for the different ages. the group looks forward to more involvement from the members in our parish and from the community as well.



Logan Bilodeau, Emily Harwood-Johnson, Dayzia Twordik and Karissa Prytula (left to right) of St. Dominic and St. Mark Catholic schools in Saskatoon prepare for a procession during a final session of Youth and Liturgy.

Students prepare liturgies for Youth and Liturgy program

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty-four students and 13 teachers from Catholic schools in Biggar, Humboldt and Saskatoon participated in the 2007 Youth and Liturgy program, a joint project of the Saskatoon Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Bishop Albert LeGatt commissioned the students and teachers Dec. 6 during a celebration at St. Anne’s parish in Saskatoon, which included the presentation of special projects and several advent liturgies prepared by participants.

At the celebration, LeGatt spoke to students about the power of liturgy to nourish and inspire faith, saying it is important to prepare and celebrate in a way that ensures “in all that happens, everyone will participate, all will be included, and everyone will be touched in their hearts.” He added: “Jesus helps us to be one in our prayers.”

The Youth and Liturgy project is designed to give participants a greater understanding of liturgy, the lectionary, the symbols and seasons of the Church. The five-session program is also designed to equip students to prepare and lead liturgies in their schools. As part of the program, schools also receive resources and materials for planning liturgy.

The 12 Catholic schools participating in the 2007 session included St. Gabriel School, Biggar; St. Dominic and St. Augustine schools, Humboldt; and Bishop Klein, Bishop Pocock, St. Dominic, St. Gerard, St. Mark, St. Matthew, St. Paul, and St. Philip schools, Saskatoon.

Karen Schreiner of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Judy Timmermans of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools worked together to coordinate the program, which has been offered in the diocese for a number of years. A similar program for students in high school is now underway, with the first group of participants commissioned this spring by Bishop Albert LeGatt.

Both programs are offered with support from the Catholic Schools Foundation.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation

“Swing Into Spring”

Fashion Show & Dinner

Thursday May 1, 2008

TCU Place

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Fashions by Klassique Designs, Nancy Durham Jewellery & Clothing,
Sandbox in the City, Tip Top Tailors, Burtons for Shoes

Fabulous door prizes and draws

Tickets: \$45

Call 659-7003

St. Therese Catholic College officially opens Feb. 23 in Bruno

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission was officially opened during a day-long celebration Feb. 23 at the former Ursuline convent and academy in Bruno, Saskatchewan.

Board chair Jerry Kristian of Saskatoon cut the ribbon to officially open the facility, which one speaker described as an oasis of faith formation and healing. Twenty students are presently enrolled at the Catholic college, which began its inaugural year Oct. 1 on the feast day of patron St. Therese of Lisieux.

In addition to offering students a yearlong program of faith formation and community based in the facility's east wing, St. Therese Catholic College includes a healing and growth centre in the building's west wing. The healing and growth centre will offer programs of teaching, healing and transformation, said Kristian, and will eventually include sessions on family healing, self esteem, grief and loss, as well as providing a base for AA, Al-Anon and abortion recovery groups.

Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt blessed and dedicated the centre, before presiding at an opening Mass in the school gymnasium, attended by some 500 visitors, guests, staff, students and supporters.

Citing the lives of saints such as St. Augustine, St. Therese and St. Angela Merici, LeGatt said that his hope and prayer is that each one who comes to St. Therese Catholic College will grow in their awareness of God's incredible love, and will be transformed in that love.



St. Therese board chair Jerry Kristian (centre) cuts the ribbon to officially opens the new Catholic College, as Bishop Albert LeGatt and Executive director Andras Tahn look on.

Spirituality, work and community are among the hallmarks of St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission, observed LeGatt during an evening program of speakers, greetings and presentations.

LeGatt endorsed the vision of creating a place where young people can take a year to grow in faith and community before going off to school or careers, or for people of any age to journey as an interlude in their life dedicated to growing in faith, knowledge and holiness. "May this school continue to be a blessing for the students, for the diocese, for the whole of the church and for all those who will be touched by those who go forth from these walls."

Keynote speaker Bernard Hamoline of Aberdeen described the new college as a way of fulfilling the Old Testament precept of taking a sabbatical year to "rest in the Lord." He added that even if one can't attend for a year, the commitment to a "sabbatical hour" of prayer each day is a way to embark on a similar journey.

Hamoline addressed the challenge of walking "the little way" of love as described by St. Therese of Lisieux. "The little way has nothing to do with the nature of the task at hand ... it has everything to do with the manner in which it is accomplished," Hamoline said, noting that no matter what a person's station in life, the call is to do everything with love and obedience.

Bringing greetings, Kilian O'Donovan, director and cofounder of the John Paul II Bible School in Radway, Alberta said that schools like St. Therese Catholic College are "a novitiate for the laity" in which individuals can spend a year of formation "establishing a relationship with Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives."

Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations expressed his appreciation for the spirit of prayer and healing being lived out at St. Therese Catholic College – a healing that is much needed in our society. He described the challenges facing his

people, and all those who are hurt by the "evil spirit" of drugs and alcohol, the exploitation of young girls in the sex trade, and other negative issues.

"Not only do we need to pray together, but we have to do this out of mutual respect," Joseph said, calling for a renewed understanding of the living nature of the treaties.

Greetings were also presented by St. Therese chaplain Fr. Clair Watrin, board members Lisa Tahn and Jim McLane, and town of Bruno representative Laurel Grayson.

Pastor of St. Bruno parish Rev. Joe Ackerman, OSB, spoke of the great work of Pope John XXIII, before encouraging the new Catholic college to dedicate time to studying the documents of the second Vatican council. Parish representative Victor Granger said parishioners are happy to be walking with the students and the new families who have arrived in the community because of St. Therese Catholic College.

Sr. Bernadine Fetter, OSU, superior of the Ursulines of Bruno, expressed happiness in knowing that a mission of "faith formation and the betterment of family life" will continue to be lived out in the building established by the Ursulines.

Board chair Jerry Kristian and executive director Andras Tahn described the history of the St. Therese project, which began with a group of individuals talking about their vision of Catholic education and faith formation.

Kristian said there were many "bumps and detours" along the way

to establishing the college: a journey that included both "trials and tremendous spiritual growth." Both Kristian and Tahn acknowledged the support of the bishop who, after much consultation and reflection, told the St. Therese board "I have decided to journey with you."

Major donors and supporters were acknowledged during the evening, including Pius and Ida Pfeifer of North Battleford, whose donation permitted the board to purchase the building in Bruno. Pius Pfeiffer said that he and his wife are proud to be part of the inspiring project, and encouraged continuing prayer and support "Let's give them their tools and let them do their job and let them fulfill the dream."

Tahn introduced the staff, including St. Therese college director Jim Anderson, who in turn introduced the students, whom he described as "risk takers, just like the apostles were pioneers and risk takers."

Several spoke about what attending the college means to them. Nicole Brodner of Regina described St. Therese as "a safe and wonderful place to find out who I am and to grow towards who I am called to be," while Michael Wourms of Kamloops, B.C. said it provides "a much needed opportunity to grow in my spiritual life."

Naomi Senten of Edmonton said the school is helping her to "develop a deeper intimacy with Christ," while Jonathan Inskip of Salmon Arm, B.C. said: "St. Therese has been about learning to live from the heart ... so we can do all things through him who strengthens us."

"I'm getting closer to God every day and I'm very blessed to be here," said Kathleen Wolfe of Saskatoon.

"Something that I've learned in class about the spirituality of St. Therese is that it's not about climbing this mountain that we call holiness and trying to be perfect ... it's about being weak, about being myself, being imperfect, and just letting God carry me up that mountain. That's the best news I've heard in 20 years," said Fred Bull of Calgary.

Later on in the program, student Jean Amyotte of St. Paul, Alberta described his conversion from a life of drug addiction; and the anonymous donation that paid his tuition to attend St. Therese Catholic College.

The college board of directors includes Lisa Tahn, Jim McLane, Carolyn Crittenden, Gail Gareau, and Fr. Albert Lalonde, OMI.

Advancement, outreach at St. Therese College in Bruno

BY GARTH WRUCK, ST. THERESE COLLEGE

A grand opening Feb. 23 officially launched St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission, which we would like to think of as a new Canadian apostolate.

The college's fundraising target for 2007/08 is \$2 million. We are well on our way with approximately \$700,000 raised. A fundraising campaign will be launched this spring. While the main campaign is under development, the school still has an ongoing need for support especially during our start-up year. The college's annual operation costs are \$1.1 million dollars.

Although funds are the most pressing need, the college is also seeking donated services from volunteers and trades people (electricians, carpenters, horticulturalists) and the donation of products (office supplies and equipment, maintenance supplies and equipment, food) that can help reduce costs.

Public events and presentations are regularly offered as part of the St. Therese College Christian Culture Series. Four of five members of the Face

to Face Ministries mission to India – Kerry Williams, Abby King, Micheline Thibault, and Janelle Levesque – shared their experiences in a public meeting April 9. Fr. Rosica, CSB, the CEO of Salt and Light Television, will address the public Friday, May 16 during an evening presentation.

Two "Come and See" events for potential students are planned April 18-19 and May 9-10. Potential students (age 17 and up) are invited to "Come and See - a day in the life at St. Therese College."

These events begin on Friday evening with a welcome, a presentation on the spirituality of St. Therese, praise and worship, and Eucharistic adoration. Saturday's schedule will follow a typical day at St. Therese College including Mass, class time, small group discussion and prayer. Information will be presented on the school's programs and community life. The retreat will close with a farewell supper Saturday evening. The cost for the weekend is \$25 per person. This fee includes accommodations and meals. Please contact the school to confirm your

attendance. Students who would like to pre-book an interview with the school director are asked to send in an application beforehand and request an interview.

St. Therese College is now entering the third and final trimester of the program. The inaugural class will graduate with a commissioning by Bishop Albert LeGatt and Fr. Clair Watrin Saturday, June 7, 2008. All are welcome to attend.

Please continue your prayers for staff and students at St. Therese College as they continue to discern God's plans for the College and for those he has called to serve, learn and grow here.

"O Jesus, Whose Face is the sole beauty that ravishes my heart, I may not behold here upon earth the sweetness of Thy Glimpse, nor feel the ineffable tenderness of Thy Kiss. I bow to Thy Will - but I pray Thee to imprint in me Thy Divine Likeness, and I implore Thee so to inflame me with Thy Love, that it may quickly consume me and I may soon reach the Vision of Thy glorious Face in Heaven." - St. Thérèse

Face to Face offers summer 'Ignite' program

BY SHELAN SCHNELL

In August 2007 Face to Face Ministries embarked on a new adventure, a summer camp for Catholic teens called *Ignite*. The week brought together 77 participants from across the prairie provinces to grow in their knowledge and love of Christ.

The vision of *Ignite* is to see young people grow in holiness and embrace the challenge of Pope John Paul II: "If you are what you should be you'll set the world ablaze with Christ's love."

Speakers such as Mark Mallett, John Connelly, David MacDonald and Ken Yasinski challenged participants to be holy Catholic witnesses in today's world. The week was intertwined with praise and worship, testimonies, games, drama and reconciliation. Every day participants also took the opportunity for personal prayer, Mass and adoration. Many youth said that adoration and daily Mass were highlights of the week. Alana Heit said: "adoration really gave me a chance to let God speak to me."

Rebecca Jean said that she grew closer to God during adoration and that it was a real treat to have the opportunity for daily sacraments.

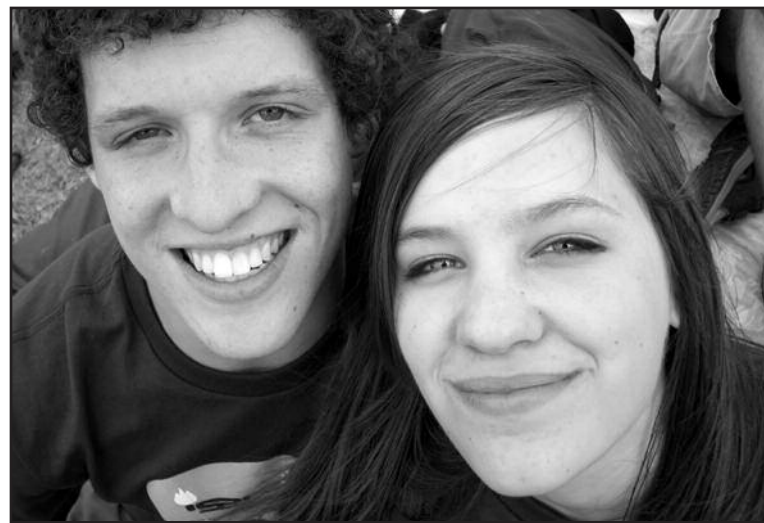
Youth entered deeper into their faith, as participant Shayna Brown explained: "I grew in every way imaginable. Overall, I developed a closer relationship with Christ and became more secure in my faith."

Janessa Fouillard said, "This experience showed me how important it is to have God in your life and at the same time how much fun it can be."

Planning for *Ignite 2008* is underway. The program is designed for teens who are serious about growing in their faith.

It will once again be held at St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission in Bruno, Sk from Monday, Aug. 18 to Saturday, Aug. 23, ending with Rock the Mount at the nearby Carmel shrine.

"It is a good opportunity to re-



Ignite camp will be held Aug. 18 to 23 at Bruno.

- Photo submitted by Face to Face Ministries

ignite your faith with Christ and come closer to Him," said Chelsey Fontaine, an *Ignite 2007* participant.

Rochelle Jalbert added that "it is a great way to make friends with other youth who are striving for a personal relationship with Christ as you are."

Shayna Brown said: "It is the most amazing and worth-while thing you will ever experience."

Interested parents are also welcome to participate fully in *Ignite 2008*. Check out details at www.facetofaceretreats.com or contact camp director Shelan Schnell (924-1534) for information.

Rock the Mount Catholic Youth Rally

10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., **Saturday, Aug. 23**
at Mount Carmel Shrine, northwest of Humboldt

•Speakers • Worship • Activities • Music•
Make it part of your summer!

For More information call Elaine or John Boskill at 306-384-4836
or e-mail rockthemount@sasktel.net

Macklin youth reaffirm faith in new process requested by Bishop LeGatt for diocese

A group of Grade 8 students from Macklin and St. Donatus recently spent time learning more about their faith, while deepening their relationship with God, with each other, and with their parish community.

As part of the process, the 13 young people made a public reaffirmation of faith April 6 at a celebration with Bishop Albert LeGatt, who was also present for the confirmation of younger children at St. Mary's and St. Donatus parishes.

The reaffirmation of faith by young adolescents is an initiative being developed for the whole diocese at the request of Bishop

LeGatt. It is part of follow-up efforts in youth ministry and catechesis since the Restoration of the Order of Initiation Sacraments moved confirmation to a younger age, now taking place before children receive their first communion.

The vision for the "reaffirmation of faith" process for Grade 8 students is that it would involve learning more about their faith in a way appropriate to the age level. It will also include family participation, a service project, and prayer, as well as a retreat experience, said Bishop LeGatt, noting that the process of "taking up the reality of our Christian



Youth presented the Way of the Cross in St. Mary's parish at Macklin as one part of a learning and spiritual preparation process for a re-affirmation of faith with Bishop Albert LeGatt April 6, 2008.

- Photos submitted by Macklin parish

initiation" is a never-ending and lifelong process. Since Grade 8 is often a time of transition and new maturity as students prepare to move into high school, it is an appropriate time to again focus upon the faith journey, he said. The bishop noted that Grade 12 might be another potential age for such a structured reaffirmation process.

For the past three years at St. Mary's parish in downtown Saskatoon, a "Next Step" program has been offered to Grade 8 students. This year, St. Mary's parish in Macklin also took up the challenge of being a pilot project, explained Michele Sieben, who helped coordinate the program in Macklin.

Materials prepared by youth leaders Warren Dungen, Matthew and Jonathan Courchene greatly helped leaders plan sessions, she noted. Although parents initially expressed concerns about the time

commitment, the youth themselves were excited and eager to participate, she said.

One of the Grade 8 participants, wrote a brief summary of the experience. "We've played some games, did Stations of the Cross and read bible stories. There are quiet times and loud times. We once had a race to put together a puzzle of the Apostle's Creed, and another time we set a table in oven mitts," Kerry Friedrich said. "Everyone looks forward to the next meeting, wondering what cool thing we'll do next! We've even gotten over the fact that we're guinea pigs again!"

Agnes Rolheiser of the diocesan Rural Catechetics office is working with a diocesan committee to consider resources, materials and formats that can facilitate the Grade 8 reaffirmation of faith with the greatest ease. Plans are to introduce the idea more fully to parish

leadership in the fall and have the program in place across the diocese within the next three years.

It is no accident that the planned Grade 8 reaffirmation of faith would include many of the elements that went into sacramental preparation of Grades 6-8 students when confirmation was offered at that age – learning, prayer, family involvement, service projects and retreats. "When the change to an earlier age of confirmation was made, we heard people speak very emotionally about the importance of this kind of spiritual experience for youth of this age," Rolheiser said. "The emotion told me that there is a climate out there, a hunger out there for lifelong faith formation, for finding ways to reach out to young people and to pass on the faith – particularly in rural areas where there are so many challenges." - KLY



Twenty-five Grade 4-6 students, and seven Grade 2 students received sacramental preparation in the Cudworth parish.

- Photo by Bernice Jungwirth

Cudworth youth confirmed

BY BERNICE JUNGWIRTH

Bishop Albert LeGatt visited Cudworth's St. Michael parish April 13 for the confirmation of parish youth.

Twenty-five children, from Grade 4 to 6, prepared to receive the sacrament of confirmation, led by instructor Kim Hauber, aided by parent helpers when the class met Sunday mornings.

Seven Grade 2 children received instruction from John Parsons, who prepared them for receiving both the sacraments of confirmation and first communion.

The Grade 4 to 6 students of the confirmation class of 2008 included Graehme Fiolleau,

Tristan Hackl, Evan Huslage, Jordan Kleiter, Robyn Medernach, Rylan Medernach, Patrick Miazga, Tyler Reaser, Alicia Wiersma, Meaghan Dierker, Tyler Koenning, Tyson Koenning, Jana Schlosser, Cole Schwark, Shelby Becker, Devin Dierker, Brett Fiolleau, Amanda Hnatiw, Bryana Koenning, Kyle Medernach, Christopher Nidosky, Dylan Reaser, Luke van der Gracht, Caitlin Yorke, and Hayley Yuzdowski. Students from Grade 2 receiving confirmation and first communion this year were Jarod Becker, Preston Frank, Marlee Hauber, Emily Medernach, Cole Yuzdowski, Landon Kohle and Alyn Pulvermacher.

What is the 'Restored Order of Initiation'?

The expression "Restored Order of Initiation Sacraments" refers to a pastoral policy within a diocese around the timing for the celebration of the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist. This is linked to our understanding that both of these are sacraments of initiation. As such they are meant to introduce us into full membership in the Church.

In simple terms, it means that Catholics who were baptized in infancy now receive confirmation before first communion, not after. Practically speaking, this means that the two sacraments are received at the first communion Mass, with confirmation celebrated after the homily, just before the newly-confirmed children receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Bishops from all over the world have been reflecting and praying about this restoration for many years. Some dioceses in Canada have been following this policy for some time. Bishop Albert LeGatt introduced the restoration of the order of the

initiation sacraments several years ago and it is in the process of being phased in across the Saskatoon diocese.

Such a change requires a change in our understanding of the requirements for confirmation. Seven or 8-year-olds are not prepared in the same way as 12- or 14-year-olds. A key element of this pastoral policy is the reality that faith is a journey of relationship with God and that catechesis (or faith formation) is a *lifelong* process. We never "graduate" from catechesis!

A questions and answer series about the Restored Order of Initiation of Sacraments is available on the Saskatoon diocesan website at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Click on the heading "Our Faith" to find a drop-down box, and then go to "Order of Sacraments." Or for more information contact the Rural Catechetics office at the Catholic Pastoral Centre by phoning 242-1500 or toll free 1-877-661-5005.

Evangelizers, catechists and teachers gather in Saskatoon for WCCRE enrichment

BY MARY COMEAULT ANDRÉA LEDDING

Evangelizers, catechists and teachers from across Western and Northern Canada gathered in Saskatoon, Nov. 8 to 11, 2007 for renewal and inspiration.

About 135 delegates participated in prayer, keynote addresses, plenary and breakout sessions at the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators (WCCRE) conference.

"Master catechist and storyteller" David Wells of the Plymouth Diocese in the United Kingdom presented sessions throughout the weekend, affirming and encouraging participants in their ongoing efforts to share the faith with others.

"I'm going to suggest that we are in fertile soil," Wells said during his opening remarks Nov. 8. "In this room there is a minimum of 1,000 years of catechetical experience. It's quite a harvest. We've got a lot to say, we've got a lot to hear. You are all part of the harvest as well as being harvesters, working in the field."

"A consequence of discipleship is not to know your impact," noted Wells. The theme of the conference was, "Come with me into the field... for the harvest."

Dialoguing with those who gathered for the event, Wells summarized characteristics of our modern culture, the field in which catechists work. Within our culture, there is a loss of the sense of identity rooted in

tradition, a loss of trust in authorities and institutions and widespread cynicism. Self-sufficiency, consumerism and a growing restlessness and discontent are other characteristics of the culture. The global culture has lost absolute certainty and objectivity. Things have become very subjective, Wells said, describing an obsession with the personal, the mood and the moment, tied in with a strong individualism and an understanding of spirituality as a private and personal act.

Wells encouraged the participants to work with the modern culture in which they find themselves. "We are in the midst of it, and that is where God wants us to be."

Using the scriptural image of St. Paul addressing the people of Athens and affirming what they are doing right before leading them to consider the gospel, Wells encouraged listeners to work with the culture by blessing what is good and then using that as a starting point for catechesis.

In all of this, those who evangelize and teach the faith have many challenges, Wells admitted. "The job will never be done – you don't get to finish the job", he said, adding that it is our job as humans to let mystery be mystery.

The conference included a number of workshop sessions, including Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, and Sr. Mary Ann Bates, RSCJ, on *Restoring the Order of the Sacraments*; Karen Schreiner on *Liturgy of*



Speaker David Wells, standing in front of the WCCRE conference banner.

the Word With Children; Warren Dungen on *Accompanying Youth in Faith*; Joanne Chafe on *Accompanying Adults in Faith*; Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, on *Accompanying First Nations in Faith*.

The WCCRE works in collaboration with the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops to strengthen catechist formation initiatives. The Saskatoon diocesan representative to the Western Catholic Conference of Religious Educators is Mary Comeault of the Rural Catechetics ministry.

Collaborating with the executive of the WCCRE, the local Hosting and Planning Committee carried out numerous tasks and

with the help of many willing hands, transformed the large conference space into an environment featuring produce from Saskatchewan fields and gardens, and a large, colourful 'field' mural prepared by students from Georges Vanier School. The hosting and planning committee consisted of: chairperson Mary Comeault, Lois McKay, Agnes Rolheiser, Theresa Austin, and Karen Schreiner.

Conference participants shared insights and evaluations of how the sessions of the conference had supported and was enabling them to be catechists of faith and determination. Comments included:

- "I received encouragement, affirmation and new insights: 'who' the catechist is and can be by knowing and following the greatest catechist – Jesus."

- "I was given a model of how to work better with families at the level they are at."

- "I am to be more aware of the culture I am teaching in, be sensitive to that and to bless the situation."

- "I learned that I must continue to be taught and to experience faith growth personally in order to continue being a catechist."

- "We are part of the Sower (Jesus Christ) and the harvester (Jesus Christ) with challenges along the way. We (catechists) work and sow in the field of the world and many times may never see the end result – that is okay, because it is all in God's hands."

Bishop reflects on goals of campaign

BY BISHOP ALBERT LEGATT

Uniting in Faith – what an appropriate name for our campaign for the new Holy Family Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Centre. *Uniting in Faith* for the future of our entire diocesan Church: that's what this mammoth project is all about.

In the past few months, I have been traveling to the deaneries across our diocese for meetings with the Parish Council Chairpersons and other parish representatives. At the present time I am also having "townhall" meetings where all are invited for further information on this project, and to answer the many questions people have.

As I go through the diocese for these meetings, and also for confirmations, I am constantly reminded of the great richness of our diocese: a richness of faith, a richness of people, a richness of service and generosity by so many persons in every parish. And that is what gives me real hope as we proceed with this *Uniting in Faith* campaign.

The need for a new church and parish centre for Holy Family Parish is very clear, and it becomes greater with every new Catholic

family moving into that northeast part of Saskatoon that is exploding in growth. The size of worship space that Holy Family parish will eventually need (about 1,300 seats) is what the diocese now needs in a cathedral, for our diocesan celebrations, such as Chrism Mass, ordinations, etc. It's a very good match.

St. Paul's Cathedral will be re-designated as a co-cathedral and will continue to serve the stable, even growing population in downtown Saskatoon. That beautiful church will continue as the centre of a vibrant parish and a testimony to the faith of those who have gone before us.

Another real focus of this project has become the new Diocesan Pastoral Centre, that will be home to the over 40 programs and services that serve the entire diocese. A list of these services that touch all areas of faith education and formation, spirituality, prayer and worship, evangelization, outreach and justice, vocation discernment and promotion, as well as diocesan administration can be found on Page 14 of this newsletter. Take the time to read all about these services and programs, and you may be enlightened if not also



An artist's rendition of the new Holy Family Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Plans call for a construction start by fall of 2009 or spring of 2010.

surprised at all the ways we live and grow in our faith together in this diocese.

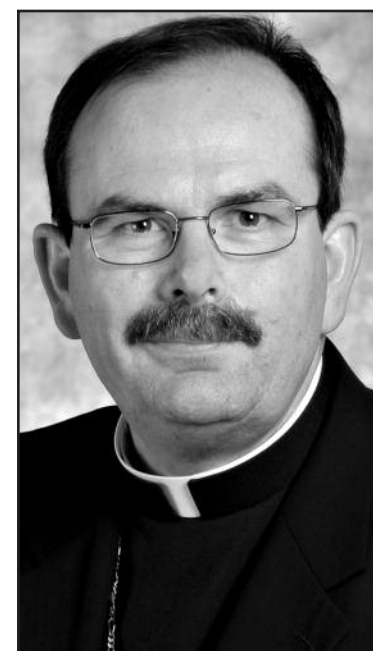
These services and programs exist for one reason alone – to offer the parishes and people involved in ministry throughout the diocese the knowledge, resources, training and support needed to carry out the mission of the Church.

The present Catholic Centre, after 50 years of use, has become too small for the present staff and certainly too small for growth in the future. Already we have two and three staff members sharing one small cubicle or office, and we have even had to find working space for some diocesan staff elsewhere. A

new Diocesan Pastoral Centre is key to continuing to serve our diocese, especially as we look to the future and must find new ways to serve new needs.

In the end, this Holy Family Cathedral and new Diocesan Pastoral Centre is about this: the future. It's about believing that our diocese will continue to grow in numbers, that it will continue to grow in pastoral needs, and that the opportunity exists to develop even further the ways we can live out the mission of Christ, the mission of the Church.

This new Diocesan Pastoral Centre and Holy Family Cathedral will be the centre of all that we hope



Bishop Albert LeGatt

to live together as faithful followers of Christ and vibrant members of a Church called to be a sign of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in central Saskatchewan. It will be a sign of what we share in faith and a very concrete investment in the future, giving us what we need to grow and truly serve all.

This is why it is so important that we all *Unite in Faith* and this is why I am asking for your participation in our *Uniting in Faith* campaign.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why build a new cathedral when St. Patrick can accommodate the diocesan wide events and masses?

A. St. Patrick Parish may have the seating required for diocesan gatherings, but it does not have the structural design to accommodate an expansion that would include the Catholic Centre. The site does not have the acreage to accommodate a bigger building, in addition to a much-needed larger parking area. The "cheapest and most available" land for the diocese was available through a partnership with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board of education, which made available the 5.5-acre parcel of land adjacent to St. Joseph's High school in northeast Saskatoon.

Q. Why build in the affluent northeast quadrant of Saskatoon?

A. This area of the city of Saskatoon, desperately needs more church seating to serve its population. In response, and in consultation with parish and diocesan leaders, the Bishop recommended construction of a new, larger Holy Family parish to serve the expanding neighbourhoods of Sutherland, Erindale, Arbor Greek, Willow Grove, Forest Grove, and Silverspring. A number of factors were considered:

- Holy Family desperately needs to build a new church to accommodate the over 1,400 families it has registered now, with the expectation for that number to increase to 4,000-5,000 families in the coming years.
- This will be the only new church built in the diocese of Saskatoon for the foreseeable future.
- There is enough land on this northeast Saskatoon site to house the Catholic Centre.
- The existing Catholic Centre is in great need of increased office space and parking. The new facility will provide increased capacity to strengthen programs and offer a more suitable space for meetings.

Q. Why does our small prairie diocese need a grandiose Cathedral?

A. In fact, the diocese is striving to use common sense stewardship by modestly enhancing the new Holy Family Parish as part of designating it the diocesan Cathedral. The seating capacity needed by the parish coincides with the seating needed for diocesan celebrations such as the Rite of Election, ordinations, and the Chrism Mass. Also, the space and maintenance efficiencies of building to accommodate the Holy Family rectory, the diocesan Chancery office and the program and service offices of the Catholic Pastoral Centre make enormous fiscal sense.

Q. Why doesn't the diocese spend all this money on programming instead of a building?

A. That is just what is happening here. The diocese is responding to a number of programming problems that have been creeping up for some time now, including:

- an under-served Catholic population in northeast Saskatoon;
- the Catholic Centre's growth in programs and services; for instance, in the areas of lay formation, hospital chaplaincy, youth outreach, and prison ministry;
- a demand for more diocesan support of parishes in areas such as youth ministry, developing lay leadership, rural catechetics, evangelization, etc.

All of this is actually very good news! It is a sign of an active, searching faith life in our diocesan community. The diocese is building to accommodate its current needs and provide sound planning for our future generations. The Catholic Pastoral Centre will define its role by being a hub of programming activity for the diocese.

Q. I don't live in Saskatoon – why should I support the Cathedral?

A. Every Catholic is a member of the diocesan family – not just a member of their own local parish. The pastor of the diocese is the Bishop, and the diocesan home church is the Cathedral. To support the Catholic Centre and the diocesan Cathedral is a way to support

the Bishop, the pastor of our diocesan family, the manifestation of the universal church. Many programs – including Lay Formation, Rural Catechetics, vocation awareness, Justice and Peace, and the Liturgy Commission – are examples of diocesan responsibilities and programs which fall under the administration of the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Such areas are extremely important to the vitality of our diocese. In addition, we all have a responsibility to reach out to, support and evangelize those beyond our own immediate parish family – including, perhaps, our children or grandchildren, brothers and sisters, neighbours and strangers outside of our own parish – all those across the diocese, both today, and in succeeding generations, who will be reached by diocesan programs and initiatives.

Q. How will a new Cathedral strengthen our Catholic community?

A. The underlining theme of the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is that we are being asked to come together to play an important role in building and strengthening our faith community. This is the first time in the history of our diocese that we have been called together to build and invest in something of great substance that will provide increased outreach and strengthened programs. The new Catholic Pastoral Centre and Cathedral will be a symbol of growth and renewal for our diocesan family and will have an impact not only today but for generations to come. We are truly doing what the slogan says: *Uniting in Faith*.

Q. Is the existing Cathedral being torn down?

A. No. St. Paul's Cathedral will remain a vital downtown parish. Because of its size, the building has not been able to practically serve as a Cathedral for the past 15 years. However, in recognition of the historic importance of St. Paul's Cathedral, the bishop has asked the Vatican to grant it status as a "co-cathedral." This request has been approved.

Q. Will this mean other smaller parishes closing in Saskatoon?

A. No. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will always have the need for smaller parishes to be led by older priests who may not have the desire to pastor a parish with a thousand or more families. In addition, there will be no new churches constructed in the foreseeable future, based on solid demographic predictions. Diocesan leadership is working to respond in a variety of common sense ways to meet the diverse needs of the diocese – including both small parishes and large parishes, urban and rural. Pastoral leadership options include appointing priest pastors to serve in one parish; establishing parish clusters served by a single priest; as well as sometimes using a pastoral team model consisting of a Parish Life Director and a Priest Moderator who share pastoral leadership.

Q. How will the Cathedral support itself financially after it is built? Will this be a Diocesan and parish responsibility?

A. Yes, it will be a shared responsibility, but because both the diocese and Holy Family parish currently have building operations budgets, there will be little change to either the parish or the diocesan budgets – each will continue to be responsible for all that they are currently responsible for, including operating within their annual costs. There will also be revenue from renting a multi-purpose hall which is projected to cover all operational costs for the hall.

Q. Who is being asked to support the campaign?

A. Holy Family parish is committed to building their parish home, and are taking a leadership role in raising funds for their share of the project. By the end of this Uniting in Faith campaign effort all diocesan parishioners from communities across the diocese will have had the opportunity to make a gift to support this campaign. Right now, efforts to secure major pacesetting and leadership gifts are setting the foundation for the general parish campaign to follow in early 2009.

Cathedral and Catholic Centre project highlighted at meetings

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Plans to move forward with construction of a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre were recently presented in a series of meetings across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. The project was discussed at a meeting of priests and Parish Life Directors Jan. 15, and at a number of deanery meetings beginning Feb. 5.

The cathedral designation will be given to the new Holy Family church to be built on 5.5 acres of land adjacent to St. Joseph Catholic High School in northeast Saskatoon.

The existing St. Paul's Cathedral has for many years been too small to function as a cathedral for diocesan celebrations such as the Rite of Election, the Chrism Mass or ordinations. St. Paul's will continue to operate as a parish in downtown Saskatoon, and will be given the designation of "co-cathedral" in light of its historic significance.

A chronic lack of space at the existing Catholic Pastoral Centre and Chancery Office next to St. Paul's has also prompted a decision to pursue the construction of a new pastoral centre in conjunction with the Holy Family project, announced Bishop Albert LeGatt at several recent meetings.

Planning and design of the project has moved forward to the point where an architect has been hired and construction costs have been pinpointed at about \$28.5 million, reported Don Gorsalitz, who was recently hired as diocesan development officer.

Figures cited at earlier planning stages were lower, partly because the full scope of the project was not yet known, and also because estimations of construction costs to build and furnish the 65,000-square-foot building are now more realistic. The estimate includes a 25 per cent cushion, he added.

Holy Family parishioners have made significant fund-raising strides in their previous *Every Family* campaign to build their parish home, those attending the deanery and leadership meetings heard. The parish has recently started a new \$6 million fund-raising campaign, with plans to move into the new

parish home with an additional \$4.5 million debt, said Gorsalitz (see chart at right). The existing building in the Sutherland neighbourhood of Saskatoon has been sold to a Mennonite congregation.

The new *Uniting in Faith* fund-raising campaign for the Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre side of the project is now underway, with major donors being approached in 2008 and a diocesan-wide parish-based campaign planned for 2009.

"What we are really doing here is building significantly our capacity to strengthen our faith community," Gorsalitz said of the Catholic Pastoral Centre project. "Our faith community serves us in many ways. Often we take for granted the various programs offered, not thinking about how and what is involved in the creation and implementation. It is also fair to say that being part of our faith community has played a large role in shaping us into who and what we have become."

About 40 programs and services are coordinated from the Catholic Pastoral Centre (see list on Page 14), which provides support to both urban and rural parishes in areas such as adult faith formation, youth ministry, catechetics, social justice, family life, scripture study, lay ministry development, vocation promotion, and hospital ministry. It is also the home of the Diocesan Resource Library and the Chancery offices.

Bishop LeGatt described some recent diocesan initiatives such as the hiring of a diocesan coordinator of pastoral services for Royal University and City Hospital, the launch of an Aboriginal stream of the Lay Formation program, the establishment of a Restorative Justice ministry office, and a more focused effort in the areas of marriage and family life through the work of the Marriage Task Force.

"The diocese provides a core of services, and a group of people offering services: so that where Christian life is truly lived – in the parishes – Christian life is able to be strengthened and people have the resources that are needed," LeGatt said, describing the

Projected Cost and Funding

Project Total Cost \$28.5 million

(includes project management, design, construction, contingency, furnishings and bridge financing)

Projected Funding:

1. Holy Family Church:

Every Family Campaign (includes gift from Les and Irene Dubé)	\$4 million
Sale of Church and Rectory	\$1.5 million
Mortgage	\$2 million
Loan from the diocese	\$2.5 million
Uniting in Faith Campaign	\$6 million

TOTAL Holy Family parish commitment \$16 million

2. Diocesan-wide Uniting in Faith campaign

\$12.5 million

Campaign Timelines:

- Holy Family Church: January to June 2008, with final wrap-up by October 2008
- Diocesan-wide major gifts (\$25,000-plus pledges): began January 2008
- Diocesan-wide parish campaigns: will begin January 2009

work that comes out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre. "And as we look to the future, there are many ways in which we need to continue to grow."

The bishop said the diocese was proceeding in a spirit of good stewardship, trying to meet diocesan needs wisely and without extravagance, while proceeding in conjunction with another project as a way to maximize efforts and resources.

LeGatt noted that the combined use of worship space, parking, and meeting rooms between Holy Family Parish, the Cathedral, the Catholic Pastoral Centre and the nearby St. Joseph Catholic High School would mesh extremely well. For instance, while the parish would most often need meeting space in the evening, the Catholic Pastoral Centre is more likely to need it during the day, and while the high school requires more parking on weekdays, the church requires it on weekends.

At the same time, the bishop invited pastors and deanery and parish leaders to embrace the Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre project as a way to foster unity and to build up the diocese's capacity for outreach and evangelization in the future.

In discussions at the Jan. 15 pastors'

meeting, it was noted that the project has the potential to create a centre for the faith and for the entire diocesan community, providing "unity with people and also a structure." It also provides a way for each parishioner to be united with the larger mission of the whole church, with the diocese, and with all other parishes, the gathering heard.

There is a great potential for increased giving within the community, Gorsalitz predicted. "If the need is clearly expressed, people within our faith community will understand their important role in bringing this project to fruition," he said. "The *Uniting in Faith* campaign will be an opportunity for our whole diocesan family to grow and strengthen our faith community today and for generations to come."

Rev. David Tumback, pastor at Holy Family parish, reported on the progress of plans for the building, the hiring of an architect, and the efforts of committees, volunteers and parishioners to move the project forward. "The Divine Architect is very much a part of this process," he added, reflecting on the good will of those involved, and the efforts to bring together many different ideas and visions into one plan.

'Uniting in Faith' chairs see project as investment in future

Longtime Holy Family parishioners Barry and Giselle Frank are chairing the *Uniting in Faith* campaign recently launched in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Convinced of the need for a new Catholic Pastoral Centre, Cathedral and Holy Family parish, the Franks are enthusiastic about the project and encouraged by the response they receive when they explain that need to others.

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign includes three components: a continuing and renewed fund-raising effort at Holy Family Parish; approaching those in the diocese able to consider a major gift (\$25,000 or more); and a diocesan-wide campaign that will begin in January 2009, in which Catholics in every parish of the diocese will be asked to support the project.

Parishioners at Holy Family for some 20 years, Barry and Giselle were involved in the original parish *Every Family* campaign that has already raised some \$4 million for a desperately needed new parish home in northeast Saskatoon (see funding chart above right).

"We have just outgrown the building in every way," says Giselle, citing the need for seating, parking, and meeting space – and the need to provide a parish home for hundreds of families who have settled in the many new neighbourhoods that have grown up in that sector of the city in the past few years.

The potential for evangelization and outreach to Catholic families in the area hinges on the ability to accommodate them, she points out.

"Right now, I don't believe that many of them are coming to Holy Family, simply because of the lack of space and the parking situation."

A long-time member of the diocesan financial committee, Barry Frank also sees a clear need to replace the existing Catholic Pastoral Centre, which is severely short of space (see articles on Page 14), and to take



Barry and Giselle Frank chair the "Uniting in Faith" Campaign.

the opportunity to also create a functioning cathedral for the entire diocesan Catholic community.

"Once we started looking at the project and the scope of what is needed to respond to the needs of the people of the diocese, we soon realized this is very important to all 90,000 Catholic parishioners in the diocese of Saskatoon," Barry said.

In a recent series of deanery meetings about the project held across the diocese, it was clear that when the need for the new Catholic Pastoral Centre and Cathedral is clearly communicated, people will get behind it, he said.

The project is an opportunity for the diocese to pull together and create something tangible for the future, Giselle added.

The project also has the potential to unify the entire diocese, and strengthen every

Catholic's connection to the diocesan church – a longing she heard expressed at meetings of parish leadership. "When I heard one priest from a rural area stand up and say this could be a unifying force in our diocese, a light bulb went on for me. That is absolutely right," she said.

"In our diocese we have never been asked to contribute to something like this," she noted. "It's such an opportunity to really do something important, to strengthen our entire faith community, to prepare for the future. I consider it a privilege to be involved," Giselle said, describing the creation of the new Cathedral and Catholic Centre as an investment in our faith.

"We are building something that will have an impact for generations," agreed Barry, likening it to the way previous generations sacrificed so much to support their churches

and build their faith when they came to a new land.

In talking to people about the project many will speak about the importance of faith in their families and in shaping who they are – something that they also strongly desire for the next generations, added Giselle.

"Let's do something as Catholics that we're proud of," said Barry, speaking about the power of coming together for efforts such as the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress or the Bishop's Dinner.

Coming to understand the role of the diocese and of the programs that come out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre in supporting and nurturing faith in parishes and communities across the diocese is another important element of the campaign, added Giselle.

"The long-term implications will be much more than a building. It will bring people to understand the role of the Catholic Centre, and it will ensure that those programs are understood, accessed and funded into the future," said Barry, adding that a new Catholic Pastoral Centre will also be the base for developing new programs to respond to many needs that are not yet being met.

As chairs of the campaign, the Franks have spent a lot of time meeting with potential donors, while also recruiting others to help as volunteers. "Asking for money is not easy. But the more you meet with people, and explain the need, the more educated people get about the whole thing, and the more committed they are to the project," said Giselle.

"Once you understand the project, you believe in it. People become passionate about it," said Barry, adding more volunteers are needed, particularly as the diocesan-wide campaign prepares to launch in January 2009.

"We will need leaders in every parish who can come forward to assist." - KLY

Space crunch prompts plan for new Catholic Pastoral Centre

Nestled behind St. Paul’s Cathedral at the intersection of 5th Ave. and 22 St. in downtown Saskatoon, the Catholic Pastoral Centre has been the central location for planning and implementing many diocesan programs and ministries over the past 50 years.

Since the building was constructed, however, the diocese has grown both geographically and in population, with more lay people involved in ministry and leadership, and a dramatic increase in the number of programs offered.

As a result, space in the Catholic Pastoral Centre is becoming increasingly inadequate, said Ed Deis, financial officer for the diocese.

“Upstairs on the first and second floor we have 12 offices. Most of them are small and some are occupied by more than one person. We have the remaining staff using cubicles: it’s noisy, and cramped. We have three other staff that are actually located elsewhere because there is no room here, which creates some major problems in communication,” he described.

“We have other people that work out of their homes and come in occasionally, but who would be here if there was sufficient office space,” Deis explained.

The existing building is not wheelchair accessible, and parking in the downtown core creates ongoing challenges, he added.

“Right now the Resource Library is located in the basement – which is really not the best place for a library. The basement is not the best place to work, either, without windows and with poor air quality. And we’ve spent the last 20-some years fighting a water problem down there. We have two sump pumps going steady during the summer time,” Deis said, adding that in addition to the library, the basement includes two other offices.

Plans for a new Catholic Pastoral Centre at Holy Family Cathedral in northeast Saskatoon do not call for an increase in total square footage, but provide for a much more efficient use of space, said Deis, noting that the new diocesan centre will be on one level, with elevator access. Twenty-five offices are planned, most about 10 by 12 feet in size, he said. “It’s nothing fancy, but the space is much more effectively utilized.”

Plans for the new Catholic centre will also include a kitchen and staff room – the existing building does not have a workable kitchen space at the moment, Deis noted. Sharing space and meeting rooms with Holy Family parish will also provide “considerable synergy,” with the parish needing space mostly at night, and the Catholic Centre during the day, he said.

Making the diocesan Resource Library of faith development and enrichment materials more accessible to the public – including those with mobility issues who can’t manage the existing stairs, or in terms of better parking – would be a great improvement, said librarian Fran Turner. “Plans call for the library to be located adjacent to the reception area, so it would be easier for people to just step in and browse, when waiting for an appointment or stopping by for other business,” she added.

The new Catholic Centre will also include space for the diocesan archives, which are now stored off site at both Ogle Hall on the university campus and in a storage room at St. Paul’s rectory – both of which provide less-than ideal conditions for archive storage, Deis said.

Margaret Sanche, who works part time as diocesan archivist, noted that preservation of diocesan archives is a requirement of canon law. Including environmentally-controlled space for these historic records and materials in a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is a matter of good stewardship, she said, adding that plans for the sale of Ogle Hall mean that a new location will be needed for the archives in any case.

The vision behind the construction of a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is all about adequately serving a growing Catholic population across the diocese, said Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the diocese.

“Staff at the Catholic Centre are providing administrative supports and resources to parishes that often go unseen,” she said. “But these are services that are definitely needed now - and others will be needed in the future.”

That vision of providing for growth and outreach into the future is really the motivation for the entire project, Perrault said.

“Living and working in five dioceses has confirmed for me that we are incredibly blessed in the diocese of Saskatoon to have such diverse and substantial diocesan programs and services,” she said. “We’re trying to continue to build a diocesan church that really does take seriously the voice of every member, that really is trying to provide services and resources that meet the needs of every parish, every community, every region of the diocese.”

This building project is really about the people and programs in the diocese, she said, pointing out that adequate space is necessary for the people and the programs to operate.

“You have to put brick and stone to that vision if you are to have a presence in our world,” Perrault said. “Spirituality needs a presence. We are an embodied spiritual people and our building makes a statement about our presence in the community... A homeless family is not going to maintain a state of health for very long. Likewise, our diocesan family has grown to the point of needing a new home.”

The challenge of building for the future can be embraced with hope and optimism, Perrault asserted. “This is a time of new birth and beginning. It’s not a time of old age or decline. That’s exciting.” - KLY



Staff gather for a meeting at the downtown centre. (See article below for a list of what programs, ministries and services are offered from the Catholic Pastoral Centre.)

Plans for the new Catholic centre will also include a kitchen and staff room – the existing building does not have a workable kitchen space at the moment, Deis noted. Sharing space and meeting rooms with Holy Family parish will also provide “considerable synergy,” with the parish needing space mostly at night, and the Catholic Centre during the day, he said.

Making the diocesan Resource Library of faith development and enrichment materials more accessible to the public – including those with mobility issues who can’t manage the existing stairs, or in terms of better parking – would be a great improvement, said librarian Fran Turner. “Plans call for the library to be located adjacent to the reception area, so it would be easier for people to just step in and browse, when waiting for an appointment or stopping by for other business,” she added.

The new Catholic Centre will also include space for the diocesan archives, which are now stored off site at both Ogle Hall on the university campus and in a storage room at St. Paul’s rectory – both of which provide less-than ideal conditions for archive storage, Deis said.

Margaret Sanche, who works part time as diocesan archivist, noted that preservation of diocesan archives is a requirement of canon law. Including environmentally-controlled space for these historic records and materials in a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is a matter of good stewardship, she said, adding that plans for the sale of Ogle Hall mean that a new location will be needed for the archives in any case.

The vision behind the construction of a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is all about adequately serving a growing Catholic population across the diocese, said Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the diocese.

“Staff at the Catholic Centre are providing administrative supports and resources to parishes that often go unseen,” she said. “But these are services that are definitely needed now - and others will be needed in the future.”

That vision of providing for growth and outreach into the future is really the motivation for the entire project, Perrault said.

“Living and working in five dioceses has confirmed for me that we are incredibly blessed in the diocese of Saskatoon to have such diverse and substantial diocesan programs and services,” she said. “We’re trying to continue to build a diocesan church that really does take seriously the voice of every member, that really is trying to provide services and resources that meet the needs of every parish, every community, every region of the diocese.”

This building project is really about the people and programs in the diocese, she said, pointing out that adequate space is necessary for the people and the programs to operate.

“You have to put brick and stone to that vision if you are to have a presence in our world,” Perrault said. “Spirituality needs a presence. We are an embodied spiritual people and our building makes a statement about our presence in the community... A homeless family is not going to maintain a state of health for very long. Likewise, our diocesan family has grown to the point of needing a new home.”

The challenge of building for the future can be embraced with hope and optimism, Perrault asserted. “This is a time of new birth and beginning. It’s not a time of old age or decline. That’s exciting.” - KLY

requirement of canon law. Including environmentally-controlled space for these historic records and materials in a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is a matter of good stewardship, she said, adding that plans for the sale of Ogle Hall mean that a new location will be needed for the archives in any case.

The vision behind the construction of a new Catholic Pastoral Centre is all about adequately serving a growing Catholic population across the diocese, said Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the diocese.

“Staff at the Catholic Centre are providing administrative supports and resources to parishes that often go unseen,” she said. “But these are services that are definitely needed now - and others will be needed in the future.”

That vision of providing for growth and outreach into the future is really the motivation for the entire project, Perrault said.

“Living and working in five dioceses has confirmed for me that we are incredibly blessed in the diocese of Saskatoon to have such diverse and substantial diocesan programs and services,” she said. “We’re trying to continue to build a diocesan church that really does take seriously the voice of every member, that really is trying to provide services and resources that meet the needs of every parish, every community, every region of the diocese.”

This building project is really about the people and programs in the diocese, she said, pointing out that adequate space is necessary for the people and the programs to operate.

“You have to put brick and stone to that vision if you are to have a presence in our world,” Perrault said. “Spirituality needs a presence. We are an embodied spiritual people and our building makes a statement about our presence in the community... A homeless family is not going to maintain a state of health for very long. Likewise, our diocesan family has grown to the point of needing a new home.”

The challenge of building for the future can be embraced with hope and optimism, Perrault asserted. “This is a time of new birth and beginning. It’s not a time of old age or decline. That’s exciting.” - KLY

This building project is really about the people and programs in the diocese, she said, pointing out that adequate space is necessary for the people and the programs to operate.

“You have to put brick and stone to that vision if you are to have a presence in our world,” Perrault said. “Spirituality needs a presence. We are an embodied spiritual people and our building makes a statement about our presence in the community... A homeless family is not going to maintain a state of health for very long. Likewise, our diocesan family has grown to the point of needing a new home.”

The challenge of building for the future can be embraced with hope and optimism, Perrault asserted. “This is a time of new birth and beginning. It’s not a time of old age or decline. That’s exciting.” - KLY



Leah Perrault, Director of Pastoral Services



Margaret Sanche cares for diocesan archives.

WHAT’S AT THE CATHOLIC CENTRE?

• **Office of the Bishop** - The bishop is shepherd to a Catholic population of about 90,000 people, coordinating pastoral services to 99 parishes and faith communities (See a diocesan map at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/pages/diocesan_map.cfm). The bishop’s office works in collaboration with the Council of Priests and a Diocesan Pastoral Council which has representation from all of the deaneries across the diocese; while connecting the local church to the church universal through the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCCB); working with many Catholic institutions, organizations and groups, including religious orders, Catholic health care providers, Catholic schools and colleges. The bishop oversees the ministries within the Catholic Pastoral Centre, as well as the Chancery Office.

PASTORAL SERVICES

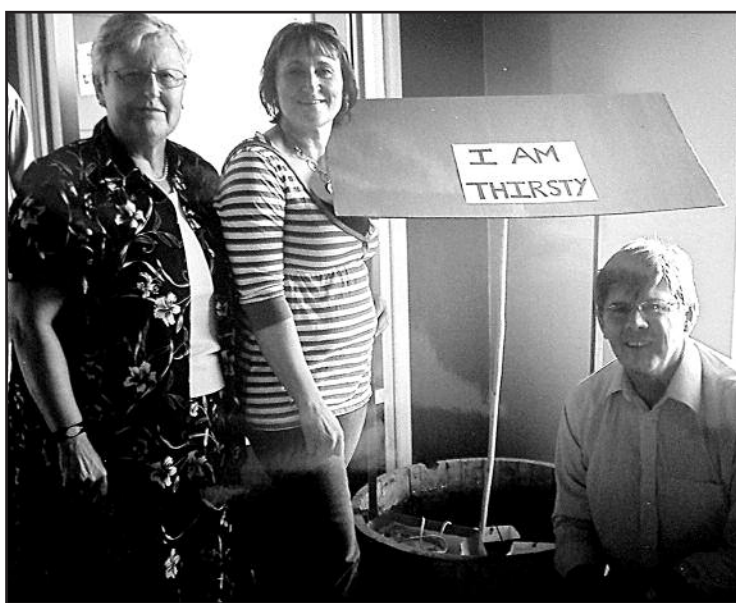
- **The Director of Pastoral Services** directs the pastoral ministry programs and services offered by the diocese, including:
- **Foundations** - an adult religious education program to form and renew the faith of adults throughout the diocese of Saskatoon. Speakers and courses are offered on a wide range of topics, organized and provided upon request from the local parish. A new program, Theology Uncorked, was also recently introduced, providing information and discussion on topics in a relaxed setting.
- **Home Religion Program** - a religious correspondence course offered through the Catholic Centre, available to families in the rural areas of the diocese, as well as to families who are unable to have their children attend Catholic schools.
- **Rural Catechetics** - a team of resource people providing support and enrichment for the religious education of elementary grade students in parishes across the diocese; helping volunteer catechists in the parishes grow in spirituality, teaching skills and community; providing resources and sacramental programs that invite parish and parental involvement. Coordinated from the Catholic Centre, the Rural Catechetics team includes resource persons who live and work in different parts of the diocese.
- **Youth Ministry** - helping parish communities and parents to act as leaders in supporting the faith development of youth; providing resources to parishes and youth leaders across the diocese upon request; coordinating a **Diocesan Youth Retreat Team**; organizing Diocesan Youth Events; working with other organizations providing youth ministry in the Catholic community, collaborating on efforts such as Theology on Tap, which reach out to young adults, and acting as a liaison to groups such as the Rock the Mount planning committee; St. Thomas More College; St. Therese Catholic College; Catholic Christian Outreach, etc.
- **Vocations Office** - supports the work of the **Vocation Commission** in promoting general vocation awareness and in discernment for young men and women open to God’s call to priesthood or religious life. Workshops, talks, seminars and prayer gatherings are available through the office.

- **Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities** - provides Bible study materials and faith sharing resources and support to parishes, to small groups and to individuals. A weekly reflection for small group discussion of the Sunday readings is regularly posted on the diocesan website through this office.
- **Justice and Peace** - collaborates with many groups providing services and engaged in ongoing efforts to bring about the Kingdom of God, to reach out to the poor and marginalized, and to address unjust systems and situations. The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace regularly connects with a wide range of ecumenical and community groups, as well as supporting diocesan efforts such as a **Rural Advocacy Committee**, and the justice and peace efforts within local parishes. The office also works to build awareness of justice and peace issues by publishing backgrounders, highlighting a saint of the month, and organizing events such as the ecumenical Way of the Cross through downtown Saskatoon and a multi-faith Peace Vigil on New Year’s Eve.
- **Restorative Justice (Prison Ministry)** - works to provide and coordinate Roman Catholic outreach and ministry at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre; spending time with prisoners and their families; connecting with parishes about reaching out to prisoners in various ways (prayer intentions, donations of needed items, organizing volunteers to assist with ministry, liturgy and outreach at the prison, etc.); and working to raise awareness of issues surrounding the prison system and restorative justice.
- **Hospital Chaplaincy** - works to provide and coordinate Roman Catholic outreach and ministry at the publicly-run hospitals in the city of Saskatoon (City Hospital and Royal University Hospital), connecting with priest chaplains, coordinating and nurturing pastoral care volunteers from parishes, and providing a liaison between Catholic pastoral care services and hospital staff and administration.
- **Lay Formation** - provides a comprehensive educational and faith formation opportunity for lay people, exploring scripture, morality, liturgy, social justice, theology, spirituality and community. Participants meet at Queen’s House Retreat and Renewal Centre for one weekend a month from September to June over two years, growing in knowledge, in their prayer life, and in their experience of Christian community. Since the program began 21 years ago, more than 600 people from across the diocese have participated. In recent years, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon has worked in collaboration with the Roman Catholic diocese in offering the program. This year a third stream of lay formation began – **Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation** – addressing the formation needs and spirituality of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. A joint effort of three dioceses (Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin-Le Pas) the Aboriginal program is coordinated out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

- **Ministry Development** - coordinates and develops ministry training across the diocese and fosters a collaborative relationship between the lay and ordained as they minister together. Courses, workshops and resources are provided to parishes and deaneries upon request from the parish or the deanery.
- **Office of Marriage and Family Life** - is a resource for groups that offer marriage preparation and enrichment, such as Muenster Engaged Encounter, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, local parishes, and the diocesan **Marriage Task Force**. The office supports troubled marriages through Retrouvaille. Ministry is nurtured to those who are separated and divorced through New Beginnings, Transitions and on-going education to the parishes.
- **Resource Library** - offers a wide variety of books, periodicals and audio-visual resources related to faith, liturgy, catechesis, family life, etc. The library provides resources and materials designed to enrich, educate and equip the faith of individuals and to support the evangelizing efforts of parishes, groups, catechists, teachers and parents.
- **Communications** - publicizes events, issues and initiatives in the Catholic community, through Diocesan Newsletters, Foundations mini-newsletters, regular reports submitted to the Prairie Messenger, the diocesan website, production of promotional materials, and connection with other media outlets.
- **Catholic Pastoral Centre** staff also provide support, input and resources to a number of other commissions and initiatives within the diocese, including:
 - **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**
 - **Liturgy Commission (and Diocesan Choir)**
 - **Diocesan Mission Office (including the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee)**
 - **Diocesan Ecumenical Commission**
 - **Deaf Ministry**
 - **Spanish Ministry**
 - **Native Ministry**
 - **Committee for Inclusive Catholic Communities (outreach to those with disabilities)**
 - **Adult Education Opportunities Committee**

THE CHANCERY OFFICE

- **The Chancery Office** - oversees diocesan operations and includes the **Vicar General, the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Archives**, and the **Marriage Tribunal**, as well as **secretarial and clerical support**. In financial matters, the Chancery operates with guidance from the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Diocesan Building Committee.
- **Bishop’s Annual Appeal** - an annual Appeal to raise funds for many of the ministries in the diocese and for organizations providing outreach and service in the community, founded in 1984 by Bishop James Mahoney (see report on Page 3 of the Newsletter for the 2007 Appeal disbursements).
- **Diocesan Development Office** - overseeing fundraising for major development projects, and planned giving.



Members of four faith communities in Beechy gathered for *H20, A Journey of Faith*.
-Submitted photo

Beechy experiences 10-week program focused on Jesus

BY SR. MARIE GARTNER, SMS
PARISH LIFE DIRECTOR, BEECHY AND ELROSE

Beechy community started the year with great enthusiasm in January, as the four churches – Mennonite, United, Anglican and Roman Catholic – joined together to experience a program called *H20, A Journey of Faith*.

H20, A Journey of Faith is a DVD-driven, 10-week experience designed to create a safe atmosphere where people are comfortable considering the person of Jesus Christ (Jesus can be thought of as “H2O: The Living Water”). The program uses carefully crafted storytelling to reach a media-savvy generation.

The experience in Beechy began Jan. 9, 2008, and continued weekly, rotating location between the churches. At each session, 42 to 45 participants started with a meal. Eating together was a powerful way to break down barrier and help people feel at home. After the meal and some entertainment a 20 to 25 minute DVD was shown. Each segment of an episode unfolded a dramatic story, coupled with insightful teaching, presented in a fast-paced, image-driven fashion.

After the video presentation, discussions were facilitated. The faith sharing within groups bonded yet deeper friendships. Evenings concluded with dessert and a more informal exchange of thoughts.

At the last session, March 18, a thanksgiving banquet was held at Beechy's Four Corners Restaurant, served by chef/manager Gary Guerette and staff. The atmosphere, the sharing, and joyful fellowship completed this memorable ecumenical journey of faith.

Fr. Joseph Choji, pastor at Allan, Colonsay and Viscount returns from visit to Nigeria

BY ANNE MOLDENHAUER
ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH, ALLAN

Fr. Joseph Choji is one of several international priests currently serving the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon while pursuing further studies at university.

Fr. Choji arrived in the Saskatoon diocese in July 2006 from the diocese of Jos in Northern Nigeria. He was appointed to the parishes of Luseland, Major and Tramping Lake, and then in October 2007 to the parishes of Allan, Colonsay and Viscount.

Due to a break in his University studies, Fr. Choji was able to return to Nigeria for a four-week visit recently. He spent joyful times celebrating happy reunions with many family members, friends, and fellow priests. There was sadness, too, because several relatives have died during the 18 months that he has been in Canada.

Fr. Choji arrived back in Saskatchewan just in time for the celebration of the Easter Triduum.

An impromptu festivity occurred the morning after his arrival in the rectory at Allan. His living areas had been decorated with balloons, streamers, welcome home banners, and gifts. A freshly baked belated birthday cake was brought by the parish bookkeeper – she happens to share a birthday with Fr. Choji.

While matches and candles were being fetched, Fr. Choji donned a beautiful aqua-coloured ayalla to wear for the festivities. This traditional ceremonial attire is used mainly in the Northern parts of Nigeria. An ayalla is worn for different kinds of celebrations. Fr. Choji wore his ayalla late into the afternoon as he continued to receive the visitors who dropped by to welcome him back.



Fr. Choji and Yvonne Sinden share the same birthday.

- Photo by Anne Moldenhauer

Special events mark season at Denzil

BY JOAN KUCHAPSKI
SACRED HEART PARISH, DENZIL

At Sacred Heart parish in Denzil, the Lent and Easter season were filled with activities.

The CWL organized the annual World Day of Prayer service held March 7. About 40 adults and members of the parish youth group participated in the readings, prayers, singing, dancing and drama. Lime cookies, a treat of the featured country, Guyana, were shared during the social time afterward. Donations totalling \$320 were collected for the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Stations of the Cross were held at the Denzil parish each week in Lent, led by a different parish group each time.

A “Hunger Supper” March 13 involved about 35 people. Most of the guests were served rice and beans, while three were served full meals to contrast the *have* and *have not* societies of the world. The *haves*, however, were asked not to share with those less fortunate, a

difficult request affecting both sides of the table.

During Holy Week, the Youth Group sold hot cross buns, donating the proceeds to Development and Peace.

Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky led the Good Friday service at Sacred Heart Parish this year, which for many consecutive years has been led by lay ministers.

On Easter Sunday, the church was resplendent with flowers, plants and colourful draperies symbolizing the beauty and new life of the risen Christ. The Mass, celebrated by Fr. Lishchynsky, was rich with scripture, prayer and song. Two maypoles were twirled as their bearers walked up and down the aisles at the beginning and the end of the service. The choir's singing included the Gloria and a special litany. Denise and Jamie Krieger's infant son, Hudson, was baptized during the service.

Seven children received the sacraments of communion and confirmation April 6. Several babies were also recently baptized in the parish.

Sandhills Pro-Life group takes part in craft fair

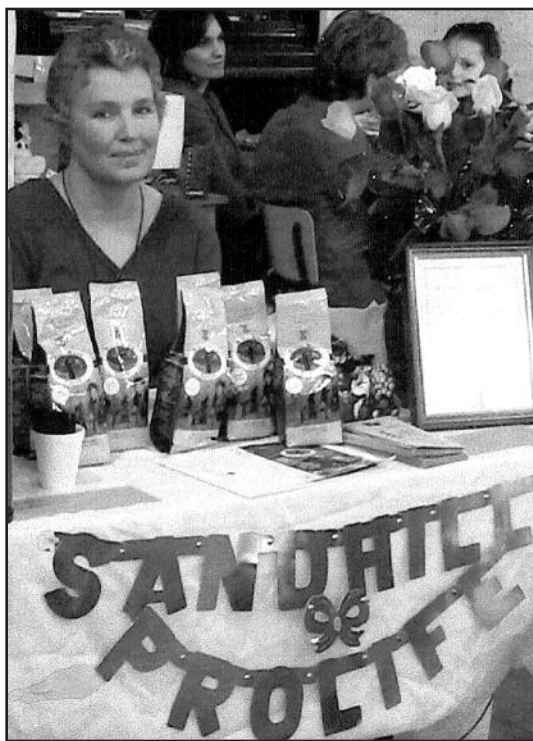
BY JOANNE HUDEC

Sandhills Pro-Life took part in the annual Fox Valley Craft Fair Nov. 18. The fair is well-attended and there are always local talented people contributing tables – full of baking, sewing, woodwork as well as wares from home businesses.

Sandhills Pro-Life sold some baking, but most of the sales were of coffee and roses. The coffee came from the Mystic Monks of the Carmelite Monastery in Wyoming who offer their own special roasts as a fundraising opportunity. Most of the proceeds from the coffee have gone into the local pro life account, although some has been donated to Rachel's Vineyard Saskatchewan.

Sale of the roses was for Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, an international ministry for women who have suffered abortions and are in need of healing and forgiveness.

It was founded by Dr. Theresa Burke in response to a need she encountered in her counseling practice. There are many women who have had abortions and experience a hidden grief that few people acknowledge. These women have the courage and strength to seek healing, and become strong defenders of the unborn. At this time in the province of Saskatchewan, Rachel's Vineyard is just beginning its ministry, with plans underway for organizing the first retreat. For more information,



The Pro-Life table at the local craft fair.

- Photo submitted by Joanne Hudec

contact Rachel Vineyard Ministries at 306-445-3158.

Fox Valley audience learns about Rachel's Vineyard

BY DANIEL HUDEC

The president of Rachel's Vineyard Saskatchewan visited Fox Valley Feb. 8.

Bonnie Cameron spoke at St. Mary's Parish in Fox Valley, giving her personal testimony, describing her own life experience in a dysfunctional family, suffering through failed marriages and one abortion.

She also provided information about Rachel's Vineyard at the wine and cheese night. Dodie Greenwald and Cheryl Eresman provided music for the evening.

Rachel's Vineyard is an organization dedicated to providing hope and healing for women and men suffering from the emotional and spiritual after effects of abortion. Rachel's Vineyard was started in the United States, where it is growing, and some women in our province are trying to bring it here as well.

Rachel's Vineyard offers weekend retreats, which provide opportunities to heal the emotional and spiritual scars left by abortion on both men and women, and which focus on God's forgiveness, compassion and mercy in a non-judgmental environment.



- Submitted photo

An illuminated Advent season for Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish

Par C Pacios

Lors de la saison liturgique de l'Avent 2007, la paroisse Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens a introduit un nouveau projet pour illuminer et enrichir sa pri re et son cheminement spirituel envers la célébration de Noël.

“Les Fen tres de l'Avent” était un projet de rencontres fraternelles en soirée entre paroissiens. Les familles se réunissaient dans un foyer quelconque de la paroisse dans le but d'augmenter la convivialité entre nous et de promouvoir la spiritualité chrétienne durant le temps de l'Avent. L'idée ce de projet nous est venue de l'abbé Bernard de Margerie qui avait vécu cette expérience dans une petite paroisse francophone en Suisse romande.

Adultes et enfants ont joui de cinq rencontres, qui ont eu lieu dans cinq foyers différents. Les membres des foyers-hôtes ont décoré, de façon spéciale, une fen tre de leur maison afin de souhaiter la bienvenue aux visiteurs. Lors de la soirée, il y avait un temps de recueillement, de pri re, de réflexion, de chant et des activités spéciales pour enfants. Boissons et go ters ont suivi dans la convivialité fraternelle et la joie des coeurs devant l'arrivée du Seigneur Jésus!

The 2007 Advent season, for Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish, was filled with gatherings among parishioners, called “Lighted windows of Advent”. Several families from the parish hosted these evening gatherings and brightly decorated a window in their home to welcome fellow parishioners. The goal was to increase conviviality and hospitality among parishioners as well as to promote Christian spirituality during Advent through prayer, song and other activities. The hearts of the participants were illuminated with the joy of the upcoming birth of our Lord.



Sr. Janna Tumbach
Maple Creek, SK.
Novice,
Sisters of the
Presentation of Mary



Sr. Mary Jane Beavis
Saskatoon
Temporary professed
Sisters of the
Presentation of Mary



Sr. Cindy Lewans
Assiniboia, SK.
Temporary professed
Sisters of the
Presentation of Mary



Daniel Yasinski
St. Walburg, SK.
Seminararian, St. Peter
Seminary, London, ON.



Mathew Ramsay
Humboldt, SK.
Seminararian, Mount
Angel Seminary, Oregon



Geoffrey Young
Saskatoon
Seminararian, St. Joseph
Seminary, Edmonton



Hoang Nguyen
Vietnam
Seminararian, St. Joseph
Seminary, Edmonton

EVERYONE HAS A VOCATION:

We might think we know one another well, but our knowledge of each other only goes so far. In our depths, each and every one of us is in touch with the mystery of God. At the core of each person is a call, or vocation. It is a call to holiness, to becoming a living response to God's love. Call is common to all of us, yet responding to God's love is meant to be unique and particular for each of us. Knowing ourselves, and being honest about our dreams and capabilities are the first steps in discovering how we are called to live out our vocation to holiness.

- So much of our response to God is dependent upon our understanding of our first call – baptism – and how we are living it. How do you understand the call God has given you through baptism?
- In what ways do you seek opportunities to discover and fulfill your personal call?
- In what ways are you a joyful witness in your own way of life, thereby sharing your excitement and deep love of Christ and the Church?
- How do you live your vocation in a way that encourages others to listen to the Holy Spirit in discerning their own call?
- How are you and your parish community faithful witnesses to the gospel message?
- In what ways do you / might you encourage those around you – including your children and grandchildren – to prayerfully consider the vocation to which God is calling them?




Br. Pierre Rouillard
Winnipeg
Junior Monk, Order of
St. Benedict, St. Peter's
Abbey, Muenster



Br. Pius Sprung
Brandon, MB.
Junior Monk, Order of
St. Benedict, St. Peter's
Abbey, Muenster

Created for a reason

How is God calling you?



Vocation Commission
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
382-4240 vocations@saskatoonrcdiocese.com
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com www.vocations.ca



Gregory Roth
Saskatoon
Seminararian, St. Peter
Seminary, London, ON.



Colin Roy
Hoey, SK.
Seminararian, St. Peter
Seminary, London, ON.

EMBRACE YOUR ROLE TO FOSTER ALL VOCATIONS:
BECOME PART OF CREATING A VOCATION CULTURE!

Signs of a Call to Religious Life:

- **Love of God** that manifests itself in a desire to give one's life as a witness to the immensity of God's love for all people.
- **Desire to live simply.**
- **Ability to relate** with a variety of people, to be happy alone or in a group.
- **Joy in serving others** in any outreach or parish involvement.
- **Ability to listen to others** and accept direction when needed.
- **Desire to love expansively** rather than needing an intimate relationship with one person.
- **Desire to grow in union with God** through prayer and service to those in need.

Signs of a Call to Priesthood:

- **Love of God** that manifests itself in a desire to give one's life in service to God's People.
- **Love of the Church** and its sacraments and a desire to celebrate the sacraments with the community.
- **Love of God's Word** and a desire to proclaim the gospel to God's People.
- **Desire to model holiness** as Christ's representative among the People of God.
- **A heart that can listen** to others and reach out in healing.
- **Ability to be happy** without the intimate companionship of a wife and family.
- **Desire to deepen** prayer and relationship with God.

Seminararian reflects on discernment journey

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Discerning a call to the priesthood has been a gradual process for Colin Roy, one of several young men from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon currently attending the seminary. It has been a process marked by particular moments of spiritual growth and by faith support from friends and community.

He attended a Face To Face retreat in Albertville, Sask. in 2002, where those who felt a call to the priesthood or religious life were invited to come forward for a blessing. "In that instant, I felt the Holy Spirit stir within me and I knew within my heart that God

might be calling me to be a priest," said Roy.

Convinced at that time that the priesthood really wasn't a possibility in his life, however, he didn't go forward to receive the prayer. At that moment, "I wasn't open to the priesthood," he said.

Roy graduated from high school in June 2002, with plans to attend university to study education. In that sometimes-difficult transition to university, he was supported by friends who were serious about their faith, and who played a role in his ongoing discernment about the direction his life should take.

"Throughout my time at university, God's call kept resurfacing in many different ways, whether it was through the words of others, or words in homilies at Sunday Masses," Roy said.

Accepted into the college of education in spring 2005, Roy began to realize he had to explore the call he continued to experience. He attended retreat weekends with a specific focus on discernment to religious life and the priesthood, before finishing his Bachelor of Education degree in April 2007. "I enjoyed my time in the college, especially my teaching internship; yet, when I thought about and began applying for teaching jobs, my heart was not at peace," he said.

That Easter, he decided to answer God's call and completed his application to enter the seminary. "This decision brought me peace."

Currently studying at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, Roy said he feels blessed to have the opportunity to learn about his faith and grow in his relationship with Christ. "I am excited to see where God leads me on this new journey," he said. "I also look back on my journey up to this point with a sense of gratitude for God's grace working through the various ministries and people who helped me to discern God's call."

As for those whom might be feeling a call to priesthood or to religious life, Roy said he would echo the words of Pope John Paul II: "don't be afraid" as well as the prayer of St. Paul in Ephesians 3:20: "Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

Other seminararians for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon include Daniel Yasinski and Gregory Roth, who are also attending St. Peter's Seminary in London; Mathew Ramsay, who has been studying at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon; and Geoffrey Young and Hoang Nguyen who have been studying at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton.



The Discernment House community this year included (back row left to right): Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, Nicole Germaine, Tara Hurford, Sr. Lucie Hamel, Marisa Pavolich, Julene Rawson, Sr. Janice Fournier, Sara DeJong, and (front row, left to right): Stephanie Langevin, Alicia Eppich, Talitha Lemoine, Jennifer Revering, and Sr. Chantelle Bonk.
- Photo by Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, PM

Young women experience faith growth while living in community with sisters at Discernment House

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Every year, on a tree-lined street in a neighbourhood near the university of Saskatchewan, young women come to live in community with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

Currently nine young women are living at the house, along with four sisters: Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, Sr. Lucie Hamel, Sr. Janice Fournier, and Sr. Chantelle Bonk.

"Discernment House offers a chance to experience the joy and support of a Christian community," Sr. Chantelle Bonk explained, describing the live-in experience offered to young single women. "It's an opportunity to pray, share, play, discern vocation and grow in faith as a community of committed Catholic women."

Tara Hurford of Bear River, Nova Scotia, 24, sums up her seven-month experience at Discernment House as a time of "love, laughs, sacrifice, growth, hard work, more love and more laughs."

A student from St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Hurford is working towards a degree in English. "I came to the Discernment House after spending two years living in a slightly larger community at John Paul the II Bible School, in Radway, Alberta, and it has been a great transition period," she said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. Certainly, living here has opened my eyes to the beauty of religious life in a way that I never would have discovered anywhere else, and it will definitely help in my vocation discernment process."

Living in community has been both a blessing and a challenge, Hurford said. "It's been amazing getting to know the girls in the house this year and growing closer to them in sharing our parallel journeys. The sisters have also been incredible and so much fun. I am sure we have a birthday party every second week at the house, and we are certainly never short on laughter."

Faith growth has been a powerful part of the experience, she added. "Spiritual direction with Sr. Chantelle has challenged me to grow both spiritually and as a person, and held me accountable to daily prayer. One aspect that I certainly did not expect this year also came through spiritual direction, as well as personal prayer: an incredible amount of healing." Hurford said she would recommend Discernment House to any young woman seeking a deeper relationship with God.

The struggle to keep Christ at the centre of her life was one reason that Nicole Germaine, 22, of Paradise Hill, Sask. chose to apply to Discernment House. The University of Saskatchewan



Combining work and play raking the leaves at Discernment House in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, PM

psychology student wasn't sure what to expect from the experience, "I was nervous about coming to live in the Discernment House because I was scared to be living under someone else's rules. But even though it was hard to get used to some things at the start, my experience here has been truly amazing," she said.

Spiritual direction, and the challenge to a daily prayer time have been among the highlights of the experience, Germaine said. "I have never had such a hard, but blessed year in my prayer life. I feel that God has really just wanted me to experience His great and unconditional love for me this year. God has shown me the power that He gives me if I just surrender and trust fully in Him. He has healed me and helped me to discover more of the person that He has called me to be."

Community life has been another blessing, stressed Germaine, saying: "who would have thought that living with a bunch of religious sisters would be so much fun?" While admitting that it can also be a challenge to live with 12 other people for eight months, she said there are lots of opportunities to learn more about each other and grow in friendship and understanding, whether it is in sharing meals together, prayer time, watching movies, or just "hanging out."

"I have come to love and appreciate each person that I have lived with this past year," Germaine said. "I have learned a lot about my relationships with other women, with guys and most importantly with God. Living here has given me the tools I can use to make important decisions about my vocation and also, just ordinary-day life in general."

The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary are currently accepting applications for Discernment House. For more information, contact Sr. Chantelle Bonk or Sr. Lucie Hamel at 244-0726 or discernmenthouse@lycos.com

Task Force nurtures a wide vision in supporting the vocation of marriage

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Marriage Task Force for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is working to widen its perspective of marriage ministry to include people at every age and stage.

Task force chairs Mark and Darcie Lich recently described a holistic approach to marriage ministry that includes promoting the understanding of marriage as a vocation among teens and in families; enhancing marriage preparation, including help for those entering second marriages; offering ministry to those in troubled marriages; and supporting outreach to those who have experienced a marriage breakdown, divorce, or the death of a spouse.

"It's all part of the larger picture, and part of the global work that's needed when you're looking at one area and suddenly realizing how it impacts on another area," said Mark.

Darcie explained how when the Marriage Task Force was created six years ago, the original focus was to look at marriage preparation, and focus on couples married between seven and ten years – identified as a time when many express a need for marriage enrichment. "But this isn't happening in a vacuum... The challenges and needs surrounding marriage are not just happening within this 10-year bubble."

Extensive work on developing a marriage preparation curriculum for use across the diocese has also led Marriage Task Force members to a realization that more must be done to prepare those who are entering a second marriage, Darcie added.

"We can't just meet the needs of a select few just because they fit the rosy picture. This is another whole reality that is out there," she said, describing efforts to develop additional marriage preparation material to address the needs of those entering a second marriage. "It's giving us an opportunity to reach out to people beyond one narrow perspective. We want to let people in that situation know that they are important to us."

Part of the Marriage Task Force work has also been to provide support and promotion for other groups that are providing marriage ministry – such as Muenster Engaged Encounter for those preparing to marry, and Worldwide Marriage Encounter for married couples. "There are so many people doing so many good things out there," stressed Darcie.

"Within that sacrament of marriage it isn't about being perfect," Mark said of the enrichment and outreach surrounding marriage. "It's about walking the dark in faith: so many people have this idea of having a 'perfect' marriage, not realizing that it just doesn't happen, you have to work at it in bits and pieces, that there are going to be ups and downs."

As a way to reach out to couples experiencing problems in their marriage, the Marriage Task Force recently assisted with



Mark and Darcie Lich chair the Diocesan Task Force on Marriage

the introduction of the Retrouvaille program in Saskatchewan. Retrouvaille (pronounced *retro-vie* from a French word meaning rediscovery) is a Christian peer ministry for married couples who are experiencing trouble in their marriage and have lost the joy of a loving relationship. The first Retrouvaille weekend was held in Saskatoon in fall 2007, and a second session was held this spring in Regina. The next Retrouvaille session will be held in Saskatoon Sept. 19-21, 2008.

The diocesan task force also highlights the work of groups reaching out to those who have experienced the loss of a spouse or the break up of a marriage, such as New Beginnings, and Transitions.

The sixth annual Marriage Appreciation banquet March 29 included guest speakers talking about second marriage (see article on page 18). A workshop held on the same day highlighted a wide range of marriage ministries happening within the diocese.

Other upcoming events related to marriage include a "Theology of the Body" conference planned for 2009, and a 2010 marriage conference to be organized with the help of the Marriage Task Force. "We're hoping to feature a wide range of topics related to the reality of marriage; and attract a wide audience to talk about marriage in a practical and inspiring way," said Mark.

In addition to the Lichs, the Marriage Task Force presently includes Curtis and Julie Anne Hilton, Pat and Gail Fitzpatrick, Ken and Rita Wolfe, Dean and Michelle Yurkowski, and diocesan ministry development coordinator Blake Sittler.

"If any couples are interested in being part of this, they are welcome to phone us to hear more about the Marriage Task Force," said Mark. The task force is always working to actively pursue more rural involvement, added Darcie.



Marriage ministries seeking chaplains

Representatives of different marriage ministries such as Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille, Transitions, New Beginnings, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon met recently to discuss the ongoing need for priest chaplains. The gathering heard that chaplains play an important role in the organization of ministry teams, ensuring the ongoing faith development of groups through their presence. Recognizing that there are fewer priests available, the groups are discussing options with Bishop Albert LeGatt.

- Photo by Blake Sittler

Fitzpatricks speak about second marriages at annual banquet

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Grace in second marriages was the subject of a keynote address at the sixth annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet organized by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Marriage Task Force and Worldwide Marriage Encounter March 29 at St. Patrick Parish Centre in Saskatoon.

The annual event is also supported by the Knights of Columbus and the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

MCs Dean and Michelle Yurkowski led the 180 or so guests through an eventful night. Bishop Albert LeGatt offered a special welcome to all those in attendance and thanked them for their witness to both their parish and the broader community.

Marriage Task Force members Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick presented a keynote address entitled *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! The First Blended Family: Grace in Second Marriages*.

The Fitzpatricks began by admitting that the title of their presentation had raised both questions and eyebrows among friends. The couple explained how Mary and Joseph faced many of the same difficulties that current blended families experience: challenges such as changing homes and overcoming the talk that ensues when a man marries a woman with children of whom he is not the biological father. "In spite of all of the challenges, their incredible faith and grace saw them through to the point that we revere them as our Holy Family," said Gail.

Gail described how difficult it was to learn to trust again

after the breakdown of her first marriage. While her first marriage may have ended, she did not give up on God, marriage or herself, she said.

"These expectations of marriage didn't die with my first marriage...I know that our God is a God of second chances. Through the healing process of annulment I found peace and forgiveness and the understanding that I deserved to be loved in a marriage that helped me grow into the woman that God created me to be," said Gail.

Pat described his Joseph-experience of praying to God, asking if Gail was really the woman for him. He said that this was the first and only time he heard God laugh at him.

"God often seems to speak to me with a bit of a Jewish accent, for some reason," joked Pat, "[God said,] 'Yes! Enough already! You want I should set fire to the bush in your backyard and say it from there or something?' I had no more doubts that this was, indeed, what God wanted. And I knew that, indeed, it would be very good".

Gail told how Pat's love for her transformed what she described as a "gunny sack over my shoulder" of issues stemming from her first marriage and divorce.

"Without a second of hesitation...he said, 'Yes, just look at everything I'm getting'. Suddenly what I saw as my big sack of challenges, failures and fears became a beautifully wrapped gift," noted Gail.

The Fitzpatricks affirmed the diocese of Saskatoon for its efforts to minister to those whose marriages are in trouble, and to those who are separated, divorced, and entering subsequent

marriages.

"Statistics show that almost half of all first marriages are ending in divorce. The success rate for second marriages is even worse. Many of those people belong to our faith communities and failing to support them as important members of our communities would be negligent," challenged Pat.

Gail described the experience of having a woman from her former parish approaching her and apologizing for not supporting her when Gail went through her divorce. She said she too was now going through a divorce and felt very alone.

"If her husband had died, her community would have been knocking down her door with cakes and flowers and big pans of lasagna. But because her marriage died, she was left lonely, hungry and afraid," Gail pointed out.

During the evening, the Marriage Task Force also unveiled a new logo designed by a local company, Wawryk Associates Ltd. It was explained that the image represents two people coming together to bear each other's cross and to find Christ in each other's love and forgiveness. The new image – along with the full text of the Fitzpatrick's keynote address – can be viewed on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon's website.

New to the celebration this year was a dance held after the banquet, with music by the band *Spent Penny*.

An all-day workshop on a wide range of marriage ministries was also held at St. Patrick Parish March 29. More coverage of this event can be found on the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Inter-church families live out ecumenical journey together

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Ecumenical issues are not something far away and distant for Bernie and Shirley Karstad of Saskatoon.

Like many other married couples, the two come from different Christian traditions: in their case, Lutheran and Roman Catholic. However, the Karstads have chosen to deal with their "mixed marriage" by actively and consciously living as an interchurch family, with membership and participation in both church communities.

"It's how we live our life. We don't talk about ecumenism, we live it," said Shirley in a recent interview, reflecting on their walk together since meeting in 1987 and marrying nearly 20 years ago in 1989.

The definition of an "interchurch family" is one in which two baptized Christians from different traditions are joined in marriage; with each spouse participating actively in her or his particular church, as well as to various degrees in one another's church; and in which each spouse takes an active, conscientious role in the religious education of the children.

The joys and challenges of living out this "double belonging" began with the commitment that each of them had to their respective Christian communities.

For both Bernie and Shirley this was a second marriage, and they each had children who were baptized and being raised within their particular church tradition. Continuing to worship together as fully as possible in both of their Lutheran and Catholic traditions was the choice they made as a couple and as a family – but it has never been an easy one. At the same time, "it's all worth it, because we are happy – happy to share this walk together," said Shirley.

Carrying the unity of their baptism and of their marriage into the practice of two different church traditions did not happen automatically or easily. It required a concerted effort and lots of open communication, said Bernie. "When we started this, we had no coaches."

The journey began with the family attending both churches, going back and forth from one to the other. En route to their marriage, Shirley encountered one priest who told her she'd be excommunicated if she married a Lutheran, and another who "sort of frowned on this Catholic girl who married a Lutheran boy." The couple eventually found a welcome at another Catholic parish. "As an interchurch family you sometimes do have to keep trying to find a pastor and a church community that accepts your situation," admitted Shirley.

Bernie was even elected to parish pastoral council at one point – necessitating a consultation with canon law to learn



Shirley and Bernie Karstad

that as a baptized Christian he was permitted to serve on the council for his Catholic parish.

The Lutheran congregation that Bernie worshipped with was very aware of newcomers, and noticed the Roman Catholic in their midst right away.

The Karstads' situation of living as an interchurch family was not only new to them, it was also something new to their church communities, noted Bernie, adding that it takes time for people to realize that having an interchurch family in their midst is not a threat, and to understand that the couple is committed to both traditions.

In 1992, Fr. Bernard de Margerie, who was instrumental in establishing an ecumenism centre in Saskatoon, invited the Karstads and several other interchurch couples to meet monthly to discuss the book *Double Belonging: Interchurch Families and Christian Unity* by Fr. George Kilcourse. After several months, de Margerie stepped back, suggesting the couples continue to meet on their own. This was the beginning of Interchurch Families Saskatoon, which the Karstads chaired for many years, operating under the umbrella of the Prairie

Centre for Ecumenism.

Keeping in close contact with priests, pastors and bishops has always been a priority for the group and for the Karstads. "We have never gone and done all these things without our bishops and our priests and pastors knowing what we were doing," stressed Shirley, recalling the first year when each couple in the group invited their pastors to a barbecue one rainy summer day. "It was awesome," she said of the conversation that followed as they shared the meal together in the shelter of the family garage.

The Interchurch Family Group also met with Roman Catholic Bishop James Mahoney, explaining their situation and talking over the challenges of living as an interchurch couple, particularly the painful division at the Eucharistic table. He listened with a pastoral heart, the couple said. "He said we must go where our needs will be met ... and he asked to meet with us again." Although Bishop Mahoney died before that second meeting could take place, his words opened the door for them to continue their conversations with Bishop James Weisgerber and then with Bishop Albert LeGatt, said Shirley.

Interchurch families were among those providing feedback when the Catholic diocese stated the policy on "Sacramental sharing in particular circumstances between Catholics and baptized Christians of other denominations" in 2005. The policy outlines the church's teaching about the Eucharist, and includes pastoral principles for those in interchurch marriages.

"The big issue with interchurch families is always the communion issue. We can be dancing around in the clouds, but we always have to get to that issue," said Shirley, describing the pain experienced when families are separated at the Eucharistic table because of the division between Christian churches.

Although Interchurch Families Saskatoon is currently not active, the Karstads continue to provide resources and support to other couples considering how to live out their "mixed marriages." They have presented at marriage preparation classes, challenging young couples to talk about some of the challenges and decisions that lie ahead when marrying someone who was raised in a different church tradition or a different faith.

"This is an important issue to discuss. It's not just between you two – what you two are going to do is going to affect your extended family ... you'll get through the wedding, that's just one day, but if you think it's underneath the carpet, it's going to come to light when that first baby arrives," said Shirley. In fact, that's often when a couple they've spoken to will call back for advice or resources.

"When you look at the percentage of mixed marriages, they are up to 60 or 70 percent," added Bernie. "If there is strong faith on both sides, what are you going to do?"

Sometimes couples avoid the entire question by opting out of faith participation altogether, or by turning away from both of their faith traditions and selecting a neutral third church, said Shirley.

How couples handle the situation will have an impact on their own relationship, on their families and on their children, stressed the couple. Statistics show that when both parents are active in their faith, children have a much higher chance of being faithful, said Bernie, describing how the child's participation drops dramatically if only one, or neither parent is active.

At the same time he expressed regret that while many couples are in the situation of a mixed marriage, so few come forward to try and live as interchurch families – which is admittedly more work, but brings many benefits, he said.

"All this has done over the past 20 years is to deepen our faith lives," said Shirley. "We've learned so much more about each other's church tradition, about our own tradition and God has become bigger for us."

Benefits of Natural Family Planning discussed at Billings conference

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

Guest speaker Bishop Michael Wivchar of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon welcomed teacher couples and audience members to the opening of the Billings Natural Family Planning weekend training session Feb. 29 at Bishop Filevich School in Saskatoon.

Speaking of his experience as a priest and bishop, Wivchar noted the importance of abstinence and chastity both before and during marriage.

"The basis is the person of Jesus Christ, to bring liberty, proclaim good news, and release prisoners," Wivchar explained. He added that true discipleship of respect and the sacred dignity of the human person is the basis for the church's social teachings, and how this must lead to the condemnation of contraception and abortion.

"We must promote a culture of life, and condemn the culture of death," said Wivchar.

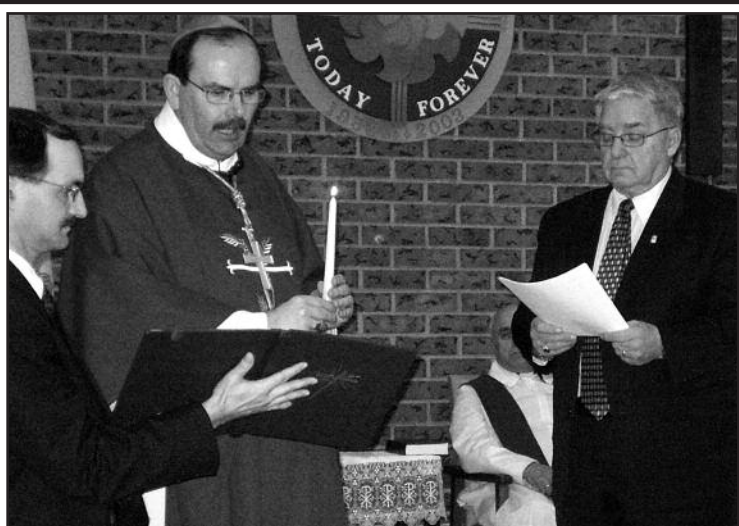
Describing the promotion of life and dignity for all as a sacred responsibility, Wivchar noted, "God has blessed each of us, and we have to share."

Wivchar's opening remarks were followed by a teaching session presented by LeeAnn Kinderwater, a qualified teacher-trainer and past-president of WOOMB Canada. The Billings Ovulation Method was pioneered by Drs. John and Evelyn Billings of Australia, and since 1953 has been introduced to couples throughout the world. A proven scientific method which is 99.65 per cent effective with proper instruction and motivation, Billings ovulation method of natural family planning involves couples charting their individual fertility cycles, to either achieve or avoid pregnancy.

Wivchar described the Billings method as "strengthening family life and bringing salvation."

Wivchar noted that this July will be the 40th anniversary of the papal encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*. Workshop organizer Marcy Millette noted that plans are underway to celebrate the anniversary in a significant way this year.

The conference continued throughout the weekend, with couples and teacher couples attending to learn about the Billings method in more detail.



Bishop Albert LeGatt prepares to pass a candle symbolizing the light of St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village to Nestor Trach (far right), chair of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation.

St. Ann's senior centre unites with Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

At a celebration Dec. 4, 2007 St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village in Saskatoon became the latest institution to join the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation (SCHC).

The SCHC administers nine Catholic health facilities in the province and is run by a board that reports to the five bishops of Saskatchewan: Blaise Morand, Albert LeGatt, Daniel Bohan, Sylvain Lavoie, and Michael Wiwchar. In addition to St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village, corporate members of SCHC include St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, and institutions in Gravelbourg, Estevan, Esterhazy, Moose Jaw, Melville, Ponteix, and Radville.

Although St. Ann's still has its own board, the facility will now operate under the Catholic corporation.

Bishop Albert LeGatt welcomed St. Ann's to the SCHC "family of Catholic health organizations" during celebration of the Eucharist, which was attended by many St. Ann's residents and board members, and included a Knights of Columbus Honour Guard. "It is the power of faith to heal, to console, and to give life," the bishop said.

LeGatt spoke of St. Ann's history, and explained that the SCHC was created to continue the legacy of religious congregations and orders of sisters, "so that there

would be a continuance of the ministry of Christ" and a Catholic identity is maintained.

With aging and diminishing congregations, it has become necessary for others to step forward to advance the vision and values of Catholic Health Care, said LeGatt.

"We'll be faithful to the Catholic ethics, with the mission of human dignity, resident-centred care, holistic and compassionate care, and hope," said SCHC chair Nestor Trach, who accepted a candle from the bishop on behalf of the corporation. The candle represented the light of St. Ann's.

Afterwards, Claude Lang gave a brief presentation and expressed thanks to Rev. Francis Kolla for his many years of service at St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village. A conference room was dedicated as "The Father Francis Kolla Room."

St. Ann's began under the direction of Saskatoon Bishop Francis Klein in the early 1950's, when he asked the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Humboldt to set up a home for the elderly in Saskatoon.

The senior citizen's village presently includes a 60-apartment independent living apartment building (St. Ann's Residence); a 60-apartment high rise (St. Ann's Place) with support services; and an 80-bedroom special care home (St. Ann's Home).

Maza focuses on mission of Catholic health care for nine SCHC facilities

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Francis Maza is the new Director of Mission Integration for the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. The organization was established to support nine Catholic health care institutions owned by the bishops of Saskatchewan, providing shared governance and leadership in Catholic health ministry.

For the past decade Maza has worked in parish ministry, but he also has experience in a hospital setting. He has four units of Clinical Pastoral Education which is the basic training for becoming a chaplain and is working towards becoming a specialist in this area.

He also has a BA in medical microbiology and worked for a short time doing cancer research. "It was interesting work, playing with genomes, but it was also boring. I was stuck in a lab all day."

As mission integration director, Maza has been acquainting himself with the identity and history of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. He sees his role as maintaining and continuing the ministry started by the Grey Nuns who were first asked to develop a formal hospital in Saskatoon.

"We owe a lot to the early nuns who came here from Eastern Canada and set up the first hospitals... they left us a legacy of compassionate care, hard work and a mandate to continue the healing work of Jesus," he said.

Maza has travelled to SCHC health centres in the province to meet the staff and to discuss his role with them. He also met with the local facility mission directors whose job it is to maintain the Catholic identity of the institutions.

Maza is passionate about the role of Catholic health services. He highlighted that it is important to have places of healing where a person's faith is taken into consideration.

"We know that most of our patients and staff are not necessarily Catholic but we still encourage people to live out their personal faith in their lives and this includes their health," said Maza.

Maza sees the charism of Catholic health care as nurturing not just the health of a person but the dignity of every person.

"In Catholic health care, I think it is unique that we can publicly profess our faith and that when we care for a patient, we care for the whole person, including their spirit."

Nestor Trach of Humboldt, who serves as chair of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation Board, agrees and noted that this would be the realm of Maza's job. "Every hospital's priority, whether public or Catholic," said Trach, "is to heal the patient. Francis's role is to ensure that in the Catholic centres the faith component is nurtured and developed."

Maza believes one of his roles will be to explain the concept of Catholic health to the broader community. He said there is a need to articulate the core values of Catholic health care and how they are related to scripture.

Maza wants to promote the vision of Catholic health care to both the community and the staff working in the hospitals.

"A vision statement is not a piece of paper. It's the way we minister in health care. It's not about the edifice, it's about the person you are caring for and their family. It's remembering that this patient could be your mom or dad or child. How would you want them to be cared for?"

(Editor's note: A new CEO and president was also recently named for the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. Watch the next Diocesan Newsletter for a profile on Scott Irwin, who replaces retiring CEO and president Monica Beavis.)

Catholic health convention plans in place

BY SANDRA KARY

Preparations are under way for the 65th annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan Oct. 24 to 26. The 2008 convention theme *Bridging Healing Communities* is a fitting one in the host city of Saskatoon, often referred to as the *City of Bridges*. The focus of the convention will be to highlight and network with other organizations that share a similar mission of continuing the healing ministry of Jesus.

Megan McKenna returns as the keynote speaker this year (her last CHAS convention presentation was in 2000). An internationally known author, theologian, storyteller and lecturer, McKenna teaches at several colleges and universities, as well as providing workshops and parish missions.

In keeping with the theme, CHAS will highlight a well-known, yet fledgling organization to Saskatoon – L'Arche. Pat Lennon, a national representative from L'Arche, will present a public lecture 7 p.m. Oct. 24, the kick-off event of the convention.

Also presenting this year is new MLA Serge LeClerc, known for his work with Teen Challenge, a faith-based addictions recovery program.

A new element for the CHAS convention will be the weekend format. Also, several concurrent

workshop sessions will be held on the Saturday afternoon.

Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie of Keewatin-LePas will preside at Mass Sunday Oct. 26. And, as is tradition, the convention will close with an

Anointing of the Sick ceremony.

The convention will be held at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon. For more information, contact CHAS at 306-655-5330 or by email at cath.health@sasktel.net



Farewell to Sr. Carmen

St. Paul's Hospital staff and supporters gathered April 2 to bid farewell to longtime volunteer and former staff member Sr. Carmen Marquis, SGM, 81, (left) who is moving to Alberta. A member of the Grey Nuns religious order that founded the Catholic hospital in Saskatoon, she won't be retiring: she plans to work at a health care facility in St. Albert.

Catholic Family Services

To register for any of these programs:

PHONE: 244-7773 or E-MAIL: staff@cfssaskatoon.sk.ca

Services are available to anyone regardless of religious affiliation.

Marriage Preparation Weekend Workshop May 9 and 10, 2008.
Cost is \$150 per couple

"When Parents Separate or Divorce" This group is designed to support children as they explore their feelings around separation or divorce of their parents. A parent is expected to attend concurrent group sessions.

Ages: 7 - 12 years

4 - 5 p.m. Tuesdays

April 8 to May 27

Fee: Based on sliding fee scale

"Raising Boys – Building Heroes"

A group for boys to help them become heroes in their own life by focusing on their unique strengths and talents to develop self-esteem, social skills, problem solving, anger management, empathy building and friendship skills. Parents are expected to attend a concurrent session called "Raising Boys" that will explore gender differences and how to raise healthy, confident, well-balanced boys.

Ages: 8 - 12 years

4 - 5 p.m., Wednesdays

April 2 to May 21

Fee: Based on sliding fee scale

"Taming the Worry Dragon"

This program is designed to assist children to address feelings of fear and anxiety in a safe and supportive environment. A parent is expected to attend a concurrent parents' group. **Ages: 8 - 12 years**

4 - 5 p.m., Thursdays

April 10 to May 29

Fee: Based on sliding fee scale

"The Perfection Trap"

This workshop is offered for those who have perfectionist tendencies in their lives.

April 16, 23 and 30 from 7 - 9 pm

Fee: Based on sliding fee scale

Groups for Parents With Out-of-Control Teens: For parents whose adolescent is having severe behaviour and/or relational difficulties. *No fee.*

Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.

Contact Terry Lowe at 244-7773 or Ken Wynes at 933-5109

Family-to-Family Ties:

Family to Family Ties is a family support / family mentoring program dedicated to strengthening families, promoting self-reliance and building community through family partnerships. Volunteer families always needed. Call Catholic Family Services at 244-7773 for more information.

Knights of Columbus contribute to St. Paul's Hospital

BY ANNE-MARIE CEY

Over the last 25 years the Knights of Columbus have donated more than \$1 million dollars to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.

Most recently, the Knights of Columbus State Foundation, the Father O'Leary Columbian Society and Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus #5104 and Knights of Columbus Council #1517 Home Lottery have collectively contributed \$62,500 to the St. Paul's Hospital *Embracing the Future* 100th anniversary campaign.

"We are so fortunate to be the recipients of the generous support of the Knights of Columbus in this

province and we value our long-lasting relationship with them. The core values of our organizations are very much in line," says Cathy Chrones, executive director of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation. "Their recent gift to the *Embracing the Future* Campaign now puts us at 59 per cent of our \$8 million dollar goal."

"The Knights of Columbus are proud supporters of St. Paul's Hospital," says Bob Barkman, executive director of the Knights of Columbus State Charitable Foundation. "One of our core values is to assist those in the community who are the most vulnerable. By providing funds to the hospital we are able to do this."

The Knights of Columbus have been supporting programs and services in Saskatchewan for more than 100 years. They assist families in need and help them overcome the obstacles that threaten their self-sufficiency. They support programs and services that help the poor, the elderly and children – bringing hope and understanding to those they serve.

The *Embracing the Future* campaign focuses on three priority areas: a Urology Centre of Health, which will offer advanced detection and treatment of urological diseases; advanced equipment such as a nuclear medicine gamma camera; and a new MRI and accessory equipment.

Conference on sacraments held in Saskatoon

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Three keynote speakers explored the gift of the sacraments during a weekend conference held Feb. 29 to March 2 in Saskatoon.

Growing in Holiness Through the Sacraments featured speakers Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Archbishop of Quebec; Rev. Daniel Callam, CSB, professor of theology and chaplain at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas; and Rev. William Casey, CPM, superior general of the Fathers of Mercy, based in Auburn, Kentucky.

Some 400 people attended the event throughout the weekend, said organizer Nico Butzelaar, who, along with Don Pion, coordinated the conference sponsored by the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus.

The conference grew out of a conviction that there is a need to focus on the power of the sacraments in the lives of Catholic Christians, said Butzelaar. "The sacraments are a tremendous opportunity and a great gift – and too often the gifts are taken for granted," he said.

"It was uplifting to see so many people come out to learn more about the sacraments and to deepen their faith," said Bishop Albert LeGatt of the event.

He noted that it was a special honour to receive Cardinal Ouellet in the diocese. "His presentation on marriage was very rich, with the image of Christ bringing a man and woman together to be a sign of his love," LeGatt said. "And of course he reminded us of the upcoming International Eucharistic Congress. I also hope that many in Saskatoon will be able to attend that event." Ouellet's diocese is hosting the international event in Quebec City June 15-22.

Throughout the weekend the speakers tackled each of the seven sacraments, with Callam speaking about baptism, confirmation and the anointing of the sick; Casey addressing reconciliation and Eucharist; and Ouellet speaking on marriage and holy orders.

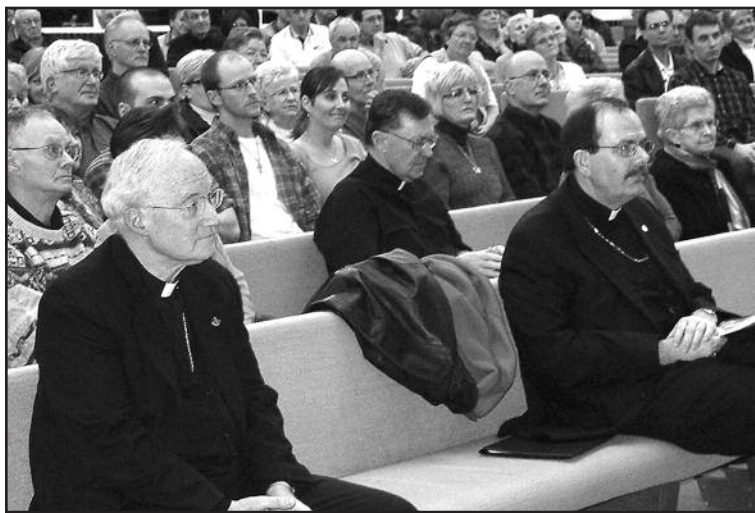
"Today we ask not only how the grace of God is working in our lives through the sacraments, but we ask 'why the sacraments?'" Ouellet said during the Saskatoon conference, describing how in our secular world many no longer understand or accept the sacramental reality. "We need a deep reflection on 'why the sacraments' and we need to recover the centrality of Jesus Christ in our lives," he said. "The root of the sacraments is the person of Jesus Christ."

Callam, who taught for many years in the religious studies department at St. Thomas More College on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon, spoke about the centrality of the sacraments to the Catholic faith.

"As Catholics we have a vivid sense of the power of the sacraments," said Callam. "Catholicism – that complex historical, theological, institutional, historical reality – can all be summarized with a single word: sacrament."

Jesus himself can be described as a sacrament, he added. "What is the essence of sacrament? It is God using a material, thing or event to confer a supernatural effect," Callam said. "Christ is the sacrament of the invisible God, a sacrament that indicates presence: God is with us."

During an opening keynote address Friday evening, Casey provided an overview of the



Cardinal Marc Ouellet and Bishop Albert LeGatt (front, left to right) were among the participants in the *Growing in Holiness* conference.

sacraments, presenting the classic definition of a sacrament as "an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace." He described grace as the life of the soul, a sharing in the life of the Trinity, and outlined how the church itself is a sacrament of salvation in the world.

Established by Christ, the church is "more than an organization, it is an organism," enduring through persecutions, disasters, revolutions and upheaval, he said. As the body of Christ, the church is a divine institution, and "no human power can ever destroy her," said Casey, who served in the American army before entering the Fathers of Mercy. He is a well-known speaker, who appears regularly on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Casey echoed the words of John Paul II, saying that the great crisis of our age is a crisis of faith. Casey expressed the need for a renewed understanding of the Church and the sacraments among Catholics, who too often have "no idea what it means to be Catholic, no idea what the Catholic Church is, or where it comes from."

Casey pointed out that the sacraments touch all stages of our spiritual life, and echo the stages of natural life that are common to our human experience, including birth (baptism); the need for continuous nourishment (Eucharist), for strengthening (confirmation), and for healing (reconciliation); the need for physicians (holy orders); marriage and procreation (the sacrament of marriage); and finally, death (anointing of the sick).

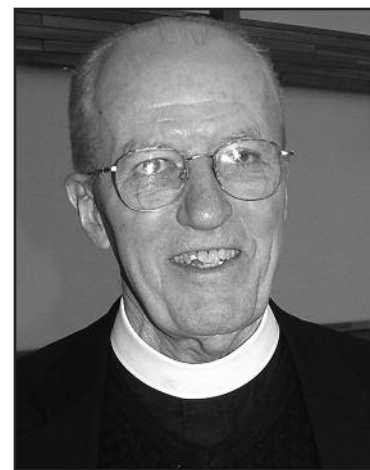
At every stage in life we need God's help and through the sacraments we have "divine assistance every step of the way," Casey said.

The conference at St. Patrick's Parish concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt.

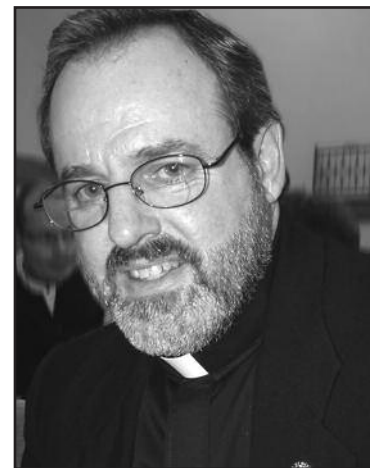
"The sacraments are a way in which we come to grow in that light of Christ," LeGatt said in his homily, reflecting on the gospel reading from John about the healing of the man born blind, which speaks so eloquently of the faith journey from darkness to light, from blindness to true seeing.



Cardinal Marc Ouellet



Fr. Daniel Callum, CSB



Fr. William Casey, CPM

MORE GROWING IN HOLINESS COVERAGE ON THE WEBSITE:

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Neophytes' Mass set for May 13

By DOLORES CRAWFORD

The Christian initiation process does not end with the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The new members of the church are called "neophytes" – newborn – and they enter the period of *Mystagogy* or "studying the mysteries." This period begins during the fifty days of the Easter season and ideally should continue informally for another year. *Mystagogy* is really the rest of our lives.

During *mystagogy* the neophytes explore their own experience of the sacraments that they celebrated at Easter, and how they will integrate and live them out as disciples of Jesus Christ.

All the Masses of the Easter season are actually called "neophyte" Masses. The Sunday Eucharist is the principal setting for *mystagogy* because it is the ongoing source and summit and centre of our faith.

Responsibility for those newly initiated into our parish communities rests not just with the catechumenate team. It is the duty of every parishioner to reach out to our neophytes, to assure them that they are welcome at the Lord's table with us, and to help them adjust to their new status as full participants in the life of our Christian community.

Together we celebrate, explore, are challenged by, and live the new life of Easter, the presence of the resurrected Jesus in our midst. Ongoing support is a sign that the community cares for the newly initiated and is important in helping keep them grounded in the day-to-

day life of a Catholic Christian.

People who were received into the church or baptized at the Easter vigil throughout the diocese come together at a special Mass for the neophytes each year during the Easter season. The Neophytes' Mass is a glorious celebration at which the bishop presides. At the Rite of Election he called the catechumens to the Easter sacraments and it is fitting that he celebrates Eucharist with them, now that they are able to participate fully, receiving the body and blood of the Lord Jesus. How wonderful to celebrate this with the others in the diocese who were also initiated at Easter.

However, very few people attend the Neophytes' Mass other than the newly initiated, their sponsors and RCIA team members. There is something wrong with this picture. Word, worship, community and service are the basis of the initiation process, indeed, of our faith. And yet the community is missing from this very important occasion.



**Diocesan Coordinator
of Christian Initiation
Dolores Crawford**

Maybe this year we can change that. Will you, the members of the diocese of Saskatoon, come and celebrate with those who were initiated this Easter season? The Neophytes' Mass will be held Tuesday, May 13, at St. Anne's Parish in Saskatoon at 7:30 pm.

Announcement

A Ministry to Tourism, Diocese of Saskatoon Pilgrim Journey to Biblical Lands will be held in 2009 during the **Year of St. Paul**. The journey will focus primarily on the life and mission of St. Paul reflecting his commitment to the unity and harmony among all Christians. With excellent facilitation and guiding, the journey will begin in the **Holy Land** (Jerusalem and Galilee); follow the route of many of St. Paul's missionary journeys to Asia Minor (**Turkey**) and **Greece** (Thessaloniki and Athens/Corinth). The Pilgrim Journey will conclude in **Rome** and an **optional cruise** visiting several ports visited by St. Paul. Tentative dates are: **April 17-May 19, 2009**.

Estimated cost is \$3,000 to \$6,500. Contact Fr. Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism immediately in order to be placed early on the list and to be provided with final details.

Email: kleiter@shaw.ca

Telephone: 306-244-3747

John Michael Talbot to perform

Catholic musician John Michael Talbot will perform at St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon 7:30 p.m. Friday May 16, sponsored by the Diocesan Mission Office and Universal Church Supplies.

John Michael Talbot is one of the top selling Catholic artist in the world, having produced 50 albums, with sales approaching four million records. He has authored 17 books and produced numerous video teachings on ministry to the poor, simple living, and Franciscan and religious community living. He is also an acclaimed lecturer, teacher, and retreat master.

Talbot is the founder and general minister of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity, the only integrated monastic community with canonical Church approval by the Catholic Church in America. He is also the founder and president of the Catholic Association of Musicians, a ministerial and support organization for Catholic musicians, stressing spirituality, artistry, and economy. Among his numerous awards are a Dove Award, the President's Merit Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, and Humanitarian of the Year award from Mercy Corps International. He has performed for Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and for Pope John Paul II.

Tickets are \$20 each for the concert at St. Patrick's Parish Centre, 3339 Centennial Drive, with proceeds to the Diocesan Mission Fund. Contact: Universal Church Supplies 437 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon, Ph: 384-1924; Toll Free: 1-800-316-8648; or email: univch@sasktel.net



BISHOP'S DINNER

Friday, May 9, 2008
TCU Place

Wonderful food and exceptional entertainment!

Tickets: \$300 (partial donation tax receipt)

Contact: Chelsey Hagerty at 306-244-6667

Proceeds will go to the new Cathedral & Catholic Pastoral Centre

Oblate mission team visits Vonda, Prud'homme, St. Denis

Parishioners of every age took turns carrying the cross through the dark streets of Vonda March 14, reflecting on the journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. It was part of one of several Oblate Parish Mission *Great Assemblies* held in the Vonda-Prud'homme-St. Denis parishes that week.

"God loves us so greatly he felt it was worth allowing Jesus to die for our sins that we might live," said Fr. Al Hubenig, OMI, in a reflection during the March 14 assembly. "What am I prepared to do in return? Am I prepared to love in life and in death in order to rise to new life in the resurrection of Jesus? Tonight then is a time for commitment."

It is time to give witness about the power of the cross to a broken world in great need – in the same way that the earliest Christians did, Hubenig said before the assembly carried the cross into the Vonda streets for prayer and reflection.

Music ministry was led by Brother Louis Andreas, OMI, and the March 14 event also included a drama about the passion and death of Jesus by the youth ministry team. Participants were then invited to come forward to venerate the cross.

The Oblate Parish Mission team visited the three sister parishes at Vonda, Prud'homme and St. Denis March 5-15, as part of a multi-year mission process that includes home visits, the establishment of faith sharing small groups called "listening centres" as well as a youth program, and five days of *Great Assemblies* which rotated from parish to parish.

The main team from Edmonton consisted of two priests, one brother, and two lay missionaries. The main core team was bolstered by six more lay missionaries from the surrounding communities. A group of young men and women from the *In Christ LEAP* ministry provided youth ministry during the mission event.

The arrival of the missionary team marked the culmination of a year-long planning and training



Children demonstrate actions to a song learned from the youth ministry team.

process aimed at preparing the parish communities for a unique spiritual experience. The parish mission began with an opening Mass March 5 where the missionaries were welcomed and commissioned through a letter delivered by Sr. Marguerite Dumont on behalf of Bishop Albert LeGatt.

"The ten-day mission offered what for many of us was a new experience, daily Mass," said local team member Bernard Hamoline of Aberdeen, chair of St. Philippe Neri parish council in Vonda. "The first four days of the mission brought to many of our homes another unique, (in some cases the first) chance for a home pastoral visit and blessing or our homes. During this time the missionary team made every effort to visit each Catholic home in our area."

This first phase also involved the youth leadership team animating two youth rallies. "These rallies brought to the surface what we have always known was a great thirst in our youth for something more substantial than their experience in the world," Hamoline said.

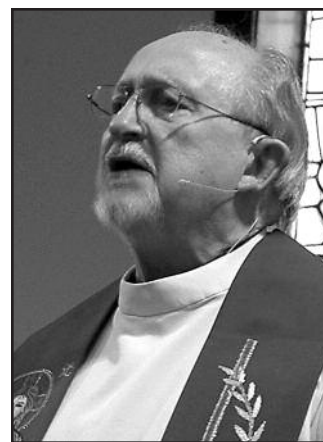
"The second week of the mission brought us the addition of daily Eucharistic Adoration and a

daily opportunity for reconciliation, as well as a *Great Assembly* every weekday evening," he described. The *Great Assemblies* consisted of a time of praise and worship animated by some lively music, followed by a reflection on a scripture passage. The message each evening was reinforced by a drama presented by the youth team. "This drama made the evening's reflection tangible for us. Each evening's reflection and drama was followed by a meaningful ritual that moved us toward a more practical participation in the Word of God."

Hamoline noted that the mission experience has "sown seeds in our hearts that must necessarily be watered and tended by an ongoing reflection in our communities." Several small faith sharing groups were initiated during the mission. "Our challenge will be to make sure that these groups are supported and grown on an ongoing basis."

The experience of organizing the parish mission for the three communities has been one of challenges and of blessings, he said.

"There are several great gifts that have been left to us through this experience. Our first is the understanding that there are forces at work that oppose this kind of



The cross is carried into the streets of Vonda during one of the *Great Assemblies* held during the Parish Mission. *Insert:* Fr. Al Hubenig, OMI, was one of the mission preachers.

reaching out to others," he said. "A common theme among the people who organized this event was that there were grave doubts about the process, and there was often discouragement and a lack of enthusiasm in our hearts for what we were doing. What was much more powerfully felt was the grace that issued from our efforts as we persevered in the face of every doubt and concern that confronted us."

A new understanding of the call to each Christian to reach out in evangelization was another blessing of the mission, he said.

"For too long we have said to ourselves 'this is the church's job' and we would look to our consecrated women and men to do this work. No longer do we have the luxury of being spectators watching others do the work," Hamoline said, stressing that the Holy Spirit equips

every Christian for the necessary tasks. "We can reach out to those in need on an individual basis, and those who most need our love are waiting in their homes for us to knock at their doors bringing with us the gift of Christ's love for them."

Finally, mission participants have learned that "we are indeed blessed and privileged to live in this time and in this place," he said. "Truly the Kingdom of God has come near and touched the people who live in three small Christian communities in the center of Saskatchewan."

Several other Oblate parish missions have been held in the diocese of Saskatoon in recent years: at Rosetown; Cudworth/St. Benedict; and Naicam/St. Front. St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt is presently considering the process. - KLY

Pastoral care volunteers honoured for service

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Volunteer visitors to the sick, the suffering, the elderly and the confined were honoured Feb. 13 at an appreciation evening held at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon.



Sr. Theodosia Papirnik

words from guest speaker Sr. Theodosia Papirnik, SSJ.

"You are the most important component of health care, because it is you who takes over after the professional has left the bedside. It is you that can assist God in the healing process. It is you that brings hope: hope in the knowledge that there is a God and that he is with them, through you," she said. "You are the hands and the voice and

Volunteers from parishes in the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon were among those who gathered for the annual Pastoral Care Appreciation event, which featured prayer, entertainment, wine and cheese and encouraging



Members of the singing group *Young at Heart*: Bob Hickie, Arnold Senger, Wayne Hackl and Paul Hack (left to right) provided entertainment at a pastoral care volunteer appreciation evening held Feb. 13 in Saskatoon.

the heart and the love of God."

The sick and suffering often experience tremendous isolation and feelings of loneliness, said Sr. Theodosia, a member of the Ukrainian Sisters of St. Joseph in Saskatoon who has served in health care for 23 years. In this transient society, the elderly are often living in long-term care homes many hundreds or thousands of miles away from close family members, she added. In

such situations the work of volunteers is vital.

"You break that loneliness from time to time and allow these people to experience and share in community. Sometimes all that is necessary is your presence. Sometimes you don't even have to say a word. All that is required to break the loneliness, to break the fear of illness, is the presence of someone who they know doesn't have to be

there, and yet is there because they care."

She also encouraged the pastoral care volunteers to be advocates for Christian Catholic health care. "As Christians we are called upon to defend those things that are right, not necessarily those things that are easier."

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ the healer, the Church was the first to establish organized health care and establish the hospital system, she noted. "Your contribution to health care is not just visiting the sick and allaying their loneliness, it is visible evidence of the Christian Catholic way of ministering to people in all of their needs of life," said Sr. Theodosia, pointing to ever-more prevalent threats to human life in the form of abortion, euthanasia and experimental manipulation.

"You are the people that are going to ensure that our health care system remains what it was originally established for and that is to preserve the human being as a temple of God – not a source of experimentation, or something that can be thrown away or done away with."

The evening program at Holy Spirit Parish also included Rev. Darryl Millette, assistant pastor at Holy Family Parish in Saskatoon leading the gathering in prayer, as well as entertainment provided by the local singing group *Young at Heart*.

The Saskatoon event is held each year to mark the World Day of the Sick

Purity Rally explores theme “waiting for you”

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

Youth and families gathered Feb. 2 for the annual Purity Rally at St. Patrick's Parish Centre in Saskatoon, exploring the theme “Waiting for you.” Some 400 people attended, participating in a dynamic program that included talks, speaker panels, inspirational music, fun activities and testimonials from both youth and adults.

Priests were available for the sacrament of reconciliation, and the day concluded with Eucharistic adoration. Bishop Albert LeGatt celebrated Mass with the gathering prior to supper. Sessions ran throughout the day, including activities for younger children ages four to 11 years running concurrently with sessions for teens and adults.

Purity Rally organizer Carmen Marcoux opened the event by encouraging young people – and their parents – to rethink the whole idea of dating.

Instead of pursuing boy-girl relationships, the best way to prepare for love and marriage is to pursue a close relationship with Jesus and cultivate the virtues of friendship, she told the gathering in an opening session entitled “Purity in Good Measure.”

It's hard to guard someone else's heart when you are still developing a sense of your own identity, Marcoux asserted. “So many of us are in love with being in love,” she said, describing how pressure from the culture, from peers, and even from parents leads young people into thinking romantically about each other before they are ready.

She encouraged young people to ask themselves: “Am I truly ready for a dating relationship, or does God have something else in mind for me?”

When dating does enter the picture, whether for a special occasion such as a family wedding or as part of a journey toward discerning a call to marriage, it is important to establish practical guidelines, Marcoux added. “When you are with somebody else, ask yourself: ‘Would I do this if my future husband or wife was in this room right now?’”

Concrete ways to handle dating and courtship situations were explored in scenes dramatized by Hannah and Rebekah Marcoux, Danielle Mireau, Masson Normand, Josh Jalbert and Dominic Brule.

Later in the day, Catholic musician Mark Mallett interviewed a panel of youth who spoke to the audience about how they had lived their teenage years. Many of them had chosen not to date at all during high school, while others had waited until after high school, and others into their twenties.

“I did start dating once I was out of high school, but I wasn't really ready,” noted Theresa Dupuis. “But I did learn a lot in that relationship.”

Other members of the panel included Amy Boskill, Daniel Dupuis, Elizabeth Fuller and Todd Marr – all alumni of NET, a Catholic youth evangelization team.

The consensus among the panel was that waiting until there was a clear and strong sense of self and individuality, as well as a strong relationship with God, made the wait worthwhile despite pressure from others.

“You end up giving a little piece of your heart away every time you date, unless you work at saving yourself for the one you're going to be spending the rest of your life with,” said one panel member.

Danielle Mase, a mother of four and a former youth leader, shared her testimony in the afternoon. She encouraged fathers to spend time with their daughters in their teen years, to support them and give them the male attention they may otherwise seek elsewhere.

“My relationship with God really helped me through the rough parts,” noted Maze, describing how her first encounter with dating at age 16 was “an awful experience”. She encouraged the young people to really wait on God, rather than constantly searching for romance.

Musical praise and worship and skits presented by local youth were also a part of the day, as well as an on-going “urban versus rural” competition of games and activities with various contests and points awarded. The evening program



-Speaker Carmen Marcoux (right) looks on as young performers present dramatizations about dating during a 2008 Purity Rally held Feb. 2 in Saskatoon.

included the presentation of several videos about Purity Rally themes that were created by participants and youth groups.

Next year's event will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, with the theme “Beyond Your Wildest Dreams.”

Moms return to help next generation

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

After offering 10 years of faith enrichment and social opportunities for Catholic mothers, a Saskatoon group is now seeing original members returning to help the next generation of mothers.

Time Out for Moms organizers are seeing members from years past returning as caregivers in the childcare rooms, to help with the care of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

“I find it inspiring that mothers who came to the program 10 years ago are now encouraging their daughters as young mothers to come out and join the group,” said Joan Hoerd-Lukan, current board member. “That they also are coming back to provide the practical support of helping with childcare is

even more satisfying.”

Board members said that this participation is a real testament to how much this ministry touches woman at all stages of motherhood.

“There is a real sense of ongoing sense of fellowship,” said Leah Sidloski a current attending mom. “It's becoming a self sustaining mom's community. Woman take what they need when they need it and give it back when they can. They are taking time in this new stage to nourish the next generation.”

Time Out for Moms is a ministry committed to the Catholic enrichment of woman. The program runs for ten weeks in the fall and ten weeks in the winter. Mothers attend their own

meeting where they have fellowship, prayer and a speaker or activity. The children are cared for separately by volunteers in preschool and infant rooms, giving moms a needed break to concentrate on their own enrichment.

Topics covered include everything from having a meaningful Lent to a taste and see recipe exchange. Volunteers take turns providing a light breakfast as organizers know it is often mom who leaves the house without food in the morning.

Registration will begin again in fall 2008 with pamphlets available in the back of all parishes.

For more information on the moms' program or caregiving call Nancy at 373-4350.

Grosswerder marks 100th anniversary

SUBMITTED BY CLARA OLLENBERGER

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Grosswerder community of St. Anthony parish was celebrated July 29, 2007.

An afternoon Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bishop Albert LeGatt with co-celebrants Fr. Marvin Lishcynsky, Fr. John Doetzel, OMI, and Fr. Ron Rissling, OMI.

The church was decorated with fresh flowers and historical artifacts. The crowd of 390 could not fit into the building, so some were seated in the shade of a tent, listening to Mass through a speaker set up by Denis Sieben.

Music ministry was led by Mary Lou Schechtel on the old pump organ.

The bishop congratulated the community on celebrating 100 years of history, and in his homily reflected on celebrating our faith and making it grow in the world, wherever our paths have taken us from our home community.

Following Mass, a program was held outdoors in the tent, led by MCs Cecile Herle and Sally Ollenberger. Greetings from the RM of Eye Hill, the hamlet of Cactus Lake and the RM of Heart's Hill were presented.

Dressed in pioneer costume, Andrea Erker related the events in the life of a pioneer woman helping prepare for the annual church picnic.



St. Anthony's church at Grosswerder celebrated 100 years during the summer of 2007.

Recognition was given to families that have lived on the original homestead since 1907. The program included historical information, reminiscences and entertainment. The church bells rang out 100 times to mark the century celebration. A supper concluded the event.

Statue will honour pioneer women

Plans are underway for a larger-than-life bronze sculpture to honour the legacy and contribution of Saskatchewan's pioneer women.

Members of a German Days committee in Saskatoon are coordinating the project. The sculpture entitled “Egg Money” will be placed in a Saskatoon park, and will feature the names of Saskatchewan pioneer women engraved along the base, said committee member Rosa Gebhardt. Designed by artists Shirley and Don Begg of Cochrane, Alberta, the artwork depicts a pioneer

woman feeding chickens with the help of two children (see model, right).

The committee is inviting families to honour their pioneer mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers by purchasing a spot for their names for \$1,500 each, which will help to fund the project, said Gebhardt, stressing the sculpture is meant to honour women of every background and every faith, who did so much to create this province.

For more information e-mail info@SaskatoonGermanDays.ca or call Rosa Gebhardt at 373-3328.



Prelate CWL celebrates 50 years

SUBMITTED BY PRELATE CWL

The chapel at St. Angela's Convent in Prelate was the setting for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the St. Francis Xavier parish council Catholic Women's League branch Oct. 3, 2007.

Archbishop emeritus Adam Exner and Fr. Samuel Bobodu presided at celebration of the Eucharist at 8 p.m. Sharon Hoffart and Brenda Helman led the music ministry, with Ann Dietrich at the organ. CWL members filled many of the ministries for the Mass.

Only four of the original 50-year members were able to attend: Sally Wagner, Katherine Steier, Anne Kosolofski and Marie Garrecht. Two other original members, Anne Besplug and Lilian Surina of Osoyoos, B.C. were unable to attend.

Jeannine Schmaltz decorated the auditorium for the program that followed. CWL president Anna Marie Rajchyba extended words of welcome, as did Sr. Hermana and MC Sr. Emily Ksolofski, who presented a brief history of the council's past 50 years.

AnnaMarie Rajchyba presented 50-year pins to the four jubilarians who were present, and listed other members who have left the community.

Dolores Meuchel presented council president Rajchyba with the CWL service pin, recognizing services to the league, church and community.

A congratulatory video from charter member Katherine Martin of St. Catherine's Ontario was shown, and Archbishop Exner played several accordion selections.

This was followed by a play, a monologue by Margaret Gill, the singing of hymns, and an address by guest speaker Archbishop Exner.

The archbishop challenged the CWL members to continue to be strong in faith and to resist forces of evil at work in the world. A blessing was sung for Archbishop Exner, who recently marked his 50th anniversary as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

WESTERN CONFERENCE FOR THE CATECHUMENATE:

will be sponsoring their 18th

annual conference from Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1, 2008 at Holy Spirit Church, Saskatoon. The topic is: “RCIA: Celebrating the Rites and Music” with Jerry Galipeau from Chicago. For more information call Fr. Michael Koch: 373-0404 or send an e-mail: mjkracia@shaw.ca

SASKATCHEWAN PRO LIFE ASSOCIATION: March for Life at the Saskatchewan Legislature Saturday, May 3. Visit the website at: www.saskprolife.com or call 1-888-842-7752

MISSION HILL PERFORMANCES: the story of Christ's life enacted in an outdoor setting near Bellevue, Sask. - 6:30 to 9 p.m.; and the story of Mary “Mother of All - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; from July 19 to 21 and from July 24 to 27. For more information: Phone: 306-423-5340 email: missionhillprod@yahoo.ca

Watch for News about THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARISH NURSING MINISTRY CONFERENCE: May 2009.

Upcoming Events

Sr. Kateri Mitchell encourages integration of culture, faith

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At a gathering in Saskatoon Jan. 31, Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, encouraged members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to continue living out both the First Nations culture and the Catholic Christian faith as fully as possible, in order to share God-given gifts that are greatly needed in our world.

"We bring the best of who we are of our own culture and as people of faith. The two together is what for myself, I call 'medicine,'" said Mitchell, using the four colours on the medicine wheel as an illustration of how people of every race are called to live in balance and harmony, with God at the centre – just as at the centre of the medicine wheel one finds a cross.

"It shows that life is balance and that each day we walk the sacred circle of life as brothers and sisters. And as people of all races coming together, the centre is God, the centre is Christ," she said, holding up the medicine wheel during the gathering of Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners and leaders.

"It is a symbol of who we are as people of faith, as Catholics, as Aboriginal Catholics. It helps us to be strong because we have the best of our culture and we have the best of our faith. Together we can't go wrong if we walk the sacred circle, because at the heart is our God."

Sr. Kateri was in Saskatoon to speak at the Aboriginal stream of the Lay Formation program, a joint project of the three dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin Le-Pas.

Her messages echoed with examples of other moments of affirmation, such as the visit of Pope John Paul II to Canada, when he met with Native American tribes and representatives all across the country; as well as his words to Aboriginal people at the Tekakwitha Conference in Phoenix that year. "At each of these places, the important part for our people was that the pope encouraged every one of us that as Aboriginal people of North America we need to share our gifts with the Church."

For many years, First Nations people were invisible and voiceless in the Church, said Mitchell, describing strides that have been taken since the Holy Father's visit to Canada 24 years ago.

"More and more of our people began to say 'yes, we're important, we want to be part of the Church, and we want to share our gifts,'" she said. "A whole process began where more and more of our ways are becoming part of our liturgical service. In the Mass we now can hear the drums, the heartbeat of our lives; we can have smudging;



Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA

we can use our symbols even to decorate the church, the colour, in the four directions; and in our prayers the four directions are being used in many ways."

This past summer during the annual Tekakwitha Conference held at Baltimore, Maryland representatives of hundreds of tribes from across North America participated, spending one day of the gathering in Washington, D.C., visiting the National Museum of the American Indian, stopping at memorials where many remembered family members lost in various wars, and finally, bringing Native American traditions to the celebration of Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"For the first time ever we had the drums there ... and that huge place just echoed with the heartbeat of our people and we just felt so proud to be there and to see that we are a part of this gathering, of this Church," Mitchell recounted. "It was a time when we could say we stand tall, we stand proud, we stand strong and we stand with great faith as Catholic people, as Catholic Aboriginal people."

Such moments do make a difference, she said, encouraging the Saskatoon parish, which uses First Nations symbols, language and culture as part of its liturgical celebrations. "It makes a difference in our



Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Life Director Verna Vandale (right) thanks Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA, Jan. 31 for her presentation about integrating First Nations traditions and culture with Roman Catholic faith. Sr. Kateri Mitchell also spoke at the Lay Formation program Feb. 1-3, and at a Theology on Tap session for young adults Feb. 4.

own lives, but also in enriching the lives of other cultures," she said, describing how the celebration in Washington "brought about a lot of peace, a lot of healing ... healing of all kinds of hurts, of rejection, healing of racism that we all experience at different times."

Sr. Kateri Mitchell is an Iroquois of the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan from the St. Regis Akwesasne international reservation on the border of Ontario and New York State. A member of the congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne, Mitchell is an educator, teacher and administrator, who has been involved in fulltime native ministry in a variety of positions for the past 23 years. Since 1998 she has served as the executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference National Center in Great Falls, Montana.

Mitchell is a member of the International Consultation on Adult Faith Formation and Adult Religious Education, and has served as a consultant for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ad hoc committee for Native American Catholics, and in January 2008 was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the first Catholic Native American to serve as consultor on the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

"For Sr. Kateri to be representing indigenous people in inter-religious dialogue is a wonderful and exciting thing for our

church," said Kathy Hitchings, one of the coordinators of Lay Formation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, who introduced Mitchell at the Guadalupe House gathering in Saskatoon.

Hitchings recalled attending sessions led by Mitchell at gatherings of the Western Conference of Catholic Religious Educators some 20 years ago. "There would be Sr. Kateri to present and to open our minds and inform us of the wonderful gift of Aboriginal spirituality that we need very much to know about, as people [who are] not always aware of these wonderful gifts among us."

In addition to describing the medicine wheel and the four directions as a basis for spiritual, emotional, physical and mental healing during her recent talks in Saskatoon, Mitchell also reported on ongoing efforts in the cause to have Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha declared the first Native American saint in the Catholic Church. The healing of a young boy is now being investigated as a possible miracle in the cause of Blessed Kateri's canonization, she said.

The work of the Tekakwitha Conference to affirm the faith of Native American/Aboriginal Catholics was also highlighted during Mitchell's visit. This year's international gathering will be hosted by Alberta Métis and First Nations communities July 2 to 6 in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mitchell described the summer conference as a great opportunity for people in Western Canada to participate in a time of enrichment, affirmation and community. Some 156 tribes from across North America will be represented at the conference, with participation anticipated from Canadian Church representatives including Bishop Murray Chatlain of Mackenzie-Fort Smith and Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie of Keewatin-Le Pas, she reported. More information about the Tekakwitha Conference can be found on the website: groups.creighton.edu/tekconf

A graduate of the diocesan Lay Formation program Cecilia Morin has attended the Tekakwitha annual conference three times and recommended it highly to others during the Guadalupe House gathering. "I feel whole when I go there. It gives me courage, it gives me hope to keep going with my faith as a Catholic person."

Gayle Weenie of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish also noted the power of the Tekakwitha Conference gatherings. "It is really wonderful to see all these Aboriginal people come together and to see their faith in action," she said.

New DVD resources available at diocesan Resource Library

BY FRAN TURNER
RESOURCE LIBRARY

There are a number of new DVDs in the diocesan Resource Library.

Adventures of the Apostle Paul for Children is an animated program which introduces children ages 8 and up to the incredible life

and work of the Apostle Paul. It is a good way to introduce children to the early church and the spread of the Gospel after the time of Jesus on earth. (Three nine-minute segments)

Veggie Tales: The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's is another of the popular Veggie Tales adventures for kids of all ages. This DVD is based

on the story of the prodigal son, and reminds kids that there's nothing like forgiveness and there's no place like home. (49 min.)

Mary: An Introduction contains three programs about Mary: "We Learn from Mary" for grades 1 to 5 (16 min.); "We Pray With Mary" for grades 1 to 5 (17 min.) and "Our

Lady of Guadalupe" for junior high to adult (28 min.)

St. John in Exile contains a powerful performance by Dean Jones portraying St. John, imprisoned, the last living disciple of Jesus' twelve. Through his eyes you can relive the moving events in which Jesus Christ changed the course of human history. (92 min. Adult.)

Generative Discipleship: The Deeper Invitation of Jesus is one of Fr. Ron Rolheiser's latest presentations on DVD. If you think you've reached the deepest level of discipleship, Jesus invites you to

more. Fr. Ron tells us how to recognize these invitations in order to bring deeper meaning to your life. (Two presentations each 50 min. for small group discussions or individual use. Adult.)

The Catholic Pastoral Centre Resource Library is located at 100 - 5th Ave. N. in Saskatoon. Hours are Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005. The Resource Centre in Humboldt also carries many videos as well. It is located at 521 - 7th St. (south door). Phone 682-1534.



Cat.Chat concert in Bruno

At a Cat.Chat Live concert at the parish in Bruno March 28, Gerald Montpetit (insert, with guitar) and family presented a concert of praise and worship music, stories and activities for children, including appearances by Moses the Cat. The Catholic children's performing group recently moved to Bruno from Alberta.

Ministry to Tourism Europe-bound this autumn

BY FR. RALPH KLEITER

Ministry to Tourism is offering a number of interesting travel programs in October-November 2008. Cruising is one of the best values in European travel today. Generally in connection with a River or Mediterranean cruise an exclusively designed land package, before or after, is available.

In early October, after a Danube River Music cruise, participants will travel for a week in Bavaria and Austria, tracing the important sites and roots of Benedict XVI. Later in October-November, Ministry to Tourism will focus on several Iberian centres (Spain and Portugal). Before a cruise from Rome to Barcelona, a pre and/or post cruise land package will offer an excursion to the famous Benedictine Abbey and pilgrimage destination at Montserrat. Another option is to cruise to several Spanish and Portuguese ports (including the Canary Islands). This autumn program will conclude with a 10-day package featuring Fatima and Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. The journey concludes in Lourdes, France as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

There is still space available on some programs. Contact Fr. Kleiter at 306-244-3747; email: kleiter@shaw.ca

Queen's House offers oasis of healing and peace

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Healing and peace are the hallmarks of Queen's House of Retreats, according to director Gisele Bauche and chaplain / spiritual direction coordinator Fr. Paul Facht, OMI.

Since Fr. Lequiea and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate envisioned a need for a "privileged place of evangelization" and created Queen's House 50 years ago (see article, below), many things have changed, but the mission of the retreat centre remains the same, stressed Gisele Bauche. "The call to proclaim good news to the poor and the marginalized is still



Director Gisele Bauche

the basis of our mission," she said. "We've simply developed and embellished that vision over the years, and moved forward to fit the context of these times."

One thing that has emerged is a great hunger for healing, and for a safe place of reconciliation and peace, she described. "There are a lot of people who come to this house unknown. They come here to get themselves centred. A lot of them are suffering, whether because of things out there in the world, or because they

have been broken or wounded in some way."

Healing the wounded spirit has therefore become a greater focus for the centre, with 12-step programs, initiatives aimed at grieving, and movements such as *Returning to Spirit*, in which First Nations and Church representatives walk a path of reconciliation and healing together, she described.

The beauty of the building and the Queen's House grounds speaks to people, as does the palpable spirit of peace that pervades the place, added Facht. He recalled a moment he once shared with Rabbi Roger Pavey after participating in one of a series of multi-faith dialogue sessions offered at Queen's House, involving members of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. "He reached out and touched the little wooden plaque by the entrance which says 'peace to all who come here' – and he looked at his Muslim friend David and he said 'it's true of this place.' It was deeply, deeply moving," Facht recalled.

A two-year program of formation for spiritual direction is

Queen's House 50th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, June 1, 2008
3 pm. Celebration of the Eucharist
 followed by a program and barbecue supper. (RSVP: 242-1916)

an example of both the emphasis on healing and of the strong ecumenical spirit that characterizes Queen's House. Spiritual direction formation leaders Fr. Paul Facht, Sr. Louisa Brost, OSU and Claire Ewart Fisher work with people of many Christian denominations, equipping them to walk with others on their spiritual journeys. "There is a lot of healing that goes on in that as well. About a third of the elements in that program address healing hurt, grief counseling, forgiveness, the 12-step program," said Facht, describing how one only has to look at the morning newspaper to see the depth of spiritual hunger in our world. "We are so caught up in things that have nothing to do with the issue. We are hungry, spiritually hungry, lacking God."

Releasing the artistic and creative potential of the human spirit is another area of priority at Queen's House, where artistic expression and spirituality often go hand in hand, as with icon-writing workshops and art instruction sessions. Art therapist Sr. Felicitas Drobog is one of several outside resource people who regularly offer sessions at Queen's House – she combines art and healing in a unique and powerful way, noted Bauche. Other resource people in areas such as reflexology, Reiki and spiritual direction are also available.

About 1,500 people last year participated in a diverse offering of retreats, workshops, speakers, prayer and contemplation opportunities organized at Queen's House by program coordinator Lucie Leduc.

In addition, some 336 groups and organizations came through Queen's House last year, said Bauche, noting that of these, 62 per cent were faith based or religious organizations. Community groups or businesses are also using the centre for meetings, conferences, wellness days or special occasions, she added.

The decision to open the centre up for bookings by companies and community groups has increased awareness about Queen's House in the community, suggested Facht. Even though the ministry of Queen's House has expanded, however, there is not always an understanding of what Queen's House is, or what it offers – even within the

neighborhood or among local parish communities, he noted.

In spite of operating on the banks of the Saskatchewan river in Saskatoon for the past 50 years, Queen's House still remains something of an unknown jewel, agreed Bauche. "So many people aren't aware of it. And yet so many people who do enter this house are changed, and they're changed forever."

Staff support for the mission of Queen's House is phenomenal, Bauche said. "Everyone – the kitchen staff, the housekeeping staff, anybody that is working here – is attentive to what this house is about. We're all responsible for that reign and that responsibility of welcome and of somehow bringing healing to people."

A strong community spirit exists among the staff at Queen's House, agreed Facht. It is a spirit nourished and grounded in daily prayer together, he said.

"It's like a family, with mutual care and compassion, lots of fun of course, and humour," he described. "We don't use the word work here, we use the word ministry. People are the priority. We might be handling food, or a bible, or a mop, but it's the people that count."

Support from the community at large also continues to be vital to the continuing operation of Queen's House, which in recent years has concentrated on capital campaigns to raise much needed funds to maintain and upgrade the facility. Events include an annual fundraising dinner and silent auction, and an annual walk or bike-a-thon, to be held this year Aug. 7-9.

As an expression of gratitude for everything that Queen's House has experienced in the past 50 years, a celebration is planned for Sunday, June 1, 2008, said Bauche, extending an invitation to join in celebration of the Eucharist on the grounds at 3 p.m., followed by a program and a barbecue. (Those planning to attend the barbecue are asked to RSVP by calling 242-1916.)



Fr. Paul Facht, OMI

Queen's House mission continues through 50 years of growth and change

When the official opening and blessing took place on May 31, 1958, Queen's House of Retreats was a simple brick building located on a bare section of prairie on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River at the southern edge of the city of Saskatoon.

Comprised of 24 small bedrooms, a chapel, lounge, kitchen and dining room, with an Oblate residence at one end and an apartment for the SMS Sisters at the other, it offered a hospitable place of prayer and spiritual renewal.

The spirit of the Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St. Eugene de Mazenod, permeates the mission of Queen's House. "We consider retreat houses to be, in a certain way, privileged places for evangelization. They are fully in line with the purpose of the (Oblate) Congregation whose first mission is evangelization, especially of the poor, of the most abandoned," wrote Fr. Fernand Jette, Oblate Superior General (1974-1986).

Over the years, a number of Oblates held the position of Queen's House director:

- Fr. Edward Lequiea, OMI, began the building in 1957; served as director from 1958 to 1968; and from 1974 to 1978;
- Fr. Norbert Engel, OMI - 1968 to 1974
- Fr. Ronald Dechant, OMI - 1978 to 1981
- Fr. Glenn Zimmer, OMI - 1981 to 1995
- Fr. John Malazdrewich, OMI - 1995 to 1998

In 1998, Larry Novakowski was appointed acting director, and in the fall of that year Gisele Bauche was named director. This marked the beginning of lay directors at Queen's House, with the Oblates continuing an active presence. At the present time, Fr. Paul Facht, OMI, serves as chaplain and spiritual direction coordinator at Queen's House, and Lucie Leduc is program coordinator.

Parish retreats

For many years after its opening, parish retreats were prominent at Queen's House, giving a strong emphasis to involvement, formation and leadership of the laity. Retreat captains in each parish of the diocese encouraged parishioners to attend a weekend retreat, often filling Queen's House to capacity. Priests and various religious orders also held their annual retreats at the facility.

Eventually there was a need to expand the



The Queen's House building site is blessed in 1958.

- Photo from Queen's House archives

building in order to accommodate the number of people who wanted to participate in Queen's House programs. In 1964, a west wing was added which gave Queen's House another 16 bedrooms and what today is known as Conference Room B.

Later on, under the leadership of director Fr. Glenn Zimmer, a new chapel was built with windows overlooking the beautiful grounds and the river. A Stillness Lounge and Stillness Chapel also became part of the main floor with a large room (Conference Room A), kitchenette, washrooms and reconciliation rooms added on the lower floor. The original chapel off the main lounge became Conference Room C.

Four large bedrooms, the Prairie Lounge, office space and a staff room were built in 1988 and in 1991 the kitchen and dining room were remodeled.

Today, Queen's House is able to accommodate a number of programs at the same time. Over the years, attempts were made to reach out to the broader community, with innovations such as spiritual days for those involved in 12-Step programs. Ecumenical events were also added to the calendar. Special guest speakers were invited to address current issues of concern in the church and society.

As well, in an effort to subsidize its spiritual purpose, over the years Queen's House has

expanded its mandate to include facility rentals.

"Queen's House continues to live its mission by releasing the artistic and creative potential of the human spirit, encouraging radically positive solutions for our world and proclaiming the non-violent Christ to assist us in becoming more effective agents of Christ's peace to the world," says director Gisele Bauche.

Mission continues

"During this half century, for thousands of people that have spent time here – an hour, a day, a weekend, a week or longer – it continues to be a place to deepen one's relationship with God in an atmosphere of welcome and peace."

"We are grateful to OMI Lacombe Canada and the Oblates of our Saskatchewan local community for their support, commitment and leadership to Queen's House of Retreats and to the dedicated Oblate Directors who through the years have given their heart and soul to its mission and vision," said Bauche, adding her thanks to the board, the staff, and all friends, patrons and volunteers of Queen's House for their dedication, courage, commitment and service over the past 50 years.

Queen's House has been the "welcome of God" to the many who have come through its doors, according to members of the executive team of OMI Canada.

Congratulation messages

In a message of congratulations, Provincial Fr. Andre Boyer, OMI; and Vicars Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI and Fr. Jim Fiori, OMI, observed that at Queen's House "people have been nourished, the vision of the Church has been expanded, and the poor have been comforted by the presence of God."

Programming at Queen's House reflects the ideals of the Oblate mission, the Oblate leadership team said in their message.

"In true missionary style you are not content to rest on past achievements. You are in touch with the wider community. You continue to develop programs to make Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Gospel known to all people. You create opportunities for people to explore their life choices and commitments," the Oblate team said.

Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt reflected on the impact that Queen's House has had on the local faith community. "For the past 50 years Queen's House of Retreats has been a rich and essential centre of prayer and spirituality, of hospitality and gathering, of education and formation within the diocese of Saskatoon," he said. "Through the vision and generous support of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate the retreat ministry of Queen's House has been a source of much spiritual and pastoral growth both for countless individuals and for our parishes and the diocese as a whole."

Sr. Anne Lewans, OSU, general superior of the Ursulines of Prelate noted how retreat ministry at Queen's House has evolved, always being sensitive to the changing needs of the many people served. "Women religious, among other groups, have appreciated the variety of retreats and workshops, the quality of presenters, and the warm, welcoming environment which makes Queen's House a spiritual oasis, she said.

The Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas greatly appreciates Queen's House hospitality during events such as Study Days, said Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI. The centre's "presence and ministry is invaluable for events that benefit us such as *Returning To Spirit*, the Aboriginal Stream of the Lay Formation program and 12-step retreats," he noted.