

UNITING IN FAITH
Campaign for new
Cathedral and Catholic
Pastoral Centre - Page 12



MEET THE DEANERY
The Humboldt Deanery is
highlighted in this edition, the
first in a series - Page 14



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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Fall 2008

Vision launched for diocese



Lay Formation commissioning

Lay Formation graduates light their candles as part of a renewal of their baptismal promises during a commissioning celebration with Bishop Albert LeGatt. Ongoing faith formation is one of six priorities of a new vision launched in the diocese of Saskatoon. **MORE** Page 8

Catholics from across the region gather in Kerrobert for Grief Ministry training

BY MARLENE CHOTOWETZ

The program "Grief Ministry: Helping Others Mourn" began Sept. 18 in Kerrobert.

Fifty-three participants of all ages from Unity, Macklin, Denzil, Tramping Lake, Luseland, Kerrobert and Major are attending the 11-week program, which is offered through the diocesan Ministry Development office.

Instructor Brian Chartier PhD does not simply stand at the front of the room and lecture. Instead, small group sessions get everyone involved and give everyone the opportunity to tell his or her story.

Participants have discovered that in order to learn how to help others to mourn and deal with death and dying, one must first confront one's own loss and grief history. Role playing is helpful, and prayer, meditation, laughter and tears are part of each session.

Although there are no name tags, by the end of the second class everyone knew each other by name.

The consensus is that the class is great and participants are looking

forward to the remaining sessions.

The Grief Ministry program has also been offered in the city of Saskatoon and in the Sandhills Pastoral Region.

For more information about this

or other Ministry Development offerings, contact Blake Sittler at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

Ministry Development is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Uniting In Faith... to equip people for ministry

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new vision for the diocese of Saskatoon provides a framework from which to plan and to measure steps into the future, says Bishop Albert LeGatt.

The diocesan vision was unveiled at a recent gathering of parish and deanery leadership.

"It is important to have a vision that encompasses the breadth of the mission of the Church, yet also is specific enough to give direction and motivation to the pastoral leadership of the diocese and of our parishes, as well as to all of the faithful," the bishop said.

Presented at the 2008 Diocesan Congress held Oct. 30-31 at Queen's House, *Rooted in Christ: A Vision for the Diocese of Saskatoon* was written by the bishop after a year of consultation with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Council of Priests, and diocesan ministry coordinators.

The diocesan vision embodies "direction, energy and enthusiasm, faith and a mutual commitment, one to another," said Bishop LeGatt.

"For the Church, the body of Christ, the people of God, our vision is of course that of being rooted in all things in Jesus Christ, in his desire to bring God's love to all people," said LeGatt in the vision statement.

"The challenge for the Church in any age is to read the signs of the time, to discern the particular challenges, possibilities and difficulties of sharing the love of God amongst all people here and now."

During the recent Diocesan Congress, parish, deanery and

Uniting In Faith... for a diocesan vision

diocesan leaders – both lay and ordained – were given a process to take back to their local communities for reflecting upon the vision and setting local goals for action.

The diocesan vision outlines six priorities, which the bishop stressed are all part of the Church's mission and which are all interconnected.

The six priorities are:

- Evangelization;
- Ongoing faith formation;
- Liturgy and worship;
- Building and sustaining community;
- Justice and peace; and
- Strengthening the unity of the diocese.

For each of the six priorities, the vision also provides several concrete suggestions for action, in an effort to ground in reality what otherwise might seem like abstract concepts, he said.

The vision is addressed to all of the faithful of the diocese, noted LeGatt, who invited pastors and parish councils in particular to reflect on these priorities in the context of parish life over the coming five years.

"In our parishes much is already happening and all aspects of Church life must continue to be tended," he said.

"This vision and these priorities are not to be a further imposition, rather they are to serve as an invitation to focus in a particular way on essential aspects of our Church's life here and now."

MORE on VISION Page 10-11



Fifty-three participants from several communities have gathered in Kerrobert for an 11-session Grief Ministry course offered through the diocesan Ministry Development office.

- Photo by Marlene Chotowetz



BAA volunteers Jadwiga Skuratowicz, Emil and Danuta Puc (l-r) of Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in Saskatoon participated in the final gathering for this year's BAA volunteers held Nov. 5.

Bishop's Annual Appeal raises \$1,214,733

The 2008 Bishop's Annual Appeal total stands at \$1,214,733 – exceeding this year's goal.

Bishop Albert LeGatt and BAA director Fr. Ken Beck thanked volunteers from across the diocese of Saskatoon gathered for a final reporting session Nov. 5 at Holy Spirit parish.

"It really makes an incredible difference when there are committed people in the parishes," said BAA administrator Charlene Nijhawan, recognizing the great effort of volunteers, pastors, and Parish Life Directors.

"Thanks to their enthusiasm and support, the people are aware of what the Bishop's Annual Appeal is all about, and respond generously."

Between \$200,000 and \$300,000 will be returned to parishes that exceeded their individual parish goals – part of a parish sharing incentive program, noted Nijhawan. All of the remaining funds go to the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, she said.

The BAA provides funding to 28 organizations and

ministries in the diocese of Saskatoon, including spiritual care and chaplaincy at hospitals in Saskatoon, support for St. Peter's College in Muenster, Campus Ministry at St. Thomas More College, and Catholic Christian Outreach on the university campus.

Catholic Family Services, Teen-Aid, Support of Life, L'Arche Saskatoon, and Friendship Inn also receive funding from the BAA.

The Appeal also supports a wide range of ministries, including Catholic Deaf Ministry, ecumenism, education of laity for ministry, education of priests and future priests, grants in support of rural ministry, the Lay Formation program, the liturgy commission, Marriage and Family Life, Ministry Development, Native Religious Ministry, the Office for Justice and Peace, the diocesan Resource Library, Rural Catechetics, Scripture Resources and Youth Ministries.

The BAA also provides support for the Priests' Pension Fund.

Fundraising continues for Station 20 West project in Saskatoon

By BLAKE SITTLER

The committee working on a Station 20 West project in the core neighbourhood of Saskatoon is developing a modified plan for construction of a facility that is half the size and only a quarter of the cost of the original project.

Plans for Station 20 West still includes 55 affordable housing units ready for occupancy, as well as a library and a health centre. It is envisioned as a way to bring about urban renewal in the area.

After cuts to the project by the province were announced in March, some 2,500 people gathered in Saskatoon to protest, but the \$8 million in cuts remained.

This has created a challenge for fundraising, as the project is often seen as a politically charged issue – something that may scare off larger business donors. However, a committed core group of individuals, local businesses and organizations have made the project a priority.

The committee's primary focus is now on fundraising, according to Tony Haynes, director of the Office for Justice and Peace for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, a member of the fundraising sub-committee.

The goal of this first stage of fundraising is to raise \$3 million by spring 2009. One million dollars is currently in place or pledged.

"We have a \$500,000 donation from an anonymous corporate donor and one gift for \$20,000 from a retired teacher," reported Haynes. "We are also planning many fundraisers which we will promote with a mail drop in November."



A young supporter at the rally held this spring in Saskatoon. - Photo by Blake Sittler

"We are receiving around 400 calls per month from different people and organizations who are supportive of the project and who want to make donations or ask about use of the building," he added.

One concern that the group hopes Station 20 West will address is the lack of any grocery stores in the core neighbourhood area.

"There is a Giant Tiger," said Haynes, "but most people in that area do not have

access to a real grocery store or chain supermarket."

Addressing issues related to a lack of healthy food is a large part of Station 20's strategic plan, which seeks to address hunger, food security, poverty, and the health implications that these factors combine to create.

Studies reveal that citizens who live in Saskatoon's least affluent neighbourhoods are 13 times more likely than others residents to develop diabetes. These areas have come to be called "urban food deserts".

At the rally for Station 20 West held in April 2008, Dr. Ryan Meili from the West Side Community Clinic noted the statistic that a baby living in the core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon is three times more likely to die before reaching the age of one year than a child living in other areas of the city. He also noted that rates of diseases, including hepatitis C and diabetes, are higher in these low income neighbourhoods, compared to more wealthy neighbourhoods in Saskatoon.

Other parts of the campaign plan address issues of affordable housing, adequate and accessible health care, and assisting in local economic development where possible.

Station 20 West committee members envision that when the building is completed its architectural design will be a prominent place of value, not just on 20th Street but for Saskatoon as a whole. They want it to be a community centre that nurtures the diversity of the neighbourhood in which it will exist, noted Haynes.

The Station 20 West committee is a collaborative effort between many

community groups, including Roman Catholic, Anglican and United Church representatives. The First Nations community is also represented.

Project manager, and chair of the group, Faith Bodnar, has big hopes for this venture.

"The Good Food Junction will be a locally owned co-operative, full-service grocery store. It will provide much local produce and will create jobs in the local community," she said.

"They have a solid business plan and already have over 300 members who have pledged to shop there."

"On the second floor, there will be several offices of non-profit organizations, including the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Child Hunger and Education Program (CHEP), Quint (a community economic development organization), Heifer International, and an outreach office from the University of Saskatchewan," she continued.

Bodnar said the number one myth that needs to be dispelled about Station 20 West is that the project was cancelled.

"People got hung up on the withdrawal of provincial money and thought we were done but... (Station 20 West) is definitely moving forward. We are starting construction in May 2009... full steam ahead".

Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt has made a public statement supporting the plan to offer special outreach to these neighbourhoods. In a pastoral letter released in the fall of 2008, Bishop Albert wrote: "We must always be aware of our call to help the less fortunate whenever possible. Such a venture is the Station 20 West Project."

Ways to support refugees and newcomers addressed at CWL convention

A discussion about how to support refugees and newcomers to Canada was part of the 73rd annual diocesan Catholic Women's League convention this spring in Rosetown.

A panel of speakers at the spring event included Fr. Paul Donlevy and Ellen Erickson of the diocesan refugee sponsorship committee, as well as Belma Podrug of the Global Gathering Place in Saskatoon.

Donlevy noted that caring for newcomers to Canada has been a priority for the CWL since it was first formed in the early days of national growth and western settlement.

"I'm glad you've looked at your roots and said the need has come again," Donlevy said, noting that even small

Uniting In Faith... to reach out to newcomers

towns in Saskatchewan are seeing an increase in the number of immigrants and refugees.

Anyone coming to Canada – whether as a refugee or an immigrant – needs information about what to expect, and how to adapt to their new country, Donlevy said, citing matters such as weather, technology, housing, and culture.

Other problems and challenges faced by newcomers include loneliness, homesickness and finding connections in their new country. Particularly isolated are women at home, especially if they don't speak English.

Donlevy related a plea from Fr. Noel Farman of the Chaldean Catholic community in Saskatoon for people willing to build connections with newcomers from Iraq, to help them practice English language skills, to bring them out and show them the resources available in Saskatoon and simply "to be a real neighbour."

Committee member Ellen Erickson said the diocesan refugee committee will provide information to any parish or group interested in refugee sponsorship, and will come out to smaller communities to describe the process or provide training.



Fr. Paul Donlevy and Ellen Erickson of the diocesan refugee committee, and Belma Podrug of Global Gathering Place (left to right) spoke at the diocesan CWL convention in Rosetown.

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Reaching out to touch the cloak of Jesus

BY LEAH PERRAULT
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

My daughter, Robyn, has just turned one. Every day now, she is getting braver, walking along furniture, letting go for a few more seconds before she falls to the ground. And when I come in the door from work, she often forgets that there are two stairs between us, and she trusts that I will catch her as she lunges toward me for a hug!

As I am sure you have experienced with the children you love, my daughter is teaching me lessons that are most useful in my professional and adult life. I have changed the title of this column in light of my experience in this office over the last year and a half. Like Robyn's little arms reaching out for me with total trust, I have been reaching out to touch the cloak of Jesus like the woman in Luke 8:40-48.

Jesus is not physically walking among us in the same way as the scriptures recall, but he is no doubt present among us in the many ways that the Spirit is moving in our diocese. As parishes and families prepare for Advent and Christmas and as we say grace and drive to the next meeting, activity or gathering, our God is shaping and transforming us in every moment. In my conversations with you out to the furthest corners of our diocese, I am encouraged that God is at work in every effort to minister to and with youth, in outreach to the grieving, ill and lonely, in a willingness to simply go back to the parish council meeting and give things one more try.

Each time I am overwhelmed by the work that remains to be done, my phone rings or my inbox receives

another email with an invitation to reach out and touch the cloak of Jesus – to be a part of the graced realities that you are living. God's trans-forming and loving presence is all around us! We simply need to allow ourselves to become aware of what God is doing in our midst. And this is our invitation to reach out and touch the cloak, to reach out with trust and hope that all things are possible through God who loves us.

As families head into a busy season which is, a bit ironically, supposed to bring us peace, many of us are in different places. Some of us are grieving the loss of loved ones or facing difficult situations of illness or desperation. Some are experiencing the joy of new life with renewed health, reconciliation or a rich and meaningful experience of work or ministry. Whatever our situation, we are invited to reach out and touch the cloak of Jesus. And our own stories of grace are that cloak! If you are tempted to despair, seek out and listen to the



Touching the Cloak
Leah Perrault

stories of abundant life in your own family, parish and diocese! If you have touched the cloak lately and been refreshed, share your joy with others!

And in this season, we are also preparing for the *Uniting in Faith* campaign that be launched in our parishes in the new year. As we labour together to build a new diocesan Cathedral and Pastoral Centre, as we dream about who we are as Catholics and who we want to be for the world, we have a choice to reach out in hope and trust to be a part of God's very life and action. The diocesan family is growing and your gifts of ministry, presence, enthusiasm, time and treasure are much needed and are already bearing fruit.

The diocesan vision, offered to us this season by Bishop Albert, is a great occasion to seek out the stories of joy in your community.

The success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal once again this year and the ministries that your gifts make possible is a great story of God's generosity and our own role in God's work.

This newsletter tells some of those stories, where we are already responding with great joy to our shepherd's call to be rooted in Christ.

As I prepare my own heart for Advent, I want to thank you for sharing your stories of suffering and joy with me. Your commitment to your family, your community, your parish and our diocesan family of faith continue to be Jesus' cloak for me, a place where I find healing, comfort and hope for the journey.

May your Advent be a full and true preparation for the welcome peace of the Christ child.

Justice and Peace plans

Parish justice and peace representatives from a number of Saskatoon parishes recently gathered for a session to share ideas, and to consider what might become priority issues in the months ahead. This year a rural advocacy group has also worked with Justice and Peace director Tony Haynes on issues affecting farmers and rural communities.



Diocesan policy established for protection of children, youth, and the vulnerable

Staff and volunteers in the diocese of Saskatoon working with children, youth or vulnerable adults will be required to obtain a criminal record check from police, under a recently-expanded diocesan policy.

The policy was recently reviewed by parish leadership during diocesan Study Days. It addresses sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and grooming of victims, and policies to protect vulnerable persons of every age.

The policies and protocols include steps for prevention, for intervention and for healing, said Chancellor Fr. Paul Donlevy.

The document entitled "*Working together for a safe and respectful church environment*," includes a preventative policy for protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults; the protocol and policies for dealing with allegations of sexual abuse; and a description and mandate of a Diocesan Victims' Care Committee.

Diocesan procedures to deal with the question of sexual abuse by priests has been in place since 1992, Donlevy said. It has now been determined that "this policy that we have should also be expanded to include that large number of lay persons in ministry in the church as well, which I think now outnumbers ordained clergy in this diocese," he said, noting that such policies are becoming standard for many organizations and groups.

"It will be the responsibility of the pastors, Parish Life Directors and heads of diocesan offices to inform all employees and volunteers of this policy."

In addition to the criminal record check, the policy calls for a number of other measures, including the use of roadworthy passenger vehicles for church-related transportation; adequate adult supervision at all church sponsored youth activities; proper formation and mentoring of junior catechists and youth peer leaders; a strict prohibition on alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs at youth or child events or activities; no off-site activities with children without the express permission of parent, guardian or appropriate minister; as well as a call to respect privacy and ensure appropriate child-adult physical boundaries at all times. - KLY

Walk for Life raises funds, awareness

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

About 80 people of all ages participated in an annual Walk for Life Sept. 27 in Saskatoon, carrying signs along the Meewasin trail, through city streets and across two bridges, beginning and ending at the Vimy Memorial bandshell in Kiwanis Park.

Reaction from passing drivers was both positive and negative, said Maria Zimmer, a teenager who has participated in the walks since she was a child. While some drivers honked and waved in support, others yelled angry insults.

Another teen, Miranda Hughes, said she was happy to participate. "I came out because I believe all life is precious," she said. "I know that an unborn child is a baby all along, and not just after the umbilical cord is cut."

Participants at the annual walk included seniors, families with children in strollers, university students and members of the Waves Catholic girls club. Bishop Albert LeGatt also walked alongside the other volunteers, who carried signs reading "a pregnant woman needs support, not an abortion" and "smile, your mom chose life."

Pledges collected by participants support Alliance for Life, a volunteer organization that provides a network of information and resources about life issues.

"We depend upon this as one of our main fundraising activities," said board member Hugh Brennan, thanking participants for sharing their support for life through the public witness of the annual walk.



People of all ages participated in an annual Walk for Life Sept. 27 in Saskatoon. The event raises funds for Alliance for Life, which operates a resource centre of videos and other materials about life issues.

Uniting In Faith... for life

The Alliance for Life office of resources, DVDs and videos has relocated to the upper floor of the St. Joseph's parish office on the corner of Broadway Ave and 8th Street, said volunteer office coordinator Nicole Pyle. The office is open 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, she said.

"We are trying to network with a number of other organizations," Pyle noted. This includes groups that provide information and support for those hurt by abortion, such as the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Rachel's

Vineyard, she said. The alliance is also working to build connections with Christian Ethics teachers and youth ministers in the diocese about the resources available from Alliance for Life. Information about euthanasia and end-of-life issues is another area that the organization focuses on, Pyle added.

Other events marking Respect for Life month in Saskatoon included the Alliance for Life annual general meeting Sept. 24 at Holy Spirit parish with guest speaker Dr. Sheila Harding, as well as a "life chain" organized by the Campaign Life Coalition along Idylwyld Drive in Saskatoon Oct. 5.



Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick, Russ and Yvonne Powell (l-r) - Photo by Blake Sittler

Preparation program for those entering second marriages offered at Rosetown

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Marriage preparation talks designed for those entering second marriages were presented Oct. 21 at St. Theresa's Parish in Rosetown. Four couples participated – two as presenters, and two reflecting on their journey toward marriage.

The talks were created with input from couples in second marriages, either after divorce or the death of a spouse. Development of the sessions also grew out of the reality that a growing number of people seeking to be married have been in long-term relationships, living common law, or having a child before marriage.

The diocesan Marriage Task Force has suggested that the outlines for these two talks will become a regular part of all parish-based marriage preparation courses across the diocese.

The evening started with introductions and a meal. After supper, the presenters gave a 45-minute talk and then invited the couples to reflect privately on some questions related to the theme. After 20 minutes, the individuals paired up again and exchanged thoughts and discussed the implications.

Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick presented the first talk *Choosing to Love...Again*. They have been married 15 years and have three children from Gail's first marriage.

"We are not here with answers; just to help you think about the questions," began Pat. "At our marriage prep, there were no couples presenting or attending who were going into a second marriage."

Gail noted that part of preparing for a second marriage is looking back honestly on the first marriage to, as she described, "pan for gold."

"You need to look for both the good and the bad in your first marriage. You need to accept the role you played in the failure of that marriage," Gail said. "If you don't, you could make the same mistake again."

Gail admitted being nervous about a new relationship. She told one story about sitting with Pat one night and sharing her anxiety with him.

"I looked at my divorce, my ex-husband, my children, and I felt like I was dragging around this gunny sack of issues. I

Uniting In Faith... for marriages

said, 'Just look what I'm bringing to this relationship,' but Pat just looked at me and smiled and said, 'Yeah, just look what you are bringing!' What I saw as a bag of issues, Pat saw as a gift," said Pat.

The Fitzpatricks also shared thoughts on the role of the Church in the second marriage process.

Pat admitted he was initially negative about the annulment process. "But Gail would come back from these meetings a better Gail. The people she met with were gentle, and cared for her," said Pat.

"The annulment process was very healing for me," explained Gail. "It gave me the gift of a second chance."

Pat concluded, "Second marriages are not second class marriages."

In the second talk, entitled *Instant Families: Just Add Water*, Russ and Yvonne Powell spoke about their experience of blending families. They noted that every couple would have a different experience because every family combination is unique.

They shared their experience of disciplining their children.

"My son told me once that I never made a decision without talking to Yvonne," started Russ. "I think he meant it as a criticism but I took it as a compliment. We were a team. We're the adults. We're driving the car."

The Powells admitted they were concerned that their children would be hurt by the new family arrangement.

"We wanted them to have a normal family but what is normal?" asked Russ. "Normal is a setting on a dryer, not a description of a family." Yvonne said that her love for Russ's children was so deep that when they were expecting their first child she worried, "will I be able to love this baby as much as I love Russ's children?"

"Making instant families is more difficult than making instant oatmeal," joked Russ, "but it is definitely worth the effort."

Marriage and Family Life is a ministry supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Uniting In Faith... for Catholic education and Catholic health care

Catholic Connections works to promote Catholic institutions

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new provincial group is working to raise awareness among ordinary Catholics and the broader community about the value and contributions of Catholic health care and Catholic education – and to tap into grassroots support when Catholic institutions are threatened.

Established early in 2008, Catholic Connections includes representation from the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA), the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS), Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan, the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, and the Roman Catholic dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, and Keewatin Le Pas.

"Catholic Connections was established to help the Catholic and non-Catholic community better understand and appreciate the distinctiveness of Catholic health care and Catholic education, and the threat to their continued existence," explained chair Arch McKay of Saskatoon.

"There is a definite threat out there," said McKay, noting that the creation of Catholic Connections came about partly in response to the loss of the Catholic hospital in Humboldt as a result of a heated controversy about a tubal ligation policy adhering to Catholic teaching. The elimination of Catholic school systems in Quebec and Newfoundland also demonstrates how institutions that are taken for granted can be lost, he added.

"The Catholic community has the potential to have a very strong voice, both provincially and federally, but unless the average person is made aware of this, and values and speaks up for Catholic institutions, they can be taken away," McKay said. "We need to help people understand what Catholic health care is and what Catholic education really offers, because I don't think everyone really understands or recognizes what is going on, or how these Catholic efforts benefit the entire community."

Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt, who represents the bishops of the province on the committee, said that the new organization is truly about focusing on the connections that exist throughout the Catholic community in Saskatchewan.

As an example, LeGatt noted how a parish-level ministry of care that reaches out to the sick and suffering is fed and strengthened by all that is lived out in Catholic health institutions and by all the work done through CHAS.

Similarly, the catechism taught in a rural parish is connected and enriched through the efforts of a Catholic school system elsewhere in the diocese, which provides a network of resources and support. Connections can also be seen in how Catholic colleges such as St. Peter's in Muenster and St. Thomas More in Saskatoon accept students from across the province, not just those from Catholic schools, he said.

"Catholic Connections is that effort of connecting and more clearly linking all of those key players involved in Catholic education, in Catholic health care and in

diocesan and parish life – both for the strengthening of resources and for supporting and advocating the continuation of Catholic health institutions and Catholic education in our province," said Bishop LeGatt.

Even for those Catholics who live in a community where there are no Catholic schools or Catholic health care facilities, this is an important issue, agreed Ken Loehndorf, executive director of the SCSBA and a member of the Catholic Connections board. "Solidarity is exactly what we are trying to create: the recognition that we need everyone's support to promote and protect Catholic health care and Catholic education in our province," he said.

Loehndorf stressed that the society at large benefits from the work done in Catholic schools and Catholic hospitals.

Helping people understand the distinctiveness of Catholic education and Catholic health care is crucial, Loehndorf added.

"There are a lot of people out there who think that Catholic schools are a crucifix on the wall and prayer every once in awhile and a religion class. Well, it's a whole lot more than that," he said, stressing the permeation of values throughout a Catholic school as well as the strong focus on social justice, outreach and service. "The graduates we produce have a whole different attitude toward life, and come out in a position to be very strong contributors to society, enriched and formed by the teachings of our Catholic faith."

Catholic health care also brings something unique and needed to the province, said Bert Yakichuk, chair of CHAS and a member of the Catholic Connections board. "Providing resources in ethics, mission and spiritual care and social justice is a part of our mission," Yakichuk said. "The health care ministry of CHAS is rooted and modeled after the person and compassionate healing ministry of Jesus Christ, the divine healer."

Both Catholic education and Catholic health care provide service to people beyond the Catholic community, without forcing faith on anyone, said McKay. "We invite folks to come in and be part of a faith-filled Catholic education, but we're not trying to convert them," added Loehndorf, stressing the difference between evangelization and proselytizing.

An upcoming *Affirming Faith* Catholic education conference in April will provide another opportunity to hear more about what Catholic institutions offer, added Loehndorf.

Catholic Connections is willing to provide more information to any group who wants to know more about what is going on in the province in terms of Catholic health care and Catholic education, said McKay.



Catholic Connections Chair Arch McKay

World Catholic Education Day

A liturgy was held May 1 at St. Paul's Cathedral to mark World Catholic Education Day. Student representatives from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools brought up posters and symbols of projects related to justice, peace or outreach. Bishop Albert LeGatt (right) speaks to students from Father Vachon School about their school's initiative.



Nancy Buttinger coordinates Roman Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy at Royal University and City Hospitals in Saskatoon

If you wish to ensure someone in these hospitals receives a pastoral visit, contact Nancy Buttinger:

Phone: (306) 292-5531

E-mail: hospitalchaplaincy@gmail.com

Volunteers are always needed to assist with pastoral care. Please call for more information.

Hospital chaplaincy is one of the many ministries funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Nancy Buttinger



A fund-raising community auction Oct. 18 raised \$24,610 for the parish nurse program.

St. Mary's supports parish nurse program through annual auction

The St. Mary's parish community in Saskatoon's downtown core banded together Oct. 18 to support its parish nurse program, raising \$24,610 during an annual auction of donated items.

Decorated in a Thanksgiving theme, the parish hall on 20th Street was a hub of activity for the Saturday auction, which permits the parish to continue offering its parish nurse services, coordinated by registered nurse Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM.

"In observing the day unfold, one could not help but let the spirit of this fund-raiser soak into one's soul. The items auctioned were as varied as the people buying them," reflected parishioner Donna Rogal. "Throughout the day one witnessed many different ways in which those present made the gospel values come alive. Such an event was inter-generational and involved many – all called to service, be it through

welcoming, working the auction or serving food."

The event was characterized by spontaneous acts of generosity and a lot of community building, she said.

"What a joy (it was) to witness the look in the eyes of those who surprisingly were recipients of items they loved, but would not have bought for themselves for various reasons. There were angels buying items, only to give them away; while others paid a hefty price for an item, considering it a worthy charity."

The auction was possible because of a lot of hard work behind the scenes, said Rogal, including "the staff of St. Mary's, the auction committee and of course our auctioneer, his wife and family – and all who gave so generously their experience, wisdom and many hours to make this event a huge success." - KLY

Catholic Health Association bridges communities at annual convention

By SANDRA KARY, CHAS

Celebrating its 65th anniversary year, the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) gathered in Saskatoon from Oct. 24 to 26 to explore the convention theme – *Bridging Healing Communities*.

More than 175 participants attended from across the province, with representatives from 13 member Catholic health care facilities, parish nursing, Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus councils, as well as health care professionals, volunteers, and interested parishioners.

Kicking off the convention was Patrick Lenon, from L'Arche Canada, offering a free public lecture Oct. 24. In his talk entitled *Relationship: At the Heart of Everything*, Patrick highlighted the value of being a caregiver who joins with another in the everyday things of life. Our presence, our willingness to be vulnerable and come alongside others, is what creates a rich community, and an environment of healing for all, he said.

The keynote address was offered by Megan McKenna Oct. 25. Her storytelling had the group journey through a folk tale, weaving an analogy of how we are to work and build in community with one another.

Continuing with the theme of *Bridging Healing Communities*, four groups were invited to offer a break-out session about how their organization brings healing to our community. Groups and presenters included: Michel Thibault providing a parishioner's perspective on parish nursing, representatives of L'Arche Saskatoon, Linda Chamagne from the Bridge on 20th in Saskatoon, and Molly Barber from Catholic Family Services in Regina.

In a session Oct. 26 speaker MLA Serge LeClerc related his personal story coming from a life of poverty, addictions and crime to where he is today – from lawbreaker to lawmaker. He identified the key to his healing as a spiritual transformation.

Four vignettes were presented throughout the convention, offering tribute to the contribution of the Grey Nuns as a founding congregation of sisters in health care. At the

final vignette, four sisters were called forward to receive a special thank-you and gift from the association.

This convention also featured the launch of a new DVD series by ethicist Fr. Mark Miller. Entitled *Ethics for the Journey*, this four-session set includes foundational teachings for faith-based health care and ministry of care in our parish communities.

Knowing that Fr. Mark Miller was leaving CHAS after more than 15 years of service, the intent of this series was to capture his expertise into a teaching tool that could be used for many years to come (For more information about the DVD series visit www.chassk.ca or call 306-655-5300).

The conclusion of the convention banquet included a tribute and thank-you to Fr. Mark for his exemplary service and contribution to Catholic health care in the province.

Saskatchewan bishops attending the convention included Bishop Albert LeGatt of Saskatoon, Bishop Albert Thevenot of Prince Albert, and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, as well as Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie of Keewatin Le-Pas, who celebrated Sunday Eucharist at the convention.

The 2008/09 board of directors for CHAS includes: president Bert Yakichuk, vice-president Fenton Yeo, secretary-treasurer Brian Martin, bishop's representative Fr. Jim Kaptein, past-president Ed Hoffart and directors Deb Bauche, Chris Boychuk, Shirley McNeil, Marie Dietrich Leurer, Peter Martens and Corey Miller, as well as James Schneider as the CHAC representative and Scott Irwin as participant/observer from the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan.



Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR: DVD series released

Parish nursing builds stronger Christian communities, speaker explains to diocesan gathering

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parish nursing is a new development in Catholic health care that is building stronger Christian communities, a representative of a local parish told a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 9 in Saskatoon.

"There is a natural relationship between the parish and the ministry of church in healing and in health," said Thibault, a member of St. Philip Neri parish nursing committee. He reflected on Christ's own healing ministry, and how throughout history the church has taken on that role in different forms.

In the last 10 years there has been a tremendous growth in parish nursing among many faith groups, Thibault reported. In the local Catholic community, parish nurses are presently working at St. Mary, St. John Bosco and St. Philip Neri parishes in Saskatoon.

Parish nursing is "Christ-inspired, parish based, relationship-building," Thibault said. It provides "outreach opportunities, collaborative ministry and connects the physical and the spiritual."

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who has received additional training in

understanding the connections between spiritual, emotional and physical health, and is dedicated to healing, wholeness and caring for the whole person within the context of the faith community, Thibault said.

In the role of parish nurse, professional health care skills are wedded to pastoral caring.

Tasks of a parish nurse include acting as a health educator, providing advocacy and help to those navigating the world of science and medicine, offering resources and referrals, serving as a counselor, offering outreach and home visits, praying with parishioners, and working in a collaborative way with other leaders in the parish.

"They offer an extension of church life and the parish community through home visits to people who are not able to attend," Thibault added.

Testimonials about the impact of parish nursing abound, said Thibault, stressing that the parish nurse does not work alone, but with the entire parish community.

"Our gospel and our Jesus is the healing presence of God. We are called to be part of that healing presence," he said.

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan oversees nine Catholic health facilities on behalf of bishops of the province

Providing leadership and support to nine Catholic health care facilities in the province through ownership and sponsorship is the role of Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (CHMS), according to Scott Irwin.

Irwin is president and CEO of CHMS (formerly known as the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation).

Formed in the 1970s after seven out of 28 Catholic hospitals were sold to the government of Saskatchewan or became municipal hospitals, CHMS is the group established by the Catholic Church under canon law to accept ownership of facilities from congregations of religious sisters or dioceses, in order to allow these facilities to continue in the Catholic tradition of health care. In turn, the bishops of Saskatchewan are owners of CHMS, explained Irwin.

CHMS strives to intentionally promote "an attitude of mind and heart that is consistent with the tradition of care and compassion bequeathed to us by those religious founding orders," said Irwin, quoting the words of colleague Francis Maza. "It is those religious men and women who responded to unmet needs and played such an instrumental role in founding health care in our province."

CHMS works to remain faithful to that legacy in responding to the gospel call to care for the sick and the suffering, while offering the world much-needed hope, he added.

"It's not that we have better equipment in our Catholic hospitals and health care facilities, or people who are more expert, or who have more knowledge... but what we do offer is hope, grounded in the gospel values. That's really what makes us different."

He cited Cardinal Joseph Bernadin, who said that the distinctive vocation of Christian health care is "to bring comfort to people by giving them an experience that will strengthen their confidence in life. The ultimate goal of our care is to give those who are ill, through our care, a reason to hope."

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan includes St. Paul's Hospital and St. Ann Senior Citizens' Village, Saskatoon; Providence Place for Holistic Health, Moose Jaw; St. Peter's Hospital, Melville; St. Joseph's Hospital / Foyer d'Youville Home, Gravelbourg; Foyer St. Joseph Nursing Home, Pointex; St. Anthony's Hospital, Esterhazy; the Radville Marian Health Centre, Radville; and St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan.

"We need to do a better job explaining to

people – to patients, families, our staff, physicians in our institutions – what we stand for, why we're here, what is that makes Catholic health care different," Irwin said, noting that Catholic health care strives to care for the whole person, no matter what their background or beliefs.

Catholic health care should not underestimate the impact that a gospel vision of the dignity of the whole person can have beyond the four walls of the Catholic institution, he added.

"Really we're all in this together and I think the message that we have in the ministry of health care from the Catholic Church is one that's worth sharing and it's a good voice to have at the table," Irwin said.

"We can never forget that health care is transactional, it happens in within one-on-one interaction where a person who needs health care comes into one of our facilities, or into any facility for that matter, and is met by a doctor, nurse, cleaner, cook, security person or whoever is providing service. It is what occurs within those transactions that make us who we are."

Irwin said that it is also an ongoing challenge to form and to prepare those who take on leadership roles – including board members, presidents and CEOs.

Ethics and spiritual care are among the vital components characterizing the mission of Catholic health care, he added.

He noted that the corporation works closely with the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) in highlighting, nurturing and promoting work being done in these areas.

Encountering committed caring people at CHAS, in the staff and boards of all the member institutions, and within the corporation itself is one of the blessings of his position, Irwin said.

"We also have a group of bishops who are really, really keen in understanding the importance of this ministry and who are invested in it. That support, that awareness allows us to go forward to do what it is we're called to do," he said. - KLY



Scott Irwin, CEO
Catholic Health Ministry
of Saskatchewan

Wells encourages Theology Uncorked crowd with laughter and story

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Holy Spirit parish hall in Saskatoon was filled to capacity Oct. 27 for an adult faith session that included appetizers, a glass of wine or beer, and plenty of laughter.

Speaker David Wells addressed the theme *Stand Tall: Rooted in Christ* during a Theology Uncorked session Oct. 27, co-sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Using stories that prompted both laughter and reflection, Wells noted that it isn't always easy to stand up as a follower of Christ.

"If you are going to pursue this thing called Christianity you are going to get a moment when you are asked to stand up," said Wells, challenging his listeners to think about their response. "At that point we will either stand with Christ, or our knees are going to crumble."

In the scriptures, to stand means to stand with someone, Wells said, citing John 8:16: "But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me."

Wells said that "in scripture, solidarity is understood in terms of who you stand with in action."

He asked those in attendance to discuss their own response to the Christian call to give an account of one's faith to others.

Uniting In Faith... for adult faith enrichment



David Wells, director of adult faith formation in Plymouth, England spoke to a full house Oct. 27 at a Theology Uncorked session at Holy Spirit hall.

Wells reflected on Catholic experience in England, where "expressing our Catholic identity is something we've struggled with. We are not extroverts in evangelization." He joked that in his home country the most common form of evangelization is "to marry somebody."

But the reality is that every Christian will face situations where they have to decide where they stand, he asserted. In the process of standing with someone, we may be led into unexpected places, he pointed out.

Sr. Helen Prejean never intended to

become a Catholic voice against capital punishment when she began writing a few letters to men on death row. "We don't ask for it. We don't ask for conversion," said Wells. "But every time we stand, we're changing. It's almost like there has to be a necessary point of risk for the Lord to work."

Wells' stories again illustrated the point as he spoke about the messy experience of standing in solidarity with his students in a rough school in Liverpool, and of witnessing his young son's friends tuck their arms into their shirts to play soccer because their

friend's arm was in a cast – an action of solidarity.

"Standing will always put us in relationship," he said, adding we are pulled away from solidarity whenever we are in a place of comparison and competition, arguing like the disciples about who is the best. "The opposite of standing tall rooted in Christ is to sit and quietly resent the success of another," he said. "It's the tragedy of the eldest son, who can't cope with God's generosity."

Wells was in Saskatoon as guest speaker for Study Days in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. He also addressed Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools staff. Wells is co-director of adult faith formation within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth in the UK.

Launched by the diocesan Foundations office this spring, Theology Uncorked grew out of ongoing interest in Theology On Tap sessions, which have been organized at a Saskatoon pub for young adults ages 19-35. Providing a similar evening out for older adults to discuss matters of faith over a drink or two is the idea behind Theology Uncorked, said coordinator Marci Deutscher.

The first Theology Uncorked session was held this April and featured Fr. George Smith, CSB, speaking about fundamentalism. (For a report on that talk, see the news articles listing on the diocesan webpage.)

Trinity parishes join forces to offer catechism classes

By JOYCE JEANNEAU

In a rural area that struggles to meet the catechetical needs of its youth, the Trinity parishes of Prud'homme, Vonda and St. Denis are joining forces, forming the Trinity Catechism group.

Starting this fall, Trinity Catechism is offering three concurrent sessions, running from 3:30 until 5 p.m. every Thursday.

Group 1 teaches children in preschool through Grade 1. Group 2 teaches sacramental preparation, and is typically comprised of students in Grade 2 or slightly older. Group 3 is for youth in grades 3 through 5. A junior youth group, *Steps*, is still under development and will hopefully be running by the end of November.

By joining forces, with resources and input from all three parishes, but operating out of the centrally-located parish of St. Philippe de Neri in Vonda, all three parishes benefit. Classes are more enjoyable for the

Uniting In Faith... for catechesis



- Photo by Joyce Jeanneau

children, because there are more children of like ages, and the program is able to enlist a consistent teacher for each group.

To date, this introductory year has been going well, and parish leaders hope it will be an ongoing program.

Supper proceeds support literacy in Nigeria

By MARLENE CHOTOWETZ

In October, annual fall suppers were held at Kerrobert and Macklin parishes with proceeds going to support a women's literacy project in Nigeria.

Through Hands At Work in Africa, this project will build a literacy center and

community school at Nariya, Nigeria which is in Kano state, a Muslim state on the edge of the Sahara Desert.

Women and young girls struggle in extreme poverty here. They are not exposed to formal education of any kind and are not even taught to read or write.



Kerrobert celebration

Tuesday, May 27 was a special day for Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Kerrobert. Friends and residents attended Mass at Pioneer's Haven, where 90-year-old Lucy Peterka professed her faith, received the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist and was welcomed into full communion with the Church. Pictured with Lucy Peterka are Fr. Gerard Cooper and Parish Life Directors Bev Murphy and Joe Kurtz.

Saskatoon mom receives literacy award

A mom who started literacy learning in 2004 and who is now working towards her Grade 12 diploma is one of the winners of a Canada Post literacy award.

Bridget Stone was nominated for the award by St. Mary's Parish Nurse Sr. Carol Borreson.

"She has come such a long way, overcoming so many challenges," said Borreson.

A single mother of three, Stone is hoping to become a youth care worker.

Asked by Canada Post how learning to read has changed her life, she said: "I feel good, happy, smart and proud. I am a good role model for my children and others."

The 16 winners of the 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Award



Bridget Stone

are from every region of the country, with Stone the only winner from Saskatchewan. Presented for both individual achievement and for educational leadership, the awards were established to recognize the value of literacy and the importance

of community support.

"Once again our judges struggled to pick our winners from the many compelling submissions," said Robert Waite, Senior vice-president of Corporate Social Responsibility at Canada Post. "But as we worked through each submission it became clear that without a literacy partner, success would never have been possible. It's the results from these connections that we celebrate with the Canada Post Community Literacy Awards."

Prizes and awards are presented at special ceremonies that take place across the country in the fall. Winners in the Individual Achievement award category receive a cash award of \$300 and a certificate of achievement.



Cudworth confirmation

Twenty-five children from Grades 4 to 6 were confirmed April 13 at St. Michael's parish in Cudworth, while seven Grade 2 children were also confirmed before coming forward for their first Eucharist. Pictured with Bishop Albert LeGat, Fr. Denis Phaneuf and catechist Kim Hauber are: Hayley Yuzdepski, Landon Kohle, Emily Medernach, Cole Yuzdepski, Jarod Becker, Marlee Hauber, Alyn Pulvermacher, Preston Frank, Graehme Fiolleau, Evan Huslage, Tyler Reaser, Jordan Kleiter, Tristan Hackl, Tyson Koenning, Alicia Wiersma, Christopher Nidosky, Luke van der Gracht, Tyler Koenning, Robyn Medernach, Caitlin Yorke, Meaghan Dierker, Jana Schlosser, Rylan Medernach, Dylan Reaser, Cole Schwark, Kyle Medernach, Amanda Hnatiw, Patrick Miazga, Bryana Koenning, Shelby Becker, Brett Fiolleau and Devin Dierker.

- Photo by Bernice Jungwirth

Steps in Faith program invites Grade 8 youth to examine Creed and reaffirm faith as part of lifelong faith adventure

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new program being launched in the diocese of Saskatoon invites youth to explore the Creed and to affirm their faith.

Steps in Faith is aimed at students around the age of Grade 8, and will include time for learning, a service project, and a retreat experience. The process will conclude with youth reaffirming their faith at a parish celebration, blessed and supported by the prayers of family and community.

Parish representatives from across the diocese received an overview of the *Steps in Faith* program, including suggested schedules and resources, at a diocesan Administration Day this fall.

"This is an effort born out of restoration of the order of initiation," explained Bishop Albert LeGatt. With confirmation now celebrated at the same celebration at which children receive their first communion (usually around Grade 2), the question of ongoing faith formation for older youth was quickly raised, he said.

"It's a matter of helping young people grow in faith – not just toward receiving the sacraments, but as a life long process," said Bishop LeGatt.

Faith formation experiences that used to happen around the confirmation process for young adolescents are valuable and should continue to be offered, he said. The

Uniting In Faith... to evangelize youth

intention is that a similar *Steps in Faith* program would also eventually be offered to students at around Grade 11 or 12.

Youth ministry, catechesis, service projects, retreat experiences, and ritual moments must continue to be part of an ongoing faith journey happening within parishes, he said.

Committee chair Agnes Rolheiser of the diocesan Rural Catechetics office and Sarah Farthing, coordinator of Youth Ministries, presented practical suggestions for launching the *Steps in Faith* program, with input from two parishes that have already implemented the process.

For the past three years, a faith affirmation program has been offered to Grade 8 students at St. Mary's parish in downtown Saskatoon.

As well, for the first time this spring, St. Mary's parish in Macklin presented the *Steps in Faith* program to a group of young people from Macklin and St. Donatus. When Bishop LeGatt came to confirm younger children in Macklin in April, the older youth also made their public reaffirmation of faith.

Myron Rogal, youth minister at St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon, described the sessions held in that community. Participant Sean



Sean Fortosky spoke about his experience in the program at St. Mary's in Saskatoon.

Fortosky then spoke about what the process meant to him.

"During this experience I had a great time," said Fortosky, noting the program offered a chance to gather with friends, share some pizza and do some activities. "But it turned into something different that I didn't expect to happen." A visit to elderly residents at a neighbourhood care home was powerful, he said. "I also felt I could do more at church. It literally felt like my first Mass," he said of the reaffirmation experience. "We have to keep this going," he said. "Everyone needs to



Rural Catechetics coordinator Agnes Rolheiser (left) and Sarah Farthing, Youth Ministries coordinator, presented information about the *Steps in Faith* program for Grade 8 youth.

be thinking about God the way I am right now."

At Administration Day, committee member Michael MacLean of St. Thomas More campus ministry led discussion among parish groups about the program, and what will be needed to get it going.

The diocesan committee will provide parishes with resources and support, said chair Agnes Rolheiser. Some parishes may choose to celebrate the reaffirmation of faith this Easter/Pentecost season, while other parishes will take more time, she noted.

"The focus of the catechesis is the creed, which corresponds to the Grade 7-8 curriculum in Catholic schools, the *Born in the Spirit* catechism program, which is also being used in many rural parishes. "We also have several other options

in terms of resource materials for parishes," she said. "The ritual for the affirmation of faith has also been prepared."

Family involvement will ideally be part of the *Steps in Faith* process, suggested Sarah Farthing. "It's really important that youth see that parents and others are actively involved in their faith journey. As much as adolescents might moan and role their eyes, they really do appreciate and recognize when they're being supported."

As for how to get started with the program in parishes, Michelle Sieben of Macklin said although there was reluctance on the part of parents at the beginning, organizers persevered with *Steps in Faith*, and it soon took on a life of its own – to the point where some of the young participants asked if they could do it again next year.

Making new disciples is the job of all Christians

By Dolores Crawford
Diocesan RCIA Coordinator

Many people suppose that the RCIA journey of catechumens and candidates in their parish has little to do with them, personally. (Except in some cases to annoy them by making the Mass longer!) In fact, initiation is the work of the whole church, not just a small group of team members and sponsors and the priest. Making new disciples is our job as Christians.

How, then, can the ordinary person support those in the initiation journey?

The first, and probably most important way, is to be welcoming. When you see a catechumen or candidate at Mass or a parish event or in the supermarket, speak to them. Introduce yourself, and get to know them and their families. If coffee is served in the hall after



Diocesan Coordinator of Christian Initiation
Dolores Crawford

Mass, invite them to join you. Introduce them to other parish-

Uniting In Faith... for the Rite of Christian Initiation

ioners, particularly those with common interests. Invite them to accompany you to parish events. Invite them to your home. In other words, help them feel like they belong.

A second way to support catechumens and candidates is to pray for them, privately and communally. When there is a *Rite* to be celebrated, attend that Mass so you can be part of the community that prays for and with them.

The Rites are very powerful moments on their faith journey and the participation of the parish helps those moments to be times of transformation. And your faith might just be renewed as you celebrate with them!

One sponsor commented after the Easter Vigil, that "to see the

emotions, to see the grace of God in the faces of the catechumens – all of this was very life-giving to me."

Catechumens and candidates need to be integrated into the life of the parish while they are still in the initiation process.

The process is about *living*, not just *learning about*, what it means to be a Catholic Christian. Parishioners need to invite them to participate in the prayer life, the faith formation, the outreach and the social life of the parish, while they are in the process. Don't wait until they are initiated.

And of course, an important way to support catechumens and candidates is to volunteer for the role of sponsor. Every parish has difficulty finding enough people willing to sponsor. And yet, it is one

of the best ways to rekindle a spark that ignites your own faith.

There are also other leadership roles such as becoming part of the RCIA team or volunteering to lead dismissals.

It is the responsibility of all of us to make our parishes into initiating communities. Don't assume others will do it. Decide what you can do. Have a discussion in your home, and in your parish or in the parish groups you belong to, about how you can participate in the RCIA process as members of the parish community.

If we would make a conscious decision to show tangible support for our catechumens and candidates, our parishes would be more joyful, more welcoming to all, and more faith-filled.

It will make a real difference not only for those we are initiating, but for ourselves and our parishes.

RCIA envisioned as an apprenticeship in Christian life, grounded in parish

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) should be a process of apprenticeship undertaken in a parish community "which lives, celebrates and bears witness to the faith."

It's definitely not about a series of lectures, or a specified reading list, said Dr. Jerry Galipeau at an RCIA workshop in Saskatoon Oct. 18. A longtime team member for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, Galipeau has served as director of liturgy and music in numerous parish settings, and is presently associate publisher at World Library Publications in Illinois.

Those journeying through the RCIA

process should be treated as apprentices: learning how to live the Christian life by "practical experience under skilled workers" within the parish setting, he said.

"The parish is, without doubt, the most important location in which Christian community is formed and expressed," he said, adding that it is also the usual place in which faith is born and in which it grows.

The RCIA vision of parish sees it treasuring and proclaiming "the sacred Word and the Tradition of the Church," and living as a vibrant community of disciples on fire with the love of Christ. The parish is a place where people pray in all kinds of ways and where apostolic activity flourishes, said Galipeau. Proclamation and preaching of the



A diocesan RCIA workshop was held Oct. 18 at St. Anne's parish in Saskatoon.

Word, full and active celebration of the Eucharist, hospitality, community and evangelization are hallmarks of an initiating parish, as is fostering the commitment to serve the poor and marginalized in concrete ways, he said.

Adopting an apprenticeship model for

initiation will recharge both the RCIA process and parish life, Galipeau said.

Catechesis leads to conversion, a change of heart, and a "change of world" rather than being an end in itself, Galipeau said, stressing that RCIA is first and foremost the conversion to a person, Jesus Christ.

Lay Formation class sent forth

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Eighteen men and women who recently completed a two-year Lay Formation program in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon were sent forth June 1 to live out their baptismal mission to love and serve – within families, parishes and communities.

Lay Formation program coordinators Kathy Hitchings and Donna Kristian presented the program graduates to the assembly of family and friends gathered for the joyful missioning celebration at St. Anne's parish.

Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt then asked the 18 spiritual pilgrims to renew their baptismal vows before he blessed them and sent them forth to live out what they have learned and experienced through the program.

In his homily, LeGatt urged the graduates to continue their journey, always seeking God's will. "My invitation is this: to continue to listen. Go back to your parishes, to the Christian communities from which you sprang, and to which you are returning, and discern where the love of God is truly needed; where your actions would make a difference – knowing that this is always about living the love of God."

Such action might involve reaching out to a lonely neighbour, visiting the prisoner, ministering to

Uniting In Faith... for adult faith formation



Members of the 2008 class were commissioned in June.

youth, deepening the quality of one's marriage, praying for peace in Iraq or welcoming and caring for those who are fleeing war, he listed, while stressing the importance to reflect God's love "where God wishes His love to be real and present and life giving, here and now."

Bishop Michael Wiwchar of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon and St. Anne's pastor Rev. Paul Donlevy joined LeGatt in celebration of the Eucharist, which was marked by prayers and readings in different languages – English, Cree, French and Aramaic – and by the incorporation of some First Nations traditions, such as using a star blanket at the presentation of the gifts and praying in the four directions.

The diocesan Lay Formation program involves ongoing collaboration with the eparchy (this past year at the Year I level), as well as a new Aboriginal stream of Catholic lay formation offered in conjunction with the dioceses of Prince Albert and Keewatin-Le Pas. Participants in the inaugural Aboriginal program began Year I in September 2007 and will continue with Year II this year, until graduating in June 2009.

As part of the 2008 missioning celebration, a bursary fund was established in memory of Steven Ballantyne from Pelican Narrows, a Year II Lay Formation participant who died of a sudden heart attack April 17, 2008. The bursary fund will be used to help Aboriginal people participate in the Lay Formation program."

During a valedictorian address presented at Queen's House the day before the missioning, Year II Lay Formation graduate Armand Greyeyes brought forward memories of Ballantyne, as well as many other losses and challenges, blessings and celebrations that the Lay Formation members shared together in community and prayer over the past two years. "We went through such wonderful and sad times together," he said.

The graduates have all been "growing with the Holy Spirit and gaining a deeper understanding of the commandments, sacraments, the scriptures, and ourselves and each other," Greyeyes said. "We have learned so much and made new friends, all traveling on the same road to the same destination: God."



Lay Formation team members from the diocese and eparchy of Saskatoon during the final weekend of Lay Formation in spring 2008.

He said the Lay Formation community has been supportive and affirming. "We accepted each other as we are. We have all grown spiritually and we grew in understanding of one another's culture. It is very difficult to describe the great experience that Lay Formation has been. Let's face it. All of our lives have been changed. We will be taking a piece of each other with us."

Speaking on behalf of the Lay Formation team, Donna Kristian congratulated the graduates and their families and friends. "Together we encountered Jesus on the road," she said, likening Lay Formation to the experience of the disciples on the journey to Emmaus in Luke's gospel.

Before presenting certificates to the Year II graduates at Queen's House May 31, Rev. Ron Beechinor described the Lay Formation program as a "seed store," where God's seeds could be discovered, planted and nurtured. "Take the seed, the Word of God that we have received and take it into our world and into the lives of the people who make up our world," he said. "Thank you for being fertile soil for the Word of God in the Lay Formation program."

Those completing the Lay Formation program in 2008 are: Nancy Baker and Naden Hewko of Sacred Heart parish in Denzil; Isobel Marshall of St. Catherine parish in Quill Lake; Doris and John Merasty of St. Gertrude parish in Pelican Narrows; Fred and Susan Seidel of St. Joseph parish in Kindersley; and Stephanie Volk of St. Peter's parish in Unity. Graduates from Saskatoon are:

Dianne Anderson of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish; Theresa Austin of St. Michael parish; Carolyn Carduner and Maxine Steinke of St. Philip Neri parish; Joe Faber of St. Francis Xavier parish; Armand Greyeyes, Yousif Hormis and Elaine Verbonac of Holy Spirit parish; Bev Roth of St. Patrick parish; and Irene Sharp of St. Mary parish.

More than 655 people of all ages, backgrounds, experiences and culture have graduated from Lay Formation since its inception 22 years ago in the diocese.

Gathering for one weekend every month from September to June over two years, participants in the formation program spend time deepening their prayer lives, sharing their faith experiences, and learning more about the Catholic faith.

Subjects addressed by high quality speakers throughout the two-year process include scripture, the Trinity, Christology, the sacraments, justice and peace, moral theology, liturgy, prayer, different styles of spirituality, ecumenism, interfaith relations, and Church history. Participants experience a variety of prayer forms throughout the two years, while faith sharing in small groups provides a rich experience of Christian community during the Lay Formation process.

For more information about Lay Formation contact Kathy Hitchings, Mona Goodman or Vivian Whitehawk at the Catholic Pastoral Centre 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

Lay Formation is one of the many ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Mona Goodman joins Lay Formation team

Walking with those in the Lay Formation program in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is the latest step in a joyful journey of faith for Mona Goodman.

"Lay Formation is a safe place where we journey together in God's abundance of beauty, truth, forgiveness and unconditional love. It's in the encounter with one another here where we grow together in God's grace," said Goodman, who works with Kathy Hitchings to coordinate the diocesan Lay Formation program.

Prairie roots, a love of the Maritimes, and a passion for travel are among the signposts on Goodman's life journey.

"I was born in Unity, Saskatchewan and enjoyed rural life, celebrating parish and social gatherings, praying, working, playing, and learning together as community," she said. "We moved to Regina, North Battleford, and then Ottawa where friendships formed and sustained me. Engaging in a variety of sports, arts, and communing with God's wondrous creation helped me with life transitions."

After graduating from high school in Ottawa, Goodman attended St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree, Goodman returned to Ottawa to complete a diploma in recreation facilities management.

"I worked at the Battlefords Regional Care Centre as a recreational therapist, and the wisdom received from the people there further formed me," she said. After traveling throughout Europe, Goodman returned to Saskatoon and completed a bachelor of education, before spending time teaching in Unity.

"I married a very loving and supportive man, and we lived in



Mona Goodman

Yorkton, Churchill, and Winnipeg where I continued to teach." Goodman completed the three-year lay formation program at St. Boniface, Manitoba in 1994. She also had the opportunity to travel to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.

Goodman then moved to St. Albert, Alberta with her husband and daughter. "God gave me an opportunity to study at Newman Theological College, and I received my Masters of Divinity in 2004," she said.

Returning to Saskatchewan in 2005, Goodman began work this April at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, helping to coordinate the diocesan Lay Formation program. "I am honored and grateful to be journeying with so many others who want to deepen their faith and understanding of God," she said. "I look forward to growing in God's generosity as we deepen our relationship with one another, with God, and with the whole of God's wondrous creation, encouraging each other as we take one step at a time."



Vocation Commission

Members of the diocesan Vocation Commission met recently: (standing, l-r) Fr. Marc Mireau, Sr. Juliana Heisler, NDS, Sarah Farthing, Eric Filion Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, Gilbert Chevrier, Fr. Michael Koch, Sr. Mary Zerr, OSU, (seated, l-r) Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, PM, Donna Kristian, Michael MacLean, and Sr. Lucie Hamel, PM. Missing from the photo are commission members Reg and Angie Bilodeau, Terry Cratty, Fr. Tony Bidgood, CSsR, Myron Rogal, and Margaret Schwab. The Vocation Commission directs and supports the work of the diocesan Vocation Office in promoting and forming a culture of vocations across the diocese of Saskatoon. A number of discernment weekends and "Come and See" events for the priesthood and religious life have been held in the diocese over the past year. The Vocation Commission is also working on a pilot project to establish vocation committees at the parish level. For more information contact Vocation Office Coordinator Donna Kristian at the Catholic Centre: 306-382-4240 or e-mail: vocations@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Restorative Ministry gathering considers prisoners and victims

BY VIRGINIA SCISSONS, NDS

Helping individuals and parishes reach out to those who are in prison, to the families of inmates and to victims of crime was the goal of a Restorative Ministry gathering held Oct. 25 in Saskatoon.

Some 40 people participated in the event at Queen's House of Retreats organized by Dianne Anderson coordinator of Restorative Ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Peter Oliver, chaplain at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. Facilitator for the day was Ivan Hitchings.

Restorative Ministry is a journey of healing and reconciliation, explained Oliver.

The workshop began with presentations by a panel that included the father of a crime victim who began visiting a prison inmate; a former drug dealer and gang member who turned to God; a resident of one of Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods; and a volunteer at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

The first presentation was given by a man whose son had been assaulted three times, including two attacks by the same man. Remarks made by the perpetrator at the time of the second assault made it evident that the attack was part of a gang initiation ritual.



Facilitator Ivan Hitchings, diocesan coordinator of Restorative Ministry Dianne Anderson and Peter Oliver, chaplain at Saskatoon Correctional Centre (l-r) organized the event.

- photo courtesy of Ivan Hitchings

The assaults left his son very depressed, said the panelist. His son, who was living in an apartment and attending university at the time of the attacks, quit university and moved back home. Through the persistent efforts of a friend, his son finally began to talk about his experiences and begin the healing process.

At the suggestion of Oliver, and in order to facilitate his own healing, the father began to visit another young man in the Correctional Centre who was in prison on charges of attempted murder. In accompanying this young man over the space of a year, the panelist came to the realization that creating and maintaining

healthy communities is the work of all of us and not just professionals.

He said he has learned so much from this young man. He is likeable and smart, but given the circumstances of his life, he never really had a chance.

The panelist described how the very long process of waiting for trial has caused the young man to go from being eager to improve himself by studying, to the realization that he will probably be in prison for a long time. Because he is small, he is focusing on preparing himself by bodybuilding and acting tough.

Being "tough on crime" is not what these young people need, said the panelist. They need healthy

Uniting In Faith... to reach out to prisoners and victims

relationships and opportunities to develop their skills so that they can be all that God intends them to be.

The second panel speaker was a young man who spent a good part of his life involved in the drug scene. He described growing up in a family in which his father was physically abusive. He described in detail his "descent into hell", his longing to belong and his acceptance of an invitation to become a member of a gang.

However, it was when he was in prison – physically and emotionally bruised and broken, and facing a long list of charges – that he cried out to God for help.

The transformation that took place in his life didn't happen all at once, he said. It was a gradual process in which he had to call upon God again and again. A church community played an important part in his healing, finally providing the love, acceptance and belonging that he had so desperately sought for in the gang.

This young man now spends his time reaching out to others who are involved in crime. His hunger has now been satisfied, he explained, and if he doesn't share his new

found freedom and love with others, he will become "bloated from eating too much." He emphasized that the work that he now does is not about him, but rather about what God can do through him and through all of us when we open our hearts to God.

Another member of the panel, a resident of Saskatoon's inner city, spoke about her experiences of living in the midst of hurting people. They use alcohol and drugs, she said, in an attempt to get over their hurts, or sell themselves so that they can feed their children.

The children in her neighbourhood feel as though they don't belong because their parents don't have the finances to buy for them the things that other children have, she said. The need to belong is very great, she explained, and so these children gravitate towards the gangs. How can we help them become involved in our life rather than the life of the gangs, she asked.

The fourth panel member spoke about her experiences as a volunteer at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

She began by delivering chocolate Easter bunnies, and is now a regular visitor at the secure unit. The volunteer described the great needs that exist at the Centre: the need for contact, support, and understanding; the need for space (the gym is presently being used as a dorm); and the need for items such as underwear, white t-shirts, novels, rosaries, and Bibles.

After the panel presentations, workshop participants formed smaller round-table discussion groups.

Participants shared fears and described the barriers and obstacles to becoming involved in restorative ministries. They also discussed hopes and possibilities.

The group decided that the next step would be to have another meeting at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre itself and to have a face-to-face encounter with those imprisoned there.

All Nations Holy Chapel provides spiritual oasis at prison

The chapel at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre was rededicated in June.

The chapel space was being used for activities other than prayer, and the prison ministry team decided to close the space altogether before rededicating it as a sacred space, explained Dianne Anderson, coordinator of restorative justice ministry for the diocese of Saskatoon.

Volunteers and ministry leaders from a number of denominations participated in a 24-hour prayer vigil, culminating in a re-opening service on Sunday morning, June 8 for the renamed All Nations Holy Chapel.

The space has been redecorated and freshly painted, and a new



Carving unveiled at the prison.

carving was unveiled. The central figure is that of an aboriginal woman with her arms reaching up, receiving a child from above.

The image is surrounded by a circle of words from Jeremiah: "I know the plans I have for you, plans

for hope and a future." At each side of the carving there are images connected with an aboriginal understanding of the circle, with the four directions represented by the four seasons.

In each corner of the carving there is an image that suggests a story that unfolds as the seasons change: a man in prison, a pregnant woman hearing the news about his sentence, a woman alone walking the child she has given birth to, and finally a family reunited.

"It is so powerful," Anderson said of the carving, which was made possible because of donations from the community.

The continuing support received from individuals, volunteers and from parishes in

furthering prison ministry and outreach to inmates is encouraging, said Anderson.

She expressed gratitude for the response to requests for donations of rosaries or blank greeting cards, as well as for much needed white t-shirts, underwear and white socks for the men (inmates must supply their own, and for those without means or family support, that can be difficult.)

Another way in which parishes have increased awareness of the gospel call to minister to those in prison is including prisoners and their families in prayer intentions.

For more information about prison ministry contact Dianne Anderson at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 306-242-1500

St. Paul materials offered at library

The Jubilee Year of the Apostle Paul is a good time to read a book or watch a movie to find out about St. Paul if you're unfamiliar with his story. The Resource Library at the Catholic Pastoral Centre has materials for loan for your individual use or for your family to learn about this zealous missionary in the early Church.

Understanding St. Paul by James Philipps is an excellent booklet for learning some background information on Paul, and his journeys. Includes questions for reflection and activities.

St. Paul: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J. explores various scripture readings and then supplies you with information to help you understand Paul's various teachings.

Adventures of Saint Paul by Oldrich Selucky is a good book for children ages six to eight years. Paul's adventures of storms at sea, shipwrecks, dangerous bandits and a daring escape in the dark of night will thrill youngsters as they learn the story of this early disciple.

Uniting In Faith... to provide resources



Resource Library
Fran Turner

The Apostle Paul and the Pauline Tradition by Stephen Finlan and *What Paul Meant* by Garry Wills are available for those seeking biblical studies.

One video documentary on the life of Paul is *The Story of Paul the Apostle*, in which theologians reflect on the importance of his upbringing to his success in spreading the Word, while also offering an analysis of his writings (video or DVD format, 70 minutes).

Other videos for adults include *St. Paul in Greece*, 41 min. and *Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches*, 48 minutes.

For children, try *Adventures of the Apostle Paul for Children*, (27 minutes) and *St. Paul* (15 minutes).

The Resource Library is located on the lower floor of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 100-5th Ave. North in Saskatoon. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Phone: 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005. The Humboldt Resource Centre also has video material on St. Paul. Phone: 306-682-1534 for more information.

The diocesan Resource Library is one of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Opportunities for Year of St. Paul

Those wishing to mark the Year of St. Paul have several opportunities for doing so in the diocese of Saskatoon.

Resources and reflections to mark the Year of St. Paul are available to groups and parishes across the diocese of Saskatoon through the office of Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities.

Coordinator Sr. Anna Aulie, RNDM, says she is happy to work with parishes to plan sessions of interest. Contact her at the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 306-382-4240; or by e-mail: annaulie@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities are supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Foundations session

A 10-part Foundations series featuring Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, exploring the journeys of St. Paul continues 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 at St. Paul Cathedral. Registration is not required, and those interested can attend one or more of the sessions, which continue one Tuesday a month: Jan. 6, Feb. 3,



Sr. Anna Aulie

March 10, April 7, May 5 and June 9. For more information about these or other Foundations sessions contact Marci Deutscher at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

Considering a pilgrimage trip in the footsteps of St. Paul? Ministry to Tourism has travel packages available right now: Phone 306-244-3747 or E-mail: kleiter@shaw.ca

ROOTED IN CHRIST:

A VISION FOR THE DIOCESE OF SASKATOON

BY BISHOP ALBERT LEGATT

For the Church, the body of Christ, the people of God, our vision is one of being rooted in all things in Jesus Christ, in his desire to bring God’s love to all people. Christ’s vision is to unite all people to the life of that communion of love that is God, Father, Son and Spirit and to unite all people in a communion of love for one another, as a sharing in that divine love. That then is the vision of the whole Church and so must be the vision of the diocese of Saskatoon.

However the challenge for the Church of any age is to read the signs of the time, to discern the particular challenges, possibilities and difficulties of sharing the love of God amongst all people here and now. It seems to me that now is the time to once again speak to our vision and especially to set some priorities, some concrete ways of living out this vision here and now in our parishes for the next five years.

In our parishes much is already happening and all aspects of Church life must continue to be seen to. This vision and these priorities are not to be a further imposition, rather they are to serve as an invitation to focus in a particular way on essential aspects of our Church’s life here and now. In short, this vision is to be like a checklist of what is most important now if we are to fulfill the mission of Christ in our Church and in our world at this time.

These priorities are not listed in the order of importance; indeed, efforts in any one area will strengthen and foster efforts in any of the others. Further, each parish, deanery and community that takes up responding to this vision will respond to different priorities in different ways. It is my hope that reflection on these priorities would be a part of your journey into the future, firmly rooted in Christ.

EVANGELIZATION

Jesus Christ’s last words to his apostles and disciples in the Gospel of Matthew are: *“Go out to the whole world and baptize all people in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”*

Our vision:
“We desire to bring all people to Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church.”

This aspect of our diocesan vision recognizes that we live in a world that hungers for God, for love, for solidarity and yet many seek happiness and success in other directions. Many do not know the Gospel message, many have drifted away from the Church, many question and search for truth and love in all sorts of ways. Our diocesan vision must be about reaching out to all. We must reach out in a way that is a genuine, loving invitation to encounter the risen Christ. As disciples, our lives bear witness to the life and teaching of the Church as the road to Christ, who is the fullness of God’s love shared with all humanity.

In concrete terms:

1. A parish mission that reaches out to all parish households, especially if there has not been such a mission in recent years.
2. Retreats and events which reach out to all youth.
3. Any and all faith sharing events (Alpha, Theology on Tap, Foundations sessions, bible studies) with the express effort of inviting people from beyond our parishes.

FORMATION

Ongoing faith formation follows many moments of evangelization and conversion through education, formation and the deepening of our spiritual life.

Our vision:
“We desire to participate in the work of the Spirit by responding to God’s invitation to conversion, transformation and growth in Christ.”

This aspect of our vision recognizes that by baptism, confirmation and Eucharist we are called to a life-long journey of growth in understanding our faith and living it out in holiness so as to be true witnesses to Christ. It is through ongoing faith formation that we discern our vocation – God’s call to witness and serve throughout our lives.

In concrete terms:

1. Strong experiences of sacramental preparation (RCIA and RCIC, baptism of infants, confirmation and first Eucharist, marriage) and especially deliberate efforts of follow-up to strengthen the growth in faith through participation in the parish.
2. Programs and resources for family life as a place of faith development linked to the parish.
3. Actively foster lay education and formation (through retreat opportunities, small Christian communities, the Lay Formation program, catechist formation, Foundations sessions and other educational opportunities) and call upon people who have experienced these opportunities to take a leadership role in the area of faith formation.

This focus on ongoing faith formation over the next five years will call for an evaluation of current parish and diocesan programs. We must ensure that programs are made more visible and accessible, and that in these five years we will evaluate how well these programs are meeting the faith formation needs of the faithful.

PRIORITIES:

- Evangelization •
- Faith Formation •
- Liturgy and Worship •
- Building and Sustaining Community •
- Justice and Peace •
- Strengthening the Unity of Our Diocese •

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Our vision:
“We will continue to be a People of God building up the Body of Christ through our full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy as we worship and praise God.”

This aspect of our vision recognizes that the liturgy as source and summit of all our Church’s life and mission must be understood by all the faithful as the encounter of God and his people whereby we are transformed through God’s sacramental grace and through our participation in the liturgy.

In concrete terms:

1. Renewed efforts to explain the different elements of the liturgical action, particularly the eucharist and this especially as the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal and the new translation of the Sacramentary or Mass texts are introduced,
2. Renewed education and formation around homilies (and homiletic reflections) so as to more strongly link the Word of God, the life and culture of our times and the proclamation of the mystery of our faith in Jesus Christ crucified and risen,
3. Formation of the faithful in liturgical ministries and liturgical planning.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING COMMUNITY

It is by being consciously and in a multitude of very concrete ways a real community of love, of mutual support and service that we live out our identity as the people of God, as the Body of Christ.

Our vision:
“We will be a community that strives to be welcoming to all in everything we do and to be encouraging all to discover and use their gifts for the building up of community.”

In concrete terms:

1. Identifying and reaching out to newcomers to our parishes.
2. A particular effort to engage the Aboriginal community and newly arrived immigrants.
3. Providing experiences of gathering and sharing of all sorts.
4. Pursuing programs and activities that call upon the gifts and participation of all, especially of young adults and young families.
5. Increasing the communication at diocesan and parish levels regarding programs and activities, events and special needs in a way that calls upon their input and participation.
6. Seeking creative ways to include those not able to fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church.
7. Continuing to expand ecumenical (and inter-faith) initiatives.

Uniting In Faith... *in a diocesan vision*

JUSTICE AND PEACE

For our witness to the Gospel to be authentic and prophetic our Church must be actively involved in efforts to establish right relationship between all people and with all creation.

Our vision:
“We strive to be the People of God who reach out to all others with preference for the marginalized whereby each person’s dignity is valued through charity, justice, stewardship and corporal works of mercy.”

This focus on strengthening the unity of the diocese will call for a greater attention to the unity between the pastoral leadership of parishes with one another and with the bishop, so that our many communities of faith may share a common vision and identity, following our shepherd, together rooted in Christ.

In concrete terms:

1. Identifying and responding to a minimum of one new unmet need of justice and peace in the community. This recognizes that each parish community has its particular situation (e.g. hunger, affordable housing, rural challenges, environmental issues, immigrants and refugees, restorative justice for those in jail). The parish’s response needs to aim at both bringing help to those in need and to advocating for deeper social changes that can truly impact the situation.
2. Finding creative ways to be a part of the evolving relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples in our society. This could include participation in such initiatives as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission efforts and all other areas of growing in mutual understanding and respect.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITY OF OUR DIOCESE

Our vision:
“We are a Church that in a continuing way celebrates, grows spiritually and visions together through the service of our lay and ordained leaders.”

This recognizes that only by dialogue and collaboration can we build up a unified leadership that has the potential to truly be faithful to the Spirit’s call today and harness the good will and participation of all. This is to be built upon what is already strong in our diocese but with a deep desire to further strengthen this shared leadership of our parishes.

In concrete terms:

1. Ongoing formation of parish councils so as to be fully pastoral in their outlook and initiatives.
2. Greater support for clergy to allow for better cooperation with laity.
3. Fostering opportunities for shared worship, formation, consultation and planning at deanery and diocesan levels (including large diocesan-wide gatherings held periodically).
4. Support for international priests in parishes receiving them, (specifically parish councils), support that is personal, cultural and professional.

Parish leaders reflect on diocesan vision

Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) reflected on the diocesan vision during the 2008 Diocesan Congress held Oct. 30 and 31 at Queen's House.

"I agree that we have to go back to the basics of what our faith teaches, and get back to our roots," said Betty Possberg of the Humboldt deanery, commenting on the *Rooted in Christ* vision (see Page 10).

"If we're going to attract people, they need to be brought back to the beginnings. A lot of people out there are trying to function as Catholics without having those roots," said Possberg. A relationship with Jesus Christ must be internalized and faith formation must be provided by leaders who are "full themselves," she said.

Uniting In Faith... in a diocesan vision

Much of what is going on in parishes right now fits into this diocesan vision, noted Bernard Hamoline, Parish Life Director at the Trinity parishes of Prudhomme, St. Denis and Vonda within the Saskatoon rural deanery. The vision is not new, but provides a way to focus on areas that might need improvement, he said.

"I think it's celebrating who we are and moving forward," agreed DPC member Mary Wrubleski of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon, who described the diocesan vision as a gift.

Chair of the Wadena deanery, Jeanne Groves, said she was eager



Merlin McFarlane, Jeanne Groves and Fr. Pius Schroh of the Wadena deanery were among those from across the diocese discussing the new diocesan vision during a recent Diocesan Congress.

to see the vision taken back to the deaneries and then to the parish councils for practical reflection. "This is certainly a good topic for our future meetings and for

considering our future direction," she said of the vision and its six priorities.

"It's a challenge, and it's an ongoing thing," said Don

Courchene of Lanigan, co-chair of the Humboldt deanery. "But we've come a long way in the past five years, and now we can hopefully continue to move ahead." - KLY

Vision and *Uniting in Faith* campaign share common goal, says Bishop LeGatt

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

One of the priorities in a new diocesan vision recently articulated by Bishop Albert LeGatt is to strengthen the unity of the diocese.

That sense of unity is also a large part of the *Uniting in Faith* campaign to build a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre, the bishop said in a recent interview.

"In essence, we are building a space from which we can better deliver the services needed by parishes across the diocese to implement the vision," he said, when asked about the connection between the vision and the project.

"Both the vision and the *Uniting in Faith* campaign are about growing together as a diocese," LeGatt said. "Both speak to the fact that we are a family, linked together and growing together into the future."

The bishop added that he hopes both the vision and the *Uniting in Faith* campaign will heighten the sense of "how we are a diocese together and the ways in which we mutually enrich each other."

At town hall meetings and parish celebrations across the diocese in recent weeks the bishop has been speaking to people about the *Uniting in Faith* campaign. Through these gatherings, there is a growing awareness about the connections between parishes and the diocese, and what the diocese can do to support the efforts being lived out in parishes, he said.

The bishop recalled an experience during the Diocesan Congress in October, when parish and deanery leaders were invited to stand and share examples of joys and successes in the life of their faith communities. "Everything we heard spoke of initiative, creativity and cooperation," he said.

Initiatives in one parish serve to enrich the imagination, the vision and the courage of other parishes, he noted, while also calling forth from the diocese a continuing examination of what services the diocese is delivering and what other areas need to be developed.

"It becomes an ongoing strengthening of the life lived out throughout the diocese."

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign, as it has evolved, and where it has garnered support is especially where it is seen as opening opportunities for future development of pastoral services from the diocese, he said.

"I would see the new diocesan Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Centre as a place from which this life, this initiative will continue to be fed," LeGatt said.

"At the end of all this, when we dedicate the new Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Centre, the hope is that we will have a stronger diocese and a renewed sense of what we can share with one another in terms of resources, formation and direction, and in the examples and encouragement we offer to one another."



Representatives from across the diocese reflected on faith and formation.

Diocese gathers for Study Days 2008

"You are the plan." That was the empowering message that David Wells brought to representatives from across the diocese gathered for Study Days 2008 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Oct. 28 and 29.

Tackling the challenge of faith formation, Wells provided inspiration and insight through stories and humour on the eve of a Diocesan Congress at which a new diocesan vision was unveiled. The vision named ongoing faith formation as one of six diocesan priorities (see Page 10).

Our grandparents would not have used the word formation, Wells pointed out. Rather most would have absorbed their Catholic faith from the culture around them, nurtured in an entirely Catholic context.

"The issue for us is that our world doesn't look like that. It's a more complex world," Wells described, challenging the group to look at the "map" from a new perspective. "In light of today's experience and what confront us, what are we going to do next that will give us life? Let's get excited

about this!"

He urged the gathering to take a step back to consider the culture right now, the reality in our parishes, and what the church has to offer. Faith formation strategy cannot be the same for the committed and active "disciples" as it is for the disengaged "inactives" who might identify themselves as Catholic, but only show up at Christmas or Easter or for special moments, such as baptism, marriage or funerals. "There is in people the recognition that what you stand for matters to them, they just don't understand why," he said.

He challenged the group to find and name the good that is in the culture and begin evangelization and faith formation where people are actually at in their lives. "We are good news in the world."

Understand what Christian life in the Church has to offer and find ways to tell the story of that within the context of your own faith story, said Wells. "If we don't share that, people don't know what God looks like."

"The route to Christ is not the tradition. It's you."

Nurturing a disposition of gratitude, and keeping a sense of humour alongside a sense of reverence is part of the challenge, said Wells, who in story after story illustrated the "ridiculous" and the "precious" that makes up each one of us. -KLY



David Wells

Bishop asks faithful across diocese to support campaign

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At recent meetings, town hall sessions, and parish celebration across the diocese, Bishop Albert LeGatt has been explaining the reasons for undertaking construction of a new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre – and asking the faithful for their support.

LeGatt describes how the decision to build a new Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Centre grew out of the immediate need for a new church home for Holy Family parish in the rapidly expanding neighbourhoods in the northeast part of Saskatoon.

Holy Family will be the last parish to be built in the city in the foreseeable future, and its construction provides an opportunity to also address the need for a cathedral, says the bishop.

"The worship space that Holy Family parish will eventually need is about 1,300 seats. That's exactly what the diocese now needs in a cathedral, for our diocesan celebrations, such as the Chrism Mass or ordinations," notes

Uniting In Faith... to build a diocesan home

LeGatt. Because of limited seating, St. Paul's Cathedral has for many years not been able to function as a cathedral for diocesan celebrations. It will, however, continue its vibrant life as a downtown parish and has been designated a co-cathedral in recognition of its historical significance in the diocese.

The Catholic Pastoral Centre, from which some 40-plus programs, ministries and initiatives are coordinated, is also critically short of space, and has become another motivation for pursuing the construction project at this time, says the bishop. "We really are at the limits of our space," he notes (see *Catholic Pastoral Centre* article on Page 13).

Describing some of the programs coming out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre – such as Lay Formation, Rural Catechetics, Foundations, Ministry Development, Youth Ministry, Hospital Chaplaincy and Prison Ministry – the bishop stresses that the diocesan centre exists to nurture and

support the life and efforts that happen in the parish.

"This is about providing the physical structures we need, now and in the future," says LeGatt. "What's really important about this, throughout the length and breadth of this diocese of many people and 89 parishes, is that there will be a sense that this continues to make us stronger in our unity; that we are being strengthened and united in our faith."

Undertaking a \$28.5 million project is a huge undertaking, admits LeGatt. Holy Family parish is now very close to meeting their commitment (see *Holy Family* article on Page 12) and the faithful across the diocese are now being approached through the *Uniting in Faith* campaign to support the project.

Several generous major donations have "put wind in our sails", but what is now needed is a common and unified effort across the diocese, he says.

"Every gift of time or treasure is a way of saying yes, we are a family together, we want our faith, this heritage we have received, to continue into the future, vibrant and strong."

Fundraising campaign begins in parishes across the diocese

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign for a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is about more than bricks and mortar, says diocesan development officer Don Gorsalitz.

It's an opportunity for every Catholic in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to reflect on the meaning that faith has in our lives, and to step forward and invest in the future of the church in this time and place.

"This whole campaign has opened up conversations about how we've been formed in our faith, how we've been supported in our faith. It's led to reflections on how we can personally take up this wonderful legacy and become excited about building into the future."

The diocesan portion of the *Uniting in Faith* campaign will be launched in January, with parish teams already forming. The diocesan development office will provide structure and support, and resource people for parishes to call upon, Gorsalitz noted.

The diocesan goal is to raise \$12.5 million of the total \$28.5 million project. Holy Family parish is close to reaching its \$16 million share for constructing a new parish home (see article below). The planned start date for the project on Attridge Drive in northeast Saskatoon is fall 2009.

At meetings across the diocese this year about the project, people are coming forward with questions and concerns, Gorsalitz said. As questions are answered in dialogue with the bishop and members of the *Uniting in Faith* team, a new awareness is also developing about the role of the diocese and the connections between parishes and the diocese, in particular the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

"The campaign allows us as Catholics to take stock of our faith formation. We start asking ourselves: well what is a diocese? What is the Catholic Centre and Cathedral, and what role do they play in our future?"

"The question comes up - why would we want to support this? And the answer comes down to the connections between diocese and parish - the role that all of the individual parishes play in building up the diocese, as well as the support that each parish receives from the diocese and the Catholic Pastoral Centre: youth ministry, marriage programs, training and support of lay leaders and volunteers and on and on," Gorsalitz said.

"If you look at those connections, you quickly realize this is not someone else's diocesan home. It's our diocese."

Through the campaign, a renewed interest and understanding in how we invest in our faith is also emerging, Gorsalitz said. "When people hear what the need is, and understand the reasons for the project, they respond generously," he said.

"The effect of that new understanding will also go beyond this project. Once people become more aware of the need to invest in our faith, their level of giving often increases at every level - including weekly collections," he predicted.

"Once people start to increase their giving to a certain level, they stay at that level," he observed. "We do have considerable capacity," he said, noting that 65 per cent of Catholics contribute between zero and \$500 per year to their parish - 41 per cent give an average of \$5 a week or less.

"If every parish jumps in with both feet, I know we can develop



the capacity to raise what we need to accomplish a lot more at the parish level, at the diocesan level and at the community level. I think we need to dare to dream," Gorsalitz said.

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign is offering parishes the option to set fund-raising goals beyond the cathedral campaign, and to use the diocesan effort as an opportunity to pursue particular parish goals as well, he said. Parishes are giving consideration to using the campaign to generate further funds for parish programs or capital projects. For instance, in Martensville, the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is seen as an opportunity to also pursue a capital campaign for the parish.

Reflecting on what's already been achieved and experienced in meetings across the diocese, Gorsalitz said he is confident that the diocese will meet its fund-raising goal for the *Uniting in Faith* campaign, and emerge as a stronger, more connected community of faith.

"I've never been so inspired by any campaign I've worked on," said Gorsalitz, a long-time development officer. "When people have been asked to make an investment in their faith community, they've responded. This effort will open doors for us. It will enable us to start thinking not so much in terms of what we are now, but what we could be."

"This is really an opportunity for our faith community to come together and build something that will serve our faith community now and for generations to come."



Joe Remail (right) and granddaughter Erin discuss the project.

Investing in the future

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Joe Remail said he sees his \$1.5 million contribution to the *Uniting in Faith* campaign to build a new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre as an investment in the future of the diocese.

"We see the need," said Remail in a recent interview. "After talking to the bishop you can really see that, yes, this is the right thing to do."

The need for a new Holy Family parish is obvious, given the growth in that area of Saskatoon, he said, noting that his son's family belongs to the Holy Family community. It makes sense to combine the parish project with the needed Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre, he added.

Holy Family "outgrew that parish, we outgrew the Cathedral and we outgrew the Catholic Centre. I think it's a great idea that we can encompass all three of these together," Remail said. "That was probably one of the main reasons we agreed to support the campaign."

With his granddaughter Erin by his side, he reflected on the inter-generational nature of faith. "We're a Catholic family from

way back," he said. "We have been raised as Catholics and have raised our children to be Catholics."

Born in Leroy, Sk., Joe Remail grew up on a farm at Carrot River, near Nipawin, one of 11 children. His parents immigrated to Canada from Hungary, and their faith was always important to them, he said.

Joe put himself through university and for the next 40 years worked in construction and development of residential properties and other business ventures. One of the projects he worked on was the Knights of Columbus hall, which Joe and his brother Frank built at cost.

He has also given support to a host of other causes, including the new mental hospital being built in Saskatoon, the Food Bank learning centre, Tamara's House and the United Way. The family was also involved in the building of Holy Spirit church in Saskatoon - "and that was a challenge when interest rates were 22 per cent."

"I like to support tangible things," Joe Remail noted. "Something like this is long term ... Fortunately we are able to help."

Holy Family unites in faith to raise funds - and to build community

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Holy Family parishioners have rallied behind a huge fundraising campaign to build their new parish home - and are building community spirit and parish awareness along the way, say campaign chairs Denis and Terry Sirois.

"We have found this whole experience to be very rewarding," said Terry. "We've gotten to know people in our parish that we perhaps saw in church on a weekly basis, but we never really knew who they were."

With some 80 to 100 volunteers reaching out to connect with fellow parishioners to talk about the project and ask for pledges, lots of connections have been made, she noted.

"Many of the volunteers have said the same thing. Even if it's a little uncomfortable at first to phone up someone and ask them to be part of this plan for the future, once you do, you find you are meeting people you might not have met before. It's drawing us together."

In addition to a previous *Every Family* campaign that raised \$4 million, the parish's current \$6 million *Uniting in Faith* campaign is nearing completion with nearly \$9 million in total raised. A final push for the last \$1 million in pledges is now underway, with letters recently sent out to some 800 parishioners who had not yet been contacted, to be reinforced with a follow-up phone campaign.

In total, Holy Family is committed to contributing \$16 million to construction of their new parish home - raised through pledges, major donations, special events, and the sale of the existing church and rectory, as well as about \$4.5 million in financing.

"This parish will persevere until we've raised it all," said Terry. "It's going to happen."

Both Denis and Terry say the parish community is eager for construction to start - hopefully in fall 2009. "We see the urgency at our parish," said Terry of the need for a new home for Holy Family, reflecting on the extreme lack of space in the current church building.

The present building simply cannot serve the Catholic population in the expanding neighbourhoods of northeast Saskatoon, agreed Denis. At some celebrations parishioners



Denis and Terry Sirois chaired the parish campaign.

fill the overflow area and the place of welcome - and sometimes even the basement - with closed-circuit television used to connect people to what's happening. The cramped quarters limit what the parish can offer new families, he said.

For the Sirois family, participation in the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is a way to give back to their community. "This is one thing we can do and look back on and say to our children and grandchildren: we helped bring this about, we're proud of it, and hope you are too," said Terry, reflecting on efforts to model and encourage a sense of responsibility and leadership in their own four children. Many parishioners feel the same way, added Denis.

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign has also created an opportunity for individuals and families to reflect on levels of giving, Denis said.

"We found that a lot of people were giving the same amount of money to the church that they gave 25 or 35 years ago," said Terry. The campaign provided an opportunity to look at contributions in terms of spending increases that have happened in other areas of life, or whether one might now be blessed with more resources.

There is also an increased understanding of the needs of the parish, including the need for ongoing operation and

maintenance, said Denis, reporting that during the campaign for *Uniting in Faith* pledges, the weekly collection has also increased.

"I know there have been some people in the parish who are offended that we do talk about money in church, but that is the only time we have the congregation all there," said Terry.

She noted how throughout the campaign, a number of parishioners have stood up to say what the project means to them, including 80-year-old Lambert Schneider, who reflected on what he was earning and the cost of construction when he participated in the efforts to build the original Holy Family church. On another Sunday, two local teenagers stood up to say what the project meant to them. "It has reminded us that there is support and a different perspective from all these age groups," said Denis.

The couple has encouraging words for parishes across the diocese who will soon be asked to join the *Uniting in Faith* campaign in the weeks ahead to raise funds for making the new Holy Family parish the site of the diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre. The diocesan goal is to raise \$12.5 million.

Volunteers are provided with support and training, including the answers to frequently asked questions about the project, they noted, adding that it's a commitment with a time limit, which makes it more attractive for some volunteers. "We started by phoning our friends and our neighbours," said Terry, describing how the parish assembled a core committee of about 10 or 12 team leaders, who were then each asked to find five others to assist them. "That first call is probably the hardest, and after that it gets easier." They were joined as co-chairs by Cliff and Sandra Lesko, Barry and Lori Remail, Doris and Lorie Lubyk and almost 100 other volunteers.

Terry and Denis Sirois say they are happy with what Holy Family has been able to achieve through the *Uniting in Faith* campaign since it was launched in the spring.

"It's all through the trust and the faith of the volunteers and of the parishioners that we've managed to have this success," said Terry, noting that *Uniting in Faith* is an apt title for the effort. "Everyone is out there working. We're becoming a holy family."

Reflections on 'uniting in faith' to build Cathedral and Centre

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Leadership from across the diocese has been coming forward in support of the *Uniting in Faith* campaign for a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Some of those leadership voices will be heard throughout the diocese in two locally-produced videos to be shown in parishes during the *Uniting in Faith* campaign. Excerpts from the interviews for the videos reveal a number of insights, hopes and observations about the *Uniting in Faith* undertaking.

"I think this campaign is providing the diocese of Saskatoon with an opportunity for all the people to come together in one common project and one common goal: the opportunity to build a new cathedral that's needed for the diocese of Saskatoon, and more particularly a new Catholic Pastoral Centre which is desperately short of space," said **Barry Frank**, who along with his wife Giselle chairs the diocesan *Uniting in Faith* campaign.

Giselle Frank reflected on the inspiration the project provides for building a sense of diocesan unity and belonging. "It gives people of our generation a chance to participate in a project that will bring us together ... and leave a legacy."

Volunteer **Doris Lubyk** of Holy Family parish said she appreciates how helping with the *Uniting in Faith* campaign has helped her to get to know people in her faith community. "For me, it's about meeting the people ... it's the warmth of the people... the fellowship."

It's also a chance to be personally involved in something worthwhile and long term, Doris Lubyk added. "I can't imagine *not* being part of this venture, this amazing venture, and just knowing that one day when this cathedral is built that I can actually say 'I was part of this.'"

Urban and Patti Donlevy of St. Paul's Cathedral parish reflected on how the diocese has grown, and the need to expand the Catholic Pastoral Centre to meet the growing needs across the diocese.

The opportunity created by construction of a new Holy Family parish – and to combine that project with construction of a much-needed Catholic Pastoral Centre and



Luc and Heather Durand are participating in Lay Formation

Cathedral – "is a very effective use of energy and resources," said **Urban Donlevy**. "It makes sense to do this ... It's an effective use of capital."

He added: "I think in the longer term it will provide a larger and more significant opportunity for the Catholics in the diocese to continue the work that was started many years ago when the diocese was formed.... We haven't lost our roots. What we've done is taken our roots and simply expanded them to encompass more people."

Patti Donlevy said that through the campaign she has a new appreciation of how many things are happening in the diocese and at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Her own involvement in the campaign came about because she trusts the bishop's vision for the diocese, Patti said.

"I was an uninformed sceptic as to why we needed this facility, but I listened to the bishop, and he spoke with wisdom, humility, faith. He laid everything out very clearly," she said.

Lay Formation participants **Heather and Luc Durand** say they have come to appreciate how programs like Lay Formation originate from the diocese to enrich faith throughout the diocese. "The new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre ... will just offer us more space and opportunity for the programs that the diocese can offer," said Heather.

Luc Durand said he is particularly eager to continue efforts for youth ministry across the diocese. "Connecting our teenagers to God and keeping them connected is a great challenge and I see tremendous potential for more programs."

As a family, the Durands have



Theresa Keller
Chair of Kerrobert Deanery

examined their own level of contribution, said Heather. "Stewardship demands that we look again at what we are given and what we can give."

Theresa Keller, chair of the Kerrobert deanery described a cathedral as the tie that binds the diocesan family together. "I hope it will reinforce our sense of community."

The idea of being able to expand services and ministries from the new Catholic Pastoral Centre is exciting, Theresa Keller added, citing the Resource Library as one feature that would be expanded and more accessible to more people in the new setting.

Victor Granger, co-chair of the Humboldt deanery, reflected on a legacy of faith in speaking about construction of the new cathedral. "In the old days a lot of the cathedrals were built by our grandfathers and great grandfathers. Now we younger generation... have a chance to contribute to the



Barry and Giselle Frank, co-chairs of the diocesan campaign.



Abbot Peter Novacosky
St. Peter's Abbey

building of a cathedral which will ... be of spiritual benefit, grace benefit, and a financial benefit for the whole diocese."

A cathedral is the head church of a diocese and is the gathering place for major celebrations, said **Abbot Peter Novacosky**, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster when asked about the role of a cathedral. "I think also it should be a place of beauty and a place where good liturgy takes place."

Abbot Peter recalled the biblical concept of offering one's "first fruits" to the Lord, and the zeal with which the earliest settlers in this area worked to build their churches. "That's where they put their stained glass windows in, and they made beautiful churches, even before their own houses were built or beautified. That's always impressed me ... their first focus was on their faith and their community of faith."

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign to build a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is an opportunity to unite as a diocese to "make something that's fitting for our time, that is fitting for our new-sized diocese, and something that we can all be proud of," he said.



Victor Granger
Co-chair of Humboldt Deanery

"Our diocesan cathedral represents that church where the people of the whole diocese can come together. Where we can celebrate the totality of who we are, with all of our different nuances of what makes us a community," described **Fr. David Tumback**, pastor at Holy Family parish.

"It has that important role of drawing all people of the diocese to worship together... to have those special moments in the life of the church together in one building to celebrate totally as a family of God," said Fr. David.

Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky, pastor at Macklin, St. Donatus and Denzil on the western end of the diocese agrees. "A cathedral contributes to that sense of community by giving us that home, that central sort of location where we are all welcome ... it calls us together, it makes us one," he said.

"I think in order for a diocesan community to grow, we need to realize that we're not separate little parishes in our own communities but that we belong to the greater church of the diocese of Saskatoon," said Fr. Marvin.

Diocesan centre faces space crunch

Catholic Pastoral Centre works to support and connect parishes

Supporting the parish ministry that happens every day across the diocese is the role of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, explains Leah Perrault, the director of pastoral services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

She pointed to a long list of services, ministries and programs that come out of the diocesan Pastoral Centre – including Lay Formation, Youth Ministries, adult education

programs, Lay Formation, Rural Catechetics, Justice and Peace efforts, and a diocesan Resource Library, to name just a few. (A visit to the website at www.saskatoonrcdioce.com provides an overview of services.)

The Catholic Pastoral Centre has been at its present location since 1964. Since then, the boundaries of the diocese have expanded to include more parishes, and the involvement of laypeople in parish ministry has dramatically increased. As a result, programs and ministries coordinated from the Catholic Pastoral Centre have also increased.

"We have a long-standing history of exceptional bishops who have cared a lot about the development of the faith of the laity in our diocese," said Perrault, noting the continuing development of a wide range of ministries and programs.

"At the moment we are beyond capacity," said Perrault of the overcrowded Catholic Pastoral Centre. Space shortage means that several diocesan staff members are working out of other locations. Meeting space and storage is not adequate, and even the capacity to add phone lines has reached its limit.

"The challenge for our ministry staff here at the centre, is that while we look forward to a new building and a new sense

of diocesan church among the whole people of God, we're very focused on providing ministry now, and providing quality ministry in the situation that has been gifted to us," Perrault said.

An exciting benefit of the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is that it is increasing awareness about how the Catholic Pastoral Centre can be called upon to support the work of parishes of every size and need, she said.

The diocesan centre can serve to build connections among parishes in the diocese, Perrault added. "Part of helping to build up a community of faith is recognizing that each of us are facing similar challenges," she said. "It's a lot easier to face those challenges and to move through them if we work together."

Catholics have a powerful sense of grace working through the material world, she noted, observing that a building can embody a spiritual reality.

"This place of community where we gather and come together is in fact a very real sign in our materialistic age that we are here, and that we are building a home for ourselves that's worthy of the community."

Uniting in Faith fundraiser

Inspiring songs of conversion, and a live performance of the *Uniting in Faith* theme song written by Fr. Kevin McGee will be part of a fund-raising evening Saturday, Jan. 24 at St. Patrick parish for the new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with Mass marking the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, celebrated by Bishop Albert LeGatt, followed by a supper, and a program of musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$50. For more information call the parish at 384-1100.

Meet the Deanery

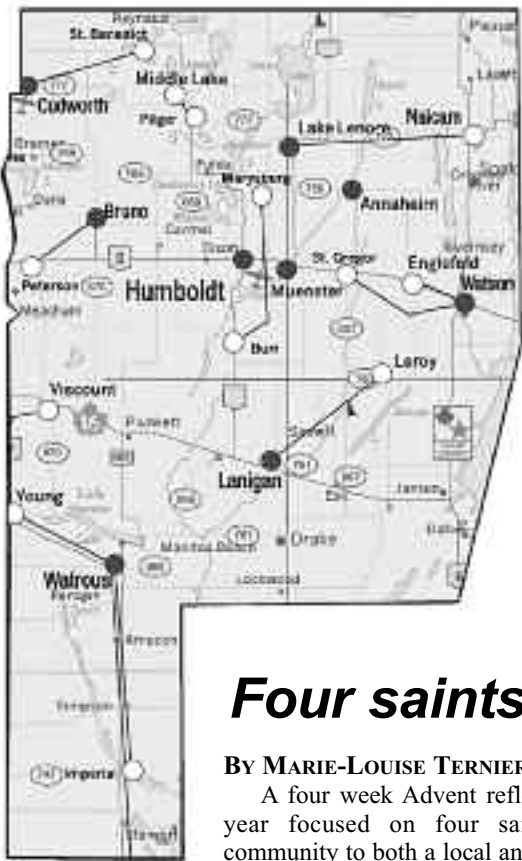
This is the first in a series of *Meet the Deanery* features, profiling different deaneries in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. The diocese's seven regional deaneries were created to keep parishes in touch with one another, to provide a forum to address regional concerns, and to strengthen diocesan communication.

Representatives from each of the deaneries also serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, an advisory body that helps facilitate two-way communication between parishes and the bishop.

Uniting In Faith... Parish - Deanery - Diocese

Humboldt Deanery includes new areas added to the diocese in 1998

Located east of Saskatoon, the Humboldt Deanery stretches from Cudworth and St. Benedict in the northwest to Lanigan, Young, Watrous and Imperial in the south and Watson in the east. Much of this deanery was added to the Saskatoon Roman Catholic Diocese when St. Peter's Abbey and portions of the archdiocese of Regina were incorporated into the boundaries of the Saskatoon diocese in 1998. At the heart of the Humboldt deanery is St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, the central point of St. Peter's Colony established in the area in 1903 by German-Catholic pioneers. There are 22 parishes in the Humboldt Deanery. Deanery co-chairs are Don Courchene of Lanigan and Victor Granger of Bruno; and the priest representative (dean) is Fr. Emile April.



Four saints provide inspiration to Humboldt parish

BY MARIE-LOUISE TERNIER-GOMMERS
A four week Advent reflection in Humboldt last year focused on four saints that connect the community to both a local and universal past.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, the patron saint of the Humboldt parish, was presented first. Since the parish was founded by German Catholic immigrants, it seemed peculiar at first that its patron was a famous

missionary to the British Isles from the sixth century. The answer came from the Benedictines themselves: St. Augustine was a good Benedictine monk, and since the monks of St. Peter's Abbey were the pastors at the Humboldt parish, it was natural to choose one of their own as a patron saint.

The connection between St. Augustine's mission and the settling of the Humboldt area soon became clear. Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to England along with about 30 brothers, giving them a fair amount of flexibility to accomplish their mission. In the same way, St. John's Abbey from Collegeville, MN, sent the Benedictines into this area of Saskatchewan, with a similar flexibility concerning the rigours of monastic life in order to provide for the pastoral needs of the German immigrants.

St. Angela Merici, the foundress of the Ursuline Sisters was considered next. The Ursuline charism inspired a legacy of good education in the Humboldt and Bruno area. The first Ursuline Sisters arrived in the area nearly 100 years ago at the request of the abbot of St. Peter's Abbey. St. Angela's life shows that it sometimes takes a lifetime to realize the dreams God places in our hearts and that dreams and callings which originate in God can weather all kinds of opposition and scorn.

Then it was on to St. Dominic, the patron saint of one of the two Catholic elementary schools in Humboldt.

St. Dominic's life is a testimony to the importance of preaching the gospel boldly and bluntly, of the value of sound doctrine and of the importance of speaking up for one's faith.

The advent journey concluded with a reflection on St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the patron saint of the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, or Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The foundress of the order, Mother Appolonia, chose

St. Elizabeth as patron saint because of Elizabeth's unwavering commitment to care for the sick and dying. The Sisters of St. Elizabeth, along with several other religious orders of women, have an impressive record in health care ministry all across Canada and ultimately laid sound foundations for our current national health and social networks. The gospel call to love our neighbour, to love our enemies, and to care for the poor and rejected, lies at the root of the health care we now enjoy in both public and Catholic hospitals.

No matter what obstacles she encountered or what deplorable situations she faced in the sick who came to her, St. Elizabeth was gifted by God with a source of unending joy lodged deep in her heart. This perfect joy became her 'trademark' or charism.

It was a fitting note on which to end an Advent journey preparing for the celebration of our perfect joy, the birth of Christ into our world.



The Humboldt parish patron is a Benedictine Monk: St. Augustine of Canterbury.

Solemn vows

Br. Pierre Rouillard (centre), made his profession of solemn vows as a monk of St. Peter's Abbey Aug. 20, celebrating with Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, and with his mother Laurette Rouillard of Winnipeg (right). Br. Pierre was born in Winnipeg where he worked 11 years as a home care worker. He joined Assumption Abbey in North Dakota, before transferring to St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster in 2004. He is one of 22 Benedictine monks at St. Peter's.

- Photo courtesy of St. Peter's Abbey



St. Peter's College campaign looks to future

St. Peter's College at Muenster recently launched the public portion of its five-year, \$4.5 million national *Key to Success* fundraising campaign. "St. Peter's College is a recognized post-secondary institution where its alumni are making a difference in communities throughout the world," said college president Rob Harasymchuk. "The challenge and opportunity right now is to stay on the forefront while maintaining our traditions of service and quality to the rural people of Saskatchewan." To help Saskatchewan and Canada meet the increasing demand for a well-educated and leading workforce, St. Peter's College declared a few years ago that its key focus is increasing accessibility to university training through growing programs and enhanced facilities. "We are launching a multi-million dollar plan," said Lisa Laskowski, St. Peter's College director of development. The campaign is soliciting funds from alumni, friends, business and corporations, as well as charitable organizations across Canada and beyond. About \$2.5 million has already been committed. "Many leadership donations have been made," said Laskowski. One significant donation came from class of 1950 alumnus Paul J. Hoenmans, retired director and president of Exxon Mobil who attended a *Key to Success* gala and awards ceremony Sept. 16 at St. Peter's College. "We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Hoenmans for donating \$1 million to establish the Paul J. Hoenmans Bursary and to renew the college building where he once studied. His belief in our business plan and his generous contribution will make an outstanding difference to St. Peter's College students and the communities we serve," said Laskowski. Hank B. Swartout, retired chairman of the board and CEO of Precision Drilling Inc., who attended St. Peter's College from 1966 to 1970 also committed \$1 million to the college. Funds raised by the *Keys to Success* campaign will be directed to support a \$15 million plan. Critical areas of need include renewal of Michael Hall, the college's main teaching area, which was built in 1921; establishment of student residences; and improvements to technology, scientific equipment and laboratories. A new partnership that will allow prospective business students in Saskatchewan to begin Bachelor of Commerce programs at St. Peter's College was also announced at the Sept. 16 gala. This partnership between St. Peter's and the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business (ESB) expands



A fundraising campaign was recently announced, along with news that students will be able to take the first year of a commerce degree at St. Peter's College.

- Photo courtesy of St. Peter's College

student access to both the Business Administration Certificate and the ESB BComm program. "Students will be able to apply for direct entry into the Edwards School of Business and take their entire first year of their commerce degree at St. Peter's College," said Alison Renny, assistant dean of undergraduate programs at ESB. "This is just the beginning with respect to ways in which our partnership will strengthen ESB's reputation for business and leadership excellence and we are excited by our discussions surrounding other opportunities for business education programming in the near future at St. Peter's College," said Dr. Brooke Dobni, associate dean of ESB. There is also a need to increase access to nursing education in the province, noted Lorna Butler, dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. "We are excited by the possibilities of distributed learning and the role that St. Peter's College could play in meeting that need." Such partnerships help to strengthen St. Peter's College's ability to develop the leaders and professionals of tomorrow, said Rob Harasymchuk, President of St. Peter's College. "The vision of the College is to be a centre of excellence to meet the needs of our students, our region and this province."

Healing quilts blessed and presented to Humboldt hospital at June ceremony

BY MARIE-LOUISE TERNIER-GOMMERS

An inspirational blessing service in which "healing quilts" were presented to Humboldt District Hospital was held in the convent chapel of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth.

"We are gathered to bless the healing quilts made by the *Havin' Fun While Doin' Good Quilting Group*," said Sr. Viola Bens, OSE, at the June gathering.

The quilting group draws its inspiration from Anne Marie Lange, a Sister of St. Elizabeth whose mission was to help the poor and downtrodden. For many years, Sr. Anne Marie served as superior of the Humboldt convent and as such she involved the older sisters in making quilts for Friendship Inn in Saskatoon. "Sr. Anne Marie and her group made over 400 quilts for this cause," said Agnes Pratchler, Sr. Anne Marie's younger sister.

Following Sr. Anne Marie's death in 2007, the *Havin' Fun While Doin' Good* group committed itself to continuing her work of donating quilts to those in need. Today some 22 quilt-makers gather regularly at St. Augustine's parish to finish quilts on five frames.

Quilts have also been distributed to women and children through Partners for Rural Family Support, the Humboldt Food Bank, and the local chapter of Kinettes. Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU also distributes the quilts to needy families who call on St. Augustine parish for assistance. Other quilt recipients are young men who graduate from Teen Challenge, a residential addictions rehabilitation centre in Allan, Sk.

In presenting quilts through the district hospital, the current group of quilters say they are working to pass on the legacy of care established by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth to those who are in need of Christ's healing presence.

"The quilting group feels honoured to be making healing quilts for those who are ill," said

Uniting In Faith... in ministry to the sick



A tradition of making quilts for those in need continues.

- Photos by Marie-Louise Ternier Gommers

Agnes Pratchler. "The Sisters of St. Elizabeth should be proud of the health care foundation they have laid down in this community and beyond in the past 97 years."

The sisters have committed themselves to pray each day for the sick in Humboldt hospital and prayers for healing will accompany the person receiving a quilt at the hospital. The hospital's Pastoral Care Department will distribute the healing quilts to those who are in particular need of comfort or healing.

Following the prayer and scripture readings, words of welcome and appreciation were given by Sr. Bernarda Gallinger, OSE, superior general of the local convent. "The quilting project is a very appropriate one on behalf of the sisters – a legacy by which the sisters will be remembered," said Gallinger. "I wish to express a heartfelt thank you to each and every one that has helped and is helping with this project."

Gallinger pointed out that presenting a healing quilt to those who are ill is "meaningful for both giver and receiver." She thanked everyone who helped after Sr. Anna Marie worked hard at preparing material and lining up everything for quilting.

The service continued with prayer for God's blessing upon the quilts to warm, comfort, enfold and embrace those who receive them. As the sisters and quilters each came forward to bless the quilts the song "Blest Are They" was sung. Following the blessing, the quilts were presented to Yvonne Berscheid, Debbie Schidlowsky and Fr. Daniel Mures, OSB, to give to those seriously ill or in palliative care at the hospital.

"The time and effort given in making the quilts, and especially your prayers for the patients and families in the Humboldt Hospital, will bring comfort, peace, and God's presence to the recipients of the Healing Quilts," said director of care Yvonne Berscheid, who also thanked the sisters for the support



Agnes Pratchler (right) presented the healing quilts.

and prayer for all the staff at the hospital. "You have formed the foundation of faith on which we continue in the healing ministry," Berscheid added, "and your prayers help to sustain us as we carry on."

Each healing quilt features the following inscription: "A legacy to the caring tradition of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. You are remembered in their daily prayers. Made with love and prayer by the 'Havin' Fun While Doin' Good' quilting group."

Sheryl Korte, manager of spiritual care and volunteer services, sent a written message: "Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for your gift of the beautiful healing quilts. Through the quilts and your prayers and support, your tradition will continue and your presence will be felt by everyone in the hospital."

After the blessing ceremony, a plaque from Catholic Health Association of Canada was



Sr. Bernarda Gallinger, OSE

presented in recognition of years of Catholic health care service provided in Saskatchewan by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. Gallinger accepted the plaque on behalf of the sisters.



Hands are extended in blessing over the quilts that were presented to the Humboldt hospital.

Parish called to put words into action

A REFLECTION

BY MARIE-LOUISE TERNIER-GOMMERS

Gospel parables proclaimed this autumn about labourers in the vineyard resounded with extra significance in Humboldt, where parishioners at St. Augustine's are preparing for an Oblate Parish Mission to be held March 8 to March 21, 2009.



Reflection
Marie-Louise
Ternier-Gommers

St. Augustine members are being invited to evangelize in their own local vineyard – to reach out to people in their own neighbourhoods and families, inviting all to participate in the upcoming mission, as well as in parish life.

In a parish the size of St. Augustine, with some 1,400 registered families, such outreach is a monumental task in both the practical preparations and in transforming a predominantly passive and consumer mindset in the pews.

Hearing God's invitation to "work in the vineyard" is a challenge for every parent who

struggles to offer children what holds the deepest meaning in life – that faith in Jesus which acts as an anchor, a compass and a source of life and love, even in trying times.

Transmitting our faith in today's world no longer occurs

by accident or osmosis – if it ever did. Family customs and faith practices get lost, and the society around us no longer radiates an encompassing Christian culture.

In the hectic nature of today's world, many have fallen into a consumer attitude toward church participation – we "do" church on Sundays, when a child might need sacraments, and when we come to be married or buried – but beyond that, it can be hard to detect an active faith expression. However, many are discovering that such minimal attention and commitment to faith and church is inadequate for transmitting a living and vibrant faith to future generations. Transmitting the Good News of Jesus requires a strong and explicit witness and example.

The highly individualized nature of our western society also makes it extremely challenging to restore a sense of the communal truth of our lives – the notion that we are a parish family together.

"We really want to make a concerted effort to reach out to all members of our parish family, whether regular churchgoers or not," says Fr. Emile April. "We want to reconnect with those who, for whatever reason, have felt estranged over the years. We want them to know that we care and we miss them – and we really mean it."

Objections to undertaking the parish mission are heard on coffee row: why bother; everyone makes their own choices; it's none of our business; it's too much work; I've got enough on my plate; I'm already doing my best; we're not Jehovah Witnesses you know; I'm too afraid to just knock on someone's door; don't look at me.

But alongside such understandable fears and objections, God keeps calling us to live as one parish family given to one another in baptism and recommitted to one another in Jesus at every Eucharist. Perhaps we do not always do a good job of living and working together: we rub each other the wrong way, we nurse grudges and resentments, we judge

and criticize. Yet God keeps nudging us toward one another, calling us to love, calling us to forgive, calling us to live in communion.

"If a parish does not evangelize, it is nothing more than a building." These words were spoken by Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith last January at a conference in Rome entitled *The Parish and the New Evangelization*.

God's call of love demands a missionary character for Christians, said the archbishop. "Jesus loved his brothers and sisters to the extent that he was dedicated totally to their salvation – this is the basis of evangelization..."

Evangelization is not a matter of free choice. It is an obligation of our faith, the perfect expression of our charity."

Every parish is charged with this task of creating a climate where all encounter the risen Lord, and the participation of each parishioner is crucial in this baptismal mission.

Each woman, man and child in the parish plays a role in this, called to build a spirit of welcome, outreach and generosity toward people of all ages and backgrounds. With this upcoming Parish Mission, St. Augustine's continues to take on this challenge, counting on everyone to respond to the invitation to "work in the vineyard."





The community gathered to honor Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU, on her 75th birthday. She has served at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt for nearly 25 years. - Photo by M. Ternier Gommers

Sr. Loretta's service in Humboldt parish recognized

By Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers

The parish centre in Humboldt was barely large enough to accommodate the crowd that gathered to honour Sr. Loretta Konlup on her 75th birthday in May.

An Ursuline Sister of Bruno for 55 years and a native of Humboldt, Sr. Loretta displays many gifts which she shared generously wherever she found herself. She taught music at the Ursuline Academy in Bruno and in surrounding communities, as well as teaching in British Columbia, and working in adult education for the former St. Peter's Abbey.

Sr. Loretta's twin sister Kathleen, was also an Ursuline Sister. She died of cancer in 1969 at the age of 36.

After an absence of several years, Sr. Loretta returned to Humboldt in 1984 and became the pastoral associate at St. Augustine's parish, a position she has now held for nearly a quarter of a century.

In these years she has seen many major changes and transitions. She has been a parish anchor during the tenure of at least half a dozen priests, serving with the generous, competent and warm spirit for which she is

Uniting In Faith... to celebrate service to the community

known in the entire community. She witnessed a major change when the abbacy became part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Sr. Loretta also accompanied the parish through construction projects, first of the new St. Augustine church in 1989, and then the new parish centre some four years ago.

In her role as pastoral associate, Sr. Loretta looks after RCIA and baptismal preparation, preparations for confirmation and first Eucharist, funerals and weddings. She coordinates liturgical ministries both on Sundays and weekdays, and ensures that many little details are taken care of such as sacristy supplies, flowers and plants for church décor. One parishioner noted that parishioners only realize how much the faith community relies on Sr. Loretta's discrete and quiet work if she is absent for a few days!

From the beginnings of her pastoral work at St. Augustine's, Sr. Loretta was active in the local ministerial association, encouraging ecumenical prayer and joint social projects.

Sr. Loretta also has a knack for helping the poor and needy, the unemployed and the lonely. For many years, she coordinated the local food bank, an initiative of the Humboldt Ministerial Association.

Once the food bank was taken over by a separate board, she remained active as one of its members. Sr. Loretta has been involved with the Kinsmen Christmas Cheer campaign and continues to help families in crisis through her connections with social workers, schools, organizations, police and other clergy.

Her outstanding commitment to the poor in Humboldt and area earned her the special honour of Humboldt's Citizen of the Year Award in February 2006.

"Being able to live here now and serve the community (where she grew up) adds a special touch," Sr. Loretta said at that occasion. "It's very gratifying to see the gratitude in the hearts of people you've shared with."

Faith and the environment are integrally connected, says Gunn

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Faith and the environment are integrally connected, long-time peace and justice advocate Joe Gunn told a gathering at St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt Oct. 15. The talk was sponsored by St. Peter's Abbey through the Frances and Arnold Dauk Family Fund.

Focusing on those connections can bring about a Christian response to the environmental crisis, said Gunn, executive director of Citizens for Public Justice. Based in Ottawa, the organization works to "encourage citizens, leaders in society and governments to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice and stewardship."

Beginning and ending his talk with reflections on the earth's place as a small and vulnerable oasis of life in a vast and expanding universe, Gunn observed how human beings are threatening the existence of life on this planet.

"Perhaps if we start with a certain reverence and a certain sense of our place in all of this, we might come to a humble stance," he said.

Faith calls us to care of the environment – through personal efforts and public advocacy, Gunn said. "The challenge goes beyond changing a few light bulbs or using a few less plastic bags or driving the car a little less. It's more profound than that," he said. "For us the issue really is: how we view the world and our place in the world."

Taking a deeper look at scripture and the commandments in terms of the environmental crisis brings a renewed understanding and response, he said.

If religious thought centres on the dominion of man over creation, rather than focusing on the image from Genesis of God placing humanity in a garden and calling upon us to "till it and keep it," it will have an effect on how we see ourselves in terms of creation, Gunn said.

He referenced pastoral letters written by the Canadian



St. Peter's Abbey sponsored the Oct. 15 session.

bishops about environmental issues in both 2003 and 2008 – and he also described how the bishops have spoken strongly in favor of the Kyoto agreement with its targets for reducing greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

The teachings of the Church around social justice clearly come to bear on environmental questions, Gunn added. "Social justice issues are totally connected to ecological issues and vice versa. They are part and parcel of the same effort," he said. Expanding the care of those in need to include the protection of the environment and respect for creation is outlined in the pastoral letters from the Canadian bishops, he noted.

The principle of a "social mortgage" which places moral obligations on the ownership of private property, must also be

Uniting In Faith... for the environment

expanded to include an "ecological mortgage," added Gunn. "The preferential option for the poor can be extended to include a preferential option for the earth."

He also called for examining the Ten Commandments from an ecological perspective. "We need to re-examine, re-focus and re-present the Christian message, so that it will be relevant in all sorts of different ways."

During his talk Gunn reviewed the environmental crisis, noting that as of 1986 humanity has been using up more resources than the earth is able to replenish. "What we have been doing as a species is going into a deficit" in terms of the environment. The rate of extinction is now estimated at 30 species per day. As well, the best science available has determined that global warming is a reality and will have catastrophic effects on the world's climate.

Incentives, regulations and moral suasion are ways a government can bring about change, Gunn maintained, stressing there must be the political will to act.

Gunn again cited the bishops' letter to call for three responses to the ecological crisis: a contemplative response that stands in awe of creation; an ascetic response that includes personal lifestyle changes; and a prophetic response aimed at bringing about change in the way government and industry operates.

"It's hard to ask governments to raise taxes or to direct behaviour," he admitted.

"But that's what the common good has been all about," he added, pointing to achievements such as universal health care that came about because people decided it was worth the effort and investment. "Canadians could also be proud of policies that would help us be greener."

St. Therese Institute in Bruno responds to 'signs of the times'

The St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission established at the former Ursuline convent in Bruno is responding to "the signs of the times," according to board member Fr. Albert Lalonde, OMI, of Winnipeg.

In times of confusion, feeling betrayed by leaders and not knowing who to trust; plagued by a relativism that abandons a common search for truth; and in the face of suffering, violence, ugliness and stress, St. Therese Institute offers an alternative, says Lalonde.

"In the face of (all that is) negative and the 'culture of death' surrounding us, the people of St. Therese are calling people to a place where they can seek Christ, the rock and foundation of their lives," Lalonde said.

"The absence of love experienced by so many is often a result of the absence of God. The object of gathering people at St. Therese is to help them experience the love of God in Jesus. It is that experience of love of God lived together that they will be called to share with others."

The St. Therese Institute includes a school of faith and mission, a healing and growth centre, and a media broadcast centre.

The Catholic school of faith and mission is not a place for the elite, Lalonde stressed.

Uniting In Faith... for formation

"The candidates come as they are; they come as sinners, sinners who know that they have been forgiven because Jesus died for them. That is why the centre for healing is an integral part of the school. St. Therese School is for those who know they are sinners, but who have an overwhelming ambition to become saints."

One important element of the program is a focus on the arts, he said. "One of the signs of our times that is easily overlooked is that we are surrounded by a great deal of ugliness," Lalonde said. "People need to know what God is: they need to know that He is just; they need to know that He is holy. But they especially need to know that He is good and that He is beautiful. That will be the function of the arts in the program at St. Therese."

Getting the St. Therese School of Faith and Mission up and running in Bruno is an achievement, but it is not the end, stressed Lalonde.

"It is the beginning. As the school follows its vision, it leads the way. Its greatest



Members of the 2008-09 class at St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission.

- Photo by James Riley / St. Therese Institute

achievement will be to succeed in sharing God's vision for the wonderful life He offers and spreading far and wide God's healing love on a broken world."

For more information about St. Therese Institute, including programs open to the public, and ways to help the ministry, visit the website at: www.sttherese.ca

Rock the Mount 2008

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For the seventh summer, young people and families gathered at Mount Carmel for a day of music, prayer, teaching and celebration of the Catholic faith at the annual Rock the Mount rally.

Some 1,500 people filled the hillside for celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt in the late afternoon of a day-long program Aug. 23. The annual event also featured speakers, Christian bands, games and activities, displays, opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, praying of the rosary and Eucharistic adoration.

In his homily Bishop LeGatt recalled the beginnings of Rock the Mount in the summer of 2002 as a follow up event to World Youth Day in Toronto when Pope John Paul II visited Canada to speak to the youth of the world. "Each and every time that we gather for the Rock the Mount it really is like a World Youth Day for the dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina and beyond, because it certainly is something that is much larger than just one diocese," LeGatt said.

"It is so wonderful to see so many people gathered here and to know that this is indeed a Spirit-filled event, a Spirit-filled gathering – and that we are instruments of the Spirit to one another when we gather here," the bishop said. "That's one of the real strengths of this gathering, isn't it? To see faith in one another and to grow in that faith because we come to share it in the power of the Spirit."

He noted that the theme of Rock the Mount 2008 echoes that of the World Youth Day this summer in Sydney, Australia: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8)"

In three talks throughout the day, guest speaker Jim Anderson also addressed the theme, reflecting on the power, presence and message of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the context of the mysteries of the rosary.

As our model of Christian life and witness, Mary has "blazed a trail for us right into the heart of the Trinity" and reflecting on the mysteries of the rosary will reveal to us more and more about the nature of the Holy



John and Elaine Boskill

Spirit, said Anderson, who is director of the St. Therese School of Faith and Mission at Bruno, SK.

Catholic bands performing during the day included "One King Circus" from Brandon, Manitoba; "Tuesday Bloom" from Winnipeg, and Saskatoon's "Roadside Cry."

Ken Yasinski served as MC for the event, with prayer, reflections and activities presented throughout the day by representatives of the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team and Catholic Christian Outreach.

A program for children was also offered, featuring leadership from LEAP ministries of Radway, Alberta, as well as from Matthew and Jonathan Courchene of Saskatoon.

Organizing committee member John Boskill estimated that about 150 volunteers were helping on site during the annual event.

He noted that this year there were 12 stations set up throughout the site for the sacrament of reconciliation. "We were especially blessed this year to have many local pastors come to assist," he said. "Their presence was greatly appreciated."

Donations and support from a wide range of outside organizations again played a key role in making the event possible, Boskill said. Religious orders, businesses, parishes such as St. Augustine in Humboldt, Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus councils, charitable foundations and many

Catholic youth rally welcomes 1,500 to Carmel shrine for day of praise



Uniting In Faith... for youth ministry

individuals and organizations contributed "prayers, time, wisdom and resources."

This year several key groups and individuals were given papal blessings presented by John and Elaine Boskill on behalf of the 11-member Rock the Mount committee.

Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League members were honoured for being strong supporters from the beginning of Rock the Mount with encouragement, prayers and financial help. Ed Gibney accepted the blessing on behalf of the Knights, while Mary-Anne Kuin accepted on behalf of all CWL members.

A blessing was also presented to the Benedictines of St. Peter's Abbey who "have provided much prayer and work, taking care

of the finances, tracking donations and expenses, providing rooms, radios, tables and other assistance." Benedictine priest Fr. Richard Meidl has also served as a committee member from the very beginning of Rock the Mount, noted the Boskills. The blessing was presented to Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB.

Kerny and Pat Korchinski of Saskatoon and the late Fred Hill of Regina (the Madonna Foundation) were also recognized for their key roles in the establishment and success of Rock the Mount.

Finally, Bishop Albert LeGatt was presented with a papal blessing – honouring his long-standing support and participation in Rock the Mount, as well as the 25th anniversary of his ordination this year.

Face to Face continues to challenge

BY GARTH WRUCK

Ignite 2008, a *FacetoFace Ministries* summer program, doubled in participation in its second year, with 150 attendants for the weeklong event held at Bruno.

"There was a special grace of unity in our times of prayer and worship," said Ken Yasinski, *FacetoFace* team leader and president, commenting on the young people's spiritually mature response to the challenge to grow in holiness.

Ignite presenters included Archbishop Emeritus Adam Exner, OMI, Bishop Albert LeGatt, Fr. Clair Watrin, OSB, and Ken Yasinski. A highlight for many

participants was the addition of separate men's and women's sessions with talks led by Christy Gaudet (Catholic Christian Outreach) and Garth Wruck (*FacetoFace Ministries*). Ignite's success relies heavily on the prayerful service of its over 20 volunteers and the work of camp coordinator Shelan Schnell.

"Without the volunteers, whom our Lord continues to inspire with the desire to give generously to the ministry of their time and talent, this event would not be possible," said Yasinski.

FacetoFace Ministries, under the coordination of Chris Cassidy,

assistant director of administration and finance, again led an enthusiastic group of young people to the 2008 Steubenville Conference (July 26 to Aug. 4). One priest, eight chaperones and 45 young people embarked on the 3,000 km spiritual journey to Spokane, Washington, one of 18 conferences held across the U.S. and Canada this past year.

"I found out that there is a significant difference between knowing and understanding God's love," said one participant. Those interested in joining *FacetoFace* on the 2009 edition of the bus trip will find details posted on the website in January.



FacetoFace Ministries held a week long "Ignite" program in Bruno.

- Photo by Ken Yasinski

Weekend retreats remain at the core of *FacetoFace Ministries*' programming. The demand has increased with the ministry's development of retreats designed for the entire parish community and its families.

This venture resulted in the *FacetoFace* team delivering a retreat somewhere across the three prairie provinces almost every weekend between September 2007 and June 2008.

Asked how the retreats are going, Ken Yasinski reports: "Amazing, we (the ministry team) have the best job in the entire world, watching Jesus transform people's hearts right before our very eyes. If the whole world could travel with us every weekend and see what we see, the world would believe there is a God."

This year, the ministry offered a family edition retreat to the members of St. Peter and St. Paul's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Saskatoon. "The beauty and richness of the Byzantine Rite really blessed the whole event", said Yasinski. The retreat included the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and icon veneration.

FacetoFace Ministries continues to ask for prayers from the community. More information is available on the website at www.FacetoFaceRetreats.com

Martensville parishioners participate in Jesus Lives



Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners travelled to Mission Hill for the outdoor production.

- Photo courtesy of Sr. Anna Aulie

A group of 25 from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Martensville traveled to Mission Hill northeast of Saskatoon this July for the outdoor production of *Jesus Lives*, which dramatizes the life death and resurrection of Jesus.

"What made it so significant for our young people is that they were asked to dress up and be in the play as the crowd. It was a wonderful way for our young folks to understand and experience the life of Jesus," said Parish Life Director Sr. Anna Aulie, RNDM. "We highly recommend this inspiring production and hope to go again next summer."

Bellevue-area residents and other volunteers have staged the production each summer since 2002, recently adding an afternoon performance about the life of Mary, entitled *Mother of All*.



Intercordia participants described their experience at a gathering Oct. 20 at St. Thomas More.

STM students combine academics and service

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Combining academic study with service in another country provides a profound and transformative experience of learning and solidarity, say students involved in the Intercordia program at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon.

Intercordia is an international outreach program founded by L'Arche, coordinated at STM by Engaged Learning coordinator David Peacock, working with sociology Professor Darrell McLaughlin.

Participants begin their Intercordia experience by taking a class entitled "Social Change and Global Solidarity" and preparing for their international experience at several seminar days. The second phase of the program runs from May through August, when students travel to countries around the world to live with host families and volunteer at a small community-based agency that serves the poor.

Uniting In Faith... for service learning

Students submit academic journal reflections while abroad, and write an integrative essay upon their return.

Speaking to some of their supporters at a gathering Oct. 20, several of the nine students who participated in the 2008 program described their Intercordia experiences living and working in other countries, including Ukraine, Ghana, Ecuador and Bosnia.

"Intercordia is helping these students tap into their potential and live with more authenticity in their lives back in Saskatoon," Peacock said. "They have a deep, transformative learning experience that reshapes their way of thinking, their way of being when they're back in Canada."

Twelve young people are currently being considered for the 2009 Intercordia program.

Uniting In Faith... to answer the mission call

Diocesan Mission Office helps facilitate mission experiences

An annual Diocesan Mission Works collection was held Nov. 23 across the diocese of Saskatoon. Funds collected support the work of the Diocesan Mission Office (DMO) in reaching out in mission to those outside the boundaries of the diocese.

Some of the money collected each year is used to help ordinary people within the diocese experience mission.

"The Diocesan Mission Office supported me in participating in, *On Eagles' Wings*, an outreach ecumenical ministry to the North," said Michael MacLean of St. Thomas Moore Campus Ministry.

"I had the privilege of helping put on Summer Bible School in the community of Garden River. It truly was a privilege to work with volunteers from the community and to meet all the wonderful kids that came to Summer Bible School. They were a blessing to me. Many people feel that mission is to go into a community and gift them with your presence, when it is really the opposite. *On Eagles' Wings* is a great chance to show our brothers and sisters in Northern Canada that

we care about them, and indeed want to be in relationship with them. I am happy to hear that the DMO is willing to support people to travel north again next summer. It is a wonderfully enriching experience."

Last year the Diocesan Mission Works collection also helped provide funding to assist Michelle Possberg, Brook Gourley, and Nicole Detillieux on their mission to Kenya.

It was the second trip to Kenya for Michelle Possberg, who serves as a youth minister in the Humboldt area. Youth from Humboldt, Watson, and Bruno wrote penpal letters to a boarding school/orphanage that Possberg visited. "It was a true blessing to hand deliver letters and see the faces when the children received a life-changing gift from Canada." God can open many doors through our support of the Diocesan Mission Office, she added.

A Mission Encounter to Tanzania, Africa is currently being planned for spring 2009. For more information contact Mary Jacobi, chair of the Diocesan Mission Office, at 306-665-1665 or by e-mail: maryjacobi@shaw.ca

Catholic moms group moves back to Catholic parish for faith enrichment and fellowship

By ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

Time Out For Moms, a Catholic faith enrichment program for mothers of all ages and stages, returned to a Catholic facility this fall.

After two years at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, the Catholic moms group began offering its Wednesday morning program at St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon in September. Time Out For Moms offers speakers, discussion, and socializing to mothers while their children are cared for by volunteers.

Organizers have joked about pitching tents all over Saskatoon, like women in the biblical book of Exodus. "It's been challenging, but we actually have gotten very proficient at moving," said one board member. "It's a little like a scene from the Ten Command-

Uniting In Faith... to provide faith enrichment

ments with mini vans."

Since the ministry began 10 years ago, it has been offered in four different locations. "We've come a long way since we had moms in the lounge of the Knights of Columbus hall on Main Street," said board member Paulette Wilson.

Finding an affordable space to accommodate 40 moms, 50 toddlers, 25 infants and 20 volunteer caregivers has been a real challenge for the group. "A lot of prayers to Our Lady and the Holy Spirit have always come through in a pinch," said Wilson. "When our space at Rock of Ages was no longer available it only took two days before someone talking to someone found us a new space."

Parish Life Director Pat Clark and St. Philip's parish have been extremely welcoming, she said.

"It's been a real homecoming to be back at a Catholic parish," said Donna McCulloch, board president.

"The Lutheran facility was great and very well set up for family ministry, but there are definite special gifts to being at a Catholic facility," she said. For instance, an 8:30 a.m. Mass Wednesday has given some moms a chance to attend daily Mass before their program starts.

"St. Philip's also has their own coffee morning going on Wednesday morning and have graciously shared the space with caregivers setting up for infant childcare," she said.



Mothers and children arrive at St. Philip Neri parish for Time Out For Moms, welcomed by Parish Life Director Pat Clarke (right).

"Many ladies coming for Mass have found the babies irresistible and have stayed to help with childcare. It seems like a good fit for all," said Wilson.

Running in the fall and winter months, the Time Out for Moms program includes fellowship,

prayer and Catholic enrichment for mothers. Meetings run from 9:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Wednesday mornings, with a new session beginning in January.

For more information contact Danielle Clatney at 244-2714 or e-mail: dclatney@hotmail.com

Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin congregation celebrates

By DOROTHY ABERNETHY AND ROBERT HOOK

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass congregation had several special celebrations in 2008.

The annual Epiphany celebration was held Jan. 5. Fr. Stan Urbanoski led Benediction and celebrated Mass. A potluck supper followed with approximately 40 people in attendance.

Our Lady was honoured in the month of May with the annual crowning of her statue by Emma Fleischfresser. This was followed by the rosary, benediction and a potluck supper on Sunday May 4.

Bishop Albert LeGatt joined the congregation June 6 to confer the sacrament of confirmation on four children: Dane Bumphrey,



Four children were confirmed in June at a celebration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin congregation in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Shawn Bumphrey

Jonah Bumphrey, Lindey Villaruz and Alex Sirois.

During the summer, the congregation celebrated its very first traditional Latin nuptial Masses when two couples were united in the sacrament of matrimony: Marius Charles and Naomi Caswell July 26 and Chad Szautner and Erin McCaig Aug. 9.

The traditional Latin Mass is celebrated at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 301 Avenue Y North. Missals with English translations are available. High Mass with Gregorian chant is held Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Low Masses are held on Fridays, first Saturdays and some feast days at 5:15 p.m.



St. Mary Pentecost

Parishioners share bannock after a Pentecost celebration at St. Mary parish in Saskatoon May 11. Food from a variety of cultures was shared during the annual celebration of diversity and unity at the Saskatoon parish. During the Mass, prayers from various ethnic groups were offered in different mother tongues, parishioners wore ethnic clothing, and cultural food was brought forward and placed near the altar. - Photo by Ken Roach



Participants at a CCO retreat in Bruno cheer at news of the Impact 2009 location.

CCO members will gather in Saskatoon this summer for outreach and service

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty years after the Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) university evangelization movement first started in Saskatoon, young people from across the country will gather here for Impact 2009, a summer evangelization project.

Impact involves some 60 young adults from across the country gathering in one Canadian city for four months of formation, evangelization, outreach and service. For the past eight years, Impact has been held in a number of communities, including Halifax, Vancouver, Ottawa and Quebec City.

CCO Saskatoon team leader Christy Gaudet was bursting with excitement as she announced the location of Impact 2009 to a room filled with young adults attending a CCO fall retreat at Bruno.

"I've been waiting for this for so long," she told the cheering crowd. "We have an opportunity to be host to a mission team from across Canada, the opportunity to see our city impacted by the gospel in parishes, in workplaces, in the streets."

Gaudet said her own experience as a CCO mission team member helped to form her faith. It's a chance "to be transformed personally, but also to reach out to those who have lost their faith, who have lost their joy."

"We have the opportunity as a team of 50 or 60 students to go out together, to hold each other accountable and to boldly proclaim the gospel message," she said, noting a mission project is a time for the young participants to share faith, to offer service and to experience personal growth.

Details of the Saskatoon Impact mission will be announced in the weeks ahead.

It's appropriate that the summer mission be held in Saskatoon during this 20th anniversary year, said CCO co-founder André Regnier, one of the speakers at the fall retreat in Bruno. He recalled the group's beginnings

on the University campus in 1988-89.

Beginning with a handful of students participating in that Bible study in Saskatoon, CCO now reaches out to hundreds on several campuses across the country. The group's goals are to motivate students toward a deeper conversion to Christ, develop leadership and evangelization skills, and foster a willingness to serve the Church.

Special events were held on campuses across Canada this fall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of that first Bible study in Saskatoon. In Saskatoon, the CCO's 20th anniversary was marked Oct. 19 with a celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral that included Mass with Bishop Albert LeGatt and CCO chaplain Fr. Marc Mireau, as well as a commissioning ceremony and a potluck banquet.

During the anniversary celebration the bishop blessed and commissioned CCO staff members Christy Gaudet, John Hickey, Theresa Dupuis, Eric Filion, Eric Welwood, Christine Lautsch, and Mireille Cyr, who are working as CCO staff on the Saskatoon campus; Fred Bull, who is working in Ottawa; and Amy Boskill, who is a CCO staff member in Vancouver.

"Our hearts' desire is that Jesus would be proclaimed: that is what brings us joy," CCO members said during the commissioning celebration.

CCO is one of many organizations and ministries that receives support from the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Christy Gaudet

Sarah Farthing coordinates diocesan youth ministry

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At its heart, youth ministry is about people, relationships and conversation, says Sarah Farthing, coordinator of Youth Ministries for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Farthing recently took time to reflect on her nine years of youth ministry: first as a volunteer in high school and university, and then in the office of Youth Ministries for the diocese. Farthing's temporary position recently became permanent when her predecessor Shannon Granger decided not to return after maternity leave.

It's the connection with young people and with others in ministry that Farthing most values about her work.

One memorable ministry experience came in conjunction with a Grade 11 retreat Farthing helped to lead at a local Catholic high school last year. "My small group had three or four students who were really intelligent but very jaded and angry with God. We talked through a lot of really tough questions that day, like why God lets people suffer, whether He even exists, and how to react if a close friend comes out of the closet. I remember feeling like I was in way over my head," says Farthing, 23.

However, a moment of affirmation came a week later when Farthing ran into the mother of one of the students, who reported: "I don't know *what* you said, but you changed my daughter's life. She is a different girl."

Moments like that, added to the support from those around her in the parishes and diocese, nourish Farthing in her ministry. "Our diocese is blessed with an exceptional sense of community, and we have a remarkable number of people here who are amazingly well-educated and experienced," she says. "I have learned more from the people around me than I ever have from any book."

This year, Farthing is continuing efforts to build connections among youth ministers and parish volunteers across the diocese. "We take the time to update each other, compare our calendars and enjoy some fellowship. As a result, we collaborate more, we are more aware of what is happening in other parishes, and we have a more coherent vision for youth ministry as a diocese."

Theology on Tap, a faith-sharing

Uniting In Faith... for youth ministry

program offered in a local pub for young adults ages 19 to 35, recently started a sixth season Sept 30 with a session about Theology of the Body, featuring speaker Leah Perrault. Well-known author Megan McKenna was the guest Oct. 24. Theology on Tap is a joint effort of the diocesan office of Youth Ministries, St. Thomas More campus ministry, and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon youth office.

"I've learned that formation and catechesis are different but related concepts, says Farthing, reflecting on the meaning of youth ministry.

"It is part of my job to teach youth what the Church teaches about this or that particular issue, and to be there to answer their questions, which is catechesis. More importantly, though, I need participate in their formation by showing them where to find their own answers. They need to be empowered to build their own faith."

Catechesis and faith formation are key elements of another initiative being launched in the diocese, a new faith affirmation program for students in Grade 8. Farthing served on the committee which developed the parish-based *Steps in Faith* program, which includes catechesis, prayer and service (see *Steps in Faith* article on Page 7).

It's one more way to help youth as they journey in understanding and in a relationship with God and the faith community, says Farthing, noting there are many blessings for those who walk with youth on that journey.

The Office of Youth Ministries in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Sarah Farthing
Youth Ministries

WAVES girls' group hears about mission trip to Calcutta, India

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A mission trip to India was an unforgettable eye-opening experience, Janelle Levesque told members of a Catholic girls group in Saskatoon.

A teacher and member of the *FacetoFace Ministries* retreat team, Levesque was one of five Catholic women from Saskatchewan who traveled to Calcutta to volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity from September to December 2007.

Levesque — along with Shelan Schnell, Kerry Williams, Abby King and Micheline Thibault — experienced serving the 'poorest of the poor' with members of the order that Mother Teresa of Calcutta founded.

Speaking to members of the local WAVES Catholic enrichment group at a Friday evening gathering at St. Joseph parish Sept. 19, Levesque told the story of Mother Teresa and her vocation to live and work among the poor, seeing Jesus in each one she served.

Wearing a simple sari, Mother Teresa stepped out of her Loreto convent into the slums, with only 25 cents and a picture of Our Lady,

Levesque said, describing how the missionary to the poor always relied on the providence of God in her ministry. "From her 'yes' there are now 5,000 Missionaries of Charity in 142 countries," said Levesque, noting that the Saskatchewan group arrived in Calcutta on Sept. 5, the 10th anniversary of Blessed Mother Teresa's death.

The city of 14 million — where some 40 per cent of people live in the slums — was overwhelming at first, Levesque said. However, the Missionaries of Charity provided orientation and training for volunteers. "At any given time there were 200 volunteers from all over the world ...speaking all different languages," she said, noting that volunteers are welcome to come and serve in the homes and ministries operated by the sisters, whether for a day, a month or for years.

India is a beautiful country, Levesque said, adding that there is an experience of culture shock in arriving in a place so different from home. The Saskatchewan volunteers served in several settings, including an orphanage,



Janelle Levesque (with guitar) led the WAVES Catholic enrichment group for girls in song and prayer during a session Sept. 19, before describing her experiences on a mission trip to India.

and a home for the dying and destitute.

Because she is a teacher, Levesque said she spent time teaching English to children in an orphanage — but was also challenged by spending time caring for the sick and dying. She described helping to change the dressing for a man whose arm was amputated, and experiencing a clear

realization that she was serving Jesus, who had sacrificed so much for her. "I was so happy to be there."

After a video presentation of photos from the trip, Levesque answered questions about dealing with language barriers, about the food and the Missionaries of Charity.

Formed this fall, WAVES is a

Catholic youth ministry for girls ages 10 to 17 years. The name of the group is taken from the words worship, act, virtue, evangelize, and service. The locally-based group meets weekly at different parish locations throughout the city.

For more information about WAVES contact Vanessa Nyssen at 306-955-0795. A new session begins after Christmas.

Fr. Don Macgillivray journeys home to the Father

BY FR. LES PAQUIN

Strange as it may seem, missionaries spend a lot of time in airports. Life is a series of arrivals and departures, where we are either welcoming someone or bidding farewell.

I think of all those who visited the Saskatoon diocesan mission in the archdiocese of Maceió over the years, most of whom felt overwhelmed by the tremendous hospitality and warmth of the so called “poor.” The red carpet treatment usually began and ended with the affectionate and joyful embrace of their tall, gangly white-haired spiritual father named Padre Donaldo.

The arrival of a visitor in the parish house, even a complete stranger, signaled the beginning of a *festa* or party, as if they were the long lost prodigal son returned home after an exhausting and perilous journey; lots of music, laughter, stories, food and drink. To know Padre Donaldo was to feel very much *em casa* or “at home.” Throughout his 38 years serving as a missionary in União dos Palmares, Fr. Don Macgillivray mirrored the compassionate, welcoming and unconditional love of God the Father.

I was blessed with having the opportunity of working alongside Padre Donaldo as a brother priest and friend during the twilight of his ministry in Brazil. He was like a grandfather to me, especially when I was starting out in the mission. He was a reassuring and calm voice amidst the storm of cultural adaptation, language struggles and all the ups and downs of pastoral ministry. We spent many an evening chatting over a game of cribbage or catching a little breeze on the veranda after the work was done.

Don was never in a rush; there was always time for everyone, no matter who they were. Most of his time was spent simply attending to people who came to the door in droves — listening to their troubles, counseling, hearing confessions, or giving food or medication for those in dire straits. He literally gave away every cent he had. A welcoming and generous man.

To the people of União dos Palmares, Padre Donaldo was a saint. What did this saint look like? I will offer a few more snapshots.

When he wasn’t working, the rectory was always full of friends and parishioners who just wanted to be with him — telling stories, laughing or listening to the entertainer sing his version of *Perhaps Love* by John Denver while strumming his crutch as if it were a guitar. He loved *festas* of any type, in fact, he



Padre Donaldo and excited welcomers on his return visit to Brazil.

was the *festa*. The more people the better. A playful man.

I remember going with Padre Don to visit an elderly woman who was dying and refused to die until “the holy priest” came to anoint her. On a miserably rainy day, faced with having to cross an open sewer/creek, he conscripted a donkey and cart to make the passage. With great discomfort, soaking wet, he loaded himself on and off the cart and made the visit. A compassionate man.

Each morning I woke up to the laughter of Mila, Don’s nurse and friend who came to wash and bandage his feet, and to help him put on the pressure stockings that he wore. Padre Donaldo had no trouble accepting love and affection — in fact he thrived on it, letting others wash his feet. A humble man.

Liturgy, even when he was sick and tired, was always well celebrated. Even from his special stool, he stirred the assembly with his playful and improvised homilies and his arm waving during the singing of hymns “Everybody now! I can’t hear you!” He was absolutely mobbed by the people at the sign of peace and his stole and hair were covered with lipstick marks after festive Masses and special celebrations. A joy-filled man.

After being forced to return to Canada due to illness in 2002, Fr. Don found a new home with the Oblate community at Mazenod Residence in Saskatoon. Remarkably, just as he had after his amputation, he bounced back again from compression fractures in several vertebrae and actually made two more visits back to the mission in Brazil before being called home by his Heavenly Father. A determined man.

And finally, Fr. Don embraced his time back in Canada as an opportunity to grow in holiness. He embraced his calmer lifestyle as a retired missionary, though he was very much a person who loved to be surrounded by people. I would often find him immersed in prayer and contemplation, and he would tell me how much he had grown to love solitude, praying more than he had in the flurry of active ministry. A prayerful man.

Fr. Don came to see me off at the airport in Saskatoon as I embarked once again on the missionary trail in August of 2006. We embraced and he assured me of his prayers. I felt a sharp twinge of sadness as I knew that it might be the last time that I would see him.

We kept in touch through telephone calls

and e-mails (Fr. Don was the first of the missionary team to delve into the world of computers!). He found the final journey home was a long and tiring one, though supported by his community and family back in Canada as well as the prayers and friendship of thousands in Brazil.

When he died on June 14, 2008, I was still in Brazil preparing to return home to Saskatchewan for holidays. I wasn’t sad to have missed seeing him before his death, as I was able to celebrate his memorial Mass in the midst of the people he had walked and worked with for so many years.

It was an emotional and uplifting celebration of gratitude to God for the gift of Padre Donaldo. The gospel chosen was that of the prodigal son. At the end of the homily, I said that Padre Donaldo had made the journey home to the Father — the festa having already begun, just like all his triumphant homecomings celebrated by the beloved people of União dos Palmares.

The photograph above, taken at the airport in Maceió on the occasion of Fr. Don’s first visit back to Brazil after his retirement in Canada, might be a glimpse of heaven.

Welcome home Padre Donaldo!

Fr. Don was a friend and good shepherd to Brazil parish family

BY ALCILENE SANTOS LIMA

(Alcilene Santos Lima is a high school principal in União dos Palmares, Alagoas — a long-time friend and involved parishioner who was present for Fr. Don Macgillivray’s funeral in Saskatoon in June, representing the parish he served for 38 years.)

There isn’t a family here in União who couldn’t tell stories about Fr. Don and his love for the people. From the rich to the poor, from the ugly to the pretty, from the humble to the arrogant, all were part of Father Don’s story and he will remain forever in their hearts.

Fr. Don came into my life just after having arrived here in Brazil, celebrating my baptism when I was one year old. Years later, from his beautiful hands, I would receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. The parish rectory was a happy place to be, even more so after the arrival of Fr. Emile April. Both of them helped me to understand my faith and my baptismal commitment, and to live the Eucharist. The priest’s home was our home. Fr. Don helped me to prepare for and celebrate the sacrament of marriage. By this time, he was more than a priest to me; he was a father, a brother, a grandfather, and a well-loved member of my family also. We



Saskatoon host Lawrence Thoner (left) with Alcilene Santos Lima and her nephew Macdavid Santos, visitors from Fr. Don’s parish in Brazil.

had wonderful moments together at community meetings, on the veranda of the rectory, at liturgies, on his birthday that coincided with the feast of St. John the Baptist, during the big

feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

I grew up in the church of the Canadian priests: the liberating, welcoming, non-aggressive, compassionate, transparent, truthful and faithful church of Jesus Christ. Fr. Don embodied those virtues — the faithful servant who dedicated his life to the people. He was always ready to serve. He knew how to listen and to give good counsel, attributes which made him a peacemaker in the midst of great conflicts and a promoter of peace, harmony and unity in the community. My story with Fr. Don is the story of the parish family of St. Mary Magdalene.

Today I feel extremely grateful for the Canadian mission and for the opportunity to have grown alongside Fathers Don, Emile, Bernard, Lawrence and Les. I am also grateful for having been able to welcome their friends and family members into our community. I don’t think I could ever express properly the great love I have for the Canadian team. I thank God for having traversed the borders between Brazil and Canada, as we have become sisters and brothers in the Lord. We have had the joy of living and working together with the Canadian missionaries building up the Kingdom of God in União dos Palmares, Alagoas, Brazil.

Padre Don: giving thanks for a “sower of peace”

BY SR. MARIE-NOELLE RONDOT, SMS

Alcilene Santos Lima, from União dos Palmares, was scheduled to leave Brazil on June 16 to visit her friend “Padre Donaldo” in Canada. On June 14 we heard that Fr. Don Macgillivray had gone to his eternal home. This was heart-breaking news for Alcilene, who went to Saskatoon for his funeral instead.

Around the same time, Sr. Bernadine Fetter, OSU, travelled from the diocese of Saskatoon to Brazil to visit the Ursulines of Bruno in Maceió. In the late 1960s, Sr. Bernadine had served in the Maceió archdiocese as a member of the missionary team. Fr. Don had arrived in Brazil four years earlier.

How appropriate that Bernadine should be in Brazil on the occasion of a beautiful liturgy being celebrated in the parish of União on June 20 in memory of Don — the day previous to his burial in Saskatoon.

Alcilene and Bernadine “exchanged” countries at a most significant time: it was like a symbol of the two dioceses (Saskatoon and Maceió) being connected and united at this time of Fr. Don’s death.

No words can adequately express how people in Brazil were affected by the departure of their “dear Donaldo,” who was a friend, a brother, and like a “daddy” to so many of them. For 38 years, people from União were blessed with Don’s presence — something they see as a precious gift from God to them.

In this last while, much as been said about Don and much could still be said. What impressed me the most about Don’s way of being and of ministering to Brazilian people was his unconditional love and acceptance of them.



União parishioners display banner in honour of Fr. Don: “Sower of Peace”

Each individual who came to him, young or old, poor or rich, black or white, felt special in his presence and likely went away with a greater sense of dignity. This was, I believe, Don’s most unique gift.

The Eucharist in União on June 20 was a celebration of life and hope, as well as a moving tribute to Don. A packed church and many tears were obvious expressions of deep gratitude to God for the life, love and unlimited generosity of this man.

A banner was brought into the church during the celebration which perhaps best summarized everything: “Don: semeador da paz” – Don: sower of peace.

Don, you embraced life as a total gift. Thank you, most of all, for having been a spark of God’s love to so many of God’s “little ones.”

We rejoice because “eternal life is an unbroken presence” (John O’Donohue).

Parish of St. Peter the Fisherman created

BY SR. CLAIRE NOVECOSKY, OSU

Marechal Deodoro is a municipality with a population of over 44,000 inhabitants who live in 22 distant communities. Until recently, this was all one parish, Immaculate Conception of Marechal, with one priest.

In May 2008, our archbishop Dom Antonio, together with his council, decided to divide the municipality into two parishes and thus the new parish of St. Peter the Fisherman came into being. The mother church of the parish is on the famous French beach (Praia Francês) since it has the largest chapel and the beginnings of a parish house. Nine other communities, all of which border on the lagoon, make up the rest of the parish — one of these is on the Island of St. Rita where the Bruno Ursulines live and work.

Peter the Fisherman is a very significant patron for the new parish where many of the people work as fishermen for their living.



Padre Marcos Tenório Cabral

With the new parish came a new pastor, Padre Marcos, a young two-year ordained man who accepted the new task with great trembling, but also with great willingness. On the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29, the parish was officially created and the pastor installed in the presence

of Dom Antonio and a church bursting at the seams with parishioners from all the nine communities present. It was a celebration of immense joy and gratitude.

It is a challenge to coordinate the activities of the many communities. The Eucharist is celebrated twice a month in each of them (with the exception of the mother Church where Mass is celebrated each week). On alternate weeks, a celebration of the Word is led by lay people.

Padre Marcos Tenório Cabral is very sensitive to each community and stresses very much the need to cultivate unity. Each one is important independent of its size and all are treated equally.

We pray that St. Peter the Fisherman will not only fill the hungry with material food, but also satiate the hunger of hearts for a more abundant life in all of its dimensions, as Jesus so much desired.

Letter from Bishop LeGatt provides update about Brazil mission

Dear friends:

With this issue of the Brazil Bulletin I wish to update you on the new situation we find ourselves in regarding the Brazil Mission.

Two years ago Fr. Les Paquin returned to Brazil for a second missionary experience. This was to be a five to six year term. His heart was always in Brazil and he had so looked forward to once again working with the people of Brazil whom he loved very much.

When he arrived in Brazil in September 2006, he was asked to establish a new parish in Ibateguara. For two years he worked very hard to organize this new parish and to train lay people to become involved in their parish as leaders and missionaries. During these two years he was instrumental in welcoming two groups of Catholic high school students from Saskatoon who visited the mission. And of course he continued to inform the people of the diocese of Saskatoon about Brazil and our diocesan mission there through articles in the *Prairie Messenger* and the Brazil Mission Notes in parish Sunday bulletins.

This summer, Fr. Les came home for a well-deserved holiday. His health had been deteriorating in Brazil due to a series of different infections. He had hoped to recover his strength and return to the mission at the beginning of September. However, while he was here, he contracted *C-Difficile*, a very serious bacterial infection.

While he has been gradually recovering, after consulting his doctors regarding the general state of his health, Fr. Les himself has made the decision not to return to work in the Brazil mission. This was a very difficult albeit necessary decision for him. He will of course continue to keep Brazil close to his heart and work to maintain the interest in and support for our Brazil mission throughout the diocese.

The diocesan mission in Brazil continues in an active way in the archdiocese of Maceió through the work of the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno (Sr. Claire Novacosky and Sr. Louise Hinz) in Marechal Deodoro (St. Rita parish) and of the Sisters of Mission Service (Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot and Sr. Jeannine Rondot) in São José da Lage parish. They continue their rich work of evangelization, presence, formation and support amongst the many people of their respective parishes.

The sisters will also continue to play a key role in maintaining the relationship between our diocese and the archdiocese of Maceió. When I was there last winter, along with Margaret and Robert Sanche on behalf of the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC), we discussed with the mission team how we might even expand our relationship by the sending forth of lay people to be involved in the mission through visits and longer-term missionary experiences and work.

At that time I had the occasion to meet Dom Antônio Muniz Fernandes, OCARM, the archbishop of Maceió, and we discussed various possibilities for strengthening the ties between the two dioceses. As a result of these discussions, I invited Dom Antonio to visit our diocese. He accepted the invitation and will be coming in July 2009. I look forward to hosting him and having him meet the people of our diocese who are interested in and supportive of our missionary relationship with Brazil. Hopefully his visit and our continued discussions will see new avenues of mutual involvement open up between our two dioceses.

While the departure of Fr. Les from Brazil changes the picture somewhat, still we will continue to see in our mission in Brazil a key way to fulfill our missionary role as a diocesan church.

I invite you to continue praying for Fr. Les’ full recovery. I also ask you to keep our present missionaries in Brazil in your prayers. Finally, I ask you to pray to the Holy Spirit that we discern well just how best to maintain this historic relationship and to find ways, especially for the laity, young and old, to become involved.

+ **Most Rev. Albert LeGatt**
Bishop of Saskatoon

Weeklong mission held prior to ordination of Fr. José Heitor



Jose Heitor and Sr. Francisca da Silva (front, left to right) with members of one of the teams that organized a mission prior to Fr. Heitor’s ordination. Sr. Francisca is a member of the Ursulines of Bruno community in Brazil.

BY SR. FRANCISCA DA SILVA, OSU

I experienced a week of mission in September in preparation for the priestly ordination of deacon José Heitor in the city of Murici in Alagoas.

This mission week had as its objective to try and raise the consciousness of the people about the importance of mission and to bring back all those who for various motives stopped being practicing Catholics. We also tried to reactivate all the pastoral works which were not functioning. We first of all tried to reanimate the leaders and then strengthen and motivate the groups. For example: the pastoral of youth, the pastoral with the aged, the children-adolescent missionary group, the men’s rosary group.

For the mission week, the city was divided into five sectors and

each sector team was responsible for an area of the city which was organized by streets, to enable visits to all the families. There were about 80 missionaries coming from the city itself as well as from other cities and states. We were gathered in a college where we ate and slept, cared for by city volunteers.

We began each day at 5 a.m. and started a *caminhada*, a long walk from the mother church, giving the meaning of being animated and blessed, to a different community each day where the Eucharist was celebrated. At 7:30 we returned to have breakfast and at 9 a.m. we began the visiting of families in the various sectors. Each family was greeted, their house was blessed with holy water and we listened to their stories. We shared the Word of God and went on to the next home.

The week’s climax was the glorious celebration of the ordination of José Heitor as a priest of God.

For me the week was a great experience of having contact with the poor people, the marginalized and excluded from society. Their simple gestures of welcome and love for hearing the Word of God made me feel evangelized and left me feeling more motivated to meet more families.

I am grateful to God and to my community to have permitted me this moment of grace, because when we have this experience of meeting abandoned people, those who suffer from hunger, or those who have lost the desire to live, we learn the significance of our lives and love and appreciate more the simple things which life offers.



Fr. Bernard de Margerie cuts the cake at his 50th anniversary celebration this summer. Fr. Bernard was only ordained a few months when Pope John XXIII announced the second Vatican Council. It sparked Fr. Bernard's call to ecumenical ministry

50-50-25 celebration will mark call for Vatican II, start of priest's ecumenical journey, and opening of centre

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon, a special "50-50-25" celebration will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009 to mark three anniversaries related to ecumenism.

Jan. 25 is both the 50th anniversary of the announcement of Vatican II and the 50th anniversary of Fr. Bernard de Margerie's own personal call to work for Christian unity. The New Year will also mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon.

De Margerie said that Pope John XXIII's call for the Vatican council came like a thunderbolt in the blue sky from a recently-elected elderly "caretaker" pope who admitted to "trembling a little with emotion, but with humble firmness of purpose" in announcing the synod for Rome and an ecumenical council for the universal Church.

In making the announcement, the Holy Father prayed for "the enlightenment, edification, and happiness of the whole Christian world" and "the inducement of the faithful of the separated communities to follow us amicably in this quest for unity and for grace."

It would take three and a half years to prepare for the Second Vatican Council, which opened on Oct. 11, 1962 and ran until Dec. 8, 1965. Through this process, the Catholic church would experience many

Uniting In Faith... for ecumenism

changes, and a new era in ecumenical relations would begin.

"Vatican II was potentially the greatest event of the 20th century in the Catholic Church," said de Margerie. "It depends what we do with it and what we continue to do with it."

The Jan. 25, 1959 announcement had a huge personal impact on the young de Margerie, ordained a priest just seven months before. "I caught fire that very day," he said of listening to John XXIII's call for the ecumenical council. "It was my vocation to ecumenism that was born right there, in connection with that announcement."

The action of the Holy Spirit in the heart and mind of the courageous John XXIII is what de Margerie emphasizes about the upcoming anniversary. "This celebration is meant to serve to nurture and strengthen the awareness of Vatican II in the hearts and minds of Catholics and fellow Christians," he said.

"We can give thanks for the decisive impulse and signal to the church, through John XXIII on that Jan. 25, 1959, toward reversing apathy, isolationism, and arrogance, and toward opening the door to passion for healing the wounds of division in the historical body of Christ."

"It's also the occasion to underscore how the grace of God has been and continues to be at work in Saskatoon with the passion of many and notably through the Prairie Centre of Ecumenism," added de Margerie.

The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism was founded 25 years ago by de Margerie, working with Margot Taylor, Sr. Cecile Laliberte, FDL, and Lawrence Kotschorek. Originally called the Saskatoon Centre for Ecumenism, the centre opened in 1984 as an initiative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. In 1988 it moved to a broader sponsorship, including the Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United churches, as well as the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and the centre was renamed Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (PCE).

To mark the centre's 25th anniversary, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II announcement and Fr. de Margerie's call to the ministry of ecumenism, PCE has announced a theme for the 2008-09 year: *"The Ministry of Christian Reconciliation and Unity: Giving Thanks for the Past, Committing to the Future."* (More about planned events, below.)

De Margerie expressed the hope that the anniversary celebrations will call all church members into "the ministry of reconciliation and unity among Christians in the Lord's

Fifty years ago Pope John XXIII announced second Vatican council

BY BISHOP ALBERT LE GATT

On Jan. 25, 2009, The Catholic Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the announcement of the Second Council of the Vatican by Pope John XXIII.

The Second Council of the Vatican (commonly called "Vatican II") was held in Rome from 1962 to 1965. It has often been described as the most important religious event of the 20th century because Vatican II, in the middle of the 20th century, was raised as a prophetic voice to guide the Church in the ongoing renewal of Christian faith and life, as well as in a new awareness of, and faithfulness to, the quest for reconciliation and fuller unity among Christians.

On Jan. 25, 1959 at the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the famous Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Pope John XXIII, a mere three months after his election as Pope, made this astonishing and totally unexpected announcement: "Venerable Brethren and beloved sons! Trembling a little with emotion but with humble firmness of purpose we now tell you of a two-fold celebration. We propose to call a diocesan synod for Rome and an ecumenical council for the universal Church."

The Pope went on to describe in shorthand what the two main goals of the ecumenical council would be. After calling on the intercession of Mary and other special saints he said: "We entreat all of them to grant us a good beginning and continuation

and final success in the projects (all of which require hard work) to the enlightenment, edification and happiness of the whole Christian world and to the inducement of the faithful of the separated communities to follow us amicably in this quest for unity and for grace to which so many souls aspire from all corners of the earth."

In other words, the council's main goals would be the renewal of the Church and a solemn encouragement to "separated communities" to follow his own new leadership on the paths of recovered communion and grace.

Pope John XXIII's announcement unleashed a great outburst of attention, interest, and above all anticipation. Many saw in it a sign of hope and a sign of confidence in the future.

The documents that were eventually issued from Vatican II would go on to direct great efforts of renewal in all areas of the Church's life as well as in its relationship to other churches and ecclesial communities and to the modern world as a whole.



Blessed John XXIII

This effort of understanding, receiving and implementing the teaching and pastoral orientation of Vatican II continues into the 21st century.

Pope John Paul II stated in his letter at the end of the Jubilee Year 2000: "With the passing of the years, the council documents have lost nothing of their value or brilliance. They need to be read correctly, to be widely known and taken to heart as important and normative texts of the Magisterium, within the Church's Tradition. Now that the Jubilee has ended, I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the council as the great grace bestowed on the Church in the 20th century: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning."

As Jan. 25, 2009 draws near, we are

called to rekindle our gratefulness to God for the blessings that have come to us and to the world through Vatican II. Therefore, I invite you in your parishes to note publicly this 50th anniversary of the announcement of Vatican II as an expression of thanksgiving and re-commitment.

I also bring to your attention that in the near future, two other dates will retain the attention and gratitude of Catholics everywhere: Oct. 11, 2012, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II; and Dec. 8, 2015, the 50th anniversary of the closing of the council.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the announcement of the Second Council of the Vatican, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide the Church and all of us in conversion and transformation.

Group of Roman Catholic and United Church members journey in faith

BY AGNES PELLETIER

A group of eight United Church members and eight Roman Catholic members met one evening a month from February to June 2008 and shared their own personal experience and views as well as those of their churches on a variety of topics.

It was an energizing experience that led participants to think more deeply about sin, reconciliation, Prime Minister Harper's statement of apology to the First Nations people, and ecclesial identity as well as a variety of other related topics.

The group also invited Vern Ratzlaff, a Mennonite minister, to join as an observer.

The group began by reading and reflecting on the *Report of the Dialogue on the Theme: Sin, Reconciliation and Ecclesial*

Identify which resulted from a national Roman Catholic and United Church discussions over a four-year period ending in June 2004.

The participants discovered many common experiences and found insights into their faith through listening to each other's sharing and experiences. Although no formal conclusions were formulated, participants gained valuable insights into each other's faith experiences.

As the group left for the summer the general consensus was that in the fall participants would like to continue by attending services at various United and Roman Catholic churches and exploring each other's traditions through first-hand experience.

Help us record the history of ecumenism in our community!

You are invited to share your stories about local ecumenical events or activities that have improved relationships between Christians in Saskatchewan over the years. Stories will be collected and included in an anniversary history book being prepared by The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism to mark its 25th anniversary in 2009. Please take some time to write up an event or activity, past or present, which brought you closer to other Christians in your area. Photographs are also welcome.

Send submissions to:
The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism,
600 - 45 St. West, Saskatoon, SK. S7L 5W9
E-mail: pce@ecumenism.net

We look forward to hearing from you!

Ecumenical Celebrations and Programs 2009

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 18 to 25: various locations and times, Special celebration at concluding service, 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 25, McClure United Church, 4025 Taylor Street E., Saskatoon.

Scripturefest – 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24 at Queen's House of Retreats. Register at 306-242-1916. Cost is \$35 with lunch.

Lenten Study Series – *This old House: the Renovation of the Christian Church in the 20th Century*, five Mondays in March, 6:45 to 9 p.m.; location to be announced.

Summer Ecumenical Institute – June 2 to 5 at Queen's House of Retreats. Register at 306-653-1633. Special celebration/banquet June 4 at the Western Development Museum.

CONTACT: Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, 653-1633 or pce@ecumenism.net



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Development and Peace is a hidden treasure: What's different about the way we do justice?

A REFLECTION BY GERTRUDE ROMPRÉ
DIOCESAN CO-CHAIR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

It's sometimes said that Catholic Social Teaching is the Church's best kept secret. If that's the case, then Development and Peace is the Canadian Catholic Church's hidden treasure. Development and Peace, the official international development agency of the Catholic Church in Canada, is a gem of a movement. But, like a treasure, it's hidden in the vault of our collective consciousness.

As Catholics, we know Development and Peace exists through the annual fall action campaigns and Share Lent collections, but otherwise we don't give it much thought. Yet, Development and Peace is the type of treasure that ought to be put on display, in a prominent location, because there is something very unique and special about the way Canadian Catholics do justice.

WE DO JUSTICE IN PARTNERSHIP

The work of Development and Peace is based on a solid model of development, a model that places our relationship with our partners in the Global South (what we used to call the "Third World") front and centre.

Development and Peace is unique because it does not have staff working overseas. Rather it develops partnerships with grassroots organizations in Asia, Latin America and Africa. This is important for a number of reasons. First, local people generate the solutions to their own problems. We've all heard about the well-meaning, but misguided, development projects where 4-wheel drive tractors are airlifted into Central Africa, only to find that a) the terrain is too hilly for the size of tractor; b) access to fuel is limited; and, c) spare parts are non-existent! By taking the lead from local project partners, Development and Peace avoids such disastrous projects and ensures that the real needs of the people are met. Second, by establishing such partnerships, we are also assured that the largest percentage possible of our funding goes directly to the people who need it. We avoid the large overhead costs of having Canadian personnel scattered all over the globe. Last, but not least, the partnership model shows a deep respect for the dignity of the people of the Global South. We develop relationships of equality and mutuality as we engage in these partnerships – something which is hard to do when one of the partners in a relationship has all the cash!

Uniting In Faith... for justice and peace

The way we do justice here at home is also worth noting. Long-time Saskatchewan Development and Peace activist, Therese LeClaire, says: "I think of Development and Peace not as an organization, but as a movement... one that changes our lives." Development and Peace is a grassroots movement that allows Canadian Catholics to connect with the lives and real concerns of those living with poverty around the world. It has been my experience that, in doing so, we are changed, converted even, into more compassionate, loving human beings.

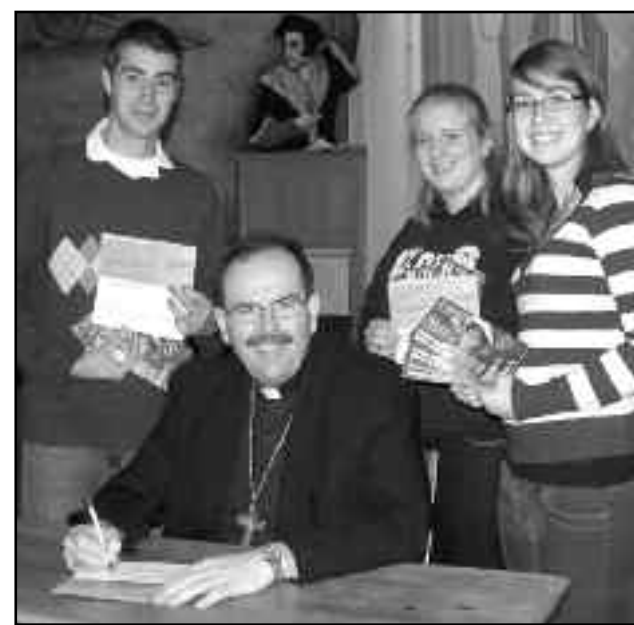
WE DO JUSTICE WITH EDUCATION

When it was established by the Canadian Bishops in 1967, Development and Peace was given a dual mandate. Not only were we to collect funds to support our partners but, in the process, we were to educate ourselves about justice issues. That's why, every fall, we are presented with a fall action campaign. These campaigns are often challenging, stretching us to think beyond our usual way of looking at the world. For the past few years, the fall action campaign has challenged us to examine the way Canadian mining companies behave in the Global South, in terms of the way they treat both the land and its people. This year's fall action campaign again asks the Canadian government to follow through on its commitments to monitor the actions of Canadian mining companies overseas.

By combining our justice work and education, Development and Peace ensures that we move beyond charity. Charity is a noble, but limited, response to injustice. We need to stand on both feet, the foot of charity and the foot of justice, to serve as real catalysts for change in the world. We need to ask the questions about how we can best serve the concrete needs of those who suffer (charity) as well as the questions about what causes their suffering in the first place (justice). Development and Peace keeps the justice questions on the radar screen, even when these are hard questions that make us less than comfortable in our pews.

WE DO JUSTICE IN FAITH

Ultimately, what makes Development and Peace special is the



Bishop Albert LeGat signs the Development and Peace fall action card, as STM Just Youth members Thomas McKay, Desiree Nelson and Sarah Dauk (l-r) look on. The 2008 campaign calls on government representatives to hold Canadian mining companies accountable for their actions in the Global South.

fact that our justice work is rooted in our faith. We are not merely activists but disciples in action!

As believers, we are inspired by scripture and nourished by the Eucharist. As believers, we live in steadfast hope, knowing that the world is saved already. As believers, we see our work as part of God's grand scheme of creation, ushering forth God's vision for the fullness of humanity. We can be joyful social justice folk because we don't carry the weight of the world on our shoulders. This, perhaps, is the most tangible sign that Development and Peace is a treasure within the Canadian Catholic Church. When the volunteers gather around the table for a Development and Peace meeting, we don't encounter a group of sullen, cynical, doomsday forecasters. Rather, we see people of faith, ready, courageous and willing to stand up for sake of their sisters and brothers around the world.

Development and Peace is truly a hidden treasure within our Church. To discover more about this treasure trove, visit www.devp.org

L'Arche Saskatoon officially opens Christopher House

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An official opening was held Sept. 8 for Christopher House, the first L'Arche home in Saskatchewan. Residents, family members, friends and supporters joined government representatives to cut the ribbon for the recently-renovated house in the Lakeview neighbourhood of Saskatoon.

Christopher House is home to people with and without intellectual disabilities, who work and share life together according to L'Arche founder Jean Vanier's vision of creating ecumenical faith-based communities where all are welcomed and valued.

The four core members and three assistants (a fourth assistant has since arrived) who are living at Christopher House hosted the grand opening celebrations, along with executive director Wyndham Thiessen and L'Arche Saskatoon board members, including Steve Halabura, board chair.

"This is a realization of a long-standing dream," said Thiessen, reflecting on the history of the L'Arche Saskatoon project, which has its roots in a 1971 retreat at Queen's House led by Jean Vanier. Those attending the Saskatoon retreat heard Vanier's story of inviting two men with intellectual disabilities to make their home with him, in response to seeing the isolation and loneliness of people living in institutions. Vanier named that first house in France "L'Arche" after Noah's ark – a safe and secure place, and a sign of God's care and provision.

An image of Noah's ark hangs near the entranceway of Christopher House in Saskatoon, while an icon of St. Christopher carrying the Christ child is now on display in the living room. The icon was blessed by Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGat during a house blessing ceremony Sept. 6.

The bishop reflected on the story of St. Christopher whose name means "Christ carrier", noting that Christopher House serves as a reminder that all are carried by Christ and called to be Christ carriers to others.

During the blessing ceremony, house leader Laurie Carnduff read a passage from



L'Arche community members welcomed visitors to Christopher House during a grand opening celebration Sept. 8 in Saskatoon.

the gospel of John about the washing of the feet, and Pat Favaro, L'Arche Western Canada Regional Coordinator, read a reflection from *Scandal of Service*, written by Jean Vanier. Bishop LeGat spoke about meeting Vanier during the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec this June. The bishop then asked those present to speak about what the blessing day meant to them.

"There were responses from assistants, core members, board members, parents of core members, friends of Christopher House, and almost five-year-old Henry Thiessen who said that 'Christopher House is a good place where people can come and feel welcome,'" reported Margaret Sanche, who along with her husband Robert, are long-serving members on the L'Arche board, and of the *Led by the Spirit* group that preceded establishment of L'Arche Saskatoon.

LeGat then blessed a bowl of water and

gave a general prayer of blessing for the house and those who live there, and then began to bless different rooms and areas of the building. In each location, individuals and groups participated in the prayer – including community leaders, clergy from neighbourhood Christian churches, core members and assistants, family members, supporters and board members. "In each room, one person held a special cross and one or more read the prayer for that space," described Sanche.

As the bishop used a cedar branch to sprinkle holy water around the room, the assembly sang the Taizé chant: "Live in charity and steadfast love; live in charity and God will dwell in you."

"Although L'Arche is ecumenical in nature and has a community leader, residents and board members from various church traditions, it is acknowledged with gratitude

Uniting In Faith... for community

that L'Arche Saskatoon has received much financial and prayer support from individuals and groups and religious congregations of the Roman Catholic community," Sanche noted.

At a fiesta held at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church after the house blessing, Thiessen described the history of L'Arche in Saskatoon, while members of the community brought forward posters to create a multi-coloured storyboard. The event also included a skit about St. Christopher.

Pat Favaro, assisted by some friends of L'Arche, brought congratulations, and spoke about Jean Vanier and the many L'Arche communities that have been founded around the world in the past 44 years.

L'Arche is an international federation of 135 communities in 36 different countries. In Canada there are 28 L'Arche communities, with over 200 homes now established. In L'Arche homes, people with disabilities and assistants live together and are equally responsible for the life of their home – with L'Arche assistants functioning more as family members than staff.

The "ethos of L'Arche" also includes: the belief that everyone has the right to meaningful work; the centrality of relationships; and the importance of mealtimes, celebration and prayer.

L'Arche communities are communities of faith, and while most are Christian and ecumenical, some communities, such as those in Japan and India, are multi-faith. As a faith-based organization, L'Arche recognizes the spiritual and religious needs of all of its members, and welcomes and respects people from all faiths, as well as those with no religious affiliation.

"The opening of Christopher House is both a source of joy and a promise of spiritual blessings, as well as an opportunity for continuing reflection on our commitment to the weak and the vulnerable in our larger society," said LeGat.

Uniting In Faith... to mark moments and milestones

Anniversaries, awards, and retirements marked within diocesan faith family

For more coverage of these and other events visit the news archive on the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Bishop Albert LeGatt celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a priest June 19. In the diocese of Saskatoon, a celebration to mark the jubilee was held Oct. 29 at St. Patrick parish. Bishop LeGatt was ordained both a priest and a bishop by **Bishop Blaise Morand**, who recently retired as bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert.

After 30 years serving as secretary to bishops in the diocese of Saskatoon, **Lorraine Cheke** retired this year. A



Lorraine Cheke

retirement celebration was held to honour Lorraine June 25 at Holy Spirit parish hall, where friends, family, colleagues and coworkers recognized her years of service to the diocese. **Agnes Pelletier** is now serving as the bishop's assistant.

Several Oblate priests celebrated milestone anniversaries this year, and were honoured at a celebration June 11 at St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon, including **Fr. Leo Engel**, OMI, 70 years a priest and 75 years an Oblate. Others celebrating ordination anniversaries were **Fr. Valentine Fix**, 70 years; **Fr. Pius Leibel**, 65 years; **Fr. Alexander Shahun**, 60 years; **Fr. Douglas Jeffrey**, 25 years; as well as 50-year jubilarians **Fr. Sylvester Lewans**; **Fr. Albert Ulrich**; **Fr. Joe Zoller**; and former Oblate student **Fr. Lucien Larre**. Born in Regina and ordained June 12, 1938 in Poland, **Fr. Leo Engel**, 95, also celebrated in June with the Polish community at Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in Saskatoon.



Fr. André Poilièvre

Fr. André Poilièvre of Saskatoon was awarded the Order of Canada this year for his decades of work with youth struggling to overcome addiction and gang violence. Since he was ordained in 1962, Fr. André has served in parishes here and in the north, and spent 10 years working with disadvantaged youth at Joe Duquette High School, before serving for seven years as chaplain at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

A national award for outstanding leadership in Catholic education was presented to **Julian Paslawski** of Saskatoon June 7 at the annual convention of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) held in Brantford, Ontario. For more than 50 years Paslawski served in the field of Catholic education, as a teacher, administrator and as executive director for the Catholic Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. He retired in 2007.

Diocese of Saskatoon priest **Fr. Stefano Penna** was named Dean of Theology at Newman Theological College in Edmonton in July. Born and ordained in Saskatoon, Penna is an author, preacher and professor who has served on the faculty of St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta since 2002, teaching philosophy, theology and religious education.

Sr. Annella Pek, SSND, retired this year after almost 20 years working for the Marriage Tribunal in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Her career as a teacher took a shift in 1982 when Bishop Paul Reding of Hamilton, Ontario asked her to work on the diocese of Hamilton Marriage Tribunal. Pek returned to university and obtained her masters and her licentiate in Canon Law at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, becoming one of the first female canon lawyers and judges in Canada. She worked in the Hamilton Marriage Tribunal for five years before starting at the Saskatoon tribunal in 1989.



Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand (right) with Bishop Albert LeGatt, whom he ordained a priest in 1983 and a bishop in 2001.



Fr. Leo Engel, OMI



Julian Paslawski



Sr. Annella Pek

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

A "weekend away" in which engaged couples deepen their relationship and dialogue about their future together.

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster
March 20, 21, 22
April 17, 18, 19

Tanya and Todd Schuler 682-0777

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

St. Patrick Parish
7 - 9 p.m., nine Sundays
beginning Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009

3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon
Contact: Ron Frehlich, 384-1100

St. Philip Neri Parish
12:45 - 2:30 p.m., nine Sundays
beginning Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009
1904 Munroe Ave., Saskatoon
Contact: Simone Swayze 343-0325

St. Augustine Parish
Orientation 7 p.m. Sun. March 15
Weekend session: March 27-29
602 Boychuk Drive., Saskatoon
Contact: Terry LePage 373-3453

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Married couples take time during this weekend to rediscover one another and focus on their relationship in a loving encounter.

Feb. 6 to Feb. 8, 2009
Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon
May 1 to May 3, 2009
St Peter's Abbey, Muenster

Contact: Marc and Anita Loiselle
Phone: 306-258-2192
E-mail: loiselle@baudoux.ca
Web: www.wmcanada.org

Mahoney Institute of the Family supports community initiatives

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The positive influence that Bishop James Mahoney had on his community continues to resound after his death, with thousands of dollars donated each year in his name to projects strengthening family life.

Since it was created after the bishop of Saskatoon's death in 1995, the James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family has provided program grants to a wide-range of groups within the geographic boundaries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Over the years almost \$250,000 in grants have promoted stronger family life by empowering family members, fortifying relationships, and enhancing skills in such areas as parenting and conflict resolution. Support has also gone to educational initiatives and family support centres that strengthen parents and children.

"With the seed money that we provide, programs that are obviously required receive a helping hand," said institute founder and board member Peter Zakreski. "I think you plant a seed and you watch the crop grow."

As an example, he noted Family Ties, a Catholic Family Services program that matches families in a mentorship program of friendship and support. Receiving funding from the James P. Mahoney Institute for the Family in its early days, the Family Ties program has gone on to enrich many families. "Help at the right time can make a difference," Zakreski said.

Grant recipients last year included the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, Columbus Bosco Home, EGADZ, the Global Gathering Place, L'Arche Saskatoon, Partners for Rural Family Support, Retrouvaille, Tamara's House, the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, READ Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation, and programs within both public and Catholic separate schools.

"I'm very pleased that since the inception of the fund, we have grown it through investments to almost \$750,000," Zakreski said. That principal amount is never touched, but the interest it generates is awarded each year to worthy initiatives. Administration of the fund is provided through the Saskatoon Community Foundation.

The James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family's volunteer advisory board reviews applications for funding, awarding grants to family-related programs in consultation with Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt.

"We will not fund capital projects; only program initiatives related to family,"



Peter Zakreski



The James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family was established in memory of the late bishop.

- Photo courtesy of Bishop's Annual Appeal

Zakreski said, adding that those applying for funding do not have to be Catholic, but must reside within the geographic boundaries of the diocese. "That's the only restriction; there is no other restriction in terms of who may or may not apply for funding."

That open, family-centred philosophy is very much in the spirit of Bishop Mahoney himself, says Zakreski.

"It's significant that we're doing this within our Roman Catholic diocese for the benefit of the entire community and all the people within the boundaries," he said. "It was one aspect of Bishop James Mahoney, that religion didn't have bounds for him. He was friends with many and also a great shepherd for Catholics."

"Over the years, since our inception, we've probably funded in excess of 60 organizations in some form or fashion as a result of this initiative and always in the name of our friend Bishop Mahoney who did so much for us in the area of family life."

The well-remembered phrase "PPF - Put your Partner First" is one example of the solid teaching that Bishop Mahoney provided, Zakreski said.

"No matter whether he was your teacher or your parish priest, or your marriage counselor or your bishop, he certainly left his mark. He was a mentor - and in many, many ways. Not only in our religious beliefs but in our daily life, in our daily approach to life," said Zakreski. "His humour was infectious. We all need to laugh once in awhile and he would bring that out in all of us. He would always have a very strong message, but he had a knack of delivering that with humour. He'd hit you with some punch line that would just stay with you."

Establishing and operating the fund in memory of someone who did so much for the community has been extremely rewarding, he added. "This fund is absolutely making a difference to family life in the diocese. Bishop Mahoney would approve."

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT

7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday,
Dec. 12, at Holy Spirit
parish, 114 Kingsmere Place,
Saskatoon, for youth in Grades
9 to 12, featuring a speaker for
the Feast of Our Lady of
Guadalupe, followed by a
guitar hero/rock band
showdown. For more
information contact Sarah
Farthing at 242-1500; toll free:
1-877-661-5005; or speak to
your parish youth leader.

FREE THE CHILDREN

FUNDRAISING EVENING
Sunday, Dec. 14 at the
Odeon Events Centre in
Saskatoon - 6 p.m. dinner,
followed by a presentation
about a project to build a
school in Kenya, organized
by a Youth In Action group at
Bishop James Mahoney High
School. Tickets \$15. Contact:
Tom Saretsky at 659-7515.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ADVENT RETREAT

**Monday, Dec. 8 to Friday,
Dec. 12 at St. Therese
Institute of Faith and
Mission, Bruno, Sk.** with
internationally acclaimed
Catholic evangelist and
speaker, Jim Murphy.
Take in the full week, or
individual evening sessions.
Contact: 306-369-2555

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

**Jan. 16 to 18, 2009 at
Discernment House, 851
University Drive, Saskatoon** for
young men and women, 19
years and older, to take a
weekend and reflect on God's
presence in their personal
history. Other upcoming
discernment weekends include
Feb. 6-8: *Relationship with
Christ and prayer*; March 6-8:
Christian lifestyles. Contact:

Sr. Lucie Hamel or Sr. Evelyn
Nedelec, 244-0726 or email:
discernmenthouse@lycos.com

**DISCERNMENT PROGRAM
with the Sisters of the
Presentation of Mary, 851
University Drive, Saskatoon** for
young, single Catholic women
age 19 or older: an eight-
month live-in experience of
community life. Contact: Sr.
Lucie Hamel or Sr. Evelyn
Nedelec, 306-244-0726.

**NATIONAL THEOLOGY OF
THE BODY conference, June
5-7, 2009 at St. Patrick's
Parish in Saskatoon**, with
acclaimed speakers
Christopher West, Dr. Janet
Smith, Dr. Mary Martin and Dr.
Michael Waldstein. For more
information contact: 1-866-
966-7685 or visit the website
at: www.tobconference.ca