



### Lay Formation missioning 2009

Lay Formation graduates hold candles during the renewal of their baptismal promises at this year's missioning celebration. The first graduates of a unique Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program were among the 35 participants from three different streams sent forth to live out their baptism in the world.

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# Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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Fall 2009

## A Time For Hope:

Finally, Good News  
About Marriage!

March 19-20  
Saskatoon



[www.marriage2010.ca](http://www.marriage2010.ca)

### "Good News About Marriage"

The Marriage Task Force of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is hosting a national marriage enrichment conference March 19-20. Visit the website at [www.marriage2010.ca](http://www.marriage2010.ca) to download a brochure, or call the Catholic Pastoral Centre for more information: 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005. Register before Dec. 3 to be entered into a prize draw.

## Rooted in Christ vision explored at Congress

As the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon awaits the appointment of a new bishop, the entire diocesan faith family is being invited to continue with a five-year reflection on the *Rooted in Christ* Diocesan Vision.

The Diocesan Vision was launched last year by former Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt, who called for a five-year reflection on the call of the diocesan Church to be "*Rooted in Christ*."

The vision and its six priorities were explored in more depth at the first day of this year's Diocesan Congress Nov. 18 in Saskatoon.

During "Congress Day 1" at Queen's House, local speakers facilitated discussion about each of the six priorities in the *Rooted in Christ* vision.

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, led the reflection on **evangelization**, while Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, addressed **adult faith formation**.

Miles Meyers, religious education coordinator for Regina Catholic schools spoke about **liturgy and worship**, while Sr. Dianne Sehn, OSU, pastoral associate at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon, focused on **building and sustaining community**.

David Peacock, engaged learning coordinator at St. Thomas More College facilitated the



Local facilitators led discussions on the six themes of the Diocesan Vision during Congress Day 1, held Nov. 18 at Queen's House (from l-r): Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bryan Bayda, Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, Miles Meyers, Sr. Dianne Sehn, Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem and David Peacock. Congress Day 2 will be held in each of the seven deaneries across the diocese in the New Year, and will continue the focus on the vision.

sessions on **justice and peace**, while Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, pastor at Watson, Englefeld and St. Gregor, spoke about **strengthening diocesan unity**.

"Our vision of Church is to be rooted in Christ in all things, bringing God's love to all people," said Diane Cote, opening the Diocesan Congress.

Diocesan director of pastoral services Leah Perrault expressed a hope that many more ordinary Catholics will become engaged in

the Diocesan Vision, and will connect it to their own faith.

This year, the second day of Congress will take place in each of the seven deaneries, with an open invitation to all parishioners to attend the "Congress Day 2" when it is held in their area sometime in the New Year. Dates and times will be announced soon, said Perrault.

She encouraged people to find the vision and read it, noting that the document is posted at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com)

## Read through this edition of the Diocesan Newsletter for a chance to win \$100

Search through the pages of this edition of The Diocesan Newsletter to find the answers to these three questions and submit your entry to "**Newsletter Quiz**", Catholic Pastoral Centre, 100-5th Ave. N., Saskatoon, SK. S7K 2N7.

All entries will be entered into a draw for a \$100 cash prize. Contest deadline is Dec. 31, 2009.

1. Who is the new rural catechetics coordinator for the Eatonia Deanery?
2. What DVD by Fr. Ron Rolheiser is mentioned in the Resource Library column?
3. When did St. Gabriel parish at Biggar celebrate its centennial weekend?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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P. S. Any comments about the Newsletter?

Clip and Mail Entry to:  
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## In the mess of being Church, we encounter Christ

**BY LEAH PERRAULT, DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES  
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SASKATOON**

Last month, I attended a national conference with Church leaders from St. John's to Prince George. As people shared about the Church across Canada, I was inspired at what God is doing in our country. I also became increasingly grateful for the people who make up the Church in the diocese of Saskatoon.

For nearly 40 years, we have had bishops with incredible support of our lay people. We have many vibrant rural parishes who thrive with creativity despite fewer pastors than ever before. Our pastors, local and international, are serving generously alongside the many paid and volunteer lay ministers.

All of this is not to say that we don't face challenges. We're a small diocese with many small, rural parishes. At the moment, we are without a bishop again. Many have struggled hard to respond to the *Uniting in Faith* campaign. Some of us are fed up with yet another term on parish council. Still others are doubting the value of faith at all.

In the midst of the mess of being Church together, I am convinced that this is precisely the place where we encounter Christ. Jesus did not walk among us in a perfect society. We are awaiting the incarnate Christ-child this season, waiting for Him to be enfleshed in our broken world once more.

We often get caught up in longing for a Church that is without sin, without frustration, without challenges. While we wait for that Church to come, we must continue to recognize Jesus in the Church as it is today.

The diocesan family of faith can only rightly be understood as the relationship between many local parish communities, each with its own gifts, diversity and needs. Where is God's presence tangible in your parish? I have witnessed the enthusiasm of some of your young people. I have been moved by the determination of some of your parish councils to reach out to families no longer practicing their faith. I have been blessed by the resolve of rural parishes to do more than simply pay the bills. Each parish is offering us a vision of Jesus walking among us. Our challenge is to open our eyes to see Him and to celebrate with Him.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal, the ministries of the Catholic Pastoral Centre and the *Uniting in Faith* campaign have challenged us to work together, to support one another and to remember that the Church is larger than our own parish. The needs of each parish, however, are significant.

Over the last several years, staff at the Catholic Pastoral Centre have repeatedly heard that each parish is distinct and that you want us to come to you. As we await a new bishop, we are taking time to reflect on the Diocesan Vision and to

travel out to each deanery to hear your concerns and share your joy. Through the winter, each deanery will host a Congress day of discussion and dialogue with diocesan staff. We are coming out to listen to how we can support your parish. I am looking forward to meeting you, talking about local concerns and working with you to respond to them.

You do not have to wait for Congress to be held in your deanery in order to contact us. We would love to hear from you anytime, to hear how Christ is at work in your parish and community and to help you respond to new challenges in your local church.

Contact the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500, toll free: 1-877-661-5005 or e-mail: [directors@saskatoonrcdiocese.com](mailto:directors@saskatoonrcdiocese.com)



***Touching the Cloak*  
Leah Perrault**

## Western social justice leaders reflect on human trafficking

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

Representatives of diocesan social justice offices from across Western Canada gathered in Saskatoon Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.

The Western Conference for Social Justice annual gathering included discussion about the issues surrounding human trafficking and the sex trade – both internationally and in Canada – as well as an examination of Pope Benedict XVI's social encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*). The event was hosted by the Saskatoon diocesan Office for Justice and Peace.

Justice and Peace Coordinator Tony Haynes reported that the diocesan office was active during the year in the nationwide campaign

against human trafficking, following a call from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) to support CWL activities, Haynes said. The Justice and Peace office has also connected with the locally-based advocacy group Nashi, while promoting the work of the Saskatoon Police Service in addressing human trafficking.

Guest speakers at the conference Oct. 31 included Savelia Curniski of Nashi, which is raising awareness about the global issue of human trafficking. Nashi is working to help at-risk youth in Ukraine, one of the top seven "source" countries of trafficked persons in the world.

Speaker Cst. Hal Lam, Cultural Liaison Officer, Saskatoon Police Service, addressed the question of

human trafficking at the local level.

"The UN describes Canada as a transit, source and destination country for human trafficking," Lam said. In addition to international human trafficking, involving victims from other countries, domestic human trafficking also exists within Canada's borders, he said.

The priority is to get help for victims, Lam said, but that is complicated by the fact that victims of human trafficking, whether international or domestic, rarely come to the police for help, although they may go to churches or social agencies.

It is not necessary to cross a border for a crime to be considered human trafficking, Lam added.

Human trafficking involves exploitation and is a horrendous violation of human rights, he said. Unlike traffic in drugs or weapons, when it comes to human trafficking, the human "product" can be sold many times, he pointed out. Threats, fraud or violence are used to control a person for the purpose of exploitation.

Such exploitation might be within the sex trade, such as forcing a person into prostitution or to work in strip clubs, massage parlors or pornographic movies; or it might involve forced labour and servitude.

In Western Canada, Aboriginal women are at an extremely high risk for being trafficked, he said. "Some of the reserves in northern Saskatchewan, northern Alberta, northern Manitoba are almost like third world countries. The living conditions are



***Standing l-r*: Fr. Nestor Gregoire, OMI; Murray Haybittle of the archdiocese of Keewatin Le Pas; Tony Haynes of the diocese of Saskatoon; Bert Pitzel of the archdiocese of Regina; John Hillian of the diocese of Victoria; Sr. Johanna Jonker of the archdiocese of Winnipeg; Bob McKeon of the archdiocese of Edmonton; Deirdre Kelly of the diocese of Victoria. *Sitting (l-r)*: June Haybittle of the archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, Daniel Hahn of the archdiocese of Vancouver, Joe McMorrow of the diocese of St. Paul, and Antal Prokecz of the diocese of Calgary.**

very poor," Lam reported. "Because of all these factors it makes them easy prey for organized crime to go there and promise them a better life." Organized crime and gangs will target vulnerable persons, such as newcomers or runaways, he noted.

The longing for a better life also lies behind international human trafficking, where predators pretend to be employers or feign a love interest to entrap women seeking a way to improve their own life or help their family.

Victims don't seek help for a number of reasons, Lam said. Some have been brainwashed or threatened, others have come from countries where police are feared, and still others fear to dishonour their families – which is a huge factor in some cultures. Some traffickers threaten the families of their victims,

or use violence or addictions to control victims.

In Canada, residents of other countries who are rescued from trafficking situations are automatically given a temporary residence permit, which gives them access to health care and other services, he said, noting Canada has enacted new legislation to combat human trafficking that is open ended and easier to enforce.

In discussion, archdiocese of Vancouver representative Daniel Hahn noted the efforts of the CWL and others to raise awareness of the issue as it relates to the upcoming winter Olympics.

Sr. Johanna Jonker of the archdiocese of Winnipeg also spoke of efforts to work with Aboriginal leaders to raise awareness and address the problem.



### ***Stolen Sisters walk***

**Hundreds participated in an annual Stolen Sisters / Sisters in Spirit awareness walk Oct. 4 in Saskatoon. The event honoured missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada, and their families. For more on this event, please visit the website's news article archive at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)**

### **THE EDUCATION OF LAITY FUND**

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### ***St. Boniface inauguration***

**Former Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt was installed Sept. 21 as archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba.**

**Most Rev. Ron Beechinor is serving as diocesan administrator until a new bishop is appointed for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.**



***For coverage of the installation, the bishop's farewell, and reflections on Archbishop LeGatt's time as bishop of Saskatoon visit the diocesan website news archive: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)***

## Uniting in Faith campaign nears completion as construction start approaches for new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The new Holy Family Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is moving ahead. Tenders closed Nov. 13 for the project, and the contract will be awarded in the coming weeks. Construction is expected to begin in the New Year.

As the *Uniting in Faith* campaign enters its final phase at both the diocesan level and at Holy Family parish, success is imminent, said Don Gorsalitz, director of the Diocesan Development Office. Both campaigns will hopefully reach their goal early in the new year, he said. "Every day a new pledge comes in, bringing the overall goal in closer reach."

The new building in northeast Saskatoon will be a parish church for the growing Holy Family faith community, and will also serve as the diocesan Cathedral, replacing St. Paul's Cathedral, which has long been too small to be used for diocesan gatherings. St. Paul's will be designated a "Co-Cathedral" in recognition of its historic status, and will continue to serve as a busy downtown parish. As the new Catholic Pastoral Centre, the building will also be home to diocesan pastoral ministry and chancery offices, the diocesan Resource Library and the archives.

The departure of Bishop Albert LeGatt (who Sept. 21 was installed as archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba) will not affect the course of the project, said Gorsalitz.

A building committee led by chair Jim Nakoneshny, along with pastoral leadership from Fr. David Tumbach is moving the project forward just as planned.

"Our bishop showed the leadership required to get this project going to meet some crucial needs facing our diocesan faith family – and it is continuing as envisioned, to meet those ongoing needs," Gorsalitz said.

"The project is well on its way, and will continue as planned, step-by-step, according to principals of good stewardship and sound discernment," LeGatt said at the time of his appointment to St. Boniface.

"It has been undertaken to address urgent needs that will continue to exist, no matter who is serving as the bishop of Saskatoon," he stressed.

"The need for a new parish home for Holy Family, the lack

of a functioning cathedral for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and the severe space crunch at the existing Catholic Pastoral Centre are the factors that have prompted this project and have guided its development," LeGatt said.

"Answering these needs in this way is a hopeful sign of the present vibrant life of the diocese, and of its confident hope for the future."

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign's success lies in more than the financial effort, stresses Gorsalitz. "It has been successful in an even more crucial way – it has raised awareness about how each Catholic is connected to the diocese, and what is the diocesan role in supporting parishes and in leading the church in this time and place."

Whether people were positive or negative about the campaign, it initiated conversations and brought about new understandings – to the point that many who started out negative, eventually came around to support the project beyond all expectations, Gorsalitz said.

"People asked questions – lots of tough questions. They received answers, they considered those answers, and many then responded with great generosity," Gorsalitz said of the campaign, which has seen a response unmatched by other fund-raising campaigns in the province. "Rich and poor, urban and rural, people stretched themselves to participate in a meaningful and sacrificial way. And it is not the amounts that matter, as a recent Sunday scripture reading told us," said Gorsalitz. "The Spirit has been moving."

He said that he is most encouraged by the awareness that is developing as people across the diocese have started asking themselves questions about their commitment to Church, what their faith means to them, and how that translates into giving at both the diocesan and the parish level. Ultimately, it's about taking personal responsibility for the Church – "not someone else's: ours," he said.

"This has helped create a renewed awareness that this is our Church. Its strengths and its weaknesses are ours. What we do today influences the Church, its mission and its future in our families, our communities and our world. Our response – financially, spiritually and in every way – matters."



**Site of new diocesan home**  
*Uniting in Faith* diocesan chairs Barry and Giselle Frank, then-Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt and building chair Jim Nakoneshny (l-r) stand at the site of the new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

The diocese is building to accommodate its current needs, and with sound planning for the future, said Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the diocese. The diocesan services coordinated from the Catholic Pastoral Centre have outgrown the existing building, and the capacity to respond effectively to pastoral needs depends on adequate space, said Perrault.

"Our hopes and dreams for increased ministry, increased service, more programming, greater outreach – it all is contingent upon space from which to operate," said Perrault. "Programs like rural catechetics, youth ministry, Lay Formation, vocations, hospital chaplaincy are a huge part of the vitality of our diocese. We know we can do more in all these areas and more and building our capacity to respond in these and so many other areas is what this *Uniting in Faith* campaign is about," she said. "We're taking steps to enfold those dreams, to make them a reality. This new building will be the beginning of growth and renewal in all those areas."

## Parish Life Director appointed to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Mary Jacobi has been appointed full-time Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Saskatoon, succeeding longtime Parish Life Director Verna Vandale who is experiencing major health problems.

"The diocese and Guadalupe parish have a great debt of gratitude for the wonderful work that Verna has done in our midst and for the

Aboriginal community," said Diocesan Administrator Fr. Ron Beechinor. Parish Life Directors and Priest Moderators are appointed to parishes by the diocese and serve as a pastoral team.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Priest Moderator Fr. Bill Bernard, CSsR, introduced Jacobi to parishioners Oct. 25.

Jacobi's appointment leaves vacant a part-time position as Parish Life Director of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Martensville. Fr. Joseph Choji, the present Priest Moderator at Martensville, will serve as administrator of Martensville as well as at St. Mark's in Langham until Jan. 3.

At that time Fr. Choji will begin working

as pastor for Watrous, Imperial, Liberty and Young. He is replacing Fr. Emmanuel Banahene, who will begin serving as Priest Moderator of St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon as of Jan. 3. Present St. Philip Priest Moderator Fr. Joseph Nsiah will be returning to his home diocese in Africa, having now completed his doctorate in Saskatoon.

## National Pro-Life Convention held in Saskatoon

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Some 250 people gathered in Saskatoon for a National Pro-Life Conference Oct. 29-31, discussing life issues and strengthening connections among different facets of the pro-life movement.

"Building Bridges: Making choices for life" was the theme of the three-day conference that included annual meetings for

LifeCanada and Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association, several keynote speakers, panel discussions, prayer services, and a Friday evening banquet.

"No pro-life organization has it all," said Nicole Pyle, chair of the conference committee. "We must help each other reach our vital goals to save babies, to help women make informed decisions, to make sure that

those hurting because of an abortion know that God loves them and is ready to heal their silent pain, and now (we have) a new goal, to tell our seniors and our parents that we love them, and we want them to live until our Creator takes them," said Pyle.

Pregnancy centres, crisis lines, pro-life education centres, websites like Pro Woman Pro Life, groups such as Birthright, Rachel's Vineyard, Silent No More, and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, as well as political pro-life organizations, all have a role to play in the pro-life movement, she said.

Jim Hughes of Campaign Life coalition said it is important to know that pro-life work makes a difference. For instance, a *Pennies for the Unborn* campaign started by his own mother has raised more than \$100,000.

Hughes also related how a woman came into the Campaign Life office to say that seeing the signs displayed at a Life Chain demonstration changed her mind about having an abortion – as a result, her five-year-old daughter is alive today. "It is all worth it," he said.

In an opening keynote Oct. 29, Andrea Mrozek described her efforts to deliver the message that abortion harms women – in particular through her website and blog "Pro Woman Pro Life." Mrozek said she hopes to fill a niche in getting out the pro-life message, focusing in particular on young women – "people who only ever heard one side of the argument."

In his address opening sessions Oct. 30, Rev. James Lamb, executive director of Lutherans for Life in the United States, spoke about the scriptural and faith imperative to

imitate Christ and "cherish the children" because each one is precious to God.

"Scripturally, a child is anyone who is vulnerable and in need, who needs to be loved, who needs to be cherished, who needs to be protected," Lamb said, adding that as the hands and feet of Christ, Christians have Jesus himself to offer to those who are despised, suffering, and downtrodden."

"We are for life because God is for life," he said, adding that the struggle for life is taking place within the victory that Christ has already won. "We need more of our fellow Christians to wake up and move out and make a difference as shining lights in the world."

Other conference speakers included Ezra Levant, who addressed issues surrounding human rights commissions; Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (see story about Schadenberg's message on Page 5); Dr. Larry Reynolds, a family physician from Winnipeg; Samantha Singson, director of government relations for the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute; John-Henry Westen, co-founder of LifeSite News; Winnipeg-South MP Rod Bruinooge, a member of the multi-party pro-life caucus; and Rev. Louis DiRocco, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kingston who worked fulltime for Campaign Life Coalition for a number of years as a pro-life lobbyist at the United Nations.

A student panel included Leah Hallman of the University of Calgary; Renee Schmitz, assistant western director of the National Campus Life Network; and Dax Rumsey of the University of Saskatchewan.



**Life Chain**

Saskatoon was one of hundreds of communities across Canada, and thousands more in the United States, that marked the first Sunday of October by holding Life Chain demonstrations, calling for an end to abortion. The Saskatoon event Oct. 4 was organized by Campaign Life Coalition, and was held at the busy intersection of Idylwyld and 22 St.

# Power of parables explored at Study Days

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Representatives of parishes and ministries from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon recently gathered for the annual diocesan Study Days.

Lay, ordained and religious – including pastors, pastoral teams, and parish staff; diocesan ministry coordinators; Diocesan Pastoral Council members and deanery representatives – participated in the two days of enrichment and reflection Oct. 14 and 15 at St. Patrick Parish Centre in Saskatoon.

Following up on last year's Study Days, when facilitator David Wells told parish and ministry leaders that "you are the plan," the theme of the 2009 gathering was "you are the parable."

Facilitators John Thompson, Gertrude Rompré and Glenn Hilton focused on how those in ministry can bring forth their own stories and experiences as "parables" that connect to the "everyday parables" of others in our world and to the gospel message about God's unconditional love.

Rompré, a member of the St. Thomas More campus ministry team, began by noting two impulses that are reflected in the *Rooted in Christ* Diocesan Vision – "root" and "branch" desires.

The desire to be rooted leads us to seek community, celebration and nourishment, while "branch desires" call us to reach out in mission, evangelization and social justice, Rompré said, noting that both impulses are contained in the six priorities of the Diocesan Vision.

"I think true leadership is rooted in Christ, although that is not an image most of us have of leadership," said Thompson, a retired professor of sociology and former president of St. Thomas More College who now works with the Leadership Saskatoon program.

Hilton, hired as part-time human resources consultant for the diocese in January 2009, pointed to the Diocesan Vision to be *Rooted in Christ* as a touchstone for discussions about ministry and leadership in the diocese. "I've come to realize how important vision, mission, values, and objectives are for leaders to keep in front of them all the time, so that people know where they are going," Hilton said.

## Personal parables

Opening with a consideration of "personal parables," the Study Days team encouraged those in attendance to pray and reflect upon the "ah-ha moments" in their personal stories of ministry and faith.

Rev. Kevin McGee, pastor at St. Patrick, St. Michael and St. Peter the Apostle parishes; Sharon Powell, pastoral associate at St. Augustine parish, and Michelle Sieben, rural catechetics coordinator in the Kerrobert deanery, led the way, reflecting on memorable moments of their ministry, before the group was invited to recall and share their own "personal parables."

"The extraordinary is in the ordinary," said Thompson of the discussion. "When God is at work, the extraordinary is there."

## New Rural Catechetics coordinator for Eatonia Deanery admires the many unsung heroes who teach the faith

Darlene Cooper is ready and eager to support catechists working across Eatonia Deanery in the southwest corner of the diocese.

As the diocesan rural catechetics coordinator for the deanery, Cooper's role is to provide support and resources to parish volunteers and pastors who are teaching the faith to the next generation.



**Darlene Cooper**  
- Photo by Sarah France

"I am really honoured to be able to get to know the people in all the parishes of the Eatonia Deanery and to meet all of the unsung heroes out there: all the parents and volunteers, the moms and the grandmas who are stepping up to the plate. I'm so humbled by their gifts of time and talent," says Cooper.

As a mother who raised three children in the small rural community of Foam Lake, Cooper recognizes the challenges and blessings of being a parish catechist, responsible week in and week out for teaching children their

faith – something she did for many years.

"I can really relate to the joys and struggles in these smaller communities. I understand what it means to have two or three students. We live by that model in small towns," she says.

Cooper, who recently moved to Saskatoon, began



**Gertrude Rompré, John Thompson and Glen Hilton (l-r) facilitated Study Days in the diocese of Saskatoon.**

Everyday parables in the world were also encountered in three videos presented to the group: an address by musician and activist Bono at a prayer breakfast in 2006; brain researcher Jill Bolte Taylor's account of the insights she gained into the brain and its recovery when she herself suffered a stroke; and a talk about classical music by conductor Benjamin Zander.

Although not explicitly religious, each of the video presentations featured people of conviction and passion, pursuing something beyond themselves, Thompson noted, before encouraging the group to reflect on the presentations through the lens of Christian faith.

## Unconditional love of God

Parables help us to see the truth that exists below the surface, Thompson said, noting how often Jesus uses story to convey the unconditional love of God.

"The power of the parable is very profound," Thompson said, citing the discovery of one author that those who are familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan are more likely to help a stranger in need than those who do not know the story.

The Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Good Shepherd and Jesus' description of the vine and the branches were among the gospel parables explored in small group settings during Study Days.

working with the diocese of Saskatoon in the development office earlier this year. When the Eatonia Deanery position opened, she was delighted to take on this new role as well.

She is now getting to know the deanery, making road trips and meeting people "face to face."

The support of other members of the diocesan rural catechetics team has been phenomenal, she notes. It is also important to recognize the great leadership that exists in our small parishes, adds Cooper. She herself acknowledges the inspiration she received when she was mentored by another parent in her parish community: Cecile Halyk of Foam Lake.

Cooper says her goal is to let parents and volunteers know that they are empowered with the gifts needed to become teachers and leaders in the faith.

"I can relate to the parents who are trying to do this for their kids. I'm just a regular mom, and I've struggled too, wondering if I had what it takes to teach catechism," she says.

"But in today's world, in these times... never before have our children so needed to be rooted in Christ. By giving them this faith, it's the one rudder they will always have to help them navigate the challenges of everyday life."

Cooper will be working with Eatonia Deanery parishes at Burstall, Dodsland, Eatonia, Eston, Fox Valley, Kindersley, Lancer, Leader, Liebenthal, Marengo, Prelate, and Richmond. Cooper can be reached by calling the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 1-877-661-5005, or by e-mailing: ruralcateatonia@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

For more information about the diocesan Rural Catechetics program, which is funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, please visit the diocesan website at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/ruralcat/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/ruralcat/index.cfm)

## Leaders in Foam Lake

In considering the nature of Christian leadership, Hilton introduced the work of a group of women in Foam Lake, Sk., who created a series of "Breast Friends" cookbooks to raise money in support of breast cancer research and treatment – another "everyday parable" of dedicated people making a difference.

"Breast Friends" member Darlene Cooper described how 10 women who were impacted by cancer among friends and family got together to work on a cookbook, which has now turned into a series of books that have become national bestsellers, raising over \$1 million to help fight cancer.

"We were small in number, from a community of 1,200 – we were 10 very ordinary women who have managed to do extraordinary things, I believe by the grace of God and many small miracles," said Cooper who works as a diocesan rural catechetics coordinator in the Eatonia deanery as well as in the diocesan Development Office (below left).

The cookbooks come from ordinary "salt of the earth" prairie families, said Cooper.

The women from Foam Lake took on coordination of all the details of book production and funded the publication on their own.

After the first cookbook was successfully launched, cancer came into Cooper's own life, when her husband Kevin was diagnosed in late 2004 and died in April 2005.

"That was the catalyst for book two: part of our pain and journey, and particularly to help me out, to get me out to meetings once a week, and to carry on." The second book was a bestseller before it went to print.

"Cancer is not easy, it is very prevalent, and it is systemic and it's in all of our lives," said Cooper, describing how the series continued with the third book "Breast Wishes" which focuses on hope, survival and good news.

Thompson pointed to the Breast Friends group as an example of servant leadership at work. He asserted that rather than asking "Am I a leader?" the better question is "How am I a leader?"

Authentic and effective leadership begins from the inside out, he said, stressing the importance of passion, conviction and commitment.

Successful leaders are a "paradoxical combination of deep personal humility and fierce resolve," Thompson noted, stressing the importance of mission and vision.

Discussion about the six priorities of the Diocesan Vision – evangelization, ongoing faith formation, liturgy and worship, building and sustaining community, justice and peace, and strengthening the diocese – concluded Study Days.

This year, the annual Diocesan Congress did not happen in conjunction with Study Days but took place later in the year – with "Congress Day 1," a diocesan gathering, held Nov. 18 (see article on Page 1), and "Congress Day 2" happening in each of the seven deaneries of the diocese in the New Year. The focus will be the Diocesan Vision.



## Kingdom party flu precaution

Youngsters use hand sanitizer as a precaution against the H1N1 flu during a Kingdom Party held Oct. 31 at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon. (Other temporary flu-fighting measures such as not shaking hands at the sign of peace, emptying holy water fonts and not offering the common communion cup have been implemented in parishes across the diocese.) The annual Kingdom Party at Our Lady of Lourdes is organized as an alternative to Halloween. Participants at the parish family event dressed up as saints, Biblical figures and members of God's creation and God's kingdom. Four teams competed in various games and activities during the event, which also included worship, supper and a family dance.



## Nearly 160 faith enrichment sessions available to parishes through diocesan Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Nearly 160 different faith enrichment sessions are available to parishes and organizations in the diocese through the Foundations office at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

Diocesan Foundations coordinator Marci Deutscher has built up the extensive list, finding qualified local speakers to address a wide range of topics – everything from a reflection on the psalms to the need for forgiveness; from the church's teaching on annulments to the theology of Johnny Cash; from human trafficking to embryonic stem cell research; from supporting those who are grieving to nurturing spirituality in the family; from movies that matter to planning a Christian funeral.

Every year, dozens of parishes take advantage of the Foundations structure to provide enrichment sessions, particularly in the seasons of Advent and Lent – which so many Catholics continue to honour as a time to work on spiritual and faith development.

Deutscher is also encouraged by the success that some parishes have in offering and promoting Foundations in creative ways.

Some parishes have tried running a Foundations session after Mass on a Sunday, in conjunction with a brunch or breakfast, she notes. Others plan Foundations as an enrichment for their RCIA program, and then invite the parish at large to join the candidates and catechumens. Another idea is for a group in the parish – such as the CWL or the liturgy committee – to organize a session for their members and then advertise it more widely within the parish as well.

Some parishes – especially those in rural areas – also make an extra effort to advertise some of their Foundations sessions among other Christian denominations in the broader community, observes Deutscher.

Deutscher said she would love to see the number of Foundations programs increase – especially in parishes that have never had a session.

A requirement that a parish have at least 15 people registered is now optional, to make it easier for smaller parishes to consider holding a session.

Participants pay \$5 per for each two-hour session, which goes toward offsetting honorarium and mileage costs for speakers.

"As a community, we don't want to charge the rural areas any more than the city," said Deutscher. Fees from well-attended sessions can help offset the mileage costs incurred when speakers travel across the diocese to lead sessions in rural areas.



Foundations coordinator Marci Deutscher (right) with Sr. Teresita Kambeitz who led a popular 10-part series on St. Paul.

In past years, Foundations sessions were often offered as a series of five or six evenings, but that kind of in-depth session does not seem to be what parishes are looking for, she notes. As a result, most offerings in the Foundations catalogue now involve a single session, or perhaps two. "But if a speaker comes to a parish, and people find they'd like to go more in depth into a particular subject area, I would be happy to work with them to arrange a follow-up session," added Deutscher.

Last year the diocesan Foundations office went beyond the usual one- or two-night sessions offered by parishes, to organize a 10-part session for the Year of St. Paul, facilitated by Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU. It was a great success – attendance ranged from about 40 to almost 100 participants in different sessions over the course of the year. There was no pre-registration required for the hour-long monthly sessions, and a free-will offering was collected at the door. People appreciated the flexibility – and the excellent speaker, said Deutscher.

Following on that success, the Foundations office this year offered a four-part session with Fr. Paul Facht, OMI, looking at the death and resurrection of Jesus in each of the four gospels. The final session of the "Baptized into the Death of Jesus" series will run 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Bishop Mahoney Hall.

Another new initiative has been *Theology Uncorked* – which grew out of the interest older adults were taking in the topics being addressed by the young adult *Theology On Tap* ministry, described Deutscher. *Theology Uncorked* brings in a speaker to launch discussion on a topic of interest in a casual lounge setting. It is being offered twice a year, in fall and spring.



Young adults gather for "Faith - Live!"

St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon, held an event Nov. 1 for young adults called "Faith - Live!" Seventeen young adults from all over the city came to talk about faith using videos found on websites such as YouTube that communicated different aspects of faith. This was followed by food, hanging out, good music and games. Watch for further notices of events in parish bulletins, Diocesan Newsletters and on Facebook. - Photo submitted by St. Mary's parish

## Schadenberg stresses need to be clear about euthanasia

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

It is vital to be absolutely clear about what euthanasia and assisted suicide actually involve, said Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition in an address Oct. 30 at a National Pro-Life Conference in Saskatoon (see related article on Page 3).

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are about one person directly and intentionally ending the life of another person, said Schadenberg. He described how euthanasia advocates will use terms like "aid in dying" and "compassionate choices" to try to win support for the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

"Bill C-384 is not about the right to die with dignity. This bill is not creating better access to actual palliative care," said Schadenberg. Rather it is an attempt to give medical practitioners the right to directly take someone else's life, he stressed.

Euthanasia is not the same as withholding or refusing aggressive or unwanted medical treatment, Schadenberg said.

"Every day in our hospitals we remove life-sustaining medical treatment from some people who are actually dying. But that's not euthanasia. That's natural death. That person dies of their medical condition," he said.

Using high dosages of pain medication to kill pain is not euthanasia. It becomes euthanasia only if the intention is to kill the patient, said Schadenberg. "We're about caring for people, not killing them."

Bill C-384 is the latest attempt to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada, introduced as a private members bill by Francine Lalonde, a Parti Quebecois MP. It will have its second hour of debate Dec. 1, and the vote is now scheduled for Dec. 2.

Schadenberg examined the bill in detail, saying it was virtually without safeguards.

"It's not limited to the terminally ill, it does not require having tried effective treatment," he said. Bill C-384 stated that a person requesting euthanasia or assisted suicide must "appear to be lucid," but that is not the same as actually being lucid, Schadenberg stressed. "Can the person who lives with chronic depression, who 'appears to be lucid', make a free choice? Choice is a lie."

The bill did not define terminal illness, he added, noting that many have conditions that are terminal, particularly if we refuse treatment – for instance, someone with diabetes who refuses insulin has a terminal illness.

The bill did not require a witness at the time of death, and permits "after the fact" reporting.

Legislation like Bill C-384 threatens the lives of people with disabilities and chronic conditions, because their situation is often perceived as having "no prospect of relief," said Schadenberg.

Judgments and perceptions about someone else's quality of life are not necessarily accurate or valid, he said. He said that one of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition's greatest allies in the political arena is the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

Schadenberg noted a report revealing that 550 people were euthanized without consent in the Netherlands in 2005.

Many are fearful and concerned about end of life care and want compassionate palliative treatment, he said. Polls are showing that Canadians also have serious reservations about how euthanasia and assisted suicide might impact the disabled, the elderly, and patient-doctor trust, Schadenberg said.

## Courage team from Calgary talks about ministry to those with same-sex attraction

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

After a number of inquiries about Catholic ministry for persons who struggle with same-sex attraction, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon invited the Courage team from the diocese of Calgary to facilitate a dialogue on pastoral care for the homosexual person.

Ministry leaders from parishes, Catholic schools and various ministries in the diocese gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral Sept 18 to hear from Michael Soentgerath and Norline Johnson, who direct the Courage Apostolate in the diocese of Calgary.

Courage is a ministry of support for those struggling with same-sex attraction who are trying to live in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality. The Encourage Apostolate offers support to parents, siblings, children and other relatives and friends of those struggling with same-sex attraction.

The Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Services for the diocese of Calgary, Michael Soentgerath approached Bishop Fred Henry in 2006 about providing

pastoral care for homosexual persons in the diocese. Norline Johnson, who coordinates Project Rachel for the Calgary diocese, joined Michael Soentgerath in providing the Courage and Encourage outreach.

Michael Soentgerath described it as a "ministry of presence" that affirms the goodness and lovability of the human person. The ministry focuses on helping individuals come to terms with the truth of who they are, that they are loved by God, and, like all of us, called to live the virtue of chastity.

Johnson and Soentgerath both expressed the need for dialogue in our communities, recognizing that we all are sinners in need of God's love and healing.

"I definitely think there will only be fruit when we have the courage to invite the homosexual person to the table and when we come to listen to their story," said Soentgerath. "As long as our mindset is about 'them' versus 'us' we are operating out of a paradigm of Church, which in the eyes of God, I don't think exists. There is no 'them' and 'us' – there is only us."

Compassionate listening, patience and

confidentiality are all vital in offering the ministry, said Norline Johnson.

As with all pastoral ministry, outreach can be complicated when there are other issues involved, including addictions and a history of strained family relationships, she noted.

There is a great need to educate people to tackle the misunderstandings and myths about same-sex attraction, Johnson added.

"For a lot of people, when they hear that someone has a same-gender attraction, they treat them differently, they think differently of them, as if their whole persona changes. It's still the same person," she said. "It's really about treating people with dignity and respect; with compassion. These are children of God. They need to know that they are loved, and accepted, and cared for. And that doesn't mean treating them differently than we treat everybody else."

Soentgerath highlighted that the virtue of chastity is a challenge for all of us, not just the person struggling with same-sex attraction. Growth in this area affords much patience and perseverance for all, he said.

The group heard about ongoing efforts of

Catholic school districts to be inclusive communities and to provide a safe place for every student. Soentgerath said that parishes should also be embracing that challenge.

"I would hope and pray that every homosexual Catholic could see their parish as a safe place of refuge, an oasis," he said, "(A place) where they walk in the door, are affirmed, and people offer their hand at the sign of peace; where they know they can stand in the pew and people know who they are and communicate that they are loved members of the mystical Body of Christ."

During the discussion, those in attendance shared experiences, joys and challenges in providing pastoral care to those with same sex attraction.

Leah Perrault, Director of Pastoral Services for the diocese of Saskatoon, expressed appreciation to those who gathered for the dialogue, noting that while there are no current plans for the establishment of a formal ministry office, the conversation is an important step in providing more comprehensive pastoral care across the diocese.

## New Beginnings winds up after 28 years of ministry to those who are separated, divorced, widowed

BY BLAKE SITTLER

New Beginnings, the diocese of Saskatoon's separation, divorce and widowed ministry for the last 28 years, retired its ministry May 30 at Queen's House.

Attended by over 80 of the ministry's past participants and team members, the evening consisted of a banquet, many stories, and a closing candle-lit liturgy.

The closure event was organized by members of the remaining ministry team as well as the office of Marriage and Family Life for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Some participants who had greatly benefited from the ministry expressed regret and shock at news of the closure of New Beginnings. A number of those present at the banquet and liturgy asked if New Beginnings could be saved or revamped to continue.

While the retirement of New Beginnings was a surprise to some, members of the current team said that there were many societal changes that led to the closure.

Long-time team member Vera Rosin, who helped to coordinate the final night, said, "It was time for New Beginnings to retire ... because currently people are no longer interested in [being] on the team for six months."

Fr. Gene Warnke, OMI, New Beginnings' chaplain agreed with Rosin's assessment and elaborated on why he thought New Beginning's was retiring, "It's a new generation of divorced and separated people that don't see the need to have a three-day retreat... Widowed individuals are being taken care of by funeral homes and parishes," said Fr. Warnke.

When New Beginnings came to Saskatoon in 1981, Catholics who separated or divorced experienced alienation and a lack of support from their parish. Fr. Warnke noted that while the stigma around separation and divorce is now less than it was 30 years ago, there is still work to be done.

"People still don't get all the support they could from their parish," Fr. Warnke noted.

Fr. Warnke thanked New Beginnings for making him a better priest. "For me, the greatest thing was to see the people grow in their personal confidence, in accepting themselves again," he said. "In



Those involved with New Beginnings gathered to wind up the ministry after 28 years of reaching out to those who are separated, divorced and widowed. New ministries are being developed in the diocese of Saskatoon to meet these needs, including "Divorce and Beyond" and "Transitions."

seeing their growth, I realized I was healing, too."

Many of the alumni spoke at an open mike, sharing how New Beginnings gave them a community at a time in their life when they felt most alone. Several participants shared the same reflection, "New Beginnings saved my life."

One woman who was on the first weekend in November 1981 said she arrived in need of much support, "I needed lots of hugs and I got them." On a later weekend, when she was on the team, she met the man who is now her husband of 20 years.

One man shared his experience of when his wife died, "I was angry with God and I was angry with the Church. New Beginnings cared for me and 20 years later these people are still etched in my heart."

"I'm saddened to see it go," he continued, "but I know that it takes a lot of people to run it... it takes a lot of commitment once a week for six months. It's rewarding and healing but I guess things have just changed."

Bishop Albert LeGatt sent a letter in which he shared his admiration and appreciation for the team members who reached out from their own experience of loss. "You did not allow your pain to make you bitter," the bishop said. "Instead you reached out to others to offer healing, and even your own tears, on a common journey touched by much pain but also by much hope."

Part of the formal ceremony included time for the participants to write notes about their experience with New Beginnings. These notes were then offered to God symbolically by burning them in a

fire. This was a ritual also practiced on the New Beginnings retreat weekend.

Participants held lit candles aloft to symbolize that the New Beginnings participants will take their healing out into the world.

"That's what New Beginnings was all about," one participant said, "healing, supporting each other and moving on. I met my husband here in 1983 and I've been happy since."

Near the end of the evening, everyone gathered in a circle to say their final farewells to New Beginnings. Many people were hugging, sharing well-wishes and crying. Some former team members gathered to take one last team photo.

The diocese of Saskatoon's office of Marriage and Family Life has recently initiated two alternative separation and divorce ministries. For individuals only recently separated or divorced there is a group called **Divorce & Beyond**. For individuals separated or divorced longer than a year, there is a program called **Transitions**. Both are 12-week support groups.

The office of Marriage and Family Life is also in the process of consulting individuals and groups to design a support group for widowed individuals.

For more information about any of these new ministries, or to volunteer to help with this outreach, contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at the Catholic Pastoral Centre by calling 242-1500 or toll free at 1-877-661-5005; e-mail: mindev@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

*Marriage and Family Life is one of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*



### Rocktober rosaries

Youth gathered for a Dig Into God (DIG) diocesan youth event in October created rosary bracelets. The evening for Grades 9 to 12 youth also included prayer, reflections, games, activities, and Rockband video game competitions. Other DIG events organized in the diocese this fall have included trips to Pike Lake and to the diocese of Prince Albert Youth Rally. For more information about youth events visit: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm)

## Pilgrims are preparing for 2011 World Youth Day to be held in Madrid, Spain

BY COLM LEYNE, DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE

A group of 32 pilgrims from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will be travelling to Madrid in August 2011 for World Youth Day.

The pilgrimage will begin in Rome, with visits to many holy places such as the tomb of Pope John Paul II whose vision brought about World Youth Day (WYD). The pilgrims will also visit Assisi and reflect on the lives of St. Francis and St. Claire before continuing the journey to Santiago de Compostela.

The group will arrive at the end of the famous pilgrim walk to visit the Basilica of St. James. Finally there will be a week in Madrid, with visits to Toledo and Avila, and an encounter with Pope Benedict and millions of other young people excited about their faith at World Youth Day. Please pray for and support the pilgrims representing our diocese as they journey in their faith, both now and on the trip.

Pope John Paul II called us to bring forth a new evangelization. To engage the youth and young adults in this mission, new methods and approaches are needed – whether that's from the diocesan office or the way in which we are hospitable in our parishes.

For instance, take the launching of [www.xt3.com](http://www.xt3.com) – the method by which Pope Benedict XVI recently sent me an email. Through this social network, one can connect freely to thousands of people, listen



Youth Ministry  
Colm Leyne

to recordings of catechesis sessions from WYD, watch videos from WYD, share prayer requests and get the latest on Madrid 2011 at *iActiv8* which has been designed for those planning to travel to Madrid on their own or as a group.

You are welcome to email [youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com](mailto:youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com) with any questions about World Youth Day – or call 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

*Let us pray together: May the words of Pope Benedict from WYD 2008 in Australia ring true as we journey towards Madrid: we pray that this will be a conversion experience of "a new Upper Room, from which all of us, burning with the fire and love of the Holy Spirit, go forth to proclaim the Risen Christ and to draw every heart to him!" Amen.*

**Youth ministry is funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.**

Check out the Youth page on our diocesan website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm)



Resource Library  
Fran Turner

## Materials available for those seeking to nourish heart, mind and soul

BY FRAN TURNER, RESOURCE LIBRARY

A trip to the diocesan Resource Library will supply you with some good materials for prayer, meditation and reflection as the Advent and Christmas seasons approach.

*Just As You Are* by Paul Coutinho, SJ is a book that will help open your life to the infinite love of God. Many of us think we must, in some way, earn God's love, and put a lot of effort into trying to obtain it by "getting it right." Yet God already loves us and simply asks that we embrace this amazing love and live in it on a daily basis.

*Praying Scripture for a Change* by Dr. Tim Gray introduces the ancient technique known as "lectio divina," a method of prayer that helps us to hear God speak through scripture. This book offers a practical and effective way to enhance your prayer life.

*When's God Gonna Show Up?* by Marge

Fenelon draws on the everyday experiences of a Catholic wife and mother to discover God's presence in the small events of daily life. These short, poignant reflections offer scripture passages and questions for individual contemplation or group discussion.

*Journey for Home* is a compact disc which presents an encouraging collection of spoken and musical reflections that are scripture-based. This CD could be used for private prayer, small groups or as prayer for any type of religious education session. The reflections and music are done by Deanna Light and Paul Tate.

The book *Home Tonight* was recently published using material that formed the basis of a small workshop Henri Nouwen gave inspired by Rembrandt's painting of the prodigal son.

Finally a video retreat may be just the way to take some time away from the busyness of this

season. A new DVD available at the diocesan Resource Library is *Creating Sabbath Space in our Lives* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI. It consists of 10 video sessions of about 30 minutes each that can be used privately or by a small faith-sharing group.

Funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Resource Library has many other materials to help you in your spiritual life.

Drop in and see what is available at 100 - 5th Ave. North, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday; or check out the collection online: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com) (click on "Resources"). Materials can also be reserved by phoning Fran Turner at 242-1500 or toll-free at 1-877-661-5005.

Resources are also available at the Humboldt Resource Centre branch, located at 521-7th St., Humboldt (south door); call: (306) 682-4536.

## Three groups walk together in Lay Formation program: growing in faith, deepening prayer life and building community over two years

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A two-year process of Catholic faith formation recently concluded for 35 participants from across the province involved in a unique three-stream program offered in Saskatoon, with support from the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

"This weekend, we celebrate for the first time anywhere in the world a very great blessing," said Lay Formation coordinator Kathy Hitchings during the missioning celebration at St. Anne parish. "For the past two years, Ukrainian and Roman Catholics, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal walked together with each other in study, prayer and community, as they formed together in faith."

The three streams of Lay Formation – Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, and Catholic Aboriginal – journeyed together for one weekend a month over two years in a program of spiritual growth, study and learning, within a community of faith and friendship.

Eleven members of the inaugural class of the Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program offered jointly by the Roman Catholic dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin-Le Pas, completed the Lay Formation program in the spring, and were missioned along with 16 fellow graduates from the diocese of Saskatoon, and eight from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

During a joyful Eucharistic celebration June 7 at St. Anne parish, Roman Catholic graduates were anointed by their respective bishops: Bishop Albert LeGatt of Saskatoon, Bishop Albert Thevenot, MAFR, of Prince Albert, and Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, of Keewatin-Le Pas. The Ukrainian Catholic participants were anointed the day before, June 6, by Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSSR, at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic parish in Saskatoon.

Participants in the three streams of the Lay Formation program spent the last two years learning much from each other, noted Bishop Albert LeGatt in his homily, describing the "rich tapestry that makes up our faith."

LeGatt stressed the importance of coming to know God and giving him glory in all things. "The one, prime goal of any formation is to come to know God more fully in a personal way, deepening that relationship, and knowing that relationship finds its strength in being shared and discovered with one another."



Bishop Albert LeGatt blesses graduate Gayle Weenie of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon.

**A new group of Year 1 Lay Formation students began the program in September, including the second session ever offered of the unique Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation stream. For more information about the diocesan Lay Formation program call the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500 or see:**

**[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/lay\\_formation/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/lay_formation/index.cfm)**

In acknowledgment of the diversity experienced during the Lay Formation program, the Roman Catholic celebration incorporated several languages, as well as Aboriginal elements, such as smudging, an honour song and praying the Great Amen in the four directions.

As well, a star blanket was used for the gift collection, with people coming forward to place their offering on the blanket. The offering was directed to the Steven Ballantyne Bursary Fund, established in the memory of a former Lay Formation participant to help offset costs for participants from northern communities.

In a celebration during the final weekend, Aboriginal Lay Formation valedictorian Dolores Greyeyes Sand of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Marcellin expressed appreciation for the opportunity to journey together in faith with people of different backgrounds and traditions.

"We've shared so much in these two years. We've shared our cultures, our spirituality – and we've shared many laughs," Greyeyes Sand said, noting the many beautiful and meaningful ceremonies experienced throughout the two-year program, including the Forgiveness Vespers and the Great Water Blessing from the Eastern tradition.

Eparchy valedictorian Doreen Rathgeber of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic parish in Yorkton also said she would remember the diversity experienced during the program. **"I will never forget the blanket ceremony or the pipe ceremony from our brothers and sisters of the Aboriginal group. To the Roman Catholic members of Lay Formation: thank you for being open-minded to our differences,"** Rathgeber said.

Diocesan valedictorian Murray Wood said he felt blessed to have been part of the first-ever three-stream Lay Formation program.

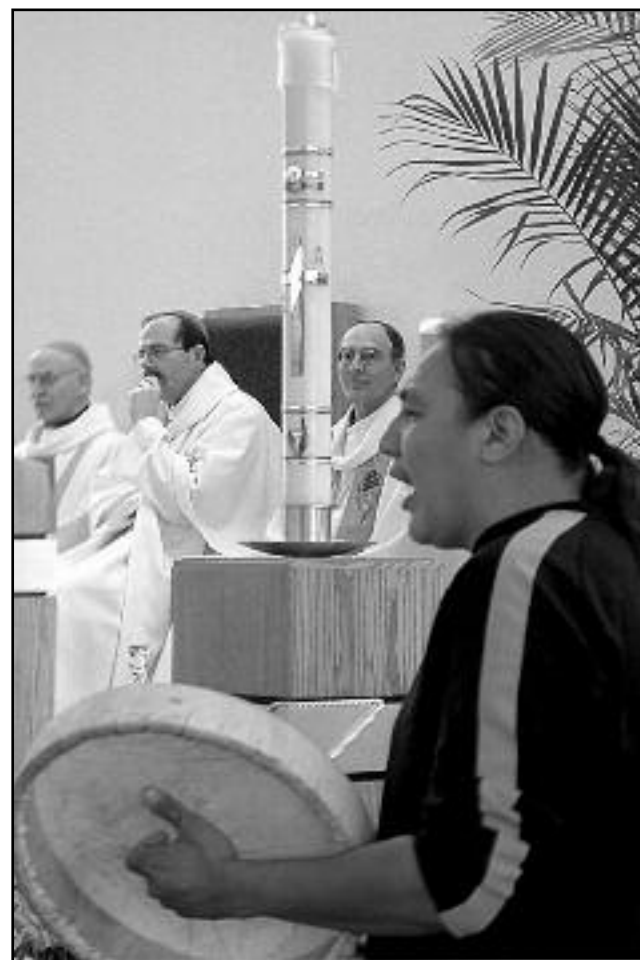
"It opened my eyes to the broad pasture that we call Church in the Catholic tradition. We have been blessed with the richness of tradition and ritual in the Eastern rite. We have been blessed with the sensitivity to creation outside of ourselves by exposure to Aboriginal traditions and worship," Murray Wood said. **"Everyone I've spoken to has expressed gratitude for this. We all feel that it has made our experience richer and more full."**

Faith in God is what brought every single participant to the program, Wood stressed.

Walking together in faith through births, illnesses and deaths experienced in participants' lives over two years meant that Lay Formation went beyond classes and content, he added.

"Our experience changed from that of a group of individuals taking a course together to the experience of a family, living through joys and sorrows, births and deaths, sickness and health, worry and joy of any family – all the things that a family goes through together, and loving each other and caring for each other through it all," he said.

Woods said that the "heart knowledge" that Lay Formation provided about living as a Christian community is what will



Bishops Thevenot, LeGatt and Lavoie (l-r) listen to the song of drummer Matthew Thomas during the Eucharistic celebration June 7. The 2009 missioning included the first graduates of a new Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program.

continue to have the most impact. "More than anything else, we are to be community, we need to be family, and this will go back with me to my parish life. We all need to be more than just 'people'; we need to be brothers and sisters. We need to love each other in a real way, not just in our words."

Graduates of Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation from the diocese of Saskatoon were Gayle Weenie and Neil Edward Cook of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon.

Graduates of Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation from the archdiocese of Keewatin-LePas were: Myrtle Ballantyne, Betty Highway, Frances McCallum, Frances Merasty, Lena Bouvier, Rusty Gardiner and Antoinette LaFleur. Graduates of Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation from the diocese of Prince Albert were: Veronica Bouvier and Dolores Greyeyes Sand.

Graduates from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Lay Formation program were: Sean Buchko, Kathy Losinsky, Gloria Milos, Joan Thomson, Diana Chomitzky, Luba Lalach, John William Parsons and Doreen Rathgeber.

Graduates from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon stream of Lay Formation were: Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, of St. John Bosco and St. Mary parishes, Saskatoon; Luc and Heather Durand, Bill and Helen Krynowsky, and M. Anne McGowan of Holy Spirit, Saskatoon; Kate Hodgson, Donna Rogal, and Murray Wood of St. Mary, Saskatoon; Quin Kleiboer, Christopher Luby and Kevin Michel of St. Paul's Cathedral, Saskatoon; Lynda Kral of St. Gabriel, Biggar; Larry and Frances Stang of St. Mary, Macklin; and Elizabeth Walter of St. Catherine, Quill Lake.

The Lay Formation coordinators and team members include Mona Goodman, Ivan and Kathy Hitchings, Carol Kohnke, Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki, SSMI, Sr. Marijika Konderewicz, SSMI, Agnes Pelletier, Leah Perrault, George Rolheiser, Irene Sharp, Henry Spilchuk and Vivian Whitehawk. In the coming year, Ann LaFleur is coordinating Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation.

## Returning to Spirit: Reconciliation creates new possibilities

BY LUCIE LEDUC

QUEEN'S HOUSE OF RETREAT & RENEWAL

What does it mean to create the space where reconciliation happens?

Marc Pizandawate is co-founder of "Returning to Spirit", a three-part workshop designed to bring together Aboriginal people and Church people to heal and be reconciled over the legacy of residential schools.

This series of sessions – Part I for First Nations only; Part II with exactly the same content for Church only; and then Part III for reconciliation between both First Nations and Church – is more than a simple workshop, according to Marc Pizandawate, who says that the Creator has called him to this work.

For Pizandawate, this reconciliation is a passion and a way of life. He and his team direct all of their energies to make reconciliation happen.

Nineteen church representatives from six Christian denominations gathered at Queen's House Oct. 22 and 23 to prepare to meet face-

to-face and one-on-one with First Nations persons. The following two days, 15 First Nations participants gathered to do exactly the same thing. The groups prepare separately but are offered the same listening and communication tools to ensure an open and safe space is created whereby reconciliation can take place.

The final three days, both groups met in a large circle of 45 persons, including Church and First Nations facilitators, and chose whom to meet with to complete their healing and to achieve reconciliation.

The day began with prayers from both First Nations and Church Oct. 26. The atmosphere in the room was one of some anxiety and fear. As the morning went on and people left in pairs to meet at various stations throughout Queen's House, the atmosphere was transformed into one of growing peace, joy and lightness.

The next day, after another full day of one-to-one meetings, the air changed completely

from one of anxiety, fear and separateness to one of completeness and wholeness.

Reconciliation creates union and community, and the group witnessed this community fully-expressed, as near the end of the second day everyone played together freely without inhibitions and without any residual sense of separateness. This was a family healed and freed to laugh, play and love together; and reconciled to create new possibilities for future generations together.

Participant Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, from St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey at Muenster currently serving as pastor of Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, was one of those reflecting on the experience of Returning to Spirit Part III.

"I have worked in various places and parishes in the Keewatin-Le Pas RC Diocese over the past 10 years, yet this experience took me deeper into our First Nations brothers and sisters than all of those 10 years. I have never shared so much pain and communed with so

much injustice in my entire life," DeMong said.

"And I have never experienced such profound healing, either in myself or in others as I have during these three days of reconciliation. This workshop has profoundly changed my life. I have entered the experience of First Nations as never before both in their pain and in their possibilities," he added.

This work of reconciliation will continue to address the residential school legacy for Church, non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal persons, and Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre will continue to host the workshops to bring about further reconciliation in our communities.

Those interested in participating in *Returning to Spirit* are invited to apply for funding support from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. For more information, contact Leah Perrault at the Catholic Pastoral Centre: 242-1500, or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.





"Meet the Deanery" is a continuing series in the Diocesan Newsletter, introducing each of the seven deaneries in the diocese. This issue features the Rural Saskatoon Deanery.

## Meet the Deanery: SASKATOON RURAL

The rural Saskatoon deanery surrounds the city of Saskatoon. It includes the parishes of Langham, Asquith, Delisle and Vanscoy to the west of the city; Martensville to the north; and St. George Chapel at the Canadian Forces Base at Dundurn to the south. Northeast of Saskatoon, the Trinity pastoral region includes the parishes at Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda, while to the southeast are parishes at Allan, Colonsay and Viscount. None of the parishes in this deanery have a resident priest at the moment, but are served by priests who come out from the city. Several of these parishes are served by pastoral teams, in which lay Parish Life Directors are appointed by the bishop (or in the absence of a bishop, by the diocesan administrator) to work in conjunction with Priest Moderators to care for the pastoral needs of the faith community. The chair of the Saskatoon Rural Deanery is Bernard Hamoline, and the priest representative (dean) is Fr. Michael Koch.

## Catholic school sought for Martensville

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Having completed a survey showing that they are a minority in the community, Catholic ratepayers in the

growing city of Martensville have applied to the provincial government to enter into the process of creating a Catholic separate school system.

In order to qualify for a separate school division, ratepayers must first establish that they are the minority faith in the attendance area established by the Prairie Spirit public school division.

"We had to attempt to phone everyone who lives in Martensville and area," said Marion Laroque, secretary of the Catholic ratepayers' group. "We made over 1,200 phone calls and we found that 35 per cent of the population was Catholic." Some 25 people helped with making the calls, she noted.

If the department of education agrees with the numbers, a public meeting of the Catholic ratepayers will be held and a date will be set for a vote among those Catholic ratepayers as to whether they want to go ahead and have a Catholic separate school division or not.

"Our dream is to have a K to 8 Catholic school in Martensville," said Laroque. "And certainly our dream is for a full, faith-based school day."

She said there is a huge interest in faith-based education. "It was coming across on the phone calls, and I've had people phone me and say 'if there was a Catholic school in Martensville we

would move there.' People value it, people are wanting this for lots of reasons."

Right now Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Martensville has 140 children in catechism classes from grades 1 to 6, she noted.

Laroque said residents were open and polite when volunteers called to ask whether they were Catholic or not. "On the whole, people graciously answered our questions, and I was blown away by that."

The Prairie Spirit school public school division, which includes communities in a wide area around the city of Saskatoon, operates two elementary schools and a high school in Martensville.

## Renovation project adds lift to improve accessibility at St. Alphonse, Viscount

By BARB DALE,

ST. ALPHONSE, VISCOUNT

Parishioners from St. Alphonse Parish in Viscount are busy with the construction of the accessibility entrance to the front of their church. The lift that will be installed in the entrance will allow access from the ground level up to the main level of the church, and down to the lower level of the auditorium. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2010.

The funding for this building project has come primarily from three main sources: a grant, donations and fundraising.

St. Alphonse parish in Viscount is one of 166 recipients across Canada that received a grant from the government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. The fund was established to promote vibrant communities that benefit from the participation of people with varying abilities in everyday life activities. The fund allows communities to do this by making buildings and facilities more accessible for people of varying abilities, and increases the opportunities for everyone to participate socially and economically.



Construction of a lift is underway.

Individual parishioners, parish groups and community businesses have generously donated to the building fund that was established in the fall of 2007.

The unwavering support and commitment of the parish and community has resulted in successful fundraisers throughout the year. The most recent fundraiser is the sale of cookbooks. "Our Special Recipes" is a collection of nearly 600 recipes. To purchase a cookbook for \$12 each, plus shipping, contact [reno.recipes@hotmail.com](mailto:reno.recipes@hotmail.com).



### Vacation Bible School in Allan

St. Aloysius Vacation Bible School (VBS) in July was offered with the enthusiastic leadership of the CCO Impact 2009 Apostle Team. The theme of the Cat.Chat program was "Marvellous Mystery – the Mass Comes Alive." The children learned various aspects of the Mass through faith teachings, music, games and crafts. Twenty-seven children from ages 3 to 10 participated in the three-day program, along with seven youth who helped the leaders. VBS concluded with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Albert Ulrich, OMI. The five CCO Impact team members were among the young adults from all over Canada who joined local Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) youth to share, deepen and explore their own faith and to work with parishes to evangelize and provide ministry assistance during the summer of 2009.



The community celebrated a century of parish life in June 2008.



Presenting the papal blessing at a 100th anniversary celebration.

## St. Alphonse celebrates 100 years as parish

St. Alphonse began as a small chapel, built in 1908, under the jurisdiction of the Prince Albert diocese.

That year a group of Catholic pioneers met with Bishop Albert Pascal to request that a resident priest be assigned to Viscount. The bishop established the new parish under the protection of St. Alphonse de Liguori in 1909. The parish patron saint was a bishop, confessor and doctor of the Church, who established the Redemptorist order.

Fr. Leon Leduc was the first resident pastor of the parish. In 1909, Fr. Leduc and parishioners built a two-storey frame rectory that served until 1953.

In the fall of 1918, an expansion program began, with St. Alphonse more than doubling in size, achieving a seating capacity of 200. In 1922, a 70-foot bell tower steeple was built onto the Saint Alphonse church building.

In 1933, Viscount was included in the boundaries of the newly-created diocese of Saskatoon, and welcomed the first Saskatoon bishop, Most Rev. Gerald Murray, CSsR.

In 1962 construction began on a new church, with many of the features of the building constructed by parishioners who



Bringing forth gifts in procession.

were skilled tradesmen. Bishop Pocock blessed the new church building June 9, 1963.

Recent years have seen greater lay involvement, as the declining number of priests means Viscount is one of the parishes in the Saskatoon Rural Deanery without a resident pastor. The parish has an active laity involved in parish council, a catechism program, a Catholic school, Knights of Columbus and a parish ladies group.

(Compiled with information from a parish history book: "St. Alphonse Church: Our First 100 Years.")

### Homilies for Everyday Life By Fr. Rudolph Novecosky, OSB

This book of homilies contains homilies for the Sundays of the three-year liturgical cycle, plus homilies for the major feast days, eight funeral and six wedding homilies, and one graduation homily – a total of 239 homilies. This book would make a great gift for anyone interested in preparing for Sunday liturgies or for lay presiders. Scripture references on which the homily is based are included. The homilies are relatively short. They are also down to earth and easy to understand, with stories used to bring home the point of the homily. **\$35**

Available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 100 5th Ave N., Saskatoon or from the gift shop at St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK.



### Steps in Faith

Four young people reaffirmed their faith at St. Alphonse parish in Viscount June 20, after completing a new diocesan Steps in Faith program this year. From left to right: program coordinator Michelle Volk, Selena Kirzinger, Landon Volk, celebrant Bishop Albert LeGat, Maverick Gusikowski and Rely Peters. Aimed at students in about Grade 8, Steps in Faith features learning, prayer, retreats and service, as well as a public reaffirmation of faith. The program is being phased in across the diocese over the next two years.



## Trinity parishes celebrate 35 years of collaboration: Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda also honour Fr. Mireau and Bishop LeGatt

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The Trinity parishes northeast of Saskatoon gathered this summer to celebrate 35 years of shared life.

In an Aug. 23 program celebrating the collaboration among the three parishes, representatives of the parish communities of Prud'homme, Vonda and St. Denis also honoured Priest Moderator Fr. Marc Mireau for his 10 years of service to the Trinity region, and bid farewell to Bishop Albert LeGatt, recently appointed archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Former pastors and religious sisters who have served in the area were also recognized, with several in attendance for the Mass, program and supper.

Louise Bussiere, who along with Bernard Hamoline serves as Parish Life Director of the Trinity parishes, reflected on the history of the area and the establishment of the parishes of Sts. Donatien and Rogatien, St. Philippe de Neri, and St. Denis. Hamoline and Bussiere

were named Parish Life Directors after the retirement of longtime Parish Life Director Sr. Marguerite Dumont.

In 1974, with the three parishes now served by one pastor, the Trinity pastoral region was formed under the leadership of Rev. Bernard de Margerie with the blessing of Bishop James Mahoney, beginning a new era of closer collaboration, described Bussiere.

"I myself recall the early days of the Trinity. We were three parishes, with three unique personalities, each parish striving to maintain its own identity. Over time, a greater love and appreciation for each other began to emerge," she said, noting that the now-closed area parishes of St. Laszlo and Queen of Peace also "add to the cultural and spiritual richness that we now embrace."

"We now strive to be family, working together, supporting each other, and our leaders. We come together more freely, more joyfully, to celebrate our Catholic faith, to



Parishioners expressed appreciation to Fr. Marc Mireau (left) for 10 years of service to the Trinity faith community.

educate our children in that faith and to deepen our own relationships with our Saviour," Bussiere added, describing areas of collaboration, including catechism programs, youth groups, listening centres, Familia meetings and the joint choir which led music for the Mass held to celebrate the Trinity anniversary.

Trinity parishioner Garth Wruck made a presentation, expressing appreciation for the leadership and ministry of Bishop LeGatt.

"It is not an easy feat in a world that continually tells us that we as Catholics are wrong in our beliefs and practices, but you have remained firm in the truth and I want you to know how important that is for the faithful of any diocese and how much we in the Trinity appreciate your commitment to the faith," Wruck said, also thanking

the bishop for respecting the unique nature of the Trinity parishes, especially in regards to the Francophone culture and spirituality.

Francis Denis, a Trinity parishioner who began studies at St. Joseph's seminary in Edmonton this fall, thanked Rev. Marc Mireau for his 10 years of service as Priest Moderator of the Trinity parishes.

"Since Fr. Marc has joined our community, there have been 83 baptisms, 22 weddings and 79 funerals ... not to mention the countless people he has introduced to the other sacraments," Denis said.

"This demonstrates that there are a lot of families that Abbé Marc has affected. He has brought God into our lives at the most important moments."

Denis also noted Mireau's love of travel, and how he connected with young people at World Youth Day in Toronto. He noted that a contingent of 53 young people from the Trinity region attended World Youth Day in Germany in 2005, the largest Canadian group to attend. "That's no small feat for three small parishes."

Brian Florizone spoke on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, and Jean Paul Hounjet, chair of the parish council in Prud'homme, expressed appreciation to former priests who have served the Trinity parishes, including Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Fr. Bernard de Margerie, Fr. Michel Bedard, Fr. Emile April and Fr. Gaston Masse.

Jean Paul Hounjet also thanked Les Filles de la Providence who served in the area.

"We owe much to the founding priests of our parishes and to Les Filles de Providence. These men and women accompanied our pioneers to this land, sacrificing much to bring the faith of our Church to this area," Hounjet said.

He noted that Pope Benedict XVI has declared this the Year of the Priest and shared a reflection by St. Jean Vianney about the importance of the priest's role.

Roseline Hounjet, parish council chair at St. Denis, made a presentation to Denis, on the verge of leaving for the seminary.

"Francis, we are very excited about your response to God's call. You are an inspiration to the rest of us, not only to listen more carefully to what God is guiding us to do, but also that we must put God's guidance into motion and act on his call," she said.

The afternoon program ended with a prayer for a small rural parish, written by Hamoline.



During the August celebration, Trinity region parishioners expressed thanksgiving to Bishop Albert LeGatt with a standing ovation.

## Trinity parishes will assist with next diocesan "Come and See" weekend for young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood

The three parishes of the Trinity district will assist in hosting an upcoming diocesan "Come and See" weekend for young men interested in learning more about the priesthood.

The diocesan Vocation Commission and Fr. Marc Mireau, the Priest Moderator serving Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda parishes, are organizing the weekend, which is open to any young man who is interested in discerning a deeper commitment to Christ.

The weekend in Vonda begins Friday, Dec. 4 and concludes with Mass on Sunday, Dec. 6.

Special guest speakers during the weekend event will include Fr. Paul Donlevy speaking about canon law, Sr. Mary Jane Beavis on prayer, Donna and Jerry Kristian discussing the mission of the Church, Fr. Darryl Millette talking about a day in the life of a priest and diocesan seminarian Geoff

Young describing his experience in the seminary.

Volunteers from the diocesan Vocations Commission will be assisting with this latest Come and See event to be held in the diocese of Saskatoon.

The grassroots parish support from the Trinity pastoral region is greatly appreciated, said Myron Rogal of the diocesan Vocation Commission office. "For instance, the Knights of Columbus and parish volunteers will be supplying all the meals, and that's a significant sign of hospitality to these young men."

"We are thankful to Fr. Mireau for this opportunity to have some small share in his ministry to vocations," said Bernard Hamoline, who along with Louise Bussiere, serves as Parish Life Director in the Trinity parishes.

"We have long had a strong belief that if we continue to faithfully petition the Lord for vocations that they will come. We also believe that we are just starting to see the beginning of the flood of vocations that will come as God's generous response to our petitions," Hamoline said.

Participating in such a weekend through service and celebration gives parishioners encouragement to continue the good work that God is unfolding in our midst, Hamoline added. "This weekend will also allow us to celebrate as a Trinity of parishes our common life together, our common hopes; and to further deepen our commitment to building an environment where vocations are the norm rather than the exception among us," he said. "It is exciting to see a group of young families in our communities, whose presupposition is that God has a specific call in the lives of their children, and who openly speak to their children about the glory of a life dedicated to God in priestly or religious vocations."

For more information about the Come and See weekend contact Myron Rogal at the diocesan Vocation Commission office at: vocations@saskatoondioocese.com or 306-382-4240; or contact Fr. Marc Mireau at 664-6501, abbemarc@hotmail.com

The education of seminarians and the diocesan office for vocation promotion are two of the programs supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. - KLY



### Reward pilgrimage includes seminarian blessing

Seminarian Geoffrey Young (foreground) was admitted as a candidate for the diaconate and priesthood with a special blessing from Bishop Albert LeGatt at the annual pilgrimage at Reward July 12. Young, who earlier completed his internship year at St. Peter parish in Unity, returned to studies at St. Joseph seminary in Edmonton this fall. The 77th annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary also included Marian devotions, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reconciliation, the anointing of the sick, and benediction. Mass with Bishop LeGatt included a procession of banners representing the parishes and missions of St. Joseph's Colony. The event concluded with a German supper and Polka band music.

### Redemptorist Come and See!

Any young men interested in learning more about Redemptorist life are invited to attend a *Come and See* event in Saskatoon Feb. 19 to 21 with Fr. Santo Arrigo, CSsR.

For more information contact Fr. Santo Arrigo at 416-593-6520 or visit the website at: [www.pluginchrist.ca](http://www.pluginchrist.ca)

## St. Mary's Parish, Saskatoon

**Reflecting on Christ's presence over past 90 years**

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

St. Mary's parish is celebrating 90 years as a faith community in Saskatoon, reflecting on the theme "I am with you always" from Matthew 28:20, and giving thanks for the continuing presence of Jesus Christ.

"What has really held us together these past 90 years is our faith in Jesus Christ," said anniversary committee member Eileen Provost of the theme, which has formed the basis for ongoing faith reflections in the anniversary year. The theme has been set to music in an anniversary song for the congregation composed by Deacon Bob Williston, CSsR.

A number of events and initiatives have marked the 90th anniversary, said committee chair Jim Penna, including a parish celebration 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, and an advent mission Dec. 13 to 15.

Established in 1919, St. Mary's parish was first known as "Our Lady of Victory," an acknowledgment of the end of the First World War.

Prince Albert Bishop Albert Pascal, OMI established St. Mary's as the second Saskatoon parish (after St. Paul), and put it under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Oblate priests served the parish until 1931. In 1934, Bishop Gerald Murray, CSsR of the newly-created Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon asked his own order, the Redemptorists, to take over care for St. Mary's parish (*see related article about the Redemptorist presence, below*).

The first church building was a "basement church" constructed in 1920 and blessed by Abbot Michael Ott, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. It consisted of a large basement covered with a sloping roof – the intention was to eventually build a full church upon this foundation. However, the basement



Parishioners visit with Fr. Joe Murphy, CSsR, a former St. Mary's pastor, during the Nov. 14 90th anniversary celebration for the Saskatoon parish. For more on the celebration visit: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm).

church was damaged by fire in 1927, and eventually the new building was started from scratch in a new location at the corner of 20th Street and Avenue 0. The present church was built in 1930, and expanded in 1958-59. The parish hall was completed in 1952, and the church rectory in 1965.

For longtime parishioners, the history of the parish is also a family history.

Bernice Keindel's parents were married in the basement church Dec. 27, 1928. Reflecting on the impact of the parish on her own life and the life of the community, she stressed the faithfulness of the earlier generations. "We are what we are today, because of them, because of what they taught us. Because our parents and grandparents worked for the parish, lived their faith – we inherited that."

Eileen Provost describes how the house of her great-grandparents was moved to make room for the present church building. Her grandfather was the parish's first choir master, and her father took over after him, serving for more than 25 years – four generations of the family have now been involved in music ministry at the parish, she noted.

Provost recalled the intimate connections between school, parish and home when she was growing up. "And I think the beauty of those days was that everything was done as a family – there was a real intergenerational spirit," she said.

As the women would work at the hall to cater wedding banquets, the young girls would be there helping and serving, she recalled. Youth were also sent forth two-by-

two to help seniors in the community and provide service, Provost related.

Bill Loran described the impact that the active parish had in the 1940s and 50s, with the church filled for missions, Marian devotions, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help prayers every Wednesday. He also noted special initiatives such as "The Catholic Hour of the Prairies" radio program produced by St. Mary's pastor Fr. Martin Foley, CSsR, and Urban Donlevy, Sr.

Construction of a parish hall under the leadership of Fr. John Lockwood, and the hiring of hall director Roy Ellis in 1952 began a new era of community involvement, with the hall providing an extensive program of sporting, cultural and community activities and events.

In the days before many schools had gymnasiums, St. Mary's parish hall offered basketball, volleyball, racquetball and gymnastics. Activities such as a drama club, crafts, guides, scouts, and Legion of Mary gatherings were also on the agenda.

"As kids, we knew there was a program there for us: that hall was going seven days a week," said Jim Penna. "And it was going with every level of activity, from children to adults – whist parties, dances, CYO. It was also a place where young people would learn leadership."

"It was a real gem on the west side, where we always had a bit of a tough neighbourhood. Roy Ellis was able to pull these kids off the street. Lots of them did pretty well for themselves because of the work that Roy and the Redemptorists did in that parish," Penna said.

Fr. John Lockwood also spearheaded the creation of St. Mary's Credit Union, noted Bill Loran. The credit union helped people who might not be eligible to borrow from a bank. "It's not just the collateral that you have in seeking loans, it was what your reputation was, whether you were dependable: loans were possible," Loran said.

Keindel served on the credit union board for many years, as did her father and brother. She recalled how her brother Donald deposited the 50 cents he earned from his paper route every week.

Displays and information about the history of St. Mary's were part of an anniversary celebration Nov. 14, which included Mass, followed by a social gathering in the parish hall.

Keindel said that her lifelong connection to the parish community is something that has kept her going, even through loss and bereavement. "People relate in our parish, they talk to each other," she says of the community, reflecting on the ministry of care that she participates in, creating prayer shawls for the sick and suffering, as well as toques and mittens for prison inmates.

Provost agrees that the parish community has been a vital part of her whole life. "St. Mary's has never been just church to me. It's home. It's a spiritual home," she said.

**Parish shares in spirit of Redemptorists**

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Redemptorist call to care for the poor, preach the gospel and live in community has had an impact on St. Mary's parish over the past 75 years – and today it is shaping how the faith community reaches out to its neighbours in Saskatoon's core area.

"Our charism, going back to St. Alphonsus Liguori, is to be with the poor and the abandoned," explained Fr. Jon Hansen, CSsR, who presently serves as pastor of St. Mary's, working with assistant pastor Fr. Anthony Bidgood, CSsR.

Hansen described the order's decision several years ago to remain at the Saskatoon parish because of the needs in the surrounding area.

"At that time we were really grappling with who we were called to be in Canada," Hansen said. As parishes developed and one-time immigrants made their way in the world, Redemptorists found themselves serving in what were now middle class settings, he said. "We had to re-examine who we are called to be in light of that charism to care for the poor."

St. Mary's location in the heart of the core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon, with many needs to address, meant the Redemptorists still saw a role for themselves in this community. "St. Mary's hasn't always been poor and abandoned, but certainly in this day and age the neighbourhood has kind of changed, and I think our charism is reflected well here. And I think the parish is rallying behind that."

St. Mary's has become an ethnically diverse and active parish characterized by its outreach initiatives, including a parish nurse program that goes well beyond the needs of just the parishioners and into the community at large, an active ministry of care program, and a grassroots "back door ministry" providing sandwiches, coffee and a listening ear to all who knock.

The Saskatoon Redemptorist community has become a Missionary Centre for the order. In addition to Hansen and Bidgood, the Redemptorist presence includes priests providing ministries beyond St. Mary's parish: Fr. Bill Bernard, Fr. Babu Mathew, Fr. David Cottingham, Fr. Kaz Zabawa and Fr. Ciro Alfonso Perez.

Their work includes helping to meet the needs of those living in poverty; providing chaplaincy services at nearby St. Paul's Catholic Hospital; providing outreach to Catholic schools in the area; and serving as Priest Moderators at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish (which serves the Aboriginal community in Saskatoon), and at three rural parishes west of Saskatoon (Asquith, Delisle and Vanscoy).

Recently arrived from Colombia, Fr. Ciro Alfonso Perez is providing weekly Mass for Saskatoon's Spanish Community. Rev. David Cottingham, works with Permanent Deacon Bob Williston and his wife Joan Williston to offer parish missions throughout the region.



Fr. Jon Hansen and Fr. Tony Bidgood at a celebration Nov. 14, which marked the 90th anniversary of St. Mary's parish, as well as 75 years of Redemptorist service in the faith community.

The parish's long association with the Redemptorists has helped define the character of St. Mary's faith community, says parishioner Bill Loran, a member of the west side parish for 78 years.

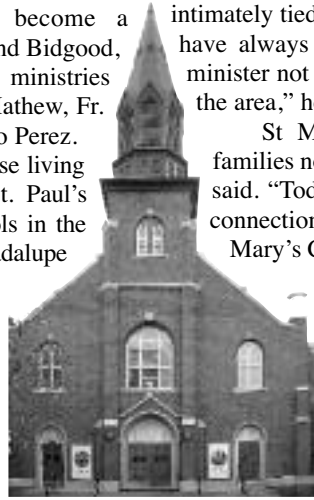
"We really had a very active parish for as long as I can remember," Loran added, saying much of that can be attributed to the leadership of the Redemptorists for most of the parish's history -- and to hands-on outreach evident in such initiatives as extensive community programming at the parish hall and the establishment of St. Mary's Credit Union (*see related article*).

"A lot of the spirit of St. Mary's comes from the Redemptorists," observed parishioner Bernice Keindel.

Parishioner Jim Penna agreed. "My experience with the parish is intimately tied up with the presence of the Redemptorist priests, they have always had a very solid presence in the parish – and they minister not just to the people in the parish, but to all the people in the area," he said.

St. Mary's has a great spirit, with long-standing parish families now joined by people of many other backgrounds, Penna said. "Today we have a real ethnic mix." That includes a close connection with Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, which uses St. Mary's Church building for celebration of liturgy, incorporating Aboriginal traditions.

The Redemptorist order – the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer – was established by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 18th century Italy. According to the order's rule they are "to strive to imitate the virtues and examples of Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer, consecrating themselves especially to the preaching of the word of God to the poor."





## St. John Bosco celebrates 50 years of parish history

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Fifty years of parish life was celebrated this spring at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon.

Former St. John Bosco pastor and Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand, joined Priest Moderator Fr. Ron Beechinor, Parish Life Director Sr. Estelle Lavigne, PM, and past and present parishioners for celebration of the Ascension Sunday Eucharist May 24, followed by a brunch and program held next door at St. John Catholic school.

The faith community began 50 years ago with worship services in the original four-room St. John school. With the growth of the parish, an auditorium was built in 1960 in cooperation with the Catholic school board, and served as

the parish centre under Fr. Joseph Dormans. Fr. Blaise Morand was pastor at St. John Bosco in the years that the church building was planned, built and completed in time for Christmas 1963. The church building was blessed by Bishop Francis Klein May 12, 1964.

To mark the anniversary, an icon of the Trinity was unveiled and blessed by Morand. A papal blessing for the anniversary was also on display. A number of parishioners who were members of the parish from its earliest days were present at the celebration.

During the procession of the gifts, parish members representing different ethnic backgrounds carried up a many-coloured cloth, signifying the cultural diversity of the



Parishioners gathered this spring to celebrate St. John Bosco's 50th anniversary.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

parish. St. John Bosco is known for its outreach efforts, welcoming newcomers and establishing a parish nurse program.

The parish has especially worked at "building a small sense of community, of friendship and

mutual support," said Bishop Albert LeGatt in a greeting to the community. "This has spilled out into a strong desire to welcome others and into a real concern for social justice, especially for the poor and suffering in our city and beyond."

The St. John Bosco parish Catholic Women's League also held a 50th anniversary celebration this year.

The CWL council celebrated on May 4 with a banquet and program of entertainment.

## St. Gabriel Parish in Biggar celebrates centennial

St. Gabriel's parish in Biggar celebrated its 100th anniversary Aug. 1-2 weekend, with a number of events.

The anniversary celebrations included an afternoon tea organized by the Catholic Women's League, a banquet with a musical program and silent auction, Sunday Mass with Bishop Albert LeGatt, and a brunch hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Concelebrating Mass with the bishop were pastor Fr. Dario Bebillo, Fr. John Malazdrewich (who was born and raised in Biggar) and former pastor Fr. Raymond Senger, who served the parish from 1988 to 1997.

The celebration included a "blessing of the doors" ceremony in which parishioner Helen Poitras presented a scroll and keys to the bishop.

The anniversary organizing committee included: Lynda Kral, Doreen Gaudet, Donna Baum and Trish Nicholls.

Part of St. Joseph's Colony, St. Gabriel's faith community banded



CWL members organized and served the anniversary tea Aug. 1: (l-r) Bernice Martin, Monique Carruthers, Cathy Donahue and Doreen Gaudet.

- Photo submitted by Lynda Kral, St. Gabriel

together in 1909 to build its first church, followed by construction of a rectory a short time later.

In the 1920s a Catholic school was established, and construction of a new church was started. The building was blessed by Bishop Prud'homme in 1927. An attempt was even made to start a seminary in the community – a project that lasted about two years.

Fr. Alvin Pich, a native of Biggar district, was ordained at St.

Gabriel church by Bishop Francis Klein in 1953. Fr. John Malazdrewich was ordained at his home parish in 1991 by Bishop James Mahoney.

Construction of the present church building began in 1964 and was completed the following year. The first parish council was formed in 1966.

More of St. Gabriel's history can be found on the parish website: [www.stgabriels.ca](http://www.stgabriels.ca)

-KLY

## St. Philip Neri events mark 50 years of parish life

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

This year, St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon marked its 50th anniversary with a number of joyful events.

Anniversary celebrations in May involved past and present parishioners – including several who have been in the parish since its formation. Events included a comedy night, a combined Sunday eucharistic celebration and family pancake breakfast May 24, a Sunday evening celebration of song featuring six parish choirs, and a 50th anniversary Mass with Bishop Albert LeGatt and a number of former pastors May 26.

St Philip has been a community of prayer and worship, with liturgies celebrated with much reverence and beauty, LeGatt noted. The parish has also been active and concrete in its service, community building and outreach, the bishop added, noting recent initiatives such as the establishment of a Parish Nurse program.

"I think also of the recent step you took in helping the diocese set up a new and much richer chapter of prison ministry, of restorative justice," LeGatt said.

The bishop noted that St. Philip Neri parish began at the same time



Several former St. Philip Neri pastors joined Bishop Albert LeGatt and the parish pastoral team for a 50th anniversary celebration for the parish: (l-r) Fr. Len Cyr, Bishop LeGatt, Fr. Paul Donlevy, Fr. Joseph Nsiah, Fr. Michael Koch, Fr. Les Paquin and Parish Life Director Pat Clarke.

as the announcement of the Second Vatican Council. "In the history of the church, we can see the importance, the significance of the past 50 years: the second Vatican Council and the unfolding of all the richness from that reflection."

When it comes to greater participation of the laity, St. Philip has stepped forward in areas such as formation of the parish pastoral council; in liturgical ministries, RCIA, ecumenism, refugee sponsorship, youth ministry; and in ministries of education, pastoral care, marriage preparation and enrichment, as well as life-long faith formation.

One highlight of the celebration was the opening of a special gift of vintage port purchased 25 years ago by then-pastor Fr. Paul Donlevy and a number of parishioners and put away until the 50th anniversary. It was served at a reception during the anniversary celebration.

St. Philip Neri is presently served by the pastoral team of Priest Moderator Fr. Joseph Nsiah and Parish Life Director Pat Clarke.

In January, Fr. Emmanuel Banahene will begin serving as Priest Moderator, as Fr. Nsiah has completed his studies in Canada and is returning to Ghana.



### Wishart centennial

Four youngsters were confirmed by Bishop Albert LeGatt at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Wishart in June, during a joyful celebration that also marked the 100th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in the Wishart area: (l-r) Cierra Prisiak, Jaela Faye, Dagan Faye and Carlee Faye.

- Photo by Cindy Bugyi



### Cudworth church built 40 years ago

St. Michael's pastor, Fr. Denis Phaneuf, stands next to a scale model of the church in Cudworth. Parishioners were commemorating and reflecting on the 40th anniversary of the building during an annual parish bazaar and fall supper Nov. 1 in Cudworth.

- Photo by Bernice Jungwirth



### Tramping Lake seniors' event

An annual seniors' banquet is hosted every year by St. Michael's parish in Tramping Lake. Sponsored by the Catholic Women's League, the banquet is a way to say thank you to our seniors, explained Christine Lang of St. Michael's CWL.

- Photo submitted by St. Michael's

# Priest honoured for years of ministry helping youth struggling with gangs and addictions



Fr. André Poilièvre outside one of the coffee shops where his ministry takes place.

By Blake Sittler

Some 200 people attended an evening of appreciation for Fr. André Poilièvre Oct. 25 at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

Last year Poilièvre received the Order of Canada for his two decades of work providing social and moral support to Aboriginal men and women attempting to leave gangs and break drug addictions.

Poilièvre insisted the evening should not focus on him but on the good work of the people who have left behind violence and addiction. The event doubled as a fundraiser for Str8 Up, a ministry of support for men who are trying to leave gang life.

Str8 Up Coordinator Stan Tu'Inukuafe explained how Str8 Up assists members to help themselves through positive relationships, addiction programs, accessing housing, finding work and rebuilding broken relationships. Str8 Up has a new office in the Kinsman Activity Place, a renovated fourplex that also houses groups like the Boys and Girls Club, International Women, and Kinsman Activity Place.

Marc Perrault, a member of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon's Restorative Ministry committee, is trying to build up awareness of Str8 Up in local parishes. "St. Anne parish has been chosen because of its proximity to the prison. The ultimate goal is we want to see every parish to be able to have a group...to build a relationship with some of the members...to knock down the barriers so they can see that [gang and ex-gang] members are real people; they're trying to change," Perrault said.

The appreciation evening began with a video created by Linda Duvall entitled "Where Were the Mothers?" showing gang inmates who had written songs about their mothers. A recurring theme in the lyrics of the songs was that of gratitude and love. The videos were filmed in the chapel of the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

A mother of a gang member named Grace spoke about her struggle to keep her children out of gangs and prison, and how Poilièvre supported her through her most difficult times. She said that now she is talking to her grandchildren about the same issues. "I tell

them, 'The only gang you're going to join is kookum's [grandmother's] gang,'" she said with a laugh.

Peter Oliver, chaplain at both the Saskatoon Correctional Centre and the Regional Psychiatric Centre, spoke about the influence of gangs inside prisons.

New parents Naomi and Jason Shingoose attended the banquet to honour Poilièvre, whom they met when they were students at Saskatoon Native Survival School (now called Oskayak) when Poilièvre was the school chaplain.

"I'm still good friends with André," said Jason. "I call him with good news, like the birth of my children."

Jason's wife, Naomi, remembered Poilièvre as a compassionate and approachable school chaplain. "He was friendly and open to talking to you... he was always helpful and listening," shared Naomi.

Eileen Provost worked with Poilièvre when he was the Director of Pastoral Services of the Catholic Centre back in the 1970s. She noted that Poilièvre's passion for the marginalized made itself known even then.

"Fr. André had a very deep sense of social justice...he was committed to the underdog, the oppressed and the poor. He was formed by liberation theology and tried to share that with the diocese... to build [our] awareness of the people in Brazil and other third world countries," said Provost.

Other presenters also spoke of multitude of vulnerabilities that lead people, primarily young First Nations men, into gang involvement: abuse, addictions, inter-generational racism, threats of violence, poverty, trauma, parental neglect, lack of positive support and mental illness.

Poilièvre expressed appreciation to those in attendance, to his family, and to all the young people he has walked with over the years. "Your numerous good gifts, your greatness, your willingness to share so much of your lives with me has been what has kept me going," he said.

"When I started working at the Correctional Centre, I asked myself, 'What will be my relationship with the inmates?'" he said.

"I learned not to judge, not to label, not to compare but to accept the person before me as unique and of great value," Poilièvre said.

"Most of all I have learned to discover the beauty and greatness of so many young people. They have taught me about pain and suffering, shame and guilt but most of all of courage and strength, love and caring."

The evening ended with a microphone being passed around those gathered to share thoughts and thanks for Poilièvre's ministry. "I stay sober for my wife, my child and for Fr. André," said one man.

## Poilièvre and 'Str8 Up' help those leaving gangs

By Blake Sittler

Brendan Jimmy first met Fr. André Poilièvre when he was 18 years old — the first time he was in the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. They have been friends now for over 18 years.

"I used to drink a lot," shared Jimmy. "I was a violent person when I drank. That's how I ended up in and out of jail."

Jimmy has done a lot of hard, personal work getting out of the old gang lifestyle he once led, but he also credits the support of the people at Str8 Up and of Poilièvre.

"Fr. André has always been there no matter what. Even when I've done bad things that I'm not proud of he's been there to... welcome me back," said Jimmy.

Poilièvre's initial foray into working with First Nations youth came in February 1978 when he took a radical and literal departure from the path of a diocesan priest that lay before him, and drove to the Arctic in search of First Nations ministry. "I didn't know anybody. I didn't have a job and I had no place to stay. I just got in my truck and drove up there," said Poilièvre.

Since then, Poilièvre has worked in many different ministries; all of them connected in one way or another to Native people in Saskatoon. Most recently, Poilièvre's work has been with Str8 Up, a ministry aimed at getting First Nation youth out of gangs and into homes and jobs.

One man, who gave only the name Stan, was involved in a gang but is now a volunteer with Str8 Up. He met Poilièvre at White Buffalo Youth Lodge at a presentation Poilièvre was doing on gangs and addiction. "Gangs are a dead end. You either do life in prison or you end up dead. You need to get out of the gangs."

Stan shared that people in the core neighbourhood and in the prison respect Fr. Poilièvre because, unlike the gang leaders, he is a mentor and a positive role model. "I call him the Godfather; he's like a father figure to all the guys".

Brian Anderson met Poilièvre in 2008. Anderson speaks in high schools for Str8 Up. He describes his own time in a gang and warns students about the dangers and futility of gang life.

"Str8 Up is about honesty. There's no lies, no using drugs, no gang association," explained Anderson.

When Anderson speaks for Str8 Up at schools, he speaks to the kids about getting in touch with what is important to them. He says that if they could put their energy behind other priorities, values and goals they would be better off. "If I gave to God what I gave to [my old gang] I'd be an archbishop," laughed Anderson.

Louie Morin met Poilièvre when he came to speak at his school with Str8 Up. "I was sad for a long time until I met André... I grew up alone and sad but I don't

feel that way anymore. He's the only father figure I had. I like when he takes us for coffee at Timmy's... even if there's a long line up".

Poilièvre sees great possibilities for the roles of parishes in helping young gang members.

Poilièvre states that the first step is to educate ourselves and to change attitudes and biases against the very people to whom the Church is supposed to be ministering. Once attitudes change, new actions follow, he said. The number one myth that Poilièvre says must be overcome about gang youth is the level of their freedom of choice in terms of their lifestyle.

"Whether it's gangs or... prostitutes, they're not there because they want to be there. They're there because they have to be... it's survival, friendship, belonging, acceptance, respect... security... it's basic needs. If they had all of that someplace else in a healthy way they wouldn't be there [in gangs]," stated Poilièvre.

Poilièvre stressed the importance of the support of a faith community, both from the perspective as a priest in this ministry, but also for those leaving gang life.

"I've had tremendous support from Bishops Mahoney, Weisgerber and LeGatt... I recommend to the guys that they connect with a spiritual group because they can't do it alone. You need to find that support," said Poilièvre.

## Ecumenical gathering held in Saskatoon

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

A national Summer Ecumenical Institute was held June 2 to 5 in Saskatoon, with some 50 participants taking stock of the ecumenical movement, renewing their vision and commitment to reconciliation and unity among Christians.

Organized and hosted by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, the ecumenical institute featured facilitator Rev. Tom Ryan, CSP. A former director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism in Montreal, Ryan examined past, present and future of the ecumenical movement. A number of workshop sessions were also part of the national institute.

The Summer Ecumenical

Institute was a 25th anniversary event for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (PCE), which began in Saskatoon in 1984 under the leadership of Fr. Bernard de Margerie. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's call for the Second Vatican Council, which in turn sparked de Margerie's own 50-year ecumenical journey working for Christian reconciliation. PCE acknowledged the three anniversaries throughout the past year, under a "25-50-50" theme.

During an anniversary banquet June 4, de Margerie was recognized for his contributions. After "roasting" the PCE founder, retired Mennonite pastor Vern Ratzlaff expressed appreciation

for de Margerie's years of work and vision. "You have shown us what our common baptism and Christian charism involve," Ratzlaff said, before presenting de Margerie with a copy of a new PCE history book launched at the summer institute.

Responding in thanksgiving, de Margerie stressed the need to continue and intensify the work toward Christian reconciliation. "Let us encourage one another, learn to carry each other's burdens, and wash each other's feet across denominational lines so that we may all be one; that we may all be one for the credibility of our common mission in Christ, and for the glory of God in his reconciling grace," he said.



Retired Mennonite Pastor Vern Ratzlaff (right) led the toast to Prairie Centre for Ecumenism founder Rev. Bernard de Margerie, during a banquet June 4, held in conjunction with a national Summer Ecumenical Institute in Saskatoon. For more about the Institute see the news articles archive on the website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)



# Prison ministry begins with fear, ends with understanding

BY LARISSA NELSON

I remember the first time I visited the correctional centre. Shivers ran up my spine as soon as I entered the building. I had no idea what to expect, but I knew deep down that I was afraid.

The only comfort I had was that God was near and so were my dearest friends. Once I began interacting with the inmates, I actually felt relieved – relieved because I finally realized that these people are human beings with hearts and souls, just like me.

I soon developed compassion for them and wanted to learn more about who they are and why they chose to attend the weekly rosary and sharing circle.

They inspired me to be the best version of me, wherever and whenever.

Those men have truly impacted me with their perseverance in faith and in trying their best to make amendments wherever necessary in their lives.

Two members of a CCO Impact 2009 team reflect on the experience of providing outreach at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre with Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry office.

They taught me to be thankful for my life and for my values and beliefs. Ultimately, my experience at the correctional centre has inspired me to live life to the fullest, strive for a deeper faith, and treasure the time I have with my family and my friends.

Even though I am no longer doing prison ministry, I will be praying for the men at the correctional centre. The men and their families, hold a special place in my heart.

## Coming to know inmates as God's children was a joyful journey for CCO team member

BY ELOISA TAMONDONG

The first time I heard that my team and I were going to the correctional centre to pray and talk with the inmates, I had mixed feelings.

I knew that it would be a great experience to share God's love with men that are usually seen as outcasts of society but also my own preconceptions of inmates were with me and I was filled with feelings of nervousness.

On our first day at the correctional centre, I was scared. I walked into a room filled with big, intimidating men that were in there for whatever reason.

I knew that I had to get rid of my preconceptions about them, so I let myself be open and introduced myself to some of the inmates.

To my surprise, the men were extremely

friendly and very appreciative of my team showing up and praying with them.

After realizing this, my scared feelings about them were gone, and I reminded myself that God loves these men as much as He loves me.

The next day, we joined the sharing circles where each person just talked about what was going on in his life. This was amazing.

Listening to each man, I realized that these men were so filled with hope. All of them really just wanted to be with their family. Each man thanked my team and I for showing up. This brought us a lot of joy.

After the sharing circle, we got a chance to just talk to the guys before they went back to their daily routine. This gave us a chance to really get to know some of the men a little better.



**CCO Impact 2009 - Apostle Team**

Larissa Nelson, Ian Anderson, Andrew Nobauer, Eloisa Tamondong and Alana Hodge (l-r) were among some 55 young adults who spent nearly four months in Saskatoon this summer as part of a Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) Impact 2009 mission. Unlike most of the Impact 2009 missionaries who had summer jobs in the community, these five young people served on the Apostle Team, focusing full-time on ministry during their stay in Saskatoon. The team offered school visits and retreats, ran parish Vacation Bible Schools, visited parishes and communities outside of Saskatoon – and perhaps most challenging of all, joined Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office in providing outreach to inmates at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. The CCO team visited the men, prayed with them, and played slo-pitch.

We continued visiting them throughout the summer, and we got closer with the inmates. These are such good men that have made past mistakes in their lives. We had a chance to play slo-pitch with them too, which was so much fun!

At the end of the summer, my team and I had to say goodbye to the men as we were heading back home.

Saying goodbye to them was really tough. However, we realized how much these men were growing. Some of the guys had started their own prayer groups, some

men were telling me about their personal prayer lives. I was filled with so much hope and they had become witnesses to me.

The biggest thing I learned through this whole experience was that God loves each of his children equally.

These men are children of God and are loved by Him. They need God's love as much as anyone.

Sharing God's love with them brought me so much joy and it was a blessing to have this opportunity to be with them throughout the summer.

## Search for volunteer outlet led to praying the rosary with inmates

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

In describing "how I got into prison at age 64" restorative ministry volunteer Shirley Pringle reflects on a long road that began with several years of pulling back from activities to be a caregiver in her family.

She spent years caring for her husband, who died of cancer in 2003; for her son, who suffered from Crohn's disease; for her dad who suffered from Alzheimer's; and for her mom, whom she nursed through kidney failure until it took her life.

"As a caregiver, I turned inwards. I abandoned outside activities... I kept everything inside. I didn't want to see anyone," she recalls. "But being a member of the human race doesn't allow for that kind of isolation."

As a Roman Catholic practicing her faith, she slowly began to see she needed an outlet to turn outward

**"... I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36**

**Volunteers are needed to help with Prison Ministry in our diocese**

Contact Dianne Anderson of the Restorative Ministry office  
Catholic Pastoral Centre: 242-1500; Toll free: 1-877-661-5005  
E-mail: [restorativeministry@saskatoonrcdiocese.com](mailto:restorativeministry@saskatoonrcdiocese.com)

again, and she looked for ways to volunteer her time. She began helping with RCIA, the choir, the food bank, the soup kitchen and meals on wheels – often recruiting her son into helping as well. "It seemed to help bring me out of myself and into public space again. It was good for my attitude and gratitude."

Then about three years ago, a yellow pamphlet came into Shirley Pringle's hands. The subject was prison ministry.

"After reading the whole of it, something in me said I could do this. But I didn't pursue it until an item showed up in our Sunday church bulletin. It encouraged us to take a tour of the men's Saskatoon Correctional Centre. I did."

On that tour, she met prison chaplain Peter Oliver, and Dianne Anderson, the coordinator of prison ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Having worked for a time as a guard for prisoners in the holding cells at the RCMP detachment in Lloydminster, Pringle had already gained some insights into the prison system – and her own reaction to it.

"Before I guarded prisoners ... I was the typical 'lock 'em up and throw away the key' type," she admitted, but what she saw on the job opened her eyes. "After heating up days of frozen TV dinners (for the prisoners), no fruit, bad coffee, no sunlight or exercise, cleaning mattresses with disinfectant... I changed my mind. I couldn't imagine myself locked up for 24

hours, let alone 14 days or, God forbid, 10 years. I would be dehumanized, demoralized and so inwardly turned I think I could possibly fold up permanently from such an experience," she said.

"The most awful thing about prison is the forced idleness. Somewhere in times past we used to try reforming people. We even offered trades programs and some prisoners had such success they never returned to prison. There is none of that anymore," she observed.

Sometime after the tour of the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, she met chaplain Peter Oliver again at the back of church after a Lenten reconciliation service. Pringle was inspired to ask if anyone ever came and prayed the rosary or the divine chaplet of mercy with the prisoners. "He said no, but that he was looking for someone. I said I was that person," she related.

Oliver put her in touch with Dianne Anderson, and arrangements were made for Pringle to pray with the prisoners every Thursday.

"What a joy to teach our Lady's rosary and the divine chaplet of mercy," she says of the weekly ministry. "The problem was collecting enough rosaries. Because the prison is both a remand centre and a place of incarceration they come and go at a fairly good clip."

A lot of rosaries were needed, and they had to be large enough to

hang around the men's necks, because many have no pockets on their trousers.

A call was put out to parishes for donations of rosaries. "They had to be at least black and brown for the men," said Pringle. "We were donated some very pink and other pastel-coloured rosaries that for some strange reason the men didn't want to use!"

Any rosaries received that weren't suitable were donated to the missions, she noted, thanking everyone who gave rosaries, including the committee at her own parish of Holy Spirit that committed to buying 100.

"We also wanted the men to have pamphlets on how to pray the rosary and the chaplet of mercy for future reference," she added.

The prayer sessions are voluntary for the men, and the rosaries are well received and much appreciated, she reported.

"How wonderful for those who sign up to be able to leave the place equipped and able to pray these wonderful prayers," said Pringle.

"I suspect it won't take too long before we'll be begging for rosaries again," she mused. "We've had up to 24 men per prayer time, and depending what was happening at the time in the prison, as little as eight," she said.

"But with our Lady and our Lord, nothing goes to waste. It's amazing how God works things out."

### Sharing the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick

Did you know that baptized Christians who are not Catholic may receive these sacraments in certain cases?

**Find** the Sacramental Sharing brochure!  
**Read** with faith and heart!  
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**Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism**

[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/pages/ecumenism.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/pages/ecumenism.cfm)



### Rose Valley retreat

Children from Rose Valley, Wadena and Archerwill took part in a Confirmation / First Eucharist retreat April 29 in Rose Valley, organized by parish catechists, in collaboration with the diocese of Saskatoon Rural Catechetics Coordinator for the Wadena Deanery, Lynda Statchuk.

- Photo submitted by Rural Catechetics

## Family Catechesis program provides options for teaching faith to children

The Home Religion program in the diocese of Saskatoon was recently renamed "Family Catechesis" to be more inclusive of all the ways in which families and parent groups experience faith in the home or other locales.

Two options are available to parishes and individuals to experience the Family Catechesis program: correspondence and a parish-supported program.

### 1. Correspondence Family Catechesis

"This option provides an at-home experience of learning about the Catholic faith, designed for Canadian families. It has the same content as the school and parish editions of the catechetical program *Born of the Spirit*," explained Mary Comeault of the diocesan Rural Catechetics Office.

The correspondence course is available to families in both the rural and urban areas of the diocese, and is recommended for use where there is no Catholic school and parishes do not offer catechism to children or young adolescents. It offers a connection with a catechist supervisor who will assist with the correction of materials and assist with questions that might arise.

"If there are circumstances that prevent families from sending children to parish or school catechism, then families are encouraged to explore the

correspondence option," Comeault explained.

### 2. Family Catechesis administered by parish coordinators of catechism with the support of pastors and parish life directors and/or parish volunteers.

Family Catechesis experienced in the home and organized in the parish allows families to receive guidance, explained Comeault.

Children receive mentoring support from the parish community through volunteer catechists who assist them in successful completion of the topics that make up the home edition of the *Born of the Spirit* series. Parents and children are encouraged to gather once a month (or as often as possible) for evaluation of the lesson themes, to share faith and to receive assistance with the Family Catechesis materials.

This fall, a few parishes in the diocese have decided to implement Family Catechesis administered by a parish coordinator. These parishes are being assisted by a diocesan coordinator from the Rural Catechetics ministry office in the diocese of Saskatoon.

For more information contact the diocesan Rural Catechetics Ministry at 242-1500; toll free: 1-877-661-5005 or e-mail: ruralcat2@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

*Rural Catechetics is one of the ministries in the diocese funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.* -KLY

## Eucharistic devotions explained at Humboldt meeting

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

During a presentation in Humboldt Aug. 27, Bishop Albert LeGatt described the intrinsic relationship between Eucharistic devotions and the celebration of the Mass.

Eucharistic adoration and other Eucharistic devotions such as Benediction, 40 hours of prayer before the Eucharist, and Eucharistic processions are a way to prolong and deepen what is experienced in the Mass, said the bishop, addressing parishioners and parish leaders from the Humboldt and Wadena deaneries. The session was organized by St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt, which was preparing to launch regular Eucharistic adoration on the first Friday of each month.

The Church engages in Eucharistic devotions because of the nature of Eucharist, and the presence of the Lord, LeGatt said. "The Eternal Son of God, sent by



Parishioners from the Humboldt and Wadena deaneries attended the talk.

the Father, is offering to be present among us in his body and blood," LeGatt said, describing the gift that Christ left us at the Last Supper. "Until the end of time this would be the sign and symbol and true reality of his presence, body and blood, soul and divinity. The total Christ, all of Christ, offering himself to the Father," he said.

"The Eucharist is the ultimate act of adoration by the Church, because it contains sacramentally, the adoration of Christ towards the Father," LeGatt said.

Receiving the Eucharist is adoring the one that we receive, LeGatt said, quoting Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*. "When you

say Amen during the Mass, you are adoring Christ in his ultimate act of adoring the Father," said LeGatt, describing the Great Amen of the Eucharistic prayer as a moment to join our adoration to the adoration of Christ.

"It is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist," LeGatt said. "And what is that social mission? The care of the poor, justice in our world, the healing of division in the community; offering God's love and compassion to all."

Although Eucharistic adoration is a profoundly personal experience of God, it is never an individual action, stressed LeGatt.

The elements and themes of the Mass should also be part of Eucharistic adoration and other Eucharistic devotions, he said. Since Eucharist is thanksgiving, sacrifice and offering, communion with God and with one another, and

sending forth in mission, the same themes and elements should be part of Eucharistic adoration.

"In the same way that we say 'let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord' at the end of Mass, so adoration should send us out to adore the Lord in service, compassion and by all that is love – in the spiritual works of mercy, and the corporal works of mercy."

The bishop told the story of one Franciscan parish's decision that every hour of Eucharistic adoration should be matched by one hour of public service to those in need.

There are two signs that Eucharistic adoration is authentic, LeGatt suggested. "Firstly, it will lead us as individuals and as a community to be filled with love and service of others for the sake of God's kingdom. Secondly, it will lead to greater participation in the celebration of the Eucharist: full, conscious and active participation."

## Restored initiation process is still young: changes continue

By FR. MICHAEL KOCH,  
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR FOR  
CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

The catechumenate (the process for preparing adults and children for baptism, confirmation, Eucharist and living the Christian Life), reached its best in the Fourth Century. Vatican II gave us a great gift: it restored the ancient Order for Catechumens. The RCIA is a model for the renewal of the Church.

The rite first appeared in Latin in 1972, and in English in 1974. In 1987 we received the official Canadian edition.

RCIA pioneers began from scratch. Looking back over the 37 years since its promulgation, because we had no experience, we did some primitive things. We have come a long way, but we have a much longer way to go. It took the early Church some 300 years to develop a beautiful process of Christian Initiation – so we are still very young.

I would like to offer two challenges for further development that RCIA leadership and the entire faith community should work on.



Diocesan Director  
of Christian Initiation  
Fr. Michael Koch

### Conversion from the School Year Program Model to the Liturgical Year Apprenticeship Process:

The RCIA process is first and foremost about conversion and spiritual growth. Faith knowledge is very important, but secondary. As we call and challenge inquirers,

catechumens and candidates to be open to conversion, so also must catechumenate coordinators, catechists, sponsors and the whole community be open to conversion.

We inherited the school year model. Catechists and religious educators are familiar with it and are doing a good job transmitting religious knowledge.

However, the RCIA process is about liturgy. It is about rediscovering how for hundreds and hundreds of years the liturgy was the primary source of faith formation, spiritual growth, Christian knowledge and community life for the faithful. (CSL # 10).

The religious education model (catechism for children) is a newcomer in the long tradition of the Church. Catechism classes primarily for children have been developing for about the last 200 years. It is a model that has consumed a huge amount of Catholic talent and financial resources. We are all familiar with it. However, good as it is, the religious education model at its best can only poorly serve the RCIA process.

Letting go of the school year, September to June, programs, classes, student model and moving to the liturgical year, year-round, ongoing, apprenticeship, community vision requires considerable conversion in the leadership. This conversion requires faith, can be painful, usually takes considerable time, and much repetition.

Moving from one house to a better house is messy for a while. Moving from one way of doing RCIA to a better way of doing RCIA is messy for a while. But once we are in our new home we are so much happier. Don't give up, it is part of the process. Keep working on your own conversion, first in belief coupled with practice. Be patient, it will come if we keep working at it.

If this conversion doesn't happen, it will jeopardize the RCIA vision from reaching its full potential.

### Choosing the proper resource materials:

Coupled with conversion to the appropriate language and mindset is the issue of resource materials. In

earlier days when RCIA operated mostly under the religious education banner, much of the primary material used was of a "know your faith" or "make sure they get the doctrine" type.

While knowing the faith is very important, first developing a loving, life-giving personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of the faith community is more fundamental.

When you move from the religious education model to the liturgical year model, your primary resource materials will also change.

The primary resources will be: *The Rite Of Christian Initiation of Adults*, participation at the Sunday liturgy, the Lectionary, the Sacramentary, and the other liturgical rites. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is the first among secondary materials.

The "blue book" of RCIA is truly a liturgical book.

The liturgical process can be described as *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi*: What we pray is what we believe is what we live.



# New animator introduced

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

Armella Sonntag is the new provincial animator for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), taking over from Michael Murphy, who recently retired.

Sonntag has been involved with the Development and Peace organization for nearly 20 years.

"We first got involved when we returned from a mission trip in Peru," said Sonntag, who lives in North Battleford. "I was working there as a lay associate for Scarboro Missions."

She and her husband did field work in South America, and returned eager to continue the work from their home base, finding CCODP a natural fit. Sonntag sees not only global challenges, but local and national opportunities to create international change.

"Canadian Catholics should know that our campaigns have made a difference," she said. "The past three years have focused on mining, and now there is a bill before the house addressing Canadian mining companies and their practices."



Pressures and education have helped bring about this reform – something Sonntag sees as crucial in addressing the unethical ways in which wealthier countries, including Canada, have exploited foreign lands, resources, and peoples without repercussion.

"Environmentally, socially, politically, economically – actions need to be addressed at all these levels," she added.

The Development and Peace Fall Action Campaign this year shifted the focus from mining to farming, Sonntag noted. "Specifically, we are focusing on family farming in the global south."

Small-scale farmers are losing their land and crops to multinationals, government policies, and the trend to divert agricultural products into agrofuels.

Agrofuel crops utilize the arable land that communities were feeding themselves on, and don't replace it.



Armella Sonntag

Meanwhile, practices such as deforestation, monocultures, and chemical usage wreak environmental havoc and pollute or monopolize water resources.

"We've seen already, with mining in the global south, that these action cards and our voices are highlighting injustice, making a difference, and causing our lawmakers to respond."

## MISSION



"The experience I had was far beyond any expectations or events imaginable. I was able to push myself to the limit and make the most of every day" - Elisabeth Dubourt

With support from the **Diocesan Mission Office**, Elisabeth Dubourt recently spent three weeks on a ProWorld mission in Peru, living with a host family, experiencing the culture and language of the people, gaining hands-on health care experience in a local hospital and helping to provide clinics and other services in remote communities.

Earlier this year, nine people from our diocese also took part in an encounter trip to Ussongo, Tanzania, with support from the **Diocesan Mission Office**.

Supporting such endeavors is one way that the **Diocesan Mission Office** promotes, encourages and fosters an awareness of "mission" beyond our diocesan boundaries. Find out more on the website:

[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/mission/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/mission/index.cfm)

## Canadians join in local African ministries through "Hands at Work"

BY MARLENE CHOTOWETZ

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MAJOR

In March, 2009, I had the privilege of returning to the rural community of Masoyi, South Africa, where *Hands at Work in Africa* began its ministry over a decade ago.

Masoyi is about four hours northeast of Johannesburg. *Hands at Work* is a home-grown Christian ministry that serves orphans, widows and the very poor through the local churches. The work is carried out by local volunteers recruited from churches.

The volunteers visit orphans and vulnerable children in their homes to make sure they have food, education and basic health care. Widows are taught how they can earn an income. Sick people are cared for. Gardens are started. Today *Hands at Work* has projects in eight African countries, serving the poorest of the poor.

I was introduced to this organization five years ago as one of 17 on a short term mission. My son and daughter-in-law, Lynn and Jayme Chotowetz, were the team leaders. Lynn was born and raised in Major, SK. Jayme was born and raised in Wadena. They were living and working in Calgary at the time. My son Lynn encouraged me to go.

I was reluctant because I was afraid. "It's



Marlene Chotowetz with the 3-5 year olds at Masoyi Care Centre.

- Photo submitted

too dangerous in Africa," I said. Thankfully, through prayer and encouragement from my family, I agreed to go. After 10 weekly sessions of preparation, 17 greenhorns with servant hearts left with bags of clothes, shoes, and medical supplies to return three weeks later forever changed. While we were there, we accompanied the local volunteers on their duties, learning as we went and participating when we could. What an experience!

One year later, some of the same group, including myself, went back again for another three weeks. The experience is best shared through stories of the people I met.

I met Jabbulayla, a young woman who is the social worker for *Hands at Work* in Masoyi. She has a family of her own but she volunteers for *Hands* and has taken in four nieces and nephews whose parents died of AIDS and are now part of her family. I had the privilege of joining her group on Home Based Care, visiting the sick, praying for the dying.

I met a *go-go* (grandmother) who was so discouraged because she was struggling to care for her three orphaned grandchildren who lived with her. She was old and tired with swollen feet and hands. We listened to her story, encouraged her through prayer and song, then helped her clean her house, bathe her children and prepare a meal of pap (ground maize). These *go-gos* are holding down the fort in Africa as their middle-aged children die from the pandemic.

I met Emily, Enough, Mpilo, Charles, Faith, Nomonde and hundreds of other children who have been denied a mother's care and love. Neighborhood volunteers try to ensure that these little ones have food, shelter, education and someone to comfort them in the middle of the night.

I met a man named Never. He was sitting in his yard on a mat in the shade of some corn stalks, tearing up pieces of pumpkin leaves and flowers to dry in the sun. He could not walk. He had no legs. I asked him why his name was Never. He said because he trusts in God and will never give up. I'm thinking this kind of faith in God is what gives Never and

many others hope for another day.

We discovered that even though we could do no great things while we were there, we could listen to their stories, share our stories and become friends. The people there are so rich spiritually. We here are so rich in material goods. Let us share our gifts with each other!

I don't want to romanticize these trips. There are physical, emotional and spiritual hardships involved and it takes time to recover but for me it was well worth it.

My third trip was this past spring for five weeks. I went by myself to visit Lynn and Jayme who have been with *Hands at Work* in Africa for three years. There are 6,000 new orphans everyday in sub-Saharan Africa. *Hands at Work's* goal is to reach 100,000 orphans in 2010. While I was there, *Hands* held their annual national and international conference and I met the community leaders from eight different countries.

A special experience for me this time was to help orphans in the after-school program. They come after school for a meal and stay for help with homework, etc. Each session begins with a song and a prayer. They all love to sing and they don't hesitate to pray spontaneously. As a former teacher, I was in my glory to have students who were so eager to learn.

About an hour and a half from Masoyi is St. John's Care Centre, a home for HIV positive children that nobody else wants. The religious sisters there care for 29 children from babies to about 12 years.

Since my trips I have been invited to schools and churches and other groups to show pictures and talk about Africa. I am happy to do that because I want everyone in Canada to know what is happening in Africa and that they need our help. There have been many generous donations for widows and orphans from the Macklin, Denzil, Luseland, Kerrobert, Kindersley and Major areas.

I encourage people, young and old to experience mission if possible. I know there are many needs in our own towns and cities and we all do what we can to help, but to experience God's presence with the poorest of the poor is special.

*Hands at Work* welcomes volunteers of all ages for short term or long term stays. Their website is [www.handsatwork.org](http://www.handsatwork.org)

Trips to Oblate missions are available through our diocese, and the Diocesan Mission Office also supports, promotes and encourages mission involvement. See: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/mission/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/mission/index.cfm)



Impact 2009 summer mission

Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) co-founder André Regnier (front) stands July 8 with just a few of the CCO volunteers and leaders who were serving in the diocese of Saskatoon during the organization's summer mission project: *Impact 2009*. Arriving in early May, some 55 young people from across the country spent their summer working and living in Saskatoon, participating in faith enrichment and reaching out to others to share their faith. Teams in 11 parishes led weekly faith studies and connected with the parishes Sundays, participating in a wide range of ministries and celebrations. A five-member Apostle Team also ministered in schools, at the prison and in area communities (see Page 13). Weekly "Cornerstone" events for young adults, featuring speakers, music, activities and fellowship were also part of *Impact 2009*, as were monthly "Summit" evenings of Eucharistic adoration. Started in Saskatoon in 1988, CCO is a cross-Canada university student movement dedicated to evangelization and to challenging students to fully live their Catholic faith.

## NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Sask., (Canada)

# Shepherd returns to flock after illness

BY SR. JEANNINE RONDOT, SMS  
SÃO JOSÉ DA LAJE, BRAZIL

For a period of 10 months, beginning last October, our parish of "São José" in the city of São José da Laje was somewhat of a flock without its shepherd.

Our parish priest, Fr. Alexandre, 48 years of age, became seriously ill when he suffered a sudden massive heart attack. He was immediately rushed to the hospital in the capital city of Maceió, where he underwent open heart surgery which was followed by two cardiac arrests and still further complications along the way. Doctors were not expecting him to pull through. But, with the grace of God, the care of excellent medical personnel and the ardent prayer of all parishioners, Fr. Alexandre actually came through it all, to the amazement of his own medical staff.

That 10-month period of care and recuperation had a profound impact on Alexandre, who literally found himself between life and death. He shares the fact that, for him, it

was a time of inner transformation, finding himself "naked" and helpless before God, in complete surrender. Consciously entrusting himself to the merciful kindness of God, he gradually found courage and hope for life ahead.

"This" he says, "was a time of purification and of drawing ever closer to God, as I felt carried in the palm of God's hands."

For Alexandre, life has now become more meaningful than ever before. He has been so tested and deeply touched by God's infinite goodness and love, that he cannot remain the same person again, he claims.

During that time of Fr. Alexandre's absence, priests and deacon of two neighbouring parishes (União dos Palmares and Ibateguara) were generous enough to stretch themselves out in order to come and help with Sunday liturgies, baptisms and marriages. Throughout the week, various groups of lay people were leading the liturgical celebrations while continuing the ministry of evangelization in the local communities, as the larger parish is divided into 13 sections or "small communities." There were also the many meetings to organize and attend in an effort to keep the parish functioning, both from a pastoral and administrative point of view.

As weeks and months were going by and Fr. Alexandre was unable to return, parishioners were getting somewhat restless, longing for a sense of direction from their pastor. When some individuals or groups dared to express signs of leadership, others were quick to criticize them for seeking "power" or being in competition with others. This of course, brought about negative effects on the whole community. It was a time of tension and struggle in accepting our personal differences, our various gifts and creative approaches. Yet, it was an opportunity to grow for those willing to learn and move ahead.

Eventually, the various pastoral ministry groups were re-organized with a thorough evaluation process and new direction to be taken wherever necessary. This, hopefully, will help us begin again in a more constructive and wholesome spirit, for the sake of mission.



Fr. Alexandre was presented with roses when he returned to the parish of São José da Laje. Behind him (left) is one of his heart surgeons. It was an emotional reunion with the faithful after a 10-month absence.

On Aug. 20 Fr. Alexandre returned to our parish with great delight and the warm welcome back of his people. Gradually, he is discovering that, not only had he been deeply touched by God, but also that he remains fragile and no longer has the same physical ability to take on full responsibility for the parish. The reality of his present condition limits him to the celebration of the Eucharist and the gift of his presence, giving parishioners a sense of security again, while carrying on with the pastoral activities and life of the church.

It is hoped that this experience, with its birthing pains and struggles for new life, will have served a good purpose, with people believing in their own capacity to be more actively involved in the mission of service to the Christian community. On reflecting back, this seems to have been a concrete example of how God can indeed "write straight with crooked lines," while calling us to give our all in becoming more and more "Body of Christ" for one another.



### Missionary hands

Sr. Jeannine has rejoined her sister Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS, and the two continue to minister to the people of São José da Laje.

## Ursuline sisters bring young people into the circle of community

BY SR. ROSEANE DA SILVA, OSU

It is with joy and hope that we wish to share with you our recent weekend visit with the children, youth and their families in União dos Palmares.

Sisters Francisca, Quiteria, and I, Roseane, along with a team from União experienced mission in a new way. We spent a weekend working alongside Father Francisco and Deacon Leandro and a group of young people.

On the first day we visited poor families. We were deeply moved by our encounter with an elderly man. He was very thin and disfigured, suffering from liver damage as a result of alcoholism. He was no longer able to walk, but was being cared for by his brother.

Later on that day, we met youth who were involved in selling drugs. At first we felt a little fearful, not knowing if we would be welcomed by them. After a few nervous minutes however, we were welcomed, and they said that we could pass freely in their area in order to continue our visits. We were touched by their gesture of hospitality.

As we spoke with them we noticed that some 15 youth appeared suddenly, gathering



In a recent encounter held at União dos Palmares, youth discover Jesus and community as the true alternative to life of violence in gangs and the slavery of drug addiction.

around us. We used this opportunity to pray with them. We sensed that they too felt touched by our meeting and welcomed by us.

Normally they might feel excluded and alone in the world, without hope and without any future, beyond the false security of drugs which seemingly gives a sense of power and recognition.

In this encounter with such young people, we felt moved by the Spirit of God; the spirit of St. Angela who compassionately listened to the appeals of the daughters and sons of God. She was bold in planting a small seed of love which helped her to transform the society in which she lived and to restore the dignity of all those she met.

We also met with another group meeting of youth at the acreage of deacon Leandro. The theme was "Drug prevention; Love as the solution and way."

We welcomed 50 youth and prayed the rosary walking through the acreage while reflecting on the mysteries of the rosary and biblical passages.

At each stop we paused to

remember the different mysteries and shared our motives to thank and praise God.

After the reflective rosary, a pastor of the Baptist Church also gave a talk and shared a video showing youth living in the world of drugs and the consequences of drug use.

Then we heard the testimony of Sergio, a chemically dependent person who had recovered at the Farm of Hope in Marechal Deodoro. It was very good for the youth to hear the story of his life and how he was able to break free from drugs and begin a new life.

There was also a celebration of the Word prepared and animated by the youth themselves.

We then broke off into smaller groups, sharing our thoughts and ideas. Each one said how she or he was feeling. We were surprised with their sincerity and openness. There were games and music throughout the encounter, which helped to make things very enjoyable.

This weekend experience gives us good reason to return there and to continue our mission amongst the youth with great enthusiasm. They are thirsting for the Lord and want to get to know Him more completely.



# Visit of Dom Antônio Muniz strengthens relationship between two sister churches

By FR. LES PAQUIN

Dom Antônio Muniz Fernandes, archbishop of Maceió, made quite an impression when we greeted him at the airport in Saskatoon on the morning of July 15. He came two days early, upsetting the busy and organized lives of us North Americans!

He didn't complain about the long flight or being tired. He traveled light, bringing only a coat, briefcase and one piece of carry-on baggage. He immediately started talking to us in English. And finally, he smiled from ear to ear saying "I am a free man now. I am on holidays. I leave the diocese of Maceió behind. I am in Saskatoon, and will go wherever you take me, and do whatever you want me to do."

And so the adventure began. Everyone was relaxed and comfortable, put at ease by the warmth and openness of Dom Antônio. Over the next 10 days, Dom Antônio would become like a sponge, soaking up almost everything Canadians had to offer.

The purpose of the visit, above and beyond giving the new archbishop of Maceió a chance to get to know our diocesan church, was to explore possibilities of how we might continue to journey together as sister churches, sustaining the life-giving relationship that started in 1964 when Bishop Klein sent the first missionary team down to the state of Alagoas, located in northeastern Brazil.

Though Dom Antônio became archbishop of Maceió only a few years ago he was well aware of the history that existed between the two churches. Though our respective political, economic, social and ecclesial realities are very different, including the size of each diocese (diocese of Saskatoon: 86,000 Catholics; archdiocese of Maceió: 1.6 million); there are many gifts and challenges that we share in common.

"We have much to teach each other and learn from each other," said Dom Antônio addressing those gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 23. "No one is only a teacher; no one is just a student." Dom Antônio confided with me at the end of his visit that he had learned a lot from his visits and experiences here, and that he would try to put some of those ideas or inspirations into practice when he returned to his diocese. He was particularly impressed with his visit to the Friendship Inn, the CWL Clothing Depot, the Food Bank and the Saskatoon Community Village.

Dom Antônio had little trouble interacting with people, as he spoke and understood English fairly well. He had started an English club in the seminary years ago, and had developed a real interest in the language while he was living in Rome. He became more proficient while living with his brother Carmelites in Dublin for a short period of time. While here, he reveled in every opportunity he had to speak English, and like any good student, was open to being corrected.

Though he wasn't the main celebrant at Masses, he spoke simply and beautifully in his homilies and reflections given at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon,



Bishop Albert LeGatt and Archbishop Dom Antonio enjoy moments of relaxation at Prince Albert National Park



Dom Antônio Muniz Fernandes concelebrates the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt and Abbot Peter Novecosky (l-r) at the pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on a warm summer day in Saskatchewan.



Dom Antonio Muniz cautiously takes a "dip" in the frigid waters of Lake Waskesiu... this ain't Brazil!

St. Augustine parish in Humboldt, or at the pilgrimage at Mount Carmel. Of course there were a few language gaffs along the way.

While Dom Antônio was relaxing for a few days with Bishop Albert and me at Waskesiu, he started teasing us about not having seen any bears while at the park. So after passing through the park gates, he accused us of lying; "There are no *beers* here." After politely correcting his pronunciation, laughter erupted again as a bear ran across the road, just ahead of us!

Another amusing moment occurred while walking along the beach. On a rather cold day, Dom Antônio was joking with us again about our "little beaches" (Careful on the pronunciation!)

The beach in and around Maceió extends for miles and miles, and the water is very warm. We chastised the poor Brazilian for not having the courage to go for a swim. He condescended to reaching down, touching the water with his finger for a brief moment, upon which he jumped up, blurting out an expletive in Portuguese. While he absorbed or took in almost everything during his visit, cold Saskatchewan lake water was going just a bit too far!

I had the pleasure of going for a walk with Dom Antônio on the Meewasin Trail on the day of his arrival. We talked about our personal lives, and about the struggles and challenges that he faces in Maceió.

Dom Antônio is a man of vision, a prophet, fearlessly committed to the mission of the Church in the modern world. The walk was delightful. He marveled at the "living skies," and the beauty of nature along the riverbank, even the gophers that peeked in on us as we walked by.

The next day he couldn't help but notice, while we drove through the streets, how calm the city was; how smoothly traffic flowed and that pedestrians have the right of way! He visited St. Joseph's nursing home, where we were given a tour by a couple of the sisters who come from the south of Brazil. We wandered through "A Taste of Saskatchewan" on the riverbank, enjoying an open air concert.

While in Humboldt, Dom Antônio visited a farm close to Muenster and had lunch with the Benedictine community at St. Peter's Abbey. He was struck by the flatness of the land; the distance between farmhouses.

He enjoyed meeting the St. Augustine's parishioners after Mass and the many pilgrims who gathered at Mount Carmel. He participated in the jubilee celebrations of the Ursuline sisters at Humboldt the following day, even singing a few lines of a Brazilian song to missionary Sr. Claire Novecosky, who was celebrating 50 years of religious life. Sr. Claire and Sr. Louise work alongside Dom Antônio at the "Farm of Hope," a project started a few years ago that aims at rehabilitating drug addicts, just outside of Maceió.

Accompanied by Sr. Claire and members of BMAC in Saskatoon on another day, Dom Antônio visited with children at a Vacation Bible School held at Holy Spirit parish. Needless to say, they were a big hit.

Of course there were some important meetings and discussions that took place between the two bishops, with the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee and members of the Diocesan Mission Office, and an open dialogue regarding the future relationship between our two sister churches held at St. Paul's Cathedral. Dom Antônio was a very attentive listener and openly shared his ideas about how we can stay "connected" in the future.

Some of the suggestions which emerged from meetings included: continued individual visits between the dioceses from time to time; sending members of those involved with the parish mission in Humboldt to see what the archdiocese is presently doing; ways of involving people from Saskatoon diocese in some of the projects that work with the poor and marginalized in the mission; formation experiences offered to young people who would like to "learn from and walk with" the people who live in the mission; and the possibility of setting up exchanges of clergy and seminarians.

Dom Antônio graciously thanked Bishop Albert and the people of the diocese for their friendship, support, and works done in the archdiocese of Maceió and expressed the hope that we could continue to work together. Dom Antônio has asked me to share these words (below)with the people of the diocese of Saskatoon.

## Archbishop's message to the diocese of Saskatoon

The reality of death that imposes itself in our times can never overcome the reality of life.

Life has the last word in the loving plan of God who is the Lord of life and of history. In His son there is fullness of life; the Kingdom proclaimed by Him is the Kingdom of Life. The mission that He proposes to his disciples is a mission in favour of life, a reality that leads to an experience of total liberation.

The Church, follower of Christ, must place itself as one who promotes life and hope where life and its dignity are disfigured. The gospel lived and witnessed by the church is the strength of transformation capable not only of saying that another world is possible, but of building a different world through its insertion in the social and cultural framework and from its power of transformation, as leaven, starting from the inside of its own structures.

The Church that wants to be a Samaritan Church is a pilgrim Church always journeying, that involves itself in human history, in solidarity with those that we find at the side of the road, those who are left on the fringe, the excluded, the rejected, those deprived of their human dignity.

A Samaritan Church is not merely a passerby, in a hurry, with superficial commitments that rob or erode its sensitivity, but a Church that has time to stop for people, tending to their wounds, without any time limits for the journey, with resources capable of provoking a chain of solidarity and of communion with wounded human persons.

A Samaritan Church is a Church of hope, capable of proclaiming a word in the noisiness of the world; a Church where life, ever fragile, has the taste of eternity; a Church, the spouse of Christ, that walks in His presence; that awakens in His children the dream of working and serving with all of its strength.

- Dom Antônio Muniz Fernandes

## Parish manual for ministry of care launched by CHAS

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new manual to help parishes establish or enhance their ministry of care to the sick and suffering has been developed by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS).

"Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual" was introduced to a number of parishes and volunteers at a workshop Nov. 7 in Humboldt, as well as being launched at the CHAS convention in October.

"This ministry is what CHAS is all about – bringing the compassion of Christ to those who are sick, suffering and dying," said Fr. Jim Kaptein of Nipewin, the bishops' representative on the CHAS board of directors and the chair of the project team that developed the new resource for parishes.

"The challenge of suffering is addressed most adequately when a faith community journeys with those who are sick and sorrowing," begins the Community of Care parish manual.

"In our faith communities, there are many individuals who suffer, often quietly, from isolation, loneliness, depression, loss of a loved one, chronic illness, physical disability, or being housebound due to lack of mobility," the manual describes.

"A ministry of care program invites parishioners to the possibilities for service to these members of the community who may not be visible or feel connected to the community."

The resource begins by considering the dignity of the human person and scriptural foundations for the ministry of care, before exploring different models of ministry (including parish nursing), and providing practical suggestions about establishing or enhancing a ministry of care program in a parish. Subsequent chapters examine the needs of those being served, as well as the

selection, training and support of visitors. The Community of Care manual also includes liturgical resources and prayers, and a resource list.

"This has been a project two years in the making," said Sandra Kary, executive director of CHAS, noting that the new manual builds upon an earlier CHAS resource developed 14 years ago by a team led by Sr. Anne Collins, SCIC.

Development of the new Ministry of Care manual has been a highly collaborative process, Kary added. The project team for the ministry of care manual included representatives from the dioceses of Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon: individuals involved in pastoral care in a variety of roles and settings.

"It has got a Saskatchewan flavour," noted Deacon Bob Williston, CSsR, mission educator for CHAS. "There are people's experiences in here; people who have been active in ministry of care as coordinators, as parish nurses, as volunteers, as individuals."

"The thing that is impressing us is how comprehensive this has ended up being," said Williston. "We wanted people to be able to take this and feel equipped to go into homes, into hospitals, into long term care facilities, and provide ministry of care."

It was necessary for the resource to be broad in scope, said Kary. "We are very cognizant of the fact that this will go to both urban and rural parishes, and of the many models of ministry that exist in a variety of different settings."

The question of how the resource will be promoted and used is now being addressed, added Williston. The hope is that the resource will not be sitting on a shelf, but will be actively utilized, he said.

"We'll try to take this to as many parishes and settings as possible to introduce the



Sandra Kary, CHAS executive director; Deacon Bob Williston, mission educator; and Trish Holst, administrative assistant (l-r) with the new ministry of care manual for parishes.

manual," said Kary. "Once you see this and want to develop a ministry of care or rejuvenate a program that you already have, you want to be able to develop some structure around it," she said. "We're trying to inspire the ministry to take root and move forward."

The new manual will also help provide a greater uniformity of practice across the province, added Williston. "For example, there are a variety of ways to bring communion to the sick, but some of them are better than others. We do need that common reference point, and that is what this gives, right from the bishops' liturgical texts."

All of the Saskatchewan bishops have endorsed the resource. "Every once in awhile, a reference book comes along which advances the kingdom of God," Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina writes in a message from the bishops of Saskatchewan about the publication.

"From the initial chapter of what it means to be a human being, to the parish models in

use, to needs of those being visited and those doing the visiting, to the training sessions that are included, and to the cutting edge information on Parish Nurses; not to mention the excellent liturgies that are part of this ministry; this work can only be described as comprehensive," Bohan said.

"The gospel is filled with instances when Jesus helped those who were ill," he added. "In a society that sometimes sees sickness or age as a scourge to be removed from sight, it is a blessing to see a book which helps us understand that the sick and aged need to be treated with the utmost respect."

Kary said it is highly appropriate that as a provincial network for all those involved in Catholic health care, CHAS is working to provide tools and resources at a parish level.

"Catholic health care doesn't just live in Catholic health care facilities, but is part of the baptismal calling of every Christian to share in the healing ministry of Christ," she said.



Stuart MacLennan and Michael MacLean (l-r) participated in a game of Jeopardy at a Friends of L'Arche Gathering hosted by Newman Centre and Campus Ministry at St. Thomas More College. - Photo by Shayne Meggs

## L'Arche builds community connections through regular monthly gatherings

By WYNNDHAM THIESSEN AND MARGARET SANCHE

Once a month, from September to June, L'Arche Saskatoon holds a Friends of L'Arche Gathering.

It is a time for people who have developmental disabilities and their families and friends to share a meal, to visit with old friends and welcome newcomers, and to engage in some fun activities together.

The monthly gatherings began back in 1998, when the group was not yet part of L'Arche and was known as Led by the Spirit. At first,

those who gathered each month came from Light of the Prairies and Trinity group homes, or were parents who came with their adult sons and daughters, or were people from various churches who knew about the work and spirituality of Jean Vanier and wanted to develop a L'Arche community in Saskatoon. Eventually others heard about the gatherings by word of mouth and began to come as well.

The Friends of L'Arche Gatherings are usually held the third Wednesday evening of each month at Grace-Westminster United Church. Three times a year they are held in other locations: in October, the gathering is held on a Sunday afternoon at St. Thomas More College, hosted by the students of Newman Council and the campus ministry team.

In December, the gathering is held at Holy Cross Catholic High School, hosted by the students and teachers, with everyone sharing a potluck turkey dinner; and in June it has become a tradition to have a year end barbecue at Diefenbaker Park, weather permitting.

All are welcome to attend the Friends of L'Arche Gatherings – the group now includes the core members and assistants of Christopher House, Saskatoon's first L'Arche home, as well as people of all ages from the larger community of Saskatoon who want to be involved in some way in L'Arche.

All are also welcome to attend weekly L'Arche Prayer Nights. Prayer Nights were started in early 2007, hosted by different churches in Saskatoon, to provide an opportunity to reflect on the presence of God in our lives, and to deepen in our understanding of the spirituality of L'Arche.

From its beginning, the communal faith life of L'Arche in Saskatoon has been ecumenical. Residents of Christopher House and members of the larger Friends of L'Arche group represent many different churches and faith traditions.

All are invited to "Come and see" at a Friends of L'Arche Gathering or Prayer Night or other event, where we "celebrate the unique value of every person and recognize our need of one another" (L'Arche International Identity Statement).

To learn more about L'Arche Saskatoon events and Friends of L'Arche Gatherings, see the L'Arche Saskatoon website: [www.larchesaskatoon.org](http://www.larchesaskatoon.org) or call community leader Wyndham Thiessen at 262-7243.

The website for L'Arche Canada is: [www.larche.ca](http://www.larche.ca) and the L'Arche International website is: [www.larche.org](http://www.larche.org)

L'Arche is one of the organizations in the community that is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



### National parish nurse conference

Saskatoon participants in a national parish nursing conference held in Saskatoon May 21-24 included (l-r) Trish Holst, Ethna Martin, Carol Kostiuk, Deb Bauche, Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, and Sandra Kary. Delegates from across the country attended the Canadian Association For Parish Nursing Ministry (CAPNM) convention, exploring the theme "Bridging Spirituality and Health." For more coverage of this event see the news articles archive on the website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)



# Sisters of St. Elizabeth transfer ownership of Cudworth home to community

BY BERNICE JUNGWIRTH

A significant historic event took place at St. Michael's Haven in Cudworth Oct 20 as ownership of the assisted living facility was transferred from the Sisters of Elizabeth to joint ownership by the town of Cudworth and the Rural Municipality of Hoodoo #401.

Some 75 people gathered to witness the ownership transfer, marking the day with remembrance and recognizing the precious gift from the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt.

The afternoon began with Mass celebrated in the welcoming room of St. Michael's Haven by Fr. Denis Phaneuf, pastor of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Parish. Haven's board chair Robin Leuschen extended a welcoming address, which was followed by the signing of title transfer documents.

Signing and documenting the many copies of paperwork were Sr. Philomena Dobmeier, OSE, representing the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Cudworth Mayor Harold Mueller, RM of Hoodoo Reeve Linus Hackl, Haven board chair Robin Leuschen, Haven vice-chair Michael Wilde, RM administrator David Yorke, and town administrator Yvonne Gobolos.

Mayor Mueller said that when visiting Cudworth's Haven, he has experienced and sensed the true feeling of a real home. He spoke of "the cooperative energy that moves



In appreciation to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, a plaque was presented by St. Michael's Haven: (l-r) Robin Leuschen (Haven chair), Valerie Kuemper (Haven administrator), Sr. Philomena, Sr. Frances, Sr. Imelda and Sr. Louise (all from the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Humboldt).

- Photo by Bernice Jungwirth

the Cudworth community" and expressed appreciation for everyone's contribution in making this milestone possible. He stressed the wonderful facilities that Cudworth has to offer in the form of independent living at Evergreen Court, assisted living at St. Michael's Haven, and full care at Cudworth Nursing Home. Mueller said he is confident that the community residents will continue to support their institutions in "the Cudworth way."

Reeve Linus Hackl thanked the sisters for their confidence in turning over the facility and for allowing the Rural Municipality 'to be a part of it all'. He praised all those who persevered to plan, and execute the upgrading

conversion from the 'old St. Michael's Hospital' into the precious 'home of the Haven' as it exists today.

Past-administrator of Cudworth's former St. Michael's Hospital Joseph Habetler delivered a remembrance and history of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The order's involvement and compassionate health and spiritual service have involved members of their order in the community since 1924.

A slide presentation depicted the development, changes, upgrading, and staff/friends who had served in both the former hospital and the present facility throughout the years. The presentation was

created by the Haven's Activity Director Eleanor Schreiner and her daughter Amanda Schreiner.

An appreciation plaque was presented to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth by Haven Administrator Valerie Kuemper. A larger version of the plaque is on display in the Haven main entrance room.

On behalf of the Sisters, Sr. Philomena Dobmeier addressed the crowd, saying: "We pass on the torch of caring for the elderly without any strings attached."

"When the hospital closed it was a tragic day for the Sisters, but today we celebrate to see the Haven has taken on the task of care of the elderly. We thank all who have helped the sisters to get to this point in their lives: we become smaller (in numbers) and you must get bigger."

Sr. Philomena also presented a charitable donation to the Haven for \$5,000, which she remarked 'would begin the trend of donations.'

A social gathering and opportunities for a tour of the facility ended the program.

The present St. Michael's Haven Corporation's Board of Directors includes: chair Robin Leuschen, Judy Trischuk and Morris Trischuk (who are all members at large); and appointed members Bernadette Lange and Yvonne Gobolos (town of Cudworth), Anthony Richardson and Clifford Wedewer (RM of Hoodoo #401).



Barb Kirkland was recipient of this year's Foundress Award.

- Photo courtesy of St. Paul's Hospital

## Mission Week recognizes and promotes core values lived among staff of St. Paul's Hospital

BY BRIAN ZIMMER, DIRECTOR OF MISSION, ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

"What does it mean that we are a Catholic Hospital?"

This was the rhetorical question posed by one physician at a recent town hall meeting. He explained: "We are not all Catholics who work here; not all of our patients are Catholic; we don't have any Catholic x-rays or blood tests. So what does it mean?" The question was uniquely important to him, because he was Hindu.

His answer? "We are Catholic when we live the mission and core values of the people who founded St. Paul's Hospital."

This October St. Paul's Hospital celebrated an annual "Mission Week." It is a week of activities that offer recognition to staff for living these core values.

It also serves to tell the St. Paul's Hospital story to newer staff, and to celebrate the heritage we continue. The week chosen is always based on Oct. 16, the feast of St. Marguerite d'Youville, foundress of the Grey Nuns.

Many hear for the first time about Marguerite d'Youville and like-spirited women who cared for homeless and sick in Montréal in the 1700s, and about how some enemies accused them of being "soeurs grises," French for "drunken nuns". It also means "Grey Nuns", so Marguerite and companions wore grey clothing. The name stuck.

Others are not aware that, in 1906, a typhoid outbreak occurred among workers constructing the CPR bridge in Saskatoon. The Oblate priests at St. Paul's church began caring for the sick in their rectory but were soon overwhelmed by the work. They prayed for help.

In the meantime two Grey Nuns from St. Boniface on a fundraising trip for their hospital, stopped at the rectory to ask where they might spend the night. The priests took their arrival as an answer to their prayers, and convinced the nuns to help in the care of the sick.

The rectory was too small to care for all the sick, and Dr. Willoughby offered the use of his house. The first St. Paul's Hospital, it was situated where the south end of the present "A Wing" exists.

Hearing the story, staff know that great things are always rooted in the decisions of individuals, working together, to offer compassionate and respectful care.

Most of the activities of the week involve telling our story and eating, which you might consider to be subliminally Eucharistic, especially "Feast Day" when the hospital provides a feast to all staff, volunteers and physicians.

At a recommitment ceremony, the highlight is the personal story of three staff members, who relate how they value the St. Paul's Hospital mission.

## Artists enhance hospital environment

BY JACQUIE BERG  
ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Fourteen Saskatoon artists are donating their talents to paint ceiling tiles that will be placed in St. Paul's Hospital Emergency Room and waiting area.

The ER Ceiling Tile Collaboration was initiated by St. Paul's Hospital as part of a Healing Arts Program, which strives to connect with a diverse group of artists offering a variety of creative disciplines, including visual arts and music.

The Healing Arts Program is funded through donations to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, and was created to provide a more humanized experience of health care for patients, caregivers, families and the

community. Through creative arts and aesthetics, spiritual and emotional health and well-being is fostered through an increased sense of peace and healing in the otherwise formal environment of a hospital.

For more information, please contact Marlessa Wesolowski at the St. Paul's Hospital Mission Office, 655-0514 or e-mail: marlessa.wesolowski@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Collaborating artists in the ceiling tile project include Annette Beerman, Edwin Billeter, Cheryl Buckmaster, Lou Chrones, David Geary, Greg Hardy, Laura Hosaluk, Michael Hosaluk, Miranda Jones, Marie Lannoo, Grant McConnell, Jacob Semko, Laddie Sr. Wesolowski, Al Weitzel and Marlessa Wesolowski.

## Campaign seeks support for cardiac monitors at St. Paul's Hospital

BY JACQUIE BERG  
ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

St. Paul's Hospital Foundation is seeking support for cardiac monitors in one of the busiest Emergency Rooms in the province.

St. Paul's Hospital Emergency Room receives some 45,000 visits each year. The cardiac monitor is an essential tool in the ER and in critical care areas monitoring heart rhythms and the patient's vital signs.

Cardiovascular diseases, or diseases of the heart and blood vessels, are the number

one cause of death in Canada. Heart and vascular conditions include high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, heart attack, sudden cardiac arrest, heart muscle disorders and stroke.

The goal at St. Paul's Hospital is to ensure all ER beds are equipped with state-of-the art cardiac monitors interconnected from a central display. This means replacing aging monitors and purchasing additional monitors - enabling continual observation of several patients and allowing for prompt identification and initiation of treatment.

The Emergency Department at St. Paul's Hospital has a number of cardiac monitors in constant use, but more are needed to treat the increased number of patients seen each year and to meet the growing demand for specialized cardiovascular care. These critical tools cost about \$20,000 each and can make the difference between life and death for the many cardiac patients who pass through St. Paul's doors every year.

It is also important to have the most up to date, specialized monitoring equipment so medical staff can detect problems at an early stage before serious complications arise. Early diagnosis also means providing patients with better care and a potentially shorter stay in hospital.

For more information or to make a donation contact St. Paul's Foundation office: (306) 655-5821 or 1-888-345-0330; or donate at [www.sphfoundation.org](http://www.sphfoundation.org)



Cardiac monitors are a vital tool.

- Photo courtesy of SPHF

### Calling compassionate hearts:

Have you considered volunteering at Saskatoon City Hospital or Royal University Hospital?

**Don't hold back! Hospital visitors are needed.**

Contact: Gladys McElwee at 306-292-5531  
or e-mail: [hospitalchaplaincy@saskatoondiocese.com](mailto:hospitalchaplaincy@saskatoondiocese.com)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

# Catholic school district reveals mission statement

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) unveiled a new mission statement during the division's opening celebration for the new school year Aug. 28.

The new mission statement reads: "Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place. *'We love because He first loved us.'* (1JOHN 4:19)"

GSCS board chair Diane Boyko presented the mission statement to the gathering of staff at Circle Drive Alliance Church, after an opening Mass with Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Bishop Albert LeGatt of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and a number of priests from the community.

Boyko described the extensive process of input and discussion undertaken to craft the new mission statement.

"We heard from clergy, the



Board chair Diane Boyko

CWL, the Knights of Columbus, members of the Catholic community and the general public. We spoke to local politicians, the aboriginal community and many

representatives from our partner organizations, and of course, we heard from students and from all of you, our staff."

This process followed the earlier development of vision and belief statements for the school division – work started three years ago by a GSCS faith committee which set out to define what made Catholic education unique and distinct, she explained.

"The mission statement goes hand-in-hand with our vision: *Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge and Reaching Out to Transform the World.*" noted Boyko. "It is also aligned with our belief statements, like 'we see God in all things' and 'our faith is part of learning and life.'"

During the gathering members of the board of education presented a mission statement plaque to the principal of each of its schools in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. Each school will also receive a framed copy of the new mission statement.

"It is our hope, however, that the mission statement will be more than just words that are framed and hung on your walls," said Boyko.

"This statement should be lived in our classrooms, in our offices, during our liturgies and assemblies, in Catholic school community council meetings and of course in your staff rooms."

Director of Education Bev Hanson spoke in more detail about how the mission statement, the vision statement and the belief statements for the school division are aligned.

"Achievement and excellence are central and important in our Catholic schools, but ultimately the success of Catholic education is not measured in standardized tests or academic statistics, but in its ability to integrate both faith and learning," Hanson said.

"Catholic schools are called to impart a vision of faith that enables students to seek the truth about God, about nature and the human person."

Hanson reviewed the process of reflection that has been happening in the school division about the vision of Catholic education, with key messages presented in different booklets printed each year for staff and school leaders to use to explore the vision statements in more detail.

Extending welcome and nurturing faith does not only happen at a prescribed time in Catholic schools, but must take place continuously "in every classroom, in every gymnasium, in every library, in the playground and in every interaction that we have," said Hanson.

"We understand that we cannot nurture faith alone, but in communion with the whole Church," she added, noting the partnerships that Catholic schools have with parish and family.

"We also recognize that we as adults are on the same faith journey as our students and that we are truly companions on the journey, breaking bread and sharing life."

## Boyko acclaimed chair of school board

BY DONELLA HOFFMAN

At the organizational meeting of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board of education Nov. 2, Diane Boyko of Saskatoon was acclaimed as chair of the board. This is Boyko's second one-year term as chair.

Boyko thanked her colleagues for their confidence and expressed her commitment to leading the board as it continues its work in setting the direction of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, which provides a distinctive, faith-based education for those who choose it.

"I think we can be proud of many wonderful accomplishments and I see bright things in the future for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools," said Boyko, a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St. George in Saskatoon.

Boyko was first elected to the school board in 2003 and was re-elected in 2006 and in this year's municipal election. She is

coordinator of the Sundog Arts and Entertainment Faire and was co-chair of the Saskatoon Juno Awards 2007 Host Committee.

Along with Boyko, nine other incumbents have returned to the Board of Education for three-year terms.

In Saskatoon's municipal election Oct. 28, the seven trustees representing the city were re-elected. They are: Ron Boechler, Diane Boyko, Jim Carriere, Tom Fortosky, Lisa Lambert, Alice Risling and Fred Wesolowski. Three other trustees were acclaimed when nominations closed in September. They are Debbie Berscheid, representing Humboldt; Jennifer Carruthers, representing Biggar; and Wayne Stus, representing rural Saskatoon.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools serves approximately 15,000 students in 45 schools in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount.



The newly-elected board of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools includes (back row l-r): Tom Fortosky, Ron Boechler, Debbie Berscheid, Jim Carriere, Fred Wesolowski, Diane Boyko, Wayne Stus; (Seated l-r): Alice Risling, Lisa Lambert, Jennifer Carruthers.

- Photo courtesy of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

## Catholic high school earns United Nations recognition for social justice priorities

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Bethlehem Catholic High School has earned recognition from the United Nations because of its social justice efforts. The Saskatoon school held a special assembly Sept. 24 to mark the day with a flag raising and retreat.

UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—offers the opportunity to every school to earn the right to fly their special United Nations flag and to be recognized as a UNESCO partner. This recognition allows Bethlehem the ability to participate in unique local and global events with other UNESCO Schools.

Bethlehem earned this designation by completing a two-year candidacy period in which the school pursued a number of activities with a social justice theme.

"We raised money for a high school [Kip Keino] in Kenya," said student social justice representative Sarah Pereira.

Kelsey Jellison, another student on the social justice committee explained the special connection to Bethlehem's partner school Kip Keino, "We both started in the same

year and we're helping to raise funds for their students."

"We're big on making a change in the world...it's important to bring peace to the world and make it a better place and UNESCO is a great way to do that," said Jellison.

Camille St. Amand, a teacher at Bethlehem, pointed out that the UNESCO project has been adopted by some 8,000 schools around the world.

"We have earned the right to fly the flag [that signifies] that our school is trying to make a difference in the world. Other schools could do this; it's a matter of getting students and staff involved... figuring out how to apply...and learning how to look at the world in a new way," said St. Amand.

Gayle Stookey, Bethlehem's chaplain, explained that the UNESCO designation is not a side project of the school but that it is more a flavour that it adds to all of its events and efforts.

"It encompasses everything we do in the school. We're doing ordinary things that do make extraordinary differences," said Stookey.

"Most of our work within the

school falls within the four pillars of UNESCO [learning to know, learning to be, learning to do, and learning to live together]," Stookey explained. "We always keep them in mind when we're planning activities".

Dominique Bokshowan, a teacher at Bethlehem, agreed and expanded on the idea that the UNESCO initiative was not about "doing different things but doing things differently...[it's about] looking at the ordinary things we do but taking other people in the world into consideration".

Some of those activities that Bethlehem recorded in their report included such common events as Remembrance Day activities and raising awareness about recycling and waste reduction. It also included bringing in a police officer who was a first respondent in New York at 9/11 and bringing in Desmond Tutu's daughter, Rev. Mpho Tutu, to speak to the students about how to make a difference in the world through small actions.

Bokshowan pointed out how the students have taken the addresses made to them seriously and as a concrete challenge.

"It was the students who asked,



Staff and students with the UN flag: (l-r) Chelsea Jellison, Gayle Stookey, Camille St. Amand, Dominique Bokshowan, Scott Gay, and Sarah Pereira.

"Why do we have all those lights on in the commons when we have all of those big fancy windows?" said Bokshowan. "So now we flick off those lights to save energy".

Principal Scott Gay noted that the UNESCO project was part of the foundational discussions about what the teachers and students wanted Bethlehem school to be as a school. He said students have taken on leadership in making the UNESCO designation their own project.

"Our social justice committee is exceptional. I feel really proud because our student body is quite diverse and that's a gift... it's a United Nations of students. You

look out and see the different cultures and colours and beauty of the group...it's representative of who we are as a school".

As part of Bethlehem's focus on social justice and the UNESCO partnership, the students have also organized a buddy program for students with learning disabilities, fundraisers for local and global charities, and have collected bicycles for kids in Namibia and shoes for students in Kenya. Students have also participated in the Bridge City Boogie that raised money for literacy and the Jingle Bell Run that raised money for the Arthritis Society.





Director of education Bev Hanson (left) presents the Prime Minister's award to Georges Vanier Catholic School visual arts teacher Monique Martin.

## Visual arts teacher receives award

Monique Martin, a visual arts teacher at Georges Vanier Catholic School recently received a 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

The award is presented to teachers for their innovative use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in the classroom, for the excellence and innovation of their teaching practices and their ability to achieve outstanding results with students.

At a school assembly Oct. 27, Georges Vanier staff, students and parents celebrated Martin, her work, and the national award. In nominating Martin, Kevin Hudson said he submitted a long list of the special projects initiated and coordinated by Martin, as well as testimonials from former students.

As visual arts teacher at the fine

arts school, Martin has found innovative ways for her students to bring their artwork into the community. She has collaborated with a number of organizations and groups to initiate graphic design projects – for instance, her students used computers to integrate their art, research and writing into posters that have promoted local history in both Saskatoon and Ottawa.

Another project had students creating posters designed to encourage young people to consider a career in engineering and geosciences. Martin has also coordinated a number of mural painting projects in which Georges Vanier students have decorated spaces at Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon, as well as rooms in the Royal University Hospital pediatric emergency department. - KLY

## Need for foster parents explored at parish meeting

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Have you ever considered being a foster parent?

This was the question posed by facilitators of a foster parent awareness and education evening held at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon Oct. 26. The program was coordinated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon's Office of Marriage and Family Life and facilitated by two members of the Saskatchewan department of Social Services and a foster parent from Denzil.

"Open Your Heart; Open Your Home is the theme of our campaign," explained Carmen Nokleby, who has been working for Social Services since 2000. "There are approximately 3,600 children in need of foster care in Saskatchewan and only 640 foster homes. There is a real need for caring foster parents."

Nokleby said that when it comes to foster care, the primary goal of Social Services is to reunite the child with family. "Whether that means getting the child back with their parents or finding a place for them with grandparents or an aunt – family is our first option," said Nokleby.

The presenters did not try to sugarcoat the experience of being a foster parent. One of their main messages was that becoming a foster parent is not a decision to be taken lightly and that it is a difficult process with a steep learning curve.

"There is a fine line between keeping your walls up so you don't get crushed when the kids leave, but also welcoming them and making them a part of your family," cautioned Nokleby.

Foster parents sometimes take on the role for only a year, but some foster many children over decades.

"One of our mottos is that foster parenting is not a lifetime commitment to a child but a commitment to be meaningful during a child's lifetime," said Nokleby.

Michelle Schneider, a recruitment worker with Social Services, explained that there were many different types of



Michelle Schneider (left) and Carmen Nokleby spoke about the procedure for becoming a Foster Parent.

foster care necessary in the system. Emergency care is at all hours and usually under 30 days. Short term care can be up to two years. Long term care can go as long as 21 years.

"There is also a need for respite parents to take kids from other foster parents so that they can have time to travel and rejuvenate, as well as therapeutic (care) which is an alternative to institutional care," explained Schneider.

Foster parent families take many different shapes. The main expectation of Social Services is that the family be stable. Parents must have a criminal record check and must pass child protection screening. Parents can be either renters or owners of their home.

Foster parents are also encouraged to reflect on the kind of children they would be most adept at fostering. Parents are asked whether they would be most suited to foster single children, teenagers, children younger than present biological children, or only children presently in school.

"Potential foster parents are required to complete a Foster Parent Pre-service Training Session as well as participate in a family assessment home study

with MSS case workers," said Schneider. Biological children are also interviewed to ensure the best possible matches.

Penny Volk and her husband, Pat, have been fostering children for 14 years. In that time, they have given care to dozens of children.

"The same traits that make a great parent make for a great foster parent," encouraged Volk.

Volk pointed out that first-time foster parents soon learn to make no assumptions about what a child may or may not know in terms of hygiene, diet, temperament, education or other life practices.

"We realized that teenage kids who come into care don't know they need to shower and change their underwear daily... that using cutlery was foreign to some kids in care. Over the years, we finally whittled it down to, 'We don't hurt ourselves, or others, or property.' That covers everything."

"Knowing that you are working with the counsellors at Social Services as a team is amazing," added Volk.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a foster parent, you can contact the Ministry of Social Services at 1-800-667-7002.



## Affirming Hope Youth Day

A Youth Day was part of this year's Catholic education "Affirming Hope" Catholic education conference in Saskatoon. Music and speakers were features of the provincial youth rally, organized by the Catholic School Boards Association, with input from dioceses and eparchies in the province. For coverage see the news articles archive on the website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

## Community continues to support religion class at Muenster school

SUBMITTED BY FAMILIES FOR RELIGION

Religious instruction continues at Muenster school during regular class time, as a result of the work of the Families for Religion program. Pam Saretsky instructs the religion class for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

In 2008-09, 67 children were enrolled in the program, with nine Grade 2 children preparing for sacraments, and 15 children in Grades 5 and 6 beginning preparation for confirmation. Children who are not preparing for sacraments learn from a Pflaum program based upon the Sunday scriptures.

"We have a lot of fun in class doing activities together," says Pam Saretsky. "By this teaching, we all strive to become better followers of Jesus."

Activities outside the classroom have included a turkey bingo, with

children assisting as part of a service project. Christmas caroling in December concluded with a visit to residents of Wolverine Heights.

The Families for Religion program continues to receive "wonderful support" from parents, teachers, parish families, parish councils and the community of Muenster, noted committee members Laurie Szautner and Pam Saretsky.

The effort to keep fees to a minimum is possible because of financial support from individuals, and from St. Gregory and St. Peter parishes.

The Knights of Columbus Abbot Doerfler Council also supports the program, with proceeds from an annual Ham and Lamb Supper going to the program, with a recent donation of \$1,150.



Muenster Knights of Columbus Abbot Bruno Doerfler Council continues to support "The Families for Religion" program offered in the Muenster Public School. Proceeds from an annual Ham and Lamb Supper totalling \$1,150 was recently presented by the Knights of Columbus to the program. Pictured are (back, l-r): Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, Knights of Columbus chaplain and parish priest; Jordan Bergermann, past Grand Knight; Ray Hofmann, treasurer; Brian Stamp, financial secretary; (front, l-r): Collette Lessmeister, committee member; Pam Saretsky, teacher; Richard Muench, Grand Knight, presenting a cheque for \$1,150; Coreen Breker, committee member; and Julie Hofmann, committee member.

- Photo submitted by Knights of Columbus, Muenster



Diocesan CWL convention

“Women of Peace and Hope” was the theme of the annual diocesan convention of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada held April 27 in Lanigan. CWL members from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon gathered for the convention, which included reports and recommendations from diocesan council officers and committees, a guest speaker, spiritual reflections and prayer, as well as the opportunity to celebrate together at a Mass and evening banquet. For more coverage of this event, visit the news archive on the diocesan website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)



Rock the Mount

The eighth annual Rock the Mount Catholic youth rally brought together some 1,000 pilgrims Aug. 22 for a joyful all-day celebration of faith under sunny skies at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. For more coverage of this event, visit the diocesan news archive at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)



Intercessors of the Lamb prayer conference

People of all ages, from 18 to 90 years, came from across Canada and all walks of life to attend the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit Prayer Conference Oct. 30 to Nov. 4 at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno. The 110 participants were led by Sr. Mary Rita Bazzi (left) and Sr. Mary Grace Hymel (right) of the Intercessors of the Lamb, Omaha, Nebraska; Fr. Gerard Cooper of St. Peter’s Parish, Unity; Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR, of St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Yorkton. Jerry and Donna Kristian of St. Therese led sessions on healing and forgiveness. The Intercessors of the Lamb will be returning to St. Therese Feb. 19 to 24 for a Prayer Warrior Conference focusing on the effectiveness of intercessory prayer. For more information, visit the website: [www.stTherese.ca](http://www.stTherese.ca)

- Photo by James Riley

# Ignite 2009 draws 150 youth

BY SHELAN SCHNELL,  
IGNITE COORDINATOR

This summer 150 teenagers and young adults gathered at St. Therese Institute in Bruno for Ignite 2009.

Many youth returned to the FacetoFace Ministries camp for the third year in a row.

Participant Chelsey Fontaine reflected on the Ignite experience. “I grew in faith and personal relationship with Christ with the beautiful talks given to us. I got to understand exactly how much God loves me and during adoration I had the opportunity to get to know Christ in a much more profound way.”

For the past two summers Fr. Clair Watrin, CSB, has been part of the Ignite Team. He was available for reconciliation throughout the week, during breaks and free time.

In one of his homilies Fr. Watrin described how true love is sacrificial and heroic, noting how human beings are heroic during floods, snowstorms and fires. He asked: “Will you be heroic and stick with



This year, 150 teenagers and young adults gathered for Ignite 2009, a summer camp presented by FacetoFace Ministries.

- Photo submitted by Ignite

the Lord? Will you keep praying when it is not easy or fun?” To be persistent in prayer is heroic and each day we should do something beautiful for God, he said.

This year, Ignite also featured Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, founder of *Aurem Cordis*, a Christian evangelization and apologetics organization dedicated to promoting Catholic teachings.

Burke-Sivers spoke with humor, passion and conviction about true

freedom – which is not doing whatever we want. Instead, true freedom is lived in Jesus, rooted in the obedience of faith, he said. When our will and God’s will are in communion, that is true freedom.

Burke-Sivers challenged the young adults at Ignite, saying: “You can change the world with each act of love.” But he added that we need Jesus and we need to have complete trust in God’s love for us.

## ENCORE: PREPARATION FOR A SECOND MARRIAGE

Are you entering into a second marriage because of a previous divorce and annulment or the death of a spouse? Are you getting married for a first time after having another long-term previous relationship? Do you have a child from a previous relationship? If so, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon offers a supplemental form of marriage preparation that helps you discuss the issues that are unique to your relationship.

### Encore:

7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 3 &  
Thursday, Dec. 10**  
St. Anne Parish Hall,  
217 Lenore Dr., Saskatoon

Gail & Pat Fitzpatrick are the chair couple of *Encore: New Marriage Ministry* and have been offering these presentations for several years, teaching valuable skills that will nurture your marriage.

For more information or to register call Blake Sittler at 242-1500, ext 229.

## Get Connected



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Do you and your spouse want a weekend away from jobs, kids, chores and phones – to focus only on each other?  
If you’d like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship then we invite you to join the millions of couples worldwide who have taken a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

Upcoming weekends are:

**Feb. 5 to 7** at Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon  
**April 30 to May 2** at Queen’s House, Saskatoon.

For more information contact Marc & Anita at 306-258-2192 [loiselle@baudoux.ca](mailto:loiselle@baudoux.ca)

**A weekend of discovery ... a lifetime of love**

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION / ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION AT LOCAL PARISHES:

**Holy Spirit**, 114 Kingsmere Blvd., Saskatoon  
Opening session 2:45 - 8 p.m.  
on Sunday, Jan. 3;  
Weekly sessions 7 - 9 p.m.  
Mondays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 1;  
Closing session 3:30 - 8 p.m.  
on Sunday, Feb. 7.  
**Contact:** Theresa Winterhalt, 374-9593  
**St. Philip Neri**, 1904 Munroe Ave. Saskatoon  
Beginning Sunday, Jan. 24  
**Contact:** Simone Swayze, 343-0325  
**Holy Family**, 110-104th St. Saskatoon  
Friday March 12 to  
Saturday March 13  
**Contact:** Eileen Materi 652-1289

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION AT LOCAL PARISHES:

**St. Patrick**, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon  
Sundays, beginning Jan. 3  
to Sunday, Feb. 28  
**Contact:** The parish office 384-1100  
**CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES:**  
**Marriage Preparation Weekends:**  
Friday March 5 to  
Saturday March 6  
or  
Friday, April 23 to  
Saturday, April 24  
**Contact:** Christie Meinema 306-244-7773  
E-mail: [cmeinema@cfssaskatoon.sk.ca](mailto:cmeinema@cfssaskatoon.sk.ca)

### ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

*Catholic Engaged Encounter is a retreat “weekend away” in which couples deepen their relationship and dialogue about their future together.*  
*This is a recognized form of marriage preparation in the diocese of Saskatoon.*

**Engaged Encounter is held at  
St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster**

**Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 14  
or**

**Friday, April 16 to Sunday, April 18**

**Contact:** Todd & Tanya Schuler 306-682-0777





### National Theology of the Body conference

Christopher West explored Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body at a national conference organized in Saskatoon by One More Soul Canada. More than 900 people attended the weekend event that included a number of other speakers, including Dr. Janet Smith, Dr. Mary Martin, and Dr. Michael Waldstein. For coverage of this event visit the news articles archive on the diocesan website: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

## St. Peter's College hosts education and career fair

BY LISA LASKOWSKI  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT  
ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

Opportunities Edge, the annual education, career and trades fair at St. Peter's College in Muenster Oct. 1, attracted more than 600 students, teachers, guidance counselors and parents. It is the largest such event in east-central Saskatchewan.

"We were extremely pleased with the positive response from the students, parents, teachers and exhibitors," said Val Koroluk, the college's special project manager.

Twenty-one high schools participated, including Annaheim, Bjorkdale, Bruno, Carlton Trail Regional College, Englefeld, Humboldt, Lake Lenore, Lanigan, LeRoy, Middle Lake, Muenster, Naicam, Porcupine Plain, Quill Lake, Rose Valley, St. Brieux, St. Peter's High School, Viscount, Wadena, Watson and Wynyard.

Students from Grades 9 to 12 were able to speak with representatives from trades, industry and post-secondary

education. Over 40 organizations were represented, including the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, SIAST, RCMP, Potash Corporation Lanigan, Canadian Forces and St. Peter's College. Students also attended presentations throughout the day and visited the new student fitness centre at St. Peter's College.

"This event brought together the key players in education and careers with people who are currently making choices about their future," added Koroluk. "Everyone was quite pleased about that."

### Construction starts

St. Peter's College is receiving a major facelift.

Michael Hall, St. Peter's College's main teaching building, is the key pillar of the \$15 million revitalization initiative at the Muenster campus. The historic structure was built in 1921 by the Order of St. Benedict as a boys' boarding school.

The goal is to provide a learning

space that is safe, accessible and supports quality, life-long learning to meet the needs of 21st century students and community members.

Renovations to the 46,000 square-foot building, a designated provincial heritage property, will be done in a manner that ensures and maintains its historic character.

The transformation of Michael Hall began in the summer of 2009 with a \$3 million investment from the province of Saskatchewan, coupled with \$6 million from the government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program and \$3 million from alumni, friends, businesses and other donors to the college's *Key to Success* fundraising campaign launched in the fall of 2008.

Beginning in January 2010, fourth-floor classroom and cultural spaces will be renovated to meet science and health program needs.

The remaining floors, including the basement, will undergo similar renovations to renew Michael Hall's infrastructure and enhance teaching, technology and programming.

### Fitness centre opens

This fall, St. Peter's College (SPC) students at Muenster were greeted with their newly renovated state-of-the-art fitness centre, thanks to donations to the *Key to Success* fundraising campaign.

A key part of SPC's Sports Complex, the new fitness centre has weights, cardio, and other fitness equipment as well as a racquetball-squash court designed to meet health and wellness needs and to support the first-year kinesiology program offered by SPC in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan.

In addition to the new fitness centre, the Sports Complex consists of a recently renovated gymnasium that hosts basketball, volleyball, badminton and indoor soccer, a full sized natural ice hockey arena and dormitories to host large student groups.

### Scholarships presented

Some \$77,000 in awards and scholarships were presented to St. Peter's College students at an annual awards ceremony Nov. 15.



Fr. Ralph Kleiter

## Travel programs mark 50 years of pilgrim journeys

Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism, is celebrating 50 years of leading pilgrim journeys. In 2010 he will lead small groups practically around the world highlighting some favorite destinations.

A short motorcoach tour to Mexico's Copper Canyon will be held in February. After Easter, Australia will be featured by land, air and sea. Acting as chaplain aboard the *MS Crystal Symphony* Fr. Kleiter invites travel pilgrims to join the "chaplain's table" for cruises featuring the wonders of exotic Asia. These cruises will take travellers from Sydney to Singapore, Burma, India, Dubai, Egypt, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to Athens.

The spring program will conclude in Europe, offering the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. This includes highlights in the Italian Lake District, Switzerland, Austria and finally the Passion Play, June 8-18.

The series of anniversary pilgrim journeys continues in the fall. The "Passage of the Vikings" cruise, Sept. 5-19, 2010, will sail from London to Dublin, Iceland, Greenland, Halifax to New York. Two shorter 11-day cruises, featuring Canada and New England during autumn colours, will serve as the anniversary year finale.

During the current economic downturn, cruises provide an enriching travel experience with inviting incentives, stresses Kleiter. He reminds people wanting to become travellers that they need to be proactive, do long-term planning and budgeting. Often, key destinations are sold out early, he adds.

Kleiter uses his experience to focus on more complex travel programs. "These itineraries require a lot of planning and research. Most people are not prepared to venture out on their own without the support and experience that I try to offer."

**Please note:** Anyone seriously considering making the Holy Land a destination in 2011 who wishes to be part of the first phase of planning this trip is asked to contact Kleiter for an invitation to the first meeting expected during Lent 2010. "All details of the Pilgrim Journey will then reflect the wishes of the prospective pilgrims," he says. In 2011 people should be prepared to invest around \$5,000 per person sharing. But, the final amount will be determined by the length and desired inclusions of the "designers," he adds.

For more information about the anniversary journeys, or about visiting the Holy Land in 2011, contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter at 306-244-3747 or email [kleiter@shaw.ca](mailto:kleiter@shaw.ca) or visit: [kleiter@shaw.ca](http://kleiter@shaw.ca) or [www.pilgrimjourneys.ca](http://www.pilgrimjourneys.ca)

### St. Thomas More College Newman Players present:

#### A Man For All Seasons

Jan. 15-17 & Jan. 22-24 at Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium at St. Thomas More College. See Robert Bolt's classic play about St. Thomas More's conflict with King Henry VIII.

For ticket information call 966-8946 or visit the website: [www.stmcollege.ca/newmanplayers](http://www.stmcollege.ca/newmanplayers)

## DYRT

### Diocesan Youth Retreat Team

*Lively, talented, committed youth bring their gifts to DYRT, facilitating retreats, rallies and workshops.*

For information about what DYRT can offer, pricing or scheduling, contact:

**Myron Rogal, Diocesan Youth Retreat Team**

**Phone: 306-382-4240 or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005**

**E-mail: [DYRT@saskatoonrcdiocese.com](mailto:DYRT@saskatoonrcdiocese.com)**

### Billings Ovulation Method

Natural Family Planning Association Saskatchewan (NFP Saskatchewan) will host a free information session on the Billings Ovulation Method in Saskatoon on **Friday, May 28**.

NFP Saskatchewan will also be hosting a Part 1 Teacher Training Workshop May 28-30 in Saskatoon. Attending a Part 1 workshop is the first step towards becoming an accredited Billings Ovulation Method instructor.

Please consider these exciting opportunities to learn more about the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning. For additional information and details, please contact NFP Saskatchewan by emailing [nfpsask@sasktel.net](mailto:nfpsask@sasktel.net) or by phoning 1-306-682-4528.

*Exact location and times to be announced.*

### SERENA:

*Are you getting married this year? Do you yearn to improve your marriage? Do you want the recipe for an extremely low divorce rate?*

**SERENA Saskatchewan invites you to take a couple-to-couple class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning.** This method is highly effective, natural, inexpensive and free of health risks. Group presentations, help with chart interpretation, and resources regarding fertility, breastfeeding, menopause and infertility are also available.

For more information, see the poster and pamphlets in the reception area of your church or call: SERENA at 934-8223 (in Saskatoon), or 1-800-667-1637



# Bishop's Annual Appeal 2009 surpasses goal

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Once again response to the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) has exceeded expectations, with representatives from parishes across the diocese reporting \$1,241,394 in pledges for the Bishop's Annual Appeal 2009.

This year's goal was \$1,158,000. During a wind-up meeting with parish representatives Nov. 18 in Saskatoon, BAA administrator Charlene Nijhawan expressed appreciation for the response.

"This has been a challenging year, for a number of reasons," she said. "The faithfulness and generosity of the people of our diocese is overwhelming. Clearly, they understand the needs address by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and they have once again responded as disciples of Jesus, serving and ministering to our brothers and sisters in Christ."

The BAA supports 28 different ministries, organizations and groups within the diocese of Saskatoon, enriching faith education, youth ministry, marriage and family life, vocations, communications, hospital chaplaincy, and ministry development. Outreach efforts by organizations such as Catholic Family Services, Friendship Inn, L'Arche Saskatoon, Teen-Aid and in support for life are also assisted by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The BAA supports the education of seminarians journeying toward the priesthood, as well as the priests' pension fund. (see complete list below).

Diocesan Administrator Fr. Ron Beechinor noted that for 26 years the Bishop's Annual Appeal has always been about people and about responding to needs. "We are blessed in this diocese with a great deal of support for the diocesan



Parish representatives gathered for a final BAA 2009 meeting Nov. 18.

church," said Beechinor, crediting the dedication and generosity of volunteers for the success of the BAA.

Nijhawan also offered a special word of thanks to the volunteer leadership in every parish. "Your enthusiasm and dedication to the

work of the BAA is inspiring and humbling," she told the parish representatives. "On behalf of all those who benefit from your efforts, let me say 'thank you.'"

A number of parishes have not yet reached their guideline, noted Nijhawan. "The BAA is for all of us. We are all called to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and nurture one another in faith," she said. "The benefits of the Appeal extend to every household in the diocese."

Those who have not yet made their gift can still do so. Envelopes clearly marked "BAA" can be forwarded through any parish offertory collection in the diocese, or send a gift directly to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, 100-5th Ave. N., Saskatoon, S7K 2N7. All payments received by Dec. 31, 2009 qualify for 2009 income tax receipts.

- Ministries and groups supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal:
- Catholic Christian Outreach

Catholic Deaf Ministry

Catholic Family Services

Communications

Ecumenism

Education of Laity for Ministry

Education of Priests and Future Priests

Friendship Inn

Grants in Support of Rural Ministry

Hospital Chaplaincy

L'Arche Saskatoon Project

Lay Formation Program

Liturgy Commission

Marriage and Family Life

Ministry Development

Native Religious Ministry

Newman Centre / Campus Ministry – St. Thomas More College

Office for Justice and Peace

Priests' Pension Fund

Resource Library

Rural Catechetics

St. Paul's Hospital – Spiritual Care

St. Peter's College

Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation

Support of Life

Teen-Aid

Vocations

Youth Ministry

you feed me

you nurture my faith

you support me

you welcome me

you show me the way

"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me."

Matthew 25:40

2009

bishops

annual

appeal

sharing HIS

blessings

Your gift makes the difference.

Diocese of Saskatoon