



# Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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Spring 2010

## Diocese rejoices in new bishop

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Saskatchewan-born priest Donald Bolen was ordained the seventh bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in a joyful celebration that brought together family and colleagues, ecumenical guests, priests and bishops from several continents, and representatives from across the dioceses of Saskatoon and Regina.

Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina was the principal consecrator during the ordination liturgy on the Feast of the Annunciation March 25, along with co-consecrators Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg and Bishop Brian Farrell of Rome's Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

Thirty other bishops from across Canada, as well as Archbishop John Bathesby of Brisbane, Australia and the Holy See's representative in Canada, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Pedro López Quintana also participated in Bolen's episcopal ordination held at St. Patrick's church in Saskatoon.

Diocesan consultant Fr. Michael Koch read the apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI appointing Bolen as bishop of Saskatoon, and those assembled gave their assent by saying "Thanks be to God" followed by a thunderous round of applause.

After making his promises to uphold the faith and carry out his duties as bishop, Bolen lay prostrate on the floor during a litany of the saints. Led by Archbishop Bohan, the Catholic bishops present at the celebration placed hands upon Bolen's head in silent prayer.

During the prayer of consecration, the open book of the gospels was held over Bolen's head, signifying that the bishop is to live under the gospel, and faithfully preach the word of God. Other elements of the celebration included the anointing of the bishop's head, the presentation of the book of the gospels, and the investiture with the ring, a symbol of faithfulness; the mitre, signifying the bishop's resolve to pursue holiness; and the pastoral staff or crozier, symbol of the bishop's role as shepherd of the flock of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

During the homily, Weisgerber reflected on the Feast of the Annunciation, which set the pattern of God's action in our midst. "God continues to take flesh in his people," Weisgerber said, for instance in the presence of the community gathered, and in the presence of the bishop.



**Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg**



**The diocese of Saskatoon's new shepherd Bishop Don Bolen blesses the assembly at the March 25 ordination.**

He noted that the heart of the gospel is repeated in the new bishop's motto: *Mercy within mercy within mercy.*

"This is a changeless message and it is a message that our world so desperately needs to hear. We need to hear that this is a world in which God delights. We are called to joy; we are called to community; we are called to deepen our love," Weisgerber said.

**MORE Ordination Page 3**



**Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface (left) greets the new bishop of Saskatoon during the ordination.**



**Fr. Ron Beechinor and Bev Hansen delighted the assembly with a dialogue to welcome the new bishop.**

### Coat of Arms

At the centre of Bishop Donald Bolen's Coat of Arms is the open word of God, with the Latin phrase "*Verbum Vitae*," which means, "the Word of Life." At the bottom is a small banner that reads "mercy within mercy within mercy." The quotation is from Thomas Merton's 1953 book *The Sign of Jonas* (Jonah) and describes God's overflowing mercy. The shepherd's crook – a bishop's staff – represents the apostolic calling to be a good shepherd. The sword is the traditional symbol of St. Paul, who is the patron of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. The wheat sheaf, against the blue backdrop, speaks of the Saskatchewan prairies, the vast sheltering skies beneath which we live, and the dignity of a way of life closely tied to the land. Jesus also speaks of his own paschal mystery in terms of the grain of wheat which falls to the ground and dies, and bears much fruit. Wheat is also thus a symbol of the Eucharist, of the Lord's invitation to receive his life-giving presence into our lives, to allow our lives to be broken and poured out for others. As the wheat symbolizes Eucharist, the shell symbolizes Baptism; together they point to the sacramental life of the Church, but also to ecumenical efforts to come to a shared sacramental life. The hat with six tassels on either side and the cross are emblematic of the hierarchical status of the episcopal office, and are present on every Roman Catholic bishop's coat of arms. For more details about the coat of arms see: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/bishop/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/bishop/index.cfm)





# Ecumenical service held on the eve of bishop's ordination

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A unique ecumenical prayer service was held on the eve of Bishop Donald Bolen's episcopal ordination, reflecting his own years working for Christian unity as well as a tradition of ecumenical dialogue in Saskatoon, home of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

Leaders of local Christian churches as well as guests involved in ecumenical dialogue from around the world were among those who gathered March 24 for the service at St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon. The celebration included prayers for Bolen, a reflection on the "Word of Life", and a presentation of the gifts that different denominations bring to the world.

"I don't think I've ever heard of an ordination which began with an ecumenical service – now that's saying something about how far we still have to go," said Bishop Brian Farrell, a native of Ireland who worked with Bolen at the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity in Rome.

"You have a bishop who is totally committed to the cause of Christian unity. I hope that you will welcome him with an open heart," Farrell said in his opening remarks.

Taylor Croissant, a United Church of Canada seminarian from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, led the call to worship. During a prayer of confession, the assembly acknowledged failures to heal the divisions that exist among the followers of Jesus and asked for strength to build bridges of love and understanding.

Bishop Dennis Drainville, the Anglican Bishop of Quebec and co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in Canada read a passage from the first letter of John, from which Bolen took his episcopal motto "the Word of Life" (1 John 1:1). A series of scripture verses related to the word of God were presented by Dorothy Fortier of St. Anne Roman Catholic Parish and Jaimie Horn of the Mennonite faith community. The scripture verses also formed the framework of a reflection by bishop-elect Bolen on the source of his motto.

"Major ecumenical gains in recent decades have to do with an increasingly common understanding of what that word is, how we hear that word and how we share that word in scripture and tradition,"



Fr. Bernard De Margerie (left) leads a blessing during the ecumenical service March 24, that included local church leaders (l-r): Prairie Centre for Ecumenism director Jan Bigland-Pritchard; Fr. Don Hamel, rector of St. Paul's Cathedral; Rev. Deb Walker of the United Church of Canada; Retired Anglican Bishop Rodney Andrews; Lutheran Bishop Cindy Halmarson; Rev. Bill Blackmon of the Evangelical Ministers' Fellowship; Bishop Jerold Gliche of the Evangelical Orthodox Church; Mennonite Pastor Jerry Buhler; Rev. Amanda Currie of the Presbyterian Church; Jay Cowsill of the Society of Friends; Roman Catholic Bishop-elect Donald Bolen; and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy.

said Bolen.

Bilateral dialogues in recent decades have addressed the relationship between scripture and tradition, one of the "classic controversial themes" dividing Christian churches, he said. He quoted from Methodist-Catholic, Lutheran-Catholic and Anglican-Catholic documents released in recent years to show that differences in this regard have largely been resolved through patient and persevering dialogue.

These dialogues have spoken of tradition as the transmission of the gospel through time, Bolen related. "Tradition has been seen as a dynamic process, communicated through each generation: what was delivered once and for all to the community of the apostles by Jesus himself," he said, while the scriptures are the uniquely-inspired witness to divine revelation and remain the highest authority in matters of faith. This has been stated in Methodist-Catholic dialogue: "Scripture was written within Tradition, yet Scripture is normative for Tradition. The one is only intelligible in terms of the other."

Bolen then asked: "If we have come to increasingly common understandings of that word which God speaks to us, that word with which God sends us forth to live and proclaim, what does that ask of us then, in the present? What does that call us to do together?"

Bolen identified one area for

mutual effort, citing the first letter of Peter, which calls for Christians to give an account of their hope to others. "In our culture and in our day we all know that it is increasingly difficult, even for those who desire to believe, those who desire to have a strong faith, to believe with heart and mind and soul," he said.

"I think there's a moment of opportunity where we can work together and think together and pray together to come to a new found way of living our faith, but also for giving an account of our faith, standing before our world and saying there are very good, profound and intelligent reasons for believing that the good news proclaimed by Jesus Christ is true and it's authentic and deserves our full commitment."

Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright, co-chair of the Methodist-Roman Catholic international dialogue, also gave a reflection, describing the ongoing international dialogue between the two denominations. "We seek to work at doctrinal issues, to find out how we are converging and can seek to converge even further," in an ongoing effort to fulfill the prayer of Jesus in John 17 that his followers would be one, in order that the world might believe.

The new bishop's motto "the Word of Life" is taken from "an astonishingly dense and rich passage of scripture," Wainwright observed, reflecting on the

description in the first letter of John about seeing, hearing and touching "that which was with us from the beginning."

Wainwright noted that a statement on revelation and faith by the Methodist-Catholic dialogue, entitled "The Word of Life" grew out of a reflection on this same scripture passage.

This was followed by a statement entitled "Speaking the Truth in Love," on teaching authority in the Church, grounded in the letter to the Ephesians, and by the most recent dialogue, "The Grace given You in Christ," which focuses on the nature and mission of the Church, centred on a passage from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

A theme of John Paul II's ecumenical ministry was that efforts towards Christian unity should not merely be an exchange of ideas, but should be an exchange of gifts, said Wainwright, noting how the Methodist hymns of Charles Wesley have been a gift to the Christian world, and in particular to Saskatoon's new bishop.

The theme of a gift exchange continued, as Nick Jesson, the ecumenical officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, called forward local church leaders to present a symbol of one of the gifts of their particular Christian tradition.

Retired Anglican Bishop Rodney Andrews presented a Book

of Common Prayer on behalf of recently ordained Saskatoon Anglican Bishop David Irving, as Jesson described the importance of the prayer book in Anglican life over the past four centuries.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson of the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, carried up an image of Luther's rose, a symbol of Martin Luther's theology, Jesson said.

Rev. Bill Blackmon of the Evangelical Ministers' Fellowship carried forth a book of the scriptures, recently translated into yet another of the world's many languages, while Bishop Jerold Gliche of the Evangelical Orthodox Church presented readings from the Apostolic Fathers.

Pastor Jeremiah Buhler of the Mennonite Church in Saskatchewan presented a peace lamp as a symbol of his denomination's commitment and focus on peace. Rev. Amanda Currie of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church brought up a copy of the Presbyterian "Book of Forms," and bishop-elect Bolen presented a copy of the Catholic lectionary.

Jay Cowsill of the Society of Friends presented a candle as a symbol of truth, peace and integrity, while Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon carried up an icon.

Finally, Rev. Deb Walker, chair of the Riverbend Presbytery of the United Church of Canada brought up rainbow-coloured balloons as a symbol of the diversity and generosity of God's creative Spirit.

Rev. Jan Bigland-Pritchard, director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, then presented the local church leaders with their task to take up the yoke of Jesus (Matthew 11:29-30) and to tend the flock of God in their charge (1 Peter 5:2-3).

Fr. Bernard de Margerie, founder of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, then led the leaders of the Christian churches in a final blessing.

Music ministry for the celebration was provided by a joint choir from McClure United and Holy Spirit Catholic churches, which recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of a covenant of shared life and ministry, as well as by the



The flame from the covenant candle is shared among those gathered for the 10th anniversary celebration of the covenant between McClure United Church and Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Parish, held March 7 at McClure United Church in Saskatoon.

## Tenth anniversary of covenant celebrated

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Parish and McClure United Church celebrated 10 years of a covenant relationship during a joyful celebration March 7.

The covenant between the two faith communities includes ten pledges for concrete action, including shared prayer; ex-changing preaching, music or other worship ministry at least once every six months; sharing Sunday bulletin and bulletin board materials; planning joint educational activities; sharing in joint social justice action; and promoting and celebrating fellowship through social gatherings.

The celebration included a combined choir, speakers from both faith traditions, and a homily by Elizabeth Nickel of Lakeview Free Methodist Church on the prayer of Jesus that his followers would be one, recorded in John 17.

During the celebration, the covenant and its pledges were read by Heather Desautels, Rose Rogers, Rev. Bill Shank, and Doreen Hickie.

Rev. Ron McConnell of McClure United and Fr. Lawrence DeMong of Holy Spirit parish together took a flame from a "Christ candle" to light covenant candles representing each community.

Representatives from the two communities -- Heather Desautels, Mae Schreiner, Ted Easton, Thelma Shortt, Rowena McLellan, Julie

Muir, Carol Pek, and Rev. Dale Morrison – then distributed the flame from the covenant candles to all those assembled for the celebration.

Speakers included Sandra Beardsall representing the United Church presbytery, Fr. Ron Beechinor representing the diocese, Linda Westcott of McClure United and June Rivard of Holy Spirit.

(For more on this story visit the news archive on the website at: [saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm))

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## Construction of new Cathedral and Catholic Centre underway

BY JIM NAKONESHNY  
CHAIR OF BUILDING COMMITTEE

Construction of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is now well under way.

Tenders for the 65,000 square foot facility, (which includes the new diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre) closed in November with the construction contract being awarded to Graham Construction and Engineering Ltd. of Saskatoon.

Good weather in December and early January allowed construction crews to get a start on construction. By the first week of January, drilling equipment was in place and the first of the concrete piles for the building's foundations were being poured.

Drilling to an average depth of some 30 feet, crews worked throughout January and into early February to complete the more than 575 pilings needed to support the new structure.

The remaining foundation work will be finished this spring. By the end of the summer the framework for the new Cathedral will be visible, which will start to show the shape and size of the completed facility.

Most of the building will be closed in before winter. Construction of the building's interiors, as well as interior and exterior finishing will require several additional months of work.

The new Cathedral and Pastoral Centre is expected to be completed by November 2011, in time for the beginning of Advent and the new liturgical year.



Priests from across the diocese join in praying over the Sacred Chrism, one of three oils blessed by the bishop.

## Diocese gathers with new bishop for Chrism Mass

Representatives from across the diocese of Saskatoon filled St. Patrick church March 29 for the Chrism Mass at the start of Holy Week. Sacred oils for sacramental use throughout the coming year were blessed by newly-ordained Bishop Donald Bolen in his first diocesan celebration since his ordination. A renewal of priestly commitment by priests from across the diocese.



Parish representatives receive the sacred oils.



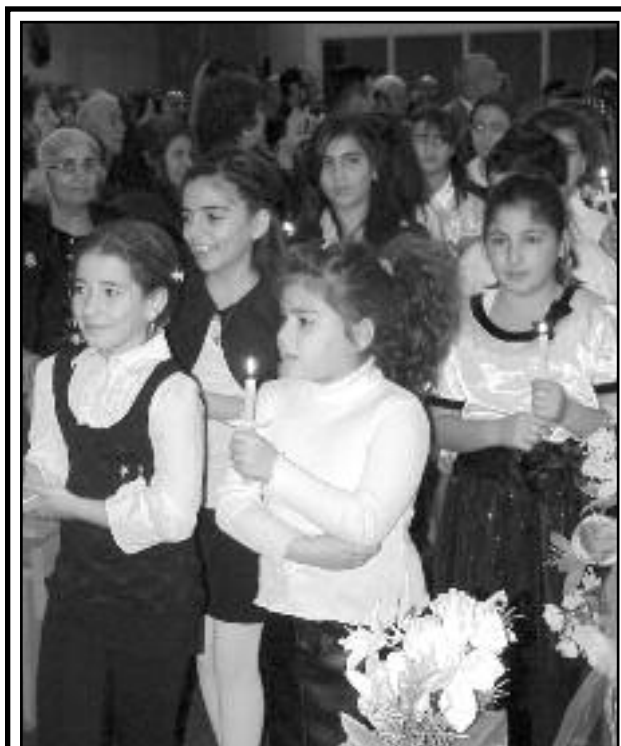
The Chrism Mass March 29 was the first diocesan celebration led by newly-ordained Bishop Donald Bolen.

# Welcome for new bishop expressed at ordination

**ORDINATION Continued from Front Page**

The papal nuncio, on his first visit to Western Canada, also reflected on the annunciation, whereby through Mary's yes, God was able to take on a human face. The life of the church is renewed whenever the faithful receive in obedience the word of God, said Quintana in remarks at the conclusion of the ordination.

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz spoke on behalf of the religious communities of the diocese, pledging to place the new bishop at the centre of a community of colleagues.



**Chaldean Catholic parish celebrates** Children and youth of Sacred Heart Chaldean Catholic parish were part of a joyful procession during the Nov. 15 dedication of a new church home in Saskatoon (formerly St. Timothy's Anglican). In full communion with other rites of the Catholic church and with the pope, the Saskatoon Chaldean Catholic community (which includes many newcomers from Iraq) is presently under the umbrella of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon. Fr. Sabah Kamora is pastor.

"We welcome you with the hospitality and affection that Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus into their home in Bethany," Kambeitz said. "Please know that we surround you with our friendship and you can count on us to be your community of prayer and support and love. Our hearts are as open as the prairie sky: a big warm welcome to you Bishop Don."

Diocesan Administrator Fr. Ron Beechinor surprised the assembly by calling up Bev Hansen, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools director of education. The two presented a dialogue about the arrival of the new bishop, with a name so similar to the Archbishop of Regina. The duo delighted the assembly, touching on Bishop Bolen's youth, personality, and smile; and stressing his passion for Christian unity.

"On behalf of the priests and Parish Life Directors of the diocese of Saskatoon I would like to formally welcome you into the diocese, with the great hope that you will find a home with us," Beechinor said. "In cooperation with the laity, we look forward to walking at your side, as together we forge a new identity for the church in Saskatoon."

Given that both of Saskatoon's previous bishops have been transferred to dioceses in the next province, Beechinor added one caution, greeted with laughter and applause: "Please, please, stay away from the province of Manitoba."

Gertrude Rompré of the St. Thomas More College chaplaincy office spoke on behalf of the laity, reflecting on the call to act with justice, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God, which is found in the words of the prophet Micah.

"In us, you will find a people who act with justice in our ministries to those in prison or as we referee our children's hockey game. In us, you will find a people who love tenderly, be it as we teach our youngest in our Catholic schools or in the way we reach out to our loved ones in palliative care homes," Rompré said. "In us, you will find people serving one another in the community gathered at Friendship Inn or in the potluck supper in our parish hall. And finally, in us, you will find people who walk humbly with God, be it farmers standing in rapt contemplation of God's earth, or the wonderful, powerful and moving liturgies that we celebrate as a diocesan family."

"Together we are rooted in Christ. We will support you and stand with you as we proclaim the Good News together, reach out to the least amongst us and become evermore fully Christ in our world today," Rompré concluded.

Bishop Brian Farrell of Rome also spoke, bringing messages from a number of international leaders, including Cardinal Walter Kasper of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, and from Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Looking out at the assembly at the end of the celebration,



Members of the Knights of Columbus and the CWL formed an honour guard for the ordination.

Bolen said that it was a glimpse of the kingdom. "My whole life is before me – in the sense that people from every particular moment in my life are here, people whom I love a great deal and to whom I am profoundly indebted," the new bishop said, as well as greeting the people from the diocese with whom he will share a future.

The new bishop expressed appreciation to ecumenical guests, to representatives of the First Nations communities, to members of the Jewish community and to other community leaders attending the celebration.

"The greatest privilege I've known in life, beyond life itself and the love I've received, has been the sense of having been addressed by a Word, of having been summoned by a Word, and in a very profound sense, of being given a Word to speak, over and over again," said Bolen, whose coat of arms includes an open book on which is inscribed "*verbum vitae*" — Word of Life.

"I will try to be faithful to that Word, and with you to listen to that Word, to walk with you, and being summoned by that Word, together to be transformed by that Word, and to find ways of speaking it," he said.



At a dinner before the ordination ceremony, Jim and Sue Dosman presented the diocesan gift of a chasuble and a crozier to the new bishop.

# Administrator bids farewell to BAA office after 15 years

After 15 years as administrator of the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the diocese of Saskatoon, Charlene Nijhawan has decided to seek new challenges and directions.

"Charlene has been a very faithful advocate for the continued development of the program," said Fr. Ken Beck, diocesan director of the BAA in announcing Nijhawan's departure. "Her faithfulness has enabled and assisted our diocese to understand the spirit of stewardship

that is the basis of what we live as a larger community of faith."

The highlight of working on the annual appeal was witnessing the commitment of the volunteers and the response of the faithful, said Charlene Nijhawan.

"It was a privilege to serve the diocese alongside these people," she said. "Their faithfulness and dedication to the Church and to their faith is really inspiring."

BAA volunteers in the parishes are busy people, but every year they responded to the call to assist with the appeal – and responded with enthusiasm, said Nijhawan, noting how this touched her heart. "They go out, and they ask other parishioners for money, not for any personal gain, but just to serve the Lord and to help others."

She noted that there are volunteers who have been working on the appeal since the BAA started more than 25 years ago. "I certainly learned a lot from them," she said. "It was incredible to witness the depth of their commitment and their faith."

During her time as administrator, Charlene worked to raise awareness about the gospel call to stewardship. "The people sustaining the church are those who take their commitment

seriously. They give of themselves... they simply give back out of gratitude."

Having the opportunity to work with BAA directors Fr. Les Paquin and Fr. Ken Beck was also a privilege, she added, expressing appreciation for their "guidance, direction and their abiding vision of Christian stewardship."

Every year the BAA makes a difference, supporting ministries and services throughout the diocesan faith community. "It was easy to promote all of these ministries, because I would see first hand the hard work the people in charge of the ministries were putting into service. It is really money well spent," Nijhawan added.

The administrative work for the Bishop's Annual Appeal will now be carried out by Cathie Rogers of

Saskatoon, recently hired under the new title of Administrator of the Development Office in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Under the leadership of Director of Development Don Gorsalitz, the diocesan Development Office will oversee the Bishop's Annual Appeal, as well as focusing on planned giving, and helping parishes increase their financial resources.

Initiated in 1984 by Bishop James Mahoney, the Bishop's Annual Appeal is implemented each year with the help of a network of parish volunteers coordinated with the help of the diocesan BAA office. The 2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal raised more than \$1.3 million for ministries and programs throughout the diocese (*see list of this year's BAA disbursements in the annual report below*).



Charlene Nijhawan is leaving after 15 years as coordinator.



Cathie Rogers will now coordinate the annual appeal.

Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon Operating fund revenue and expenses For year end June 30, 2009		
	2009	2008
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Bishop's Appeal	\$1,135,661	\$1,107,952
Parish assessments	984,031	961,953
Investment income	85,721	176,491
Donations	3,575,324	771,493
Brazil collections	74,506	146,558
Ministry	285,456	228,077
Sundry	478,289	874,179
	<u>6,618,988</u>	<u>4,266,703</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Pastoral services	1,246,473	1,134,128
Outreach grants & donations	3,193,688	* 6,178,973
Clergy and vocations	424,081	435,934
Brazil mission	74,506	146,355
Administration and chancery	1,357,567	1,536,419
Parish support	<u>162,121</u>	<u>161,986</u>
	<u>6,458,436</u>	<u>9,593,795</u>
Revenue less expenses before the undernoted:	(0)	* (5,327,092)
Loss on disposal of property	(77,377)	(7,818)
Loss on disposal of investments	(29,258)	(260,033)
Unrealized gains in the market value of investments:	<u>53,917</u>	<u>25,384</u>
<b>REVENUE, LESS EXPENSES:</b>		<u>(5,569,559)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR:</b>	<u>1,302,155</u>	<u>6,871,714</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR:</b>	<u>\$ 1,356,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,302,155</u>

\* A donation of \$5,452,027 was made to the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation (2008).

## BAA ANNUAL REPORT

*"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me."*

Matthew 25:40

This allocations report indicates the disbursement of your gifts among the faith education programs, ministries and services designated in the 2009 Appeal.

The total pledged to date is \$1,372,651. Parish Sharing Incentive rebates have been issued to 28 parishes (having exceeded their parish guidelines) for their own initiatives. BAA expenses for administration and educational materials remain at 6% of the total pledged.

The office of the Bishop's Annual Appeal thanks all who have given their time, talent and treasure in support of the BAA 2009.

**Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
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*All gifts are used exclusively for the ministry of the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*

2009 ALLOCATIONS	
Catholic Christian Outreach	\$ 5,000
Catholic Deaf Ministry	\$ 8,000
Catholic Family Services	\$ 50,000
Communications	\$ 74,000
Ecumenism	\$ 28,000
Education of Laity for Ministry	\$ 17,000
Education of Priests & Future Priests	\$ 70,000
Friendship Inn	\$ 15,000
Grants in Support of Rural Ministry	\$ 40,000
Hospital Chaplaincy	\$ 40,000
L'Arche Saskatoon	\$ 5,000
Lay Formation Program	\$ 137,000
Liturgy Commission	\$ 10,000
Marriage & Family Life	\$ 16,000
Ministry Development	\$ 72,000
Native Religious Ministry	\$ 67,000
Newman Centre/Campus Ministry	
- St. Thomas More College	\$ 5,000
Office for Justice & Peace	\$ 9,000
Priests' Pension Fund	\$ 142,000
Resource Library	\$ 30,000
Rural Catechetics	\$ 114,000
St. Paul's Hospital	
- Spiritual Care	\$ 7,000
St. Peter's College	\$ 25,000
Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation	\$ 5,000
Support of Life	\$ 8,000
Teen-Aid	\$ 36,000
Vocations	\$ 20,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 58,000
PARISH SHARING INCENTIVE	\$ 125,500
Administration	\$ 83,433*
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED To March 15, 2010</b>	<b>\$1,321,933</b>

\* Amount projected to June 30, 2010



# Trusting in a God who makes all things new

BY LEAH PERRAULT

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

(This article, exploring the scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C, was previously published in *The Prairie Messenger*.)

When I got back to work after Easter, someone had slipped a little card into my mailbox with a little butterfly on it. There was no signature, no personal note, and therefore, I have to admit that the card got lost very quickly in an intimidating stack of paper on my desk – until today. When I sat down to write, the card resurfaced, and on the bottom, a quotation from this week's second reading stared up at me from the bottom of the card: "Behold, I make all things new."

This Easter season feels a bit like a Lenten hangover with all of the coverage of the sexual abuse scandals.

As a practicing Catholic, I cannot remember a time when the sexual abuse crisis has been so prominent in the conversations around kitchen tables and in coffee shops.

Our morale is getting worn down by each stage of its progression; we find ourselves devastated by the stories of victims



*Touching the Cloak*  
Leah Perrault

and suffering alongside the many priests whose reputations are called into question by the actions of others; and we get tired of defending a Church comprised of (all kinds of) sinners and defending our own practice of faith.

For me, the readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter are a gift from God when Lenten suffering seems to spill over into an Easter I have been long anticipating.

The first reading from Acts is a reminder that the Church has faced

**First Reading: Acts 14: 21-27**  
**Psalm 145**

**Second Reading: Revelation 21: 1-5**  
**Gospel: John 13:1, 31-33, 34-35**

struggles in every period of history. Even during its inception the people faced challenges. Our present circumstances are not the same, but when Paul appointed elders for the local church, he "entrusted them to the Lord."

Our leaders, then and now, are humans with the capacity to minister profoundly and sin deeply, just like the rest of us. The whole Church and the whole world has been entrusted to God, even in our sinfulness.

The second reading adds to the first. Revelation is a book written to a highly persecuted, suffering Church. It is not a vision of the end of time, but a vision of resurrection and hope for times of difficulty.

This particular passage is an affirmation that God shares our sorrow, walks with us in the midst of the mess, and in time, will "make all things new."

Our God is present with those who have been abused, wiping away their tears. Our God is present

to those who have carried out abuse, constantly calling them to turn away from sin. Our God is present with us, even now, as our Church struggles with the crisis and how to respond. The reading does not promise us that this time will be easy or that we (and others) will do everything right, but it does remind us that God struggles with us.

But how could we possibly respond the right way in the face of such an awful mess? I think the Gospel leads us to a vision that will serve us well: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Each in our own worlds, we can respond to the suffering with love.

We can lovingly listen to our neighbours, children and friends express their anger and disappointment with the Church.

We can walk with a victim of abuse, refusing to allow their experience to be ignored.

We can support the good and faithful priests in our lives who have been witnesses to God's grace and love in our family.

We can visit those in prison (for all kinds of offenses) and affirm that they too are called to love by a God who loves them.

We can continue to nurture friendships with families whose members are victims or perpetrators of abuse.

This time will not be easy, but neither was the death that preceded Jesus' resurrection.

In 10 years, 50 years, or 100 years from now, I hope that people will look back on this time and say, "We saw Jesus in the Church's response to the sexual abuse crisis in the love they showed – to the victims of abuse, to those perpetrators in need of healing, to a world in need of examples of God's mercy and reconciliation."

We are being called in a profound way through our suffering into solidarity with persons and families all over the world who experience violence, abuse, crisis and isolation every day.

God will make this new as all things, but the question is whether or not we will offer our loving service to this particular dying and rising.

## Mystagogy and beyond: a call to all the baptized

BY FR. MICHAEL KOCH

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR FOR  
CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

The 2010 Triduum is now over. Some 12 parishes in the diocese gave new Christian birth to around 27 adults and children of catechetical age. The Elect are now called Neophytes.

They were initiated into the Catholic faith community, the Church, the Body of Christ, through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and climaxing their initiation through the first reception of holy communion, the eucharistic presence of Christ.

The Easter Vigil is primarily the liturgical celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Easter Vigil is celebrated even if there are no baptisms. The celebration of the sacraments of Christian Initiation however are most appropriately

celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil is the celebration of new life. Through his suffering and death Jesus was raised by the Father to new life beyond time and space. Baptism is about death and new life. As St. Paul tells us, we go into the water, we die to the old sinful person and then rise to new life in Christ. Through our baptism we become a living cell in the Body of Christ, confirmed in the Holy Spirit and regularly nourished by the Holy Eucharist, the Body of Christ. Baptism, celebrated at the Easter Vigil is the most appropriate and concrete sign through which we celebrate the Resurrected Christ.

The process of Christian Initiation, after the Easter Vigil, now moves on to the period of post-baptismal catechesis or Mystagogy. It is about reflecting, pondering, growing in faith and living the mystery of God's love for us. Thus

we are called to grow into eternal life in the Trinity. The period of Mystagogy is usually considered to be the time between the Easter Vigil and Pentecost.

During this 50-day Easter Season, the Rite has the following teaching: "This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and doing works of charity (234)."

Mystagogy is really about the rest of our Christian life after our baptism.

Mystagogy is about the life-long learning to look through our new Christian glasses, seeing reality in a way we never saw before.

The danger is that this period of Mystagogy is still seen by too many as a period of graduation rather than

initiation and the beginning of living out the Christian life which lasts a lifetime. Those most prone to this understanding and practice are those who still think too much in terms of a school year model: September to June education programs. The classes have now come to an end like all programs do. Now what? Of all the periods in the Catechumenate, the period of Mystagogy is the weakest. This is mostly because the Easter Vigil is still seen too much as the graduation ceremony and now you move on to something else. The Rite tells us that the Initiation Process is to be "accommodated to the liturgical year" (75.1).

As more and more of the parish leadership begin thinking and practicing the liturgical year as their frame of reference for their Christian Initiation process, there will be less need to worry about the



*Diocesan Director  
of Christian Initiation*  
Fr. Michael Koch

Period of Mystagogy. It will continue going on and on: Cycle A, then Cycle B, Cycle C, Cycle A, Cycle B . . . until death do us part.

## Resources about marriage available from diocesan library

BY FRAN TURNER

DIOCESAN RESOURCE LIBRARY

After recently attending a very successful marriage conference in our diocese, and seeing the interest shown in the vocation of marriage by those attending, I decided to promote some recent good books on marriage available for loan from the Diocesan Resource Library (funded by the BAA).

**Happy Together: The Blueprint for a Loving Marriage** - Author John Bosio, a family life educator, says that a happy marriage is only achievable when God and faith are part of the mix. He identifies and focuses on six key aspects of a loving marriage, and uses stories and examples to illustrate each.

**A Daring Promise: A Spirituality of Christian Marriage** - A very dynamic speaker at the conference, Richard Gaillardetz is a theologian and author. In this book, he says that promising oneself to another before God is one of the most radical things we do as Christians. He writes about the forces of our culture that make it difficult for many to remain in a committed marriage. In response to that, he offers a rich

spirituality built on basic Christian convictions and reveals both the challenges and rewards of married life.

**What I Wish Someone Had Told Me About the First Five Years of Marriage** - Marriage Counsellor Roy Petitfils knows from his experience and from his work, that a lasting, fulfilling marriage needs planning, hard work and dedication. He uses true stories to give advice, humour and tips for newly-married couples.

**When a Catholic Marries a Non-Catholic** - Robert Hater, a professor of pastoral theology, offers a pastoral approach to dealing with the difficulties Catholics face in marrying someone from another faith background. He offers examples of how others have overcome these difficulties, yet kept a true respect for each other's faith.

**Marriage: It's a God Thing** - William Roberts, doctor of theology, writes of marriage as not "an inferior way of following Christ," but truly a vocation. He gives practical tips to help a couple achieve a deeper intimacy with one another and God, bringing a new understanding

of the importance of their relationship and responding to its challenges with prayer, honesty and introspection.

**Together But Alone: When God Means Something Different to Your Spouse** - Author Donna Couch speaks from experience when she writes about the struggle in a marriage when one partner has a very solid faith background and the other is not particularly interested in pursuing a spiritual life.

**Seven Steps Toward Healing Your Marriage** William Rabor, a psychotherapist, offers sensitive, practical, faith-filled solutions for couples interested in mending their relationships.

These resources and others are available for loan from the Catholic Pastoral Centre Resource Library, 100 - 5th Avenue North, Saskatoon; Phone: 242-1500 or Toll-free: 1-877-661-5005 and ask for the library.

The diocesan library also has a branch in Humboldt, phone: 306-682-682-1534.

Search the library catalogue on line at: [saskatoonrcdiocese.com/library/search.cfm](http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/library/search.cfm)



*Resource Library*  
Fran Turner

## Sign language ministry offered by interpreter

By KRISTINE SCARROW

Roberto Godoybaca provides sign language interpreting of Mass for the Catholic deaf community every week at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral. He says it is a role he feels privileged to fill.

His journey to providing this ministry started back in 1989 while he was in the seminary, where he studied until 1992.

While there, Godoybaca met Sr. Doreen from the order of Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, who came to the seminary to ask if anyone was interested in learning sign language. Initially, the entire seminary group started out in the class, but in the end only Godoybaca persevered.

One day, Godoybaca was asked if he wanted to come and meet those who communicate using sign language.

"I speak Spanish too, so languages come easily to me, so I went

and met these people." Godoybaca says with a laugh.

"I remember my fingers were shaking when I was spelling my name and I was so embarrassed, but the deaf people were wonderful and so welcoming. They feel honoured that someone is learning their language. They go out of their way to help you, teach you and answer questions when you don't know a particular sign for a word or idea."

It wasn't long before Godoybaca was able to interpret. "They are so patient and I'm such a sociable person. I like to visit and talk, so I guess I learned the language pretty quickly."

Godoybaca has been providing sign language interpreting for 18 years. He provides services for funerals, brings communion to those who are sick and makes both home and hospital visits. At one time, he also offered a Bible study.



Back row l-r: Roberto Godoybaca, Audrey Laliberte, Jerome Kalinowski, Eugene Droucher and John Storey; Front row l-r: Vi Dittrick, Edward Dittrick, Dianne St. Pierre and Lydia Storey.

- Photo submitted by Roberto Godybaca

Godoybaca estimates an average attendance of about ten people for Mass each week.

"There are some who have been with me for the whole time, for 18 years," remarks Godoybaca. "It's amazing. Many go to church every Sunday. Even when I am sick, they still attend even though they can't hear anything."

Parishioners who communicate through sign language often bring their families who are hearing, to watch and listen to the Mass. "It's nice that they bring their families," says Godoybaca.

When Godoybaca left the seminary, he returned to university to become a teacher. In addition to providing sign language interpret-

ing, he also teaches at Bethlehem high school in Saskatoon.

"I like serving in the Church. I feel like I want to be a part of it even if I can't be a priest," notes Godoybaca. "At least I can do a little bit for the community. I like to be involved. It's one way to keep my faith growing. I want it to be vital."

## Lay Formation participant shares scrapbook skills with imprisoned women

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

When Francine Audy saw a notice in the parish bulletin seeking someone to help women at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC) learn the art of scrapbooking, she knew it was something she could do.

Having created personalized scrapbooks since she was a child, Audy was confident she had the skills to help others try this creative hobby, which involves designing and crafting decorated memory books to display treasured photos. But she didn't realize how much the sessions would mean to women incarcerated at the Correctional Service Canada facility.

Responding to the notice, she connected with RPC chaplain Peter Oliver before holding the first scrapbooking session in January 2010. Oliver noted that the women at the RPC might be reluctant to share information or images of their families. "They were very protective of their photographs," recalled Audy.

Even after sessions were underway, one woman did not bring photos, simply working on pages.

"But on the last day that I was there, I saw all the albums, and we were passing the photos to each other. It was like the girls just came out of their shell," she described.

At the final session, all the women shared their creations. "I saw photos of their children, their Godchildren, their siblings."

At the conclusion, participants were asked to provide feedback about the scrapbooking experience, and many



Francine Audy with a scrapbook page "thank you."

expressed their gratitude. "Two made comments that it was therapeutic for them," she noted.

Another said: "It gave me great joy improving my photo. I have found myself a new hobby that I hope will keep me out of trouble when I get out."

The women also worked together to create a special "thank you" scrapbook page and presented it to Audy.

"I will cherish this page and include it in one of my scrapbooks. I know that when I am feeling down... I can go

*"The numerous sessions, prayer experiences, and community building I have experienced at Lay Formation inspired me to join a Centering Prayer group, to help with the RCIA at St. Paul's Cathedral, and to offer my time at the Regional Psychiatric Center as a leader for scrapbooking with the girls. What a welcoming and rewarding experience! I am living out my baptismal call as priest, prophet, and king!"*

- Francine Audy, Year II Lay Formation

**Are you thirsting to learn more about your faith?**

**Take the plunge: Join Lay Formation!**

For more information about the diocesan Lay Formation program call Mona or Kathy at the Catholic Pastoral Centre 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005

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

back to that page and feel uplifted knowing that I made a difference in their life and they have blessed mine."

Audy said she enjoyed her experience at the RPC and was looking forward to starting this scrapbooking ministry up again in April. "It's wonderfully rewarding," she said, encouraging others to get involved in volunteering at the RPC.

*Francine Audy is one of this year's Lay Formation graduates, who will be sent forth in a missioning celebration 7 p.m. Saturday, June 5 at St. Anne's parish, Saskatoon.*

## Locking up offenders not solving crime, say STM panel participants

By ANDRÉA LEDDING

A panel of four speakers organized by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan recently spoke about justice at a public presentation at St. Thomas More College auditorium.

"Most people incarcerated are already marginalized," noted Kearney Healy, moderator, and author of *Tough On Kids*. A legal aid lawyer active in youth and restorative justice across Canada, Healy said: "Psychiatric disorders, the poor, unskilled, badly educated - the list goes on - that's what you find in our prisons."

Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, another member of the

panel, was described by Healy as a leader who takes a long range view of what society needs to decrease harmful acts.

"There's no easy solution," noted Weighill, emphasizing that locking offenders up doesn't solve the problem and a balanced approach is required. "True contributors of crime are always the underlying social issues - poverty, drugs, addiction."

Increasing police isn't a solution - getting tough on crime is the wrong focal point, he suggested. "We need to get tough on poverty, poor housing, racism - the social issues that lead us down the road to crime."

Police want to divert the people they're interacting with into more positive programs that provide assistance, but the programs simply don't exist - society isn't spending wisely nor preventatively, he observed, adding that Saskatoon has a distinct racism problem.

"I know people want me to say there isn't any but it's not true," Weighill said. He described the challenges, particularly those faced in the inner city. "But people want to go home at night, close their garage doors and watch TV. They don't want to hear about it."

Healy pointed out that about 80 per cent of those in custody are Aboriginal, and almost 100 per cent

of remanded youth are already an average of two years behind their peers in school.

Panel member Graham Stewart, retired executive director of the John Howard Society, compared Canada to the US, saying that recidivism was much lower in Canada because jail was used as a last resort. However, Canada is now starting to model programs on the flawed American methodology.

"What's happening is that we're being encouraged to think one-dimensionally in terms of punishment - how can you do something after the fact that is preventative?"

The theory of deterrence simply

does not work, he said. Stewart urged the audience to contact politicians on policies and bills being pushed through, including a mandatory minimum law which affects the least serious offenders.

Kim Pate, executive director of the Elizabeth Fry Societies, echoed this observation, adding that those in power are benefiting from the status quo, and society needs to individually and collectively challenge the diminishment of human interests and rights.

Pate said criminalization and jails need to be challenged and called for new approaches, also encouraging those present to contact their MP and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



Roy Kappel

## Saskatoon senior makes rosaries for prisoners

Saskatoon senior Roy Kappel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass congregation has been making wire rosaries for the last three years. His daughter found a place in Louisville, Kentucky that supplies the necessary items in a kit form for anyone who will make rosaries for the missions.

He has sent rosaries to Africa, to Food for Children, and to local prisoners. Dianne Anderson of the diocesan

restorative ministry office picks up and distributes the rosaries to prison inmates in the city. She says the rosaries are greatly appreciated by the men.

To date, Kappel has made over 300 rosaries, with each one taking about a day or a day and a half to complete, and using about six feet of wire. Kappel describes his efforts as a "labour of love" for the Blessed Mother.

**"... 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)

# Financial support needed for construction of Station 20 West

By TONY HAYNES  
OFFICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Local efforts to bring about construction of Station 20 West continue.

The Station 20 West project in Saskatoon is a three-part complex designed to improve quality of life and stimulate economic development in the core neighbourhoods on the west side of the city.

There are two elements already in place: 60 low rental units and a new public library. The remaining project includes a food store with space above for outreach and educational services.

The total cost of the project will be \$6 million, \$2 million of which the local committee has already raised. The group is currently in negotiations for \$2 million in mortgages, leaving \$2 million still to raise by September so construction can start this fall.

Benefits of Station 20 West:

- Better services for the people living and moving into the district, including immigrants and refugees.
- More nutritional food, healthful living, community cooking, child care, meaningful leisure opportunities.
- Sharing of community resources between the east and west side of the city.
- Lower taxes, no matter where one lives in the province, because of less need for police and other protective services, for medical and hospital care. There are also savings if fewer people are incarcerated (the cost per year for an inmate at the correctional centre is \$50,000, and for the penitentiary, \$70,000.)
- Services provided through Station 20 West bring a



potential for more productive school attendance and eventually to a more skilled work force.

Fund raising:

The premier and local church leaders, including our own, have expressed their approval of what should be a non-political project. The use of government finances to combat poverty, prostitution and powerlessness is still a matter of debate.

Successful fund-raising efforts in the community have included an evening of entertainment by artists who donated their services (including such Saskatchewan performers as Andrea Menard). The sale of tickets generated \$17,500; and additional donations \$37,500. Video excerpts from this “Artists for Station 20 West” event can be viewed online by searching youtube.com

An afternoon concert by a Saskatoon Symphony string quartet, with tea and conversation was also organized, with the sale of tickets generating \$2,740, and additional donations \$4,740. A donated art sale also raised a significant amount of money for the project.

What our diocese and parishes can do:

- Consider ventures large and small to raise funds for this



Artist’s rendition of the Station 20 West project. project. One parish’s after-Mass coffee raised over \$800 since March 1, a barbeque raised \$1,300.

• Approach individual donors: some people have the ability to donate \$1,000 any time of the year. Finding at least 500 such parishioners in our 98 parishes should be possible.

• The following process has already been successful in some faith communities: invite a group into a home, provide entertainment (your talented children are just waiting to perform), and serve refreshments. Download and show the video material from YouTube.com or from the www.station20west.org website, or have a member of the Station 20 West board in attendance. One such recent event by one church community raised over \$10,000. Receipts for taxation deduction are available.

For more conversation about Station 20 West, contact Tony Haynes at the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace, 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005 (mornings only). Visit the Station 20 West website at: www.station20west.org



Members of the Spanish community carry the cross during the annual ecumenical event organized by the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace.



Participants from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish reflect and pray on the steps of a downtown church.



Some 600 people participated in the Good Friday event.

## Cross carried through city streets

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Some 600 people participated in an ecumenical walk of prayer for justice and peace April 2, following the cross through downtown streets Good Friday morning.

The Way of the Cross included three Saskatoon bishops carrying the cross from the federal courthouse to a medical building: Bishop Cindy Halmarson of the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Bishop David Irving of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, and Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The bishops reflected on how Jesus related to all people without division. “Jesus’ grace reached out to all, especially those in greatest need,” said Bolen. “We commit ourselves to continue to walk side-by-side as we seek to carry out Christ’s mission and ministry, whether by bringing a word of hope or a healing touch, or working for the common good; by joining in prayer, common witness or joint mission.”

Beginning with a reflection by Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, and other religious sisters on the fragile state of fresh water on the planet, the Way of the Cross included prayers by the Inner-City Council of Churches about homelessness, and by the St. James Anglican Youth Group about honouring diversity.

“Every kind of person exists, and the creator is continuing to dream up and knit together unique and completely beautiful people: all are deserving of God’s great love,” said a member of the Anglican youth. The youth prayed for racial minorities, especially the First Nations community; those living in poverty; the under-employed; those living with physical and mental disabilities; persons who are members of sexual minorities; those living in all kinds of institutions; children and elders; those who are sick in body and those suffering from mental illness; prisoners; people living on the streets; and victims of violence and sexual abuse.



Lutheran Bishop Cindy Halmarson, Catholic Bishop Donald Bolen and Anglican Bishop David Irving carry the cross.

Members of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish led the prayers at the fifth station, recalling how Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his cross. Standing on the steps of Third Avenue United Church, parishioners from the largely Aboriginal and Métis parish prayed for all those suffering from addictions, and all those who reach out to help them.

The local Filipino community carried the cross to the sixth station, stopping at EGADZ youth centre and reflecting on the papal encyclical “Caritatis in veritate” (Charity in truth), before passing the cross to members of Community First Development Fund, who reflected and prayed about poverty.

Members of the L’Arche community of Saskatoon carried the cross to the eighth station, where community leader Wyndham Thiessen read a letter from L’Arche founder Jean Vanier.

“Our God who loves us wants to reveal to each of us that we are important and precious...Our God welcomes us in his arms and says, ‘I love you as you are.’ He raises us

up so we can all be instruments of his justice and his peace and his love,” read Thiessen.

Returning to Spirit, a program for healing the legacy of hurt caused by residential schools in Canada, was the focus of prayers at the ninth station outside Midtown Plaza, while prison ministry was the theme of the tenth station.

The Spanish community of Saskatoon prayed about suffering in Hispanic communities around the world, while Christian chaplains from the university reflected on food security, as the crowd stopped next to a closed grocery store.

At the Saskatchewan cabinet office on 22nd Street, Nutana Mennonite Church members prayed for all governments to act with justice and compassion to address issues of poverty and suffering.

Finally at the fourteenth station on the steps of St. Paul’s Cathedral, representatives of the Office for Justice and Peace for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon (which organized the annual event) concluded with prayers for all those suffering in our world.



# “A Time for Hope” was theme of March marriage conference

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Some 350 people attended a national marriage conference in Saskatoon March 19-20, reflecting on the theme “*A Time for Hope: Finally, Good News about Marriage.*”

Participants came from across the diocese, the province and the country, including delegates from as far west as British Columbia and as far east as Antigonish, NS.

“There was just an incredible spirit of hope during this conference,” said Blake Sittler of the diocesan office of Marriage and Family Life, who led the diocesan committee organizing the event. “People are looking for good news – and they found it here.”

The conference began with presentations by historian Stephanie Coontz of Olympia, Washington, and sociologist Reginald Bibby of the University of Lethbridge putting the story of marriage into context, Sittler said.

The academics cited history and statistics, dispelling myths about the state of marriage, both in the past and today.

More coverage of the marriage conference is posted at:  
[saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

Connecting marriage to the paschal mystery was the theme of a spiritually-focused presentation by Kathy and Neil Heskin of Illinois, a couple who have been active in marriage and family ministry for 32 years.

A local panel described their personal experiences with a spectrum of marriage ministry happening in the diocese, including the work of the Marriage Task Force, divorce and remarriage ministry, marriage preparation, vocation awareness and Retrouvaille (see related article next page).

Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, a theologian and author who holds the chair in Catholic studies at the University of Toledo, offered a practical spirituality of marriage during his talk, presented at an annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet held in conjunction

with the national conference (see article below).

Celebration of the Eucharist with Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface, Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Eparchy of Saskatoon, and Bishop-elect Donald Bolen of the diocese of Saskatoon included a renewal of wedding vows for conference participants. “Couples described how looking into each other’s eyes as they made that recommitment was truly a powerful spiritual moment,” noted Sittler.

In his homily, LeGatt reflected on the “long lingering look of love” that couples exchange in old movies. Jesus also has a look of love for each beloved child of God: including the woman caught in adultery in John’s gospel, LeGatt noted.

“Jesus sees her for what God calls her to be, sees her for what she is in God’s eyes: the beloved – as all God’s children are the beloved,” he said. “Jesus has trust, he has faith in her, and what her life can be if she allows the love of God to be the truth in her life: ‘go and sin no more’.”

When it is difficult to love, to get beyond hurt and resentment, our invitation is to be like Jesus, to choose to love, to trust and to reach out again, LeGatt said. In living this way, married couples “indeed are an icon, a reflection, of God’s unending love for us,” he said.

“You do it again and again and again as couples, in the way in which you continue to trust in each other, and you choose to reach out to each other in love. Within that you are truly a sacrament within the Church,” LeGatt said. “What will give the strength to choose to see your spouse in that way? The Word of



MCs Sheldon and Gerry Scheck modelled marriage styles past, present and future during the two-day event.

God... Within your hearts, have the crucified and risen Lord alive in you, and with you in your marriage.”

The committee, which was made up of couples from throughout the diocese, included Deb and Gilbert Chevrier, Wendy and Abel Desa, Darcie and Mark Lich, Kathy Lozinsky, Katarina and Shaun Nechvatal, Gerry and Sheldon Scheck, and Michelle and Dean Yurkowski.

Hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the conference was organized with support from a number of groups, including the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Catholic Family Services, Queen’s House, and St. Thomas More College, as well as a number of other sponsors and supporters, including the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.



Conference participants gathered for Mass at St. Paul’s Cathedral March 20.

## Lively speaker explores influence of commercial culture on marriage: proposes model of conversion and companionship

BY BLAKE SITTLER

An energetic and humorous presentation by theology professor and author Dr. Richard Gaillardetz was the final address of a national marriage conference held in Saskatoon March 19-20.

Gaillardetz is author of *A Daring Promise*, a book on marriage and discipleship.

During his talk Gaillardetz shared personal experiences from his 20-year marriage to Dianne, reflecting on difficulties they faced.

“If they’re married long enough, every couple looks into the abyss,” Gaillardetz said. “We have to make a connection between the lofty teaching, theology, and the abyss... I don’t think we do that well enough.”

Gaillardetz addressed the current cultural context of marriage and how we view marriage. “We live in a culture in which media, especially movies... encourages romance,” said Gaillardetz.

“My students know these movies aren’t realistic but when I ask them what they are looking for in a spouse... this is their narrative arc of romance and marriage; that love conquers everything... and it creates some very unrealistic expectations,” stated Gaillardetz.

Gaillardetz also explored the influence of a consumer culture on our modern marriage theology. From cell phones and computers to cameras and clothes, consumerism necessitates an evolution of new needs. “A marketing industry develops that says once you buy the thing you desire, you are no longer happy with it... your desire needs to be nomadic,” Gaillardetz noted.



Dr. Richard Gaillardetz

Consumerism, as a cultural perspective, lends itself to being a society of people who compare and value human beings in the same way that we compare and value objects and services.

“Marital commitment has never been easy, but it is harder today and one of the reasons is that we have become habituated to comparison shopping... about upgrading what we have,” Gaillardetz stated.

“The commitment we make to our spouse on our wedding day is not that difficult because we know what we’re getting,” he noted, but added that the wedding vows are a radical decision to devote oneself to an unknown future. “We are committing ourselves to the mystery of who our partner will be, recognizing that we can’t predict that.”

When faced with the “abyss” of marriage difficulties, it will be a

common vision, and not common interests, that will most often pull a couple through the dark times, he suggested. “We can only do it out of a commitment that we share a common vision, and more importantly as Catholic Christians, that this vision is grounded in our faith, and in God being with us.”

Gaillardetz explored a concept of marriage as an ascetic vocation, since it is about freely embracing limits and discipline. This asceticism includes loneliness.

“There is a loneliness that at some level is inevitable in a marriage at one point or another... We can never be fully sated in any human relationship,” he said.

The concept of a “soul mate” or that there is always one “right”, even “God-chosen” spouse for each person is a relatively new and problematic romantic idea that has crept even into Christian theology, Gaillardetz said. “I think it creates some problems, and we need a different way of thinking about providence and vocation.”

At every moment of our lives, God puts out an invitation to love in the midst of many choices, Gaillardetz asserted. “Now some may be bad choices... but I don’t think it follows that there is only one choice.”

For instance, he suggested that if his wife had chosen a different spouse, it could still have been part of God’s plan.

“There would have been different blessings, there would have been different crosses to bear. They would have looked into the abyss at a different moment in their lives, occasioned by a different

crisis,” he said. “God says to us ‘choose, and make that choice a loving choice, and I will walk with you on that journey.’”

If we accept the delusion that there is only one right person for us, when that person changes, or when there are problems in the relationship, the temptation will be to conclude that this has been the wrong person all along, Gaillardetz added.

“At some point in life it will always appear as if we’ve married the wrong person. And maybe the most unhelpful question that couples can ask is ‘was this the right person?’ The only important question that married couples need to ask is ‘are we sharing a vision in which we are able to love one another and put our love to the service of the world?’”

Gaillardetz recommended the scriptural word “companion” as a description of the marriage relationship.

He described the origin of the word as “someone with whom you share bread” – an image with rich resonance in the biblical tradition, from the Old Testament story of the daily bread of manna in the desert to the Lord’s prayer in the New Testament; from the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves to the Lord giving his body in the broken bread.

“What does it mean for married couples to be companions? It means that we learn to receive the gifts that our spouse has to give,” he said.

“It is about learning the daily discipline of asking what are the gifts that my spouse is giving me that I’ve not noticed, because they

weren’t what I was looking for,” he said.

“Companionship is a practice, a discipline, a decision each day to share bread: to receive the bread our partner offers us, and to allow God’s grace in a spirit of gratitude to replace that consumer comparison-shopping ethos that’s part of our larger culture.”

Ultimately, marriage is an ongoing vehicle of conversion, Gaillardetz stressed, quoting the observation of writer Nancy Mairs: “my spirit has been schooled in wedlock.”

“Conversion in Christian marriage is the call for us to always look at... how God is changing us through this relationship,” Gaillardetz said.

“Marriage is a crucible of grace in which God is the hammer and blow by blow throughout our marriage is forging each of us in our relationship with our spouse and children to become something new, something noble, something of God,” Gaillardetz concluded.

Gaillardetz’s talk was presented as part of the eighth annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet hosted by the diocese of Saskatoon’s Marriage Task Force and Worldwide Marriage Encounter. This year the banquet was held in conjunction with a two-day national marriage conference.

Gene and Adele Dupuis of Saskatoon sponsored the keynote by Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, who holds the Margaret and Thomas Murray and James J. Bacik Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio.



## Local panelists provide personal perspectives on marriage ministries

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A broad and comprehensive vision of marriage ministry in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was highlighted during a panel discussion held March 20 during a national marriage conference at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon.

Panel participants described powerful personal experiences in a range of marriage-related ministries, from marriage preparation and enrichment to divorce and remarriage ministry; from vocation awareness to Retrouvaille, a program for marriages in difficulty.

**Blake Sittler** of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life began the discussion with a reflection on what a "perfect Christian married couple" might look like, and then asked those present to reflect on the less-than-perfect, and at times wounded, reality found in the homes and hearts of the families that make up the Christian community.

"What we are attempting to do as a diocese is two-fold: to react to the needs of God's people and to create a vision and plan for our diocese," Sittler said. This vision calls for age appropriate and sound vocation preparation; challenging and positive marriage preparation; nurturing, dynamic and diverse marriage enrichment opportunities; pastoral outreach to couples whose relationship is struggling; and care to those who have been wounded by the experience of divorce or the death of a spouse, he listed.

**Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick** described their years of work in marriage preparation ministry, and in the development and implementation of a remarriage ministry known as Encore.

"Six years ago our diocese established a curriculum for marriage preparation," described Pat. "Our program covers such topics as communication, conflict resolution, becoming life giving, Natural Family Planning and living marriage as a sacrament."

Young couples who come for marriage preparation are often reluctant, attending only because it's a requirement of the Church before marriage, described Gail. Happily, most leave admitting they got much more out of it than they expected, she said, sharing testimonials from couples about the program and the welcoming and acceptance they felt from the faith community.

In some instances, marriage preparation sessions have even prompted couples to rethink their decision to get married, noted Pat, suggesting that ideally, marriage preparation would be undertaken early on, perhaps even as a prelude to engagement.

The Fitzpatricks' experience of entering

into a second marriage proved helpful to couples they met faced with similar issues. That led to the development of Encore, a ministry that addresses the needs of those preparing for marriage after divorce or the death of a spouse, as well as those coming to marriage after a previous long-term relationship; or who are bringing children into a marriage.

"It's an opportunity to share with others the good news that their new marriages can and should be successful, strong and God blessed," said Pat, challenging a world view that looks at blended families with skepticism or sees them as second-rate. "We need to show the world that such families are loved, valued and belong in our faith communities."

Gail pointed to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a blended family to be emulated. "The challenge is to see Jesus Mary and Joseph in the world around us," – in particular in the blended families in our community, she added.

Encore, which is available to all marriage preparation teams in the diocese, includes two modules: one on deciding to love again, and another about the "joys and complications" of creating blended families.

"My expectations of marriage did not die with my first marriage," Gail related. "I know that our God is a God of second chances, and through the healing process of annulment, I found peace, forgiveness and the understanding that I deserved to be loved in a marriage that helped me to grow to be the woman that God designed me to be."

Panel participant **Mary-Anne Kuin** then described her experience of divorce and how for a time it left her feeling abandoned and disconnected from God and from her Catholic faith family. "I felt helpless, rejected, lonely, angry, afraid, depressed and outcast," she listed. "I believed I had no one to turn to, no one I could trust to share my hurt with."

Relating her own journey of hope and healing, Kuin described God's voice whispering to her his unconditional love and forgiveness, and her renewed connection to her faith community. "Divorce ministry has been part of the Saskatoon Roman Catholic diocese since the early 1980s," she noted, listing what is presently in place, including a weekly support group, and two 12-week programs: Divorce and Beyond for those recently separated or divorced; and Transitions, for those who have already started their healing journey.

As individual stories are related and heard with acceptance and empathy, growth and healing begin within these ministries, which are led by those who have lived through similar experiences, Kuin said. "Wholeness becomes



Participants in a panel discussion at the marriage conference in Saskatoon included (back row, l-r) Blake Sittler, Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick, Mary-Anne Kuin, and (front row, l-r) Mike and Celia Caswell, Mark and Darcie Lich.

more than just a dream." Participants have said that through the ministry they have "felt safe to seek, to share and to heal, they felt solidarity in their suffering and hope for the future; they felt friendship, healing and laughter, even when sharing their pain or tears," Kuin related.

**Mark and Darcie Lich**, the chairs of the diocesan Task Force on Marriage established seven years ago by Bishop Albert LeGat, related an overview of ministry and projects undertaken by the leadership group. Encouraging a wide range of marriage enrichment is one goal, a concept that has grown to include less structured enrichment efforts that are flexible, personal and meaningful.

Darcie reflected on an image from Fr. Ron Rolheiser about how marriage and family life can be viewed as an ongoing series of "monastic bells" calling us to love, to duty and to holiness. "Vocation means I'm not in it for me, I'm in it for we."

**Mike and Celia Caswell** described their experience with Retrouvaille, which began with an inaugural weekend in 2007 that led to renewal and growth in their own marriage, and prompted their involvement on the provincial board of the organization.

"Retrouvaille means rediscovery. This program is designed for hurting couples who are considering separation or divorce, or who may already be separated or divorced, but are considering reconciliation," said Celia.

During their initial Retrouvaille weekend, couples learn about four stages of marriage: romance, disillusionment, misery and awakening; and are introduced to the four cornerstones of marriage: love, commitment, trust and forgiveness.

"Love is a decision, commitment is a decision, trust and forgiveness are decisions," Mike stressed, noting that vital communication techniques are also taught to couples in order to

promote ongoing health and intimacy in a marriage relationship.

The Caswells shared the pain and discord that existed in their own relationship, and the healing and renewal they experienced by actively engaging in the Retrouvaille process.

"Retrouvaille gave me the opportunity to focus fully on our relationship and find the tools to communicate and express my love for Celia more effectively. It also gave me information on conflict resolution and hope that we could change and restore intimacy," said Mike.

"There are many other ministries, groups and people who could have been up here this morning," **Blake Sittler** said of the local panel discussion. "Ranging from pro-life organizations to teachers of Natural Family Planning, people working with the elderly and widows. The list goes on and on, and they too are part of this plan."

Sittler stressed the long-term nature of the vision for marriage ministry in the diocese.

"We are looking forward to a time when our children know that marriage means commitment, respect, unity, love and justice in the world; when young people avoid cohabitation and hold out for the more rewarding relationship of marriage, and that these same young people desire to live out their sexual lives in a way that will not only please God, but will deepen and strengthen their marriage."

There is good news about marriage into the future, Sittler concluded, inviting his listeners to become involved in their own communities and families.

"Be a witness to the world that marriage is one of the most visible signs of God's life-giving presence in the world. God doesn't advertise on the radio, TV or the Internet. We are his billboards, we are his commercials, we are the plan, we are his good news to the world about marriage."

### Billings Ovulation Method: free information session

Natural Family Planning Association Saskatchewan (NFP Saskatchewan) will host a free information session on the Billings Ovulation Method in Saskatoon 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. **Friday, May 28** at Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School, 125 - 105th Street West in Saskatoon. This is a modern method of natural family planning developed by doctors and based on proven scientific research, that is 99.6 per cent effective with proper instruction. It is natural and harmless and useful for both planning and postponing pregnancy. NFP Saskatchewan will also be hosting a Part 1 Teacher Training Workshop May 28-30 at Bishop Filevich school. 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 e-mailing [nfpsask@sasktel.net](mailto:nfpsask@sasktel.net) or by phoning 1-306-682-4528.

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*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*



### Liturgy explored by high school students

Participants in a Living Liturgy for Youth program in Saskatoon compile a list of music suggestions as part of planning a video to be used in conjunction with liturgical celebrations. The liturgy program for students from Catholic high schools is coordinated by Fr. David Tumbach of the diocesan liturgy committee and GSCS religious education coordinator Gilbert Chevrier with the teacher chaplains of Bethlehem, Bishop James Mahoney, ED Feehan, Holy Cross and St. Joseph high schools. A similar Youth and Liturgy program is also offered to students in Catholic elementary schools, with funding from GSCS Foundation.

# Sr. Mary Jane Beavis makes final profession of vows

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Mary Jane Beavis made her final profession of vows as a Sister of the Presentation of Mary Nov. 21 at her home parish of St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon.

Making a lifelong commitment to consecrated religious life with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, Sister Mary Jane, 33, professed vows of chastity, poverty and obedience before celebrant Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand of Prince Albert; St. Paul's pastor Fr. Don Hamel; Provincial Superior Sr. Pauline Sevigny, PM, and a church full of family, friends and her religious community.

The event was held on the Feast of the Presentation of Mary, which celebrates the presentation of the child Mary to God in the temple, said Sr. Albina Labonté, PM, in opening remarks. The day also marked 213 years since the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary religious order was founded Nov. 21, 1796 in revolutionary France by "a humble, crippled and not very educated woman called Marie Rivier" who longed to "consecrate her life to making Jesus Christ known and loved," Labonté described.

Greeting Sister Mary Jane, Bishop Emeritus Morand recalled her baptism, in which God had already sealed a covenant with her. "Christ having made her his own, she longed to lose all in order to follow him more freely," he said.

During the celebration, Sr. Mary Jane declared her intention to "set no limits to (her) desire to belong entirely to God and to be at the service of His glory," living her vows of chastity, poverty and obedience under the charism of Marie Rivier, "with the grace of God and the help of the community." She knelt as the assembly prayed the litany of the saints in song.

Sr. Mary Jane then made her statement of profession, before signing it and giving it to Sevigny as the representative of the Superior General of the order. She was also presented with a ring, signifying that she belongs absolutely to Jesus Christ for eternity.

"You are now forever a member of this religious family which you have freely chosen. Henceforth you will share everything with us," said Sevigny. "Together at the heart of the Church, may we be a sacrament of God's mercy."

During the celebration of the Eucharist,



**Sister Mary Jane Beavis signs her profession of her lifelong commitment as a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary Nov. 21.**

Sister Mary Jane brought up the gifts with her parents, John and Monica Beavis of Saskatoon.

## Vocation gathering

At a gathering earlier in the week at Sts. Martyrs-Canadiens parish, Sr. Mary Jane Beavis shared her vocation story.

"I was blessed to have great Catholic parents as role models who were committed to their faith," said Sr. Mary Jane, the youngest of four daughters of John and Monica Beavis. "My parents witnessed their faith through their ways of living more than they spoke about it. Everyone was welcome in our home, and our family life was a big priority."

Sr. Mary Jane described how she focussed on excelling at basketball while at Bishop James Mahoney High School, and in academics at the University of Saskatchewan. She also recalled the stress she experienced when she arrived at university, to become "a number amongst the other 24,000 students," battling loneliness and seeking connections with a partying lifestyle. "I was searching for meaning and purpose in my life, and I was not

finding it because I was trying to please everyone around me."

She participated in Catholic Christian Outreach Bible studies and other events. At the same time, her older sister Bonnie was living at the Discernment House established near the campus by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

"The great friendships that she had formed there and the joy she had received from deepening her relationship with God attracted me," said Sr. Mary Jane, who at the age of 20 also made the choice to live at Discernment House for a year. She stressed that at the time she had no desire to become a sister, and described how the sisters and other young women at Discernment House accepted where she was at in her faith.

"Through prayer, a new world opened up to me as I became aware of God's presence in my life," she said. "I remember one day when I was walking to school, I was under a lot of pressure to find a summer job and for the first time I surrendered my life to God. At that moment, I felt like a load of bricks had been lifted from my shoulders and I felt filled with peace and joy because God was in control. Remarkably, this walk to school was the foundation to surrendering my life to God."

It was only the power of God that could have convinced her that she could live a happy and fulfilling life without a husband and children, said Sr. Mary Jane. "My conversion of heart began when I started to pray and put God more at the centre of my life."

By this time, stereotypes that she once held about sisters had faded. "I saw them as real people struggling like the rest of us to remain close to God. I no longer saw them as old, serious, church figures that never had any fun because they were always in church praying," she said.

"It was evident through their joy and love for life that God sufficed for them. They did not need to be married or to have children to be happy. They were fulfilled by their relationship with God and community living. I watched in awe. God was gradually opening my heart to the different vocations."

After her time living at Discernment House she moved to Northern Alberta to take an eight-month work term in her chosen field of agriculture – she earned a Bachelor of

Science in Agriculture with a major in crop science. It was another lonely time, when she didn't know anyone.

"Gradually my loneliness turned to solitude. Religious life continued to come up in my prayer and I had time to process what had gone on while I lived at the sisters. I was beginning to think that religious life was more of a possibility," she said.

However, she also started dating a colleague and fell in love. "But, religious life was always in the back of my mind," she said. "I desired to love universally and to bring others to know God, like the sisters. I wanted to be free like them."

She attended a retreat where she discerned that God wanted her to break off her relationship permanently. "For the first time ever I felt that I could live a happy, celibate life without a husband and children. This was a huge revelation for me and a milestone in my journey," said Sr. Mary Jane, admitting that at times she felt like God was calling her to jump off a diving board into cement.

However, through prayer she became convinced that she could be happy by living the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

"There was a joy within me that I knew only came from God. I finally jumped off the diving board in saying 'yes' to God. It was a great leap of faith, but when I said 'yes' it was like God poured his graces upon me, and a spring of water sprang up under my feet."

After coming to this decision, an unexpected gift of a bouquet of spring flowers symbolized to her the reality of God's love – but different than the love her boyfriends had once expressed with red roses. "In my heart, I knew from this point on I belonged to God and I was determined that nothing was going to stop me from entering religious life," she said.

"I chose these sisters because they were the ones who reached me, believed in me and helped me to grow in my relationship with God. The community that I experienced had a deep prayer and vibrant community life," she told the gathering.

"It's an international community so I feel one day I will use my background in agriculture to do some missionary work. Also, a big drawing factor is that there are other young sisters."

## Discernment House retreats offered to young adults

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Forty-three young people filled Discernment House Jan. 15-17 for a time of prayer, reflection and community during one of the discernment weekends hosted this year by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

The *Personal History Weekend Retreat* focused on how God works through personal stories, presenting participants with tools for discerning God's presence and direction.

The young adults at the retreat came from all over the province, including Kindersley, Saskatoon, Shaunavon, and Regina, said one of the organizers, Sr. Mary Jane Beavis, PM. Eleven young people from St. Therese Catholic College in Bruno were also among those attending, she noted.

Presentations by Sisters Evelyn Nedelec and Mary Jane Beavis were part of the weekend, which also included spiritual direction, celebration of the Eucharist, discussion, and journaling.

Participant Joshua Grandmaison of Ottawa, a student at St. Therese in Bruno, first heard about the retreat from a friend, and sees it as one more step on a journey to understand God's call in his life. "This retreat was an effort to find out what are the gifts that I have, what it is that I can offer that can help build up the kingdom of God," Grandmaison said, noting the retreat's content had less to do with his past than he thought it might. "It was more about thinking of what do I want to do, and what does God have to say about that."

Grandmaison said he appreciated the



**Young adults participated in a live-in weekend retreat at Discernment House.**

spiritual direction provided by Sisters of the Presentation during the weekend. "That was terrific."

During the retreat, Stephane Wacholtz of Saskatoon was introduced to spiritual journaling, and discovered that writing down what happens in a day could open his eyes. "I learned how to see that the Holy Spirit was actually working through everyday little things."

University student Robin Anderson of Saskatoon was very familiar with Discernment House, having lived there in community with the Sisters of the Presentation for eight months as part of another program offered for young women. She has also taken the retreat twice before.

Each time God has surprised her.

"Even if you're bringing a question with you to the retreat, I find that God sometimes surprises you with where you are going," she said.

For Joseph Wacholtz, the retreat was a chance to think about what direction his life should take. He graduated from high school last year, and although he was accepted at the university opted to get a job, not quite certain what path to take. "I really want to make sure that I make the right decision for the right reasons."

Jennifer Foley of Shaunavon, SK, sought out the retreat after experiencing shifts and changes in her life. "This is the first time that I haven't been able, by myself, to be able to

find that peace and contentment about decisions," she said, adding that the answers she has worked out in the past no longer seem to be working as circumstances have changed. "And more than just decisions, it has to do with vocation."

The weekend retreat was fabulous, added Foley, who had never been to Discernment House before. "Just the feel and the tone when you walk into this house tells you something – it's a faith community and there is a sense of home when you walk into a community of believers. There's a feeling here: a feeling that you don't have to do it by yourself, that you don't have to assess people," she described.

The retreat provides time away from routine to reflect on one's journey in life, said Anderson. "Sometimes there's an expectation by people coming into Discernment House that you are going to get all the answers at a retreat. Really, you might come out with one nugget, something solid that you are going to work with," she said. "It's always good to be open to God surprising you."

**"Live-in Discernment Weekend I - Personal History" will again be offered to young, single, Catholic men and women 19 years or older from May 14 to 16 at Discernment House in Saskatoon. For more information contact: Sr. Lucie Hamel, Sr. Mary Jane Beavis, or Sr. Evelyn Nedelec at 306-244-0726 or by e-mailing the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary at: discernmenthouse@lycos.com**



## New Steps in Faith retreat hosted by Trinity parishes

BY GARTH WRUCK  
FACEToFACE MINISTRIES

A FacetoFace retreat was held April 10 at St. Phillippe de Neri parish in Vonda, with 35 young people and their parents attending the day-long event, which was specially designed to meet the requirements of a diocesan *Steps in Faith* program.

A retreat is one component of *Steps in Faith*, which is being introduced across the diocese for youth in about Grades 6 to 8. The program is part of a renewed focus on lifelong faith formation happening in conjunction with the earlier age of confirmation in the diocese since the Restored Order of Initiation Sacraments.

Developed through the diocesan Rural Catechetics and Youth Ministry offices, *Steps in Faith* is being offered this year at several parishes, including the Trinity parishes at Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda, which hosted the recent retreat. Youth from



Youth participate in an icebreaker activity during the retreat.

Saskatoon and Allan also attended the event.

*Steps in Faith* is designed to help young people grow in their baptized, confirmed and Eucharistic identity as they "Explore the Creed." In addition to a retreat experience, components of *Steps in Faith* include: ongoing learning sessions, service projects, and a parish ceremony at which young people make a public re-affirmation of faith.

The Trinity district parishes approached FacetoFace Ministries about facilitating the retreat portion of their *Steps in Faith* program.

"FacetoFace has a very successful formula that they use to reach out to youth through their programs and they have a true heart for the Lord: they were an obvious fit", said Bernard Hamoline, who along with Louise Bussiere, serves as Parish Life Director for the Trinity region.

As the FacetoFace Ministry Team did not have specific experience, presentations or activities in place to bolster the *Steps in Faith* program, team member Jon Courchene designed a new retreat for *Steps in Faith* using the FacetoFace formula.

The day began with activities and music to get everyone comfortable and familiar with each other. The first session of the day, "Made to be Me," looked at our purpose as children of God and the call of our baptism.

Session two, "Who are You? Knowing Your Catholic Identity," went into more depth on the importance of understanding our baptismal identity and the consequences of living outside that identity. Katie DeJong



Youth from parishes in Saskatoon joined those involved in *Steps in Faith* at the Trinity parishes in Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda for the new FacetoFace retreat.

gave a personal testimony about her struggles and her triumphs in finding her true identity as a beloved child of God.

Session three, entitled "Forgiven," included a keynote presentation and an activity "the thread web of sin," which uniquely displayed the impact of sin, while revealing the infinite mercy and healing that God provides through the sacrament of reconciliation. Priests were also available, offering the sacrament of reconciliation to participants.

Retreat participants joined the parish community for Mass, and following supper, gathered for a fourth retreat session.

"Living the Creed – An Authentic Catholic Life" showed how the core beliefs of the Creed can impact day-to-day existence, and can help young people live with purpose, knowing their Catholic identity and being reconciled to God.

Throughout the day, participants met in

small groups to discuss the various messages provided in the keynote presentations.

"This is a time for young people to share their faith honestly and openly, which they rarely ever do outside of this setting, and it is opportunity to practice sharing their faith and evangelizing out in the world," said Courchene of the small group discussions.

Near the end of the day, participants were also invited to receive the prayer ministry of a member of the FacetoFace Ministry team. For some young people it is the first time that they have heard another person pray for them, specifically interceding and petitioning God on their behalf.

The retreat ended with Eucharistic Adoration, allowing the young people the opportunity to reaffirm their faith to Jesus himself and giving him praise for the gift of their faith.

## Diocesan Youth Retreat Team leads Martensville event

BY: DESIREE NELSON

Forty youth recently gathered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Martensville for a confirmation retreat put on by the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT).

The team included organizer Myron Rogal and five other DYRT members from the Saskatoon diocese. The Feb. 27 retreat focused on the Holy Spirit and confirmation, and was designed to help prepare each young Catholic for their Easter celebration.

Retreat sessions focused on prayer, choices, gifts of the Holy Spirit, the sacraments, the process of confirmation and the role and

### DYRT: Diocesan Youth Retreat Team

*Lively, talented, committed youth bring their gifts to DYRT, facilitating retreats, rallies and workshops.*

For information about what the team can offer, pricing or scheduling, contact:

Myron Rogal, Diocesan Youth Retreat Team  
Phone: 242-1500 ext. 242 or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005  
E-mail: DYRT@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

importance of the Holy Spirit. The sessions were presented in various ways, involving time for reflection within smaller groups, and time for fun.

Nicolas Vaagen, one youth who participated reflected upon his day.

"It is a nice reminder about God and a fun thing you can do. It is a nice program that teaches you to know about stuff... now I'm excited about confirmation." When asked what his favourite part of the day was, Nicolas replied, "My favourite part was on

praying. I learned that you don't have to speak to pray, you can just have a moment of silence. It was awesome."

Tyler Morhart, a returning DYRT leader focused on trying to impress upon youth the importance of confirmation and its meaning. He said his hope was that the kids would take with them the joy of the day and transform it into their daily lives. "I hope that I have given them a Christian role model who's funny. We (Catholics) can be fun too!"

Trina Sharp, Christian education coordinator at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, said the retreat had an impact on the youth in attendance. She noticed that the youth who live

in the surrounding areas of Warman, Langham, and Martensville left the retreat "enthusiastic about learning about God. They left, being touched by God and having a great time."

Sharp said she was surprised by the amount of fun the kids had. "They were completely engaged" in all activities including skits, sharing comments, and engaging in fellowship during the breaks.

The Diocesan Youth Retreat Team continues to provide retreats throughout the diocese of Saskatoon. For more information contact Myron Rogal at the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500, 1-877-661-5005 or: DYRT@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

## Groups collaborate in offering Cornerstone on campus for Catholic Students' Week

BY MARYA WICKENHAUSER

To mark Catholic Students' Week, a monthly Cornerstone event for young adults was held on the University of Saskatchewan campus for the first time.

Cornerstone events in Saskatoon started this summer as part of a Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) Impact mission, and have continued as a joint effort of CCO and FacetoFace Ministries.

The night started off with praise and worship music led by the band Roadside Cry, and a local ministry team. Kimberly Gaudet provided a brief faith testimony.

Keynote speaker was Colm Leyne, coordinator of youth ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. He talked about the hard habits that keep a person from true happiness.

Jesus Christ is the key to our happiness and knowing him with our minds is different than knowing him with our hearts, Leyne said. As human beings, we are created to be in a relationship with Christ, and through that lens, we are called to discern what is healthy and what is not.

Leyne asserted that happiness has a name: Jesus. He encouraged his listeners to build new, more wonderful experiences by serving Jesus in day-to-day life.

"We aren't supposed to be comfortable, we're supposed to be saints," he said. Christ has done everything for us and is just waiting for our response, he added.

More praise and worship followed the talk, ending the night on a high note.

Cornerstone is held the fourth Thursday of every month.

Catholic Students' Week was marked on university campuses across Canada March 14 to 21, including the University of Saskatchewan. Catholic Students' Week is an initiative of the Canadian Catholic Students Association (CCSA) and the Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry (CCCM).

A number of events in Saskatoon highlighted the week, inviting students and other young adults to celebrate and gain more knowledge about their Catholic faith.

The Knights of Columbus sponsored a rosary and pizza night after Mass March 14 to launch the week of events, which included a trivia challenge, a St. Patrick's Day pub event with proceeds going to Development and Peace, a Lenten reconciliation service at St. Thomas More Chapel, and a Newman Club coffeehouse. Another featured event was Theology on Tap, held March 16 at Lydia's Pub on Broadway in Saskatoon. The theme was "Activ8 Your Faith," with speaker Désirée Nelson talking about her own faith journey.

## Medieval feast held at college

VAL KOROLUK

A Medieval Feast was held Feb. 11 at St. Peter's College (SPC) in Muenster. Approximately 70 people stepped back in time to experience minstrels, troubadours, medieval games and a supper.

Students, staff, faculty and guests were entertained by the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild Retreat Members and the SPC Drama Class. Brother Kurt Van Kuren, a Benedictine monk at St. Peter's Abbey, performed ballads. Everyone participated in a well-known game of the period: "Pass the Parcel."

The feast featured foods that were available during medieval times. Sausages, parsnips, carrots and peas were served on bread plates known trenchers.

King and queen for the event were SPC



Br. Kurt Van Kuren, OSB, performs.

students Ryan Heise and Jenna Moellenbeck.

The Medieval Feast, an annual event held prior to the start of Lent, was sponsored by the St. Peter's College campus ministry team, "The Men in Black."

Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, SPC offers classed in Arts and Science, Business and Kinesiology in a rural setting.

Check out Colm Leyne's blog on the diocesan Youth webpage :  
[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry/index.cfm)





**Humboldt Deanery  
at Humboldt: March 6**



**Outlook Deanery  
at Outlook: Feb. 27**



**Wadena Deanery,  
at Wadena: March 13**



**Humboldt Deanery  
at Humboldt: March 6**



**Rural Saskatoon  
at Viscount:**

# Congress day taken to the seven deaneries across



**Eatonia Deanery  
at Leader: March 27**

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

From January to March 2010, parish representatives in each of the seven deaneries across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon took time on a Saturday to gather and reflect on the Christian call to live, worship and serve in a faith community.

From St. Mary's Parish Hall in Saskatoon Jan. 30 to Little Flower Parish Hall in Leader March 27 – and at five communities in between – parish representatives, deanery members, pastoral leaders and diocesan facilitators gathered together to listen and reflect, as they discussed challenges and blessings, joys and sorrows of parish life and of building community as the body of Christ.

Day 2 of an annual two-day conversation known as the Diocesan Congress was this year taken into each of the seven deaneries as a way to include more people in the reflection and consultation process, while building connections among the parishes within each deanery, as well as between the deanery and the diocese, explained diocesan director of Pastoral Services Leah Perrault.

“Christ’s presence was tangible at these days in unique and exciting ways,” she said. “God reminded me again, as we traveled through the diocese, that each parish is a unique

reflection of the work of the Spirit, as is each deanery.”

Perrault and a team of facilitators worked with deanery representatives and local organizers to offer each of the seven Saturday sessions — all of which focused on the priority of “building and sustaining community,” one of six priorities in the “Rooted in Christ” Diocesan Vision launched at last year’s Diocesan Congress. All seven of the deaneries identified this priority in planning for Congress Day 2 this year.

“We were struck by the fact that across the diocese, building and sustaining community was identified as the priority everyone wanted to talk about,” Perrault said at the Kerrobert Deanery gathering at St. Mary’s parish hall in Macklin Feb. 20. Whatever unique challenges and changes are faced by individual parishes, there is a recognition that building community is a vital component and an ongoing challenge in Christian life, she said.

At each session, participants were provided with a brief overview of the history of parish life that demonstrated many shifts in the role and operation of parishes over the past two millennia, and the reality that the present era, which began 50 years ago with the Second Vatican Council is still in its very earliest days.

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**Wadena Deanery  
at Wadena: March 13**



**Kerrobert Deanery  
at Macklin: Feb. 20**



**Eatonia Deanery  
at Leader: March 27**



**Wadena Deanery  
at Wadena: March 13**

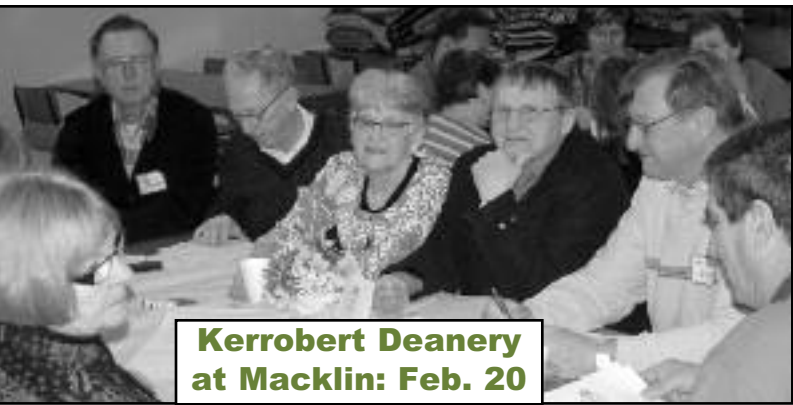


**Eatonia Deanery  
at Leader: March 27**

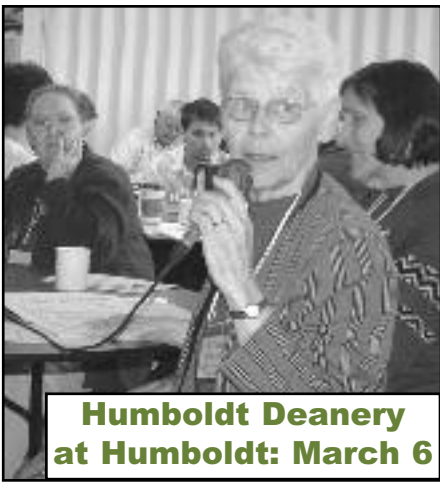


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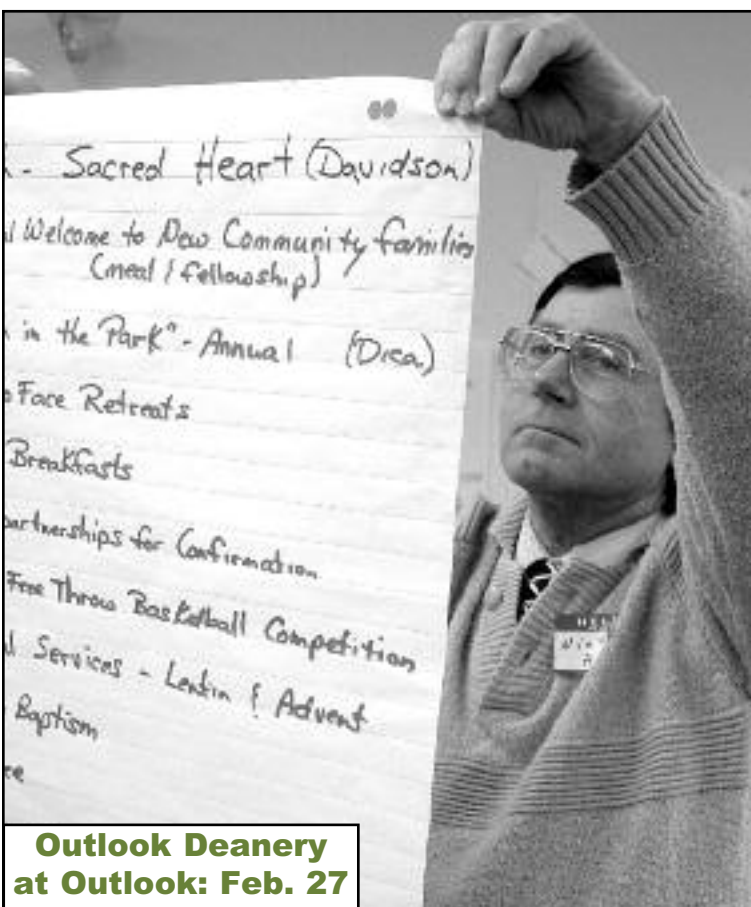




**Kerrobert Deanery  
at Macklin: Feb. 20**



**Humboldt Deanery  
at Humboldt: March 6**



**Outlook Deanery  
at Outlook: Feb. 27**



**on Deanery  
March 6**



**Saskatoon City Deanery  
at St. Mary: Feb. 20**

## oss diocese

form and function, the shape and reality of has evolved and continues to evolve," said Blake of the diocesan Ministry Development Office, presenting the brief parish history session at the Deanery Congress day held at Little Flower Leader March 27.

Every gathering, Perrault rooted the question of community in today's setting, suggesting that people determine their own local and cultural in order to read the "signs of the times" as Jesus led his disciples to do.

The reality is that "God needs groups," Perrault reflecting on the importance of community. "We can't have faith or experience spirituality in a vacuum — it comes from and with the people around us." Groups are an essential part of being a Christian, she said, citing the teachings and studies throughout her life.

The importance of identifying and responding to the needs of the faith community was also examined — and Perrault noted the spiritual challenges experienced by so many parishes to be less community oriented and more individual oriented.

For those who join (or return) to the faith community invariably it was the "local, the personal" that made the difference in her faith journey, she



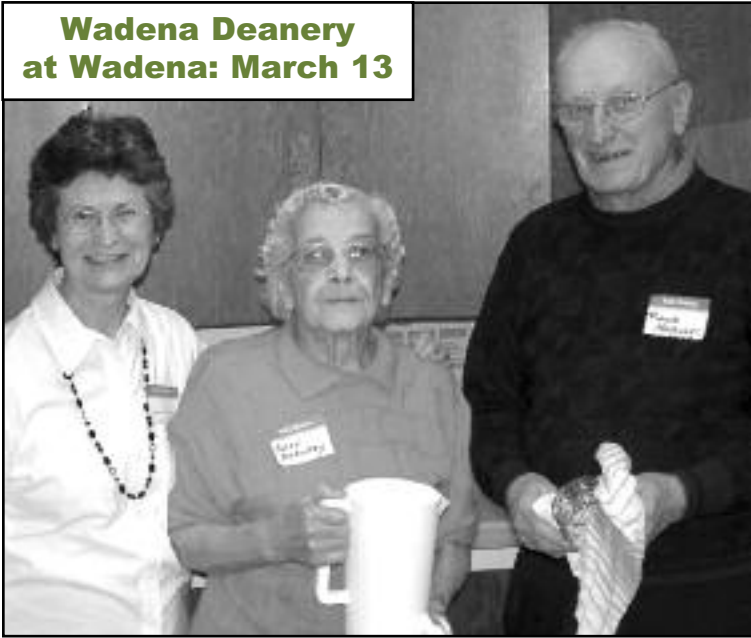
**Kerrobert Deanery  
at Macklin: Feb. 20**



**Saskatoon City Deanery  
at St. Mary: Feb. 20**



**Saskatoon City Deanery  
at St. Mary's: Feb. 20**



**Wadena Deanery  
at Wadena: March 13**

ORE on Page 14

**Outlook Deanery  
at Outlook: Feb. 27**



**Kerrobert Deanery  
at Macklin: Feb. 20**



**Rural Saskatoon Deanery  
at Viscount: March 6**





Participants from Wadena deanery discuss parish initiatives.

# Congress participants discuss challenge of building community

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

It is important to recognize the diversity that exists in every parish, Perrault added. Even a single individual's reasons for seeking out a faith community will change over time, she pointed out, encouraging participants to more clearly identify who is part of their community, and what their needs might be.

Participants took time to reflect upon and discuss their own particular parish and identify the changes being experienced in their communities. They also listed different groups within their faith community, before considering what members of each group might be seeking.

Specific suggestions – such as home visits for the sick, or friends and music for youth – were noted, as were some near-universal longings: such as the need to be welcomed, accepted and included, and the desire to experience a sense of belonging and purpose.

Congress facilitators also asked participants to share what they loved about their parishes, and to list examples of "best practices" – initiatives in parishes that are making a difference and strengthening Christian community (see article, right).

During another session, facilitators described resources and support available to parishes through the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

At the end of each Congress day, participants were also asked to record what they would like to tell the new bishop of Saskatoon. Comments, suggestions and specific invitations were recorded and forwarded to Bishop Donald Bolen, who was ordained March 25.

After a time of silent reflection, some participants shared insights.

"What really struck me today is how important community is," said



Donna Kristian and facilitator Leah Perrault (l-r) at Humboldt.

one participant in Humboldt.

A Wadena deanery participant expressed appreciation for the sharing and enthusiasm of those attending the diocesan day.

"We need to eliminate the negative and accentuate the positive, and that happened here today," said a participant at the Kerrobert deanery gathering in Macklin.

"We need to appreciate and celebrate the good things that are happening. It's important to move forward. We have to keep looking and learning. There is no place on this journey to stop," said another participant at Outlook.

In the Kerrobert deanery, Fr. Phong Pham of Kindersley pointed out that the church is not simply another community group putting on events, but must be a spiritual community that sets out to evangelize, relying on prayer.

In Humboldt, one participant from Watrous said he was once again inspired to persevere. "We have to be active, even if we don't want to sometimes. I think often that I should quit this or that, but then I come to church, and I hear the song from Isaiah: 'whom should I send?' Then the tears are running, and I keep on going."

## BUILDING COMMUNITY:

# Best practices from across the diocese shared during Congress day

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

During one of the brainstorming sessions at a Diocesan Congress day in each of the seven deaneries this winter, representatives of many parishes from across the diocese collected and shared some "Best Practices" for building and sustaining community.

From social events to pastoral ministry, the list of what is happening in parishes compiled at each of the seven deaneries provide a snapshot of parish life.

Pancake breakfasts, parish picnics and fall suppers (or fowl, perogy or spaghetti suppers) certainly made the list. For faith communities across the diocese, such beloved traditions continue to be an opportunity to build community. And as George Rolheiser of St. Donatus observed at the Kerrobert Deanery gathering: "If you make food, people will come."

Other "best practices" such as parish missions, home visits, Lenten or Advent retreats, church choirs and RCIA programs are recognized as fostering community building, as well as meeting other goals of evangelization, pastoral care, and faith formation.

The importance of a seemingly small effort – such as consistently gathering for coffee after Mass – was revealed, as participants shared ideas and insights.

Getting to know each other is the first step to being known, loved, included and ministered to within a Christian community, discussion groups heard.

Some of the initiatives mentioned during the discussions are unique to a particular community – for instance at St. Donatus, parishioners gather in their hall for "discing" games (a kind of floor shuffleboard), while in Vanscoy, a parish "Cowboy poetry" evening has become an annual tradition. Other factors that build community – such as having a parish Knights of Columbus or Catholic Women's League council – happen in many communities.

The profound impact of small faith sharing groups, which gather for prayer, study and reflection on the Sunday readings, the Bible or church teachings was also observed: the combination of building friendships, sharing faith and looking into the Word of God together is a powerful way to build Christian community.

Often the examples of community-building mentioned by participants were ecumenical, such as the quilting group at St. Mary's parish in Macklin, which brings together women from several Christian congregations to create warm and beautiful quilts for distribution to those in need.

Such outreach is also a cornerstone of community building at many parishes – for instance, at St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon, where a festive neighbourhood gathering in the parking lot each summer (complete with music, children's activities, and food) connects parishioners to their neighbours, who may not necessarily attend the parish. In other parishes, teams of volunteers from several Christian denominations work together to cater funeral lunches, providing a service greatly appreciated by grieving families.

Here are a few excerpts from the "Best Practices"

**"We will be a community that strives to be welcoming to all in everything we do and to be encouraging all to discover and use their gifts for the building up of community."**

- excerpt from the Diocesan Vision

lists compiled by representatives of different parishes attending the Congress days in the deaneries – printed below and on the next page.

## Eatonia Deanery

### St. Joseph parish in Kindersley:

- CWL (Spring Fling)
- K of C (Fowl Supper)
- Eucharistic Adoration
- New parishioners welcomed to breakfast.
- Rosary group
- Catechism Program holds annual Christmas pageant
- Youth and Adult Choir
- Home visits

### Sacred Heart parish in Marengo:

- Adoration once a month.
- Mail bulletins to those absent parishioners

### Sacred Heart parish in Eston:

- Father visits homes; blesses houses
- Facebook page set up for youth
- Cater for funerals (CWL& others)
- Parish breakfasts by K of C
- Christmas party for parish
- June parish picnic (Mass in park).
- Fall Supper (many volunteers)
- Catechism on Sunday
- Father sends Christmas cards and invites to Christmas Masses (times)
- Bridal showers by CWL and crucifixes to grooms-to-be

### St. Joseph parish in Eatonia:

- CWL fall tea and bake sale
- Christmas dinner is a big parish party.
- Extend hospitality to families for funerals.
- Visit senior homes; shut ins

### Sacred Heart parish in Lancer:

- Ham, perogy, cabbage roll supper (spring)
- Participate in Chokecherry Festival – food fair, parade
- Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
- Fellowship, coffee after Mass
- Bake sales for causes.

### Our Lady of Grace parish in Dodsland:

- Prayers for seminarian
- Instruments offered to the children to play for the last hymn at Mass
- Socials held after baptisms, confirmation, etc.
- Annual parish picnic/barbecue
- Faith formation in bulletins
- World Day of Prayer with other Christian churches
- Cards to sick or grieving parishioners
- Bible study

### St. Michael in Burstall / St. Mary in Fox Valley / Sacred Heart, Liebenthal / St. Mary, Richmond:

- Well attended services
- K of C and CWL
- Arranging spiritual programs or retreats such as FacetoFace
- Fall suppers
- Do birthdays of the month at Western Senior Citizens home
- Devotional prayers to Mary in May/October; special prayers at Lent and for Divine Mercy

### Little Flower parish in Leader:

- Fall supper/silent auction
- Coffee times/potlucks
- Welcoming/farewells
- Golf tournament
- Youth group
- Graduation Mass
- Monthly prayers for those who are deceased
- Foster child
- Children's youth group (under Grade 6) - activities, movies, learn prayers

MORE Best Practices - PAGE 15

# Asquith parishioner celebrates 100th birthday with community

By LOUISE BRECHT  
PARISH LIFE DIRECTOR  
ST. THERESA, ASQUITH

Ida Brombale of St. Theresa parish at Asquith celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 18, 2009. She still lives in her own home with Home Care checking in on her each day, and with support from her parish and the Asquith community.

Ida, whose husband died in the 1970s of cancer, and whose daughter was killed in a car accident, has one son Louis, retired from the RCMP in Vancouver.

At 100 years of age, she still cooks, knits and sews, and recently donated another quilt for the parish's Irish Stew Supper March 17 – something she has done for raffles for many years. Ida loves playing cards at the senior's centre and hosting visitors at her home.

Ida has invited many priests and the last four bishops of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to supper at her home, serving her special spaghetti, gnocchi and roast chicken. She sends photos of these visits to her family in Italy – but even so, she says that her relatives don't believe that a bishop would visit her.

She is a wonderful example, often arriving at church in minus 35 degree weather. When it is too cold, communion is brought to her home.

Her prayers are said in Italian, and she still reads her Catholic magazine from Italy: a subscriber since she was a young girl."

Ida is looking forward to spring and her garden with heritage lettuce, beans and pumpkins, which she has cultivated since coming to Canada in the late 1940s.



Ida Brombale of St. Theresa's parish in Asquith celebrates her 100th birthday: a beloved member of her community.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY:

# Hockey Night in Pleasant Hill

By DAX RUMSEY

On a night when most Canadians were on the edge of their chessterfields, bar stools, and stadium chairs, watching the men's Olympic hockey semi-finals being played in Vancouver, BC, a group of excited youth and volunteers were captivated by a different hockey game, just two provinces over, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

"Hockey Night in Pleasant Hill" is an annual event (now in its fourth year) organized by St. Mary's youth group. St. Mary's is a Redemptorist parish in the core community known as Pleasant Hill on the city's west side.

The group went to see the Saskatoon Blades of the Western Hockey League play at Credit Union Centre.

The night began with volunteers picking up each of the children from their homes and

bringing them to the parish hall for a supper of vegetarian chili (served by parish volunteers). There was also time for a few games.

After a quick photo of the group, which included 21 children and 17 volunteers (including two Redemptorist priests), the group travelled to the hockey game in a city bus hired by the parish. Once at Credit Union Centre, each child was given money to buy snacks.

Organizer Maria Rogal said that the reason for the high ratio of volunteers to children was so that people could get to know each other and begin to form relationships.

Building relationships and community is at the heart of all the ministries of St. Mary's Parish, which strives for a vision of accepting people where they are and bringing them a little closer to Christ and to each other.



BUILDING COMMUNITY:

Best practices identified by participants at Congress day

Continued from Page 14:

- Humboldt Deanery**

**Assumption parish in Marysburg:**

- Sense of community, connecting to one another, supporting and praying for one another

- Very good facility, with history and beauty of stained glass windows, etc.

**St. Peter parish in Muenster:**

- Church community gatherings.

- Shared workload with a spirit of volunteerism in the parish

**St. Bruno parish in Bruno:**

- Parish is connecting and integrating efforts with St Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

- Baptisms are celebrated within Eucharist.

- Good financial support

**St. Therese Institute in Bruno:**

- Adoration every day (with youth)

- Fun social events/strong community.

- Hospitality (open doors)

- “Ora et Labora” (prayer and work balanced)

- Small faith sharing groups

- Participate in parish life / civic community

- Community prayer/Liturgy of the Hours, rosary

- Desire for holiness common goal

**St. Michael parish in Cudworth / St Ann parish in Watrous / St. Patrick parish in Young:**

- Elder care

- Ecumenical grad service

- Meeting for the Word of God (listening centre faith sharing groups established)

- Community charity involvement

- Communicating the needs of the sick and those with special needs.

**St. Augustine parish in Humboldt:**

- New ecumenical spirit

- Good ministry education

- CWL and K of C active in parish

- Praying rosary/office before Mass

- K of C breakfasts, other events

- Faith sharing groups

- Funeral ministries (some by laity)

- Parish bazaars

- Ongoing Oblate Parish Mission

- Choirs build community

- Ministry of Caring for the sick, suffering, dying and grieving

- Connection to Catholic Schools

- Religious sisters part of parish

- Communion taken to 70 per week

- Chaplain at hospital, other hospital ministry by parish

- Acceptance of special needs community

- Daily Mass at seniors’ Villa

- Eucharistic Adoration

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word

- Volunteers are always there for various ministries and services

- Resource Centre available

- K of C sign keeps people informed
- Kerrobert Deanery**

**St. Mary parish in Macklin:**

- CWL and K of C activities

- Funeral ministry- ecumenical

- Spirit of volunteerism: (even if not active otherwise)

- Daily Mass attendance

- Music ministry

- Enrichment activities such as the family advent retreat

**Sacred Heart parish in Denzil:**

- Annual barbecue picnic.

- Coffee once a month after Mass.

- Mother’s Day brunch hosted by Knights of Columbus

- Volunteers (all sorts of ministries)

- Annual parish meeting & brunch

- Aware of the needs in the community and meet the need.

**St. Gabriel parish in Biggar / Our Lady of Fatima in Landis**

- Choir baking and cookbook sale

- Ministry is provided to shut-ins – services at local seniors lodge, and communion is distributed.

- Fellowship Sunday, K of C breakfast, parish council serves muffins and coffee, CWL luncheon

- Clothing drive – garage sale held

- Fowl supper

- Bible study.

**St Peter in Unity / Assumption of Our Lady in Kerrobert:**

- Ecumenical funeral choir

- Welcome newcomers (Filipino)

- Ecumenical con-celebration of weddings

- Eucharist is taken to homebound

- Children invited to play musical instruments at final song

- Transport bus brings the elderly/handicapped to church.

- Holy Thursday “Garden of Repose” created

- Children’s bake sale

- Young people are in the choir

- Youth Mass

**Our Lady of Assumption in Handel / St. Eugene de Mazenod in Luseland / St. Paschal in Leipzig / Immaculate Conception in Major / St. Michael in Tramping Lake:**

- CWL does funeral lunches for those of any faith

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word

- Brunch for annual meeting and for Mother’s Day by K of C

- Mass held for Grads

- Social gatherings after Mass.

- Socializing

- Parishioners work together to look after church and cemetery

- Volunteer services at nursing home (hair dressing, etc.)

- Collect donations for CWL clothing depot at Friendship Inn.

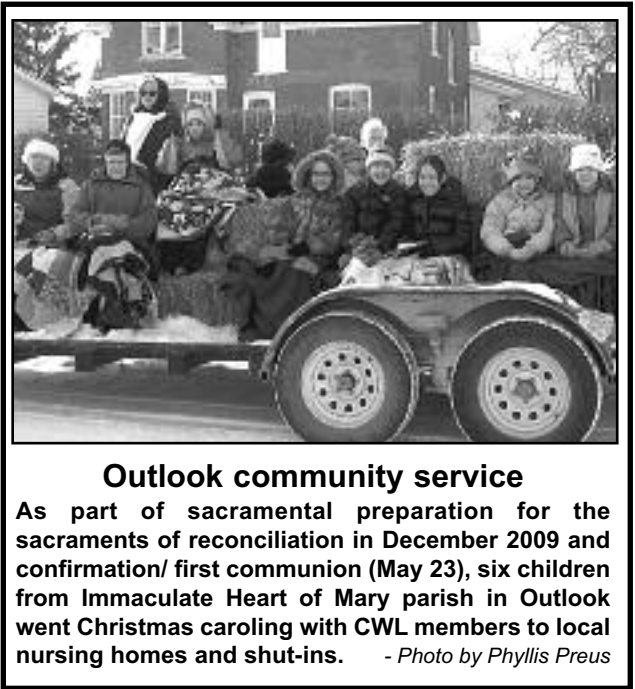
**St. Donatus parish in St. Donatus:**

- Community coffee after Mass.

- Worked together on large

- Soup and sandwich/potluck meals

- graveyard restoration.



Outlook community service  
As part of sacramental preparation for the sacraments of reconciliation in December 2009 and confirmation/ first communion (May 23), six children from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook went Christmas caroling with CWL members to local nursing homes and shut-ins. - Photo by Phyllis Preus

- Outlook deanery**
- Sacred Heart parish in Davidson:**
- Welcome to new community families (meal and fellowship)

- Prayer partners for confirmation

- “Church in the Park” annually

- K of C free throw basketball

- FacetoFace retreats

- Ecumenical services Lent, Advent

- Parish breakfasts

- Prayer tree

- Fall supper
- Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook:**
- Pre-Mass Rosary

- Rose for mothers (at child’s baptism)

- K of C breakfasts

- Christmas social and program

- CWL service

- Funeral vigil ministers

- School of Religion program

- Welcomers at Mass
- St Theresa parish in Rosetown:**
- Breakfasts after Mass monthly with meeting at the same time.

- Youth group.

- Communion to shut-ins and sick.

- Ecumenical prayer service/lunch every Friday in Lent

- Services held at nursing homes.

- Annual fall supper

- At times when no resident priest, rectory was shared with those in need (fire loss, & Anglican pastor)

- Journey of Faith and Bible study

- Priest did cooking for Ladies Night Out "lobsterfest"

- Saskatoon Rural Deanery**
- St. Aloysius parish in Allan:**
- CWL organizes funeral lunches.

- Home catechism group support: advent wreath, sleigh ride, caroling

- “Good Neighbor” supper for family after a funeral.

- Work together for outreach, such as the Allan food bank (see related article on Page 16)

- K of C monthly pancake breakfast

- Vacation Bible School
- St. Alphonse parish in Viscount and St. Mary in Colonsay:**
- Liturgies and music engaging and inclusive – includes youth

- Hospitality is part of gatherings

- Support for grieving families through hospitality/visiting.

- Build community with projects for upkeep of cemetery, building,

- Parish wine & cheese, fall supper
- Trinity parishes at Prud’homme, St. Denis, and Vonda:**
- Coffee after Mass

- Parish centre “open door” to community

- Many devotions and prayer opportunities: Divine Mercy, First Friday adoration, rosary , etc.

- Vacation Bible School

- Mass held at public school

- Parishes work together to sponsor diocesan “Come and See Events” for those discerning priesthood

- Youth ministry and catechetics, including the Steps in Faith program on the creed; a World Youth Day group; youth catering - Support for priests/sisters/seminarians

- Trips, missions; involving youth in many ministries

- Participating in diocesan projects

- Seniors’ groups

- Trinity held Oblate Parish Mission (home visits)

- Accessibility projects

- St. Mark parish in Langham:**
- Potluck lunch held regularly

- Respond to needs

- Strong group of youth

- Spearhead Christmas hampers
- St. Theresa parish in Asquith:**
- Focus on social justice and ecumenism (share church building)

- Good liturgy

- Socializing

- Children’s liturgy and music

- Faith formation

- Breakfast club

- Wadena deanery**
- St. Felix parish Archerwill / St. Lawrence parish Nobleville:**
- Welcoming communities

- Catechism is held for both Rites

- In Nobleville, coffee and brunch are brought to parish by a different family each week (also gift family)

- Ecumenical Way of the Cross for youth, ecumenical carol festival and ecumenical choirs

- Community fund-raising suppers.

- Parish supper/ potluck

- Rosary before Mass.

- Psalm cantors are young people

- Events such as bingos, Mother’s Day Tea. rummage sales

- Youth group, FacetoFace Retreat

- Faith sharing group

- Ladies retreat

- RCIA

- Food Bank collections
- Mary Queen of Poland parish in Fosston / St. Joseph parish in Kelvington / St. Theresa parish in Lintlaw**
- Coffee after Mass – socializing

- Parish tea – community invitation

- Ringing the Bell before Mass

- Acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries once a month

- Praying rosary before Mass

- Anonymous “Thank You Board” where people can post messages

- Concern for missing parishioners

- Youth group

- Fall Supper

Participants listed ways in which community is formed and sustained in their particular parish.  
(Please note a few parishes were not represented at the deanery meetings. As well, in some cases, the discussion included more than one parish)

- St. Front parish in St. Front / Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Wishart / St. Mary parish in Wynyard**
- Fowl supper

- Snowmobile rally

- Youth activities / Youth Mass

- Perogy supper

- Children’s liturgy

- Liturgy organization is shared

- Communion to shut-ins (30 plus)

- Gathering after Mass

- Religious education classes
- Blessed Sacrament parish in High Tor/ St. Joseph parish in Kelvington/ St. Catherine parish in Quill Lake/- St. Mary parish in Wadena; St. Mary parish in Wynyard**
- Coffee after Mass monthly

- Share Lent soup after Mass (each child/family brings an ingredient)

- Rosary before Mass

- Good liturgy proclamation

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word

- Greeters welcome people to Mass

- Christ the King parish in Rose Valley / St. Mary in Wadena**
- Youth group

- Grad Mass

- Parishioners respond well to financial needs (specified)

- Feast Day celebrations

- Children’s Liturgy of the Word

- Parish supper, potluck

- Coffee and toast after every Mass

- Snowmobile Poker Rally

- Excellent music ministry

- Good catechism program

- Co-operation for funerals

- Christmas/Lent program

- Good liturgy proclamation

- Wine/cheese social after Easter Vigil

- Bake sales (spring and fall)

- Saskatoon city deanery**
- St. Mary parish in Saskatoon**
- Small groups flourishing

- Pastoral care to the sick and marginalized through the community, including a Parish Nurse

- Being a welcoming community to ethnic groups and marginalized
- Sacred Heart Chaldean Catholic parish in Saskatoon**
- Priest does family visits including bingos, potluck meals,

- A wide range of parish community events are organized, Saints Day celebration – with a large focus on families

- St. Patrick / St. Peter the Apostle / St Michael in Saskatoon**
- Experiencing the Church’s contemplative heritage, with a focus on prayer.

- “church” and “home” or “work.”

- Combined social justice effort

- St. Michael: will invite a new person/strangers to bring up gifts

- Excellent liturgies connect

- St. Michael: fall supper/perogy supper – community works together

- Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon**
- Family dances, (including annual Kingdom Party for Halloween)

- Funding and supporting young missionary works such as Net ministries, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), Intercordia

- Canasta night for adults

- Weekly adoration

- Pancake breakfasts and Sunday coffee held regularly

- St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon**
- Youth groups including parent-run Kids for Christ with some 90 children ages 4 to 8 years gathering each Sunday (see article Page 24)

- drives and Christmas hampers

- Community outreach with food

- Welcoming happens as you walk into church.

- Older youth are asked to help with Children’s Liturgy.

- St John Bosco parish in Saskatoon**
- Groups in parish invite/involve everybody, i.e. a coffee house

- Recognize the need and importance of Parish Pastoral Council leadership.

- Art and environment enhances worship

- lots of quiet help in background

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon**
- Focus on First Nations spirituality and enculturation of Catholic Faith

- Liturgies include Smudging, prayer in four directions, collection blanket, Round dance/drumming,

- Special Elder dinner/gatherings

- Cree songs

- An emergency pantry is run by the parish

- Healing circles

- St. Philip Neri parish / St. Joseph parish in Saskatoon**
- Have coffee after Mass every Sunday at St. Philip.

- Special events such as fund-raising supper at St. Joseph, or occasionally a Polka Mass.

- Breakfast by K of C at St. Joseph

- St. Philip Neri welcomes Time Out for Moms group; meet moms after Wednesday morning Mass

- Youth programs. at St. Philip

- Good music ministry and celebrations well done liturgically

- Parish Missions held regularly, including one focused on Christian community this year at St Philip

- Parish Nurse program at St. Philip

- St. Anne’s parish / Sts-Canadiens-Martyrs in Saskatoon**
- Coffee after Mass, greeters, socials and breakfasts

- Sacramental community focus – Baptism during Mass, Penitential celebrations, Anointing of the Sick

- Music ministry

- Youth ministry

- St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon**
- Celebration for patron saint day

- Regular Foundations sessions

- Vacation Bible School run by parents and older youth

- Communion to sick, care homes

- Coffee after Mass every Sunday

- Small Christian Community groups share scripture and prayer

- Youth events that include families, such as sledding

- Steak nights, parish picnic, and fall supper, spaghetti supper, simple breakfasts organized

- Children invited to participate in an evening Christmas pageant (costumes, carols, etc) with shared desserts and cookies

- Ministry fair held to highlight ministries, groups and needs

- Seniors card parties and lunches

- A parish pictorial directory is regularly produced

- Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon**
- Reverent liturgies with diverse music ministries

- Bible studies

- Liturgy of the Word for Children

- Youth ministries

- Active CWL, Knights of Columbus

- Catholic school connection

- Coffee, breakfasts after Mass



The community gathers for discing games in St. Donatus. - Photo submitted by George Rolheiser

## BUILDING COMMUNITY:

**Allan community works together to reach out to those in need**

BY ANNE MOLDENHAUER  
ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH, ALLAN, SK

The rural community of Allan has a population of around 700 and is situated about 45 minutes east of Saskatoon. There are several local businesses, a K-12 school, and nearby farms and industries, large and small, to provide employment – not a place where one would expect to find poverty and hunger.

Yet, several years ago, one senior parishioner from St. Aloysius realized that poverty did exist in the community, and thus the Allan Food Bank came into being.

The food bank is supported by the St. Aloysius Catholic Church, the Allan Baptist Church, Allan School, local businesses,

community organizations and individuals. It serves between five and ten families in need through twice monthly deliveries of food.

From 2003 until 2008, the Allan Food Bank was run by its founder, Wilfred Boechler. When Wilfred Boechler and his wife Marilyn moved to a different community, another parishioner – Richard Neal – agreed to take over the operation of the food bank.

Richard Neal is a high school student at Allan School, and was in Grade 11 when he assumed the position. Richard says that he finds his work very meaningful, and the community in turn has found inspiration in this young man's example.



**Lenten scripture study in Humboldt**  
Teacher Andrea Fossen and Grade 7 student Anna Lueke at the weekly Scripture Study organized during Lent 2010 at St. Dominic Catholic School in Humboldt. Initiated by Andrea Fossen and assisted by Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers from St. Augustine parish, between six and ten students from Grades 7 and 8 explored the Sunday gospels and shared their prayer concerns each week.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY:

**Alpha sessions enrich faith**

The Alpha follow-up program "Challenging Lifestyles" based on the Sermon on the Mount was recently held at Holy Family parish.

Tim and Val Dychko helped to organize and lead the weekly faith program, the latest in a series of Alpha-related offerings that the Saskatoon couple have participated in over the past several years – including three ecumenical sessions offered jointly by area churches.

The Alpha format is to begin the meeting with a meal. For some sessions this has been catered, while at other times it's a potluck meal. After praise and worship, there is video presentation – accessible and easily understood – which leads



**Sharing a meal is part of the Alpha experience**

into small group discussion.

For Val and Tim, leading these programs is a way to deepen their own faith, reach out to others and build friendships and form Christian community.

"It's amazing, because people really bond together," says Tim, noting the experience has created deep

friendships.

The meal is an important component in building community, says Val. "I think it's very important that we sit around the table and we get to know each other."

The programs help people grow in faith, and are making a difference in many lives, she adds. "Alpha is what brought me back to Church after being away for 15 years," relates Val. "Now I'm really excited about my faith and about church, and about how God is working."

Diane Waldbillig, who also has helped coordinate several of the sessions, agrees. "I think it's really a powerful way to connect people ... it gives us a format to talk about God, about God's love and about our faith."



**Val and Tim Dychko of Holy Family parish have helped coordinate several Alpha sessions.**

**Singer meets with lifelong fan**

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A dream came true for Christopher Powell, 17, when he got the chance to go out for lunch with Fred Penner and then bring the Canadian singer and children's entertainer back to his high school for a concert.

"That was the best day ever," said Christopher, who has been a huge fan of Fred Penner for 15 years.

Episodes of *Fred Penner's Place*, a children's program that ran from 1985 to 1997 on CBC television, are still favourites for Christopher who has Down syndrome. Christopher has also been to 11 Fred Penner concerts over the years and has corresponded with him via e-mail, report his parents Russ and Yvonne Powell.

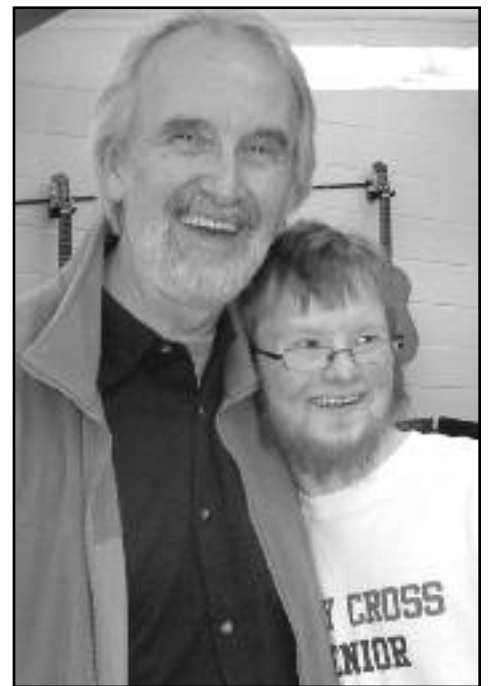
Penner was in Saskatoon March 12 for an evening performance on the University of Saskatchewan campus. He met Christopher for lunch before heading back with him to Holy Cross Catholic High School for a lively afternoon concert with 60 of Christopher's classmates from both the special needs and mainstream programs.

Christopher joined Penner on stage in the school music room for one favorite selection: "Home is Where the Heart Is" during a lively concert with lots of audience interaction and special requests.

"We always appreciate when somebody of this caliber is able to entertain our students," said Principal Ben Garchinski. "You can just see the enthusiasm in their faces."

"Fred is the king," Christopher told media gathered for the special event at Holy Cross. "He is just charming."

Fred Penner has had a big impact on Christopher's life, says Yvonne, noting that his love of the performer has never waned. "The shows were a great influence on Christopher in many ways. They instilled a



**Singer Fred Penner spent time with Holy Cross student Christopher Powell during a recent visit to Saskatoon.**

love of music, encouraged him to walk when he was still crawling, and taught him life lessons such as the value of exercise and trying new things."

Penner was born in Winnipeg in 1946, and worked with children with physical and mental challenges before his career as a children's entertainer began. He said that he was inspired by his late sister's love of music: she also lived with Down syndrome.

Penner played to sold-out crowds at both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, where young adults, many of whom grew up with *Fred Penner's Place*, cheered and sang along.

**Community rejoices to have weekly Eucharist in Spanish**

BY KRISTINE SCARROW

The Spanish community in Saskatoon is rejoicing with the recent introduction of a weekly Spanish-language Mass at St. Mary's parish.

The arrival of a Spanish-speaking Redemptorist priest, Fr. Ciro Alfonso Perez, from Colombia, has brought about the welcome development.

"We always wanted a priest who spoke Spanish," explains parishioner Claudia Russell. "We wanted to get our community together again, so we asked Bishop Albert (LeGatt) for a Spanish priest. He said he would do what he could."

Fr. Jon Hansen, CSsR, pastor of St. Mary's parish described the turn of events that brought Perez to Saskatoon, when the provincial of the order contacted Saskatoon's bishop to announce that a priest from Colombia was coming to the St. Mary's Redemptorist community to



**Members of the choir prepare for the weekly Spanish-language Mass celebrated at St. Mary parish in Saskatoon.**

work on his English. For then-Bishop Albert LeGatt, this was an answer to prayer, as the visa application had fallen through for another Spanish priest contacted about coming to the diocese.

"The community started to come together after finding out about it," says Russell. "We started out with about 10 people a week and now we have about 70-80 people." Russell expects this number will continue to grow as word about the Spanish-

language Mass spreads. "We have been able to meet so many new people. There are some who have just come to Canada. We even met a couple who had been here a year who still didn't know anyone until they came to Mass," Russell describes.

Previously, Saskatoon's Spanish Catholic community had been meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes once a month. With the arrival of Perez, the community now has a

weekly 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon Mass at St. Mary's Parish on 20 Street and Avenue 0, Saskatoon.

Having the Eucharist celebrated in Spanish each week has been very important to the faith community. "I felt like something was empty in me," observes Russell. "Now I know that this is what I needed in my life. Everyone feels the same way."

Because Russell's mother language is Spanish, she feels that she has a deeper connection when she is able to celebrate the Eucharist in her own language.

"I really understand more; hearing the songs. I feel alive again. This is a beautiful country, but hearing them in Spanish reminds me of my own family, my food and my culture."

The community is also preparing a group of children to receive the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and first Eucharist. "This is so important because we do

not want to lose our mother language or our culture. How we interact is different when we gather with our people, just as it's different in every country," explains Russell, who also leads the children's liturgy.

As the community has grown, other gatherings such as potluck dinners have taken place. One such gathering took place after Mass at Christmas and included having the children take turns at breaking open a piñata.

"It was so great to see the kids," remarks Russell. "They had so much fun."

"We are so happy to have Fr. Ciro... We feel that it is a miracle that he is here." While Perez is here for a one-year term, if the community keeps growing, his term could hopefully be extended, says Russell.

"We want to invite more of the community to join us and spread the word."



# Oblate Parish Mission team returns to Humboldt

BY MARIE-LOUISE  
TERNIER-GOMMERS

St. Augustine church in Humboldt was again full for three evenings of "Great Assemblies" held as part of an Oblate Parish Mission follow up in March 2010.

Two daily Masses were well attended and students from both St. Augustine and St. Dominic schools enjoyed lively school assemblies with the Oblate Mission Team. While the follow up looked like a repeat of the Oblate Parish Mission of last year, there were some significant differences.

The purpose and vision of the Oblate Parish Mission is to equip the parish for a new evangelization and to encourage the creation of new structures in order to sustain the renewal generated by the Mission event.

Last year, in the initial two-week long mission, St. Augustine parish undertook the most extensive parish visitation ever held in the local faith community. From those extensive home visits, several pastoral needs were identified and



A school assembly was held at St. Augustine's School with the Oblate Mission Team and youth helpers.

- Photo by Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers

acted upon, including the establishment of a parish-based pastoral care ministry and a group for inter-church families. Several faith sharing groups met monthly in the fall, and weekly during the Lenten season.

This year's Great Assemblies included new features. Last year, the Oblate Mission Team was accompanied by four young people who formed the LEAP Youth

Ministry Team. This year, St. Augustine's own parish youth were invited to develop and perform the dramas that are part of the Great Assemblies.

Coralee Grilz, who was part of the LEAP team last year, returned for the follow-up, sharing an update on where God is taking her on her life journey.

Four students from St. Therese School in Bruno assisted us in preparing the dramas with local youth, and one of them, Joseph Yamniuk, shared his faith journey. Kurt Wolfe, a Grade 8 student in Humboldt, also shared his search for God in his life, touching many with his candor and honesty.

Several adult parishioners were also invited to share their personal



Karen and Leon Fleischhacker were among those to speak at the follow-up Oblate Parish Mission, describing their efforts to live as an inter-church family. Karen is Lutheran, while Leo is Roman Catholic, and their children Reid and Ryan have been baptized Catholic, and over the years they have attended both churches. As a follow up to needs identified during the home visits of the 2009 Oblate Parish Mission, a support group for inter-church families was created. "We are learning that inter-church marriages are no longer seen as a problem to solve but rather as an opportunity to live out Christian unity," said Karen. She reported that the inter-church Families of Humboldt support group has met several times, and organized a day-long workshop, which included information about the diocesan policy on Sacramental sharing with Christians of other denominations in particular circumstances. The Fleischhackers invited other inter-church couples to consider joining the group. - Photo by Br. Louis Andreas, OMI

faith testimonies with the community at the Great Assemblies.

Karen and Leon Fleischhacker shared their faith experience of being an interchurch Lutheran-Catholic family (above), Sandra Korte shared how she moved from a hurtful childhood into the Catholic Church as an adult, and Peter Gueguen described how a

near-fatal car accident involving his teenage daughter affected his family, their faith and their parish belonging.

These powerful personal stories gave "flesh and blood" to beliefs, teachings and religious practices, demonstrating how it is more important than ever that Catholics are prepared to witness publicly to their faith. The Oblate Mission played a role in nudging the community out of its "comfort zone."



Daily mass was part of the Oblate Parish Mission follow-up.

- Photo by Br. Louis Andreas, OMI

Coverage of an inter-church family workshop in Humboldt (and other diocesan news) is posted on the website at: [saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

## Parents invited to take a new look at confession as part of children's sacramental preparation program held at St. Augustine in Humboldt

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new approach in getting parents actively involved in preparing their children to receive the sacrament of reconciliation was recently launched at St. Augustine's parish in Humboldt.

Pastoral associate Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers said the challenge was: "how to engage parents for the sake of a sacrament they would be bringing their children to church for but that they, for the most part, did not make use of themselves."

The pastoral team created a new vision that came with its share of risks and uncertainties, but which ultimately proved successful.

"We knew from our own parishioners, as well as from the diocesan study conducted in 2002 on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that many Catholics continue to have mixed feelings and even negative memories of celebrating the sacrament both as a child and as an adult," said Ternier-Gommers.

To begin with, a small focus group of about 10 parishioners was created to share and learn more about the sacrament.

"In these groups everyone's experience and understanding of the sacrament, as well as questions about the sacrament, were considered valid and important. We shared past experiences, both good and bad; we learned about the changes the sacrament of reconciliation has undergone throughout the 2,000 years of the Church's history. We discussed the findings of the diocesan study on the sacrament from 2002. We explored the



One of the two groups of children to receive the sacrament of reconciliation this year at St. Augustine's parish in Humboldt.

- Photo by Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers

Eucharist as the primary sacrament of reconciliation and reflected on our own need to be reconciled with both God and Christ's body on earth, the Church. We walked through the rite for confession and dove into the child's preparation workbook," she described.

"The sessions were a source of both learning and healing around the sacrament of reconciliation."

In consultation with the focus group, participants then identified which of the session pieces would be most effective for the upcoming parent sessions – including a video talk by David Wells entitled "Confession – do they still do that?"

Focus group participants and catechist volunteers from previous years were recruited to assist with the new venture in adult faith formation, noted Ternier-Gommers.

The logistics of bringing together the parents of 85 children in ways that would encourage personal engagement and sharing was the next challenge, she said.

"We decided that, rather than fighting with people's busy lives, we would accommodate them by scheduling each of the two sessions at three different times," explained Ternier-Gommers.

"Parents received a note through school explaining the sessions and asking to return the commitment form, indicating which session they planned to attend: Tuesday evening, Wednesday evening or Saturday morning," she said, describing how after a slow start, the registration forms began flooding in. "By the time we started the sessions, a shocking 90 per cent of parents had responded with the intent to participate."

Parents commented on how helpful the sessions were, Ternier-Gommers reported.

"Every group heard at least a few parents share how their first confession was anything but a positive experience, adding that they desired deeply to help their child to have a more positive experience. We heartily acknowledged their memories and offered to team up with them so as to maximize the chance of a good experience for their daughters and sons," she said.

"We explored the meaning of the sacrament with the help of scripture, video-presentations, Catholic Updates on the topic and the child's workbook. At each turn we made room for discussion and sharing – something, it turns out, which was greatly appreciated."

The group also walked through the liturgical rite for the penitential service with individual confession, allowing time for questions and comments.

At the end of the last session, one parent said: "I feel so much lighter. This whole confession business has been hanging over me like a dark cloud. But now, I have a new appreciation and I might even celebrate the sacrament when my son does."

In another group, questions on other topics (like how to pray the rosary) came up, suggesting a need for more gatherings of this nature, Ternier-Gommers said.

"There are two things that 'shocked' me about the sessions," said St. Augustine pastor Fr. Emile April. "One, that so many parents came without their children, and two, the level of engagement with the material and the depth of sharing that happened in the small groups."

Given the unusually large group of children this year, the celebration for First Reconciliation was divided over two evenings. Parents were encouraged to share in the celebration for themselves and several accepted that invitation, for some after years of neglect, said Ternier-Gommers.

"After everyone had gone to individual confession, the children brought forward a rock brought from home, symbolizing the sins they were sorry for and wanted to leave behind. We built a rock-pile with them right in front of the altar," she said.

In exchange, every priest handed to each child a coloured paper heart with the words: "God in his infinite mercy has forgiven you." Each child wrote her/his name on the heart followed by the words: "You are my beloved child and I love you very much, says the Lord our God." At the end of the celebration the children placed their hearts on a "Tree of Mercy" on the glass wall in the welcome area.

"A lot of smiling faces – parents and children – left the church on both those beautiful evenings," she said.



# BRAZILIAN BULLETIN

Diocese of SASKATOON

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Archdiocese of MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

## NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

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

# Health care for poor inadequate

BY SR. MARIE-NOELLE RONDOT, SMS

In a Latin America press magazine, I once read two facts: first, \$11 billion was needed per year to provide water and sanitation for people in developing nations, while Americans spent \$10 billion annually on cosmetics. Secondly, \$15 billion was needed per year to cover basic health and nutrition needs in developing countries, while \$19 billion was being spent annually in Europe and the USA on pet food.

These are statistics dating from several years back. One wonders: what would they be like today? In any case, they demonstrate rather clearly the difference in priorities from one reality to another.

This incites me to comment on what I have personally observed in the area of health throughout the time I have spent in Brazil. As much as one would like to see and say things differently, it cannot be denied that this country's health system is quite appalling.

For instance, Brazil is known to have the highest incidence of AIDS and tuberculosis among all Latin American countries. This could take a long time to change as long as health coverage and adequate medical assistance are available only to those who are considered the "privileged ones."

In São José da Laje, where we live, an estimated 80 per cent of the population does not have medical coverage. This factor, undoubtedly, determines the quality of care a person receives when she or he is sick.

It seems that poor people have been blessed with an "overdose" of patience, which definitely makes them "experts" at waiting. They wait for hours in a line up to get to see a doctor. Often they wait for



People line up in front of the local clinic. On most days they are there as early as 4 a.m. with the hope of seeing the doctor when he or she arrives.

months before the most ordinary test can be done and before results are at last processed. Then, whenever the person is fortunate enough to be able to consult a doctor again, he or she may go home with a prescription: but how good is a prescription to someone with no medical care plan and no money?

What is sad about this is that many die unnecessarily it seems, or before a diagnosis has ever been made. A recent example of this was a young woman, 24 years old, who developed a severe infection. When she did seek medical assistance, she was given an injection of antibiotics at the local hospital emergency department, along with a prescription and was sent home without a

single medical test having been ordered. Five days later, she died, leaving behind a husband and four children – the youngest only two months old.

I believe many deaths could be prevented if people were treated equally and not according to their social status.

So far I have referred basically to people who have close to nothing financially and what it is like for them to deal with illness. However, there is another category of people who have some financial resources, even though limited.

Many of these, when ill, have the tendency to turn to medication without having even consulted a doctor and, before

too long, develop a dependency. Many medications in this country can just be bought over the counter: from antibiotics to analgesic and anti-hypertensive medications and so on.

An inadequate health care system makes self-medication a more attractive option. It is estimated that about half of the Brazilian population self-medicates regularly. The individual often relies on the "good advice" of a friend, or a family member. The advice is based on the principle that if this medication worked so well for me, it will work for you too!

When you walk on any street of any city in Brazil, you can be sure that what you will see most are shoe stores and pharmacies. Five years ago, according to the World Health Organization, Brazil needed only 30,000 pharmacies to adequately serve its population, but had over 53,000!

It is also known that drug companies offer monetary rewards to pharmacists for higher sales and that some pharmacies offer discounts to frequent purchasers.

It needs to be mentioned that, over the years, we have also noticed some progressive changes having taken place in the health care field in our city. This indicates that our present government is attempting to deal with this very complex issue, though, to us, it seems to be a very slow process when we are confronted daily with people who really struggle with life and death issues.

"You must get near enough to the suffering to feel it, but not so close as to get lost and overwhelmed by it" is sound advice from M.J. Meadows. Not necessarily easy to do, but very good to remember!

## Brazil mourns tragic death of Dr. Zilda Arns in Haiti

BY SR. CLAIRE NOVECOSKY, OSU  
Published in *The Prairie Messenger*

Shock, disbelief, sadness and a sense of victory, mystery, gratitude – such were the sentiments of those who had worked with Dr. Zilda Arns, and of the people in Brazil in general, upon learning of her tragic death in Haiti during the January earthquake.

Personally, I had a flashback of accompanying the coffin of Father Sylvester into the cemetery of São José in Trapipe in 1992. Amid tears and grief, the crowd spontaneously broke into "Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia," a popular version of the Gloria that our communities used in their liturgies.

TV coverage of Dr. Zilda's departure showed this double aspect. Faces of those who lined the streets were marked with grief as her body was received in Brasilia and later taken to Curitiba for burial. But as the cortege passed, the crowds broke into spontaneous clapping.

"Her mission of love and commitment was completed," was a phrase that was repeated in various moments and forms in the days that followed.

Even the circumstances of her death drew the attention of the world, not to

herself, but to the poor to whom she had dedicated her life.

She had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the people and government of Brazil, but the world of politics and riches denied her the honour.

When someone remarked to her that she must be among the most famous, she replied, "I am the most loved."

But in the tragedy of Haiti, where she had come to implant the Pastoral for Children, her death is linked inseparably with the extreme poverty of the country.

She proclaimed that it was not the amount of money that would solve the problem of poverty and premature mortality, but a network of solidarity based on love. For her life and her labour were inspired by the Gospel texts that they "may have life and life in abundance," and the multiplication of loaves and fishes.

Among the poor states of the Northeast, Alagoas was the first to implant the Pastoral for Children.

From the beginning, professionals dismissed the possibility of volunteers who were not highly educated. However, Dr. Zilda believed that simple women could



Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann (with arm around child) during a visit to Maceió.

assume this mission with love and commitment. And she always treated them with dignity, giving them personal love, courage and support. Last year in August, Dr. Zilda came to Maceió to celebrate with the leaders 25 years of the Pastoral in Alagoas.

Nor was her concern limited to the poor of Brazil. She begged the national organization to elect a new leader so that she would be free to implant her mission in other countries. She has done this in 20 countries and for this purpose was in Haiti.

The following quote is taken from the

final paragraph of the last lecture Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann gave in Haiti just before her death: "Like the birds that look after their young, making their nests in high trees and mountains far from their hunters, from the threats and the dangers and closer to God, so we must care for our children as sacred, promoting respect for their rights and protecting them."

At the memorial Mass for Dr. Zilda in Maceió, one sensed from the number of leaders present that the work of the Pastoral for Children will continue to grow and bear fruit.



# Schools work toward solidarity with poor in Canastra

By FR. LES PAQUIN

For the past several years, students and staff from Mother Teresa and St. Augustine elementary schools in Saskatoon have been helping Brazilian children in the village of Canastra to get a better education.

The Saskatoon students take great pride and delight in their Lenten fundraising activities. Presentations made by missionaries and members of BMAC (Brazil Mission Awareness Committee) have helped the school communities to understand what life is like for children living in another part of the world.

The ATRACA (an association of the rural workers of Canastra) school was founded over 20 years ago by Italian missionaries working in the area.

The economy of Canastra is almost exclusively dependent on the sugar cane industry. Poverty abounds as cane cutters receive poor pay, having to look for work in other states once the five-month harvest season is over. The cycle of misery and exploitation is reinforced as children drop out of school to generate income for their families, or because they will never have the means to afford a university education.

To make matters worse, the public school system is severely overcrowded (as many as 50 students per class), lacking in almost every respect, from adequately prepared teachers to school supplies. The middle class and wealthy send their children to private schools, while the public system continues to flounder. Very few students in Canastra will ever finish high school.

The ATRACA school was founded as a private school to give poor children a better chance to finish school by getting a head start before entering into the public system or receiving supplemental classes if they are already enrolled.

The philosophy of education at ATRACA focuses on preparing the student for life in the real world, teaching them about rights and responsibilities, inspiring them to work for social change and make the world a better place.

About 125 children attend ATRACA school daily, ranging in age from three to 14 years. Modest monthly salaries of \$200 are paid to teachers and support staff, with the money coming from an Italian Catholic missionary society.

Donations from Mother Teresa and St. Augustine schools in Saskatoon are spent on food, school supplies and textbooks. Each day the ATRACA students in Brazil receive a hot nutritious meal. No one can learn on an empty stomach.

But is a mere transfer of funds from one school to another enough? Undoubtedly, both the givers and the recipients feel good about the arrangement. ATRACA students sent thank you cards and letters to both schools here in Saskatoon. But is that where it ends? Is it possible to move through charity to something called *solidarity*?

In the latest round of presentations made at the Saskatoon schools, we tried using a different dynamic, one suggested by Anita Gooding, a teacher at Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon.

Teachers at ATRACA were asked to interview students from different classrooms, asking general questions at first and, near the end of the interview, more specific questions about personal and shared dreams; for example, what would they change if they were president of Brazil?

Interviews and pictures of the Brazilian students in



Lauren and Erin Saretzky and Brynne Stebbings, students at Mother Teresa School in Saskatoon, raised money by asking those invited to their birthday parties to bring a donation for the ATRACA school in lieu of gifts.

their homes and with their families were included in the PowerPoint presentation shown at both Saskatoon elementary schools.

Interviews had also been prepared by staff and students here, to provide an opportunity for Saskatoon students to compare and contrast their lives with the lives of the ATRACA children.

Judging by the questions and dialogue generated by the presentations, a deeper connection has been made between children living far apart from one another.

A commitment was undertaken by St. Augustine and Mother Teresa schools to send their interviews and pictures down to the principal of ATRACA who has a computer and Internet access – the wonders of modern technology!

Solidarity begins to happen when we move through charity to relationships; when we relate to others as equals. We can learn from one another, and we can work together to bring about significant change anywhere in the world or within our own local community.

Twelve-year-old José Zacarias da Silva (pictured at right) dreams of getting a good education and helping his family. If he were elected president, he would try to help street children and would make sure that everyone had a home to live in.

The students from Mother Teresa school want to encourage people to share more with the poor. These three students – Lauren and Erin Saretzky and Brynne Stebbings (pictured above) – led by example, asking guests at their birthday parties to give a donation to ATRACA in Brazil, instead of bringing birthday gifts.

It is clear why Jesus often told the disciples that they must become like little children. No room for indifference and cynicism here. Anything is possible!



José Zacarias da Silva (right) and his sister.



Men from the Farm of Hope selling their homemade wares of jams, cookies and pepper sauces.

## Economy at the service of life

By SR. CLAIRE NOVECOSKY, OSU

The Ecumenical Lenten Campaign in Brazil this year challenged all to construct a different type of economy built on a foundation of solidarity, cooperation and care for the environment so that it is socially just, economically viable and ecologically responsible.

One of the proposals of the campaign emphasized development of an economic solidarity which, in contrast to the capitalist system, would develop in such a way as to satisfy the basic necessities of the people.

Our bishop Dom Antonio, in his ongoing concern for the excluded and marginalized, began a new venture in order to share with the different social actions of the diocese. He calls it the “Feirinha” — the Little Market — which is held on the first Saturday of each month.

The day begins giving thanks to God in a Eucharistic celebration, held on one of the high points overlooking the city of Maceió.

This is followed by an outdoor café, with breakfast available for the price of three dollars. Different church groups are responsible for this breakfast and provide a delicious variety of northeastern dishes. And live music is provided by the band from BoysTown!

The Little Market has products made or brought by various parish and community groups which then share in the profits: Farm of Hope, Boys Town, Dom Bosco Home, and so on.

In this Lenten spirit of solidarity (almsgiving) the Little Market helps to sustain these different groups.

The sharing of the many people who give of their time and energy to organize the event, as well as the participants and the recipients, gives visibility to the work of the church; gives a face to the living church.

It is an effort to be in communion with the Lenten Campaign, with the Church and its mission of being a Good Samaritan.

## Martensville vote: yes to separate school

In a vote March 1, Catholic residents of Martensville and area voted to form a Catholic separate school system.

Turnout for the vote was 160, with 148 voting in favour of forming a separate school district, and 12 voting against the idea. "It was a very clear majority of about 92.5 per cent," said Marion Laroque, a member of the committee that has been diligently working to create a Catholic separate school system in Martensville, north of Saskatoon.

The vote is the latest step in a long and precise process, that included polling every resident to determine if Catholics in the area were the religious minority. Results showed that Catholics made up about 35 per cent of the population, and therefore, as a minority, they had the constitutional right to pursue the creation of a separate school district.

"We must now wait for the minister of education to tell us to go ahead and elect a school board," Laroque said, explaining the step-by-step process that must be carefully followed. The minister would also decide on details such as the

number of trustees to be elected, and the date of election."

The local committee is hoping that the minister's answer will be received before the end of May, so that discussion can begin about what services might be offered to Catholic students in the fall. Once a district is formed, a board of trustees can be elected and can begin discussions with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools about the possibility of bussing and perhaps amalgamation, she said.

"We're hoping to at least provide bussing," said Laroque. "Obviously we don't have a school and it will be a long time before we would ever have a school – but you're never going to have a school at all, until you start this process."

It was rewarding on the day of the polls to see how many voters came out, carrying babies or accompanied by small children, she said. "This is the reason we are doing this. You see the children and the families, and you realized there is a need. You realize that a lot of families are interested in a Catholic education. Many people are passionate about Catholic education." -KEY

## Knights of Columbus stress culture of life

BY EDWARD GIBNEY  
STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

As spring begins, the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan remain busy.

Events on the diocesan, provincial and international level include an Annual State Convention in Saskatoon, April 16 to 18; March for Life at the Legislature in Regina May 6; an organizational meeting in North Battleford in June, and the 128th Annual Supreme Convention in Washington DC in August.

As always, addressing the issue of abortion is front and centre for the Knights of Columbus. Pope John Paul II described how in our time abortion is one way that a "Culture of Death" has manifested itself.

In addition to prayer, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has established a Culture of Life Fund, designed to be available at times of legal or political debate on all issues regarding the sanctity of life.

Originally set up by a per capita assessment for each member of the Order, it has been

utilized in several legal fights and in supporting groups like Birthright International and Project Rachel, as well as projects associated with the bishops of Canada and the United States, including the Catholic Association for Life and Family in Canada. Efforts to maintain this fund are continuing as councils are being asked to hold events to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

Currently the Knights of Columbus is working to host an "Our Lady of Guadalupe Day" Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010.

Preparations are ongoing, but it is hoped that our guest speaker will be Monsignor Eduardo Chavez, the Postulator of the Cause for Canonization of St. Juan Diego. Monsignor Chavez is becoming very well known for his talks on the history and symbolism surrounding the Vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her image which appeared on St. Juan Diego's "tilma."

Additional information will be forthcoming once details are finalized.



A one-hour daily prayer vigil was held outside Saskatoon City Hospital in Lent.

## Calling for an end to abortion

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A daily one-hour prayer vigil calling for an end to abortion was held outside of Saskatoon City Hospital this spring.

The Lenten project, 40 Days For Life, ran from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, ending on Palm Sunday, March 28.

"We are praying for an end to abortion in our country," said Elaine Millette, one of the organizers of the annual event. Organizers asked those who could not attend the daily walk from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to fast and pray for an end to abortion in solidarity with participants in 40 Days For Life.

Those who come out to walk and pray in front of the hospital each day provided a needed witness to the fact that abortion continues to take the lives of unborn children in our community, said Denise Hounjet-Roth of Campaign Life Coalition.

"Anytime we march, it's to bring attention to passersby that abortions are still happening," Hounjet-Roth said. "We don't know how many hearts might be changed, or who might read a sign and have second thoughts about abortion."

Reaction from those passing by varies, with some people asking questions, others wanting to argue over the issue, Millette said. "When people are rude, I'd just try to

get them to talk to us in a civilized conversation."

Hounjet-Roth noted that one woman who stopped to talk was shocked to hear that abortions were happening at the Saskatoon hospital. "So often it's 'out of sight, out of mind,'" she said, stressing the importance of public witness.

"For me, this is a Lenten offering. We are called to fast, to pray and to do works of service," said Hounjet-Roth.

Another public witness organized by Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association this spring, was the third annual March for Life, held Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the provincial legislature building in Regina.

According to Fr. Jeffrey Stephaniuk who writes on the website of Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association, goals of the March for Life include:

- To de-fund the payment of abortion from general taxation;
- To educate the public that abortion negatively affects the growth and prosperity of the province: "Yearly, over 1,800 babies lose their lives in Saskatchewan hospitals, that's 39,000 babies aborted since 1988. That's a lot of empty classrooms."
- To raise awareness of the great value and opportunity of adoption as a life-giving alternative to abortion.

## Fr. Modestus Ngwu reflects on experiences serving on the Canadian prairies

(Editor's Note: This article contains excerpts from a report Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, sent to his Dominican order about his service in the diocese of Saskatoon. The Nigerian priest is presently serving in the parishes at Watson, Englefeld and St. Gregor, after spending time as associate pastor at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.)

BY FR. MODESTUS NGWU, OP

God calls us daily to follow him in renewing the face of the earth and we answer this call in different ways.

It is therefore a big challenge to leave father, mother, and our comfort zone like Abraham to an unknown place and unfamiliar territory.

It will never be forgotten that the Church spread to Africa and other parts of the world through the heroic, selfless sacrifices of many missionaries from different parts of the world. Therefore for me, being sent to Canada is an invitation to respond to God's call as an opportunity to serve, bearing in mind the numerous sacrifices of the missionaries in past generations.

I came to Canada during the springtime in the province of Saskatchewan to work at the diocese of Saskatoon. It was a journey filled with uncertainty especially with the hassles of obtaining a visa to Canada.

Being in Canada, I was very impressed with the warm welcome and hospitality I received. I must confess that I was taken aback by the simplicity of the lifestyle here. I couldn't differentiate who is rich or



Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, of Lagos, Nigeria, arrived in Saskatchewan in April 2009.

poor by what the person is wearing or the type of car the person is driving or by appearance. Everyone minds his or her own business.

When I met the bishop the following day, I was amazed at his humility. He informed me he was to come to the airport to pick me up, but Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem told him not to worry that he will do that. I pinched myself because I wondered which of our bishops in Nigeria would leave whatever he is doing to pick up an ordinary priest at the airport. I knew then I would learn so many things.

Everything around me here in Canada fascinated me; the weather, the time, the landscape, and the food. I couldn't comprehend the coldness of the weather. None of the clothes I came with helped to protect me.

Every day was filled with new

excitement, new discovery, and a new experience. One of my first mornings, I jumped out of my bed when I felt I was getting up too late because the light was already out and shining brightly. I looked at the time and it was 4.30 a.m. I felt that my watch must have made another mistake, but the times in the house were the same.

When it comes to food, God has always given me good appetite and a universal stomach so I enjoy every food. But for the first time, I didn't find it easy to eat uncooked vegetables, tomatoes, and having to eat potatoes without them peeled. In most parishes here in Canada, there are no cooks and stewards in the rectories. Every priest has to take care of himself. So, I eat whatever I am able to prepare.

The only difference is that I still miss my pounded yam, egusi and ogbono soup with goat meat. Missing these has made me appreciate those things in Nigeria. However, you lose one thing and gain another.

The people in my parish are very caring and friendly. They made sure that all the things I need to live happily are provided for me. I have been invited by so many families and shown love in every way and I feel welcome in the community. I don't think I can ask God for better.

Since coming to Canada, I have gone to different lectures and workshops on the running of the parishes and liturgy. Before I started working in a parish, I went

to an orientation program for three weeks. Interestingly here, things are different. The lay people are being empowered to be more responsible and take more initiatives in the Church. This is quite nice to learn and with this, they play more active roles in the church's ministries.

I thank God for Fr. Iheanyi's guidance that helped me to understand the way of life here. The three weeks enculturation program helped me to open my heart to adapt to the new setting, appreciate the people I am to live with, respect, and above all love them.

It is a mission in collaboration with the diocese of Saskatoon to support our (Dominican) Province as we minister in their diocese. The expectation therefore is that this relationship will blossom into a new horizon of opportunities: an opportunity for us to interact and learn from other cultures and contribute in renewing the Church so that it will continue to bear fruit.

This responsibility cannot be achieved except through our total dependence on the grace of God and our readiness to make sacrifices and learn from the people we are called to serve.

The challenges here in Canada are totally different from Nigeria. One must therefore be open to understand the situation at hand and then fit in with a renewed effort for growth and not just change. We have to see the gifts and treasures that are present here in the people and see how such can be used for

the good of the community, the Church and humanity in general.

So far, I am very happy working in the prairies. I am working in a place where people are committed to their faith and obey the laws of God and are ever ready to appreciate things around them. The people here care and respect their fellow human beings. Many of our parishioners have true knowledge of their faith and are not ready to compromise it for secularism, while some do not know their faith, but they obey and respect the moral values.

Presently, I am working with youth.... who are very eager and are open to learn and see things improve. In all honesty, they want to understand what the Church is teaching. They are open and ready to listen to God. They are really more committed to personal experience of God. They are not just looking forward to a theoretical knowledge of God but a deep personal relationship with God. That is what we are looking forward to.

Just as this past winter I saw the snow cover every corner of our community, in the same way I believe the Holy Spirit will reach out and touch every one of our young ones so that they experience the power of God and the transformative power of the grace of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Where the future is leading us, we do not know. All we know is that we are relying on our Lord Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life.



## Muenster cathedral rejuvenated

BY GLENDA RUEVE

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL PARISH,

Historic St. Peter's Cathedral in Muenster has been undergoing changes in recent years, just as the community prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the building at the heart of St. Peter's Abbey July 10 and 11.

The first changes included a new roof, furnace and the removal of old chimneys to solve ongoing water damage problems.

Phase II of the project began in May of 2009. A fundraising campaign for this phase involved "selling" the windows in St. Peter's Cathedral to individuals or families in the area. A stained glass artist is now designing and putting together the windows for each family. The sale of the 12 large and ten smaller windows brought in funds to complete the exterior foundation repair, new siding, windows, doors, steps and the stained glass.

Phase III of the cathedral's restoration began this January. Many hours were spent scraping, patching and painting the north and south interior walls and ceilings.

In order to help pay for Phase III of the



The restoration will restore damaged areas of St. Peter's Cathedral.

- Photo submitted

restoration, the fundraising committee has introduced a new fundraising campaign called "Upon This Rock," which echoes the phrase that frames the domed section of the cathedral: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church." The words are part of famous paintings by Berthold Imhoff adorning the building.

Designed to pay for the rest of the restoration, this campaign will recognize donations of \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500 and higher as bronze, silver, gold and platinum on a permanent structure at the back of the church.

Parishioners will celebrate what St. Peter's Cathedral means to them July 10-11 during a 100th anniversary celebration.

For more information, call Glenda Rueve: 682-6196 or e-mail: grueve@yahoo.ca. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to St. Peter's Cathedral Restoration, Box 10, Muenster, S0K 2Y0.



From left to right: Maria James, Coordinator David Peacock, Rachel Melymick, Ian Regnier, Philomena Ojukwu, Chelsea Nordgren, Jennifer Acton, and Intercordia representative Mary Bee Haworth. Imre Pallagi is also participating in the program.

## STM students experience solidarity through Intercordia overseas service

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Seven students from St. Thomas More College are preparing for three months of living and working overseas this summer as part of Intercordia, a program combining academic course work with a lived experience of solidarity with people in another culture.

Intercordia participants worked this year to complete a sociology class entitled *Social Change and Global Solidarity* through the Catholic college on the University of Saskatchewan campus. That will be followed by an overseas experience from May to August that is designed to bring students face-to-face with people, cultures and struggles for justice in another part of the world, explained STM Engaged Learning Coordinator David Peacock.

This year's participants include students enrolled in physiology, native studies, international studies, sociology, social work and political studies at the University of Saskatchewan. During Intercordia seminar classes, they have discussed and reflected on the philosophy of the program founded by Jean Vanier, as well as discussing some of the practical challenges that lie ahead.

Participant Philomena Ojukwu of Saskatoon is looking forward to enhancing her "head knowledge" about global issues with a tangible, concrete experience.

"I love how the values of the program are

about learning from other people, emphasizing empathy as the first step to any sort of 'help' for others," said Ojukwu. "I want to be a part of people's lives and share a common humanity with them, and this is exactly what I think Intercordia Canada will enable me to do."

The Intercordia process includes reflecting and writing on the experience – before, during and after the overseas placement.

Ojukwu anticipates that the challenges of the program will be an opportunity for personal growth. "It is valuable for me to experience being in a completely different environment without the comfort of family and friends: it will make me a better person: more empathetic, self-reliant, and confident." Planning a career in health, Ojukwu anticipates that her overseas placement will also have an impact on how she understands that call.

For previous participants, the Intercordia experience has indeed proven to be transformative, said Peacock. Students return with a new vision of themselves and the world, and are more firmly committed than ever to connecting with other people to make a difference, he said.

For the complete article about Intercordia, visit the diocesan website news archive at: [saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news\\_articles/news\\_articles.cfm](http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)



Cody and Carina of Christopher House in Saskatoon mix the dough for more loaves of bread to raise funds for L'Arche Haiti after the devastating earthquake in that country.

- Photo submitted by L'Arche Saskatoon

## L'Arche raises \$1,581 baking "Bread for Haiti"

BY ANDREA GODZIUK

Seeing the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti, with people left without food, clean water or shelter, the L'Arche community of Saskatoon reached out to help.

There are now over 135 L'Arche communities in 35 countries on six continents. The oldest community in Latin America is L'Arche Carrefour in Haiti, which was founded in 1976.

L'Arche Carrefour is located in a suburb of Port-au-Prince, which was at the epicenter of the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated the country. This community has two homes and a workshop welcoming more than 30 people with intellectual disabilities, as well as operating a school attended by 20 children. Another 20 people with disabilities make L'Arche Chantal their home, in the town of Les Cayes in the south of Haiti.

Two L'Arche board members died in the quake and the buildings sustained serious structural damage.

The L'Arche communities in Haiti were very much in the thoughts and prayers of L'Arche Saskatoon, but community members wanted to do more. The residents of Christopher House (our L'Arche Saskatoon home) bake bread. About every two weeks, loaves and buns are prepared, often with the help of everyone in the house. While making bread one day, Carina and Cody came up with the idea of "Bread for Haiti."

Christopher House residents decided to bake bread and sell it, with all proceeds going to assist L'Arche Haiti. Notices and e-mails about the project were circulated. Interested people contacted Christopher House with their orders and within a few days their bread was ready to be delivered or picked up. There was no set price for the bread, just a donation for L'Arche Haiti.

Within a week, Christopher House was a mini-bakery, with bread being made almost daily. In one month, 70 loaves of bread and 36 dozen buns were baked, and the project raised \$1581.25. Almost \$1,400 of this amount was raised in time to meet the federal government's deadline for matching donations.

The founder of L'Arche, Jean Vanier, first travelled to Haiti in March 1975, to help lay the groundwork for the L'Arche community to be founded there. On March 4, 1975, he sent a letter from Haiti to all the communities of L'Arche, sharing his many experiences in that country.

Jean Vanier concluded his letter with the affirmation that, "Yes, Jesus truly wants the presence of L'Arche here." Those supporting Bread for Haiti 35 years later are helping to sustain the presence of L'Arche there.

To learn more about L'Arche Haiti or make a donation see: [www.larchehaiti.org](http://www.larchehaiti.org)

To learn more about L'Arche Saskatoon contact Community Leader Wyndham Thiessen at 262-7243, or visit our website at [www.larchesaskatoon.org](http://www.larchesaskatoon.org)



Children participate in the family retreat at St. Anne's parish in Annaheim.

- Photo submitted

## FacetoFace family retreat held at Annaheim parish

A FacetoFace Retreat held at St. Anne's parish in Annaheim March 20-21 was a "huge success," said participant Karen Ramler. Approximately 125 attended the family retreat, ranging in age from five to 80 years.

"I had never experienced a retreat before so I was excited to see what it was all about," Ramler said of the retreat offered by Ken Yasinski and the FacetoFace team.

"Ken and his team were inspirational," she said. "Ken's sessions were very interesting and that lead to much discussion in our groups. It is amazing how people open up in front of everyone and share some of their life experiences."

"I felt truly blessed to have the retreat in our parish and would encourage people to attend one if they have an opportunity. I look forward to taking part in another retreat when I can take it all in."



Those involved in ministry of care at Our Lady of Lourdes parish were among those honoured at the annual pastoral care appreciation event.

## Pastoral care volunteers honoured

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An annual appreciation evening for pastoral care volunteers was held Feb. 10 at Holy Spirit Parish. The event was jointly hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, to mark the World Day of the Sick (Feb. 11).

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy led a prayer service to open the evening, blessing volunteers who visit those who are sick, suffering, dying, bereaved, isolated or imprisoned.

Bayda encouraged those involved in pastoral care to express their "Magnificat" about how God is working in their lives, just as Mary did, sharing stories of their experiences in order to bless others, grow in their ministry, and build community.

Guest speaker Bill Fletcher presented an overview of the new pastoral care manual recently developed by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS). Fletcher was a member of the project team that developed the resource, entitled: *Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual*.

The manual begins by considering the dignity of the human person and providing 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, as well as a resource list.

Two years in the making, the manual has been approved and endorsed by Saskatchewan's bishops, and includes input from individuals active in pastoral care ministry across the province.

It makes sense for the Catholic health association to develop and promote this parish resource, according to Fletcher. "The vision of CHAS is stated as 'a faith community sharing the healing mission of Jesus' and that's what this ministry of care manual is all about: sharing the healing mission of Jesus. That mission extends beyond the traditional health care institutions to include the lonely, the marginalized, the grieving and recovering members that are in our communities."



Trudy and Alan Reese were among the guests at the appreciation event: Alan shared reflections about the ministry.

Bringing Christ to others is the priestly mission of all the baptized, Fletcher said, quoting from the resource. "Christ calls every one of us to find our own way to carry on his work of bringing care, comfort and healing to our brothers and sisters in need."

Alan Reese, a pastoral care volunteer who serves at Royal University Hospital, also spoke to the gathering, providing a personal perspective on the ministry.

A lay Oblate of St. Benedict connected to St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, Alan Reese says his inspiration and mentor is Fr. James Gray, OSB, a Benedictine priest who died in April.

For years, Fr. James Gray faithfully visited the sick every Thursday, and Reese decided to begin visiting the sick in his honour.

Reese met with the coordinator of Roman Catholic hospital chaplaincy and began accompanying experienced pastoral care visitors at Royal University Hospital. In the fall he took a Foundations of Spiritual Care course at St. Paul's Hospital, taught by Brian Walton.

Pastoral care is a "ministry of listening and spiritual solidarity" which assures those who are suffering that they are not alone, Reese described. "Together we are all members of the body of Christ and we bear each others burdens," he said. "It is really remarkable how those we visit also minister to us."

The appreciation evening also included entertainment by local singer Sarah Farthing.



### Asquith prayers for unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in Asquith that was planned for Jan. 24, the day of the big 2010 storm, was rescheduled for March 14 in the Elks' Hall in Asquith. The service was led by Rev. Joan Brown of the United Church of Canada, Pastor Joshua Goetz of the Baptist Church, and Fr. Bill Bernard, CSSR, of St. Theresa Catholic Church. A collection for Haiti relief raised \$602 from the three congregations.



Members of the Saskatoon board of Friends of Loa.

## Group builds school in Sudan

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

The Friends of Loa Humanitarian Development Agency continues to raise awareness, money, and hope for the Sudanese people. Loa, a town renowned for schools before 20 years of devastating Sudanese civil war, is located in Magwi County in southern Sudan.

Anthony and Vicky Angua of Saskatoon are the president and vice-president of "Friends of Loa." The couple met and married in a refugee camp before coming to Canada in 2002. Since then they have worked to help those back home, supporting the rebuilding of a secondary school.

"We didn't forget those left behind, and other friends here in Canada have stepped forth to support those left behind in a country torn apart by civil war," Anthony said during a recent board meeting of the Friends of Loa.

Board member Mary Nordick said the personal connections being created are important. "It's about sending a message of hope, lighting a candle," noted Nordick, saying this is something which goes both ways.

While some local schools and churches such as St. Philip Neri, St. John Bosco, and St. Thomas More in Saskatoon continue to support the organization, it is hard work raising money. The organization has the main school building erected and in use, but another \$10,000 to \$15,000 is needed to finish the building's final construction stage, to sound- and rain-proof the building with ceiling boards and windows.

"Friends of Loa is a community-based organization, talking directly with the community and asking 'what do you want,'" noted Vicky. For more information, see the website: [friendsofLoa.org](http://friendsofLoa.org)



### Couple honoured for contributions to health

A papal blessing was presented to Leslie and Irene Dubé Nov. 26 in recognition of their outstanding philanthropy and their support of Catholic health care at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan, the St. Paul's Hospital board of directors, and St. Paul's Hospital Foundation organized the event. The couple has supported such initiatives as St. Paul's MRI, the new Urology Centre of Health, a sixth floor special care unit, a mental health facility, and the Grey Nuns legacy fund. The Dubés also recently gave \$6.5 million to a planned children's hospital in Saskatchewan, and have also been major supporters of a breast health centre in Saskatoon, the St. Thomas More College scholarship fund, the Food Bank, and a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre for the diocese of Saskatoon.



### Outlook sacraments

Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook has six children preparing to receive the sacrament of First Communion and confirmation from Fr. Joseph Gyim-Austin May 23.

- Photo by Phyllis Preus.

## CHAS convention will be held Oct. 24-26, 2010 in Saskatoon

BY SANDRA KARY, CHAS

With a focus on the future, the 67th annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) Oct. 24-26 in Saskatoon is open to all those interested in living the compassion of Christ.

"What is Our Tomorrow? Living the Compassion of Christ in Healthcare" is the theme of the annual gathering that aims to provide vision and encouragement for those involved in the ministry of Catholic health.

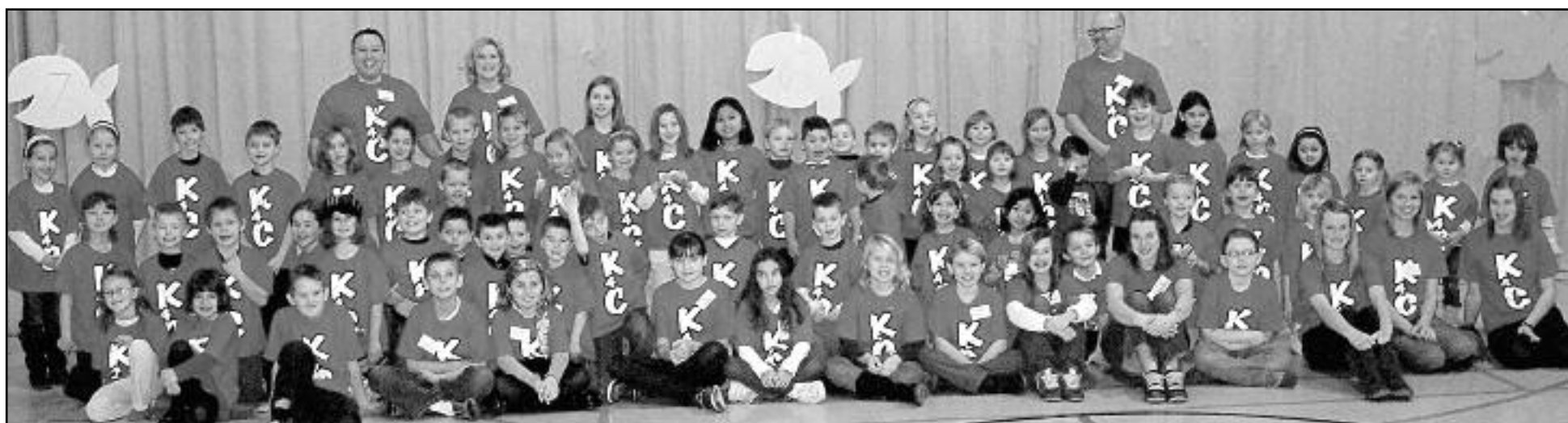
Keynote speaker Sr. Lynn Levo is a licensed psychologist, consultant, and lecturer specializing in areas such as mutuality, community, transitions and stress, and managing conflict. Her topic will be: "Emotional Intelligence: The

Compass that Guides Compassion."

The second keynote speaker is Dr. Nuala Kenny, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, whose medical career began in pediatrics and medical education, and evolved to work in ethics. Kenny founded the department of bioethics at Dalhousie in 1996, and is a prolific author in areas such as professional character formation, ethics in health policy and public health, pediatric ethics, and end-of-life care. Her address is entitled "Compassion in the 21st Century: Linking Mission, Ethics and Catholic Social Justice."

For more information about the CHAS convention to be held Oct. 24 to 26 at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon contact 306-655-5330 or [www.chassk.ca](http://www.chassk.ca)





The Kids for Christ program at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon provides activities, music and learning.

## St. Augustine organizes lively children's group

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A Kids for Christ group that meets once a month after Sunday Mass at St. Augustine Parish in Saskatoon is attracting record numbers of children ages 4 to 8 years.



Joseph Hitchings leads a song.

"We have 98 kids signed up this year," said Janine Baier, who runs the program, along with her husband Shawn, other parent helpers and older youth. "As far as I know, there are no other programs like it at any other parish."

Now in its second year, Kids for Christ began after St. Augustine parish pastoral council set a goal to have something in the parish children of all ages, from preschool to Grade 12, Janine said. "If we build up connections with the youngest group, hopefully they will continue on as they grow older."

The monthly gatherings are held in the school gymnasium adjacent to the church, running from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday morning, with this year's theme being the miracles of Jesus.

At a December Kids for Christ session,

children received bright red "K 4 C" t-shirts donated by a parish family, before beginning a program that included lively praise and worship action songs, games, a skit, scripture, reflection, discussion groups and prayer. At the end of each monthly session, children choose a bead to add to a cross necklace they received when joining the program.

The goal is to have children learn about Jesus and make new friends within their faith community – and the children are eager to gather, noted Janine, who developed the program along with her husband Shawn. As the parents of four young children, the ministry is a good fit for their family, noted Janine, an elementary school teacher.

This year's program will wind up June 13 with a year-end celebration.



Children sing along with actions.

## Priests celebrate anniversaries



Fr. Leo Hinz, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster is celebrating 60 years of priesthood this year.

Priests in the diocese celebrating special anniversaries this year include:

- 10 years: Fr. Ciro Perez, CSSR  
Fr. Varghese T. Abraham, VC
- 15 years: Fr. David Tumbach  
Fr. Rhéal Bussière
- 20 years: Fr. Clement Amofah
- 35 years: Fr. Ken Beck
- 40 years: Abbot Peter Novacosky, OSB  
Fr. Nestor Gregoire, OMI  
Fr. Marc Mireau  
Fr. Bernard Stauber, OSB
- 45 years: Fr. Ray Senger;  
Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI  
Fr. Denis Phaneuf,
- 50 years: Fr. Ron Zimmer, OMI
- 55 years: Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz, MSF  
Fr. Kaz Zabawa, CSSR
- 60 years: Fr. Leo Hinz, OSB
- 65 years: Fr. Pius Leibel, OMI

For a complete list of diocesan clergy, see:

[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/clergy\\_religious/clergy\\_religious.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/clergy_religious/clergy_religious.cfm)



Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz, MSF, pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa marks his 55th anniversary.



Fr. Marc Mireau (front, right) is congratulated by parishioners from the Trinity pastoral region which he serves as Priest Moderator during a three-parish celebration Feb. 28 held in honour of the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. In addition to serving the parishes at Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda, Mireau has spent many years as chaplain of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) on the university campus, and assists with diocesan Come and See weekends for young men discerning a call to priesthood.

## Fr. Ralph Kleiter marks 50th anniversary of tourism ministry with travel options

Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism is concluding his 50th anniversary year of pilgrim journeys with some favorite destinations.

The *Autumn Anniversary Finale* will offer a land visit in London and an exotic "Passage of the Vikings" with Crystal Cruises including calls at Dublin, Iceland, Greenland, Halifax and New York.

After the Sept. 5-19, 2010 crossing, the anniversary journey will celebrate autumn colours in New England and Canada from either New York (Sept. 19-30) or Montreal (Oct. 1-11). Ports of call, such as New York and Montreal, will offer overnight opportunities, allowing two days of sightseeing. Special programs are being planned.

Kleiter points out that during their 20th anniversary, Crystal Cruises are offering new 2-for-1 fares, all inclusive "as you wish" spending on board plus free air.

Ministry to Tourism also recently announced 2011 travel programs that will take people back to antiquity, the "Cradle of Civilization" and the lands of the Bible: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and Greece.

After a planning meeting March 15 with those keen to participate, a comprehensive pilgrim journey to biblical lands will be offered in October 2011 and probably also in May 2011.

Kleiter is also offering a cruise, Athens to Istanbul, Oct. 24 to Nov. 5, 2011, which will highlight overnight stays, enabling two full-day programs in Alexandria (Cairo), Ashdod (Israel) and Istanbul (Turkey). This may be of interest to those with some mobility issues.

Plans for a summer vacation Alaska cruise or a riverboat experience on the Russian waterways are also being planned for 2011 – the destination will be

determined by interest shown.

Ministry to Tourism will again offer three winter cruise destinations: the Mexican Riviera, Costa Rica and the Caribbean. All of these journeys include passage through the Panama Canal. The departure dates are: Feb. 23, March 6 and March 17, 2011.

Several short "motorcoach" tours before or after many of the cruises will be available. They may be enjoyed with or without the cruise experience.

For advance information please contact Kleiter this summer (before Sept 30, 2010) in order to benefit from cruise discounts

Kleiter said he is striving to "help people connect with our world, our loved ones and ourselves."

He added that Ministry to Tourism's pilgrim journeys aim to bridge diversity and cultivate understanding. Kleiter says he hopes that participation in a pilgrim

journey will evoke a sense of wonder and appreciation for the gift of creation.

For more information contact

Kleiter at 306-244-3747 or by e-mail: [kleiter@shaw.ca](mailto:kleiter@shaw.ca) or visit the Ministry to Tourism website at

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

## Pilgrim journey to Rome considered for canonization of Canadian saint

Those interested in traveling to Rome for the canonization of Brother Andre Bessette Oct. 17 are invited to contact Ministry to Tourism.

Brother Andre Bessette is the first man born in Canada to be canonized a saint. Devoted to St. Joseph, he was known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal," and is the founder of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

A short Pilgrim Journey is being considered from Saskatoon, Oct. 14-21 with a possible stopover in Montreal besides highlights in Rome and an excursion to Assisi. The current airfare (including taxes) is approximately \$1900 Saskatoon return, with land costs running at about \$925. For more information, contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter at Ministry to Tourism, email: [kleiter@shaw.ca](mailto:kleiter@shaw.ca) or call Lois McKay at the Catholic Centre (306-242-1500).



Brother Andre Bessette will be canonized Oct. 17.



**Bishop addresses faithful:****Burdens of sexual abuse crisis are carried by all in the Church**

BY BISHOP DONALD BOLEN

The message which rings forth throughout the 50 days of Easter, and indeed is celebrated through every liturgical season, is that Christ has risen from the dead. In the resurrection, life is shown to be stronger than death; God transforms darkness into light, despair into hope. Life and love have the last word. In the paschal mystery, we see the face of God, and – in the words of Thomas Merton – what we see is *mercy within mercy within mercy*. This is the *Word of Life* at the heart of the Gospel; Jesus has *come that we may have life, and have it to the full* (Jn 10:10); he has come that *his own joy might be in us, so that our joy might be complete* (Jn 15:11). This is the message the Church was called into being to incarnate, in its proclamation, its sacraments, its ministry, its whole life.

The tragedy of sexual abuse in the Church speaks an entirely different message, one which contradicts and undermines the Gospel message. Over the past weeks and months, we have heard repeatedly about how in various parts of the world, some priests have sexually abused those entrusted to their care, and how Church leaders have not always dealt properly with such cases. While many of these cases are in the past, when they have not been properly addressed, they still remain with us, and evoke responses of frustration, dismay and anger. Some have felt the temptation, on the one hand, to lose confidence in the Church, or on the other hand, to be highly critical of the media for an exaggerated focus on the Church when sexual abuse is a reality in all of society. How are we, as an Easter people who trust in God's faithfulness and mercy, to respond to this present situation? How can we attend to the cries of victims, address openly the challenges with which we are confronted, and respond in a Christ-like manner?

First, we cannot be faithful to Christ and close our ears to the pain and suffering of others; this is always true, but profoundly so when that suffering comes from the most vulnerable within our faith communities. In the words of St.

Paul, as Church, we are Christ's body. *If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it* (1 Cor 12:26). Children hold a special place in a faith community. Each child, created in God's image, is also a sign of God's continuing desire that we live, an instance of the ongoing miracle in time that God brings forth life from us, that God is doing something new. We baptize infants in part because we want them to be immersed in God's love, wrapped in hope, cradled in tenderness and goodness.

The sexual abuse of minors in the Church is a complete contradiction of what the Church is and what it is summoned to be. In recent years we have come to know more about the destructive long-term effects of such abuse, which violates the life and being of the victim. Hence our first concern must always be for those who have been abused: to listen to them, to validate their experience, to reassure them of God's merciful presence, to assist in whatever way possible to help diminish their suffering and move towards healing.

An intrinsic part of that healing needs to come through our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability in handling cases of abuse within the Church. Jesus says that *there is nothing that is concealed that will not be revealed* (Mt 10:26), and assures us that *the truth will set us free* (Jn 8:32). Summoned to be recipients and stewards of God's mercy, we have nothing to fear and much to gain in facing the truth, in all its complexity, with courage and trust.



Bishop Donald Bolen

***A diocesan prayer service about sexual abuse in the Church will be held 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon.***

The Church is growing in understanding, and has made significant progress – as has society at large – in addressing the issue of abuse. On an international level, Pope Benedict XVI has met with and listened to victims of abuse, has challenged Church leaders when they have not applied proper procedures when responding to allegations of abuse, has reiterated the importance of cooperating with civil authorities, and has urged bishops to make determined efforts so that such situations do not arise again.

In Canada, a critical turning point in addressing the damaging reality of sexual abuse was the 1992 Canadian Bishops' statement *From Pain to Hope*. Locally, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has over the years developed and refined a set of policies and protocols designed to minimize risk to children and youth, culminating in the 2008 document prepared under the direction of my well-loved predecessor, Bishop Albert LeGatt, entitled *Working Together for a Safe and Respectful Church Environment: The Diocesan Policy for Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults*. All with pastoral responsibility within the Diocese are asked to reacquire themselves with this document, to make its contents known, and to play their part in the continuing education and implementation which it calls for.

The burdens of the present moment are shared by all in the Church, and indeed by Christ. Our parishes abound with laywomen and laymen, religious and clergy, whose lives are characterized by great generosity, and a lively commitment to service, justice and reconciliation. All of us who daily struggle with the challenge of living as faithful disciples of Jesus carry the pain of our current situation. As a people grounded in the paschal mystery, we understand this to be sharing in the cross of Christ. I thank you all for your perseverance in faithfulness, and your continuing striving for holiness amid the complexities of life. In particular, I thank the priests and religious in the diocese, who live under a particular burden at the present moment, for your faithful witness to the Gospel and your dedication to pastoral care for your brothers and sisters.

As an Easter people, we are able to address the darkness within us and not be overwhelmed by it, because *God is faithful*. This was the episcopal motto of other venerable predecessors: that of Bishop James Mahoney - *Fidelis Deus* - and that of Bishop James Weisgerber - *The Lord Keeps Faith Forever*. God's faithfulness has been proclaimed and experienced through the generations in this diocese, and we are the inheritors of that faith. We have been moulded and fashioned by the one who is *mercy within mercy within mercy*, and have come to know that it is only by this mercy that we live.

I would ask you, then, to join together in prayer. Let us pray for God's healing and mercy for all who have suffered violence or abuse, in the Church, in their family, or in society. We pray with and for Pope Benedict and all Church leaders and pastors as we work our way through this difficult period. Let us pray for those who did not deal properly with these situations, and deepened the suffering of those abused. And let us not be reluctant to pray also for those who have been guilty of abusing others; their sin does not make them exempt from our prayers or from God's mercy. Finally, let us pray for ourselves: may we ever more be stewards of that mercy, loving the good more than we hate the evil, being ever ready to give an account of the hope that is within us, with our words and with our lives.

### **The diocesan policy for the protection of children, youth and the vulnerable**

can be found on the diocesan website at:

**[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/privacy\\_and\\_policy/](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/privacy_and_policy/)**

or by accessing the link on the front page of the diocesan website. A previous policy regarding abuse of children, in effect since 1992, was expanded and revised in 2008 to include all vulnerable persons. It is titled: *"Working together for a Safe and Respectful Church Environment."*

This policy, available on the website (or by contacting the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500), is our diocesan Church's response to the need to protect those most vulnerable in our Church and society.

**St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission** presents Robert Bolt's classic about Saint Thomas More: **"A Man for all Seasons."**

The STI May 2010 tour will be visiting:

- Humboldt, SK - **May 14-15** at Sutherland Theatre
- Regina, SK - **May 20-22** at Performing Arts Centre
- Bruno, SK - **May 28** at St. Therese Auditorium (*more dates pending*)
- Saskatoon – dates and location TBA

For info call 306-369-2555 or see: [www.sttherese.ca](http://www.sttherese.ca)

**RCIA - The annual Western Conference of the Catechumenate** gathering will be held in Saskatoon beginning **6:30 p.m. Friday, May 28 and running all day Saturday, May 29** at Holy Spirit Church. "*The Evangelizing Parish: vision, passion, mission*" is the theme. Speakers are Nick Wagner and Catherine Ecker, both from the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. This Saskatoon conference, while focusing on the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) would be valuable to anyone working on evangelization in a parish. For more information contact: Fr. Michael Koch at 306-373-0404 or e-mail: [mjkrkia.ca](mailto:mjkrkia.ca)

**Qualitative Research Methods in Rural Contexts June 13-15**, with Dr. Lynn Caldwell; sponsored by St. Andrew's College and the Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M), Saskatoon. Contact 966-8970 or [standrews.registrar@usask.ca](mailto:standrews.registrar@usask.ca)

**100th Anniversary of St. Mary's Parish, Lanigan, SK.** will be celebrated **Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6**, beginning with an afternoon registration, the blessing of a new cemetery cross at the cemetery; and a banquet June 5. Events Sunday, June 6 begin with Mass at 10 a.m., followed by brunch at the Lanigan Town Hall. See [www.catholiclanigan.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiclanigan.blogspot.com) or e-mail the parish at [st.marys@sasktel.net](mailto:st.marys@sasktel.net) or call 306-365-2999.

**Light up a Life Luncheon**, presented by Catholic Family Services Foundation will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Thursday, June 10** at the Sheraton Cavalier. Includes lunch and an inspiring presentation on loss, forgiveness, hope and peace as Graham Snyder shares the story of his family's grief and the remarkable journey to forgiveness after the death of his son Dan Snyder in a car accident. Tickets are \$40 from Catholic Family Services, 200 - 506 25th Street East (306) 244-7773.

**Kenaston 100th Celebration** – An ecumenical church service will be held at St. Andrew's Church 11 a.m. on **Sunday, July 4**. Following the service, everyone will proceed to Kenaston Place for a brunch and windup. Open house/tours at the three churches in Kenaston (Anglican, Evangelical and the Roman Catholic) will be on **Saturday, July 3** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**St. Peter's Cathedral at Muenster, SK. marks its 100th anniversary with a celebration July 10-11.** The historic building, decorated with striking paintings by Count Berthold Imhoff, played a central role in St. Peter's Colony founded by the Benedictines. The \$20 registration for the celebration includes Saturday night supper with the Beer Tent Gang and the Korte Sisters performing in the evening. Weekend activities

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

include silent auction, horseshoe pits, unsupervised children's activities, self-guided tours of St. Peter's Cathedral and guided tours Saturday, July 10 of St. Peter's College. There will be Mass 9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 11, as well as lunch for purchase, and a program to follow at 1 p.m. For information or a registration form, please contact Glenda Rueve at 682-6196 or email [grueve@yahoo.ca](mailto:grueve@yahoo.ca)

**Celebrating 100 years: Holy Rosary Shrine, Reward, SK.** invites everyone to come and share its 100-year celebration July 10. The cost is \$20 and children under 12 are free. Registration is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the celebration of Mass is at 2 p.m. and is followed by a program. Supper is at 5 p.m. and everyone is welcome to stay for a social and entertainment. RSVP to the 100 year Celebration of Holy Rosary Shrine by June 1 to Agnes Sperle, Box 3, Reward, SK. S0K 3N0.

**St. Joseph's Colony will be celebrating its 78th Annual Pilgrimage on July 11.** (St. Joseph's Colony includes parishes at St. Donatus, Denzil, Macklin, Major, Kerrobert, Wilke, Unity, Tramping Lake, Handel, Leipzig, Luseland and area). The program starts at 1 p.m. and the celebration of the Eucharist will be at 4 pm. Supper will follow the mass.

**Summer School in Liturgical Studies** - classes in Regina July 19-30. A Certificate in Liturgical Studies will be awarded upon completion of 12 courses (five core and seven elective). Participants can complete the certificate requirements in three summers. For more information, please contact: Linda Boire: (780) 476-7021 or e-mail: [lmboire@telus.net](mailto:lmboire@telus.net)

**A FacetoFace summer experience for teens: Ignite will be held Aug. 16 to 21** at St. Therese School of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK. Join other teens from across the prairie provinces who are hungry to be holy Catholic witnesses in today's world. The week is packed with praise and worship, talks, daily mass, reconciliation, daily adoration, silence and prayer, fun and fellowship. Ignite will end Aug. 21 at Rock the Mount, the largest one-day gathering of Catholic young people in the prairie provinces held at Mount Carmel. For more information about Ignite see: [www.facetofaceretreats.com](http://www.facetofaceretreats.com) or contact: [shelanms@hotmail.com](mailto:shelanms@hotmail.com) or (306) 924-1534.

**Rock the Mount 2010 will be held Saturday, Aug. 21** from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. with Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen. "Washed by Mercy, Saved by Grace" is the theme of the ninth annual FREE Catholic youth rally, held at the picturesque Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, just north of Carmel, SK. The day also features Christian bands, inspiring talks, prayer, activities, games, reconciliation, praise and worship and Eucharistic adoration. There is a booth on site where food can be purchased, or participants are welcome to bring a picnic lunch/supper. (Bring lawn chairs or a blanket.) This is a youth-oriented family event, but people of all ages are welcome to all or part of the day. For info contact John and Elaine Boskill at 306-384-4836.