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Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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Fall 2010

Christian churches unite in Advent initiative to raise funds for Good Food Junction

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen has joined with other Saskatoon Christian church leaders to sign a letter of support for the Good Food Junction grocery store at Station 20 West, encouraging fund-raising for the project during the season of Advent.

In a letter signed at a public celebration Nov. 24, Christian church leaders launched the Advent initiative to encourage fundraising and support among Christians and the community at large for equipping the co-operative grocery store to be built as part of the Station 20 West project in the city's core neighbourhood. About \$650,000 is needed to equip the Good Food Junction.

"As church leaders and as individuals we commit ourselves to making the Good Food Junction a priority for the weeks leading up to Christmas. We will express support through our prayers, practical assistance, and where appropriate, through fundraising to equip the store. We do this in

the name of Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel, God-with-us," states the letter.

Among the leaders signing the letter are Bishop Bolen; Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy; Rev. Claire Ewert-Fisher and Rev. Jeremiah Buhler of the Mennonite Church; Rev. Amanda Currie of the Presbyterian Church; Bishop Cynthia Halmarson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Saskatchewan Synod; Bishop David Irving of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon; Rev. Ron McConnell, chair of the United Church of Canada River Bend Presbytery; and Rev. Harry Strauss, chair of Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship.

"It's been well over a decade since the last full service grocery store left 20th street," said Janice Sanford-Beck of CHEP Food Inc., one of the grassroots groups working to build the cooperative grocery store as part of Station 20 West. "Many people in this area do not have a personal vehicle, and so traveling long distances to get groceries is extremely challenging."

Studies show that people who live farther from grocery stores have poorer health than those living in better-served neighbourhoods, Sanford-Beck noted. The vision for the Good Food Junction Co-operative includes providing education about nutrition, making wise food choices and preparing healthy foods.

"Access to good food, and information on how to prepare it, is vital for self respect and self reliance," said Rev. Jan Bigland-Pritchard, director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, which helped to organize inter-church discussion about the initiative.

"The Good Food Junction is not in itself a church initiative, but it's an initiative that the churches are keen to support. This is an attempt to respond to a real need in the core neighbourhood of Saskatoon," said Bolen.



Rev. Claire Ewert-Fisher (Mennonite), Bishop Cindy Halmarson (Lutheran), Rev. Amanda Currie (Presbyterian), and Rev. Jan Bigland-Pritchard (Anglican) are among the leaders supporting the inter-church initiative for the Good Food Junction grocery store.



Bishop Don Bolen meets with Janice Sanford-Beck of CHEP Good Food Inc., which is one of the groups working to open the Good Food Junction Co-operative grocery store at 20th Street West. The bishop is one of the Saskatoon Christian leaders who has pledged to encourage support and fundraising for the community project.

The letter signed by the Christian leaders notes that the Good Food Junction grocery store is not a project of any single political party, but is a community effort with an "immense potential" for good.

"It's a beautiful thing that we have all come together for something which had unfortunately become politicized," Bolen said. "But the only politics that really deserve to be there are the politics of giving food to the hungry, and of providing

dignity to our brothers and sisters."

This season calls Christians to again consider and reflect upon the incarnation: Jesus being born in the world, to a poor mother and a simple life, to reach out to all people, said Halmarson. "We also think of the incarnation as God's love coming through us, incarnated – made flesh – in those who are disciples of Jesus ... to be the hands and feet of God in the world."

Good Food continued on Page 3

Bishop Don Bolen expresses gratitude for dedication of faith community

Diocesan Congress "Day 2"

Join Bishop Don Bolen in a diocesan day of discussion and enrichment, to be held in three locations across the diocese:

Eatonia and Kerrobert deaneries:

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 15
at St. Joseph, Kindersley

Outlook, Saskatoon City, and Saskatoon Rural deaneries:

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12
(Location in Saskatoon to be announced)

Wadena and Humboldt deaneries:

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26
at St. Augustine, Humboldt

Mark your calendars and watch for more details about registration, coming soon in your parish bulletin and on the diocesan website. Everyone is welcome!

Since his installation as bishop of Saskatoon in March, Bishop Don Bolen has been getting to know his new diocesan faith family through parish visits, celebrations, meetings and diocesan gatherings.

"I'm really humbled by the large number of people in the diocese who are profoundly dedicated to the life of the Church, and to living and speaking the gospel," he said.

"It has been easy to encourage and celebrate the many programs and initiatives, and the ongoing, daily efforts of our communities and our faithful."

Over the past eight months, the new bishop has visited parishes across the diocese, and participated in many meetings and events. "I can see and feel God's grace at work here, and I can't help but be filled with a great gratitude, despite the struggles and challenges that are an inevitable part of our ecclesial life."

Among the diocesan gatherings the bishop has attended with parish representatives have been diocesan Study Days in October, and a diocesan Congress Nov. 16, at which different aspects of liturgy were explored.

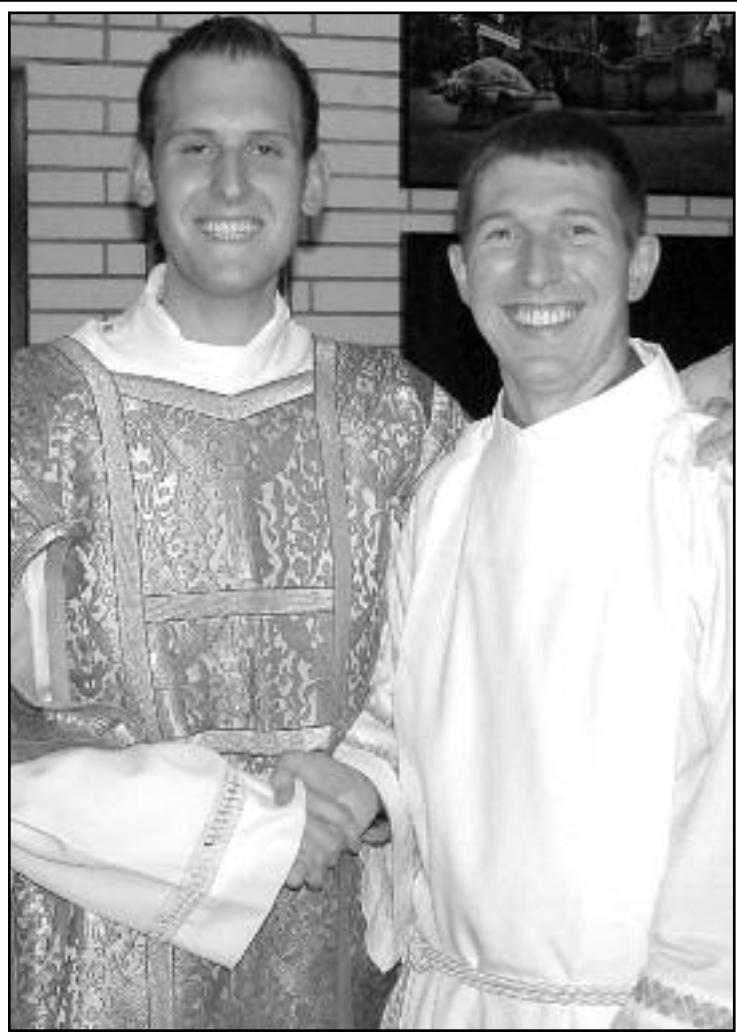
The day-long Congress at Queen's House in Saskatoon included a number of local speakers leading breakout sessions on such subjects as connecting the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist to every day life, the art of presiding and participating, liturgical change in

Church history, and liturgy that engages families. This followed the earlier Study Days presentation by Rev. Bill Burke of the national liturgy office, which addressed upcoming changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal and its General Instruction (*see article on page 9*).

The Congress day Nov. 16 also included the first meeting of Bishop Don Bolen with the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), which includes representatives from deaneries across the diocese, as well as a number of Catholic organizations and groups, including youth, religious sisters, the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League. The DPC gathers three times a year to provide discussion and feedback on items brought forward by the bishop and to provide a forum for discussing issues and concerns arising from the parishes and deaneries.

"Day 2" of the diocesan Congress will be offered in three locations throughout the diocese in the New Year, with Bishop Don Bolen in attendance. Topics for discussion at each of the three meetings will be liturgy, the diocesan policy for the protection of vulnerable persons, and the Evangelization priority of the "Rooted in Christ" Diocesan Vision.

All are welcome to attend the Congress Day 2 sessions (*see schedule in box at left*), with more details about registration to be announced in the near future. - KLY



Two new deacons ordained for diocese

Geoffrey Young of Saskatoon and Matthew Ramsay of Humboldt (l-r) share a moment of congratulations at Young's ordination as a deacon held May 26 in Unity. Ramsay was also ordained a deacon by Bishop Don Bolen a few weeks later, on June 29 in Saskatoon. For Young and Ramsay, the "transitional diaconate" is one more step on the journey to being ordained a priest. Both returned to a final year of seminary studies this fall. For articles and photos of the two celebrations visit: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm There are currently nine young men studying for the priesthood for the diocese of Saskatoon. The education of future priests is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Bishop's Annual Appeal stands at \$1.2 million as of Nov. 15

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Donations are still coming in, but as of a volunteer wind-up supper Nov. 15, the Bishop's Annual Appeal total stands at \$1.2 million, about \$300,000 short of this year's \$1.5 million goal.

It has been a year of transition and change for the annual fundraising effort across the diocese, as the BAA became the responsibility of a newly-created Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, which also deals with long-term stewardship, major gifts and planned giving (*see related article below*).

Catholic Foundation Director Don Gorsalitz thanked volunteers and parishes for their involvement and reviewed some of the concerns raised about the increased goal and changes in Appeal processes this year.

"We have learned that much more communication is needed up front," Gorsalitz said of changes to the Appeal, announcing that meetings will be held in each deanery in the new year, calling together representatives from each parish for feedback and input into how the Appeal is conducted.

"We made some unfair assumptions that some of the changes we were implementing this year weren't all that large, and we didn't communicate them as well as we should have," he said.

Gorsalitz stressed the importance of letting people clearly know about the needs, and then asking them for support. "We asked each and every family to increase their gift amount," he said, explaining that this was because the needs in the diocese are increasing, and there is a desire to provide more programs and resources.

During a question period, volunteers asked about administrative costs, which Gorsalitz said for the Foundation as a whole stand at 10 per cent of money raised.

Concerns were also raised about the impact that a higher parish goal will have on how much parishes receive back in a parish incentive formula, as well

as a need for clearer information about what programs and groups will receive funds from the BAA.

At the conclusion of the wind-up evening, Bishop Don Bolen expressed appreciation to all those who worked on the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and acknowledged the difficulties around fundraising this year.

"We are not just dealing with numbers. We're dealing with real generosity, and sometimes with real sacrifices, and with real commitment, and with a real love of the Church, and a trust that God is at work in the Church," the bishop said.

"This was also a year when we are building a cathedral, when many people in our diocese have financial commitments, which are part of an ongoing contribution to the cathedral," he said. "And I am very mindful that it has been a dreadful year for farmers in our diocese."

Bolen invited parishes to be part of the ongoing discussion about the Appeal and its implementation in the months ahead, in an ongoing learning process about how best to meet needs and raise funds both at the parish and diocesan level.

"Of course we could do with less," Bolen said, addressing the idea that the diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre could cut back on offices and programs. "But if we want to be a church that isn't simply in a maintenance mode ... if we're trying to be a church that's really attentive to the needs of the people, which is trying to really engage our culture ... we need the kind of resources that the diocesan centre is trying to offer."

"Because it is not an easy time to have faith: it is not an easy time to be a Christian community," the bishop said.

"If we're trying to find ways to reach out to those generations who have distanced themselves from the Church – including members of our family that we greatly love – then we need to be a dynamic Church, and we need the resources to do that."

Catholic Foundation created to oversee fund-raising efforts: including BAA, ongoing stewardship and planned giving

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

This summer saw the creation of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation – a new initiative that combines a number of fund-raising and development initiatives in one office.

"The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation exists to support and enable ministry across the diocese, both at a parish and a diocesan level," explains director Don Gorsalitz.

The Catholic Foundation now includes the work of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, a focus on stewardship, and promotion of major gifts and planned giving – all ways of meeting the day-to-day and the long-term financial needs at both the diocesan and the parish level, says Gorsalitz.

The Catholic Foundation office evolved out of the experience of creating a diocesan development office to handle a *Uniting in Faith* capital campaign to raise funds for construction of a new Catholic Pastoral Centre and Cathedral. That diocesan capital campaign was successful, and construction of the Holy Family Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is underway, with a scheduled completion date of Advent 2011.

"As *Uniting in Faith* unfolded, the bishop and the diocesan leadership began to look beyond that single project to envision ways to enhance and support the ministry and mission that is being lived out

in parishes and through the ministries at the Catholic Centre. The Catholic Foundation was created to oversee these efforts in a focused, long-term way," said Gorsalitz

Bishop's Annual Appeal

This year the Bishop's Annual Appeal was organized by the newly-created Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation office, which made some changes to the long-standing fund-raising program, in an effort to reach a \$1.5 million goal (*see related article, above*).

"Rather than cut needed programs, a decision was made to increase the goal," Gorsalitz said, noting there has been a funding shortfall for programs, and needs are also increasing.

"We're not raising money for the sake of raising money: the increase is needed to keep existing programs in place."

Since 1984, the Bishop's Annual Appeal has been instrumental in funding diocesan ministries and outreach in the community, as a way to support and expand all that is happening in parishes.

For the past 26 years, the faith community has generously responded to the Appeal, which funds diocesan ministries such as rural catechetics, youth ministry, vocations, marriage and family life, Catholic hospital chaplaincy, lay



formation, justice and peace, restorative (prison) ministry, ecumenism, communications, ministry development and the diocesan resource library.

The BAA also supports the education of priests and future priests, and contributes to a priest pension fund for diocesan clergy, in addition to providing funding to initiatives beyond the diocese, such as Catholic Family Services and Friendship Inn.

There is a need for greater awareness about "how the Appeal supports all of us in our parishes and extends our mission into the community," Gorsalitz said. This year, pastors, Parish Life Directors, and parish Appeal leadership were invited to highlight their own examples of how programs and ministries funded by the Appeal directly support their parish, he said.

Changes to the structure of the Appeal this year were implemented as a way to increase needed revenue, as well as to make some of the administrative processes easier for parishes, Gorsalitz added. "The feedback we have received so far

will assist us to make further changes next year," he said.

"We are listening to what our volunteers from parishes across the diocese have said about the Appeal this year," Gorsalitz said, noting the commitment of dedicated volunteers and the ongoing generous response of the faith community to the BAA.

"It is our intention to hold gatherings with Appeal leadership in all seven deaneries in the New Year. With what we learn through these gathering we can strengthen many aspects of the Appeal," he said.

Stewardship

For the Catholic Foundation, stewardship involves a specific focus on providing financial resources for individual parishes as well as for the diocese, explains Gorsalitz. Growing out of the scriptural exhortation to care for the world, the concept of stewardship includes a call to share "time, talent and treasure" within our faith communities and the world at large.

A diocesan stewardship manager is working with parishes to identify needs, undertake long-range planning, and develop strategies for increasing their financial resources.

In deanery and parish meetings, the help being offered by the stewardship office has been well received, Gorsalitz says, noting that

information or training sessions can be provided upon request.

Major Gifts and Planned Giving

The Catholic Foundation office will also work on connecting with major donors – something which began with the *Uniting in Faith* campaign on the capital side, but which also has potential when it comes to funding programming, says Gorsalitz.

At the same time, a Planned Giving Officer is working to create awareness about providing bequests to parishes and/or the diocese through wills or insurance policies. Jocelyne Hamoline will assist those who are interested in leaving this kind of legacy, helping them to explore options for their gift.

Surveys show that some 30 per cent of people would leave a Planned Gift to a charitable organization if they were asked, says Gorsalitz. "We just want people to know that this is one option they would have to leave a legacy, as a way to express appreciation and support for something that has always been close to their heart – in this case, their faith and their faith community."

For more information about the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, contact Don Gorsalitz at 382-4238. For information about Planned Giving, contact Jocelyne Hamoline at 343-7506.

Good Food Junction support undertaken by congregations

GOOD FOOD continued from Page 1

"Jesus didn't just care about people's spiritual side, he cared about bodies, he cared about feeding people... and we also express God's love by helping people care well for their bodies," added Bigland-Pritchard.

The Christian churches in Saskatoon have initiated and supported many helping agencies in the core neighbourhoods of the city over the years, noted Currie. She said that money raised through an annual Advent appeal at her church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, will this year go to the Good Food Junction. "We remember the way that Jesus gave dignity to those who were oppressed or suffering – so we think about how we can give out of the many blessings that we've received," Currie explained.

Other congregations plan to organize special events – such as McClure United Church, which is holding a Christmas Cantata with full orchestra and chorus 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, with proceeds to go to the Good Food Junction.

In Catholic parishes in the city, information and pledge cards will be distributed in Advent, with an invitation to parishioners to support the project.

"It's a way of giving not a hand out, but a hand up and I think if we as a Christian community can be involved in making this available to the whole of the core neighbourhood, through the Good Food Junction, we should really do that," said Bigland-Pritchard.

"As we gather around our tables this Christmas, let's give a thought to making other tables a place of blessing too," she said.



World Youth Day travellers

Members of the diocesan World Youth Day delegation met recently in Saskatoon to discuss preparations for the journey, and plans that the young people have for raising funds for the trip to Spain in the summer of 2011. A group from the "Trinity" parishes of Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda is also planning to attend World Youth Day.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes



Development and Peace campaign

Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen signs a pledge to support publicly owned and operated water systems, and to choose tap water over bottled water. The pledge card was presented to the bishop by Desiree Nelson (right), who currently serves as provincial Development and Peace youth representative, along with Shawn Parchoma. The pledge is part of a Development and Peace fall education campaign, which focuses on the negative impact of bottled water in the world – which "creates a culture where drinking water is viewed as a commodity or private good, available only to those who can afford to pay."

CCCB committee will advise Development and Peace

Expressing a "profound desire" that Development and Peace continue its mission, the bishops of Canada recently received an *ad hoc* committee report about the mandate and principles of the organization.

At their plenary assembly in October, the Canadian bishops also decided to establish a standing committee to continue advising both the Canadian bishops and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP).

The standing committee will include four bishops and the CCCB general secretary (*ex officio*). In advising both the CCCB and CCODP, the new standing committee will provide a forum to share information and collaborate more closely on achieving their common goal, which is to help the world's most vulnerable persons. As well, the standing committee will assist CCODP in its ongoing renewal.

In its report to the bishops, the *ad hoc* committee stated that CCODP had cooperated fully, providing

complete and detailed information on each of its current projects and partners, as well as full disclosure on all points which had been raised concerning connections to several organizations alleged to have expressed support for abortion. CCODP is currently working on 248 projects around the world, each of which were reviewed by the committee. The committee was satisfied with the results.

CCODP is now preparing protocols to ensure that organizations requesting future funding are fully aware that CCODP is a Catholic agency which adheres to Catholic principles. Furthermore, any organizations requesting funding will also be obliged by the same protocols to disclose any projects that would contradict Catholic principles of respect for life. In addition, the proposed revision of the CCODP Partnership Agreement will reflect the obligation to respect life values and conformity with Church teachings.

An exit strategy is being

developed by CCODP for the cancellation of any controversial partnerships. CCODP will ensure that any future statements on problematic partners will be developed in consultation with the CCCB.

In order to assist CCODP and its partners, Development and Peace has drafted proposed criteria on ethical issues for working with its partners. These will provide a "theological framework" for CCODP activities.

In order to ensure that there is good communication with local bishops in developing countries, CCODP has already developed a specific protocol to establish routine contact with local bishops, including visiting them and providing information on CCODP and its local partners. Development and Peace has asked the CCCB to be involved in this process, in order to help build bridges with the bishops in the Global South.

For more information visit: www.cccb.ca

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/ or by accessing the link on the front page of the diocesan website. For more information you can also call the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

A previous policy regarding abuse of children, in effect since 1992, was expanded and revised in 2008 to include all vulnerable persons.

"Working together for a Safe and Respectful Church Environment" is our diocesan Church's response to the need to protect those most vulnerable in our Church and society.

With funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, this newsletter is published twice per year (spring/summer & fall/winter) by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications Coordinator

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

Toll free: 1-877-661-5005 Fax: (306) 244-6010

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

Email: communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Web page: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com



Aerial view of Holy Family Cathedral site

Construction continues on the new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre designed in conjunction with a new church building for Holy Family parish in northeast Saskatoon. The project is scheduled to be completed in November, 2011. The project cost is \$28.5 million, of which over \$20.5 million was fundraised through a *Uniting in Faith* campaign in the diocese and the parish. The remaining amount came from the sale of Holy Family church and rectory, a previous fundraising campaign at the parish and a \$4-million loan taken by Holy Family parish. All pledges are payable over a five-year time frame, although many donors made one-time gifts. Bridge financing costs are being incurred until such time as all pledges are fulfilled. Almost half of the pledged \$20 million will be fulfilled by the end of this year. - Photo courtesy of Graham Construction and Engineering

Gathering highlights gospel call for justice and peace

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A number of justice and peace issues were raised and discussed during a public forum held as part of a "Be Doers of the Word" gathering Oct. 5 in Saskatoon.

The pressing need for affordable housing, the ongoing problem of homelessness, environmental issues, and the status of the Station 20 West project in the core neighbourhood of Saskatoon were among the issues raised during the discussion period that was part of the "Be Doers of the Word" justice and peace gathering.

The second annual event attracted some 75 participants representing 15 parishes, both urban and rural.

Organized by Tony Haynes, director of the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace, the gathering began with supper and an address by Bishop Donald Bolen at Bishop Mahoney Hall in St Paul's Cathedral. Guest speaker was Bert Pitzel, who reflected on the papal encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* or "Charity in Truth" (see article, below).

The event's title – "Be Doers of the Word" – comes from a passage of scripture calling on Christians to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22), which resonates with the Episcopal motto of Saskatoon's bishop: *Verbum Vitae* or "Word of Life." It was one of the scriptural texts highlighted during an ecumenical



Director of Office for Justice and Peace Tony Haynes, Bishop Don Bolen, speaker Bert Pitzel and committee member Carol Zubiak participated in "Be Doers of the Word" held Oct 5 in the diocese of Saskatoon.

service on the eve of the Episcopal ordination, noted Bishop Bolen.

"The Word that the prophets speak is above all a Word of justice," he said. "When as John says, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, that Word, the all powerful God, comes to us in Jesus: comes to us first of all in poverty and simplicity, as one that suffers injustice."

The people that Jesus highlights in his ministry – the poor, the blind, the lame, the

needy, the marginalized, the outcasts, the least of all – are also whom he identifies himself with: "whatever you do for the least of these sisters and brothers, you do for me." (Matthew 25:40)

"Justice and peace are not marginal to the gospel. The office of justice and peace is not a peripheral office," stressed Bolen.

"Our integrity as a people is shown forth in our living out the gospel, our living out the vision of justice and peace, by being

doers of the Word, not just preachers of the Word."

During his address, Bolen described heroes who have helped to fashion his own understanding of social justice. "By embodying the vision of justice and peace, these are figures of hope for us," he said, listing Martin Luther King, Ghandi and Dorothy Day.

Bolen quoted King's statement that "any religion which professes to be concerned with the souls of men and is not concerned with the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them, and the social conditions that cripple them, is a dry-as-dust religion."

King believed that the whole civil rights movement needed to be dynamized by love, and that love needed to channel itself into non-violent resistance, as lived by Jesus Christ, he described.

"Martin Luther King's deep sense of God's presence at the heart of every effort to seek justice and peace is one that I think we need to lay hold of," said Bolen.

"If you are involved in justice work, you better be ready to be involved for the long haul. It's not a short struggle. It's a lot like the search for Christian unity." In both these areas, deep foundations of hope are needed to sustain us in the long journey, he said.

"Sometimes it seems like one step forward and two steps back, but by the mathematics of God, somehow that's still moving towards bringing about the kingdom."

The bishop also reflected on Dorothy Day who helped to establish the Catholic Worker Movement, whose hope was grounded in God, in the gospel, in the Eucharist and in the community as she worked for justice and for the poor.

"Sometimes it does feel like we are 'just sitting here talking,' but if we are sitting here, and you are sitting in your parishes, and you are listening to the people around you, and you are listening to the voices of those in need, and you are finding creative ways to respond – then the Spirit is flowing through that," Bolen assured his listeners.

"You are not only reaching out and touching Christ, you are also sharing in his mission, which is a blessing for and strengthening of your parish community, allowing them to be transformed and engaged in this difficult work of justice."

The diocesan Office for Justice and Peace is one of the many ministries in the diocese of Saskatoon supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Papal encyclical calls for transformation

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Pope Benedict's encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* was on the menu at a justice and peace supper gathering Oct. 5 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

"Be Doers of the Word" guest speaker Bert Pitzel, social justice coordinator for the Archdiocese of Regina, presented an overview of the 2009 document "Charity in Truth" in which Pope Benedict XVI reflects on the gospel call to live in love and truth, which leads to a "courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace," with potential to transform the world.

Delving into an encyclical like *Caritas in Veritate* is a bit like "going to Niagara Falls with a cup to get a drink," said Pitzel, describing the depth and layers of the prophetic papal encyclical, which builds on all the social teachings that have gone before it, to present insights that are particularly relevant in this time of worldwide economic crisis.

Pitzel suggested small groups might meet weekly over a number of months to take short portions of the papal letter to reflect upon, digest and ultimately implement in their lives. "I think the pope is saying: 'I'm giving you this document, and the ball is now in your court,' Pitzel noted. "Transformation is needed."

Economics sees human beings in a certain way. "But what the pope is saying is 'don't get caught,' because if we only live up to

a narrow economic view, we are living below who we really are as human beings. That's the heart of *Caritas in Veritate*.... fundamentally, it's about acting according to what we have been created to be – and in that, the encounter with God becomes extremely important."

A system that focuses solely on material gain, where the goal is for money to earn more money, will inevitably fall short of realizing human potential. "What the pope says is we need an economic system where everybody has something to give, and something to receive," Pitzel said.

The values of the culture have become individualism, consumerism and utilitarianism. Instead, Pope Benedict calls for a culture of fraternity, reciprocity and solidarity, Pitzel described.

Other elements of the document tackle globalization, technology and science, the media, education, tourism, migration, human rights, and the environment, listed Pitzel. "What we need is ethical practice in every one of these arenas."

Ultimately love and truth are what will liberate human beings, Pitzel concluded, again encouraging his listeners to delve deeper into *Caritas in Veritate* in their own faith communities and small groups. "It's a prophetic call to be involved in the transformation of the world."

For more about this presentation, visit the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Call to reach out to prisoners discussed at St. Michael's parish

BY DESIREE NELSON

Gathered in a circle at St. Michael's parish in Saskatoon May 6, a group of people from the Saskatoon diocese learned more about prison ministry from speakers Peter Oliver and Dianne Anderson.

In a presentation entitled "Incarceration, Release, Rehabilitation" they challenged their listeners to love others as Christ loved all of us.

Oliver, chaplain at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, and Anderson, who coordinates the diocesan prison ministry office, described the needs in prison and restorative justice ministry, stressing connections to Catholic faith.

A round of introductions revealed diverse interests among those attending the session, which addressed the hope that exists for both inmates and victims. Many of those attending said they were there to learn more about prison ministry and how they could come together as a Christian community and give assistance.

Anderson described the work she does through the diocesan Restorative Ministry office. In addition to one-on-one visits with inmates at the Correctional Centre, she leads the rosary and chaplet of divine mercy on Thursdays; offers a talking circle on Fridays (in which inmates have an opportunity to share, release and heal); and coordinates a weekly Roman Catholic Mass at the prison.

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

Volunteers are needed to help with prison ministry in our diocese

For more information, contact Dianne Anderson of the Restorative Ministry office, Catholic Pastoral Centre: 242-1500; Toll free: 1-877-661-5005 E-mail: restorativeministry@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Anderson said that her own Métis background helps her bring First Nations spirituality and culture to the prisoners. For instance, smudges are one of the cleansing and healing ceremonies offered to inmates. Anderson described helping inmates find a balance through the image of the medicine wheel, using the analogy that you will get farther with a round tire than a flat one.

Anderson's ministry goes beyond the walls of the prison as well, including attending court to be present for both the accused and the victim, reaching out to families, and helping men after they have been released from jail.

Oliver offered statistics to increase understanding about the justice system. Participants expressed surprise upon hearing about the rates of incarceration, the type of crimes

committed and the lack of resources in prisons. Oliver also spoke about "tough on crime" campaigns and the statistics that disprove the effectiveness of this strategy.

Oliver emphasized integration of Christian faith in working with the prison system. Jesus' life was similar to a court case – arrested, tried, and executed, he pointed out. Oliver said that we need to ask ourselves where we are living out our call to love others and pray for them? He noted that while the Church cares compassionately for those who are sick, we are also called to reach out to prisoners and to victims of crime.

The gathering was also reminded that the most sensationalist stories appear in newspapers and on television. The reality is that the majority of the situations do not end up in the media, as they would not peak interest, Oliver said, noting that people go to prison for a variety of reasons, one of the most common being the breach of probation. Such breaches often occur as a result of lack of resources and support once an inmate has completed his sentence.

Hope is before us, Oliver asserted. Catholics have the opportunity to assist in this ministry, even if it is simply by praying for the inmates and their victims, he said, stressing that Christ calls us to love everyone, and was the first to stand up and love the sinner and unlovable, and it's now our turn.

Provincial vocations conference:

Seeking ways to help youth discern God's will

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Finding new ways to encourage youth to discern God's call in their lives was the focus of a provincial vocations conference hosted Oct. 23 in Saskatoon.

Representatives of various ministries and organizations, including the Saskatoon diocesan Vocation Commission and Youth Ministry office, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, the diocese of Prince Albert, several religious orders, Catholic schools, STM Campus Ministry, Catholic Christian Outreach, and St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission gathered at St. Mary's parish to reflect on discernment and vocations promotion, as well as to come up with some practical strategies, including a plan for a provincial vocations event.

"We share in the same mission and work in the Church, working in different parts of the same vineyard. It's good to recognize we are all in this together," one participant said in an evaluation about the first-ever event.

Facilitator Myron Rogal, who coordinates the vocations office in the diocese of Saskatoon, said the vibrant discussion at the Saturday event included suggestions for future vocation promotion that the group hopes to follow up on.

Participants began by reflecting on the challenges facing the vocation message, identifying a



Representatives of dioceses, religious organizations, schools, Catholic youth groups and ministries were discussing ideas for vocations promotion at a provincial conference Oct. 23 in Saskatoon.

lack of time, society's view of what constitutes a productive life, the priority placed on other pursuits such as sports, and fear as "roadblocks" to vocation discernment. The fears might

include a fear of making a commitment, or a fear that God's call will not speak to our deepest desires, one participant said. Another pointed out that faith pursuits do not have much

"credibility" in our society.

A student from St. Therese described how in this culture, it is not deemed "productive" to take a year to dedicate to faith development and finding out what God's plan might be for one's life.

A member of the Saskatoon diocesan vocations commission agreed that time is a road block to vocations discernment, but so are the priorities we have in our lives: there seems to be time for other interests, such as sports, but not for faith.

Another challenge is the lack of silence and self reflection in our culture, noted a youth ministry coordinator for the eparchy of Saskatoon. As a way to encourage reflection and tuning in to self and God, she recommends always including times of silence in youth gatherings and retreats — consistently rated as a favorite element of eparchy events.

A ministry of relationship and of presence is as valuable as a large event involving many participants, one participant pointed out.

Ways to combine efforts and resources, and finding ways to cooperate in vocations outreach were discussed by the group.

Establishment of a "Calling Saskatchewan" provincial vocations website was one suggestion that will be pursued by a sub-committee, said Rogal.

It was suggested the site could include video testimonials from people living the four vocations of priesthood, consecrated religious life, marriage and single life, as well as videos about discernment of careers, and other related subjects, he added.

These video reflections could also be used for gathered events, with families, parishes or schools using them as a starting point for discussion, he said.

Development of provincial family-based vocations events to be held in different centres each year; and the creation of a high school vocation retreat to be sent to all the schools in Saskatchewan were other suggestions.

Creating more "natural opportunities" for discussing and discerning vocations — such as in the context of another event, like a canoe trip — was also discussed, as was the idea of offering a family vocation summer camp. "Perhaps something like that might happen in partnership with a group like the Knights of Columbus," suggested Rogal.

The group plans to meet again to follow up on the ideas and connections made at the Oct. 23 gathering, he said.

The diocesan Vocations office is one of the many ministries in the diocese of Saskatoon supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Making a difference through planned giving

Ordinary Catholics can make a significant difference in their parish or diocese through Planned Giving, says Jocelyne Hamoline, diocesan Planned Giving Officer for the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.

"Every gift — no matter how large or small — helps to ensure the blessings of faith that we have received will be shared for generations to come," says Hamoline.

Drawing upon examples of those who have left a legacy to their faith communities, Hamoline has created a story to illustrate how planned giving decisions might come about in the life of a faithful parishioner.

"Mrs. Smith, a retired widow whose children are grown and doing well for themselves, is an active participant in her parish and has been all her life. She loves the Eucharist, and enjoys the fellowship of her parish and she volunteers wherever she can. Mrs. Smith is grateful for her faith and her faith community, and the spiritual support she has received during her lifetime. Over the years though, she has become increasingly concerned about the youth of her parish and her community, wondering how they can be encouraged to know, love and live their faith. She feels strongly that more should be done for youth in her parish and diocese, and has talked this over with her parish priest and parish pastoral council, but there were never enough funds to start up and maintain a youth program in her small parish.

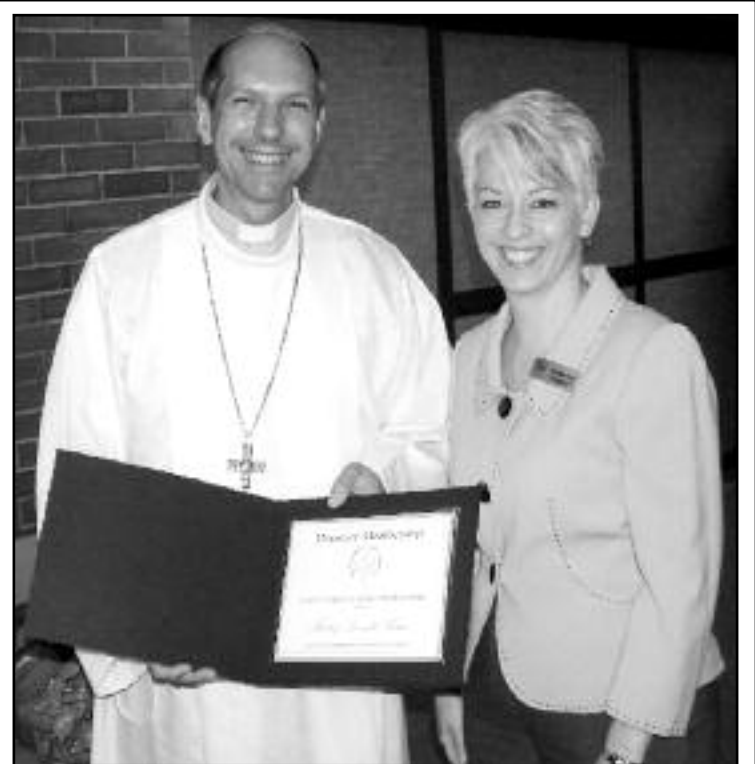
"Mrs. Smith decides she wants to help young Catholics in her parish and diocese through a legacy gift in her will, and calls the Planned Giving Officer at the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation to discuss the idea. She discovers there are many ways in which she can direct her gift, and is excited to think about what her future gift might do in the years ahead. Mrs. Smith meets with her financial advisor to discuss her current financial capacity and the possible value of her estate. To her surprise, even though her annual income is \$30,000, her net worth including her home, cottage, RRIFs, GICs and her life insurance policy is almost \$1,200,000.

"Mrs. Smith meets with the diocesan Planned Giving Officer and with the diocesan Youth Ministry coordinator to discover more about the priorities and vision of youth ministry in the diocese, and what else might be accomplished at both a diocesan and a parish level. She also shares her wishes with her children, telling them how important it is to her to leave this legacy.

"Mrs. Smith decides to leave a \$300,000 bequest to create a Youth Ministry Fund in her name, using a Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation "Restricted Fund." Deciding that she also wants to do something more immediate, Mrs. Smith uses some of her built-up assets to make a \$5,000 annual contribution to the diocesan Youth Ministry program right away. She now has the satisfaction of seeing her legacy at work right now, as well as the joy of knowing the large, long-term impact that her planned gift will have for youth in the diocese and in her parish for generations to come."

A "Restricted Fund" through the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation will administer donations that are restricted to a specific purpose, such as the support of a ministry or program within the diocese and/or a parish. The capital as well as the income from a restricted fund may be spent. A formal agreement is drawn up between the donor and the Catholic Foundation stating how the Fund is to be administered.

For information on ways you can make a legacy gift through the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation to fund a specific program or ministry, contact Planned Giving Officer Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 343-7506.



CHAS membership for bishop

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) executive director Sandra Kary, presented Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen with an honorary membership in CHAS during a Compassionate Healers' Mass Sept. 29 at Holy Family parish in Saskatoon. The annual Mass is for the benefit and intentions of medical personnel, health care workers and administrators, parish nurses, and ministry of care volunteers in parishes and in health care facilities across the province. CHAS is a provincial network for anyone involved in or concerned about the Church's call to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. CHAS provides networking, education and resources in mission, ethics and spiritual care. Projects and gatherings include a quarterly newsletter; Mission Week seminars; "mission-in-a-box" resources; ethics services, education, development and consultation, including a contracted ethicist (Joy Mendel at St. Paul's Hospital) and a DVD series; Advanced Care Directive seminars and resources; publication of a Parish Ministry of Care Manual; and an annual provincial convention. For more coverage of the Compassionate Healers' Mass or the Oct. 22-24 CHAS convention in Saskatoon, visit the website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Gayle Weenie recognized as elder in community

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Honouring her Cree culture and her Catholic faith go hand in hand for Gayle Weenie, who was recently called forth as an elder in her community.

Presently serving as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon after 31 years of service teaching in the Catholic school division, Weenie said she was overwhelmed to receive the honour at this year's Pleasant Hill community powwow.

Elders Alma Kytwayhat and Mary Lee called Weenie forward at the powwow, presented her with a shawl and acknowledged her as an elder – a spiritual and community leader, responsible for protecting and sharing tradition, culture and faith.

Her new role as elder grows out of all that Gayle Weenie has done for children and the community over the past 30-plus years, said Cecile Smith, St. Mary's Community School Coordinator and one of the organizers of the annual powwow at Grace Adam Metawewinhink Park – named for another community leader, teacher and administrator. It was an appropriate time and place to honour Weenie, who still works with children in the school and at the parish, Smith said.

"So many of the adults that Gayle had taught as children were also there – they all stood up and honoured her and shook her hand. We did an honour song for her. She earned every bit of it, she has worked so hard for our people," said Smith.

"This doesn't happen very often. It was a special moment," Smith said, adding that it was a challenge to keep the ceremony a secret from Weenie, who is a longtime member of the annual powwow planning committee. "There was just one time when she couldn't make the meeting and we hurried up and discussed everything."

Some 500 children attend the powwow, which is an important community event each year, said Smith. "It's a whole family outing," she said, noting this year included a special recognition of the Métis people as part of the Year of Métis, with a performance by singer Andrea Menard and words from the president of the Métis association.

"During the event we also honour the people who have come to work in our community and who are now leaving," said Smith, describing how those being honoured are presented with a blanket, an important symbol in Aboriginal culture. "There are a lot of tears, and a lot of hugs, and a lot of pride," she said.

"We encourage the people and the children who come to the powwows that it's not just about that day, that they have to continue to live that good life, that they have to feel good about themselves the whole year," Smith said.

Parish rejoices

The faith community at Our Lady of Guadalupe is rejoicing at the recognition of their staff member as an elder, said Mary Jacobi, who serves as Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish with Priest Moderator Fr. Bill Bernard, CSSR.

"I think that it's very important that we have an elder that we turn to; someone that's respected in the community and recognized in the community, so that we get a balanced perspective, a deeper understanding," said Jacobi, describing how the parish leadership team relies on Weenie's wisdom and cultural knowledge.



Gayle Weenie (right) was called forward by elders Mary Lee (left) and Alma Kytwayhat at the annual Pleasant Hill community powwow.

Photo submitted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

"We have many elders in our community, but for us, this is very special and important. Gayle understands and lives out both her Cree culture and her Catholic faith, and her leadership is so important," said Jacobi. "Elders are people who are respected. Just as in Gayle's case, elders have years of experience and wisdom. She has that in both living her culture and her faith. This just enriches us and our whole experience at Guadalupe."

Jacobi added: "I do believe God is calling her to this. The Spirit is calling her."

Humbling experience

To be recognized as an elder was a "very humbling experience," said Weenie, noting the two elders who called her forth at the powwow have been her own mentors and guides, along with Alma's late husband Simon Kytwayhat.

"I do respect the elders, I always have," said Weenie, who was born on the Sweetgrass reserve west of Battleford. "I grew up on my reserve with lots of elders: my grandparents on both sides, on my mother's side and my father's side. They were the cultural teachers, especially my dad's mother. She was the one who always did feasts, and gathered her plants, and talked about the teachings."

Being an elder is not something a person works toward or aspires to, she says of the call to serve the community in this way. "I was always getting this knowledge from the elders and they shared it willingly. I was always listening. I tried to learn for myself. I never thought I would become an elder. You know when you are growing up, and as you go through the years, your aim is not to be an elder, because that's not up to me," she explained.

"When you are an elder there is a certain responsibility. You have to share the teachings of the culture and to be humble and to be respectful," Weenie said.

"One of my elders told me one time that we never know everything, and he said 'I am learning.' I am always learning from my colleagues, my peers. You know, we don't ever understand everything," she said.

"I'm just going to keep on doing what I've been doing, to keep on learning, to help out wherever I can, and to promote an understanding of my culture, my Cree traditions. That is my background, the Plains Cree

... I have to keep those teachings and to always share them the way I was taught: not any more and not any less. That's what I hope to do. I hope I never embarrass myself or anybody, because I want to do the right thing."

Integrating culture and faith

For Weenie, her Catholic faith is also a part of her walk, and she works to promote understanding between her Cree culture and her Catholic faith.

"I was brought up Catholic and I also believe in the Church and I will never give that up," she said. "When the late Pope John Paul II came to North America he encouraged the First Nations people to use their culture, their languages to pray and to worship and to maintain our traditions. For me it meant, yes, God gave us our language, our culture to use within the Church."

"When I go to Mass on Sundays... I don't separate myself: I incorporate the two and I am worshipping the one God. Also, when I am doing other things – when I go to a sweat, when I go to a feast – I am worshipping the same God, I'm praying to the same God," she said.

"I have a foot in each world, and I'm lucky because I was brought up Catholic, and along the way, I learned my culture. I've always walked that path," she said, recalling the strong Catholic faith of her mother coexisting with the cultural teachings of her grandparents. "I have always felt comfortable in both worlds. For that I feel blessed."

Work in the community

A recent experience assisting in a new Cree translation of the Gospel of Mark also involved integrating both worlds. "When I started doing the language translations I was thinking especially about my Father, who was punished for speaking his language. He was kind of bitter about it and he never dealt with it. I thought about him when I was offered to work to translate the Bible and I thought this is like coming full circle," said Weenie.

The Catholic Aboriginal Lay Formation program is another example of the integration and the healing that Weenie has encountered in her life and ministry. She was a member of a planning committee from the dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin-Le Pas that developed the program, offered over two years alongside a diocesan and an eparchial program at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

"I don't think people realize that it's the first of its kind in Canada. Again, it's sharing the Cree culture and sharing the Catholic faith, and it includes looking at how you incorporate some of the cultural aspects into the Church. It's a slow process," she said.

"Some of our own people are not ready for that... but you don't stop just because some people are not ready, or you never get anywhere. It's okay to walk that path. And if you're not sure, you pray about it."

Serving in Our Lady of Guadalupe parish is also a slow process of walking with others, and working for healing, she added. "It involves healing, understanding, patience and working with an openness, being open to the needs of our community. It's not just one person. You have to be together."

She recalled the inspiration she received from the late Verna Vandale, her friend and colleague who served as Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe for many years, and was instrumental in the faith community receiving recognition as a fully-fledged parish.

"Verna always had that hope and dream that First Nations people would walk with other cultures in the Church and that our culture would be accepted. When things don't go the way I think they should, I always think about her and how hard she worked to promote that."

Weenie also expressed appreciation for the present parish team, including Jacobi and the Redemptorist priests who serve the parish, including Fr. Bill Bernard and Fr. Babu Mathew. "We've always been lucky with the priests we have here. They have always been willing to work with us and the other directors who have been there. They planted the seed."

Walking together is the key, said Weenie. "That's what it's going to take: working together. It's not just First Nations or white people who have all the answers. We have to work together to find answers."

In the meantime, being introduced as "Elder Gayle" will take some getting used to, she admits, expressing a hope that she will always live up to the challenge of the role.

"I always pray, I seek the advice of my mentors, there is always someone to guide me. And I'm still learning: God isn't finished with me yet."



Gospel of Mark published in Plains Cree

Ruth Heeg of the Canadian Bible Society, and Meg Billingsley, of Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, stand with those who are working on a new translation of the Bible into Plains Cree: Gayle Weenie, Ethel Aheneke, Rev. Stan Cuthand, and Dolores Sand (l-r). An initial publication of the Gospel of Mark was launched May 19 at Queen's House in Saskatoon. The publication includes an audio CD of Mark's gospel read in Cree by Dolores Sand of Muskeg Lake. (For more on this story see the website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

Photo submitted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Lay Formation graduates sent forth by bishop

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty graduates of the diocesan Lay Formation program were sent forth by Bishop Donald Bolen June 5, during a joyful missioning celebration held at St. Anne's parish in Saskatoon.

The group has journeyed together for two years in monthly weekend gatherings held at Queen's House in a program designed to help adult Catholics deepen their baptismal commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus.

The diocesan program provides faith education and learning, an ongoing focus on prayer, and an experience of Christian community.

Lay Formation coordinators Mona Goodman and Kathy Hitchings introduced this year's graduates during the celebration, which included a renewal of baptismal promises and Bishop Bolen anointing each graduate.

"You are sent forth with the gifts you have received from God, to be Christ's presence for others," Bolen said in his homily for the feast of *Corpus Christi* (Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus).

Recounting a scene from a movie about martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero, the bishop encouraged graduates to continue to find connections between Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and the Body of Christ in the world.

"Go out with a mind and heart to find the Lord in the suffering ... whether that is in the cancer wards or the prison cells; whether that's on the streets or in places of despair and abandonment in our own households," Bolen said.

"Know that the Lord is with you as you go into places of darkness, places of struggle.



Lay Formation graduates share the light of their candles as they prepare to renew their baptismal promises during a missioning celebration June 5 with Bishop Donald Bolen.

Know that the Lord is with you in the midst of your own brokenness and the brokenness that you encounter. Know that the Lord accompanies you and invites you to be a bearer of light in all places of darkness and suffering," he said.

During a wind-up celebration that weekend, Theresa Winterhalt gave the valedictory address.

"How fitting that we graduate on the feast of *Corpus Christi*. We are the body of Christ — his hands, his feet," Winterhalt said, referring to the gospel reading about the loaves and the fishes.

"This story sums up Lay Formation for me. I was blessed and broken, as we all were, and became food for each other, with plenty left over for our whole lives that exist outside this 'lover's garden.' I wonder how many baskets of leftovers will be

collected when we are done?"

Winterhalt shared reflections from other graduates:

"Lay Formation gave me a taste of the richness of my faith; the tools to decide what I am interested in most; the time to search my heart, and the nudge in the back to go forward; to accept my responsibilities as priest, prophet and king, to do my part in building the kingdom here and now," said one program participant.

"I came to Lay Formation to learn more about the Bible, but what I found was love, support, caring and genuine concern for one another," said another graduate.

One participant said: "what I appreciated the most about this whole experience was the great privilege of journeying for two years with a group of people who

encouraged and inspired me through the ups and downs of my life that I brought to each weekend."

The June 2010 graduating class was a diocesan-only stream, with participants coming only from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. In alternate years the Lay Formation program offered in Saskatoon also includes participants in an eparchial Ukrainian Catholic stream and an Aboriginal Catholic stream supported by three dioceses (Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin Le-Pas).

Participants in the three streams of Lay Formation are together for shared Catholic faith formation. At other times, the three groups separate in order to delve more deeply into their own particular traditions and spirituality.

The 2010 graduates include:

- **Francine Audy, Monica Beavis** and **Maria Villones**, St. Paul's Cathedral, Saskatoon;
- **Marge Copeland** and **Patrice Harelkin**, St. Peter the Apostle, Saskatoon;
- **Bernard Hamoline**, St. Philippe Neri, Vonda;
- **Shirley Hyshka** and **Mary-Anne Kuin**, Holy Spirit, Saskatoon;
- **Jenny Irwin**, St. Augustine, Humboldt;
- **Wayne Kzyzyk**, St. Anne, Saskatoon;
- **Colette Moyen**, St. Front;
- **Margaret Odelein**, St. Catherine, Quill Lake;
- **Don Pion**, Our Lady of Lourdes, Saskatoon;
- **Marion Sigstad**, Christ the King, Rose Valley;
- **Cathy Swarbrick**, Holy Family, Saskatoon;
- **Simone Swayze**, St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon;
- **Cindy Weekes** and **Edward Young**, St. Gabriel, Biggar;
- **Theresa Winterhalt**, St. John Bosco, Saskatoon;
- **Helen Zimmer**, St. Joseph, Saskatoon.

The Lay Formation program team includes Mona Goodman, Kathy and Ivan Hitchings, Carol Kohnke, Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki, Sr. Marijka Konderevich, Ann LaFleur, Agnes Pelletier, Leah Perrault, George Rolheiser, Irene Sharp and Henry Spilchuk.

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

Lay Formation is one of the many ministries in the diocese of Saskatoon that are supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Longtime Parish Life Director Verna Vandale remembered for love and perseverance

Local faith leader Verna Vandale died July 9, 2010 at the age of 62 years, after a battle with cancer. Her funeral was held July 14 at Gordons First Nation, where she was born Aug. 10, 1947.

Vandale was a longtime Parish Life Director of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, which serves First Nations, Métis, aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in the city's core neighbourhood.

During her time as a leader on the pastoral team, she was instrumental in working to have the Guadalupe House faith community declared a full-fledged parish in February 2007.

Vandale's love for both her aboriginal culture and her Catholic faith was described during a prayer vigil July 12 at St. Mary's church in Saskatoon, where she was remembered as a mother, grandmother, friend, and spiritual leader. Her leadership skills, perseverance, pastoral caring, and love of Jesus were described by family members, friends and colleagues.



Verna Vandale died July 9. During her time as leader, Our Lady of Guadalupe was recognized as a full-fledged parish.

Office works to support marriage and family life

BY BLAKE SITTLER

The diocesan office of Marriage and Family Life is continually striving to develop new plans to support spouses and parents in their desire to create a healthy, happy, holy home.

Recent initiatives include:

• **Miscarriage Ministry:** Our faith informs our recognition of life beginning at conception. When a couple loses a baby to miscarriage we mourn deeply because we have lost a child. A committee headed by Shannon Granger is developing resources for parishes and pastors to help people mark the death of a miscarried child.

• **Widow Ministry:** Starting Nov. 17, the diocese of Saskatoon began a support group for persons whose spouse has died. The group meets from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Edwards Family Centre, 333 4th Avenue N, Saskatoon. Drop-ins are welcome and there is no charge.

• **Marriage Task Force:** The diocesan task force recently welcomed new members: the Farthings, the Trumpys, and the Hartmans. Issues that the Marriage Task Force will be studying this year

include high school education and formation around the pitfalls of living together before marriage; and improving marriage preparation. The task force is working on the creation of a pilot "Engagement Discernment" weekend to help young couples decide if they are being called to pop the question.

• **Marriage Appreciation:** For nearly 10 years, Saskatoon has hosted the Annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet. This spring event will continue, and marriage enrichment events are also being promoted in the eastern and western parts of the diocese, including a marriage talk at a lounge in Kindersley in October and a Marriage Appreciation Banquet in Wadena in February 2011.

If you have any insights or ideas for issues you'd like to see the Office of Marriage and Family Life address, please contact Blake Sittler at the Catholic Centre (306) 242-1500, Ext 229, or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Ext 229.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is one of many ministries in the diocese of Saskatoon supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Foundations offerings “Exploring Our Faith”

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

This fall, diocesan Foundations: “Exploring Our Faith” adult enrichment programs have included a session about Johnny Cash at a local lounge, as well as a four-part series on scripture held at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

In addition to some 20 Foundations sessions offered by parishes and organizations this fall, the diocesan office coordinated by Marci Deutscher again offered “*Theology Uncorked*” in a more casual, conversational setting. The Oct. 28 session at The Ivy in Saskatoon featured speaker Blake Sittler exploring the *Theology of Johnny Cash*.

The presentation included information and discussion about Cash’s life and music; excerpts from the Cash television show archives and other recorded performances; as well as a live performance by Wayne Hackl of the Kris Kristoferson song “*Sunday Morning Coming Down*,” which epitomizes periods of Cash’s life.

Growing up, Cash experienced fear and hardships, including the tragic death of his beloved older brother, Sittler described. He pursued a career in music and found success, but was dogged by alcohol and drug addictions, had a failed marriage, and struggled to overcome isolation

and despair. Yet, at the end of his life, Cash was not a prophet of cynicism or regret, but of gratitude, said Sittler.

He described how the scriptures took hold of Cash’s life, particularly in his concern for the marginalized and forgotten, including men in prison. Lessons from Cash’s life include that “we are created not for fear but for love,” the dignity of every human person and the value of community; and the triumph of life over death, Sittler said, using the singer’s biography and his songs to explore each of these lessons in more depth.

Following other successful scripture series in recent years, the diocesan Foundations: “Exploring Our Faith” office this fall presented *Praying the Psalms* with facilitator Gisele Bauche Sept. 29, Nov. 1 and Nov. 22. The final session in this series will be presented 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6 at Bishop Mahoney Hall at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Saskatoon. All are welcome to attend, pre-registration is not required. There is a free-will offering at the door.

The Foundations: “Exploring Our Faith” office has a wide selection of speakers and topics for parishes to choose from. Contact Marci Deutscher at the Catholic Centre for more information: 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.



Foundations “Praying the Psalms” with Gisele Bauche concludes 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6. For coverage of Bauche’s first session, see the news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

One pastor with multiple parishes: how does this affect Christian Initiation?



**Diocesan Director of Christian Initiation
Fr. Michael Koch**

BY FR. MICHAEL KOCH, DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

How is Christian Initiation (RCIA) accomplished in a situation where there is one pastor serving multiple churches?

This situation was tackled at a Consultation of RCIA Ministers Oct. 13-15 at the Spiritual Renewal Center at Albuquerque, New Mexico. This consultation was called by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. The 25 invited participants included persons from the Forum, one bishop, priests working both at diocesan and parish levels, parish RCIA coordinators, theologians, liturgists, catechists and Parish Life Directors. The consultation consisted of 23 Americans and two Canadians, myself and Myrna Wolfe of Saskatoon.

The consultation was led by Mark Mogilka and Kathleen Wiskus, the authors of *Pastoring Multiple Parishes*.

Almost one half of parishes in the United States are in this situation of one pastor caring for multiple churches. The main cause for this

situation is a lack of priests. This situation, of course, is not new in our diocese. From our earliest days, we have had the situation of one priest serving a number of churches. While Canon 526 gives the ideal “one pastor - one parish,” in many situations this ideal is not possible.

The goal of the consultation included:

- Gathering varieties of experiences of linked/clustered parishes and their impact on implementation of adult initiation (RCIA);
 - Clarifying challenges and opportunities for RCIA in these settings;
 - Developing initial ideas for best practices and formation of pastoral ministers in these settings;
 - Encouraging and supporting one another.
- Mogilka and Wiskus categorized the various practices in clustered parishes across the United States and Canada into six models:
1. Separated parishes but coordinated
 2. Separated parishes - one pastor and local leadership
 3. Separated parishes - one pastor
 4. One pastor - centralized team & council
 5. Merged parish
 6. New central church built and closed others.

- In the consultation we explored how these six models impacted on the RCIA ministry.
- How do you celebrate liturgies and rites in these situations: the Triduum for example? How do you provide the catechetical component? As participants looked at the various practices, we tried to consolidate the best ones.

I found this consultation very valuable because it gave me a picture of what is going on in RCIA in multiple parish situations. It is valuable to know which of the six models are operating in our diocese and to tailor-make Christian Initiation to fit these situations as we further develop RCIA in our diocese.

If you wish to explore this situation in more detail, read “*Pastoring Multiple Churches*” by Mark Mogilka and Kate Wiskus.

Eastern and western churches remain divided about date of Easter

BY NICHOLAS JESSON

DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL OFFICER

On April 24, 2011 we will celebrate Easter together in the Eastern and Western calendars. This happens occasionally, and it can always be a moment of great ecumenical opportunity.

However, it also reflects one of the deepest divisions in the Body of Christ. Easter, as the celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is at the heart of our Christian faith. The division over the date of Easter is a visible sign of division within a more profound unity, and thus is scandalous.

The difference between East and West reflects the choice between two different calendars, the Julian and the Gregorian. The Julian calendar, developed by Julius Caesar, is the basis for the entire Christian calendar. As Christianity grew outside of the Jewish homeland the Greek Christians used the Roman calendar based on solar observations rather than the lunar calendar of Judaism. The Julian calendar provided a more accurate account of the year, and allowed for greater precision in predicting seasons, harvests, and spring rains. The early church did not make this transition easily, with numerous factions defending each of the two calendars. As a result, Easter was celebrated at different times across the Christian world.

The Council of Nicaea in AD 325 was called to address disputes within the Christian churches that set Christians against each other. Along with its very important work on the divinity of Jesus, Nicaea also offered an important development in the Christian calendar. Nicaea determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the Sunday that follows the first full moon after the spring equinox. This decision blends the solar and lunar calculations of the Roman and Jewish calendars, and is seen by historians and theologians as an acceptance of further adoption of Greek and Roman philosophy, science, and wisdom within a Judeo-Christian system of belief and life.

Unfortunately, the Julian calendar is not as accurate as hoped. By the time of Pope Gregory XIII in the late 1500s, the calendar was 10 days off from astronomical observations. Gregory reformed the calendar by removing the dates Oct. 5-14, 1582, and by modifying the leap years. Although it was a small reform, it set the Catholic countries in Europe apart from their Protestant neighbours and from the Eastern Orthodox churches. Gradually all of Europe adopted the reform, and much of the rest of the world now uses the calendar, but Eastern

churches still use the Julian calendar for calculating the church calendar. In Canada this is most obvious at Christmas and Easter when the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches have later celebrations.

Vatican II said that agreement between the churches on the date of Easter should be a priority, and that a new system of calculating the date would be acceptable as long as it was a consensus of the Christian churches. Proposals for a fixed date of Easter, such as the second Sunday of April, were rejected by a number of churches, because of the difficulty in reaching a consensus.

More recently a proposal has been developed in the Middle East that was adopted by an international consultation in 1997 at Aleppo, Syria. The new proposal is that the calculations of Nicaea be followed carefully, but that the date of the spring equinox should not be fixed on March 21. Astronomical observations are to be used, and the actual date of the equinox will be determined scientifically. The Nicene formula can then be followed.

In much of the discussion of this proposed agreement since 1997 a comparison of the projected dates of Easter plays an important part. The projected dates for the Western church would only change a few times in the next 50 years, while the dates for the East would change almost every year. This appears to place a greater burden of change on the East. However, the change that is asked of the East is actually a more precise application of the Nicene formula, which is not a difficult change to make.

There is one other change that is also reflected in the



**Ecumenical Officer
Nicholas Jesson**

proposed agreement. In 325, the bishops ruled that when Easter falls on the Jewish Passover, Easter is postponed by a week. This remains the firm practice in the Eastern churches, but not in the West. In the Western liturgical tradition the Last Supper is understood as a Passover meal (as described in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The Eastern tradition does not make a direct connection between Passover and the Last Supper (following the gospel of John), and thus not between Passover and the Eucharist or Easter. This difference between the Eastern and Western traditions touches upon a number of Western doctrines, particularly how we understand the connection between the sacraments and salvation, and between the death and resurrection of Jesus and salvation.

The Eucharist is the most obvious connection for Western churches between Easter and Passover. In Western sacramental theology, there is a strong tendency to view the Eucharist as a sharing in the Passover and therefore a sharing in the covenantal promises of Israel and the spiritual gift of salvation. Other sacraments are related in a similar fashion. For the Eastern churches, however, the sacraments are a sharing in the divine life of the Trinity. They lead to salvation because they transform us into the image and likeness of God.

In the Western church, since Easter is about sharing in the Passover, the emphasis is placed on the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is understood as Jesus’ own Passover from death into life.

In the East, greater emphasis is placed on Jesus’ whole life, and particularly on the doctrine of the incarnation. The incarnation unites the human and divine natures in the person of Jesus, and thus makes possible our sharing in the divine nature through the sacraments and other spiritual disciplines. The Western idea of vicarious atonement, that remains popular in certain Evangelical circles, is simply inconsistent with the Eastern understanding of Easter.

The 1997 Aleppo agreement on the date of Easter has not been formally adopted by any church. No church wants to introduce new divisions by adopting a system without universal agreement. But how is such an agreement to be enacted? The opportunity to celebrate together in 2011 gives us an encouragement to continue working on this important sign of the unity given to us in Christ.

Study Days in the diocese:

Liturgy changes call for spirit of unity, says speaker

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A loving spirit of unity is called for when it comes to the implementation of a new English translation of prayers and instructions for celebrating Mass, the director of the national liturgy office said during diocesan Study Days Oct. 20-21 in Saskatoon.

Rev. Bill Burke called on pastoral leaders to set aside any annoyance and frustration with parts of the new translation to examine the document as a whole, to try to appreciate all that it does have to offer, and then to help the faithful understand the changes.

"The nature of the General Instruction goes way beyond rubrics. It's the doctrinal, pastoral context in which the rubrics are being enacted and it reminds us of the challenges," he said, stressing the liturgy is about a meaning that goes "way beyond the use of words."

The new translation of the Roman Missal and its revised General Instruction is being implemented in all the English-speaking countries of the world, with different national groups at different stages in the process, reported Burke, who is director of liturgy for the office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB).

"There are 11 different English-speaking conferences," he said. "Each one has to submit their text to Rome for

approval for that country."

While the American documents are now approved and published, the Canadian bishops are still waiting a response from Rome about several requested adaptations, said Burke. Until the final version is certain, the CCCC cannot move forward with implementation, he said, noting that since Canada is a bilingual country, the bishops had to arrive at one set of adaptations for both French and English translations.

"We will likely be a few months behind the Americans," said Burke, reporting that the USCCB has set the date of implementation for the Church in the United States as the start of Advent 2011.

Burke said resources for explaining and reflecting upon the changes, and on the liturgy as a whole, are being prepared by the CCCC to assist in implementation of the new missal and General Instruction, along with new musical settings of parts of the Mass, such as The Gloria.

Burke began his presentation by asking



Rev. Bill Burke,
Director of
national liturgy
office for CCCC

parish representatives and ministry coordinators from across the diocese to examine the value of "this awesome gift of the Eucharist in your lives."

Acknowledging that there is a diversity of opinions and theologies in the faith community, Burke stressed the need for keeping a respectful perspective. "Every one of us is here because we profoundly love this sacrament. That's the bottom line."

In today's culture of individualism, some question why a General Instruction is needed at all, said Burke, noting that many Catholics do not know or understand the traditions of their faith, something which pastors encounter when meeting families seeking a wedding or a funeral.

"The need for ritual is coded into our DNA as human beings. It's part of who we are, and how God made us," he said, describing how this hunger for ritual can be seen in the impromptu roadside shrines that spring up after an accident or death.

But the liturgy goes far beyond such rituals, Burke said, noting how through the ages the Church has treasured and guided the celebration of the Eucharist. "Through the liturgy we are incorporated more deeply into the very life of the Trinity, the life of deeper love, the life that is eternal, and a glory, that in the words of St Paul, goes way beyond anything we can ever imagine," he said.

"We don't go looking for new meanings. We don't invent the mystery of faith; we don't invent the gift of the Eucharistic liturgy... We receive it, we celebrate it and we pass it on," he said.

The new document emphasizes transcendence and a sense of the sacred. Instructions about the use of silence at certain points in the liturgy; more references to the action of the Holy Spirit; an expanded section on the Liturgy of the Word in the celebration of Mass; and notes about posture at different points in the Eucharistic celebration were explored in Burke's presentation.

The General Instruction also emphasizes the need for unity, Burke said. The document addresses questions of posture, for instance, with the goal of having uniformity of posture among the assembly within a celebration.

"The General Instruction talks about reverence expressed in kneeling, in standing, in sitting, in quiet meditation, in participating in the gospel acclamation," Burke said. "It has a whole variety of gestures and postures that express reverence, that are appropriate to the particular moment of the celebration."

As part of his presentation, Burke presented examples of rubrics from the General Instruction, encouraging his listeners to try and determine the value that a particular rubric attempts to protect. He noted that some rubrics will be clear and accepted by all, while others are less clear, and will raise questions and disagreements.

"There is going to be not only discussion, there is going to be some disagreement," he said, adding that some of the issues raised in this document will undoubtedly be addressed in some future round of changes. "This is not a new situation ... it's been like that throughout the history of the Church."

Burke also explored prayers and passages from the new translation. He invited observations and discussion about some of the changes, and stressed the need for good catechesis, homilies and explanations as the new translation is implemented.

"We are going to find a diversity of reaction to these prayers," predicted Burke, noting the extremes being heard on the "blogosphere" about the new translation and the General Instruction, suggesting that those on both sides are misreading the document. "There has to be a much more respectful dialogue."

There is great richness in the new translation, added Burke, noting how portions of the translation that at first felt awkward, he now finds profound. And in the end, the "sacrament of unity" is about more than words, it is about redemption, he concluded.

In closing remarks, Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen also emphasized a need to preserve unity. "The Church has invited us to have love, charity, and Christian discipleship at the heart of the way in which we engage in this process," said Bolen. "Unity itself is a precious gift."



Parish representatives and ministry leaders from across the diocese gathered for the Study Days discussion on liturgy Oct. 20-21 in Saskatoon.

GSCS opening institute: Catholic schools called to "Reach Out to Transform the World"

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

"Reaching Out to Transform the World" was the theme of an opening day institute for some 1,500 staff and board members of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools division Aug. 27. It will also be the focus of activities, events and reflections in the upcoming school year.

This is the final part of the Catholic school division's vision statement launched in 2007, which states "*Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World.*"

Pointing to Jesus Christ as the source of the transformative vision, GSCS Director of Education Bev Hanson said: "We are called to teach our students not only to invest in their own lives but to reach out and show care and compassion for the lives of others and the entire community."

Such outreach and transformation is already happening in Catholic schools, Hanson said in introducing a video presentation highlighting recent examples of outreach, justice and peace, charity, and community projects in many of the district's 44 schools, located in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar, and Viscount.

A key part of Catholic education is its focus on social justice and on empowering students to reach out and make a difference for others, said GSCS board chair Diane Boyko in her address to staff after an opening Mass at Circle Drive Alliance Church in Saskatoon with Bishop Don Bolen and Bishop Bryan Bayda.

Advocating for Catholic education is more important than ever before, Boyko said.

"Parents and families are choosing our schools because they desire a Catholic, faith-based education for their children. We must be sure to continue to tell our community what makes us a distinctive part of this province's educational landscape."

Boyko reported that renovations are continuing at E.D. Feehan Catholic high school, the contract has been awarded for construction of St. Mary Community School in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood, and the walls are going up at Humboldt Collegiate Institute, which involves GSCS working in partnership with Horizon public school division, Carlton Trail Regional College and the Humboldt Uniplex.

"We are continuing planning for our newest elementary school: Holy Family Catholic School in Willowgrove," she said. "For this project we are once again partnering with the city of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Public Schools. Two schools will be on the same site. But make no mistake, Holy Family will be a Catholic school through and through."

She noted that Catholic identity has been preserved and strengthened at Bethlehem Catholic High School, which also shares a site with a Saskatoon public high school and a city of Saskatoon facility.

"Stewardship also includes the goal of nurturing and developing God's people, and that includes you, all of our



Bishop Don Bolen gave the homily at the GSCS opening Mass Aug. 27 in Saskatoon.

staff. Part of that goal includes supporting your faith development," Boyko told staff.

Locally-created booklets entitled: *Understanding Catholic Education* were distributed to all staff in recent years as one way to deepen faith and understanding, she noted. This year's edition explores seven Catholic social justice teachings as part of the year's theme "*Reaching Out To Transform the World.*"

Later in the day, keynote speaker David Wells of the diocese of Plymouth, England inspired staff to reexamine their lives and work to make sure they are not missing the point. With humour and anecdotes, Wells encouraged GSCS staff to reconnect with what is truly important in life and in their calling.

For more about this event and other GSCS news, visit: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Variety of activities at parishes of Outlook deanery

Parishes in the Outlook Deanery have a strong sense of community, say the two pastors serving clusters in the deanery.

"This is a good place to live," says **Fr. Joseph Gyim-Austin, pastor of parishes at Davidson, Kenaston, Outlook and Elbow.** "The people are very welcoming. They are happy with their community."

In the warmer part of the year, Fr. Steve Ripplinger provides Mass at **Holy Redeemer parish in Elbow**, but during the winter months, that parish becomes part of the rotation that sees three of the parishes celebrating Eucharist with Fr. Gyim-Austin on the weekend, and one parish celebrating a lay-led Sunday Liturgy of the Word.

"Each of the four parishes are unique in different areas, each is special in their own rights," says Gyim-Austin, who is originally from Ghana and who came to the diocese of Saskatoon two years ago. He says he has enjoyed getting to know the people. A recent visit to see the workings of a local farm was extremely interesting, he adds.

Recent activities at **Sacred Heart in Davidson** have included breakfasts hosted by the Catholic Women's League Oct. 3 and the Knights of Columbus Oct. 31. The Sacred Heart parish fall supper was held Nov. 7.

The Knights of Columbus will host a conference in Davidson, Dec. 4, with the Mass time changed to Saturday at 5 p.m. for that occasion. Organizers were seeking billets to provide lodging for out of town guests.

St. Andrew's parish in Kenaston recently completed repairs on the roof, with the church bell re-installed and ringing out Oct. 10. The parish was involved in the community's July 3-4 centennial celebration this summer, participating in an ecumenical service, and hosting an open house with church tours.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Outlook held a welcoming social Oct. 16, for new parishioners, newly-baptized and soon-to-be-baptized babies and their families, and students attending Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute,



Fr. Joseph Gyim-Austin



Fr. Pius Schroh

workshop about RCIA. Upcoming events include a Christmas Social Dec. 5. More information about Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook can be found on their website: ihmcc.webs.com

Fr. Pius Schroh, pastor at Rosetown, Elrose and Beechy, reports a number of activities and initiatives happening in his three parishes.

A new faith formation group has started at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Elrose, he said. The parish also has a new volunteer youth coordinator, Ashley Willmek.

Elrose will host a Blue Christmas event for those who are grieving and find Christmas to be a difficult season.

This fall, **St. Theresa parish at Beechy** again held its annual 'Chicken Bingo,' a community event started by volunteer Celina Flynn as a fundraiser for the parish.

At **St. Theresa parish in Rosetown**, the Catholic Women's League is preparing to celebrate its 85th anniversary next year, Schroh reported.

This summer the parish at Rosetown held a parish picnic. A Ladies' Night was held last year at which Schroh and seminarian Greg Roth were the chef and sous chef, and men of the parish dressed in tuxedos and white gloves to serve the women who attended the event. An Italian Night is now being planned for the New Year, organized by Flo Jerome and Linda Diemert.

There are a number of events planned at the parish in Rosetown for Advent, he noted, including an ecumenical

a residential high school located in the community.

Oct. 23, the parish in Outlook hosted a deanery "Town Hall" meeting with diocesan youth leaders, to hear more about the "Steps in Faith" program for youth in Grades 6-8 (see article on Page 11).

Immaculate Heart of Mary of Outlook presented a diocesan Foundations session on "Eucharist and the Saskatchewan Soul" with Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, Oct. 20. The parish took part in a food drive for Outlook and District Food Bank Nov. 7. Also on Nov. 7, Fr. Michael Koch offered an afternoon

Meet the Deanery: **OUTLOOK**



The Outlook Deanery runs along the south of the diocese of Saskatoon. Parishes in the deanery are grouped into two parish clusters: Outlook, Elbow, Davidson and Kenaston to the east, and across the river to the west, Rosetown, Beechy and Elrose. In recent years, parishes at Milden, Forgan and Kyle have closed, with those parishioners becoming part of nearby faith communities.

Taizé prayer service Dec. 8, featuring youth from all the different churches in the community, organized in conjunction with the Rosetown Ministerial Association.

Another ecumenical event is an annual Blue Christmas service hosted this year by the United Church in Rosetown, for those who find the Christmas season a difficult time.

To mark the Feast of St. Nicholas, a celebration is planned Dec. 5 at St. Theresa parish in Rosetown, featuring a visit from St. Nicholas. "There will be horse drawn sleigh rides, caroling, and hot chocolate," said Schroh.

The parishes at Elrose, Beechy and Rosetown are organizing a family Face to Face Retreat in Rosetown April 9-10. This will also serve as a retreat for those children preparing to receive the sacraments of confirmation and communion, he noted. All are welcome to attend the retreat. For more information contact Barb Charpentier at (306) 882-3398. - KLY

Youth ministry leaders visit deaneries to discuss Steps in Faith: a faith growth and affirmation process for youth in Grades 6-8

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

In a series of "town hall" meetings across the diocese this fall, diocesan youth ministry leaders suggested ways in which to offer *Steps in Faith* to youth in Grades 6-8.

Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne, and Diocesan Youth Retreat Team/Vocations coordinator Myron Rogal visited six of the seven deaneries in the past few weeks to talk about the vision for the *Steps in Faith* process. (A storm caused the cancellation of the Rural Saskatoon Deanery gathering at Martensville, which is to be rescheduled.)

One goal of the town hall

meetings was to connect with people concerned about youth in the parishes, as well as to explore possibilities around implementing the diocesan *Steps in Faith* process, Leyne explained.

"The goal was to motivate, inspire, and encourage" he said, adding this motivation and encouragement went both ways.

"Myron and I constantly on the drive home were always sharing glory stories of the way God is moving in our diocese," he said. "The turnout was simply amazing for deaneries big and small."

It was especially heartening to see youth attend some of the deanery sessions along with

COMPONENTS OF STEPS IN FAITH PROCESS:

- Learning - focused on the Creed
- Service
- Retreat experience
- Public affirmation of faith in parish at Grade 8

parents and parish ministry leaders, said Rogal.

Some parishes have already started *Steps in Faith*, but for others, the idea is still new.

Steps in Faith was initiated when the diocese restored the Order of Initiation Sacraments several years ago. An earlier age for confirmation highlighted the issue of lifelong and ongoing faith formation. *Steps in Faith* was envisioned as a way to help young people deepen their understanding and commitment to their faith.

Grade 8 was identified as an important developmental moment in the lives of many young people, and so was chosen as a time when youth could make a public affirmation of faith within their parish community.

In preparation for that affirmation in Grade 8, *Steps in Faith* includes catechesis focusing on the Creed, service involving families and communities, and a retreat experience of prayer and reflection.

Leyne and Rogal stressed the flexibility of the vision for *Steps in Faith*.

"*Steps in Faith* is not really any set program, but more like a process to grow and to guide, to walk with and affirm these youth – to develop faith, to find a way for them to say yes to God," Leyne said at the Outlook deanery gathering Oct. 13.

Within the four components of the process – catechesis, service, a retreat and a public affirmation of faith – there is room for parishes to introduce *Steps in Faith* in ways that makes sense for their individual situations, Leyne stressed. In some cases it may mean simply adapting or

deepening an existing youth ministry, in other situations, parishes are creating three-year programs for Grade 6-8 youth that will culminate in the reaffirmation of faith in Grade 8.

A variety of resources are available to assist in exploring the Creed with youth or to help parishes plan sessions, Leyne said. As well, the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team will be available to conduct *Steps in Faith* retreats in the deaneries, described Rogal.

Grades 6 to 8 youth from across the diocese will also be invited to attend a diocesan youth rally Saturday, April 30 in Saskatoon, featuring keynote speaker Michael Chiasson of "All Access Ministries." Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen will also attend the rally.

Youth Ministry and the Retreat Team are supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Myron Rogal and Colm Leyne discuss Steps in Faith at Outlook.

STEPS IN FAITH
THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

Diocesan Youth Rally

Grades 6-8

Saturday, April 30

Keynote speaker:

Michael Chiasson of "All Access Ministries."

Be prepared for a moving testimony, lots of laughs and games, inspiring worship, and a relevant message!

Watch for more info from the diocesan Youth Ministry office:
242-1500 or toll free 1-877-6001-5005;
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry
or twitter: ymosaskatoon

Volunteers reflect on challenges and joys of teaching catechism

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Across the diocese, dedicated hard-working volunteers are serving as catechists, providing religious education to children in their parish – and at times it seems like an overwhelming task.

Like many communities across the diocese of Saskatoon, the town of Outlook does not have a Catholic school system, and weekly catechism classes at the parish church are a vital part of children's faith formation. In most of these parishes, volunteer catechists must step forward if a program is to be offered at all.

It is a big commitment, and sometimes involves a few challenges along the way. At Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Outlook for instance, parents are expected to help with teaching the program, although for some, even the idea of teaching can be intimidating.

Many worry that they are not knowledgeable enough, or wonder about their ability to present the faith to our children, says Lisa Clark, who along with Kathy Kendrick coordinates the catechism program at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook.

"They are often overwhelmed by even the idea of teaching... but really, each of them have such great gifts to offer," says Clark. "I would encourage all parents to just try it, try to be open to the Holy Spirit. It really is not that difficult. And many, many times people have told me, and I've seen it myself, that this is often the start of other things, and is the beginning of becoming more active in their faith and their Church."

The Outlook catechism program uses catechism materials that the Outlook organizers describe as "user friendly," stressing the importance of simplifying the process to help often-reluctant volunteers take on the task.

Most of the volunteers at Immaculate Heart of Mary are mothers who also work outside the home, although some older youth also assist with the program, and in one case, a couple teaches catechism together. For parents busy with work and coordinating family life, being involved in catechism does take time, requiring some significant sacrifice and extra effort, often on the part of the whole family, notes Clark.

"We struggle to get people involved," she says. "Passing on faith to our children is



Catechists, youth leaders, parents and youth attended a *Steps in Faith* gathering at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Outlook, one of several such gatherings across the diocese this fall (see related article about *Steps in Faith* on Page 10).

so important, but it won't happen if parents don't step forward as volunteers, especially when parishes no longer have a resident priest with time to help with the program."

Rural parishes rely on the diocese to provide assistance and are seeking more help in finding ways to get people involved in their faith and to be willing to step forward as volunteers, she added.

At Outlook, the 45-minute catechism classes are held either before or after Mass on Sundays, depending on the rotating Mass schedule, which sees the time change from month-to-month for the parish, which is one of four served right now by pastor Fr. Joseph Gyim-Austin. Another challenge is the facility, with all the catechism class levels happening in the church basement at the same time, separated only by wall dividers. "It can get pretty noisy."

The groups are somewhat flexible, depending on the numbers of children enrolled each year, and include four levels: kindergarten to Grade 1; Grades 2 and 3; Grades 4 to 6; and Grades 7 to 9.

Co-coordinator Kathy Kendrick creates a schedule at the beginning of the year, and the volunteer catechists sign up for sessions that fit with their family schedule. Some might choose to teach once a month or every six weeks, others might take several turns at once, teaching for a whole month at a time for instance.

"We try to be really flexible," says Clark, noting the rotating system of volunteer catechism teachers was initiated after years of the entire program being

taught by a single person. "We just saw so much burnout from only one person doing this on their own."

Several volunteer catechists in the community were recently asked to reflect on their ministry. One mother, who has taught catechism for six years, explained how she felt she had to step forward because she wanted her own children involved in the program.

"What you teach your kids, they will take with them the rest of their lives," she says.

She adds that she has learned along with the children in the process of teaching and sharing faith. "Really, it's been the best thing... I have become a better, knowledgeable Catholic in so many areas of my life."

Asked what she might say to someone else about taking on this role in a parish, the volunteer says: "It's worth it – you'll see the benefits later, and your kids will remember that you did this."

She adds: "It is very important, it does take time and dedication, but it is worth it."

Maxine Prentice, a longtime volunteer who taught catechism in Outlook for many years off and on from the 1960s to the 1980s, is now teaching her granddaughter. She says that she originally got involved because she felt a responsibility to raise her own children in faith, and felt she could share her teaching skills.

"Although I'd heard many times that faith is caught rather than taught, the passing of faith is vital," says Prentice. She also described the joy of deepening her own spiritual life and coming to a greater understanding of her own faith in the process. "It's most rewarding and satisfying. You can grow in ways you never dreamed possible."

"There is work, but if you put in the effort you will be immensely blessed by God," Prentice adds.

As a parent, Clark says her son's

growth in faith is as important to her as his participation in sports, school and everything else. "That's a focus we make as a family."

Clark stresses the importance of parental enthusiasm, support and participation in their child's faith development, even if parents can't volunteer as a catechist. "If they are enthusiastic about the child going, it makes a huge difference," she says, adding that she sometimes worries about what will happen in the long term with fewer people taking faith seriously in a world that is increasingly disconnected from faith.

"When I think about Pope John Paul II's call for a new evangelization, I realize that if we're not going to evangelize our families and our own children, who are we going to evangelize?"

Children reflect the life of a parish, she notes. "We do really strive to be a parish family," she says of the Outlook faith community. For instance, when children are preparing for sacraments, parishioners will step forward as "prayer partners" to support and pray for each child.

Young people are involved in many ministries at Immaculate Heart of Mary, she adds, noting the parish has a regular Youth Mass at which children and youth provide virtually all the ministries – welcoming, reading, bringing up the gifts, and serving at the altar. Children and youth are thrilled to help, and organizers hope their involvement will deepen their understanding and enthusiasm for their faith into the future.

As well, younger children are offered a Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass, aimed at their level of understanding. The younger children look ahead to see what the older ones are doing, and are excited about the idea of joining catechism when they are old enough, Clark notes.

One highlight of the year is the annual Christmas program, which includes youth sharing their talents, and always features the re-enactment of the nativity story, describes Clark. "It is a big tradition for the community, and is so important to the children."

Outlook is one of the parishes across the diocese that has implemented a diocesan "Steps in Faith" initiative (see related article on Page 10) for youth from Grades 6 to 8, which Kendrick piloted in the parish last year.

The parish also recently introduced a new monthly program for older youth, ages 13 and up, using a Teen Timeline T3 DVD series featuring Mark Hart, "the Bible Geek." With catechism classes ending at Grade 9, there's a real need to do more faith development for teens, says Clark.

"If we don't provide this, there's no where else that they're going to get the formation."

Grief Ministry: Helping Others Mourn

Thursdays: January 13 to March 31, 2011

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Outlook, SK

An 11-week introduction to current insights about the psychological, social and theological aspects of grieving and pastoral ministry. Intended for anyone who cares for those who mourn or volunteers in faith communities and hospitals.

Contact Marci Deutscher at the Catholic Centre (306) 242-1500, ext 222, or toll free: 1-877-661-5005. The cost of the course is \$80/participant.

Confirmation celebrated before first communion - Restoring the order of the sacraments of initiation

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has restored the Order of the Sacraments of Initiation, with children now being confirmed at about age seven, at the same celebration at which they then receive their first Eucharist.

A list of "Questions and Answers" on this subject can be found on the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/ruralcat/restored_order_en.cfm

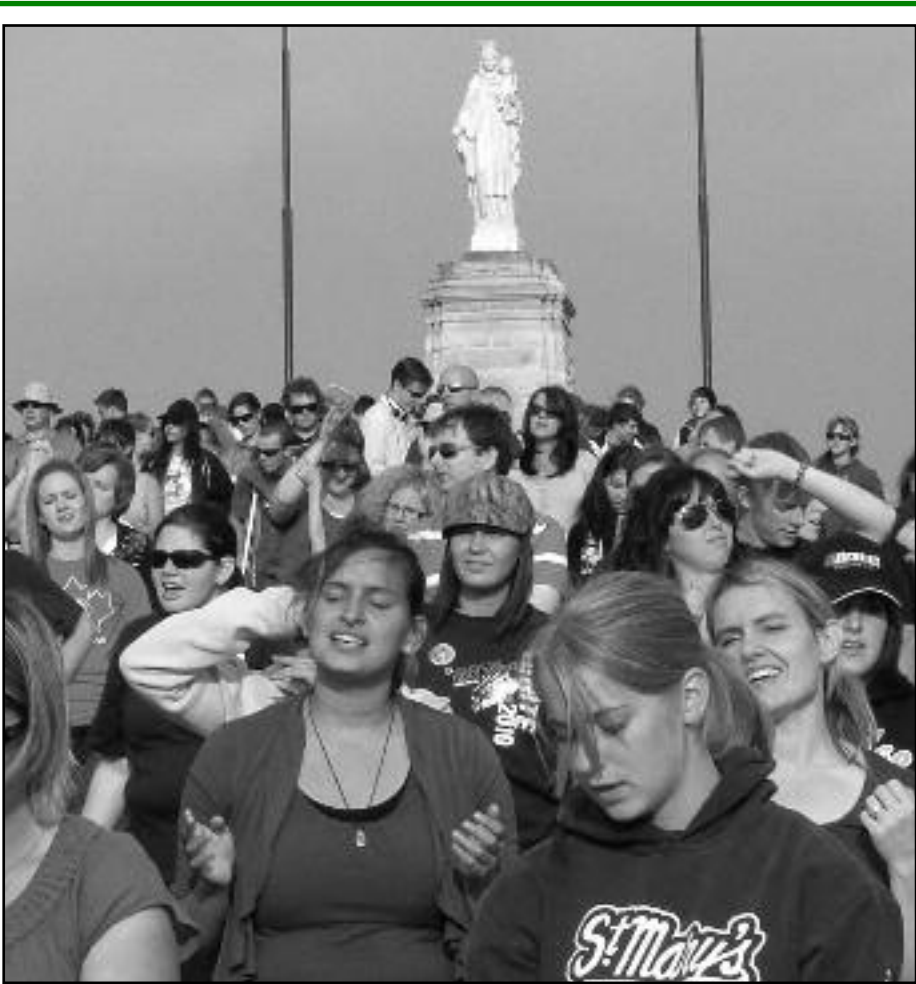
Information from the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops on the order of initiation sacraments is posted at: www.cccb.ca/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2325&Itemid=1172&lang=eng

The diocese of Saskatoon is not the only diocese to make this change, something under discussion in the universal Church for many years. Pope Benedict XVI has written about the issue (see boxed quotation, right) explaining that the Eucharist is the goal of the initiation sacraments. The Archdiocese of Regina (www.archregina.sk.ca) recently announced intention to implement the restored order, something also underway in the Diocese of Prince Albert and other dioceses. For instance, the diocese of Phoenix also has helpful "Questions and Answers" posted at:

www.diocesephoenix.org/youthministry/confirmationpolicy.html

18. In this regard, attention needs to be paid to the order of the sacraments of initiation. Different traditions exist within the Church. There is a clear variation between, on the one hand, the ecclesial customs of the East (50) and the practice of the West regarding the initiation of adults, (51) and, on the other hand, the procedure adopted for children. (52) Yet these variations are not properly of the dogmatic order, but are pastoral in character. **Concretely, it needs to be seen which practice better enables the faithful to put the sacrament of the Eucharist at the centre, as the goal of the whole process of initiation.** In close collaboration with the competent offices of the Roman Curia, Bishops' Conferences should examine the effectiveness of current approaches to Christian initiation, so that the faithful can be helped both to mature through the formation received in our communities and to give their lives an authentically eucharistic direction, so that they can offer a reason for the hope within them in a way suited to our times (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).

Pope Benedict XVI
Sacramentum Caritatis, 2007



Youth and families gather at Mount Carmel shrine for the annual Catholic rally.

Rock the Mount celebrates God’s mercy and grace



Ken Yasinski



Fr. Simon Lobo

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The historic shrine at Mount Carmel was alive with music, worship and youthful spirit Aug. 21 as some 1,100 gathered for Rock The Mount, an all-day Catholic youth rally held annually since its beginnings in 2002 as a follow up to Canada’s World Youth Day.

People of all ages from the surrounding area, as well as from across western Canada, filled the hillside beneath the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for a pilgrimage day that included the sacrament of reconciliation, Christian bands, personal testimony, children’s activities, celebration of the Eucharist with Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen, and inspirational talks by guest speaker Fr. Simon Lobo, CC.

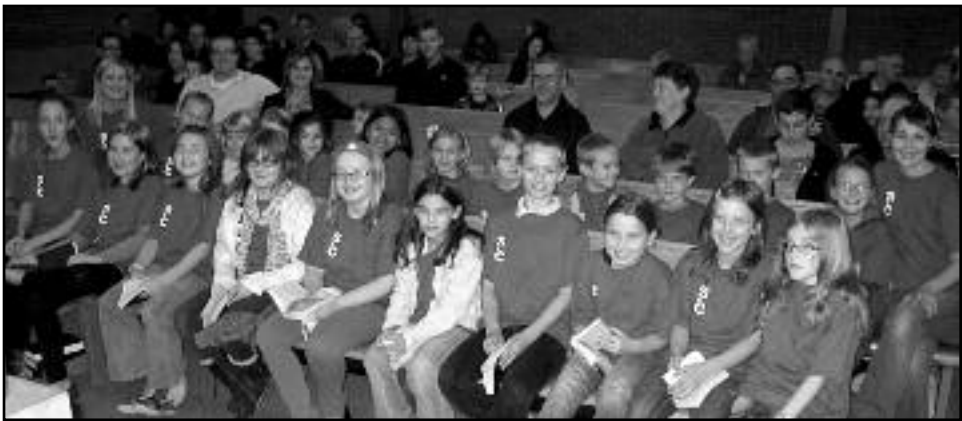
“It’s a beautiful sight to look out at this hillside of people come to worship God in this place on this day,” said Bishop Donald Bolen during his first visit to Rock the Mount. In his homily, the bishop reflected on the mercy of God and the rally theme “Washed by Mercy, Saved by Grace.”

Music was led by Ken Yasinski and FacetoFace Ministries, as well as by “Joe Zambon & Co.” Yasinski also served as Master of Ceremonies, while members of the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team and the Diocesan Mission Office led decades of the rosary throughout the day.

The rally concluded in the evening with an hour of Eucharistic adoration at the shrine grotto, followed by lively praise and worship.

Plans call for next year’s Rock the Mount to again take place at the Carmel shrine **Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011** to include young pilgrims returning from World Youth Day in Spain, said committee members John and Elaine Boskill.

For more complete coverage of Rock the Mount check the diocesan news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Servants For Christ is the newest youth group at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon.

Youth groups active at St. Augustine

Kids For Christ is like having an all-year round vacation Bible school, says coordinator Janine Baier at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon.

This is the third year for the group designed for children from 4 years to Grade 3, which meets once a month to share faith.

A new group, Servants For Christ has also started at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon for children in Grades 3 to 8.

“The focus of this group is to show God’s love through service in the church and community. So far we have done a

‘Park Clean-Up’ and ‘Mass and Ice Cream Sundae Night.’”

Upcoming events include a guest speaker on life in Africa and serving others, and singing at a senior’s home. The kids are all very eager to serve others.”

The dream for the future is to have this group naturally progress into Teens For Christ for grades 8 to 12, said Baier. “We would love to offer all three programs so there will be something for every age. Right now, our teens are invited to join in with diocesan events.” - KLY



St. Philip volunteers

Members of the St. Philip Neri parish youth group in Saskatoon and their youth minister Jonathan Phang recently volunteered to do some fall yard work at the residence of Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen.

- Photo submitted by SPN youth group



St. Therese class of 2009-2010

A commissioning celebration with Bishop Donald Bolen was held May 28 for the 2009-2010 graduating class at St. Therese School of Faith and Mission in Bruno. For more information about the celebration or about St. Therese’s nine-month faith development program visit: www.sttherese.ca

- Photo by James Riley



Wynyard children dramatize gospel

St Mary’s parish in Wynyard Grade 2 School of Religion Class performed a dramatization April 28 of St. John’s Gospel (Jn 21: 1-19) illustrating God’s abundance of love. Participants were (l-r) Michael Siton, Nickolas Szydlowski, Anjannete Palazo, Antonete Palazo, Andrea Principe, Emily Mamer, and Carter Koch.

- Photo submitted by St. Mary’s, Wynyard.



Blackstrap Youth Camp

Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen was at Blackstrap Youth Camp July 21 to celebrate Mass with campers. He also delivered a donation to the Catholic summer camp run by the Knights of Columbus.

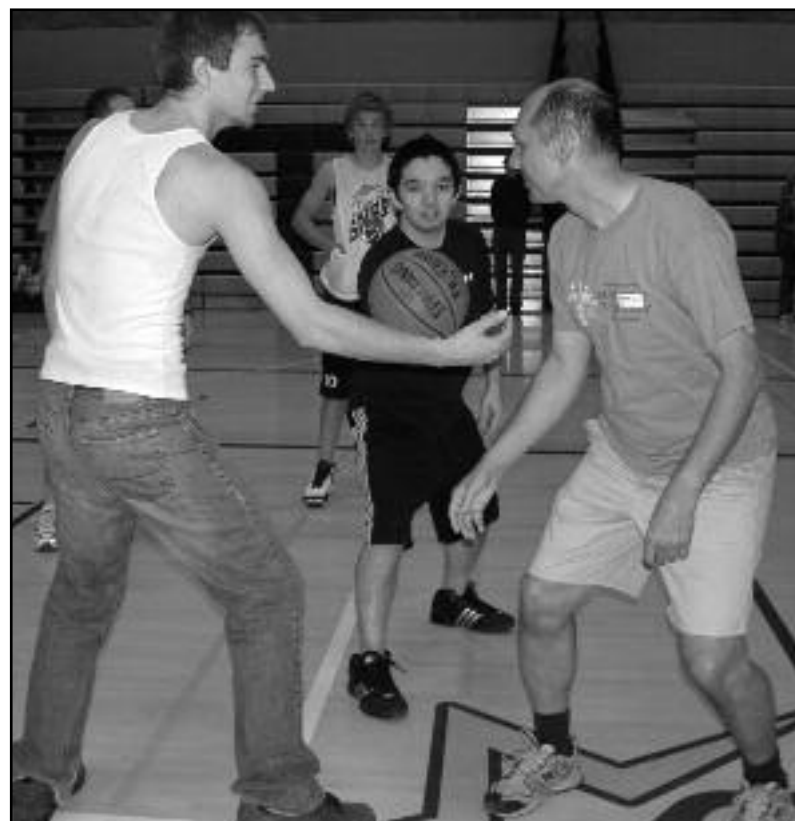
- Photo by Ken Gruza



“Bishop’s cup” awarded at basketball event



Some 80 competitors took to the basketball courts at Bethlehem Catholic high school Oct. 15 for a youth event with Bishop Don Bolen, priests and seminarians from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon (above), in an event proposed by Fr. Kevin McGee of St. Patrick parish. After a few rounds of mixed play, an all-star team of youth faced off against the bishop and priests, with the youth team winning the first annual “Bishop’s Cup” (held up by St. Mary’s youth leader Maria Rogal, left). A number of spectators were also at the event, including a delegation from Marysburg (below) which turned out to cheer on Fr. Johny Mangalath, VC, (third from left) who provides Sunday ministry in their parish, as well as to support seminarian Colin Roy, who is undertaking his apprenticeship year in the neighbouring community of Humboldt. The evening ended with pizza and socializing.



St. Philip Neri youth leader Jonathan Phang prepares to toss the “jump ball” to begin the championship game as youth captain Andrew Dupuis of Our Lady of Lourdes parish (left), and Bishop Don Bolen prepare to vie for possession of the ball in the championship round.

Challenge Catholic Girls Club strives to increase virtue, friendship and faith

BY CORINNE KIRKPATRICK

Challenge Catholic Girls Club of Saskatoon is comprised of over 60 girls from many different parishes in the diocese of Saskatoon and surrounding area.

The girls, aged eight years and older, meet weekly to learn more about Christ and their Catholic faith, and to work together to better serve their community. Challenge is a club designed to help girls grow in virtue, friendship, leadership and their Catholic faith.

Here is what some Challenge girls have to say about the club:

“Challenge means getting together with a group of amazing girls who are a lot alike, but with different and unique personalities. You have a lot of fun almost every Friday for a couple of hours and learn about your faith. You learn to be true to you and to do what God asks of you. For me, it is an amazing experience and I learn so much,” said Olivia of Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

“Challenge is special to me because I can be myself and have tons of fun with girls my age who are also interested in getting to know God,” said Andrea of Holy Spirit parish.



Challenge Catholic Girls Club members meet weekly in Saskatoon.

“I like Challenge because I can learn more about God and my Catholic faith. Every Friday when we meet, everyone is so excited to be there. The meetings are really meaningful to us and the girls are always so

attentive. Challenge is a time to get away from the world for a while and to learn how to be good Catholic girls. I think the best part about Challenge is learning about God and the Gospel passage for that day,” said Camille of Holy Family parish.

“Challenge is a place where I can go and I won’t be judged on my faith. Challenge is like one big family and I wouldn’t part it up for anything. It is the best part of my week,” said Krista of Holy Spirit parish.

“I attend Challenge because it gives me a great opportunity to learn more about God, what being a Catholic means, and so many other things. It’s also a good chance to make friends with other girls who are just like you and share the same faith. It’s great to see so many girls there. Especially at the age we are, it’s really good to learn about God. I love going to Challenge, and I hope to keep going in the future,” said Anna of St. Odilon parish, Rosthern.

For more information contact Corinne Kirkpatrick at bckirk@yourlink.ca (306) 955-0182 or Jo-Anne McKay at joanne@bartmckay.com

Conquest Boys Club offers summer camp focused on faith

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Young men from five dioceses participated in a week-long camping experience at *Camp Aurora Borealis* Aug. 14-18, a Catholic boys camp organized by Conquest Boys Club.

Run at the Blackstrap youth camp facility south of Saskatoon, *Camp Aurora Borealis* is in its 12th year. It was attended this year by 45 boys ranging in age from 9 to 14 years, as well as camp counselors ages 16 to 20, who came from the dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, St. Boniface and Winnipeg, said leader Trevor Novak of Regina.

“This camp, a unique outdoor experience hosted by Conquest Boys Clubs, is a week long experience that includes a balance between Catholic faith instruction, the bonding of great friendships, and a wide variety of sports and outdoor activities that help the campers learn about their faith in a fun-filled and challenging environment.

In the middle of the camp week, participants traveled into Saskatoon to celebrate Mass with Bishop Donald Bolen.



Campers attended Mass celebrated by Bishop Don Bolen.

Conquest Boys Clubs are currently being run in Saskatoon and Regina with over 100 boys currently involved, Novak noted. More information on the Conquest program can be found at www.conquestclubs.org



St. Mary's Pentecost procession

Fr. Ciro Alfonso Perez, CSsR, and members of the Spanish community lead the singing in a procession to open a Pentecost celebration at St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon May 23. Each year St. Mary's celebrates the feast day by recognizing the cultural diversity in the community, with parishioners wearing traditional clothing and carrying banners in procession, as well as sharing foods from different cultures.

Bishop Bolen blesses newly-built accessible entrance at St. Alphonse parish in Viscount

By BARB DALE

The Catholic parish at Viscount this summer celebrated the blessing of the St. Alphonse Welcome Area, which is the newly-constructed accessible entrance at the front of the church. Renovations to the previously-existing entrance and to the library were also completed as an extension of the building project.

Mass was celebrated Sunday, Aug. 29, with Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen presiding. Concelebrating clergy were Fr. Joseph Jacek, OMI, the present priest at St. Alphonse, and Father Theo Habadah, who served at St. Alphonse until June 2010.

Bishop Bolen blessed the entrance, the enabling accessibility lift, the library, the sound system and the holy water font. The font was designed by the owners of Concrete Elements, Dave and Loa Titman, in memory of Loa's dad, Ed J. Morelli.

A short program followed Mass, with MC Barb Dale highlighting events related to the building project. Fundraising began in the fall of 2007. Con-



Bishop Don Bolen blesses the walls of the addition at St. Alphonse parish in Viscount, with assistance from parishioner Murray Phillips (left) and the altar server is Tyler Camm.

- Photo by Dave Titman

struction started in 2009, with the project completed this March.

MP Lynne Yelich brought greetings from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Bill Comeault, chair of St. Alphonse Parish Pastoral Council, thanked Bishop Bolen for his presence. Comeault also recognized all of the workers for their time, talent and machinery, which made possible the completion of a huge undertaking in a short time frame.

Everyone was then invited to the church auditorium for lunch and fellowship. During the after-

noon, a silent auction featuring 12 donated items was held, with proceeds going to the building fund. In addition, cookbooks and anniversary souvenirs were sold as a part of the on-going fundraising project.

St. Alphonse Parish received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 through the government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund. The balance of the funding was the direct result of donations from parishioners, organizations and businesses in the surrounding community, as well as the various fundraisers throughout the year.

Day of prayer and support for those affected by cancer held at Holy Spirit

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A day of prayer, support and information for those affected by cancer was held Oct. 15 at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, organized as a joint project of the Catholic parish and its covenant partner, McClure United Church.

Beginning with Mass, the "Pink Prayer Day" included hospitality, displays, a speaker from the Canadian Cancer Society, lunch, a quiet time of scripture reflection, prayer and candle lighting in remembrance. In the evening, testimonies by cancer survivors were combined with Taizé prayer to conclude the first-time event.

The idea for the day of prayer came from Holy Spirit pastor Fr. Ken Beck, said Kelly Wormsbecker, one of the event organizers. "Cancer affects everyone," she said. "We want to be here as a church for people in all circumstances, and this is one way in which we can provide support and prayer."

Organizers were delighted that the day was organized

ecumenically between the two congregations, she added.

In an information session during the day, Doreen Callander of the Canadian Cancer Society provided an overview of the society's work in the areas of research, education and prevention, patient services and advocacy for healthy public policy. The organization wants to "deter, defeat and defy" cancer – so that fewer Canadians experience cancer, and more of those who do survive, and that those who are affected by cancer have a better quality of life, she explained.

The society has its roots in Saskatchewan in 1938, when family physicians wanted to educate more people about the early warning signs of cancer, she described. Today the organization continues to work on cancer prevention, informing people of lifestyle choices that can reduce the risk of cancer. Providing practical support to improve the quality of life for those affected by cancer is another role of the cancer society, she said.

Research into all forms of cancer is an ongoing



Doreen Callander (right) of the Canadian Cancer Society was a guest speaker at Pink Prayer Day.

priority, she added, as is providing "up to date, accessible and credible information." A national cancer information line (1-888-939-3333) has been established in Regina, and a website also provides information: www.cancer.ca

Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community celebrates 20th anniversary in Saskatoon

By DOROTHY ABERNATHY

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community celebrated the 20th anniversary of the traditional Latin Mass in the diocese of Saskatoon May 2, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz began the celebration by leading the congregation in the rosary. Lindy Villaruz, assisted by Jacinta Bumphrey, then placed a crown of red, white, and yellow roses on the statue of Our Lady. Fr. Bruno then led benediction for the congregation.

Afterwards, the congregation gathered in the church hall for a potluck supper. Special holy cards were printed to mark the anniversary, and the congregation was pleased to have a memento of the occasion.

The traditional Latin Mass is celebrated at Our Lady of



Members of the Latin Mass community celebrate the anniversary. -

- Photo by Shawn Bumphrey

Czestochowa Parish, 301 Avenue Y South. The first traditional Latin Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in 1990. In 1996 the congregation moved to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. High Mass with

Gregorian chant is held Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Low Masses are held Fridays, First Saturdays, and some feast days at 5:15 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the Latin Mass, and missals with English translations are available.



Parish nurse ministry supported

Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen was on hand when "dinner for four with the bishop" was auctioned off at a St. Mary's fundraising event in support of parish nurse ministry in the core neighbourhood parish. The annual auction features hundreds of donated items and gift certificates; this year raising about \$20,000, said St. Mary's pastor Fr. Jon Hansen, CSsR. St. Mary's parish nurse, Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, provides outreach and care to people in the neighbourhood.

New faces at St. Augustine in Humboldt

BY MARIE-LOUISE TERNIER-GOMMERS

Two new faces on the pastoral staff at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt have parishioners taking note, wondering who they are and what they are about.

As Colin Roy settles into his office, he is preparing for a full year of learning. Roy is a seminarian for the diocese of Saskatoon, studying for the priesthood, and now entering his pastoral internship year.

"I've called Saskatoon home for the last eight years of my life, but I am originally from Hoey, SK, a small farming community near St. Louis," he says. For the past three years Colin has been studying at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. "I have enjoyed these past years of discernment, having learned a lot about myself, our faith, and what priestly ministry is all about."

Roy's ministry in Humboldt will include a bit of everything: helping out with adult faith formation programs like Alpha and RCIA, youth events, regular visits to the schools, preaching, sacramental preparation, assisting at Mass, bringing communion to home-bound parishioners, and other activities necessary for a vibrant pastoral ministry.

Roy says he is excited to make this internship year at St. Augustine's part of his continuing discernment for the priesthood.

"My biggest hope for this internship



Fr. Emile April, Sr. Loretta Kunlop, OSU, Joshua Mansfield, Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers and seminarian Colin Roy (l-r) serve at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.

- Photo submitted

year is to be an instrument of Christ's communion in order to contribute to the life of the parish and to help people discover God's love for them," he says, adding, "The biggest challenge so far has been learning and remembering the names of parishioners."

Another newcomer is Joshua Mansfield, recently hired as the parish's new youth ministry coordinator.

Originally from Newfoundland, where

he attended Memorial University in St. John's, Mansfield has called the Humboldt/Muenster area home for the past few years. His spiritual and vocational search has now led him to embrace youth ministry with zeal and joy.

"What attracted me to the position of youth ministry coordinator is the chance to pursue my passion, which is working with youth," says Mansfield. He considers the opportunity to work with youth while

drawing upon his strong faith and roots in the church as a blessing and a grace from God.

"Young people are more likely to gain a sense of identity in the community if they are regarded as full-fledged members of that community," he adds.

"My hopes and dreams are to engage the young people of our parish in ways that will foster spiritual growth, faith formation, and a sense of belonging. I hope to have fun with our young people so that we can openly share our faith and actively participate in parish life."

Mansfield plans community service volunteer projects, music events and activities, regular prayer and youth group gatherings. "This will be a fun and exciting way to learn about our Catholic faith and to engage in praise and worship."

A challenge Mansfield has encountered is a lack of motivation and inspiration for youth to become involved and to commit.

"It's important to make activities fun and to engage young people by showing them that our youth group is cool and if they just give it a try they will certainly have a positive experience. This has been my experience being involved with my youth group and parish as I was growing up. I really encourage our youth to come out see what we have to offer at St. Augustine," says Mansfield.

Discovering the sacred through reflective travel

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Helping people to discover the sacred in reflective travel is the goal of Ministry to Tourism, established in the diocese of Saskatoon by Fr. Ralph Kleiter.

The now-retired diocesan priest has led countless groups in travel around the world, exploring and developing ways to enrich the experience of tourists so that it also includes a spiritual dimension.

Kleiter's theological understanding of a holistic approach to tourism developed over the years, beginning with a project on leisure tourism undertaken as part of a course he took on sabbatical in 1971. He researched why people take holidays, interviewing travelers about their experience. Kleiter said he came to see that tourism could be a way of teaching, an opportunity for spiritual growth and evangelization.

He deepened that understanding during another sabbatical year he took 20 years later at the School of Applied Theology in Berkley in 1991. "I realized this had many possibilities, and the first thing I organized was a retreat at sea," Kleiter described. The cruise retreat featured facilitator Leonard Doohan, author of *Leisure: A Spiritual Need*, with music ministry led by Bob Williston. About 35 people participated, and it proved to Kleiter that the concept worked, even on a cruise ship.

Pastoral care of tourism falls under the pontifical council for migrants and "people on the move," said Kleiter, noting that every few years the Vatican organizes an international world congress to focus on pastoral care of tourism. In many instances, delegates come from developing countries, concerned about the benefits as well as the problems and challenges of tourism.

"I always maintained we have to produce an ethic of leisure, just as the Church has done for work, and thus point the way toward a leisure tourism that would accord with the dignity of people, of men and women today."

Providing expertise in organizing travel related to Church gatherings and events has been another part of the work of Ministry to Tourism through the years. In 1994, the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops asked Kleiter to lead the Canadian delegation to a World Family Gathering in Rome, coordinating the journey for families from all ten provinces. Kleiter is now looking ahead to organizing something around the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 2012.

In the past, Kleiter organized tours close to home as well, for instance, to heritage points of Saskatchewan.

"But after a number of years, I came to realize that because I had such a broad



Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism encourages a holistic travel experience.

experience, I would have more to offer by working on a more complex level, organizing trips to countries most people wouldn't think of visiting on their own," he said. In designing a pilgrim journey, Kleiter begins with a theme or concept, setting out to develop a meaningful itinerary, organizing all the many details of the trip – a process he says takes about nine months.

Nearly every year, Kleiter includes at least one trip to the Holy Land, which is always a life-changing experience for travelers, he says. "Regardless of what their religious experience might be, everyone who goes to the Holy Land is addressed," said Kleiter. "I tell people if you only get to do one trip in a lifetime, that is really one that will stay with you, coming back every time you hear the scriptures."

Citing the 18 journeys to the Holy Land he has taken, Kleiter said it is a safe place to visit. "Some years you might not go to certain areas, but there is still so much to see ... and security in Israel is among the best in the world." This year, for those who might not have the physical stamina for a longer trip to Holy Land sites, he has also organized a cruise that "touches on Bible lands."

In the last 15 years, Kleiter has increasingly focused on cruise experiences, which is an area of growth in the tourism industry, and a setting conducive to the holistic emphasis on body-mind-spirit.

The "Apostleship of the Sea" is the

agency of the Church that addresses the spiritual needs of people working and traveling on the oceans, he said. These agencies have developed policies for getting approved priests to serve on board cruise ships, to meet the spiritual needs of travelers and staff, including providing liturgies.

"I think a cruise is the best setting to discover the sacred in reflective travel," said Kleiter. "You have time to reflect."

To facilitate that reflection, Kleiter emphasizes the importance of journaling. Each day he will provide travelers with relevant questions to think about and prompt reflection. Without this discipline, a journey can become a blur, he said.

The ultimate goal of a journey should be to grow in some way, asserted Kleiter about the potential for "reflective travel" to be a life-changing experience. "Wherever we travel together, wherever we meet people ... we will discover and be humbled to stand on their Holy Ground and we can only gratefully accept that we'll never be the same."

Upcoming Ministry to Tourism journeys include trips to Biblical lands in May and in October, 2011; a cruise to "Byzantium and Beyond" in November 2011 and another that same month to Italy, including time in Venice, Naples, Rome, and Florence. Other 2011 cruises include Russia's rivers and waterways and Panama Canal/Caribbean. For more call (306) 244-3747 or visit the website: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

Delisle parish reaches out to new parents through community socials

An outreach to new parents is building community at St. Anne parish in Delisle, say Parish Life Directors Rose-Anne Kiolo and Clare Pattison.

"Twice a year, we have a social for the babies that were baptized in first and second part of the year," explains Rose-Anne Kiolo. "It includes husbands and kids - not a traditional baby shower."

The most recent gathering included

over 60 people attending a potluck barbecue, with new parents and their children as the guests of honour.

It's a great way to help young families build connections with each other and with the parish community, said Clare Pattison.

"It's just so important to build up friendships within the parish," she said.

- KLY

Lanigan parish celebrates 100 years of strong Catholic roots

Editor's note: This report includes experts from an article originally published in the June 14, 2010 issue of The Lanigan Advisor.

BY LINDA MALLET

On June 5 and 6 St. Mary's Parish in Lanigan celebrated 100 years of fellowship, family values and strong Catholic roots.

Activities June 5 included tours of St. Mary's church, blessing of graves at the parish cemetery, supper and a program. Master of ceremonies was Francis Washkowsky.

Several people brought greetings from the community, including Lanigan's mayor Bernie Bishop, and Pastor Kevin Sawatsky on behalf of the Lanigan and District Ministerial Association.

Blackstrap MP Lynne Yelich also attended, noting that "Churches were the first sign that settlers wanted permanence and a place to go to when times were good or bad."

Gabe Wolfe spoke on behalf of the Knights of Columbus and Laura Novocosky brought greetings from St. Mary's CWL.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Don Courchene prepared and presented a history of the Catholic faith community at Lanigan.

In 1905, with a steady influx of settlers, Rev. John Sinnett, SJ, founded an Irish Colony, establishing St. Ignatius church at Sinnett, just north of Lanigan. By 1906, the number of homesteaders increased, including many Polish and Ukrainian Catholics who



Bishop Don Bolen celebrates the 100th anniversary Mass at St. Mary's in Lanigan, beneath the cross that is part of the parish's history. - Photo submitted

decided to build a church, which would eventually become St. Mary's. In 1909, Tony Paproski donated two acres of land where the current St. Mary's cemetery is now located.

The first St. Mary's church was built in 1910, becoming a mission of the church at Sinnett, with Fr. John Sinnett as priest.

In 1911, St. Mary's became part of the Regina diocese, and the Ukrainian Catholic community decided to build their own church in Guernsey.

In 1925, the first church building was sold, and a new St. Mary's church was built by the Polish settlers, serving the people into the early 1950s.

In 1952, two lots were purchased for the current church site in Lanigan for \$20. Willow Ridge School was purchased and moved into Lanigan to be remodeled as the new church. In 1955, Regina Archbishop O'Neill dedicated the building. The priest at the time was Fr. Felix Juzynic.

As the population grew, a new church building was built in 1960, and was dedicated by Archbishop O'Neill in 1961. Because of the potash mine expansion, the population of Lanigan expanded rapidly, and in 1966 a rectory was built for the now-resident priest.

Over the years, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus became established, and a prayer group was established in 1975, with a charismatic retreat held in 1976. All three groups have been an integral part of parish life, Courchene said.

In 1983 after much discussion, the decision was made to build a new church, at a

cost of approximately \$500,000. The existing church was sold and Masses were held in the high school gym as construction began. Archbishop Charles Halpin presided over the dedication of the new St. Mary's church Oct. 6, 1985.

A cross built by Paul Pisio was installed behind the altar. Wooden pegs in the cross were taken by parish priest Fr. Kines to Edmonton in 1984 to be blessed by Pope John Paul II.

In 1997, St. Mary's parish was amalgamated into the Saskatoon Diocese.

The Corpus of Christ that was originally in St. Scholastica church at Burr in 1908, and later in St. Gertrude church, was restored and put on the cross at St. Mary's in 1999.

In 2000 a statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was received from Spain and put in the church and blessed in memory of all the parishioners who dedicated their efforts to have a Catholic church in Lanigan.

Over the years, St. Mary's has had 25 priests serving the parish, and has been under nine different bishops in three different dioceses.

Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey is presently the pastor at St. Mary's church. He was born in Lanigan, and spent his early years there. He is the great-great-nephew of Tony Paproski who donated the land to get St. Mary's church started in 1909.

Hundreds gather to mark centennial of St. Peter's Cathedral at Muenster

BY CHRISTY WALDNER

One large blue and white tent and several small tents on the church grounds at St. Peter's church in Muenster were the site of celebrations as over 450 people gathered July 10 and 11 to mark the 100th anniversary of the historic cathedral building.

July 10, 1910 was the official opening date of St. Peter's Cathedral and 100 years later, guests from as far away as Ontario, Alberta, and B.C. as well as local parishioners and volunteers were on hand to celebrate this milestone.

With the exterior portion of the extensive renovation of the church complete, parishioners proudly displayed the beginning of interior renovation as well. Six of the ten new stained glass windows had been installed on the main floor and the walls and ceilings on the north and south sides of the church were repaired and painted.

A short rain storm sweeping through the church grounds and an hour-long power outage during the event did not dampen the

spirits of those celebrating. Registration began Saturday July 10 and the afternoon included visiting, reminiscing, touring the church and cemetery as well as an organized tour of St. Peter's College. Many used the afternoon to check out the numerous silent auction items, which included a number of cleverly-designed objects made from the original siding and lumber removed from the church during the exterior renovation. In addition, the Imhoff family donated a print of a painting by Count Berthold von Imhoff, who painted the well-known images inside the building.

A short program Saturday afternoon featured descendants of August Wassermann – one of the carpenters of the cathedral – speaking about its construction. Bert Imhoff spoke about his grandfather's role in painting the interior of the church with 80 life-size figures.

After supper, guests were entertained by the Korte Singers, past parishioners of St. Peter's parish. The Korte Singers were later



Celebration of the Eucharist July 11 was a highlight of weekend events organized to mark the 100th anniversary of St. Peter's in Muenster.

joined by extended family members to further entice the crowd to sing along. The Bier Tent Gang delighted the crowd with many old songs, bringing back memories for those in attendance.

Sunday July 11 the church was filled to capacity for morning Mass. Concelebrating were Bishop Donald Bolen and past parish priests and guests: Abbot Peter Novocosky, Fr. Leo Hinz, Fr. Werner Renneberg, Fr. Rudolph Novocosky, Fr. Daniel Muyres (who is the present pastor of St. Peter's parish), Fr. Ralph Kleiter and Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk.

To mark the celebration, Abbot Peter wore the same cross that the first Prior (and then later Abbot) Bruno Doerfler wore.

Standing in the pulpit used by Abbot Bruno Doerfler a century ago at the 1910 opening Fr. Daniel Muyres welcomed all those gathered to celebrate the centennial of the historic church.

"We thank God for the blessings we have received over the past century," he said.

In his homily, the bishop reflected on the history of the community that built up the church and constructed the cathedral in the very earliest years of settlement in the area.

"This building, built 100 years ago on the prairies, which were just beginning to be settled, was an incredible accomplishment," Bolen said, noting the pride that the community has taken in the building and its legacy of faith over the past 100 years.

Bolen encouraged those attending the anniversary to seek a renewal of their own enthusiasm and commitment to their faith

into the future. "This is a time for us to recommit ourselves to the gospel; to rediscover that enthusiasm and the ardor; to give ourselves over again on a daily basis to loving our neighbour, to finding the neighbour, to seeing the persons around us as being our neighbours," he said.

Parishioners representing three and four generations still attending St. Peter's Cathedral read the prayers of the faithful and brought up the gifts. St. Peter's parish choir led the congregation in song.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the bishop presented papal blessings to Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB, celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination that same day, and to Rev. Leo Hinz, OSB, who this year marked the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

The Sunday afternoon program July 11 was hosted by The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to commemorate the establishment of St. Peter's Colony and Abbey.

Founded in 1903, St. Peter's Colony was one of the largest German group settlements in Canada. The Benedictine monastery established here was one of only two in North America to become an Abbey Nullius, thus functioning as an independent diocese from 1921-1998.

The plaque commemorating St. Peter's Colony as a nationally significant site in Canada is now on display at St. Peter's Cathedral. The inscription is written in English, French and German.



Blumenfeld pilgrimage

The annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows was held June 13 at Blumenfeld, SK. in the Sandhills region of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Fr. Ron Rolheiser joined area pastors Fr. Joseph Thangaraj and Fr. Jude Nzekwe for celebration of the Eucharist and a day that included devotions, processions and a chance to socialize at the pilgrimage site, which includes a grotto and historic church.

- Photo by Agnes Pelletier

St. Front celebrates

Editor's note: This report includes experts from an article originally published in the Aug. 18, 2010 issue of The Wadena News.

BY ANNE SANDERSON

The community of St. Front got its name from one of the first pioneers, Florian Montes, who was born and lived his young life at St. Front, Haute Loire, France.

It was fitting then, that the fifth and sixth generations of his family led the community's centennial day parade Aug. 6.

Florian Montes' grandson Gilles and Travis Sunderlund made the announcements, and midway through the parade, Kurt Weber chauffeured Florian's son Florian (Jr.) and Fern Roufousse in a 1963 Mercury, one of 52 entries featuring area families and businesses. The parade set the tone for a jam-packed weekend that will be remembered for years to come.

Over the three days well over 500 people packed the community, which generally boasts a population of 23.

Jennifer Flasko, one of the organizers says it was just like several mini family reunions all rolled into one. "The registration booth was just crazy on Friday night and it continued most of the weekend. Everybody was so happy to see each other after so many years."

In addition to the parade, activities included a pancake breakfast at the curling

rink, ball games and horseshoes, children's activities and a beer gardens, as well as a chicken supper, at which Felix Auriat presented a talk about the community's history.

St. Front Catholic church was packed to the rafters Sunday, Aug. 8 as guests gathered for a centennial service.

Colette Moyen opened the celebration by welcoming Bishop Donald Bolen, Fr. Mark Syrenne and Fr. Clement Amofah.

Bishop Bolen encouraged the crowd to look for inspiration in their forefathers and place their confidence in what God can do.

"Listen to God's presence in our life today and as you go forward into the future, keep your ancestors and past in the present," he said. "Keep your hearts open and move into the future as people of hope, joy and faith."

Following the service, guests gathered outside for the blessing of the Centennial Cairn erected by Henry Bouchard.

A labour of love, the cairn will serve as a legacy honouring not only the pioneers, but also the priests and Sisters of Providence who are such a large part of the community's history. Even the names of the veterans are listed on the cairn – it is indeed a celebration of the people's commitment to their community, their province and their country.

Moyen said to see the cairn completed



A centennial Cairn was unveiled before a large crowd during a St. Front Centennial Celebration on the long weekend of August. Fr. Clement Amofah and Bishop Donald Bolen (left) conducted the blessing. Recognized for the role they played in the cairn's erection were Henry Bouchard and Louisa and Emile Samson (l-r).

- Photo by Paulette Thevenot

after soo many months of planning was an emotional moment.

"It's been a dream of Henry's to have something that would recognize the pioneers who homesteaded in the community. Today, after many hours of hard work and labour of many, his dream has become a reality," she said.

The celebration continued with recognition of the Edmond Lamoureux family who started a homestead 100 years ago that is still in the family. The Province of Saskatchewan recently honoured the family

with a Century Farm Award – something that will also be accomplished in 2011 by the Motnes, LeStrat and Basset Families, said Jennifer Flasko, one of the organizers of the centennial weekend.

Over the three days, well over 500 people packed the community, which generally boasts a population of 23.

Other events during the centennial weekend included a parade, a pancake breakfast ball games and horseshoes, children's activities, sale of souvenirs, a chicken supper.

Reward parish's 100th anniversary marked during pilgrimage weekend

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Residents and former residents, pioneer descendents and family members joined together at the site of the historic Holy Rosary church near Reward, SK. July 10 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the parish.

Anniversary celebrations included prayers within the historic church building, celebration of the Eucharist at the outdoor shrine, a program of speakers and entertainment, sale of souvenirs,

and supper on the site.

Serving the surrounding Saint Joseph's Colony as the site of an annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary since 1932, the parish itself was established in 1910.

During the anniversary celebration, masters of ceremony Charles Boser and Ernie Greter, along with speaker Al Greter presented the history of the community and parish in poem and story.

"In the words of one pioneer, we often admired the wild flowers and thought about the amount of dirt they had to go through in order to blossom and bloom," related Ernie Greter, reflecting on the hardships encountered by the German-Russian settlers who came to the area after St. Joseph Colony was established in 1905.

The parish at Reward was first served by Fr. Schultz, OMI, with the first church building a 40 by 28-foot structure built at a cost of \$1,300.

The present historic Holy Rosary church was constructed on ten acres of donated land in 1918 for \$12,000 under the leadership of Rev. Beiler, OMI.

The "church on the hill" is a designated historic site, and contains 15 large paintings completed in 1928 by Count Berthold Von Imhoff, depicting 15 mysteries of the rosary.

In 1932 the priests of St. Joseph's Colony were asked by Bishop Prud'homme to arrange an annual pilgrimage in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the Holy Rosary Church at Reward chosen at the site because of its central



Agnes and Frank Sperle carry a new banner designed by Pat Welter.

location. The first pilgrimage July 16, 1932 saw 3,000 pilgrims travel to the site, congregating a half mile south for a procession to the shrine, greeted by the ringing of the church bells. A wooden outdoor grotto was built as the shrine in 1936, with the present shrine altar built in 1966.

Area residents continue to care for and upgrade the building and pilgrimage site, including a number of repairs undertaken since a devastating hailstorm in 2005 that caused the cancellation of the annual pilgrimage that year, related Al Greter.

A new parish banner designed by Pat Welter was brought forward

during the celebration by residents Frank and Agnes Sperle.

Rev. John Zunti, OMI, who was born and raised in the area, presided at the 100th anniversary Mass, and was also guest speaker during the afternoon program.

"For 100 years at this particular spot on our huge planet, this has been a place of celebration of our faith – a faith which we have received from our families," Zunti said. "We are all truly thankful for the legacy of faith, prayer and way of life that our parents and grandparents, friends and neighbours have handed on to us," said Zunti.

"The sacrifices that many of them made and the hardships they endured were possible only because of their faith and commitment to prayer."

During the program, resident Agnes Sperle led a tribute to the priests of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate order who served Holy Rosary parish throughout the past century.

The day after the centennial celebration, the 79th annual pilgrimage to the shrine was held, involving parishes from throughout the St. Joseph's Colony area.

Rev. Gerard Cooper of St. Peter's parish in Unity officiated at the July 11 pilgrimage, which included exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the shrine church, the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick, praying of the rosary, benediction, a parade of parish banners, Mass, and supper.



Celebration of the Eucharist was held July 10 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Reward parish. The annual pilgrimage to the site was held the next day.

Former Luseland-area resident Helen Behm celebrates 100th birthday at St. Ann's home

BY SR. ADELIN BEHM, FDLP

Helen C. Behm (nee Heiland) of St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village in Saskatoon celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 17, 2010.

Helen Behm was born on the Heiland homestead northeast of Luseland, SK. (near Abnott school) in 1910, just two years after her parents arrived in the province from Eastern Europe via Argentina where they had stayed for a year with her uncle Henry Heiland who had settled there earlier. Her father, Adam, donated land for a school to be built. Today a cairn marks the location. In 1916, the family moved to a farm about five kilometres east of Luseland.

Widowed at age 45, Helen continued farming until she was into her seventies. She was always an active woman, who besides farming, worked in the post office, sold tickets at the movie theatre, and had many crafts on the go. Family members treasure the quilts and afghans she has made.

She was an active member of the Luseland Altar Society and later the Catholic Women's League, and is still a CWL member. Today she resides in St. Ann's Home. Predeceased by all her siblings, Helen is the last one to know all her extended family, and enjoys sharing the past when they visit.

Helen's seven children and

spouses gathered with her to celebrate on Sept. 16: Sr. Adeline Behm, FDLP, of Saskatoon; Rosemarie (Adelard Ouimet) of Edmonton; Jean (Stewart Taylor) of Calgary; Stan Behm of Calgary; Lucille Steinhauer of Calgary; Norm (Sharyl) Behm of Coquitlam; and Rita (Martin Schotte) of Parksville. A leisurely afternoon was spent opening cards, readings letters from dignitaries and others, sharing memories and enjoying a banquet.

Helen has 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grand children. Youngest great-grandchild, Mayleigh, age six months, came from Edmonton to visit Sept. 18.



Helen Behm

- Photo by Stewart Taylor

St. Ann's residents and others also came to celebrate with her Sept. 17, with cake served after celebration of Mass. Her baptismal sponsor's grandson, now in his nineties was present.

Life Chain highlights abortion issue

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

Hot, sunny weather blessed 100 demonstrators who came out for Life Chain 2010 Oct. 3 in Saskatoon.

The Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan event was held at the corner of 22nd Street and Idylwyld Drive as part of an international movement that included demonstrations across Canada, the United States and Mexico on the same day.

The event was political in nature, said organizers. "There are three arms of the pro-life movement: educational, service and political. Campaign Life Coalition is part of the political arm of pro-life," said event organizer Denise Hounjet-Roth. "We lobby both provincial and federal governments for laws against abortion and euthanasia. Recently a euthanasia bill was defeated soundly in the House of Commons and the Campaign was part of that lobby."

The focus of the Sunday event was to create awareness concerning abortion and to keep the issue alive. "People need to know that not everyone agrees

with this. Many, many people do not," said Anita Sonntag.

"There is no law in Canada," said Hounjet-Roth, "No limits. We are in a state of lawlessness with atrocities still taking place. Even if politicians say it's okay, it's not right. It is still wrong," she said.

"More than 100,000 babies are aborted every year in Canada. We lose 36 babies a week. That's a classroom a week that we know of. In Saskatchewan we don't have free standing clinics and our hospitals have become abort-uaries." But Hounjet-Roth asserted that change is possible.

"Look at the smoking campaign. That started out as awareness," said Hounjet-Roth, "Now it is illegal to smoke in public spaces: now even in cars, because that endangers children."

Participants came from all walks of life and from all age groups. Joe Bayda carried a Knights of Columbus millennial cross continuously around all four cross walks. Many other participants were Knights of Columbus members.

Knight and priest Rev. Gene

Warnke, OMI, expressed personal experiences that came to mind while participating in the Life Chain. "My mom had seven children but lost a child three days after she was born. Even at 75 she still remembered that child and used to talk about going to see her someday. She never forgot."

Warnke also related memories from his time as hospital chaplain at Royal University Hospital, "You help so many with little ones who didn't make it, and so many trying to have children and can't."

Many participants stood with baby carriers and strollers in tow. Some described how the annual demonstration has become a family tradition on the first Sunday of October. While the event is non-denominational, the majority of participants were Catholic.

One young mother who came with her eight-year-old daughter commented that "support for life seems lost in young people's attitudes, but it's coming back. It's hard to come out here, where business people and others you know might see you. The weather is



Participants in the Life Chain Oct. 3 in Saskatoon included families, Knights of Columbus members, and people of all ages.

a real treat today, but we have come out in the winter at the hospital when it is pretty miserable."

Placards represented many sides of pro-life advocacy. Anita Sonntag arrived early to take her place carrying a sign that read: "I regret my abortion."

Sonntag works with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign providing support and

a voice for those who have experienced the aftermath of an abortion.

"It's not easy to hold this sign. I hope woman or moms will see this and think twice."

She advises those who are struggling after an abortion to seek counseling. "There is hope after abortion."

(See related articles below).

Rachel's Vineyard offers hope and healing

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry offering hope and healing to those who are suffering the after-effects of abortion.

Both women and men often suffer emotional or spiritual distress after an abortion, even many years later, says Bonnie Cameron, who coordinates Rachel's Vineyard retreats in Saskatchewan.

The after-effects of abortion can include depression, eating disorders, guilt, intense grief, sadness, emotional numbness, drug and alcohol disorders, flashbacks, nightmares, suicidal urges, anxiety,

repeated abortions or crisis pregnancies, difficulty with relationships, fear of punishment from God, and an inability to forgive oneself or others.

"Rachel's Vineyard weekends are a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion," said Cameron.

The weekend is designed to help participants experience the mercy and compassion of God, she said. "It's also an opportunity to surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief."

Caring volunteers, many of whom have

suffered the same experience, facilitate the weekend retreats, with a professional counselor and a priest also available. "Rachel's Vineyard provides a non-judgmental, safe environment," stressed Cameron.

Past participants testify to the transformation they experienced through Rachel's Vineyard, describing how they were able to move from the pain of the past into hope and love.

"You are able to express the sadness, grief and shame in the company of other women and men feeling very much the

same. You are able to turn this pain into hope with the help of nurturing counselors and supportive caretakers. You are not rushed or hurried, but given time to reflect and become open to the healing process gradually," stated one testimonial.

"I experienced a great inner healing as a result of attending the Rachel's Vineyard weekend," wrote another participant. "I highly recommend this program to anyone who has felt the void and shame of the abortion experience. It is wonderful to forgive yourself, find the unconditional love of Christ and grieve the loss of your little child."

Another participant said: "I never knew my wife had suffered so much pain over an abortion she had before I met her. It was a real eye opener to attend the Rachel's Vineyard weekend with her and offer my support in an area of her life where there was so much secret grief. Our marriage has truly been blessed. We are closer now than we have ever been."

Another man reflected: "After struggling alone for years with the guilt, shame and remorse of my involvement with my girlfriends decision to abort our child, I finally found a ministry that recognized my need to get help. Rachel's Vineyard provided a place where I could voice my pain and loss. The acceptance of the women there was especially helpful, because I felt I had hurt my girlfriend so badly that all women would despise me if they knew what I had done. Their understanding and acceptance helped me to move further in forgiving myself and helped me to love others in my life in a deeper way."

Founded by Dr. Theresa Burke and Kevin Burke, Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life. In Saskatchewan, Rachel's Vineyard retreats are held in the fall and in the spring. **The next weekend will be offered Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 3, 2011.**

For information, call (306) 480-8911 or e-mail bacameron@sasktel.net — confidentiality is respected in all cases. More information about Rachel's Vineyard can also be found on the website: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Women raise awareness about harm of abortion

BY ANITA SONNTAG,
REGIONAL COORDINATOR
SILENT NO MORE AWARENESS

A campaign called Silent No More Awareness has existed in Saskatchewan for nearly three years.

This is an international Christian organization, founded in the United States. Those involved in this campaign are mostly women and men who have experienced the devastating effects of abortion. The purpose of the campaign is to break the silence about the effects of abortion on women, men and families.

The campaign counteracts the claim that women have the right to abortion and that abortion is a good thing because it solves the "problem" of unplanned pregnancy. Women are told that it's a simple, safe procedure and that it's no more traumatic than getting a tooth pulled.

There are many of us who have discovered the hard way that this is simply not true. Women involved in Silent No More want the public to know about our experiences in the hope that it will prevent others from making the same mistake we made. So we tell our stories of pain and regret. But we also tell about how God's forgiveness and mercy have restored us.

Dr. David Reardon has been doing research into post-abortion issues for many years. He writes in The Jericho Plan: "It is simply impossible to rip a child

from a mother's womb without tearing out a part of the woman herself." Dr. Julius Fogel, a gynecologist and psychiatrist who performed over 20,000 abortions, states: "Every woman, whatever her age, background or sexuality, has a trauma in destroying a pregnancy. A level of humanness is touched. This is part of her own life. When she destroys a pregnancy, she is destroying a part of herself."

There is much evidence to indicate that the majority of women who have abortions do not freely choose to do so. There is often coercion, many are forced or threatened, many are without anyone to support them when they find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy.

The book *Her Choice to Heal* states the following: "A woman does not want an abortion like she wants a new car or an ice cream cone, but like an animal caught in a trap who gnaws off its own leg to get free."

Studies show that 70 per cent of women who have abortions believe it is morally wrong. They act against their consciences because they feel trapped by their situation and in that time of crisis see no other way out. In many cases self-preservation is also a key component in the abortion decision, causing women to look at their own needs before the needs of the baby they carry. At the time abortion seems like the quick, easy way or

the only way out of a tough situation.

There are many psychological, physical and spiritual consequences to abortion. Because of denial, these consequences may remain unrecognized as being connected to the abortion for many years.

Some of the most common are feelings of guilt, shame and anger, depression and anxiety, relationship problems, suicidal tendencies, eating disorders, drug and alcohol addiction, spiritual alienation from God, loss of self esteem, infertility, increased risk of miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy and increased risk of breast cancer.

There is hope and healing after abortion. Programs like Rachel's Vineyard offer an opportunity to come to terms with the abortion, to receive God's mercy, forgiveness and healing. Those who have made the terrible choice of aborting our babies cannot change what we did. However we can change what we do now.

Pope John Paul II stated in *Evangelium Vitae* that post-abortive women can be among the most eloquent defenders of life. One way we can do that is by being "Silent No More" about our experience.

For more information about Silent No More Awareness: (306) 230-6017; e-mail: saskatoon@silentnomoreawareness.org or see: www.silentnomoreawareness.org

L'Arche connections reach around world

BY MARGARET SANCHE

What do Brazil, Ireland, Ukraine, Scotland and Germany have in common? Well, among other things, L'Arche Saskatoon has welcomed assistants from these countries, as well as from various provinces of Canada: Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and, of course, Saskatchewan.

Since the first L'Arche community was founded by Jean Vanier in 1964 in Trosly-Breuil, France, L'Arche has become an international organization, with over 135 communities in over 30 countries.

Not only have assistants from elsewhere been welcomed to L'Arche Saskatoon, but over the years, many Saskatchewan young people have been assistants for a summer or a year or more in other parts of Canada and internationally – in Australia, New Zealand, India, England, Ukraine and elsewhere.

L'Arche Saskatoon has one home, which opened in February 2008. Christopher House is home to four people who have intellectual disabilities – the core members – and three or four live-in assistants, who make their home there as well. L'Arche assistants receive a monthly salary and have regular time off for renewal; during the year they also have opportunities to meet with assistants from other L'Arche communities for friendship, mutual support, mission awareness, retreats and special events.

In L'Arche communities, those who have intellectual disabilities are at the heart of the community, but the live-in assistants are also a vital part of the dynamic of the household.

L'Arche Saskatoon community leader Wyndham Thiessen describes it this way: "Mutual relationships are a hallmark of L'Arche homes around the world. Assistants often come with a spirit of service and generosity, ready to support individuals living with disabilities in carrying out tasks of daily life and in developing their gifts. However, they soon discover that they are receiving as much, if not more, than they are giving from the core members they support. Life in L'Arche can be a journey of personal growth and discovery for each person, no matter their abilities or disabilities."



Cody, Laura and Coryn at Christopher House, the L'Arche home in Saskatoon.

This fall, while L'Arche Saskatoon was waiting for new assistants to arrive from Brazil and Ireland, an assistant from L'Arche Toronto, Coryn Stehouwer, agreed to come to L'Arche Saskatoon to help out for a month. She wrote about this in L'Arche *Meeting Ground* (which can be found at <http://larchecommons.ca/>):

"I came to L'Arche for new experiences, adventures, relationships and growth. I have received all of these things in more ways than I ever would have imagined. ... Being in Saskatoon has further reminded me of what it is to be part of a community and how important my own [L'Arche Toronto] community has become to me. It was comforting to see how similar L'Arche is across the country," she said.

"I felt immediately welcomed and warmly invited to the familiar routines and rhythms of the home here in Saskatoon. I was struck, as always, by the welcome of members with an intellectual disability. Christopher House has been through a good deal of transition, and still each core member was so kind and patient as they let me into their life here for a short while."

Everyone is welcome to participate in L'Arche Saskatoon's programs and events – but perhaps the easiest way to connect is to "come and see" at one of the monthly Friends of L'Arche Gatherings at Grace-Westminster United Church or at a L'Arche Ecumenical Prayer Night held Wednesday evenings at Christopher House.

St. Thomas More College and Holy Cross high school students host Friends of L'Arche Gatherings once a year and some STM Cultivating Humanity students participate in the L'Arche Saskatoon Christopher House community as part of their educational experience.

For more information about Friends of L'Arche Gatherings, L'Arche Prayer Nights or how to become an assistant in L'Arche Saskatoon or elsewhere, contact Saskatoon community leader Wyndham Thiessen at (306) 262-2743 (office@larchesaskatoon.org) or visit the websites: www.larchesaskatoon.org or L'Arche Canada: www.larche.ca or L'Arche International: www.larche.org A webpage about L'Arche assistants can be found at <http://larche-work.ca/assistants/>

Construction underway for new innovative Catholic long-term care facility in Saskatoon

BY BRENDA FITZGERALD AND ANDREA LEDDING

The walls of the new Catholic long-term care facility known as Samaritan Place are rising. The 100-suite model of "resident-responsive" accommodation, service and care is scheduled to open in early 2012.

Samaritan Place, a \$27 million project of Amicus Health Care Inc. and the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan is located in Saskatoon's Stonebridge neighbourhood. It is described as an innovative pilot project that will be dedicated to supporting residents' "joy of life." Twenty of the Samaritan Place units will allow couples to remain together while 24 units will serve individuals with dementia.

A sod-turning for the facility was held Aug. 5 and construction is well underway. The building's foundation along with roughing in of utilities are complete, pouring of concrete slabs was 80 per cent finished at the end of October and framing of walls has started. Mechanical and electrical trades are also at work.

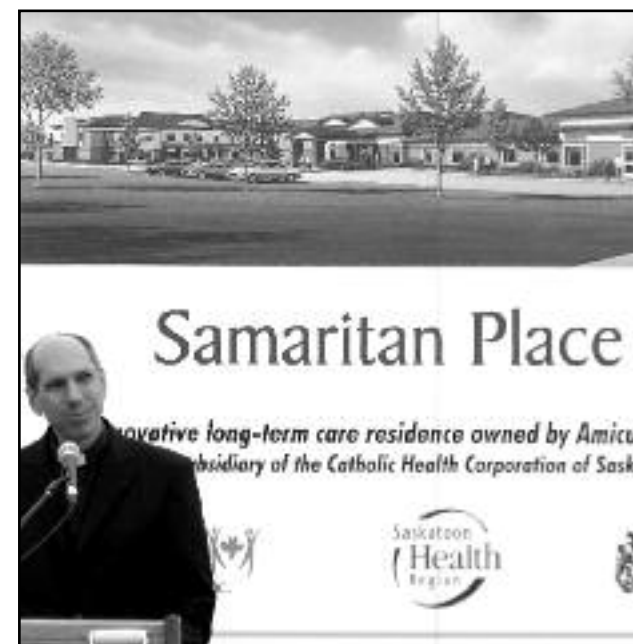
Amicus Health Care Inc. recently announced the appointment of Juanita Tremere as executive director of Samaritan Place.

A registered nurse with over 25 years of experience in the Saskatoon Health Region, Juanita Tremere has served as a patient advocate for those requiring both acute and long term care and has led efforts to develop and promote patient rights within the system.

In her most recent role as a Continuing Care and Seniors' Health Associate, Tremere championed resident-centred models of care and developed a new quality framework for long-term service delivery within the Saskatoon Health Region.

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (CHMS) is the organization created by the Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan as the owner-operator of ten Catholic health care facilities in the province, including St. Paul's Hospital and St. Ann's Senior Citizen Village in Saskatoon and most recently Samaritan Place. CHMS creates subsidiaries to govern and operate its health care facilities, and Amicus Health Care Inc. was created to govern and operate Samaritan Place.

The vision of the facility is to provide a home setting rather than an institution, with space for gardening and



Bishop Don Bolen speaks in front of a sign about the new facility during an August ground-breaking.

community building, and to develop a vibrant spiritual and religious care program. The new facility will provide Level 3 and Level 4 long term care, and includes 56 individual living units, 24 designated for clients with dementia, and 20 units for pairings where one requires a higher level of care than their spouse/family member.

"Samaritan Place and its model of resident-responsive accommodation is a gospel-inspired and hope-filled initiative, promising to bring excellent health care and a wide range of services to its residents," said Bishop Donald Bolen, who led the gathering in prayer and consecrated the ground with a blessing during the ground-breaking ceremony in August.

"I'm most grateful to the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan and the Amicus Health Care Board for their work in guiding this project."

For further information about Samaritan Place in Saskatoon, contact Amicus interim CEO Brenda FitzGerald at b.fitzgerald@amicushealthcare.ca



Pro-life pilgrimage

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bryan Bayda offers a blessing Aug. 22 during the 11th annual pro-life pilgrimage to the site of a 100-foot steel Millennium Cross north of Aberdeen on Highway 41. The site was established in 1999 by the Knights of Columbus council at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic parish in Saskatoon. The pilgrimage included a talk by Bishop Bayda and praying of a "living rosary" for an end to abortion.

Adoption: it's a good choice
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St. Thomas More College bids farewell to Fr. George Smith

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

After 10 years as president of St. Thomas More College, Fr. George Smith, CSB, left Saskatoon Sept 30 to take up duties as worldwide Superior General of the Congregation of St. Basil in Toronto.

Friends and colleagues gathered Sept. 24 to honour Smith for his contributions to the federated Catholic college on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

Michael MacLean of STM Campus Ministry began the farewell celebration by praying a blessing for Smith.

University president Peter McKinnon stressed how Smith's time as president of STM was marked by a close working relationship between the Catholic college and the University of Saskatchewan.

Smith "quite literally wrote the book on federation," McKinnon noted, citing Smith's PhD thesis and extensive writing on the subject of federated Catholic colleges. "He taught, examined, considered what federation involved. His great leadership at St. Thomas More put many of the lessons that he wrote about into practice."

Smith's pioneering leadership in the area of Community Service Learning, in which



Assistant Dean Patti McDougal presents Fr. George Smith with a parting gift.

university students combine service and connections in the community with their academic study and experience, was also noted by McKinnon. "The University of Saskatchewan saw much in his example to imitate. Community Service Learning is a very important part of student experience now," McKinnon noted.

STM student Stephen Bagwell said that perhaps Smith's greatest impact on STM was on student life. He noted Smith's open door

policy for students, and his support and encouragement of their studies and extra-curricular efforts.

Derrin Raffey, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administration, used four words to describe Smith: "professional, dedicated, compassionate and caring."

STM Dean Carl Still summarized Smith's legacy as president, listing a number of key accomplishments, including the development of a new STM mission statement which is deeply Catholic and also inclusive; a focus on strategic planning; an ambitious building program; strengthening of the academic life of the college; the creation of the Community Service Learning program with financial assistance from Les and Irene Dubé; an increase in the faculty complement; and the strong collegial relationship with the University of Saskatchewan, including an agreement with the College of Arts and Science that spells out clear parameters for STM's teaching.

New minors in both "Catholic Studies" and "Social Justice and the Common Good" were developed under Smith's leadership, Still added. Smith also initiated efforts to

establish an endowed chair in Catholic studies at STM.

After Still led a toast to Smith, the outgoing president responded, stressing the close relationships between the university and the college.

Smith said as president of STM his role was "to get a few ideas, and then ask the people to go about doing the work that has to be done, and then I simply stood back and tried to keep out of the way." He acknowledged "the hard work, professionalism and expertise that the men and women we have brought together at STM have been able to execute."

There is great satisfaction in knowing the college is flourishing and will continue to flourish, Smith added.

"More than anything I'm grateful for the acts of kindness shown to me over the last 10 years," he said. "You have indeed shaped my heart and who I am as a person."

Dr. Ken Smith was named acting president of the college as of Oct. 1.

An interview with Fr. George Smith can be found on the diocesan website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

History of Sisters of St. Elizabeth planned: but only pre-ordered copies will be printed

Editor's Note: This report includes experts from an article originally published in the Oct. 17, 2010 edition of The Star Phoenix.

BY DARLENE POLACHIC

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth are preparing to celebrate their 100th anniversary in Saskatchewan with a history book. Entitled *The Prairie Does Flourish*, it is being written by Joan Cadham of Foam Lake in collaboration with a six-member advisory committee composed of sisters and lay people.

"The history books will be available in May of 2011, but we are pre-selling them so we know how many to print," says Sr. Viola Bens, secretary of the congregation and a member of the order for more than 50 years.

"We're asking for a \$25 non-refundable deposit," she said. "We believe the total price will be between \$30 and \$40."

To pre-order a copy of *The Prairie Does Flourish*, call (306) 682-1541, or send a cheque for \$25 to: Treasurer, Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Box 1941, Humboldt, SK, S0K 2A0. Indicate whether you will pick up the book in Humboldt or pay for shipping costs. The deadline for ordering is Dec. 31, 2010.

The story of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Canada is an inspiring one, says Bens. "They not only transplanted their European roots deep into prairie soil, but much like the prairie wildflowers, they flourished against all odds, laying vital foundations in health and home care, education and elder care, with the risen Jesus at the centre of their mind, heart and soul."

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth (or more accurately, Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi) were founded in Aachen, Germany in 1622. Their traditional work was to care for the sick. In 1910, three sisters from a group in Klagenfurt, Austria, were sent to Canada to establish a work in Saskatchewan. The three, Sisters Augustina Platzer, Philomena Jug and Gabriela Lex, were put in contact with Abbot Bruno Doerfler of St. Peter's Abbey at Muenster, arriving May 14, 1911.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth eventually became the owners of four hospitals in Saskatchewan and continued in health care work until 2000. They still own St. Joseph's Health Centre in Macklin. At the order's height,

there were about 120 Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Saskatchewan.

"Mostly, the major focus has been on hospitals. Over the years, sisters have also done marriage tribunal work in dioceses here and in British Columbia, and a couple of us were teachers," added Bens.

"We're all getting up in age, though there are still a few sisters in active ministry. One, at 83, is still a massage therapist practicing in the Mother House, and several sisters do pastoral visitation."



Sr. Viola Bens, OSE, at the St. Elizabeth's Convent in Humboldt.

Book chronicles story of Ursulines of Bruno

A recently-published 300-page history of the Ursulines of Bruno tells one part of the often-overlooked story of women religious in Saskatchewan.

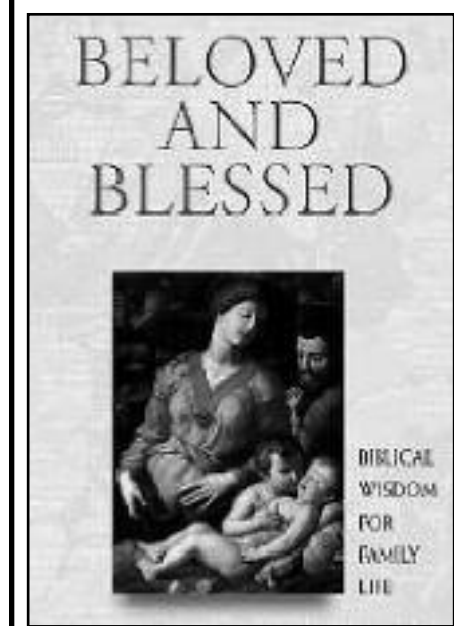
Written by Sr. Maureen Maier, OSU, *Women of Service for the Glory of God* describes the origins and the work of the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno, who first arrived in St. Peter's Colony in the Muenster area in 1913.

The new book chronicles how the Bruno order was established, growing out of the arrival in Canada of a handful of women religious from Germany, just before the outbreak of World War I cut off regular communication with the mother house in Europe. It follows the story of the order's growth and evolution, and the sisters' work as teachers, spiritual leaders and cultural catalysts in the community, exploring the impact the women had on life and faith in the area.

To order a copy of *Women of Service for the Glory of God* contact Ursuline Place in Humboldt at (306) 682-5198 or e-mail ursulapl@sasktel.net or contact Sr. Maureen Maier, OSU, at (306) 652-3838 or e-mail maurmai@sasktel.net



Sr. Maureen Maier, OSU



Featured new items at the diocesan Resource Library

BY RICHARD BANGMA, DIOCESAN RESOURCE LIBRARY

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

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

Search the library catalogue on line at:

saskatoonrcdiocese.com/library/search.cfm

The Resource Library is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

We Share in the Eucharist

This is a colourful book for families and their children to assist in preparation for the sacraments. Exploring the mysteries of faith, experiencing the Eucharist, and praying more frequently are the goals of the lessons presented in this book by Francoise Darcy-Berube and Jean-Paul Berube.

Beloved and Blessed by Kimberly Hahn

Based on Proverbs 31, this DVD set is the third in a three part series by Kimberly Hahn, which covers the topics of marriage and parenting while creating love in your home. Each seminar presents a different topic such as responsible parenthood, trusting God when parenting hurts, and strategies for instructing children.





Monsignor Eduardo Chavez was guest speaker at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Congress in Saskatoon. For more about his presentation, check out the news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Knights organize congress

BY ED GIBNEY, STATE DEPUTY

In September the Knights of Columbus hosted an "Our Lady of Guadalupe Congress" at St. Patrick's Parish in Saskatoon.

Guest speaker was Monsignor Eduardo Chavez of Mexico City, who was the Postulator for the Cause for Canonization of Saint Juan Diego. Monsignor Chavez led his listeners through the history, the miracles and the resulting spread of the faith surrounding the appearance of Our Lady 500 years ago.

A DVD was recorded and organizers hope that the quality will allow for a short video synopsis of the Congress which will help spread Our Lady's wonderful message to the rest of the province.

The State Council of the Knights of Columbus is hosting a Men's Renewal weekend in Saskatoon Saturday, March 5, 2011. This event will take place at St. Patrick's Parish in Saskatoon.

One issue that Knights of Columbus councils are facing is a dwindling lack of leadership from some male members of the Church. Therefore, this Renewal event will offer the men of the Church, both Knights and non Knights, some guidance on doing their part to serve the Church.

Here in the diocese of Saskatoon, as well as in the diocese of Prince Albert, the Knights of Columbus have recently celebrated two 100th anniversaries. Both Saskatoon Council #1517 and Prince Albert Council #1519 celebrated 100 years of the Knights of Columbus' founding in those communities. In our province, the Knights of Columbus have been serving the Church for a century, which is something that we should celebrate.

The Knights of Columbus continues to invite all Catholic gentlemen over the age of 18 to join the Knights of Columbus and to help build up the Church.



Knights of Columbus deliver wheelchairs to Haiti

Dale Aalbers (left) with his grandparents Marvin and Pat DeSchryver of Denzil present a young boy with a wheelchair in April, as part of an international effort by the Knights of Columbus working in partnership with the Global Wheelchair Mission and HHS Foundation of the Dominican Republic. The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus had previously announced that they would donate \$150,000 or 1,000 wheelchairs to the victims of earthquake in Haiti. Following the earthquake, Knights of Columbus raised more than \$500,000 for relief efforts for the Caribbean nation. For more about the visit, check out the diocesan website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Family of the Year

At the annual State Convention of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus April 16-18, the Darren and Wendy Dale family of Holy Family parish in Saskatoon was recognized as Family of the Year. Darren and Wendy were also featured in the November 2010 issue of Columbia magazine.

SERENA medical advisor welcomed

BY JAMES COUTURE

SERENA Canada has been providing natural family planning (NFP) instruction across Canada since the mid 1960s.

Since that time, SERENA Canada has benefited from the contributions of many medical professionals who have helped in the development of the programs and information used in the instruction of both teaching and user couples. Central to this process has been the contributions of Dr. Suzanne Parenteau-Carreau, who has served with SERENA Canada as medical adviser beginning in the mid 1960s until her recent retirement.

Dr. Fabian Balesteros recently joined SERENA Canada in the position of medical adviser.

In the spring of 2010, at the SERENA Canada AGM held in Saskatoon, Balesteros was welcomed to his new role in SERENA Canada, with a banquet/western "ho-down."

In a keynote address, Dr. Fabian Balesteros spoke of the insights the field of NFP can contribute in the study of bioethics. He also spoke of the dignity of human life, the dignity of the human sexual act, and the importance of making NFP instruction available in a way that invites members of our society to embrace these values.



New medical advisor Dr. Fabian Balesteros and his family at the SERENA national gathering held this spring in Saskatoon.

Balesteros and his wife, Sabrina da Silva, were accredited as a SERENA teacher couple in the spring of 2008. Balesteros studied medicine in his country of origin, Colombia; he originally came to Canada for a placement at McGill University in bioethics, his area of interest. He has spent several years in pastoral work for youth in the diocese of Montreal. During this time, he completed his Masters degree in bioethics at McGill and is currently working as a doctoral candidate in Bioethics at the Université de Montréal.

He speaks Spanish, English and French. His wife is an English teacher in a secondary school in Montreal, and their first child is 15 months old.

Saskatchewan participants attend Billings program

BY ROXANNE MILLETTE

Three members of the Natural Family Planning Association (Saskatchewan) attended a National Teacher Training Extension Program in Toronto from Oct. 22-24.

The association works within the diocese of Saskatoon (and beyond), teaching women, teens, and couples the Billings Ovulation Method of natural family planning.

Jocelynn Papp, Gisele King, and Roxanne Millette were among 35 participants from across Canada, including six doctors and other medical professionals.

The program was facilitated by Marian Corkill and Marie Marshall of Australia. Corkill has over 33 years of experience teaching the Billings Ovulation Method, with extensive experience presenting at medical education seminars. Marshall, also an experienced teacher of the Billings Ovulation Method, has travelled to China with Drs. John and Lyn Billings on more than 20 occasions to



Billings Ovulation Method teachers from Saskatchewan with Australian facilitators of an Extension Teacher Training Program in Toronto (l-r): Roxanne Millette (holding Andrew), Marie Marshall, Marian Corkill, Gisele King (holding Eve), and Jocelynn Papp. - Photo submitted

conduct training programs there.

Both women also conduct training programs in Australia and other countries worldwide.

The aim of the Extension Program was to enable Accredited Billings Ovulation Method teachers and health professionals to expand their knowledge of the method by drawing on teaching/clinical experiences. Many medical studies and papers were also presented.

Papp, King, and Millette plan to share what they have learned with other teachers involved with the Natural Family Planning Association. This, in

turn, will enable all instructors of the Billings Ovulation Method in Saskatchewan to further assist their clients in understanding their fertility.

Participants from the diocese received support from the diocese of Saskatoon Education of Laity fund, as well as from several Knights of Columbus councils (Humboldt, Melfort, Nipawin and Lloydminster councils) and the Catholic Women's League (Lloydminster).

For more information about the Billings Ovulation Method, contact nfpsask@sasktel.net or (306) 369-2701.

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)

Fr. Emile April witnesses flood devastation

BY FR. EMILE APRIL

In early July of 2010, we started getting reports of a flood in the area of Brazil where Saskatoon has been involved since 1964. Gradually it became clear that this flood was the worst that local people remembered during their lifetime.

I had been planning a holiday trip to Brazil in October to visit my friends in the mission area where I had worked for 26 years. However, at a meeting with the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee and Bishop Donald Bolen of Saskatoon to discuss our response to the flood, I was asked to go as soon as possible to express solidarity from the diocese of Saskatoon.

When I arrived in Maceió at the end of July, there was a delegation at the airport to receive me. Apparently Archbishop Antonio Muniz of Maceió had celebrated a Mass in União dos Palmares for the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene and had told the people that Padre Emilio was coming to represent the diocese of Saskatoon.

I was sent to Brazil with clear objectives: to see and report to Saskatoon on the devastation of the flooded areas, to visit and offer a word of comfort to the families afflicted by the flood, to express the solidarity of the Church of Saskatoon to the affected Brazilian communities, and to discover in what way the Church of Saskatoon could participate in a flood relief project of the local Church in Brazil.

After a very joy-filled and warm welcome, I proceeded to visit the flooded areas. My biggest shock was to see the complete wipeout of the streets along the river in União dos Palmares. There was absolutely no sign of a house or street that used to exist along the river. In a deliberate attempt to prevent people from rebuilding their half-destroyed houses along the river bank, the civil defence squad levelled the area with bulldozers. People were telling me that they had no way of knowing where their house used to be located.

The other places I visited were less shocking but the complete devastation was obvious. Then I began to hear all kinds of horror stories about the night of the flood. A blacksmith in his fifties didn't think the flood would be so bad since he had seen many floods before. But when the water was at the ceiling level it was too late to get out, so he climbed onto the roof of his shop. Then he had to jump from one roof to another, since one by one the houses were collapsing. Finally, everything fell and he was caught, half under water, unable to get out. Luckily for him, a man was going by on an inner tube and pulled him out. Embarrassed, he had to thank the rescuer, a neighbour with whom he had not spoken for at least 15 years.

Another story was that of a lady who got her family to safety and then went back to her house to pick up documents – when she came out she was swept away by the current of the swollen river. She was rescued the next day about 10 kilometres away, holding on to a bramble bush. She told her family that she would have drowned, but she saw a pig floating by, grabbed him by the ear, and managed to stay afloat.

Brazil flood relief was included in the Nov 21, 2010 collection for Diocesan Mission Works. Additional donations designated for "Brazil Mission Flood Relief" can be made through your parish.

In the neighbouring town of Branquinha, there was a story of a young man who swam a few hundred metres to a solidly-built two storey bar, and with a rope, managed to save three other men who were holding on to the branches of a tree. They were all picked up the next day by a helicopter. In a nearby village of Muquem, 50 people, including old people and children, spent the whole night in two large trees waiting to be rescued the next morning.

Even the cook for the priests' house where I stayed had her story. She went home from work early on the day of the flood. Her house is not near the river but it is in a low-lying area where a rivulet runs. Just out of precaution, she put her sofa and as many of her things as possible onto the table and other high places in the house. Then she went to spend the night in the nearest school. When she came back the next morning, she found to her dismay that the water not only had come into her house, but it had actually risen to about two metres! Everything was mud and frogs and snakes.

My visits to the flooded areas were interspersed with visits to the schools, where most of the flood victims were now lodged. Over 1,000 families had lost their houses and were now homeless with no place to go. Some families were staying with relatives and friends, others who could afford it had rented a room, but the vast majority were in classrooms and corridors of schools.

Three subjects would usually come up in conversation. First, they were just thankful to still be alive. Second, they were so happy that "the Canadians" remembered them and were interested in how they were doing. They were overjoyed with my visit! Finally, they all wondered where they would go from here. They heard that the Brazilian federal government had made money available to build houses, but that usually involves a lot of bureaucracy and takes a long time. Meanwhile, the parents of school children were getting impatient for these families to leave the schools so their children could get back to class.

I was invited to 10 or 12 communities, in addition to the main parish church, to celebrate Mass. These were wonderful occasions to reconnect with people I had worked with while I was a missionary in Brazil. All of them were just so grateful that the Saskatoon diocese had sent me to visit them at this time of suffering for so many local people.

My visits and celebrations were made easier because of a friend who had just retired from his work in a local bank – he was able to be at my disposal and drive me wherever I needed to go. He was also a good source of information to fill me in on various difficult situations and the many challenges being experienced by the people.

So what was the local Church doing about this situation? I found that the priests of União dos Palmares had gathered together a



Fr. Emile April views the aftermath of the June flooding in Brazil.

team to receive donations of food, clothing, cleaning products, blankets and mattresses from the diocesan chancery, from Caritas International, and from other communities.

Here again, there were many stories of community collections and individual sharing to help the *flagelados* or flood victims. When the food arrived at the parish house, the team would open up bags of rice, beans, corn, and other bulk food and put them into small bags that could be distributed to individual families. Then the next day, they waited for a truck or some other means of transportation to take the food and clothing to the flood victims. Fr. Iran, the local priest, told me they had to plan the distribution carefully in order to avoid chaos.

I asked the archbishop of Maceió if he had a project in mind, in addition to providing the immediate relief of food and other emergency aid. Because of the money that the federal government has made available to the municipalities for the building of houses, that is one aspect of long-term assistance that the archdiocese wanted to avoid. Problems with local corruption would make such an effort very difficult to control. That is when I heard about the project called *Bem Vindo Bebê* ("Welcome Baby").

The archdiocese of Maceió, through this project, wants to target pregnant women who also happen to be flood victims. Many of these women are unmarried, poor and young. Some of the women are as young as 13 or 14. Municipalities offer pre-natal exams to poor pregnant women but they are generally treated as numbers to get through.

The archbishop's project is to have a team of doctors, paediatricians, nutritionists, psychologists, and others available to offer these women an experience of good health care as well as human compassion regarding their many other issues. So the women are transported to Maceió every month during the first six months of the pregnancy, and once a week for the last three months.

In a location prepared for them, the women are received with singing, prayer, and other means to make them feel welcome. Then, while one sees the paediatrician, others have a conversation with a psychologist, and still others with the nutritionist. Meanwhile, the little children who accompanied their mother are formed into groups to play, to do handicrafts and other things to keep them occupied and interested.

This part of the project is meant to go only until February of 2011, but the goal is to turn the diocesan project into a pilot project to pressure the government.

Through a gathering of 500,000 signatures, the Church plans to propose a popular legislation item in the state legislature that would make it mandatory for all municipalities to provide this holistic approach to the treatment of poor pregnant women. Basically, this would diminish the huge gap between the treatment received by poor women and that received by women who can afford better. If this comes about, then all efforts will have been worth it.



A mother and her children who lost their home in the flood were among those temporarily housed in local school buildings.

Diocese supports after-flood program for moms and babies

By Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU

While Fr. Emile April of the diocese of Saskatoon was visiting here in Alagoas, in meetings with Dom Antonio Muniz and the various leaders of the archdiocese it was decided that, even though the whole country had participated in offering the immediate necessities of food and shelter (and municipal officials were receiving large amounts of money for reconstruction of the infrastructure and for individual housing), one need that could easily be overlooked would be the plight of pregnant women and their new infants. Thus arose the project, *Bem Vindo Bebê* (“Welcome Baby”).

The first task was to organize lay leaders in the different areas who would register the pregnant women affected by the floods and help them recognize the benefits of participating in lectures and other activities of the program which would be based in Maceió.

A group of pastoral agents in Maceió received and tabulated these registrations. Others began to prepare the kits which each woman would receive and to set up the facilities and organizational elements needed to receive specific groups each Saturday from August until February. Professional volunteers in the areas of health and pediatrics were solicited.

Dom Antonio wrote about the project in the Aug. 14, 2010 edition of the diocesan paper *O Semeador* (“The Sower”), situating the work in a gospel context: “I have come that all may have life” (John 10,10). He called on the faithful, not only of the Maceió archdiocese, but also of the sister diocese of Saskatoon, to collaborate in this cause.

As the project was based on 1,000 babies, that number of cribs, to be made at a diocesan workshop, as well as mattresses and kits of first necessities for each child were prepared. The expectant women were divided into groups of about 30 to be received each



Young mothers and their newborns head home on the bus after participating in the project, *Bem Vindo Bebê* (“Welcome Baby”), a post-flood outreach to women without adequate prenatal or post-partum care.

Saturday. Those in most immediate need (the women in their last months of their pregnancy and teenage moms), were the first to receive attention. These and the volunteers would need transportation, dinners and lunches. In other words, the project involved much planning, preparation and financial commitment.

Since seeing is better than hearing, I went one Saturday to volunteer. When I arrived, the bus which had picked up women and their monitors along the flood route from Mundau, União and Murici had already arrived.

At the main building, I was assigned to

help in the nursery. Ten white metal cribs had been prepared, but that day 12 mothers and their babies had come, so four of the smallest babies shared two ample cribs. Some mothers had already settled their babies in cribs on each of which the coordinator had placed the name of the mother and child. After that the women were free to go to the dining room for breakfast, as they had left home in the early morning. Meanwhile, four or five volunteers looked after the child’s needs: soothing, changing, bathing, carrying and, if necessary, calling the mother if the child needed to be fed.

In a nearby larger room, the pregnant mothers received information on the importance of breastfeeding and other health topics. The leaders of the Pastoral for Children were active as general volunteers.

In another section, a pediatrician, a dentist, a nutritionist and a psychologist each had separate areas to attend individuals.

There was also a play area where the children could be accompanied, allowing the mothers to attend the various activities without preoccupation.

Everywhere I went, I sensed the atmosphere of welcome and genuine respect and care for each mother as a person and as an important member of the group and of her community.

I also visited the hub of the organization where Suely, the diocesan coordinator of the Pastoral for Children, had all the data for the program: the names and addresses of the women who were being assisted for the first time on each of the subsequent Saturdays, as well as those who were to return in 14 days. Individuals were registered according to which special sessions they had attended, the diagnoses of the practitioners, whether any medication from the general stock had been provided, and so on.

The morning passed quickly and soon it was time for a nutritious dinner, after which many of the women were glad to stretch out on the some 20 beds available or to visit on the sofas in the adjoining room.

In the afternoon, the special sessions continued and there was viewing of appropriate videos and other activities. Later in the afternoon, the first-timers received their kits and bassinets; fruit and juice were available for all before they began their journey home of about two and a half hours for the furthest. Yes, it was a full, but very fruitful, day.

Reflecting on 50 years

Catholic teachers’ group prepares to visit Brazil mission in February

By Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS

Long are the days since I first arrived from France, my home and native land, to join the Sisters of Mission Service in Saskatoon. Yet, the memories of those days remain deeply engraved in my heart as I felt that God was literally, though gently but perseveringly so, calling me out of my family setting and environment, to go into the unknown.

The challenge for me was to trust deeply and believe enough in God’s goodness and love, to venture out and allow the Spirit to lead me on: even where I dared not go.

The discernment process took a while, as I seemed to have such valid reasons as to why this could not be for me (so I thought). Yet, in my better moments of peaceful reflection, I soon realized that these were mere self-comforting “excuses” before the demanding and overwhelming call persisting within me.

As I grew slowly at recognizing its value and place in my life, befriending and eventually embracing all that it entailed to say my humble and heartfelt “yes” to God’s call, I began my journey of faith and life commitment within the SMS community.

This summer in Saskatoon, I had the opportunity and great joy of celebrating 50 years of religious profession that have led me to a variety of experiences in western and northern Canada, and now in Brazil.

Pausing a while to reflect on what these 50 years have been for

me, I feel deep gratitude for God’s infinite goodness and steadfast love that have sustained me and enabled me to serve among God’s people. With our community’s motto: “I came that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10), I have long prayed and attempted to live by the words of the prophet Micah 6:8: “To act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with my God.” These words have been a guiding force and light in my journey up to the present.

On returning to the Mission of São José da Laje in Brazil, the parish community also wanted to contribute in celebrating this golden chapter of my life. All was kept in semi-secret until the day arrived Oct. 3 and unfolded ever so beautifully.

The people involved in preparing this celebration truly gave their best in making it a very joyful and meaningful event for all present. These powerful moments re-awakened in me the fact that, yes, God is a “demanding” God, but never fails to accompany us with great tenderness and love.

At this point, I can only be deeply grateful for all that has been in my life: for being born and raised into a family and circle of faith, for the religious congregation that has welcomed me and helped me grow as a person and in the light of God’s on-going call. And not the least, for all those who have encouraged me along the way by their loving support and examples of faithful dedication. My heart sings the glory of God among His people!

By Louise Bitz
Holy Cross High School

A group of teachers from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, accompanied by former Brazil missionary Fr. Emile April and myself, will visit the diocesan mission in Brazil for two weeks in February 2011.

The Brazil Mission Awareness Committee and the missionaries who are presently serving in Brazil suggested that welcoming a group of teachers into the mission for even a short period of two weeks would serve to increase their awareness of what it means to be a mission church and would be of significant benefit to our Saskatoon school division and the diocese in general.

In preparation for the Brazil visit, the teachers have been meeting once a month to study and discuss various topics of importance to their experience in the mission. They are exploring such topics as land reform, theology and spirituality of mission, history of Brazil with particular reference to slavery, the writings of Paulo Friere and “pedagogy of the oppressed,” models of church, the seven themes of Catholic social teaching, and the Farm of Hope movement.

During their stay in Brazil, the group will be visiting the communities in Maceió that the Ursuline Sisters are involved with, a Farm of Hope where the Sisters serve, Talitha (a home for girls coming off the street), and the Catholic Centre in Maceio. In São



The teachers’ group preparing to visit Brazil includes (back, l-r): Barb Borycki, Shawn Lewandoski, Dave Buttinger, Colette Bischoff; (front, l-r): Joann Carson, Louise Bitz, Fr. Emile April, Reanne Lajeunesse. Missing: Valerie Udell.

José da Laje, they will accompany the Sisters of Mission Service as they carry on their ministry of presence with the poor.

In addition, the teachers will visit the community of União dos Palmares, where our diocesan priests were missionaries for 40 years, and will tour the areas in União and Laje that were devastated by the floods of June 2010. Other planned visits will include the community of Ibateguara where Fr. Les Paquin served as pastor, an encampment where people are persevering in their struggle and hope for land, a monastery, and the famous hill where the first successful slave revolt was staged in Brazil.

Barb Borycki and Joann Carson, who both teach at Fr. Robinson School in Saskatoon, have established a pen-pal type of connection between their students and children in a primary school in União. The students at Mother Teresa School in Saskatoon have had a similar relationship with the students at ATRACA School in Canastra, so these will be special school visits for the Saskatoon teachers as well.

The group is excited about the visit, but also humbly aware that it is an experience that will call them into deeper conversion, deeper conscientization, and deeper commitment to the gospel mission role of the church.

"Under One Sky" exchange connects north and south

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A north-south mission exchange this summer fostered relationships and built understanding among participants from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and two northern communities.

Dubbed *Under One Sky* the exchange was organized as a way to help realize a Diocesan Mission Office (DMO) objective to encourage, foster and support mission awareness of the Canadian North, said DMO coordinator Mary Jacobi.

"In 2005, when we undertook a mission discernment process, it was identified that we needed to connect with our brothers and sisters to the north. The question was: how do we do that?" Jacobi explained. "We came up with the idea of doing a mission exchange '*Under One Sky*.' This was an effort to begin a conversation."

As part of the DMO initiative, eight participants from the diocese of Saskatoon headed north this summer – four to the Pine Channel pilgrimage in



While in Saskatoon, exchange participants visited the Western Development Museum and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

northern Saskatchewan July 5 to 12, and four to the Sandy Bar annual pilgrimage weekend at St. Theresa Point in northern Manitoba July 29 to Aug. 3.

For participant John de Gooijer who traveled to St. Theresa Point, *Under One Sky*

was a chance to talk to First Nations persons about their reality and to experience life in another culture.

"It was an eye-opener just to have them talk very frankly to us about some of the situations with the reserve, and to talk about the treaties," he said. "It was a chance to put aside misconceptions and to hear their perspective. They were very open about their feelings and experiences of how things were, and about what happened in the past and is still happening now."

"The pilgrimage at Pine Channel was a great learning opportunity," said participant Leah Perrault, Director of Pastoral Services at the diocesan Catholic Centre.

"The flight north was a privileged invitation into a different way of being Church with the Dene people. The devotion to Mary, the commitment to prayer and gathering families for faith was inspiring. And knowing that people would be joining us in Saskatoon to share our experience of faith made the return home feel less final and more connected to those communities than if it was a one-way mission."

After the two northern journeys, the eight diocesan participants gathered with eight exchange participants from the

northern communities at Queen's House of Retreats in Saskatoon, Aug. 19-22 for a time of shared reflection and experience.

The *Under One Sky* visit to Saskatoon included tours of two facilities, each with a different perspective on area history: the "Boomtown" displays of the Western Development Museum, and the First Nations' perspective revealed at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Participants also traveled to the Mount Carmel pilgrimage site Aug. 21 to participate in Rock The Mount, where they led a decade of the rosary, offering prayers in Cree, Dene, French and English.

These events helped open up the whole idea of being connected, and being in relationship, Jacobi said. Seeing history from two perspectives, and finding common ground at the Marian pilgrimage site brought about a lot of sharing during times of discussion and reflection among the southern Saskatchewan residents and the Cree and Dene visitors from the north, she said.

The experience was challenging, added Jacobi. "We were going into it with so many unknowns," she said, admitting the process was not always easy or simple.

"But the level of sharing we experienced and the way that we were able to get beyond surface stuff to make a deeper connection was amazing."

One unexpected development was the inclusion of northern participants' family members in the southern setting, she added. "Because they don't get down south very often, they had a chance to see family – and some family members came in and joined in and were part of it all," she said. "I honestly think the Holy Spirit had people there who needed to be there, for whatever reason."

Another great blessing was the traditional First Nations feast and round dance that ended the gathering, she said. Recently-recognized Elder Gayle Weenie, a pastoral associate at the Saskatoon aboriginal Catholic parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, ensured the proper First Nations traditions were honoured during the feast.

The north-south exchange went so well that Jacobi expects something similar will be organized again by the DMO. "This opens up a whole dialogue that needs to take place in our church and in our communities," she said. "It's a way of broadening our understanding. The experience was just so rich."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WIDOW AND WIDOWER SUPPORT GROUP is held 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Wednesdays** at the Edwards Family Center, 333-4th Ave North, Saskatoon. For more information, contact Blake Sittler at 242-1500, or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Drop-ins welcome. No charge.

ENTER INTO ADVENT WITH THE MYSTICS continues at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Drive, in Saskatoon. Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, speaks about Blessed Marie of the Incarnation **7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7**, and Darren Dahl speaks about Julian of Norwich **7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14**. Gatherings begin with centering prayer led by Fr. Kevin McGee and end with refreshments. Recommended cost \$8, students \$5.

ECUMENICAL SCRIPTUREFEST: WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE will be held at Queen's House 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 22** with keynote speaker Christian Eberhart and panel presenters Rev. Jan Bigland-Pritchard, Vern Ratzlaff and Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU. Cost: \$35 (with lunch). Call 242-1916 to register.

PARENTING COURSES are offered by Catholic Family Services. Upcoming opportunities include "Active Parenting 1,2,3,4" For parents of children ages 1 to 4 years **Wednesdays** at 7 p.m. from **Jan. 26 to Feb. 16**; "Active Parenting Now" for parents of children ages 5 to 12 years 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 5**; and "Active Parenting of Teens" 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, March 5**. For more information contact Catholic Family Services in Saskatoon at (306) 244-7773 or visit the website at www.cfssaskatoon.sk.ca

A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND is an opportunity for a married couple to take time to rediscover one another and focus on their relationship in a loving encounter. The next WWME weekends will be held **Feb. 4-6** at the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon or **April 15-17** at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. For more information contact: Marc and Anita Loiselle at (306) 258-2192 or loiselle@baudoux.ca

MARRIAGE PREPARATION in our diocese includes Engaged Encounter weekends at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster **March 18-20** or **April 29-May 1** - contact Heather and Craig Stomp at (306) 682-3326. Catholic Family Services also offers Marriage Preparation weekends, contact (306) 244-7773, or check with your local parish.

THE ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN PRO-LIFE CONVENTION will be held in Humboldt in the spring, **April 15 and 16** with special guest speaker Michael Coren. Watch for more information on the website: www.saskprolife.com

RETRouvaille is a weekend for couples who are having difficulties in their marriage: **April 29 - May 1**. For information contact Ken and Rita Wolfe (306) 652-7155 or retrouvaille@sasktel.net

SUMMER SCHOOL IN LITURGICAL STUDIES will be offered in Saskatoon **July 19 to 28**. Participants can complete the certificate requirements in three summers. For more information, please visit the website at: www.wcl-ssls.ca or e-mail: karenfs@sasktel.net

CHURCH FURNISHINGS: St. Mary's parish in Lanigan has some old furnishings available at no cost: an ambo (21w x 15d x 42h); a baptismal font (24w x 24d x 44h); a credence table (28w x 24d x 42h); and a holy water font (16w x 14.5d x 45h). Contact: st.marys@sasktel.net



Diocesan CWL executive

A new executive of the diocesan CWL council was elected April 26 at the 75th annual diocesan convention in Saskatoon: (front row, left to right): Ruth Hiebert, President Susan Melchiorre, Sr. Julianna Heisler, Marie Van Dressor, Marlene Vogelgesang and Joan Scott; (Second row, left to right): Wanda Graham, Beatrice Wacholtz, Chris Lang, Adele Giblin, Frances Stang, Alice Risling; (Third row, back, left to right): Margaret Schwab, Claire Heron. Other executive members are: Heather Kolla and Ingrid Eggerman. For more about the diocesan or provincial CWL conventions see news articles at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo submitted by Adele Giblin