

Mission and outreach series

Many in our diocese are involved in living out their faith by building connections with people around the world.



MISSION IN ACTION • Pages 17-22 •



"The Lord be with you ... And with your spirit!"

"And with your spirit" is one of the new responses that the faithful will notice, as a new English translation of the Roman Missal is implemented at the start of Advent. There are other changes to the prayers of the Mass – including some of the people's responses, and the musical settings of familiar chants such as the Gloria – as well as instructions related to posture, including the direction to kneel during the consecration.

More on ROMAN MISSAL including a LETTER from the BISHOP • Pages 4-5 •



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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

December 2011

Move to new cathedral underway in December

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre will move to office space in the new Holy Family Cathedral in December.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 9, Catholic Centre and Chancery offices will be closed for about 10 days, to give staff time to make the move to the new building at 123 Nelson Road, just off Attridge Drive, next to St. Joseph Catholic high school in northeast Saskatoon.

The diocesan Resource Library will be closed for a longer time, shutting its doors at the old location as of Nov. 30, with plans to re-open as soon as possible in the New Year at the new, larger library.

"Advent is busy with parish activity, but at the diocesan level this is a rather calm season, so it is the perfect time to put our services on hold for a week. We definitely appreciate people's patience during our move," said Blake Sittler, Director of Pastoral Services.

Before the move, the public is invited to stop by and visit the Catholic Pastoral Centre a final time, during an "open house" coffee break, from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Dec. 5, 6, or 7, at the building on the corner of 22nd Street and 5th Avenue, adjacent to St. Paul's Cathedral.

Recognized for the Mosaic image of the face of Christ at the front entrance, the building has served as the Catholic Centre since it was constructed in 1963, under the leadership of Bishop Francis Klein.

In recent years, the diocesan offices have outgrown this space,



Jacinta Leyne, 18 months, daughter of receptionist Sharon Leyne and Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne recently joined diocesan staff for a photo in front of the mosaic at the Catholic Centre in downtown Saskatoon. In December, the diocesan pastoral ministry and chancery offices will move to new Catholic Centre offices at Holy Family Cathedral in northeast Saskatoon. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

prompting then-Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt to include the Catholic Centre in plans to build a new Cathedral in northeast Saskatoon, when the project was launched several years ago.

The Catholic Centre is home to the bishop's office, as well as the Chancery Office and Marriage Tribunal, and is the base from which a wide range of diocesan ministry offices plan and implement programs, including: Lay Formation, Restorative (prison) Ministry, Justice and Peace, Ministry Development, Marriage and Family Life, Youth Ministry,

Diocesan Youth Retreat Team, Vocations, Catechetics, Communications, Foundations and the diocesan Resource Library

The new Catholic Centre at Holy Family Cathedral will also soon house all the diocesan archives, which have been stored at Ogle Hall student residence (the former Pius X seminary building) on campus. That building was recently sold to the University of Saskatchewan – another consideration taken into account in the planning of the new Catholic Centre facility in conjunction with the cathedral.

Holy Family parish will also be moving to the new facility in the weeks ahead, with plans for the first Mass in the cathedral to take place Sunday, Dec. 18, on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Funds for constructing and equipping the new \$28.5 million Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre (which also includes Holy Family parish offices, a pastor's residence, a hall and a variety of meeting areas) were raised over several years by Holy Family parish, as well as through a diocesan Uniting in Faith capital campaign.

Dates of note:

- **Catholic Centre closed** Dec. 8 -19
- **First Mass for Holy Family parish** in new cathedral Sunday, Dec. 18
- **Diocesan celebration Sunday, Jan. 1**, at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface presiding at celebration of the Eucharist at the cathedral.
- **Uniting in Faith Campaign Wind-up Celebration** the evening of Friday, Jan. 20 (time to be announced) will include Mass with Bishop Bolen, tours, and a reception. All donors and volunteers from across the diocese are invited. **Please RSVP: 242-1500.**
- **Formal blessing of the new "Cathedral of the Holy Family" 2:30 p.m., Sunday May 13, 2012.** A planning committee is working on a number of other opening events during the week of May 6 to 13.

The diocesan effort involved parishes across the diocese, and brought in individual donations at every level of giving, both one-time, and pledged over five years.

Fund-raising continues for some of the building's features, including the solar stained glass windows in the spire (with the help of Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus), as well as for the non-solar stained glass artwork in the sanctuary (see related article on Page 24) – all pieces designed by Canadian glass artist Sarah Hall.

After the move in December, the Catholic Centre main switchboard numbers will remain the same: (306) 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, fax: (306) 244-6010 – as will all diocesan e-mail addresses.

Various ministry offices will also have direct lines at the new building; telephone numbers will be publicized once they are in use.



Janice Sanford Beck, chair of Good Food Junction, and Ralph Winterhalt, Station 20 West project manager, spoke to church leaders Oct. 12.

Christian leaders repeat their ecumenical Advent call to support Good Food Junction grocery at Station 20 West

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

A number of church leaders in Saskatoon, including Saskatoon Catholic Bishop Don Bolen, are planning another ecumenical Advent campaign in support of Good Food Junction Cooperative Grocery Store.

Last year, 14 Christian leaders, signed a letter of support and raised some \$150,000 toward the costs of equipping and stocking the cooperative grocery store that will be located in Station 20 West, under construction in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood.

With an estimated \$400,000 still needed

MORE on FOOD • Pages 12-13 •

to equip the store if it is to open without debt, church leaders are again asking congregations and the community to support the project.

An ecumenical outdoor nativity pageant to launch the Advent campaign is planned for 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 in the civic square next to Saskatoon City Hall.

The history of the grocery store project was recently described at a meeting of church leaders by Janice Sanford Beck,

president of the Good Food Junction co-operative. The lack of a full service grocery store in the low income neighbourhood makes shopping for healthy, inexpensive food a huge challenge, especially for those without access to a vehicle, she described.

"The fundraising that the churches did last year was a huge boost for the grocery store," Sanford Beck said. "It really drew people's attention to the project, and brought it into the minds and hearts of people who might otherwise not know about it, or might otherwise not have been as supportive."



Hey Nunnie, Nunnie!

Shannon O'Brien as Mother Redempta and Dana McCain as Sister Philomena Claire (l-r) presented "Hey Nunnie Nunnie" in Saskatoon, Ituna and Macklin, in performances organized by the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus. Proceeds went toward the solar stained glass windows for the new Saskatoon cathedral. Some 700 attended the final performance of the comedy duo from New York on Nov. 3 in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Tony Haynes recognized for years of service

At a recent "What's On Your Plate?" food conference organized in the diocese of Saskatoon, Bishop Don Bolen made a presentation to special guest Tony Haynes, in appreciation for his many years as the director of the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace. Haynes recently retired from the position for health reasons. "Tony has been a tireless witness for justice and peace, in a soft spoken, but very determined, committed, faithful way," said Bolen. "He has been a prophetic voice, very much in the Biblical tradition." Haynes' work has included organizing an ecumenical downtown Way of the Cross on Good Friday for many years, as well as multi-faith prayers for peace at New Year's. His office has addressed such matters as poverty, the environment, homelessness, Station 20 West, challenges facing rural communities, nuclear energy, and restorative justice, as well as working with many other community and ecumenical groups on a broad range of issues. At the Nov. 5 food conference, which Haynes initiated, the diocesan Justice and Peace advisory committee also made a presentation honouring Haynes. In addition, a diocesan celebration for Tony Haynes has been planned for Nov. 19.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Holy Land pilgrims

Saskatchewan pilgrims stand on Mount Nebo, on or near the spot where Moses is buried, during a recent Ministry to Tourism trip to the Holy Land, under the leadership of Fr. Ralph Kleiter and facilitators Ivan and Kathy Hitchings of Asquith, SK. Kathy recently retired as coordinator of the diocesan Lay Formation program in the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon. She and Ivan led reflection, learning and prayer on the recent journey to sacred sites of the old and the new testaments. The Ministry to Tourism office is currently organizing trips to Ireland for the International Eucharistic Congress in June 2012, as well as a number of cruise and other options. For more information see: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca or contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter at: (306) 244-3747 or: kleiter@shaw.ca

- Photo by Ivan Hitchings

Bishop's Annual Appeal winds up in many parishes across diocese

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Although this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) is not yet complete, administrator Cathie Rogers is hopeful that the \$1.5 million goal will be met.

Sixty-two of the diocese's 98 parishes had completed the Appeal by Nov. 16, with \$1,028,032 collected or pledged.

"I would encourage everyone to get everything in by the end of the year, in order to get tax receipts issued for 2011," she said.

Feedback about this year's Appeal has been largely positive from parishes and volunteers, Rogers said.

Many have expressed appreciation that Bishop Donald Bolen traveled to deaneries to meet with parishioners from across the diocese to answer questions about the Appeal, and to present a video highlighting vital ministries that exist in the diocese thanks to the BAA, she said.

The "bishop's tour" began with a visit to the Kerrobert Deanery Sept. 20, and continued with a meeting for the Saskatoon City and Saskatoon Rural deaneries at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon. The Bishop also visited Outlook deanery Sept. 27, Wadena deanery Sept. 28, Eatonia deanery Oct. 11 and Humboldt deanery Oct. 12.

In his presentations, Bolen



described the importance of the BAA to the life of the diocese, stressing that the many ministries funded by the Appeal are designed to support and enhance the work of the parishes in evangelization, ministry, service and outreach.

"The Catholic Pastoral Centre is a complete hub of activity," he said. "And the activity which goes on there is carrying out the work of the gospel; it is carrying out, in one aspect or another, the mission of Christ."

Ministry areas supported by the BAA include outreach and programs that simply can't be accomplished by individual parishes acting alone, Bolen noted.

He cited prison ministry as one example, and described walking into the Correctional Centre with diocesan Restorative Ministry coordinator Dianne Anderson.

"You get a sense that the Church is being brought into the prisons through that ministry," he said. "Jesus says 'when I was in prison, you visited me.' Jesus sends us into those places – into the suffering and the pain and the grief – and asks us to be there as Church. Individual parishes can only do so

much in that regard, but as a diocese we can support parishes in that. As a diocese we can do a great deal."

That is also true of many other ministries, where combining resources means more can be done when the diocese acts together, he said – areas such as justice and peace, catechetics, a liturgy commission, ecumenism, youth ministry, communications, vocations promotion, a diocesan resource library, adult faith formation, ministry development, marriage and family life – all areas of diocesan ministry that are funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Bolen acknowledged the huge contribution of dedicated parish volunteers in ensuring the success of the Appeal, which was established by Bishop James Mahoney in the diocese more than 25 years ago.

The thriving life of the Church in the diocese of Saskatoon can be directly attributed to the work of the Bishop's Annual Appeal over the years, and its ongoing support of ministry, outreach and programming, he added.

This year's \$1.5 million goal will simply allow the diocese to continue with ministries already in place, Bolen said. He added that there is a strong desire to meet other growing needs, if the resources can be found.

Kathy Hitchings recognized for impact on diocese

Retiring after 27 years of service to the diocese in a career characterized by collaboration, joy and service, Kathy Hitchings was honoured at a diocesan celebration Nov. 10 in Saskatoon.

Kathy Hitchings began her work with the diocese as a part-time member of the Rural Catechetics team in 1984, working and travelling with Sr. Magdalen Stengler, OSU, to help catechists around the diocese. Later, Kathy created the diocesan Ministry Development office, and joined the team coordinating the diocesan Lay Formation program, which was founded and designed by Sr. Cecile Fahl, SMS.

Accompanied by her husband Ivan, a long-time volunteer on the Lay Formation program team, Kathy assisted in the adult faith formation of hundreds of Lay Formation participants over the years. She was instrumental in the move to collaborate with the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon in offering a joint eastern and western rite Lay Formation program, and played a key role a few years later when a third stream – for Aboriginal Catholics from three dioceses – also became part of the unique program.

Former colleague Louise Gantefer and long-time Lay Formation volunteer George Rolheiser were MCs for the tribute to Hitchings at St. Anne's parish.

Presentations included words from Donna Rogal on behalf of co-workers at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, recalling many memories, and acknowledging Kathy for "authentic, present, welcoming, concerned love."

A family presentation by the children and grandchildren of Ivan and Kathy followed, as did words from Sr. Magdalen Stengler.

Fr. Kevin McGee spoke on behalf of priests and pastors in the diocese. "You invited me and my brother priests to take to heart the important role of all the baptized," McGee told the guest of honour. "You have been a voice of wisdom, inviting us to balance, to integration and to wholeness."

Four members of the Lay Formation alumni association presented a skit and song, and a gift recognizing Kathy's and Ivan's passion for mountain climbing.

The Pastoral Association of Lay Ministry (PALM) presented her with an honorary life membership in the group that she helped to establish in the diocese.

Fr. David Tumbach, a longtime presenter at the Lay Formation program announced that he has bequeathed a \$50,000 planned gift to the diocese through his life insurance policy, directing it toward a *Kathy Hitchings Lay Formation Fund*, "to recognize and to honour her selfless commitment to this wonderful program"

Finally Bishop Donald Bolen noted the deep commitment to lay leadership and to collaboration between the laity and the clergy that has long existed in the diocese. "Kathy, you have embodied that role of lay leadership in the Church with great wisdom... using all of your intelligence and gifts; and you have done it with integrity," Bolen said. "And you have done an incredible amount to cultivate and foster that leadership in the diocese. The fruits of your labour will continue for a very long time."

After a standing ovation, Kathy responded with emotion, joy and appreciation. "To love and be loved by the people of this diocese is a gift beyond, and I thank God for all of you and (give thanks) for our great and gracious God."

She expressed profound appreciation for colleagues, for the people and for the leadership she has experienced, including the four bishops she has served with in the diocese.

"I've learned that the Holy Spirit resides in dialogue, that Jesus' model of collaboration is to be the model for ministry and we need to read the gospels from that perspective.... and I've learned never to underestimate the faith of the people." Prayer is the touchpoint of faith, she added. "As we love and live and pray with all people ... all the barriers fall down."

- KLY



Kathy Hitchings

With funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, this newsletter is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications

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@saskatoonrccdioocese.com

Web page: www.saskatoonrccdioocese.com

Day of prayer focuses on cancer

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The impact of cancer was framed in prayer during an ecumenical event Oct. 20 in Saskatoon.

Holy Spirit Catholic parish and McClure United Church joined together to organize and offer the second annual Prayer Day for Cancer, addressing the repercussions that the disease has on individual lives, on families, on caregivers and on faith.

The event is held to offer “remembrance, courage and hope,” said organizers of the second annual ecumenical day of prayer.

“The Prayer Day for Cancer provides a time to remember those living with cancer, and those who determinedly faced the disease until their physical being expired. It also provides time to offer courage today to those coping with the disease as a survivor, or as a caregiver or support person,” said planning committee member Florence Graham. “It provides time to foster hope through reflections, interaction and information.”

A speaker from HOPE Cancer Centre in Saskatoon was featured during the afternoon session, which also included scripture reading, prayers and a candle-lighting ceremony.

The Saskatchewan centre provides a number of programs and services “to all people, all cancers.”

The centre offers client assistance, which might include contributing to extra costs of medication, supplies, equipment, services or living expenses related to cancer and its treatment. It also offers support groups (including a relaxation and meditation group), workshops, retreats, and a library of resources; in addition to providing some research funding.

The Prayer Day for Cancer evening session included scripture, poetry, prayers and song, as well as reflection and testimony from cancer survivors, caregivers, bereaved family members and others, who explored grief and suffering, as well as healing and blessing, related to their journeys through and with cancer.

The fear and lack of control that comes with a cancer diagnosis were described by one survivor of breast cancer, who also focused on how her children and her students were affected by the experience.

The time spent fighting her cancer became a time to set priorities and to ground herself in prayer, she added, reflecting on the importance of faith in her journey.

“God never promised us a pain-free existence on earth,” she said. “God pledged to always be with us, even when we experience hardship and difficulty in the world, and I have always, always felt that, even through the worst of times.”

She also described being overwhelmed by the response and assistance from the families in the school where she taught, as well as from her church community. “It’s hard to accept help. It’s easier to be a giver,” she said. “I learned when you rely on others, we have to accept it and it humbles us. For me, this was a metaphor for what God does... when

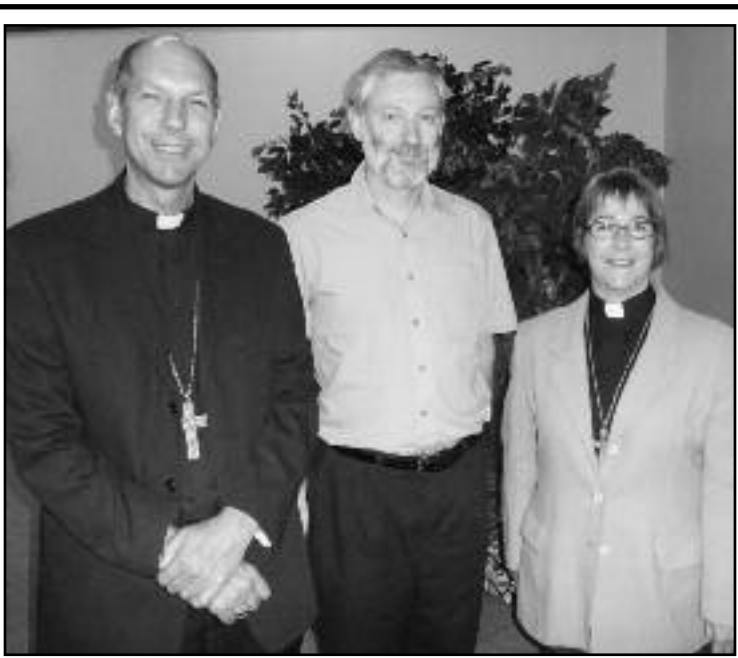
I realize how much I’ve received, I truly experience God’s love.”

A second speaker shared the story of her husband’s diagnosis of leukemia, the efforts at treatment, and his eventual death from the disease. The hurt her two young sons experienced at seeing the suffering and death of their father continues, she said.

Three years after her husband’s death, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and found support from different organizations. As a cancer survivor, she has been involved in a number of supporting agencies and outreach efforts, using her own experience to help others. The experience has also led to her involvement in a dragon boat team made up of breast cancer survivors.

Another speaker described caring for her mother as she was dying of cancer. This difficult time also contained blessings of time shared, and brought about reconciliation within the family, she noted.

Prayerful selections by the Sacred Sounds Worship Band of McClure United Church resonated between presentations. The evening session concluded with the lighting of three candles placed on the altar, and labeled: “remembrance,” “courage,” and “hope.”



Ecumenical dialogue

Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Rev. Ron McConnell, chair of the River Bend Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, and Bishop Cindy Halmanson of the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (l-r) were guest speakers at a Prairie Centre for Ecumenism event Oct. 1 in Saskatoon. Each shared a vision for Christian unity from the perspective of their faith tradition. After the presentations, some 70 workshop participants from a number of Christian churches discussed their own experiences and understandings of Christian unity. For complete coverage see the article on the website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Persecution of Christians in Pakistan

Bishop Donald Bolen signs a petition expressing concern about ongoing religious persecution of Christians in Pakistan. Saskatoon resident Imtiaz Nadeem Bhatti (left) is circulating the petition as part of his effort to raise awareness about the dire situation facing Christians under the blasphemy laws of that country. Nadeem Bhatti has also spoken at local parishes and was scheduled as a speaker at the young adult youth gathering “Theology on Tap.” For more information about this issue, e-mail Nadeem Bhatti at: save.peace@yahoo.ca - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Multi-Faith Festival

Cantor Neil Schwartz of Agudas Congregation Israel pours water into a bowl symbolizing the oneness of the world, during a Festival of Faith Oct. 30, organized by Multi-Faith Saskatoon and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. The theme “pilgrimage of peace” marked the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s meeting with religious leaders from around the world to pray for peace in Assisi, Italy. For more on the Saskatoon Multi-Faith event see the diocesan news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Vonda parish rededicated after successful expansion project

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The faith community of St. Philippe Neri parish in Vonda recently celebrated completion of an expansion that has made the 86-year-old church more accessible, with the installation of an elevator, an enlarged welcoming area and a renovated stage and meeting area in the basement hall.

Bishop Donald Bolen joined pastor Fr. Marc Mireau in a celebration Oct. 23 to bless the addition and rededicate the church, with prayers of blessing at the baptismal font, the ambo and the altar.

Parish Life Director Louise Bussi re described the history of the parish and of the church building. “It was with gratitude to these pioneers and to God the Father that we undertook this project to make this church accessible and welcoming to all



During the rededication celebration, Bishop Donald Bolen blessed a plaque in the newly renovated church entrance that records the names of all those buried in the parish cemetery. Fr. Marc Mireau (left) and Parish Life Director Bernard Hamoline are also pictured.

who come here to worship,” she said.

“Today is a day of thanksgiving and a day of remembering,” said Bolen. “It is important to remember all that your

ancestors here did to build up the faith, all that they did to establish close communities, all that they did to foster a spirit of love and compassion,” Bolen said.

“We also remember God’s

faithfulness through all of this,” he added, reflecting on Christ’s exhortation in the gospel to love God “with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.” That is exactly how God loves us, Bolen pointed out.

“God created us, fashioned us, has walked with us, has shown us a love that is both great and wide deep and strong.” Our love is shown by entering into a relationship with God, by loving all that he has created, and by loving those that he places in our lives, “especially those in greatest need.”

During the rededication celebration, the assembly sang the litany of saints, including the names of St. Maria Goretti and St. Eugene de Mazenod, whose relics are encased in the altar of St. Philippe Neri church.

The bishop walked through

the church, praying over the baptismal font, the ambo and the altar.

At the conclusion of Mass, he also blessed a plaque to be placed in the parish cemetery, listing the names of all who are buried there, as well as going outside to bless the cemetery.

Parish Life Director Bernard Hamoline expressed appreciation to all who made the expansion project possible, by donations, labour and their faith in God

In addition to the rededication of the building, the community also will strive to “rededicate ourselves to loving each other in spite of our differences, in spite of our misunderstandings, in spite of our struggles,” Hamoline said.

“This is a once in a lifetime extraordinary event, and this accessibility project is a sign and a symbol of something deeper.”

New Roman Missal and General Instruction

Diocesan Study Days: “Falling in Love with Our Liturgy”

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For two days in October, parish representatives, diocesan ministry leaders and school chaplains from across the diocese gathered together to explore liturgy in light of the Advent launch of a new English translation of the Roman Missal.

The theme of diocesan Study Days 2011 was “*Falling in Love with Our Liturgy*,” and as with any relationship of love, the dimensions to be explored were varied and complex, passionate and profound.

Introduced by Master of Ceremonies Michael MacLean of the St. Thomas More College campus ministry team, several facilitators tackled different aspects of the liturgy, of the new English translation of the prayers of the Mass, and of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) that provides the “how to” behind celebration of the Eucharist.

Reflections on liturgy

Fr. Darryl Millette, pastor at Watson, Englefeld and St. Gregor, and Jason Cody, a teacher chaplain with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, launched the Oct. 26-27 Study Days at St. Patrick Parish Centre with a wide-ranging look at “*The Mass and Conversion*.”

With personal examples, video clips and reflections on parts of the Mass, Millette and Cody explored the connection and the interaction of the celebration of Eucharist to day-to-day life – touching on everything from family meals to Rider games, from images in the Hubble telescope to Mary as our model of discipleship.

“The words of the liturgy are not just information,” said Cody. Rather, like scripture, our liturgy is “meant to make us feel and think differently,” to transform us and send us forth.

The celebration of Eucharist draws us in, forms us as one body, and sends us out, said Millette. “Liturgy is the heart beat of faith.”

Blake Sittler, director of pastoral services, Kathy Hitchings of the diocesan Lay Formation team and Bishop Donald Bolen together gave a reflection on providing a pastoral response to concerns about the language of the new English translation of the Missal.

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. It’s in the marrow of our bones, at the heart of our life. To make changes in this is going to be a bit of heart surgery for each of us,” said Hitchings.

She also spoke candidly about the pain that some will feel about language that is not always inclusive or ecumenical. “We are always invited not to push the suffering



Jason Cody relates the Eucharist to every day life during a presentation about the new Roman Missal Oct. 16-27 during diocesan Study Days.

away. We have to apply principles of love and compassion to those for whom this will be difficult,” she said.

The bishop encouraged a heart of dialogue, patience and understanding that recognizes there are different views about the new translation. Bolen asked pastoral leaders to put every discussion “into the larger context of the paschal mystery and what we’re about as Church,” in communicating the abounding depth, breadth and height of God’s love.

Praying with one’s body

Mona Goodman, Lay Formation program coordinator; Fr. Michael Koch, the diocesan director of Christian Initiation; and the bishop then explored the background and meaning of non-verbal gestures, postures and movements in the liturgy – walking in procession, standing, kneeling, sitting, lying prostrate, bowing, genuflecting, the liturgical kiss, praying with folded and with open hands, striking the breast, giving a sign of peace, and making the sign of the cross.

“Our Eucharistic liturgy, our Mass, is extremely rich with gestures, postures and movements,” said Koch, testifying to the power of non-verbal communication. “When we do these movements with great reverence, it communicates a dimension of the divine mercy.”

Full and active participation in the liturgy involves using “our whole being, hearts, minds, voices, as well as bodies,” said Goodman, reflecting on how posture expresses our internal attitude and also helps to form it. “We pray with our whole person.”

The bishop then “walked through” the Mass without words, using only the gestures of the celebration – which provided a profound expression of the action of liturgy.

“Language falls short in terms of expressing our relationship with God,” said Bolen, describing the importance of gesture. “When we come before the living God we are coming before a God who draws intimately near to us in the incarnation in Christ, but we are also in the presence of God who is always transcendent, beyond us, beyond our understanding.”

Kneeling at consecration

The bishop also provided more information about the GIRM direction to kneel at the consecration.

In light of communication between the Congregation of Divine Worship in Rome and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), what is being recommended is that the faithful be asked to kneel starting from the “Epicicles” – the calling down of the Holy Spirit upon the gifts – which occurs a short time after the “Sanctus” or Holy, Holy, Holy.

All those physically able to kneel would be asked to continue kneeling through the

words of consecration, until the “Mystery of Faith” or Memorial Acclamation, when they would again stand.

Those who are physically unable to kneel, would be asked to sit during this portion of the prayer. All are asked to make a “profound bow” as the priest genuflects after holding up the consecrated host, and again as the priest genuflects after holding up the consecrated cup, said Bolen.

The GIRM gives permission to dioceses with a “long standing tradition” of kneeling throughout the entire Eucharistic prayer to continue that practice. However, that has not been the tradition in this diocese, Bolen noted.

All the dioceses in Saskatchewan will adopt the same practice regarding kneeling.

Eucharistic prayers

Facilitators Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, Fr. Matthew Ramsay, associate pastor at St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon, and Fr. Geoffrey Young, associate pastor at Holy Spirit parish, reflected on the language of the Eucharistic prayers in the new English translation.

Ramsay and Young explained the meaning of each section of the Eucharistic prayer, taking a deeper look at what the language is expressing and how. Both noted the beauty of the new translation, examining portions of the prayers which feature concrete images, stronger scriptural connections and a more elevated, transcendent language.

“It isn’t just about the here and now, there’s a spiritual reality,” beyond time and space, Ramsay said. The liturgy is “stepping out of this time and into God’s reality.”

The importance of continuity in the Catholic tradition was stressed by Young. “In every age, Christ and the liturgy is celebrated in a unique way – but it’s the same celebration of the Mass.” He reflected how these are the prayers that saints in every generation have prayed, describing the liturgy of the church and the scriptures as “gift, a total gift,” that connects us to the eternal, heavenly liturgy.

Musical settings

In another Study Days session, Fr. David Tumback, pastor of Holy Family parish in Saskatoon and director of the diocesan Liturgy Commission, reflected on the impact of the new translation on musical settings for the Mass.

Along with Ken Neitz of the diocesan choir, Tumback presented one setting as an example, but stressed that the diocese was not directing parishes to choose a particular setting, but is leaving the decision up to the local communities.

“Parishes – and even different choirs within a parish – will each have their own unique flavour,” Tumback said, expressing appreciation for the pastoral leadership being shown across the diocese. “Most parishes have already made decisions with

Changes to the words of the Mass are now in place throughout the world for English-speaking Catholics as of the First Sunday of Advent.

Features of note:

- A more direct translation from the original Latin
- General instructions for the new missal emphasize transcendence, beauty, unity and silence
- The assembly will be asked to kneel from the “Epicicles” after the Holy, Holy, Holy to the “Mystery of Faith.”



Fr. David Tumback and Ken Neitz gave a presentation about music in the liturgy.

regard to Mass settings: which includes everything from a single guitar player in a community to full choirs.”

A final Study Days session examined practical challenges around the implementation of the new Roman Missal and the GIRM, led by Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky, priest moderator at St. John Bosco parish, and Diane Côté, executive secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

During the two-day event, copies of the new Roman Missal were delivered to parishes by Gerry Holst of Universal Church Supplies.

“It is a beautiful book,” said Bolen of the new volume produced by the CCCB. Participants also had a chance to look through several old editions of the Missal from St. Peter’s Abbey, on display courtesy of Abbot Peter Novocosky.

Study Days also included a celebration of the Eucharist, using the new translation and following the new instructions about posture.

The assembly occasionally missed a new response – for instance, slipping back into saying “And also with you” rather than “And with your spirit” – proving that even with much reflection, the habits of 40 years are strongly ingrained.

In his homily, the bishop again urged pastoral leaders to keep at the centre of everything the great love of God that is precisely what the celebration of the Eucharist is about.

“This is what these Eucharistic prayers are proclaiming, this is the faith that they are shouting in every phrase, in every structure and part,” Bolen said. “Nothing can separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus. Let us proclaim and rejoice in, and live out of that love. Don’t let any smaller controversy side-track you from that good news at the heart of our faith.”



Fr. Andrew Wychucki, pastor at Wilkie, Leipzig and Handel, (left) and Fr. Pius Schroh, pastor at Rosetown, Elrose and Beechy, were among those taking delivery of the new Roman Missal during diocesan Study Days.

Bishop Donald Bolen addresses faithful about changes to Mass

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Nov. 27, the first Sunday of Advent, along with English speaking (Latin Rite) Catholics the world over, we will begin using a new English translation of the Roman Missal. We will also implement the changes called forth in the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). Your pastors and parish life directors will lead you through this transition, but as they do so, I want to send this brief message to you.

The Eucharist is at the heart of our Christian lives. As the new GIRM states, “all the activities of the Christian life... are bound up with it, flow from it, and are ordered to it” (§16). We are beginning the season of Advent, a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God Incarnate who comes to dwell among us. It is in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that God ultimately redeems us, reveals to us His Face, and summons us into the very life of the Triune God. Just as in the Incarnation Christ draws near to us, so too in the Eucharist the Lord continues to come to where we are, to invite us into life with God. In the Mass, we are drawn into the paschal mystery, the saving death and resurrection of Christ, and we receive what we are called to become, the body of Christ. The Eucharist instructs and refreshes us, so that we might learn to offer our very selves, as faithful disciples of the One who gave himself that we might have life (cf. GIRM §§28, 95).

In recounting the events of the Last Supper, St. Paul tells us he is passing on to us what he himself received (1 Cor. 11:23). Likewise, the new Missal is seeking to pass on the faith in its integrity, to pass on to next generations that which we have received (cf. GIRM, §397). While there will be many changes which come with the new Missal - changes in the wording of prayers, in the responses of the congregation, in the sung parts of the Mass, and in posture - what we are doing in celebrating the Mass has not changed, nor has the basic structure and content of the Eucharist changed. As Church, we continue to pass on that which we have received from the Lord.

Yet most changes present difficulties and challenges, especially when they pertain to that which is most dear to us. So this period of transition is going to require effort, patience, and a willingness to work together, in order to maintain our unity in the Spirit. But this period of transition also offers an opportunity for enrichment and deeper understanding of the treasure we have in the Eucharist. The new GIRM states: “The Bishop should therefore be determined that the Priests, the Deacons, and the lay Christian faithful grasp ever more deeply the genuine significance of the rites and liturgical texts, and thereby be led to the active and fruitful celebration of the Eucharist” (§22).

I would like to highlight briefly some aspects of the new Instruction, to supplement what you will receive from the leadership in your parishes.

- ✦ Faithful to the liturgical renewal brought about by the Second Vatican Council, the new GIRM notes that each Eucharist is to be celebrated “in such a way that it leads to a conscious, active, and full participation of the faithful, namely in body and in mind, a participation fervent with faith, hope, and charity” (§18; cf. §5).



Bishop Donald Bolen

- ✦ We are invited to strive for “the greatest reverence and adoration” in our Eucharistic celebrations (§3). In several places, the GIRM stresses that our liturgies should be characterized by beauty, dignity, and a ‘noble simplicity’.
- ✦ A heightened attentiveness to the Word of God is called for, since “in the readings, as explained by the Homily, God speaks to his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and offering spiritual nourishment (§55; cf. §29).
- ✦ We are invited into a deep reverence during the Eucharistic Prayer, which “is the highpoint of the whole celebration” of the Mass (§30). All of life “is sanctified by the divine grace that flows from the Paschal Mystery” (§368), hence we are to celebrate the Eucharist in such a way that we are drawn deeply into the life-giving and saving mystery.
- ✦ As changes in gesture and posture are introduced, we are invited into a deeper understanding of how each movement and posture expresses something of our relationship with God. “The gestures and bodily posture of both the Priest, the Deacon, and the ministers, and also of the people, must be conducive to making the entire celebration resplendent with beauty and noble simplicity, to making clear the true and full meaning of its different parts, and to fostering the participation of all” (§42).
- ✦ The GIRM calls for brief periods of silence (in the penitential rite, after each invitation to pray, after the readings and homily, and after communion) in order to foster an inner quiet and prayerfulness in our celebration of the Eucharist.
- ✦ Finally, while there is room for great diversity in the Church, the GIRM stresses that we are united under one God, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, our liturgies are to reflect that unity. Gathered for the Eucharist, the faithful “are to form one body, whether in hearing the Word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing, or above all by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by participating together at the Lord’s table. This unity is beautifully apparent from the gestures and bodily postures observed together by the faithful.” (§96). To the extent that it is possible, therefore, we are invited to be united - in the Spirit, and in our words, gestures and posture - as we begin using the new Missal and implement the new GIRM.

In closing, I want to express my confidence and trust in the priests and parish life directors of the diocese, who will explain the changes to you in greater detail, and (with the help of pew cards and other resources) assist your communities in this period of transition. I ask your patience and cooperation in this whole process, and encourage you to see it as an invitation and opportunity to ponder and understand more deeply the rich treasure which we have been given in the Eucharist.

Yours in Christ,
+Don Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Humboldt workshop examines music ministry in light of new Missal

A detailed look at how the new translation of the Roman Missal will affect parish music ministry was presented to a receptive crowd at a “*Keynotes in the New Missal*” workshop Oct. 18-19 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.

Lifting up their voices in song, some 250 participants from across the Saskatoon diocese and beyond experienced first-hand how the new translation will impact sung Mass parts, such as the Gloria.

During three sessions over two days, the workshop presenters also explored the purpose and meaning of liturgy, gave an overview of the new translation of the missal to be introduced in Advent, and examined the role of music ministry in celebration of the Eucharist.

Composer, musician and parish priest Rev. Geoffrey Angeles of the archdiocese of Winnipeg, introduced three new musical settings for the parts of the Mass commissioned by the Canadian Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), including one that he himself composed.

Practical ways in which music ministers can implement new Mass settings within their own communities were suggested and discussed, acknowledging the wide range of parish sizes, musical resources and abilities.



Participants took a closer look at music written for the new translation.

Bernadette Gasslein, editor of the Canadian liturgy magazine *Celebrate!*, presented the history and development of the new translation of the Mass, and introduced the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), grounding it in the liturgical renewal that began with the Second Vatican Council.

The GIRM quotes St. Augustine, saying that “singing is for lovers,” noted Gasslein. “It presumes that there is a deep and intimate relationship between God and God’s people, and that it is out of that relationship – in which God

is working to save us, to do everything for us – that our response is a response of love, it is a response of intimacy, it is a response in a context. Because not only are we loved by God, but we respond in love.”

Gasslein gave an overview of the concepts stressed in the new Roman Missal and instructions, including the notion of transcendence: “liturgy isn’t just about what we do, it is what we do together with Christ, and in fact, it is Christ’s liturgy that we join.”

The notion of continuity and

tradition is crucial in the new documents, she added, and the dignity, beauty and solemnity of celebrations is stressed. An elevated “sacral” language is used throughout the new translation. The ministerial priesthood is emphasized, as is unity.

Gasslein also examined the impact of translating the prayers of the Mass more directly from the Latin, using a principle of “formal equivalence,” which creates challenges when it comes to phrasing, wording and syntax.

In the second session of the workshop, Gasslein explored the theological foundations of liturgy itself, describing how “it all starts with baptism.

Baptism enables us to offer sacrifice with Christ and to “pray for the needs of the world in and through and with Christ,” she described, citing the “royal priesthood” of the faithful.

“We are incorporated into a body,” she said of baptism, adding that this requires that we develop an “ecclesial spirituality” that involves trying to “think with the Church.” This is not always easy in a culture that values independence more than interdependence, she said.

Through baptism we are brought into communion with the

Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – that communion or “dance” of love and relationship that we call the Trinity, she added. Liturgy is all about praying with Jesus, as members of his body, in unity with the Holy Spirit, offering prayers to God the Father.

It is the role of music ministry to assist in enabling those present to participate in the action of Christ. “That’s pretty awesome work” and it goes beyond choosing hymns, she said. “You are ministers of communion.”

Using video, examples and discussion, Angeles described elements of ritual and liturgy, and discussed practical ways in which these elements can be enabled and deepened through music ministry, through silence and in processions, in drawing together the assembly, and through prayers.

“It has been wonderful and very energizing to see such a tremendous response to this workshop,” said organizer Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers, pastoral associate at St. Augustine.

“This has truly helped me understand my role as choir director,” said one participant.

“I now look forward to the changes,” said another. It “answered a lot of questions and alleviated anxiety.”

Mysteries of rosary dramatized at Living Rosary held in Wynyard

BY DENISE MOZEL

(Reprinted with permission from the Wynyard Advance Gazette.)

Large wooden beads held together by rope lay stretched out at the front of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Wynyard.

The congregation gathered on the evening of Oct. 7, picked up the beads. The group of some 60 people formed a large oval shape, standing to face one another. They began to pray.

Parishioners from St. Mary's; Wynyard's Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church; Foam Lake's Christ the King Church, and Wishart's Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church gathered

to perform a Living Rosary on the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

Participants shared their cultures, with individuals praying in Hungarian, Spanish, French, Ukrainian, Ewe (African), and Tagalog (Philippines). English-speaking parishioners rounded out the group.

Steve and Veronica Bartok from Lestock created the large rosary, which stretched the entire width of the church. The couple wrote an account of what inspired them to make the large string of prayer beads:

"We have been going to Rama to the pilgrimage for a few years.

We saw it there all the time, and we sure like it," they said. "We cut the maple trees out in the back yard, then we made square beads for the first, second, fourth, fifth (decades). John and Dorothy Sentes brought us the round wood, and we made the Our Father and the third (decade) out of it. Sr. Bernadette gave us the cross. Fr. Wojciech Wajtkowski blessed it at the pilgrimage. We enjoyed making (the rosary). It took us four days to make it. We wish more people would use it."

The Living Rosary in Wynyard included an enactment of six mysteries of the rosary selected by Dale Chubak, who organized the event.

Several members of the St. Mary's congregation acted out the mysteries, which included Mary (played by Aranza Elizalde Amezcua) visiting her cousin Elizabeth (played by Emily Mamer); the birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph (played by Nickolas Szydlowski); the crucifixion of Jesus (played by Damian Elizalde Amezcua); and Jesus rising from the dead.

Following the program, St. Mary's pastor Fr. Ephraim Mensah thanked everyone who had participated. He commended Chubak for the work he did to put



Mary (played by Aranza Elizalde Amezcua) and Joseph (Nickolas Szydlowski) admired baby Jesus as one of the mysteries of the rosary was dramatized at St. Mary's parish in Wynyard.

- Photos by Denise Mozel, Wynyard Advance Gazette



Damian Elizalde Amezcua portrayed Jesus rising from the dead, with the help of Dale Chubak (right), who organized the event.

the entire program together.

"In the end, Dale managed to bring us all into the drama.... We all have become, more or less, actors, actresses, participants in this Our Lady of the Holy Rosary prayerful drama," said Mensah.

He also thanked Anne Zaluski for her role in bringing music into the celebration. The evening wrapped up with a rousing

rendition of *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* performed by the group of children who had helped act out the mysteries and recite prayers during the Living Rosary.

Afterwards, everyone gathered in the church hall to eat cupcakes and marshmallows which had been laid out in the shape of a rosary.

Secular Franciscans share in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For centuries, the simple and profound spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi has resonated with individuals who seek to follow Christ as he did.

Among them are members of the Secular Franciscan Order in the diocese of Saskatoon. Presently, the group includes 14 participants, of different ages and backgrounds. What they share is a love for St. Francis and the gospel spirit that he modeled.

"We want people to know we do exist, and the joy that we have, and how important this connection is in our life journey," says Yvonne Armstrong, minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

St. Francis of Assisi established three orders – The First Order (Franciscan Brothers). The Second Order (Poor Clares) and The Third Order now known as the Secular Franciscans, which includes laity, married or single.



Yvonne Armstrong

The Secular Franciscan permits laity to share in the charism of St. Francis, following a rule "animated by the Franciscan spirit."

"We're not a club, we're not an organization, we're an order,"

Armstrong says of the group's spiritual focus. "We pray, we work, and we strive to live the gospel. We try to spread the gospel by our example, in home, work and parishes."

The Secular Franciscans in Saskatoon meet once a month, to pray, to reflect, to connect and to care for each other.

The group has been welcomed at St. Joseph parish by pastor Rev. Nestor Gregoire, OMI, she said. Most recently, he celebrated Eucharist with the community to mark the Oct. 4 feast day of their patron. "Fr. Nestor has been so welcoming to our community. He's an inspiration to us as he reaffirms what we are doing," said Armstrong.

Armstrong has been a Secular Franciscan for 26 years. "It's journey ever flowing and ever changing," she said, describing the great richness of walking with others in this spirituality, learning from other Secular Franciscan,

supporting each other in good times and bad.

"When one of our Fraternity members is going through something – they may be sick, or grieving – we are there for each other."

Other religious communities – for instance, the Carmelites, Benedictines and Ursulines – also have lay groups, she noted. "Often we look at religious orders and think they are reserved for priests and nuns," she said. "These different kinds of spirituality are also open to the laity."

Armstrong says that what most attracts her to St. Francis is the idea of a simple life. "I am also struck by the phrase that St. Francis heard: *'rebuild my church,'*" she said. "We are called to rebuild ourselves as a Franciscan community, by prayer and by trying to live the gospel."

Joy is an inexplicable element of Franciscan spirituality, she

adds. "I'm not saying we don't have problems, but spiritually, our community, our life for Christ and others is filled with joy."

A focus on creation is also part of the Franciscan charism, with St. Francis recognized as the patron saint of ecology, she noted.

Those interested in joining the Secular Franciscan Order undertake a period of getting to know the community, walking together for a time. If the spirituality and the rule prove to be a fit for that person, they would go through a Formation program. After one or two years, they would then decide if they wished to make a commitment as a Secular Franciscan.

"It sometimes depends where you are in your spiritual life," she says of the process of becoming a Secular Franciscan. "If it's right, it is a joyful experience, it fills you with joy."

For more information, contact Armstrong at: yma@sasktel.net

Christopher West will speak about Theology of the Body in Saskatoon

The universal longing that God places in the heart of every human being for the good, the true and the beautiful will be explored through art, music, video and reflections at an evening concert/production April 28 at Circle Drive Alliance in Saskatoon.

One More Soul Canada will co-sponsor "Fill These Hearts: God, Sex and the Universal Longing," featuring well-known Theology of the Body speaker Christopher West, along with singer Mike Mangione and his band The Union.

In his talks, West dives into Blessed Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, which was

articulated by the late pontiff in 129 talks between 1979 and 1984, exploring the meaning of our creation as male and female, what it means to be human, and how to live life in a way that brings true happiness.

In a multi-faceted presentation of words, images, music and art, Fill These Hearts invites participants to reflect on being "pierced by beauty." West describes the universal longing that God has placed in our heart, and shows how our secular culture recognizes and expresses this hunger, and in response offers a "junk food diet" of so-called sexual freedom. He contrasts this to the

profound plan of God, as expressed in Catholic theology.

Christianity offers a "banquet" to answer this profound longing – something which John Paul II's Theology of the Body is helping many to rediscover, says West. "This is authentic Christianity in a nutshell: there is a banquet that corresponds to the hunger of the heart."

God has a "glorious, beautiful, wonderful plan for making us male and female," explains West. "And the intimate embrace of husband and wife in one flesh is a great mystery that foreshadows the eternal ecstasy and bliss of heaven."

The body is not just biological, it is also theological, West said. The body, in its masculinity and femininity has become a sign or icon of God's own mystery, he related, describing the marriage imagery that permeates the scriptures as a description of God's relationship to his people.

"God is singing this love song to us, and we need to learn how to hear the music, how to feel the music, and learn how to dance," West said.

Understanding the Theology of the Body can have a profound effect on our understanding of God, and our human relationships, according to those who

have attended the inspiring event. The message is for everyone – individuals and couples, young and old, married and celibate, says West.

For more about West see: www.christopherwest.com

The Saskatoon "Fill These Hearts" presentation is being organized by One More Soul Canada in conjunction with St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno and several other organizations in the Saskatoon diocese.

"Fill These Hearts" tickets will be available online at www.St-T.ca/fth2012 Cost is \$40/adult and \$25/student. -KLY

Restorative Ministry

Artist depicts message of “hope in change” for prison art contest

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For Curtis Eklund, art is a path of healing, an expression of truth, and a way to give voice to his hope in Jesus Christ.

“I hope to send a message that Jesus died for all who will accept Him,” said Eklund of his intricate drawing of the crucifixion surrounded by First Nations imagery, which was recently recognized in a Prison Fellowship International art contest for prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Imprisoned in remand at the Saskatchewan Correctional Centre for the past 18 months, awaiting trial on charges related to a shooting death in a small northern community, Eklund, 26, saw a poster for the art contest on a bulletin board in the stark prison setting, and decided to enter.

The contest theme “Hope inspires change” echoes Eklund’s own life and conversion, as he has struggled to leave behind gangs and violence, clinging to the hope that he can escape the destructive spiral.

“It is my own experience. I have led a life that was hopeless, and I just really thought about where there is hope. What I came up with is Jesus. So that’s the drawing I did. I called it ‘Hope,’” he says of the award-winning piece.

“In the beginning when I was leading the life, I wasn’t in the light. My life was in darkness, and all I was doing were dark images and dark art. And then I heard about Jesus, and about God, and the gospel, the bible, and how it can heal. I picked up the bible, and I was reading it, and things started to change for me, in my life, in my heart.”

That change is also reflected in his art work – because art expresses inner truth, Eklund says. “It comes from deep inside. Art reveals a lot about a person’s character, it tells a story about life, love, light. There’s a lot you portray to the world through a piece of art.” He especially wants the images he creates to inspire hope in those who feel lost or deep in darkness.

Eklund incorporated First Nations imagery into his image of the crucifixion, conveying the message that Jesus is for all people, in spite of the hurt that many may still feel from the way Christianity was introduced in some cases, he says. “I want to open up the eyes of the Aboriginal people, that Jesus and the Gospel, wasn’t meant to be forced on anyone... that’s not the way God intended.”

Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office, who has come to know Eklund through the ministry she provides at the prison, describes being profoundly moved by the image.

“It is just amazing, especially to see the joining together of the First Nations people and the message of our Church: it’s a reconciliation that we so badly need. We need that hope,” she says. The award-winning image is now hanging in her office at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. “It just means so much.”

Art has always been part of his life, Eklund says.

“I believe that God has a purpose for all of us, and I was blessed with a talent as an artist,” says Eklund, recalling how as a child he came to love drawing through the influence of an older cousin who would create pictures for him.

It was a bright spot in an often bleak and loveless existence, growing up in a community plagued by alcohol, drugs and broken lives. “She would draw pictures for me,



The award winning piece created by Curtis Eklund for the Prison Fellowship art contest now hangs in the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

and I would take them to school and show my friends. I always wanted to be like that. So I always drew.”

As he grew older, however, he began to travel a dark path of gang membership and drug dealing. “I drifted to a group of young people struggling as I was. We started getting into crime – stealing – and it escalated to selling drugs, doing drugs and drinking,” he said. “There was no guidance, no instruction, no life skills, no social skills. I developed into a person who didn’t know how to express the goodness in me. I didn’t know how to search for it. It seemed that no one really mattered.”

But gradually, he began to wake up to what he was doing. “I began to see families being destroyed by the drugs I was selling. I saw little children struggling and hungry because their parents had smoked up all the money on drugs I was selling. The way they looked at me, with pain in their eyes... I saw just exactly how I grew up. Here I was, putting them through the same thing. I really started to think.”

Although he was powerful and respected in the gang life, thoughts about the impact of his actions plagued Eklund. While attending Lac St. Anne pilgrimage with a friend, he was recognized as a gang leader, and felt ashamed at the way people looked at him. Suddenly he knew he wanted out.

“I just said: ‘I’m done with that life.’ I’m not even really sure where it came from.”

The repercussions of leaving the gang lifestyle began immediately. “Word got out – I was getting calls – threats, wars broke out, rival groups started. A lot of dark things



Artist Curtis Eklund displays another work: a painting of the crucifixion, at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre Sept. 14, on the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

happened, lives were lost,” he says softly. “I still suffer for that guilt.”

“But Jesus helps to take that away. I know through faith that’s there for me, because of the promises of scripture, God’s holy word. It says in Isaiah: ‘no matter if your sins are as scarlet, I will make them as white as snow,’” he says with quiet conviction.

“Every time I feel I’ve offended my creator, my father, I open my Bible, I read Psalm 51, I ask for forgiveness, I ask for mercy. It is given to us freely. God doesn’t require a perfect spirit. That’s hope right there. Because I’m not perfect, I’m still healing. I’m relearning how to become a man.”

Eklund is one of those working with Fr. André Poilièvre and Stan Tu’inukuafe to create an anti-gang book for children. “We hope to educate children about the realities of gang life. Nothing glorified like in the movies. The end of gangsters is life in prison or the grave,” he says of the Str8-Up project.

“I hope it will inspire young people that are on a path similar to mine – before they make a decision to join a gang. I want them to know what they’re really going to get into; to know this is what you have to lose, and you have nothing to gain.... It’s a lose-lose situation.”

Although uncertain about his future right now, Eklund says he continues to hope in God. “I do want to experience a good life. I would love to be given the chance to develop my art. If I ever had the chance I’d go to school, get my fine art degree. I would make it my goal to develop my artwork into something that could be recognized, so I can inspire hope and faith through my artwork.”

“It is a powerful thing to try and touch someone’s life, give them hope for redemption, for healing, for forgiveness. I’ve experienced that and I want others to experience that.”

Catholics called to respond to criminal justice issues, victims and offenders

BY PETER OLIVER

Prisoners, victims of crime, communities living in fear, what can we do?

Catholics sometimes seem stuck when it comes to these issues. Many see the problem, but can’t come up with a faith-filled response. This is in contrast to our Evangelical brothers and sisters who are not stuck at all. Their mission is clear: call people to conversion in Jesus Christ.

The Catholic quandary may come from a respect for the complexity of the situation or it may come from a failure to put our faith into action. What is evident is that Catholics are stuck. Parishes rarely have any focused response to victims or offenders or any other aspect of the criminal justice system.

This is in contrast to the gospel, which is fairly definitive on the subject of offenders and victims. Involvement with the criminal justice system is inextricably intertwined with Christian faith.

The central mystery of our faith is expressed in terms of the criminal trial of an innocent man. He was given a death sentence. The first person Christ said would enter into paradise was a criminal, and the first signs of the gospel proclamation is the freedom of captives. Police officers, in the form of Roman guards, played significant roles in witnessing to Jesus. The central Christian commandment to love one’s neighbour is explained with a story of a Samaritan responding to a victim of crime. Jesus was

challenged to support the death penalty of a woman caught in the act of committing adultery and he was plagued by lawyers who wanted to use the law to trip him up. Paul composed letters from prison and virtually every disciple was murdered by the state. Finally, Jesus is quite clear that one’s relationship with prisoners figures prominently in the last judgment. (Matt 25:37)

When faithful Catholics put their mind to it, there are many things we can do. For instance, I know a woman with 13 children who told me that she can’t go out to the prisons, but she knows that visiting the prisoners is one of the corporal works of mercy. She offered to help out by watching our children, so that I could more effectively respond to this ministry.

One person offered to purchase Catholic

Bibles for prisoners. Another volunteered to speak at Lay Formation about his experience as a victim.

Perhaps the ingredient most needed is a firm conviction to respond to this ministry.

Music ministers are needed at the Regional Psychiatric Centre for Sunday services. Another need is for volunteers who could lead and teach the rosary to the men incarcerated there. Including victims and offenders regularly in the prayers of the faithful is another ongoing need. Those with a passion for responding to victims of crime, are also needed.

Dianne Anderson is diocesan coordinator for Restorative Ministry (242-1500) and I am the Catholic chaplain for the Regional Psychiatric Centre (975-5400, ext 5446). Give us a call. Catholics, you can do it!

Catholic education

Bishop Chatlain presents centennial year reflection on blessings of Catholic education

Bishop Murray Chatlain reflected on the origins and impact of Catholic education in Saskatoon during a

recent public lecture at Holy Spirit Parish, one of a series of events held to mark the Catholic school division's centennial year.

"So many people have fought for and worked for our Catholic school system," Chatlain said. "The responsibility is upon us to accept and cherish the gift that has been passed on, not to take it for granted, and to try and keep building on it ...to create places of prayer, places of forgiveness, places of caring."

Now the bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese in northern Canada, Chatlain, 48, attended Catholic schools when he was growing up in Saskatoon: graduating from St. Matthew elementary and Holy Cross high schools.

"I'm not an expert on Catholic schools, I'm simply a product," he said, before beginning a talk filled with stories and reflections on the faith-based education system that began 100 years ago.

The division was "born" in the basement of St. Paul's Church Sept. 15, 1911, with 69 students attending the division's first school, taught by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, he related. "It was noisy, cold,

and there were no smart boards." The next year, the community had found another facility across the street.

Chatlain paid special tribute to the many women religious who played such a crucial role in Catholic education for so many decades, recalling the many orders who taught in schools across Saskatchewan.

"We would never be where we are today without all those generous ladies," he said. He recalled the heroic work undertaken for decades by women such as the sister with "one big pot, one big tub, one big towel, one big rosary" who in addition to teaching during the regular school year, ran a summer catechism boarding school for children through the years of the Great Depression and for decades afterwards.

Chatlain also paid tribute to Bishop James Mahoney, who was instrumental in achieving full funding for Catholic high schools in the province. He presented audio clips from the early 1960s, in which Mahoney was rallying Catholics to lobby the government.

Taking a look at the larger Canadian picture, Chatlain stressed the blessing of having fully-funded



Centennial committee member Julian Paslawski, GSCS board chair Diane Boyko, guest speaker Bishop Murray Chatlain of Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese, GSCS director of education Bev Hanson, and master of ceremonies Owen Fortosky (l-r) at the centennial lecture.

Catholic education. "I think we take our Catholic schools so much for granted," he said, pointing to the many places across Canada that have lost their Catholic schools or never had a Catholic education system.

Although Catholic schools may not be perfect, they are a great treasure, he said. "We have richness and we are blessed in many ways" he told the Saskatoon crowd.

Chatlain called on Catholic schools to continue to be communities of prayer. "It is so essential to really take the time to pray," he said, expressing appreciation for school prayer

corners, morning prayers, or grace before meals, as well as for school Masses.

Catholic schools must also continue to be communities that care, and places of forgiveness, he added, before sharing stories of forgiveness and reconciliation – from his childhood and in the north.

Other upcoming centennial events for Greater Saskatoon Catholic School district include a performing arts showcase Feb. 13, a visual art display in February and March, events on World Catholic Education Day May 17, and a centennial Mass and picnic June 24. -KLY



SCSBA President

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) trustee Tom Fortosky was acclaimed the new president of the Saskatchewan Catholic Schools Board Association at an annual convention held Oct. 21-23 in Lloydminster. Fortosky has served as a GSCS trustee for eight years.



Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Community leaders, parents and students applaud the announcement of an entrepreneurship program for Aboriginal youth being established at Oskayak High School in Saskatoon. Former Prime Minister Paul Martin was a special guest at the Oct. 12 celebration of the program, which is being offered through a partnership between the school, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative. An associate school of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Oskayak (Cree for "young people") offers students a high school program grounded in First Nations culture. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Holy Cross celebration

Hundreds of students from Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon processed behind their school cross to walk to nearby Holy Spirit Parish Sept. 14 to celebrate the school's feast day, the Triumph of the Cross. Holy Spirit associate Pastor Rev. Geoffrey Young (a Holy Cross graduate who was ordained in June) presided at the celebration of the Eucharist, along with Rev. Matthew Ramsay, associate pastor at St. Philip Neri parish, and Rev. Raymond Senger, pastor at St. Francis Xavier. The celebration marked the beginning of the school year as well as 100 years of Catholic education in the community. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

St. Thomas More College celebrates 75th anniversary during Founders' Weekend

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
AND MARGARET SANCHE

The mission and purpose of St. Thomas More College was highlighted during a 75th anniversary Academic Mass Sept. 25, in a celebration that included commissioning of deans, faculty, staff, student leaders and alumni, as well as the new president of the college.

Dr. Terrence Downey, began serving as the 11th president of St. Thomas More (STM) this summer, and will be officially installed as president in January. During the annual Academic Mass, Downey was commissioned by Bishop Donald Bolen.

Downey pledged himself to the mission of STM, which concludes: "As a Catholic college we are called to share in Christ's service to the people of God. Thus the work of our college is not an end in itself, but must find application for the good of humanity."

Downey then commissioned Dean Carl Still and Associate Dean Patricia McDougall, who in turn commissioned faculty and staff. STM Campus Ministry Team members Michael MacLean, Rev. André Lalach, and Madeline Oliver were also commissioned by the bishop.

Joining Bolen in celebrating the Eucharist were Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, STM pastor Rev. Ron Griffin, CSB; former STM professor Rev. Daniel Callam, CSB; Rev. Maurice Fiolleau of the Prince Albert diocese; Rev. Benjamin Fiore, SJ, of Campion College in Regina; and Rev. André Lalach of the STM Campus Ministry team.

A special anniversary choir consisting of St. Thomas More College and Newman alumni, as well as past and present members of the STM worshipping community, provided the music ministry for the Founders' Weekend event.

Anniversary celebrations continued Nov. 5, with a "More Rejoicing Gala" featuring world-renowned vocalist Anna Maria Kaufmann. The next day, STM Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Justice Peter Dielschneider and to Dr. Mary Jo Leddy. In addition, the Margaret Dutli Professional and Community Service Award was presented to faculty member Nicholas Jesson for his work in the community in the area of ecumenism.

Founded in 1936, the Catholic college is federated with the University of Saskatchewan in a relationship originally negotiated by University President Walter Murray and Rev. Henry Carr, CSB, Superior General of the Basilian Congregation of Toronto.

The new Catholic college was placed under the patronage of St. Thomas More, who had been canonized the year before. In its first year, 1936-37, St. Thomas More College had a teaching faculty of four, and a total of 39 students.

From 1937 until 1958, the faculty of the college was made up entirely of Basilian Fathers. With the continuing growth of the student body and the addition of a number of lay faculty in the 1960s, changes in the administrative structures and an enlargement of the college corporation were called for and these changes were introduced in 1971.

A financial campaign was launched in 1953 within the Catholic dioceses of the province to raise funds for a large, permanent, stone building for St. Thomas More College/Newman Club.

The sod was turned by Saskatoon Bishop Francis Klein on Easter Sunday 1954. In the weeks and months following, Catholic organizations, parishes, religious congregations, families and individuals throughout the province raised funds and made contributions to pay for the construction costs of the new stone building.

The present building was constructed in three stages between 1954 and 1969 and includes a chapel, library, cafeteria, auditorium, offices, classrooms and an art gallery.

Open to students of every faith background, STM has distinctive areas of academic programming, including STM philosophy, Catholic studies, Jewish and Christian origins, as well as Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS). Also under development is a minor in "Social Justice and the Common Good."

Another area of distinctive programming at STM is Community Service Learning, which involves students partnering with community agencies to contribute meaningful volunteer services, while making connections between their volunteer experience and their university studies. International experience is also provided through the Intercordia program.

Youth ministry

JPII Fest includes speaker, Chalice challenge, and basketball

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The first feast of Blessed John Paul II was commemorated with a weekend of youth events Oct 22 and 23 in the diocese of Saskatoon, dubbed “JPII Fest.”

Events included *Inception*, a rally for Grades 6 to 8; the launch of an outreach project involving the international Catholic charity *Chalice*; and a second annual *Bishop's Cup* basketball competition between youth and clergy.

Announced at the time of Blessed John Paul's beatification earlier this year, the feast day marks the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his papacy Oct. 22, 1978.

It seemed most appropriate to commemorate this new feast day in a way that involved youth, said Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne.

“Blessed John Paul II was a visionary leader and great example to many youth around the world,” said Leyne, describing the motivation for establishing the diocesan *JPII Fest*.

The late pontiff's ability to connect with young people, to express his love and hopes for them, and to challenge them to live fully their Catholic faith had an impact throughout his 27-year papacy. The establishment of World Youth Day under his leadership is just one example of what flowed from his focus on young people, Leyne noted.

In a similar spirit of gathering youth together to share and nourish faith, the “*Inception*” youth rally was held at Our Lady of Lourdes parish Oct. 22, with guest speaker Michael Chiasson of All Access Ministries in Calgary.

“During the event, youth were challenged to start living and working for Christ every day – to take up the challenge of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ,” Leyne described.

As a practical expression of that, youth across the diocese will be encouraged this year to find ways to support Chalice, a



Youth, youth leaders, family members, priests and two bishops participated in the Bishop's Cup basketball competition Oct 23.

Catholic international aid and development organization that helps others have the necessities of life, he said.

Highly rated as an effective charity, Chalice assists some 45,000 children and elderly in 15 developing countries, with 92.5 percent of funds raised going directly to programs.

In addition to a sponsorship program, Chalice partners with local people and other organizations on community projects, addressing such needs as a safe water supply, health care and education. Another outreach is Chalice's “buy a gift” program, which will hopefully capture the imagination of young people, suggested Leyne.

“We will work with their Christmas catalogue and are looking to buy 100 goats for families in need – or 1,000 or whatever we can accomplish,” he said. “A goat costs \$75, and is a great blessing to a family in need in many ways. It provides milk, income, and stability to those just looking for some help to live their life.”

When the annual diocesan Momentum youth rally takes place in the diocese April 28, youth and parishes will be invited to share the results of this “Chalice

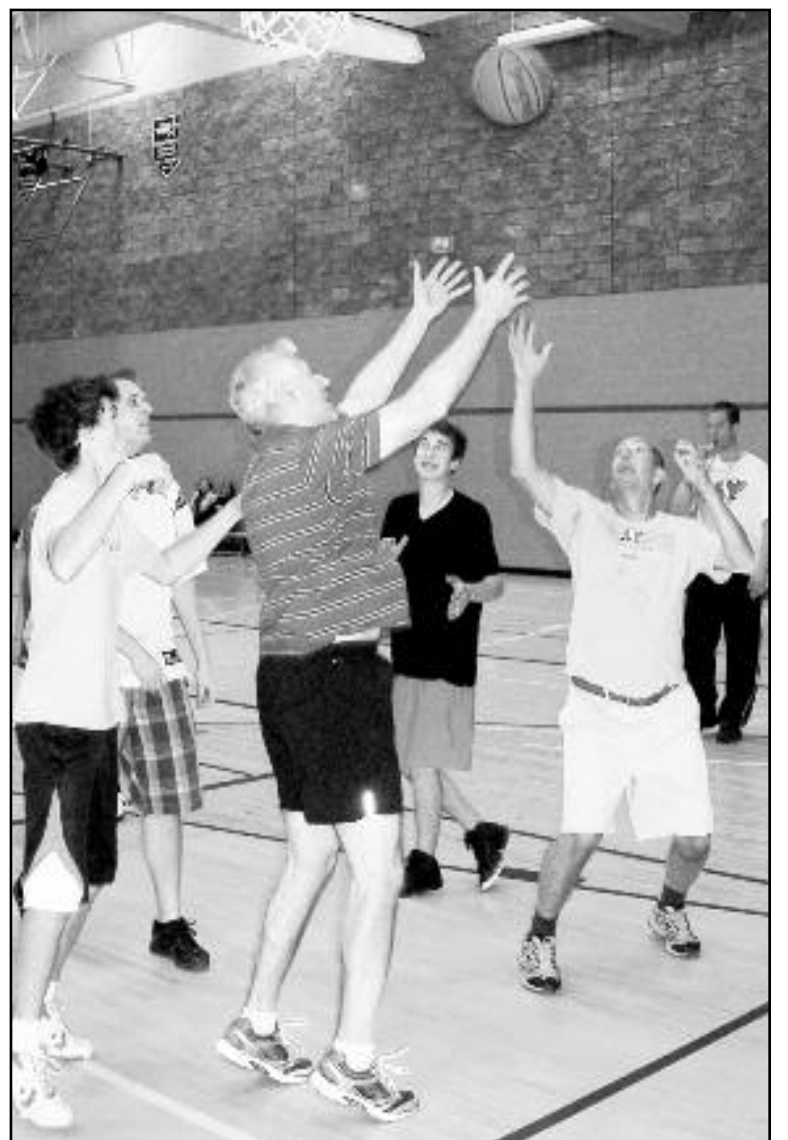
Revolution,” Leyne said, stressing that the goal is to follow the love that Christ first modeled to us.

JPII Fest continued Oct. 23 with the Bishop's Cup basketball competition, held at Bethlehem Catholic High School. Beginning with celebration of the Eucharist, the event involved some 80 youth, youth leaders, parents and clergy playing basketball together, socializing, and sharing pizza.

Leyne noted that this year's event was blessed to have two bishops playing on the clergy team: Bishop Don Bolen of Saskatoon and Bishop Murray Chatlain of Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese in the north.

Visiting his home town to speak at a Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools centennial event, Chatlain was a welcome addition to the clergy contingent in the final game of the evening, said Leyne. The clergy held their own throughout the game, with the youth all-star team finally winning 9-8.

“There was just such a great spirit of fun and friendship at the Bishop's Cup,” Leyne said. “This is the heart of evangelization and of vocation promotion: to get to know our priests and build relationships among youth, clergy, and families.”



Bishop Murray Chatlain of the diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith (in striped shirt) and Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen reach for the ball during a final basketball game between clergy and youth Oct 23 at a diocesan JPII Fest youth event. In the end, the youth all-star team carried the day, winning the coveted “Bishop's Cup.”

At JPII Fest, youth across the diocese were challenged to raise money to buy goats for families in need through Chalice, a Catholic international aid and development organization. Watch the diocesan Youth Ministry blog for updates about the “Chalice Revolution” at: saskatoonrcdiocese.com/youthministry

Youth Ministry is supported by the BAA!



Fr. Matthew Ramsay, Laurae Shivak and David Twa recently spoke at St. Philip Neri parish about World Youth Day experiences.

Participants describe impact of World Youth Day

World Youth Day was a profound and unforgettable experience, three pilgrims told a group of parishioners, friends and supporters Oct. 19 at St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon.

David Twa, Laurae Shivak and Fr. Matthew Ramsay described their August journey as part of the WYD group coordinated through the diocese of Saskatoon Youth Ministry office.

Showing photographs, Twa and Shivak provided commentary about what they saw and what they experienced along the way, including a powerful sense of the universal Church.

The diocesan group visited churches and sites in Rome and Assisi, before going to the Spanish town of Marin for “Days in the Diocese,” where the Canadian pilgrims were able to meet and connect with local people.

The group also walked a portion of the famous pilgrimage trail *Camino de Santiago de Compostela*, before arriving in Madrid, where they participated in gatherings, catechetical sessions, and celebrations with other young people from around the world.

Attending an event for Canadian pilgrims was one powerful moment, while memorable catechetical sessions includ-

ed a presentation by American Christopher West about Theology of the Body, Shivak described.

The travellers also described the papal Mass and the vigil that preceded it – marked by both blistering heat and a violent storm – as well as recounting the joy of seeing Pope Benedict XVI and of being in communion with more than 1.5 million other young Catholics.

“It was really something to see the world's Catholic youth gathered together for this event, just to see a group that size all come together in faith,” said Twa.

It was a life-changing event, added Shivak. - KLY

Youth and family ministry

Gatherings about youth, family and faith held this fall in three centres: Fox Valley, Kerrobert and Watson

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For the second year in a row, two diocesan ministry leaders hit the road to meet and talk with parents, parishioners, leaders and young people themselves about youth ministry challenges and blessings; realities and dreams.

Diocesan Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne and Vocations coordinator Myron

Rogal (who also coordinates the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team), this year visited three different centres, inviting surrounding parish communities to join them for a meal, a presentation, and discussion. Although a planned Saturday session in Saskatoon was cancelled because of a lack of registrations, the “town hall” evening sessions at Fox Valley

Sept. 26, Kerrobert Sept. 27 and Watson were well attended and generated great discussion and feedback, said Leyne.

The tour’s theme came from Blessed John Paul II’s encyclical “*Familiaris Consortio*,” written to give guidance, hope and support to the “Family in the Modern World.”

The presentation by Leyne and Rogal focused on how every family can build up a Catholic culture in their own home as part of every day life.

“A lot of those attending felt supported in the fact that they are doing youth ministry already,” he said. “The family is one important setting for youth ministry. Youth ministry that happens in the parish or the diocese exists to support the ‘domestic church’ of the family, not to replace it.”

Beginning with a focus on John Paul II’s encyclical was well received. “It was really good to take time to look at the vital call of the family, and using the encyclical as a starting point provided us with some of the wisdom of the Church.”

In his letter about families in the modern world, Blessed John Paul was encouraging, but he was also challenging, Leyne noted. “There’s a large responsibility on families when it comes to faith,



Eatonia deanery participants tackled discussion questions along with supper at a “town hall session” in Fox Valley Sept. 26.

- Photo by Colm Leyne

and to living and proclaiming the gospel.”

Finding resources and tools to help families meet that challenge is something that diocesan ministry offices want to help with, he added.

Therefore, another important reason for going out on such a tour is to gather input and really listen to what parishioners across the diocese are saying and experiencing, he said. “It helps them, and it helps us to respond to the needs we are hearing about. A lot of it just involves a desire to do more.”

Roadblocks, barriers and challenges were also discussed. “A lot of the participants said it comes down to prioritizing: that faith shouldn’t come last, after hockey, scouts, lessons,” he said.

“How do we have a right perspective, and how do we nurture faith and family?”

Following on Bishop Donald Bolen’s pastoral letter about giving an account for our hope, participants were also asked to speak about where they see hope in families, in young people and in youth ministry, Leyne described.

“We heard many examples of what is happening, and of what people can do to nurture faith in families and in young people. We heard some best practices.”

It is always great simply to gather and share perspectives and stories, Leyne acknowledged. “There’s hope in just coming together at the table. We’re already looking forward to next year’s visits to other centres.”



Marriage Family Enrichment Program

Members of the Vietnamese Catholic Community of Saskatoon gathered in September for a Marriage Family Enrichment Program (MFEP) weekend at St. Peter the Apostle parish in Saskatoon. Designed to help couples improve family life through a focus on communication skills, MFEP also focuses on the relationships between parents and children as well as between grandparents and grandchildren. The “Song Nguyen Program” takes the Bible as its “foundation for the change of the heart and for the change of all relationships.” Principles include deepening personal contact with the Lord; improving communication; improving family life; and helping spouses to carry out apostolic works as couples, rather than only as individuals.

- Photo by Fr. Phong Pham

Youth Ministry and Vocations – supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal!

Pure Witness Ministries offers families chance to ‘ReConnect’

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

For many participants it was hard to decide which game they liked best: milking the pretend cows, sawing logs or caber tossing.

“The Soiree” as it was dubbed by Pure Witness Ministries founder Carmen Marcoux was the second monthly ReConnect event, Oct. 19 at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon.

ReConnect was launched in September with a family dance featuring old time music by The Trudel Family. The November event featured Herb Clarke of Dance Dynamics teaching dance skills like swing or the two step before a family dance with recorded music.

“We are definitely trying to run events that have that old-fashioned rural feeling, where three generations of a family can come out and have a great time reconnecting with each other and other families in the community,” said Marcoux.

The first two ReConnect events attracted over 100 people, but there is definitely room for more families, she said.

The evening was jam-packed with an assortment of challenges. Younger ones participated in milking fake cows, teams raced to shake cream into butter, and a blindfolded relay simulated going from the barn to the kitchen in a snow storm.



Blindfolded competitors take part in a relay at a ReConnect event.

Skill-driven events encouraged older age groups to take up challenges. Teams were encouraged to select “older sons” for a race sawing logs. One of the highlights was watching dads and grandpas participate in a caber-tossing event. Competition got serious once the men realized there was real skill involved in safely throwing the caber across the gym. Pure Witness Ministries’ spiritual advisor, Fr. Patrick

Ampani, also tossed a caber, much to the crowd’s delight.

Pure Witness Ministries runs the ReConnect events on the third Saturday of every month at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. “The mission of Pure Witness ministry is to challenge Catholics to become pure witnesses of their faith by setting Christ at the heart of their lives,” explains Marcoux. “The purpose of ReConnect is to give families an opportunity to

reconnect with each other and to have fun socializing in the context of our faith community.”

Catholic faith and values run throughout ReConnect, she said, noting how the event begins in prayer, acknowledges God in all we do, shows the blessings of large families gathered together and includes the common thread of Christ that brought the group together.

She notes how traditional family dances model a social setting grounded in Catholic values. “In going across the country speaking about purity we have seen a real need for young people to develop this as a life skill,” observed Marcoux. “There are plenty of examples for kids of dancing with all kinds of inappropriate, intimate physical moves. We want to show kids how much fun it is to dance socially and to give them the confidence and opportunity to develop those skills.”

Marcoux describes ReConnect as family ministry rather than youth ministry. “Families get to reconnect with each other here, but also connect with a wide range of other families. There are all age groups coming, it is intergenerational. There are grandparents, families with just toddlers and families with just teens,” describes Marcoux. “Young adults who are dating or newly married are modeling

relationship discernment to younger teens without saying a word.”

The next ReConnect on **Saturday, Dec. 17** will feature a Christmas variety show in which participants can sing or play a Christmas number before a dance with Christmas music.

“We really want to get the word out that all families in the diocese are invited,” Marcoux stressed about the ReConnect events. “Some families may be apprehensive to come as they may think it is a parish event. If there is a family you have wanted to get together with for a while call them up and invite them to come with you to ReConnect. We would like to share the fun we are having at these events while at the same time reinforcing our faith.”

Pure Witness Ministries also offers a youth program earlier in the day on the third Saturday of every month, also at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. YEP – or the Youth Evangelization Project – offers teens “faith support, fellowship and fun.”

An annual event organized by Pure Witness Ministries is the **Purity Rally**, which will be held **May 12** in Saskatoon. Fund-raising for the rally will include a family dance Feb. 18 at St. Joseph Hall and a concert March 17.

For more information on Pure Witness Ministries or upcoming events see: purewitness.com

Meet the Deanery



Kindersley parish bus

St. Joseph's parish in Kindersley recently purchased a bus to offer rides to parishioners who need transportation to church, including seniors and newcomers. Pictured with the bus are Agnes Gaultois, Wendlin Schmidt, Nellie Schlosser, Bonnie Dunn, Ella Schmidt, and Mary Logan.

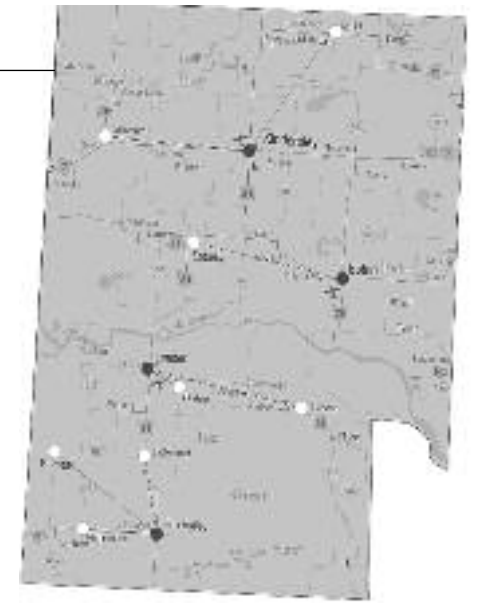
- Photo by Fr. Phong Pham

EATONIA DEANERY

Located in the southwest corner of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the Eatonia deanery includes territory that at one time was part of the diocese of Gravelbourg. The deanery chair is Gerri Holmes of Eston, and the priest dean is Fr. Jude Nzekwe.

Parishes in the deanery are located at **Kindersley, Marengo and Dodsland**, served by pastor Fr. Gerard Cooper; **Eaton and Eston**, served by administrator Fr. Jude Nzekwe; **Leader, Lancer and Prelate**, served by Fr. Emmanuel Azike, OP; and **Fox Valley, Burstall, Richmond and Liebenthal**, served by Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP.

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate served throughout the district in the early years of settlement by German-Russian pioneers. The area is also the home of the Ursulines of Prelate, who for 88 years operated St. Angela's Academy in Prelate,



SK., a Catholic boarding school for girls that closed in 2007. The facility was sold in the summer of 2011 to an Islamic boys' school.

The deanery is also the site of an annual pilgrimage to the historic Lady of Sorrows Shrine at Blumenfeld.

(This is the final instalment in a seven-part series looking at the deaneries in the diocese of Saskatoon.)



Bishop speaks in Leader about BAA

Bishop Donald Bolen (left) recently spoke to parish representatives from the Eatonia Deanery about the importance of ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The Oct. 11 visit, which began with celebration of Eucharist at Little Flower Parish, included presentations by diocesan staff working in offices of Ministry Development, Communications and Youth Ministry.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Fox Valley parish picnic

St. Mary's Parish in Fox Valley celebrated Sunday Mass in the park this summer, followed by a barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs and potluck salads and desserts. Activities also included face painting, a "bouncy castle" for the children and ladder golf. "Both young and old enjoyed the day," reported Candice Koch.

- Photo by Jillian Buye

Ethical decision making in health care discussed at Foundations session in Burstall

BY VIVIEN FIESEL

Mary Deutscher, Catholic chaplain at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina, was guest speaker at St. Michael's parish in Burstall after the Sunday Mass Oct. 30.

"Ethical decision making in health care" was the topic of her presentation, organized through the diocesan Foundations: *Exploring our Faith Together* program.

The day began with the arrival of some of the ladies of the parish who prepared a homemade meal of soup, buns, and desserts for the noon luncheon.

Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, celebrated Mass at 11 a.m., followed by lunch.

Thirty people were in attendance for Deutscher's presentation at 1:15 p.m.

The session included discussion about artificial nutrition and hydration.

It was noted that at times this may be physically impossible; in some instances, patients are unable to assimilate foods and liquid; and this course of action may cause significant physical discomfort. Deutscher also addressed such issues as embryo adoption.

Comments from those attending included an apprec-

iation for the small group discussions; the need for a living will and to inform family of one's wishes; it was informative to learn about life support options; and acknowledging the importance of prayer in our decisions and listening to our conscience; and finally, that it was an excellent presentation.

Those in attendance were from parishes at Fox Valley, Leader, Lancer, and Richmond, as well as including parishioners from the local Hope Evangelical Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church..



During a Foundations session at St. Michael's parish in Burstall, Janine O'Neill, Randy O'Neill and Russell Job discuss with Mary Deutscher one of the questions on ethical decision making.

- Photo by Vivien Fiesel



Mary Deutscher, Roman Catholic Chaplain at Pasqua Hospital in Regina, prepares for her Foundations presentation at St. Michael's parish in Burstall.

- Photo by Vivien Fiesel

Shalom Supper and Silent Auction raises funds for renovation of aging rectory

A Shalom Supper and Silent Auction was held June 10 at St. Mary parish in Fox Valley as a start to raise funds to renovate an aging rectory as a living space for the priest serving four parishes in the area.

"It soon became evident that it is so much more than that," said Elan Ehresman of the fund-raising effort.

"It is an opportunity to define who the four parishes of St. Michael, Burstall, Sacred Heart, Liebenthal, St. Mary, Fox Valley and St. Mary, Richmond are. It's a time to create unity, to build community," she said. "Recognizing our strengths and weaknesses, then we use that knowledge for the good of each other, and celebrate who we already are."

Food and justice issues

Christian leaders meet to discuss food and poverty issues

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A number of church leaders in Saskatoon recently received an update about the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store that will be part of the Station 20 West project now under construction in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood.

The need for a full service grocery store in the core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon was reiterated Oct. 12 as a group of church leaders gathered for an early morning meeting at St. George Anglican parish in Saskatoon to discuss the launch of another Advent campaign to raise funds to offset opening costs for the Good Food Junction. Last year's Advent campaign for the store, supported by many Christian churches, raised some \$150,000.

An estimated \$350,000 to \$400,000 is still needed to equip and stock the grocery store, if it is to open without debt, something that the business plan deems necessary to ensure the Good Food Junction's ongoing viability, said Ralph Winterhalt, the cooperative grocery store's business development manager. "If that grocery store can open without debt for equipment, and has its inventory paid for, it's going to be a very successful project in the core neighbourhoods."

Winterhalt, who is also the project manager of Station 20 West, described how the Good Food Junction will be just one of the tenants located in the new community enterprise centre. Others will include Quint, involved in creating housing in core neighbourhoods; CHEP, which works to place good food in schools and in the community; and Saskatoon Health Region, which will operate a Mother Centre and the Kids' First health centre; as well as a University of Saskatchewan community service outreach program.

The history of the grocery store project was described by Janice Sanford Beck, program director of CHEP and president of the Good Food Junction Co-operative. "It has been almost 12 years since the last full service grocery store in this neighbourhood shut down," she said, adding that there



Church leaders discuss plans for another Advent campaign in support of Good Food Junction at Station 20 West.

were several efforts over the years to try and address the huge hole this left in the community.

Eventually, CHEP took a leadership role especially in bringing people together to develop plans for including a grocery store in Station 20 West, finding resources for the feasibility study and a business plan. Good Food Junction was incorporated six years ago as a cooperative grocery store, owned by members of the community. Plans are in place for a membership drive in the near future, to add to those memberships that have already been pledged, said Sanford Beck.

The lack of a full service grocery store makes shopping for healthy, inexpensive food a huge challenge for those living in the core neighbourhoods, especially those without access to a vehicle, she described.

"We all know how important food is to good health, and we also know that it is often the heaviest and most expensive foods that are the healthiest for us. And so things like milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, are things that are heavy to carry home

from the store, and they are also things that don't keep for a long time," she said of the situation.

Ideas for bulletin inserts, events and fund raising ideas, and a Dec. 10 ecumenical outdoor nativity pageant to launch another Advent campaign in Christian churches were discussed during the meeting.

Saskatoon Health Region chief medical officer Dr. Cory Neudorf also spoke to the church leaders, stressing the ongoing gospel call to address income and health disparity, and tackle poverty and the suffering it causes. He noted that there are over 3,000 verses in scripture that address poverty, calling for justice and mercy.

Neudorf was one of those who worked on a 2008 health disparity report addressing the health status of residents within Saskatoon's six low income neighbourhoods, compared to the rest of the city – a report that showed a clear connection between low income and poor health.

It is important to recognize that the

problem is ongoing, and calls for a long-term ongoing response to poverty issues, he said. The "poverty issue" is never done, he said. For instance, with the income-health disparity study, it has been suggested it be repeated every few years to continue to "keep this in front of the community," and determine what progress has been made.

Neudorf suggested that a system of networking be established, whereby concerned individuals and groups can work together to share ideas, support each other, and coordinate their responses and initiatives. "There does seem to be a movement of God's Spirit working in this across many denominations," he said. "This is bringing churches together across the spectrum."

As an example, Neudorf suggested local churches might sponsor an event "to bring people together to give some feet to the words." Facilitators of such an event might guide the process, but it would permit people with similar projects, concern or interests to actually work together on practical responses to problems such as housing, hunger, support for single parents, and so on, he said.

Neudorf said that he envisioned such a process including business leaders, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists.

"There is this sense that people want to make a difference, they just don't know how."

Bishop Cindy Halmanson of the Saskatchewan synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada said there is a need to focus on building relationships as a way to address issues. Neudorf agreed.

"Many people's misconceptions and judgments (about poverty) start from a lack of relationship," said Neudorf.

"Take that first step and get to know others in your own congregation, because it may be you are sitting beside that person already, they just hide it. But beyond that, reaching out and actually getting to know someone, getting to know 'the other' breaks down those walls of judgments and preconceptions."

Saskatoon Christians will celebrate the Nativity Dec. 10 to launch support for Good Food Junction

This December, Christians from many different churches in Saskatoon and area will join together to host an outdoor nativity pageant as part of their effort to support the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store at Station 20 West. **"Would You Like to Hold the Baby?" will be held 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 in Civic Square at Saskatoon City Hall on 23rd Street.** Anyone interested in joining the festivity is welcome; a free will offering will be taken for the Good Food Junction.

Children and youth interested in taking part are asked to be at Third Avenue United Church (304 3rd Ave. N) at 2 p.m. on Dec. 10 for a rehearsal (with costumes if you have them). Those who would like a recording of the music to practice ahead of time can contact Janice Sanford Beck at 655-5301. Refreshments will be served following the pageant. Anyone interested in contributing cookies or fruit is invited to bring it to Third Avenue United Church between 1 and 2 p.m. Dec. 10.



Station 20 West construction underway

A group of supporters, board members and community representatives turned the sod July 20 to officially launch construction of the long-awaited Station 20 West project in Saskatoon. Station 20 West community enterprise centre will include a Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store, as well as nutrition, health and development services for the core neighbourhood. "It is about giving neighbourhood residents a hands-up not a handout," said board chair Sheila Pocha, noting the support of thousands of individuals and hundreds of groups and organizations, which has kept the project alive during the past three years.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Hiking Saskatoon's Food Desert

CHEP Good Food Inc. organized an event Oct. 15 to highlight the lack of a full service grocery store in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood. Some 40 participants walked five kilometers through the city's core neighbourhoods, carrying groceries in shopping bags or back packs. Janice Sanford Beck, CHEP program director and president of the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store, said that five kilometers was selected as the average distance, but some residents must travel much farther to access a full service grocery store. The challenges are compounded for those on low incomes, without access to a car. "This impacts what they eat. The healthiest food is also the heaviest food. Milk, fruits and vegetables are heavy to carry," said Sanford Beck, describing how the "food desert" adversely affects those who live in the core neighbourhood. Asked if this would be an annual event, Sanford Beck said she hoped not, pointing to the anticipated opening of the Good Food Junction in the Station 20 West community enterprise centre under construction in the neighbourhood.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

'What's On Your Plate?' addresses food issues

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Food is not just about nutrients: it is about relationships, power and our connection to the earth, said the keynote speaker at a diocesan "What's On Your Plate?" conference Nov. 5 in Saskatoon.

Dr. Nettie Wiebe, organic farmer, author and professor at St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan, gave an overview of the food system during the event organized by a diocesan Office for Justice and Peace planning committee.

The conference on food, justice and poverty also included a panel discussion by community leaders involved in outreach, chaired by Patrick Lapointe.

It is not simple to pinpoint information about where our food comes from, who grows it, and how it was produced and processed, said Wiebe, describing how difficult it is for her graduate students to complete an assignment that involves tracking the origins of a favourite food item.

"On average, food travels 2,000 to 3,000 km before it gets to your plate. Every time you eat a grape from Chile or broccoli from



Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, asks a question during the conference.

Mexico, that has traveled a good long distance, through many channels."

Labeling often hides more than it reveals, she added. For instance, between 70 and 90 per cent of processed foods have genetically modified components, especially soy and corn, but this does not appear on labels.

The best way to know what is on our plate is to eat more products from closer to home, said Wiebe. "Those who have by far the best knowledge of what they're eating, are the ones who go to the Farmer's Market and talk to the farmer... The closer to home the better."

Society has been persuaded that industrialized food produc-

tion and buying from global markets means "cheaper" food, observed Wiebe. "Cheap is not cheap if you don't have the money... Cheap is always relative. Those of us who have money in our pockets will spend 14 to 16 per cent of our disposable income on food. But for somebody who is worrying about whether they can pay the rent or buy milk, food isn't cheap."

She also questioned a definition of "cheap food" that only looks at the price, and not other costs, such as the lack of nutrients or the impact on the environment. "Or when I think about the losses in our farm communities, the farm families, the livelihoods, the neighbourhoods: it is not cheap."

Weibe challenged the idea that the industrialized food system must work this way, or the world

could not feed as many people. "Our hearts are in right places and we don't want to aggravate the suffering and create hunger," she admitted. However, even looking at Saskatchewan, it is clear that producing more food does not necessarily tackle hunger, she said. "We're awash in food," she noted. "And yet we have a Food Bank in places like Rosetown, which is in the middle of a very productive, food growing area."

Hunger is about who controls food and who makes decisions about it, she said. "It's about food sovereignty... when we see the marketing, the land and the water being concentrated ...in fewer and fewer corporate hands, those are the places where the decisions around food are being made."

If quantity and corporate profitability are the main drivers of food production, "the less secure we all are in terms of our food and certainly the poor among us are less and less well served by it," she said. One way to "take back" ownership of the food system is to support local food production, small scale farmers and local food systems, she suggested.

Fundamentally, food is about relationships, she added. "Food is about who we are to each other in



Guest speaker Dr. Nettie Wiebe

our communities and in the bigger world. We don't live by bread alone," she said.

"We need to re-conceive ourselves and the food system as dynamic, interlaced living webs rather than linear chains. The language of food webs highlights the necessary interconnectedness of the actors in the food system, as well as acknowledging our ultimate dependence on nature's goods for our sustenance and survival."

In discussion throughout the day, a number of initiatives were discussed, such as urban agriculture, community gardens, the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery project in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood, the elimination of prison farms, the CHEP good food project, community kitchens, an urban fruit harvesting project, and the master gardener program.

Justice and Peace – supported by the BAA.

Living a week on Food Bank basket prompts discussion about poverty

BY ANDRÉA LEDDING

Thirteen high-profile participants in a Food Basket challenge organized by the Saskatoon Food Bank gathered to share their experience and insights after trying to live one week on a Food Bank basket.

Food Bank employee Alison Robertson explained that besides the very basic basket, participants were also allowed to spend \$5, but no more, on food items. The group blogged about their experiences during the week.

"Hunger makes you resentful and poverty is a giant pit," wrote Curtis Anderson of Shaw TV; other entries from participants

touched on struggles and frustrations with how hard it must be for people trying to make ends meet and feed their children.

"This has been a powerful forum for conversation," noted Robertson, saying the blog had over 12,000 hits. "The community has been tuning in to poverty issues."

She emphasized that this wasn't a game or experiment or form of entertainment; participants shared their temporary vulnerabilities in order to open the wider experience up to mainstream Saskatoon.

During the event conclusion Sept. 20 at the Indian and Metis

Friendship Centre, questions written on cards were answered by the panel of participants.

Anthony McCarthy, executive chef for the Saskatoon Club, described how it was incredibly hard to prepare food all day and know he couldn't eat any of it, or to see how many advertisements there are everywhere for food he didn't have enough money to buy.

"It's debilitating," he said.

But participants were all also aware this was only a temporary, and voluntary, situation.

"What if I didn't know why, or when it would end?" asked one. The panel discussed how poverty and hunger go hand-in-hand,



Participants in a food bank basket challenge at a wind up Sept. 20.

compounding daily problems, impacting health and well-being, as people struggle to make good decisions or find options. Participants reported that it was time and energy consuming figuring out how to make that small amount of groceries last, and how to best prepare it.

"People cheered me on, but in poverty that's just not the case. I told people and they were nice and supportive. That doesn't happen for regular food bank users."

"There are lots of manual labour jobs right now," noted John Lagimodière, media personality and consultant, who had to quit after a few days because he was renovating his basement and just wasn't getting enough food. "You've got to have self-worth and energy levels to do physical work, and not be shaking by lunchtime. We need to have a little more compassion for those breaking in to the workplace, there's a bridge that has to be made."

Lagimodière added that for those living in poverty, food security, nutrition, and a hand-up versus a hand-out needs to happen at every level: local, municipal, provincial, and federal.

"I was dizzy and tired, my relationships suffered, I was too drained to deal with problems, and couldn't connect with the people at work," said Whitney Graves, radio personality. "Hunger affects every part of your life."

The panel, which included not only members of the media but the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region and a member of the Saskatoon Police Service, was resolved to continue the discussion and to ensure action was taken to make a difference to those relying on very limited means.

Lagimodière said he and his family were going to commit to making a difference to just one family, so that they would not get overwhelmed and give up.

"Poverty isn't strangers, it's our friends, our neighbours, our relatives," Lagimodière added. "I'm a lot more invested than seven days ago. Sure we can send money away to Africa, we can buy a goat in Somalia for a family and let's do that, but there are hungry children right here that need to be fed, and we can reach out and touch that family."

Brandon Nataway, who wasn't a participant but has been living on the streets for many years, spoke to the large gathering as well, and was welcomed by the panel.

"I didn't choose this life, but I'll never give up, I just put one foot in front of the other," Nataway said, before sharing some music with the crowd.

In closing, Robertson urged participants and audience to "start anywhere," as there is an urgency to these issues.

"But the answers reside within us," he added. "We can build the community we want."

Newly-renovated CWL Clothing Depot seeks used items

The newly renovated CWL Clothing Depot has re-opened its doors in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood.

Operated by the Catholic Women's League at 619-20th Street West in Saskatoon, the CWL Clothing Depot serves all those in need of used clothing and household articles. Hours of operation are 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

A nominal fee is charged for clothing and other items; however, no person in need is refused because of lack of funds.

Donations are needed and are greatly appreciated,

says board member Diane Hergott. Requested items include: clothing, shoes and boots, including winter clothing; dishes, pots and pans, cutlery; small kitchen appliances; bedding and blankets; towels and tea towels; yarn and yarn goods; bicycles, drapes, decorations, quilt patches, gift items for Christmas, and toys. Small items of furniture in good condition may also be accepted, depending on space availability.

Donations can be dropped off at the back door of the Clothing Depot Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon. For pick up of donations, please call 242-5042.

Dec. 6 celebration will mark Friendship Inn expansion

Saskatoon Friendship Inn's new addition and renovations are now complete and the community is invited to attend a grand opening pancake breakfast 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. **Tuesday, Dec. 6** at 619 20th St. West, in Saskatoon.

The Friendship Inn was established in 1969, with the help of the Catholic diocese and the Inner-City Council of Churches as a drop in centre for transient and homeless men, and grew to become a soup kitchen. Today, it provides two meals daily

365 days a year in a safe and welcoming environment. In addition, Friendship Inn offers other support and crisis counselling.

The Friendship Inn website reports that with the help of volunteers and donations, 180,000 meals were served last year – 40 per cent to children. An increased cost of living, with higher rents and grocery bills is contributing to the difficulties faced by those earning minimum wage or on social assistance, states www.sfinn.ca

Friendship Inn – supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal!

Catholic Health Care

Compassionate Healers Mass held for all those involved in health care or care giving

BY ARCH MCKAY

An annual Compassionate Healers Mass was held Sept. 21 at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon, one of three such celebrations across the province.

Organized by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, this celebration is for the benefit and intentions of medical personnel, health care workers, volunteer caregivers, parish nurses, men and women religious in health care ministry and ministry of care volunteers in parishes and health care facilities.

Celebrants at the Saskatoon celebration were Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Brian Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. Also attending were Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, pastor of St. Anne parish, Fr. Rheel Bussiere and Fr. Les Paquin, who serve as hospital chaplains, as well as Fr. Joseph Jacek, OMI, pastor of parishes at Allen, Colonsay and Viscount. Providing music ministry was a combined choir of St. Anne parish under the direction of Rene Bokshowan.

In his homily, Bayda explored the theme of God's mercy. He related a personal story involving an act of kindness he gave to a person in need. When his act netted

an ungrateful response, he said his first reaction was one of indignation. But upon further reflection he realized that "it was so easy to see the speck in someone else's eye and forget the log in one's own."

Bayda said he believed that through this event "God finally got my attention." For him it was a lesson about how ungrateful he may have been for the many gifts God has given him. Bayda went on to tell caregivers that "God gives us people who need mercy, and we are sent as instruments of mercy."

Bayda reminded the congregation that "a merciful person is a light that stands out and that we have the gifts to be signs of mercy."

Medical personnel, volunteers and caregivers attending the celebration came forward to have their hands anointed and were asked, "Will you go forth into the community to be the presence of Christ?"

Deacon Bob Williston sang a reflective song he composed, entitled "*Sanctify Christ as the Lord in your hearts.*"

Sandra Kary, executive director of CHAS, thanked the concelebrants and all who helped to prepare the event. She indicated that the motto of CHAS comes from the second



Fr. Lawrence DeMong, Bishop Donald Bolen and Bishop Bryan Bayda at the celebration at St. Anne parish.

letter to the Corinthians 5:13: "The compassion of Christ compels us."

Kary reminded caregivers that their work in Catholic health care was a sign of Christ's compassion to all those they encountered.

All were invited to St. Anne's parish hall for refreshments, where English as Alternative Language students from Bishop Mahoney High School students helped serve. The students also put greetings in the languages of their lands of origin on the tables.

"Grace of Age" was theme of 2011 Catholic Health Association convention

BY SANDY NORMAND

"The Grace of Age" was the theme of the 68th Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) convention held Oct. 24 and 25 in Moose Jaw.

More than 180 delegates from across the province gathered to receive spiritual enrichment, professional affirmation and the opportunity to be engaged in how all play a significant role in the "grace of age."

Keynote speakers provided a wellspring of perspective and challenge about how we perceive aging, how many of our stereotypes are socially constructed and the unique challenges related to aging in this time and space.

Speaker Sr. Elizabeth Davis of the Sisters of Mercy presented an invitation to advocate for a new understanding of aging, to promote age-friendly communities and health care places, to encourage the development of a spirituality of aging and to help society move from the "dark age of aging" to the "new age of aging."

Monsignor Charles Fahey described how society – in particular North American society has never encountered before the reality of the "the third age." The growth in the number of older persons challenges every structure of society. "In developed countries we see the emergence of four and even five generational families. Honour your father and your mother. Which ones? How long should older persons work?"



Thirteen sisters representing seven of the eight religious congregations who were honoured at this year's CHAS Convention, part of an ongoing recognition of the role and impact of women religious on health care in the province. - Photo by Margaret Yeo

He explored the realities of a second wave of a "demographic revolution" and drew particular attention to how the Church and those involved in health care must not only continue to draw upon rich traditions but integrate them with contemporary understandings and realities to assure the well-being of older people and societies as a whole.

Micheline Pare, author and creator of the "Congruent Compassionate Approach," brought inspiration to empower professionals and family caregivers, showing ways to link our sacred stories and use them as teachable moments for and with upcoming generations.

Five workshops were featured during the convention, addressing a range of issues and resources.

Delegates were invited to situate ministry to the sick and the sacrament of the

Anointing of the Sick within the healing ministry of Jesus in one of the workshops. In another, First Link was showcased as a resource promoting a person-centered approach to care. In a third session, stories were shared from those who have lived and are living through the aging process while confined to a modern health care facility. Other delegates were engaged to employ tools to better communicate with parents and siblings about difficult topics and provide resources for better self-care. Finally, the opportunity to provide a global perspective of hospice palliative care was delivered, as two very different cultures - Canada and China - were explored.

Throughout the convention, delegates listened to vignettes describing the work and ministry of eight founding religious congregations no longer active in Catholic health in the province.

Highlighted this year were the Sisters of St. Martha, Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough, Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Daughters of Wisdom, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Sisters of Providence of Vincent de Paul, and Sisters of Providence of Montreal. As a tribute to their many years of service and ministry, bouquets and thanks were offered at the banquet and awards ceremony to 13 sisters representing their respective congregation.

Also receiving recognition at the awards ceremony was this year's Moola Free Award recipient, Dr. Intheran Pillay of Gravelbourg, recognized for excellence in palliative care and for demonstrating commitment and leadership.

This year's Mission Award recipient Janet Loiselle is also from Gravelbourg, recognized by her peers for her contributions to Catholic health care. As well, Maureen Preston of Saskatoon received honorary membership for her many years of nursing service.

The convention concluded with celebration of the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick ceremony. Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen was the main presider. Parish priests of Moose Jaw also came to concelebrate. Music ministry was provided by Bobby Williston and his Grade 8 class from Sacred Heart School in Moose Jaw.



St. Paul's Hospital donation

Bruce Acton, CEO of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, donor Joe Remail, and Mercedes Montgomery, Chair of the Foundation (l-r) examine a new vascular surgery suite at St. Paul's Hospital. Remail donated \$250,000 to the new unit, which features digital equipment that allows vascular imaging to take place in the operating room.

Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

School of Nursing marks 100th anniversary

BY JACQUIE BERG

St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing 100th anniversary reunion was held July 7 to 9 in Saskatoon, with about 467 grads registered for the weekend of reminiscing and activities.

"It's amazing how our grads reconnect so seamlessly," says SPH Nurses Alumni President Sharon McCallion. "While training was a serious business, living together, laughing and crying together, essentially growing into adulthood together makes for a lasting bond. Much like a family, we trust that our values and compassion are similar. What a gift these ties are!"

The opening of Saskatoon's first hospital in 1907 was a tangible sign of a spiritual mission of love and service to humanity -

a mission that has continued to be the spirit of St. Paul's and has pervaded each successive phase of growth and expansion.

Although the School of Nursing had a modest beginning, it soon developed into a highly reputable learning institution. Its graduates were not only skilled professionals, but also individuals who, because of the teaching and example of the Grey Nuns that "charity and love conquers all", provided a special kind of nursing care.

On Nov. 21, 1909, the first candidate, soon followed by four others, enrolled at St. Paul's School of Nursing. There were many changes over the next 60 years. Adding classes such as nutritional studies and affiliations with the Sanatorium and

psychiatry programs kept the training in pace with changes in medical knowledge, educational material and opportunities for learning. The Residence (now C wing) was opened Nov. 13, 1931, offering accommodation to students, as well as classrooms.

The Great Depression, the Second World War, the polio epidemic and changes in educational policies all affected the School of Nursing. In 1938 the University of Saskatchewan approved St. Paul's as a teaching affiliate until Royal University Hospital opened in 1955.

From the first five graduates on Sept. 21, 1911 to when the St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing closed its doors in February 1969, there were 2,057 graduates in total.

Innovative Catholic long term care facility prepares for opening

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

It's still under construction, but already the newest Catholic health care facility in Saskatchewan is working on the details of implementing its holistic vision of resident-centered care.

Samaritan Place, opening in January 2012, is now filling leadership roles and staff positions, and recently put out a call for volunteers.

Carter Bannister, Samaritan Place's new Life Enhancement Director, said he is eager and excited to begin working with volunteers to help in creating the kind of spirit that is envisioned for the new long-term care home.

Making Samaritan Place as homelike as possible is at the heart of that vision. Plans are to offer a choice of programs, directed by the interests and priorities of the residents, he said. In preparation, he is working to build a network of volunteers and community resources; to be in place by the time the facility opens.

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan, which owns and operates nine other Catholic health care facilities on behalf of the bishops of Saskatchewan, created a wholly owned subsidiary, Amicus Health Care Inc., to build, govern and operate Samaritan Place in the Stonebridge

neighborhood of southeast Saskatoon. It is being built to provide higher levels of care for seniors and others who need continuing care.

The faith-based Samaritan Place will implement a number of innovations designed to provide holistic care that respects the dignity of each resident, while striving to help them maintain family and community ties, and as much independence and control as possible, said Brenda FitzGerald, CEO for Amicus.

"We envision being very flexible in providing a home-like setting," she said. The design of the facility, with a central gathering space, and different "neighborhoods" identified in the building, will strengthen the idea that this is a home that residents move into, rather than admission to a facility, says FitzGerald.

Samaritan Place will include 56 individual living suites, designed to maximize autonomy and independence. Another 24 units will be specifically designated for those individuals who are at risk for wandering, describes FitzGerald.

One of the major innovations of Samaritan Place is the plan for 20 double units. These are designed for two people who have different care needs, yet want to remain living together – this might be a husband and wife, siblings, or a parent and their adult child. Even though only one of the two needs Level 3 or 4 care, this ensures that families can stay together, describes FitzGerald.

It is important people realize that this option will now exist in the Saskatoon Health Region with the January opening, she says.

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan plans seniors' residence as part of 'continuum of care'

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The provincial corporation that owns and operates 10 Catholic health care facilities on behalf of the bishops of Saskatchewan recently began planning its next project: a seniors' residence.

Trinity Manor at Stonebridge will offer "independent and assisted living to seniors who value living in a vibrant community of shared values nestled in the continuum of care," says Scott Irwin, president and CEO of Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (CHMS), a provincial organization based in Saskatoon.

Currently in the planning phase, the facility complements another recent CHMS project: Samaritan Place, a 100-bed long term care home that is under construction in the Stonebridge neighbourhood of Saskatoon (*see related article above*).

CHMS embarked on the Samaritan Place project about 18 months ago, through its wholly owned subsidiary Amicus Health Care Inc. Samaritan Place will provide Level 3 and 4 care, and is expected to open in the new year.

"*Trinity Manor at Stonebridge* will be a very different facility in many respects, as it caters to those individuals seeking independent living and assisted living," says Irwin. "The continuum of care would allow individuals to access greater levels of services over time should they need it, without leaving the community that they have grown comfortable with."

As with all CHMS facilities, this new project will incorporate its "sense of mission, resident focus and shared values within a common philosophy that will promote a strong vibrant sense of community," he says, stressing that the emphasis will be on carefree independent living.

"We envision that those people who come to call this home will choose to do so because they want



Carter Bannister is seeking volunteers for Samaritan Place.

Just as with other special care homes operating within the Saskatoon Health Region, admission to Samaritan Place will happen through the Client Patient Access Services (CPAS) office, 655-4346, stresses FitzGerald. As with other such facilities, rates are set by the provincial government, and are based on the income of the individual assessed as needing long-term care services.

FitzGerald says she is excited to see construction nearing completion, and the leadership team and staff that is being developed.

In addition to Bannister, leadership roles include Executive Director Juanita Tremere and Care Services Director Penni Caron. The facility will also have a Director of Support Services, and a Spiritual Care and Mission Director.

Born and raised in Saskatoon,

Bannister has spent the past 15 years working in assisted living and long term care in Calgary and Penticton, BC, including nine years in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has a five-year Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation and a Diploma in Gerontology.

Bannister's experience has included starting up programs in several new facilities. Excited about the holistic, resident-directed vision of Samaritan Place, Bannister says he hopes volunteers as well as residents will find joy and happiness in the new setting. "We want the volunteers to be as much as possible like an extended family."

Having this new faith-based home in Saskatoon, with its innovative vision, is extremely exciting, says FitzGerald. "I think that it's just simply a gift. I think we're so blessed to have this opportunity."



Bill Coumont, Cheryl Cole and Bob Jeanneau outside the new Columbian Place building on 20th Street West in Saskatoon.

Columbian Place affordable housing for seniors is part of core area revitalization

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Construction continues on a 75-unit faith-based affordable housing complex for seniors that KC Charities is building in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood.

Applications are now being accepted from those interested in renting suites in Columbian Place, located on 20th Street West, kitty-corner from St. Mary's Catholic parish. The projected date of occupancy is the summer of 2012, says building committee and Knights of Columbus member Bill Coumont.

"We want to encourage people to apply by calling manager Cheryl Cole," he said. Cole is also manager of KC Charities' first such housing project, Columbian Manor in Eastview, and can be reached at (306) 373-8160.

As with Columbian Manor, the new facility will be home to those 55 years of age and older that meet the income limits as required by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

Coumont and fellow committee member Bob Jeanneau said they are delighted that through KC Charities, the Knights of Columbus is part of the revitalization happening in the Pleasant Hill area right now, with construction underway on the new St. Mary's Community School, other housing projects, as well as Station 20 West and the Good Food Junction cooperative grocery store.

Columbian Place is close to a range of other nearby amenities, such as a credit union, a library branch, a drug store, a bakery, a medical clinic, St. Paul's Hospital, park space, and a number of churches of various denominations, said Jeanneau.

The building features underground parking, and top notch security, such as secure entry with an audio/visual system, noted Coumont. Other features of the building include individual balconies, a large common assembly area, a multipurpose room, and hair salon. The building is fully air conditioned.

Located close to where a now-closed KC bingo hall operated for many years, this new development is a way to give back to the neighbourhood, said Jeanneau.

Funding for the Columbian Place project has come from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (about \$8 million), as well as from the city of Saskatoon, which sold the land to KC Charities for the project for \$1, and provided a grant of \$885,000. KC Charities has committed at least \$1.5 million for construction of the facility.

It was in 1996 that the Knights of Columbus first took steps to address the need for affordable housing for seniors. A committee chaired by Jeanneau and Peter Harvey undertook construction of the Columbian Manor apartment building, which was expanded in 1999. Assistant living units were also added to that facility in 2007.

"This was accomplished because of the commitment of many volunteers from different walks of life who came forward to make our dream – a very big dream – come true," said Jeanneau.

JOURNEYS OF CARE, HEALING AND GROWTH

Moving from death to new life explored during retreat for separated and divorced

BY SHARON POWELL

Past participants of *Transitions*, a diocesan program of support for those who are separated or divorced, recently went beyond the program's 12-week format to undertake a day-long retreat Sept. 24 at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

The 12 participants in the first-time *Transitions* retreat spent time reflecting, journaling, and sharing with each other.

Among the themes explored during the day were:

• **Life and death** - Divorce is a kind of death. It is the death of a relationship. It is the death of promises, planning, love, sharing and a life together. To encourage participants to look for new life, time was spent outdoors during the retreat, discovering how our lives can mimic nature. Just as all of nature goes through death to new life, it is also possible to accept the death of a relationship and look forward to new growth.

• **Values and identity** - Participants played a thought-provoking and challenging game of "Values" to discover once again who they really are, and to reflect on what is really important to them.

• **Prayer and healing** - When we experience the wonderful feeling of "being in love" our heart sings and we are open to all sorts of possibilities. When that dream ends in divorce, it is natural for the opposite to happen, and in the pain of loss, it is possible to develop a hardened heart. Participants took time at the retreat to pray and to ask God for "a new heart."

One team member shared her Good Friday and Easter Sunday experience, and challenged retreat participants to find healing through a transformation of their own Good Friday experience (the death of a relationship) to an Easter Sunday experience (the rising to new life from the chaos).

Participants considered what could be changed in their lives to encourage and experience new life.

The retreat day concluded with a talk on love by Deacon Bob Williston who examined what we are called to be and how we are called to love.

The facilitators are already working on the program for another retreat next year, in late September 2012.



Parish Nurse support at St. Mary's

An annual auction to raise funds to support the Parish Nurse program at St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon was held Oct. 15, featuring a wide range of donated goods and services, as well as a lunch and pie sale. Parish Nurse Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, provides professional nursing care to those in the core neighbourhood, offering support and referral, assistance with health issues, and preventative intervention.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

St. Paul's Hospital plans to open hospice as part of palliative care program

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

St. Paul's Hospital is working towards establishment of a palliative hospice in Saskatoon in a building donated to the hospital Foundation by the Grey Nuns in 2008.

The Catholic hospital presently operates a 12-bed palliative care unit within the Saskatoon Health Region, and the planned hospice would add another piece to the continuum of care for the dying, says Jean Morrison, president and CEO of St. Paul's Hospital.

"Our desire is to make sure that palliative care is broader than the unit," she said, describing how palliative care coordinators based at St. Paul's Hospital already work in the community and other hospitals in the Saskatoon Health Region. A half-time palliative care coordinator in Humboldt is also linked to the St. Paul's palliative care program.

A goal of the palliative care unit is to help patients manage symptoms and be at home as much as possible, Morrison described. A

hospice would provide one more option for care of the dying in cases where going home is not a good option.

"That might be for a number of reasons. Perhaps there isn't support for the patient, the family isn't here, or isn't able to provide the amount of care that is necessary, or perhaps someone doesn't have a home that's conducive to that kind of care in terms of physical lay out, or perhaps someone doesn't have a home," she said.

A hospice is more of a home-like setting than a hospital, and has a different focus and level of activity than one might find in a nursing home or long term care facility. "There is a different tranquility."

Renovations would be needed before the house on Avenue O could be used as a hospice, with plans for 10 to 12 beds, Morrison described. Planning is underway, and eventually a program

developer will be put in place, and St. Paul's Hospital Foundation would be asked to launch a fund-raising campaign for the hospice.

"We would hope to be in a position to have a hospice in Saskatoon within the next three years," she said.

As with the existing palliative care unit and all of the services at St. Paul's Hospital, the hospice would be operated within the context of the Catholic hospital's core values of compassionate, holistic care, with special attention given to the spiritual dimension of care.

"We provide care to people of any faith, or spiritual belief, as well as to those who don't have any faith," said Morrison, stressing that the focus is always on meeting the needs of the individual, and respecting their spiritual and healing journey.

"We are here providing care because of our Christian beliefs, committed to respecting and

recognizing the beliefs of others," she said.

The Catholic faith tradition recognizes the profound importance of caring for the dying, she added. "We really truly do believe that you can support people to die with dignity, and with good support systems, with pain control.... There is something going on inside, when people work to walk through this journey. This is an amazing experience."

The desire to establish hospice care in the community has inspired interest from other groups as well, including the Prairie Hospice Society, which is working to establish a facility in Saskatoon.

"There is passion and desire in the community around palliative care," said Morrison.

"We are looking at how to bring that passion and desire into creating the best possible experience for people and to support individuals and families through it."

Theology on Tap speaker reflects on ministry and mission in talk to young adults at Saskatoon pub

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

"It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view," said speaker Brittney White of Alberta, opening her Theology on Tap presentation in Saskatoon Oct. 19 with the opening line from martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero's reflection "Creating the Church of Tomorrow."

"Taking the long view back," White demonstrated how the ordinary brought extraordinary moments of grace and blessings in her life and ministry, both in Edmonton's inner city neighbourhood and in the poverty of Guatemala.

In her talk to young adults at Lydia's Pub on Broadway Avenue, White recounted turning points on her life journey. Being inspired to work with youth in crisis, pursuing a theology degree, seeing the pope at World Youth Day in Germany, and undertaking ministry in a foreign country often came about from her own brokenness, she described.

White recalled how she got into trouble as a teen growing up in St. Albert, Alberta. "It was my experience in that life that brought me into ministry. Ministry is born of struggle," she said.

Through her own experience, White also learned the importance of one person "stepping out of the circle" and taking time to reach out and confront teens who are getting into trouble, as her Grade 11 volleyball coach did for her.

A change in attitude led White to attend university and to study psychology, as well as leading to her search for something deeper. She took

a course in theology after a friend said it was an easy way to boost her average. "I went, and met the most amazing woman professor," said White. "I could see Christ in her and learned what it is to witness. The world could use less teachers and more witnesses." White is now pursuing her masters of divinity from Newman College in Edmonton.

Since a first parish trip to Guatemala that also came about by chance, White and other parish volunteers have returned to work at an orphanage for children with HIV. The mission effort has become a big source of support for the small community in Guatemala. One program helps 2,000 kids attend school. Exchanges have also permitted youth from Guatemala to visit Alberta, she described.

The Guatemala experience often impacts parishioners when they come back to North America, she said. "They realize the distractions that keep people from each other and the busy-ness that's used against us. We take so much for granted."

She described how one young man named Santos who came to Canada from Guatemala was surprised by the lack of joy during Mass here, and the rush to leave when the celebration was over. He said: "I used to get so mad when Mother Teresa said being poor in spirit was worse than physical poverty. Now I wouldn't give up my family and poverty for anything you have here."

After many trips, Guatemala has become a big part of White's life. "Six years ago I would never have dreamed I would be doing this."

Diocese of Saskatoon Education of Laity Fund provides assistance to those undertaking programs or courses that directly benefit their ministry. For information call Blake Sittler, Director of Pastoral Services at 242-1500 or toll free 1-877-661-5005.



NTC graduates work as

- Religious Education Coordinators
- Prison Chaplains
- Military Chaplains
- Catholic School Administrators
- Hospital Chaplains
- University Chaplains
- Diocesan Directors
- Parish Pastoral Assistants
- Theology Professors
- and more

NTC Newman Theological College

Our professional degree programs in theology and religious education can prepare you for a unique career!

www.newman.edu

10012 - 84 Street, Edmonton, AB T6A0B2 780.392.2450
registr@newman.edu

Mission and Outreach

Catholic trustee engages in summer mission experience in Canadian north

Editor's note: Lisa Lambert was one of those who responded to a Diocesan Mission Office invitation to participate in On Eagle's Wings Ministries in the summer of 2011. A member of St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon, Lambert also serves as a Catholic school trustee for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

BY LISA LAMBERT

I noticed the ad for *On Eagle's Wings Ministries* in my parish's weekly bulletin.

I was attracted to the name of the mission group, the fact that it could work for people like me who had limited time to offer, it was ecumenical, it served those in isolated areas in the Canadian North, and the ministry focused on offering Vacation Bible School to the children in these remote communities.

As a Catholic school board trustee, I thought it would be beneficial to spend days with children and gain insight into some of the challenges our staff might face. As a member of a provincial advisory group on education equity for Saskatchewan School Boards Association, I wanted to see firsthand the challenges in delivering education in isolated Aboriginal communities.

When it came time to fill out the application, the reason I gave was, "The Holy Spirit blows where She will." The Spirit was tugging at me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace a new challenge.

I flew to Yellowknife, NWT, Aug. 19 with 47 pounds of supplies for the Vacation Bible School (VBS) in tow. After

Mission is about building relationship. Mission is about respect: accepting and appreciating differences and valuing all that God has created. Mission is about stewardship: accepting the responsibility to share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with others.

- Lisa Lambert,

DMO participant in On Eagle's Wings Ministries.

spending two nights at the Trapping Lake Spiritual Centre with the volunteer team (a Catholic, a Lutheran, an Anglican), we flew to our mission destination of Fort Good Hope, NWT, located 30 miles from the Arctic Circle. Our pilot was Rev. Rod Andrews, retired Anglican bishop of Saskatoon.

We were billeted with Sr. Joan Liss and Sr. Pauline Girodat at the Mission House. Wonderful hosts, storytellers and cooks, they are a gift to the community in so many ways. Each day, the VBS schedule consisted of a play, songs, bible stories, two crafts, snack time. Each night the VBS team readied craft supplies and planned for the following day.

Our bible school theme was SPLASH, an acronym for "Show People Love And Spread

Happiness." The week culminated in a program and social with the community.

It was not easy keeping children with a broad range of ages entertained and on task; we counted our attendance at 60.

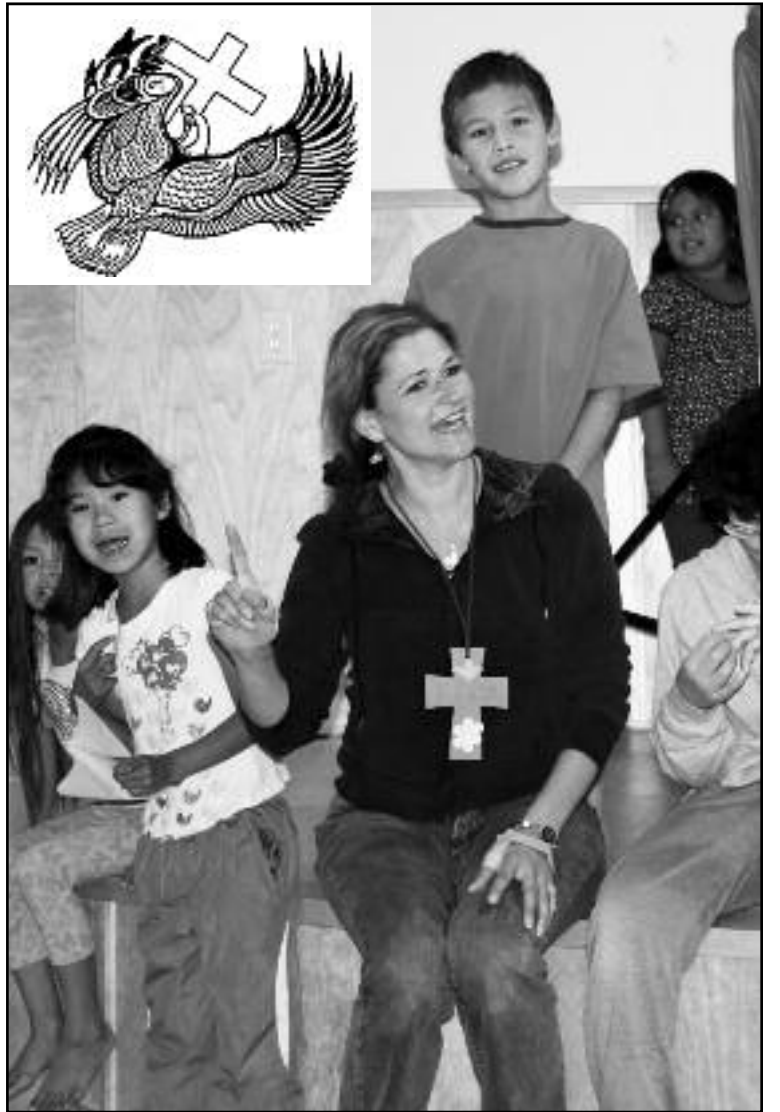
I was recently cutting out a coupon for four-litre containers of ice cream on sale for \$3. That same container costs \$22.99 at the Co-op in Fort Good Hope. Turkeys start at \$75. The cost of living was a sobering revelation. Unemployment, poverty, isolation, substance abuse, parenting issues, social problems, violence – these are some of the problems the community faces.

Recently, I received an appreciation letter from the U.S. office of *On Eagle's Wings Ministries*. Rev. Tomlinson wrote: "We are not telling First



Vivianne Grue of Camrose, AB; Rev. Rod Andrews, pilot and retired Anglican Bishop of Saskatoon; and Lisa Lambert of St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon (left to right) were among the volunteers assisting *On Eagle's Wings* in the Canadian north this summer.

- Photos submitted by Lisa Lambert



Volunteer Lisa Lambert singing with the children at one of the Vacation Bible School programs organized by *On Eagle's Wings*.

Nations people what to believe; we are teaching them how to believe and how to raise their own children according to what they sense God is directing." It is a beautiful intention and one that touches my heart.

In Fort Good Hope, I was reminded of words by Black Elk, an Ogalla Sioux holy man, that "grown men can learn from very little children for the hearts of little children are pure." And learn I did.

Mission is about building

relationship. Mission is about respect: accepting and appreciating differences and valuing all that God has created. Mission is about stewardship: accepting the responsibility to share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with others.

As I reflect on this experience, I marvel at how many inspirational people I met in such a short period of time and the new friends I made.

I'm most grateful to have soared on eagle's wings.

Mission and outreach series

In a variety of ways, individuals from our diocese are reaching out to others across the world in mission and in outreach. Some are working through the Diocesan Mission Office or other established organizations such as *On Eagle's Wings* or the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Others are engaging in grass roots initiatives growing out of a heart-to-heart connection with those in other countries.

In the process, sisters and brothers are building relationships, making a difference, and walking in solidarity, sharing faith and resources.

This edition of the Diocesan Newsletter looks at a few of the many examples in our midst.

DMO focus: "work of mission outside diocesan boundaries"

The Diocesan Mission Office (DMO) is in the process of planning a diocesan mission experience for 2012, to offer participants in the diocese of Saskatoon a chance to deepen their understanding of the Christian call to mission.

Two previous diocesan mission encounters – a trip to Ussongo, Tanzania in 2009 and a Canadian north-south "Under One Sky" mission exchange in 2010 – brought many blessings and benefits, said DMO chair Mary Jacobi.

Humboldt residents Norman Duerr and Arlene Julé suggested the Tanzania encounter trip (which involved 10 participants from the diocese), and have continued to build connections with the Ussongo community. For instance, a container of donated supplies is being collected to ship to Ussongo. The outreach has included youth, local schools, and a number of other organizations, including the Rotary Club and Rainbow of Hope for Children.

"The summertime north-south exchange 'Under One Sky' connected people in northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba and people from our diocese. This exchange established friendships that brought about new insights and understandings," Jacobi described.

"Mission is about relationship, and a personal experience is often the beginning of deepening that mission call," she said of the encounter trips.

Other members of the DMO committee include Monica Shenher, Sr. Anne Lewans, OSU, Lucie Leduc, Fr. David Tumback and Elan Ehresman.

Founded in 2005 after a diocesan discernment process about the meaning of mission and the vision of this call for the diocese, the Diocesan Mission Office focuses on the "work of mission outside our diocesan boundaries."

The call to mission is a call to be involved, a call to

commit time and energy to others and a call to be challenged, said Jacobi. "It is a response to Jesus. As Christians, mission isn't something we do, it is about who we are. Mission is the Church."

Awareness, sharing stories, supporting missions and missionaries financially and through prayer, seeking a missionary experience are among ways to be involved in mission, according to the DMO.

The work of the DMO – including the Brazil Mission – is supported through an annual Diocesan Mission Work collection undertaken in parishes on Christ the King Sunday in November. A video about the call to mission, entitled "And the Lord said, 'Go...'" is available from the Diocesan Mission Office. It includes discussion questions. For more information, contact Jacobi at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish: (306) 653-4945.

- KLY

Hope for Malawi

Visit to Africa prompts life-changing experience for Saskatoon couple

By ARCH MCKAY

In the fall of 2007, Elaine and Peter Zakreski were touring southeast Africa when they were met with two life changing events.

It was the trip of a lifetime. They observed the mystery and beauty of what is Africa. Elaine, an educator, and her husband Peter, a well-known Saskatoon businessman, community developer and sports enthusiast were accustomed to travel, and were far from naïve about the difficulty of life for many African people – but what they were about to experience would change them forever.

The Zakreskis had just finished visiting five different African countries. They enjoyed Safaris, saw the wonder of creation and stayed in five star hotels. Yet Elaine could not help but notice the large number of children walking on the sides of the roads as they travelled. When she inquired about them, she was told that they were school children and not to worry about them; they were the lucky ones. Most of them were orphans.

On one of their last days in Africa, as they were travelling from Johannesburg to Cape Town, South Africa, Elaine observed the miles and miles of shanty towns on the outskirts of Cape Town that she described as “basically boxes that we (Canadians) would not put our animals in.” They were erected so close together that there was no room to pass between them.

The Zakreskis’ luxury train stopped next to a local train crammed with hundreds of people. Elaine recalled that “We could see into their car and they could see into ours. When they looked into the cars they saw linens and flowers. Peter and I were alone in our compartment with a king-sized bed and our own bathroom. It couldn’t be more different.”

Elaine’s eyes locked with those of a woman only a few feet from her in the opposite car. “I had this moment when it felt I could be where she was and she could be where I am,” said Elaine. “I thought: I don’t deserve to be here any more than she deserves to be there. I wanted to bawl at that point.”

But as the Zakreskis and their party were disembarking they were told to gather their luggage and stay close to each other. This was a place where tourists were often robbed, so she let the moment go and concentrated on the balance of their vacation.

Upon boarding a plane to return to Canada, the couple’s life-changing experience continued. The earlier images started to come back to Elaine and she began to pray. They were in Nairobi preparing for an eight-hour flight to London England. The plane seemed full when Peter noticed the only remaining two empty seats several rows back, he moved back and left Elaine sitting next to an African woman.

“I probably would have just slept but I kept on saying this angry prayer,” Elaine related. ““God why? Why this? Why did you let me see this? What do you want me to do?” I felt compelled to do something, but I just felt hopeless in the scope of everything I knew needed to be done.”

At that moment the woman sitting next to Elaine turned to her and said, “Hello. My name is Jean.”

Elaine asked whether she was from Africa, and Jean responded that she actually lived in Washington, D.C., but that her family all lived in a village in Malawi. She described returning to Malawi a couple of times a year.

“Every time I go back its worse and worse,” Jean told Elaine. “There are more empty houses. More orphans. And I can’t continue my life in Washington. I think I have failed God.”

When she heard these words, Elaine felt goosebumps. “I had been praying and most people don’t bring up the



Peter Zakreski with children of Malawi. - Photo submitted

topic of God in their opening two sentences.”

Elaine asked Jean what she meant and she responded that she had been trying to build a shelter for the youngest children in the community, but had just run out of money. She added that the children (mostly orphans) were miserable. In the rainy season the children’s’ grandmothers have to go out into the fields and the children are alone. Jean wanted to build a place where they could be safe and warm.

Elaine and Jean talked all the way to London, and when they parted, Elaine said: “Jean, I don’t know why I am saying this but I think it is going to be all right. I believe we were supposed to meet each other.” The women embraced and Elaine felt that she had met a sister. They exchanged e-mail addresses.

This event took place in late October. Each year Peter had a tradition of asking Elaine to write a letter to Santa. This was his way of finding her a gift that she really would like. It was a running joke in her family.

Every year, “Santa” would always come through and she would get tickets to amazing places all over the world. The Zakreskis had travelled to 63 countries, over half of them in the past 10 years since Elaine’s retirement.

After meeting Jean, Elaine wrote her letter: “Santa, what could I possibly want? I am the most blessed woman I know. All I would like to do is to help Jean with these children. Help her finish her shelter.”

That year for Christmas, instead of plane tickets, she received a simple note. It read: “Dear Santa, Peter and dear Elaine. We will never forget you. And we will name the clinic after you.”

Elaine asked, “What clinic?” The note explained that “Peter my Santa” had asked Jean what more he could do. Jean told him that villagers had to walk miles to the nearest medical clinic and would greatly benefit from a closer facility. Peter told her: “Consider it done.”

In her note, Jean wrote: “For the first time in my life I learned that I could cry tears of joy, until now I have only cried tears of sorrow”.

That was the beginning of the Zakreskis’ amazing journey to establish *Hope for Malawi*.

When friends and family heard their story about the “Santa gift,” many asked how they could help. Elaine and Peter quickly realized that having others contribute would be wonderful, but that it would also be good if people’s donations were recognized.

So they contacted the Rotary Cub of Saskatoon and formed a non-government organization (NGO) named “*Hope for Malawi*.”

Through the Rotary Club, tax receipts could be given to supporters.

Peter and Elaine are well known as supporters of many charities, but *Hope for Malawi* is the closest to their hearts.

Starting with 13 villages and one woman, Jean Kalinga, the initiative has grown to include 40 villages, affecting over 2,000 villagers, with more than \$250,000 collected, not including personal amounts donated by the Zakreskis themselves.

Having someone like Jean, as a grassroots leader, is crucial to the operation of the organization, they said.

Jean, Peter and Elaine all agree that *Hope for Malawi* is not just a charity where someone gives something and others receive. Rather it is a building of relationships wherein the people of the villages develop a partnership with the organization.

The people, through their chiefs, identify their needs and they themselves become responsible for what is done. Nothing is given for free. The people pay with material possessions they have or contribute labour. They are partners in bringing hope and a brighter future for their children.



A local child presents Elaine Zakreski with flowers. - Photo submitted

The people of the villages have identified four significant needs. The first is water. Malawi has a low life expectancy rate and high infancy mortality. A contributing factor is the water supply. It is not uncommon for villagers to have to walk miles for water and often the water they get is polluted.

To date, *Hope for Malawi*, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Saskatoon, has drilled ten bore holes for wells, all within one half a mile of a village.

The second identified need is footbridges. During the rainy season streams become torrents and are dangerous to cross. One stream is near a graveyard and often when there is a death the burial itself can be disastrous. Three bridges have been built and four more are planned.

The third need is for improved communication. Malawi is one of the least developed nations in the world. Communication is minimal yet cell phone use is possible. Each village chief has been given a cell so they can at least communicate with each other in the event of an emergency.

The fourth need – perhaps most important for the future – is education. The government provides elementary education but not high school or pre-school.

The schools the people want must provide education, protection and physical sustenance. One pre-school has been built and four more are planned.

The Zakreskis are adamant that none of this could have happened if they hadn’t met their “angel,” Jean Kalinga, who had the contacts they needed.

Jean has remarkable organizing skill. The forty villages are broken into five zones. Each zone has people responsible for one major area of development - one for AIDS education and care, one for schools, one for health, one for sports and one for opportunities.

Jean also has the support of her husband who has a Masters of Economics and worked for the World Bank for 27 years when he and Jean lived in Washington.

Each penny that the organization spends is used to the maximum potential, said the Zakreskis.

Peter makes it clear that when people ask him how much goes to the people that the answer is 100 per cent.

The Zakreskis’ commitment to the cause is personal. Each May, after the rainy season, at their own expense, they travel to Malawi to visit the villages and audit the progress. They bring with them medicines and other contributions that *Hope for Malawi* has collected.

Elaine emphasises that this is not a burden, but a joy. She visits with people who “expect nothing and are grateful for everything.”

Since their first visit they have helped villagers build a maize mill to grind corn, a cow barn with two calves to supply milk, they have provided manually operated sewing machines and their list goes on.

They hope to identify students who would like to further their education and provide scholarships for them. They also plan to train more educators for the schools and find more health care workers for their clinic.

Peter and Elaine are not the only Zakreskis involved in this project. Their children have donated a motorcycle ambulance to the clinic and have offered other support for *Hope for Malawi*.

Peter and Elaine have promised the villagers of Zomba district of Malawi to always expect a visit from them. And when they can no longer come, the villagers should expect their children and their grandchildren.

“This is what happens when one lets God lead us on a journey,” said Elaine of their Malawi experience.

To contribute to *Hope for Malawi*, contact the “Rotary Club of Saskatoon Charitable Trust” in care of 38 St. Lawrence Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 1G5. For more information see www.hopeformalawi.com



Finding ways to give children in Malawi a better future is one of the goals of the Zakreskis’ initiative. - Photo submitted

Mission and Outreach

“Friends of Loa” outreach in Sudan begins with ride to church**BY ARCH MCKAY**

For one Saskatoon couple, a connection to life in a village in Southern Sudan had its beginnings in offering a ride to church.

One weekend in 2005, Anita Gooding and her husband Kevin received a phone call from St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon. Anita had signed up to give a ride to church to a couple who were new to the parish. Anita recalls with humour that she didn't remember volunteering.

“At first I thought, ‘No I didn’t’, but I didn’t say no. Rather I said; ‘I’m sure I can do that.’”

That’s how Anita and Kevin met Anthony Angu and Vicky Angua, a young couple who had recently arrived in Saskatoon from Southern Sudan. Vicky wanted to complete her high school education and Anthony was studying at the University of Saskatchewan.

Rides to church continued and the couples developed a close friendship.

Anthony and Vicky had a child and named her Peace. The Goodings were asked to be her

godparents and they happily agreed.

As the couples became closer, the Goodings found out more about Anthony and Vicky’s friends and families in the Sudan and the difficult issues concerning their country of birth.

Currently a teacher of English as an Additional Language (EAL) for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Anita has worked with many students from various cultures, but before meeting Vicky and Anthony, she says that she knew little about Southern Sudan.

Vicky and Anthony fled Sudan as refugees, leaving many loved ones behind. They cared deeply about these friends and family members, and about their country of origin, and wanted to do something to help.

With the guidance of friend, Sr. Sylvia Obrigewitsch, NDS, an idea began to form about how to help the Sudanese community. Anthony and Vicky asked the Goodings if they would join them in a new venture.

Together a small local group formed the non-profit non-



Students in one of the new classrooms built in Loa.

- Photo submitted

government organization (NGO) known as “Friends of Loa.” Loa is a village of about 15,000 people in the Magwi County of Southern Sudan.

The organization started quite small, and included Anthony Angu, Vicky Angua, Sr. Sylvia Obrigewitsch, the Goodings and a few friends. Later a few other individuals were also “shoulder tapped” to participate.

The group had a connection in the village: a diocesan priest named Fr. Martin Vuni, a friend of Anthony’s. The Friends of Loa communicated through Vuni, sending e-mails back and forth. Ultimately the Saskatoon group asked the priest: “What is it that you would like us to work on?”

Friends of Loa sent Vuni a camcorder. He walked around the village interviewing people, asking them what they felt the community needed. A common response from the villagers expressed a desire to have their school rebuilt, said Anita.

There had once been a high school in Loa and it had been a significant asset to the people. Now it was in ruins. Friends of Loa decided that they would work at fundraising to rebuild this school as a way to help the

community. This cooperative model would serve in all future fund raising efforts.

Friends of Loa is a totally volunteer organization with 100 per cent of the money collected going to the needs of the people of Loa, said the Goodings.

When a fundraising effort is completed, money is sent directly to Vuni through his diocese. Vuni and his group of volunteers monitor the work being done and report back to Friends of Loa.

In January 2011, an election was held which separated north and south Sudan into two nations. The political unrest around this decision has made it difficult for Friends of Loa to be in regular communication with Vuni. However, the organization established a workable protocol to insure the safety of funds sent to projects in Loa.

Through several fundraising events, as well as with the support of many Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), Friends of Loa met one of their goals. In Lent 2006, Holy Cross Catholic high school raised \$17,500 and was instrumental in helping to initiate the rebuilding of Loa Secondary School, which opened in May 2009.

Loa Secondary School now has a student population of 248 junior and senior students. A new school office was constructed and a computer lab placed in the school.

A current project involves assisting in the education of women in the area, reported Anita.

Of the 248 students attending the secondary school only 85 are girls. One of reason many girls do not further their education has to do with the culture of the area, but another concern is the fear many parents have of dangers that may befall their daughters on their way to and from school, she said.

To help alleviate this concern, the Friends of Loa will help build dormitories for girls on campus.

Last fall, a GSCS student leadership conference for all elementary schools explored the theme of social justice. The leadership teams went back to their home schools and designed projects to help Friends of Loa, raising over \$20,000 to build the dormitories.

The hope is that providing a better education will improve prospects for the entire community, said Anita.

As an additional project developed at the local level, 1,000 teak seedlings were planted on school property. Teak wood is widely used for construction of buildings in the area, but the expense is significant. The hope of this project is to have trees available for the village in the future.

The community is very much invested in their new school and the people are eager to do all that is necessary to ensure that education remains a priority for future generations, said Anita.

To learn more about Friends of Loa see: www.friendsofloa.org

To donate write “Friends of Loa,” at 3126 Mountbatten St., Saskatoon, SK, S7M 3T1.



A group of students sing at the school opening ceremonies.

- Photo submitted

Sponsorship program launched after children’s home in Ghana cuts back

Editor’s note: Diana Austin is currently in her second year of medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

BY DIANA AUSTIN

I first became involved with international volunteer work in 2004 when I went to Ghana in West Africa for the first time.

I spent six months working at Ashan Children’s Home north of the second largest city, Kumasi. After completing my undergraduate degree, I returned for four and a half months in 2009.

During my second stay at the children’s home, the director was informed by social services that they had to reduce the number of children staying with them.

This was difficult news to hear, and the hard question was “where were these children suppose to go?”

While some of the children had extended family members



Saskatchewan medical student Diana Austin with one of the children she met in Ghana.

- Photo submitted

who could take them in, there were a few of them who did not have a safe place to go.

It was hard seeing the children leave, knowing that for some

leaving Ashan meant leaving behind the opportunity to go to school amongst other things.

One night, I was expressing my concern with the manager of

the home, and before I knew it the concept of the sponsorship project was born.

Since we knew that it would not be possible to support all of the children at the home, four individuals were chosen. These four were identified as not only being outstanding youth, but also the ones that would benefit the most from sponsorship.

With that, “4kids in Ghana, St. Mary’s Mission Project” was born.

My parish in Moosomin, SK, accepts and processes all donations. One hundred per cent of these donations are used to employ a local woman to take care of the sponsored children, cover all their living necessities (food, clothes, medication, etc.) and educational costs.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the children have been given a future they would otherwise never have had. I

returned to Ghana to visit the students this past summer and was happy to see all well cared for and doing great.

I am sometimes asked why I have chosen to do this volunteer work. The sponsorship project wasn’t something we planned and to be honest it was something that took a lot of faith: when we started we had only enough money for one year.

We didn’t know what we would do when that money ran out, but we knew that the kids had no one else. We knew it was the right thing to do and had to trust that God would provide what was needed, when we needed it.

A newsletter is being prepared about the project. To receive a copy or to donate contact Diane Austin at: (306) 716-4031; or dia.my.austin@gmail.com

You can also check Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/126732334051982/>

NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

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

Project funded by diocese of Saskatoon reaches out to the most vulnerable

BY FR. LES PAQUIN, WITH A REPORT BY SUELY SOBRAL OF MACEIÓ

After a devastating flood struck the archdiocese of Maceió, Brazil in June 2010, thousands of families lost everything. Schools and public buildings were used as emergency shelters.

Food, blankets, mattresses and water were trucked into affected communities. Tents were donated from various churches around the world. People have been living in these tents and other makeshift dwellings until houses being built by the federal government are completed. Infrastructure of the state of Alagoas was severely damaged.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, which has sustained a missionary presence in the region since 1964, sent Fr. Emile April in the summer of 2010 to visit those communities affected by the flood and to see how our diocese might be able to help our afflicted sisters and brothers.

Bishop Antonio Muniz Fernandes made a specific request, asking that our diocese fund a project called *Bem Vindo Bebê*.

The purpose of the project was to provide proper care for expectant mothers and their babies who were affected by the flood, in other words, the poorest of the poor.

Dom Antonio Muniz also hoped that this model of care would help the poor to be more aware of their right to proper medical treatment pre- and postnatal, and might lead to the establishment of new laws and public policies ensuring those rights.

Our diocese responded immediately by sending \$120,000 Canadian dollars, taken from the Brazil Mission Fund and donations from parishes throughout our diocese.

The following is a report sent to the diocese of Saskatoon by Suely Sobral, coordinator of the project:

The project “Welcome Baby” has aimed at providing proper medical care for expectant mothers and their babies.

Contact is made through representatives of the project where the mothers reside. Once registered, the women spend a day in the



The program has helped about 1,950 mothers and their babies.

capital city of Maceió, where they receive loving care and attention from our volunteers (who total 1,809), who have helped to attend to the needs of 1,950 mothers and their babies. Proper medical and psychological attention is given by trained doctors and nurses.

The results of the project have been very positive. Suicides and abortions have been avoided, the desire of some to abandon their children has been overcome with proper orientation and support, several young mothers involved in prostitution were reunited with their families, and orientations were given to those living in situations of violence, helping the women to avoid conflict or leave those relationships. But the greatest joy of all has been to see children born healthy and full of life.

Our desire to have this program adopted by the government has been frustrated, as laws already exist that call for the proper care of pregnant mothers and their newborns. Though the laws exist, they are not always fulfilled. We hope that in the future, these



Medical attention is part of the *Bem Vindo Bebê* or “Welcome Baby” project funded by the diocese of Saskatoon after floods in June 2010.

poor women will have the consultations and orientations that they truly need.

We are trying to educate pregnant mothers throughout the state about their right to receive proper treatment, and their need to demand these services from the public health care system. Our project shows the people and the government that there is a better and more dignified way to treat these women and newborn children.

Where medical attention and tests have been lacking at the local level, the project has complemented what is missing, whether it be ultrasound exams, lab work, or medications.

Each mother and child also receives a crib and mattress (if necessary), along with basic items required for the care of newborns. The program has been running for 46 weeks, and has drawn mostly on the generous contributions of our sisters and brothers from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. A complete financial statement and accounting of all financial resources received and spent has been provided to Bishop Don Bolen.

Our bishop, Dom Antonio Muniz Fernandes, continues to pressure the government to allow those displaced by the flood to move into houses already constructed, instead of subjecting those who have been homeless since June of 2010 to the bureaucracy that often puts political ambition



Sr. Louise Hinz is one of some 1,800 volunteers helping with the program.

ahead of the population’s best interest. (Some speculate that local politicians are trying to delay the handing over of the new houses until the eve of the next municipal elections.)

Once again, we wish to send our greetings and our thank you to all those who helped in turning this project, our dream, into a reality; in living the gospel in its fullness, “So that all have life, and have it abundantly.” (JOHN 10:10) God bless all of you.

The other side of the coin: roadway to improve tourism displaces the poor

BY SR. LOUISE HINZ, OSU

“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” (MATT 22:21) Thus Jesus announced the error of looking at only one side of a coin, of a reality.

Passing frequently along the road from Maceió to Marechal, one has the opportunity to marvel at the benefits and the grandeur of the project of transforming a simple highway into a separated double highway. Consider the size and the value of the huge shovels, cranes, packers and various types of caterpillars, trucks, flat boats and ever-turning cement mixers.

But let us not forget the other side of the coin of reality, the often-hidden or unconsidered side, that of the human lives affected.

During my years in Brazil, I came to know many of the ever-growing number of families living on both sides of the road along the bridge over the lagoon. The building of this bridge some 30 years ago opened up this

stretch of what was, until then, basically undeveloped Atlantic coastline, except for small fishing villages, to the state’s new industry, namely: tourism.

Frequently and thoughtlessly, the people who had established their simple dwellings here are now dismissed as illegal squatters, as if they had chosen their situation. But who are these people? Why are they living here?

Many had lost their jobs as a result of increased automation in agriculture and globalization in industry and commerce in the cities. Without employment, the families could no longer afford suitable accommodation. Here, at least, they had found a valuable food supply in the crustaceans they dug out of the lagoon. Not a fast food service, but a nutritious one. Meanwhile able-bodied men occasionally picked up temporary jobs in construction and women sought out the unjustly low-paying jobs in bars or toiled long days as domestic workers. Life was not easy, but it had a certain stability.

Now comes a new challenge to be faced. For several years there was talk that all the homes on one side of the road would be sacrificed to progress – but which side was not determined. What would that mean for those involved? Would those responsible provide other dwellings for them? Where? When?

Finally came the decision: all the houses on the right side would have to be demolished. All the families living on that side were registered and told prior to construction that they would be entitled to receive a small rental allowance for a year. But where nearby would there be sufficient low-rental possibilities?

The most suitable location would be on the other side of road. But where along that less-than-a-kilometre stretch (where already about 200 families had settled) would there be room for them?

True, some families moved to the nearest other small community; some moved in temporarily with other family members in Maceió or other places. Many houses were

divided up, with half being rented. Others added a lean-to on the side or the back of a house to be rented to accommodate a bed or two. Frequently, the laundry and/or the cooking area are outside the living space. In these new surroundings live, in various combinations, grandparents, parents, unwed pregnant daughters or those with children of all ages.

The families live in hope of the promised new “decent” houses which are due to be ready after the year of “rented options” has passed.

One month has already passed since the great exodus took place. The former “homeland” is being prepared for the asphalt, but there is no sign of construction in the area designated for the new homes.

Knowing that, further upstream where the flood of June 2010 wreaked its destruction and sent families into temporary tents, and that those families are still awaiting their promised houses, we are led to question: “How long, O Lord must your poor suffer?”

Brazil Bulletin

Violence, poverty and drugs affect children

BY SR. MARIE-NOELLE
RONDOT, SMS

Maria is a three-year-old delightful and affectionate little girl, full of vitality, like most children her age.

As her next door neighbors, Jeannine and I have often observed that life for Maria has certainly not been what we would call calm and easy. For one thing, this little one has never known her father. Furthermore, he died a violent death less than a year ago.

Maria spent most of the day, sometimes even late into the evening, out on the street playing with other children or just sitting on the doorstep waiting for Mom to come home. And why was Mom gone from home so much? She was out selling drugs. That was how she made a living.

All of this likely contributed to making Maria an amazingly independent child – along with her two older brothers who are 11 and 7 years old. The circumstances in which those children had been raised taught them to be more responsible in taking care of one another, and of their three-month-old baby sister.

Vito and Gabriel, the two oldest boys, went to school whenever they felt like it, which was rarely.

These four children also have three older sisters who were adopted by other families from the time of their birth. This made a total of seven children for a 31-year-old single mother.

As time went on, life became even more difficult for those



Maria's mother was murdered, leaving four orphaned children.

innocent little children when, five months ago (June 11, 2011), their world was suddenly turned upside down. As unbelievable as it may seem, those poor kids witnessed the death of their mother who was

murdered in her own home one night just before 3 a.m.

We, as next door neighbors, heard the shooting, screaming, crying, followed by the roaring of a motorbike taking off. Then a



A neighbour has adopted Maria.

deafening silence. Everyone was in a state of total shock. Such a sad and profoundly disturbing scene.

We had always somehow feared that Monica's life could end this way someday. We live in a society where we see so much of that with people who have stepped into the world of drugs.

At the same time, we also kept thinking that it was unlikely to happen to her by the simple fact that she was a young mother with such small children. Obviously, this made absolutely no difference to that "someone" who took her life.

It is now five months since this terrible tragedy occurred and no one knows or has ever heard who that "someone" was. As in every other similar situation, life just goes on and it really does not even seem to matter anymore.

Today, these four children, who were never fortunate enough to have the presence of a loving father in their lives, are now without their mother also and, in a way, have somewhat "lost" one another as well, because of having been adopted by four different families.

How will they cope? What will become of them? Only time will tell.

Little Maria (almost three-and-a-half years old by now) still lives on our street, but a few houses further down. It is so comforting to see that she has been adopted by a loving and caring couple (with three children of their own), who will no doubt do their utmost to provide for all her needs.

In this short span of time, Maria certainly seems to have adapted amazingly well to her new home and family, but of course every now and then she still expresses her desire to see her Mom and sometimes calls for her when looking up at the stars.

Oh, the beautiful simplicity of little children – how precious and inspiring: they have such a unique and fantastic way of accepting life as it is, even in its most chaotic moments.

By the grace of God alone, I am sure, Maria continues to be that same delightful and affectionate little girl, even though she is no doubt deeply traumatized.

We so hope that time will continue to heal, and that someday, as she grows up, "little Maria" will be able to dream of a more promising future.

Witnessing hope and joy in the Brazil Mission

BY ANITA GOODING

Just over six years ago, I had the opportunity to visit our diocesan mission in Brazil. It was a life-changing experience for me and since that time I have always felt a "pull" to return.

The language spoken in Brazil is Portuguese and that trip also sparked within me an interest in the learning of languages. In fact, a short time later I began teaching English as an Additional Language in our Saskatoon Catholic school system. This past summer, I combined a study of language acquisition with my desire to return to Brazil. I spent one month totally immersed in Brazilian language and culture by living with some Brazilian teachers that I had met on my previous visit.

I also had the opportunity to reconnect with the Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters of Mission Service who work in some of the

communities of our diocesan Brazil Mission.

Some seeds take root deep in our hearts and we find ourselves searching for the nourishment that will enable them to grow.

Perhaps that is what hope is: the seed that knows it will flourish if given the chance. I believe I witnessed such "seeds of hope" during my brief visits with our missionaries in Brazil.

Along with other faith-filled people, the missionaries are both planting seeds of hope and nourishing them in their parishes and communities.

The Brazilian Portuguese verb "esperar" means to hope for or to wait for. Waiting and hoping are linked in language and in life and are a constant theme in our faith. Those who live in poverty or sickness, in fear or rejection, wait in hope for relief from their suffering or loneliness and from the desperate

conditions in their lives.

Hope is that seed that senses the light – the promise of a tomorrow that will be better than the day before. In the Brazil Mission, hope is being cultivated and provides the poor and forgotten with the "daily bread" of life.

One of the programs that the Ursulines in St. Rita are involved with is appropriately called *Fazenda da Esperança* – the Farm of Hope.

It is a community that was formed to give drug and alcohol addicts hope for a better future by living each day according to the gospel. *Fazenda da Esperança* began in Brazil and the idea has now blossomed and been implemented in many other countries around the world.

The members of the fazenda I visited near Marechal Deodoro were all men. They varied in age and background, but all were battling serious drug and alcohol addictions. Upon our arrival, we were greeted warmly with music and celebration as their faces lit up at the sight of Sr. Claire Novecosky.

Rain poured down outside as the men sang and prayed and opened their hearts to us, even to me, a total stranger. As I sat in a room with 30 men who had traveled some very dark and dangerous paths to end up in this place, I felt no fear or even sorrow. I felt only their faith and a hope in the life that they believed awaited them, a life that they were all longing for and dreaming of, a better life.

One of the philosophies of *Fazenda da Esperança* is to have



Sr. Jeannine and Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot (l-r) are Sisters of Mission Service who work in São José da Lage.

the community located in a place that encompasses the beauty of nature. Instead of rehabilitation in a stark environment with a sense of shame and punishment, these men work and live together in a serene and picturesque setting that encourages peace and healing.

They spoke about being part of a community and how they were finding God by seeing Him in one another. Their words to live by on the day I visited were: "*Faça a vontade do Pai*" – "Do the will of the Father" (Matt 7:21). Some of the men shared that they were indeed learning to place their lives in God's hands and were at last

experiencing a sense of trust, belonging and self-worth.

I also witnessed hope in other communities in the Brazil Mission. The Sisters of Mission Service have lived and worked in São José da Lage for the past 18 years. I was saddened to hear of the growing drug problems and violence and the suffering this was causing within their own neighbourhood.

Despite this fact, Sr. Jeannine Rondot and Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot exuded an unmistakable sense of joy. They have formed

(WITNESSING HOPE
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)



Sr. Claire Novecosky with men from the Farm of Hope, which helps those addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Witnessing to hope in Brazil

(BRAZIL BULLETIN)
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

strong bonds and relationships within the community and see not only the challenges before them, but also the goodness. It is a kind of optimism, but it is one rooted in faith and can be a powerful force.

The healing effect that this hopeful joy can have was evident in a little story the Sisters of Mission Service in Brazil told me. One day a lame stray dog collapsed in front of their home. The sisters thought they should at least take her in for the night so that she didn't have to die on the street. They felt as if they could do something to at least make her death as comfortable as possible.

But the little dog did not die.

The sisters continued giving her nourishment and attention, feeling they could not abandon her at this time. They even gave her a name – Bianca. Slowly but surely little Bianca began to recover. Although still lame, Bianca made an effort to move around and interact with the sisters.

As Sr. Marie-Noelle finished the story, Bianca suddenly appeared wagging her tail, ready to go for her walk. Bianca, who once could only drag her hind legs, was no longer lame and was eager to accompany us on a walk through São José da Lage.

As we walked through the streets, Sr. Marie-Noelle had to occasionally scoop Bianca up in her arms, not because she was tired but to rescue her from some potential male suitors. At one point we even had to escort a persistent male dog home to its owners!

It was a nice day and many people were sitting outside in front of their homes or were chatting to one another on the street.

This "scene" of little Bianca causing such a ruckus was the cause of great amusement and

laughter to the gathering crowd. In this neighbourhood, where fear and violence were becoming a fact of life, perhaps witnessing the transformation of little Bianca was a symbol of healing and a source of joy for all.

The people living in the communities connected to our Brazil Mission face ongoing challenges related to poverty, but they also experience some unexpected hardships.

Last year, certain areas of the Brazil Mission were devastated by terrible flooding in that region. Some lives were lost and many of those survived lost their homes and the few possessions that they owned.

The government has promised new housing to those affected, but construction has been a very slow and difficult process. People "wait in hope" in a number of nearby encampments, which are not much more than rows of tented structures and latrines.

A program made possible by donations from our Saskatoon diocese (see related article on Page 20) offers counselling, health care and some much-needed supplies and resources to expectant mothers and those with newborns.

The missionaries and parishioners in these areas are doing what they can to provide comfort and assistance to those waiting for that promise of a better tomorrow.

The "language" of hope is one that we can all understand. The relationships and bonds that the missionaries have formed within their communities are a great source of hope for many people.

Hope can lead to joy, and the missionaries are there to share in that transformation. Like a seed that grows, the hope they plant produces something fruitful in people's lives and this encourages others to do the same.

Nourished by faith and love, those seeds of hope grow, multiply and can flourish into something that is truly life-giving.

Kerrobert parishioner connects with people of Cuba, offering help

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

This January, Joe Kurtz of Kerrobert will return to Cuba for the tenth time – not just because of the warm temperatures and beautiful beaches, but also because of the people he has come to know there.

"It was so easy to fall in love with these happy, grateful, very poor people," he says. Living under communist rule for more than 60 years, the Spanish-speaking Cubans live in what Kurtz describes as Third World conditions, where they earn on average 50 cents a day or about \$15 a month (CDN.).

"I left the resort areas and discovered the real Cuba and the real Cubans. I have about 40 friends now who I stay in contact with throughout the year," he describes, adding that thanks to the generous support of many here at home, he has been able to improve the lives of some of those he has met in Cuba.

"Last April I met a 35-year-old man by the name of Albert who lives with his family on the eastern side of Cuba. He is a radio broadcaster, a journalist and he teaches English in his spare time." Living in poverty, the family was without running water, traveling to a well each day to bring home water to cook, wash, or do laundry, Kurtz described.

Learning that the cost to install water was only \$200, Kurtz was able to raise funds to construct a water line from the well to the house. "I cannot take much credit as I am only the go-between, who helped this project to happen. In fact within one day of getting the cost of the water project, two people gave me \$100 each and the money was on the way."

In another instance, he assisted a family of four to leave Cuba and go to the United States. "This was the father's desire for many years. He was even imprisoned for a year in Cuba for trying to escape," says Kurtz.

In the past, Kurtz has also helped a family build a room onto their house ("for a mere \$100"); helped get running water into another family's bathroom; provided others with needed appliances; and assisted dozens of hitchhikers with rides and food. During one visit, he was able to spend time in prayer for a dying woman, and then helped with her funeral expenses.

Kurtz notes that each small effort makes a difference in someone's life. And in the process, he is enriched by the friendships that develop in making connections with those in another country.

"I have another 35-year-old friend in Havana who is presently battling colon cancer. He has had two operations and many treatments," says Kurtz, who is asking for prayers for his friend Yrain. "I have been sending some money to help with his medical expenses and food, but so much more is needed."

Anyone seeking more details about projects and initiatives is invited to contact Kurtz. He stresses that any donations go right to individuals who need it, although he is not able to provide a tax receipt. "Please also pray for these wonderful children of God," he adds.



Joe Kurtz



Jean Bosch (at left) of Saskatoon, and other Canadian participants visited with a family as part of their missionary encounter trip to Peru this summer.

- Photo by Fr. Maurice Schroeder, OMI

Missionary encounter trip to Peru opens eyes to work of Oblates

By ARCH MCKAY

Jean Bosch of Saskatoon was one of the participants on a recent missionary encounter trip to Peru recently organized by the Mission Association of Mary Immaculate (MAMI).

The visit of the Peru Oblate Delegation July 6 to 26 also included Leo and Martha Klump of Ottawa, and Karen Zawortny of Vancouver. Participants paid their own way to participate in the missionary trip, organized by the Oblate association.

MAMI supports the many missionary efforts of the Oblate religious order throughout the world. The association provides both prayer support and financial assistance through donations.

Bosch, a school social worker, said that she has felt a call to missionary work for some time, but always thought it would involve Mexico. After reading a pamphlet provided by MAMI, she decided to go and see what was being done in Peru.

At the outset, Bosch didn't know what to expect from the excursion, but thought it might prove interesting. In the end, what she experienced was "overwhelming," she said.

During the three-week visit, Bosch was awestruck by all the service the Oblates were providing to the poorest of the poor of Peru.

She observed the relationship between the priests and the laity was one of mutual respect and collaboration, and described how the work of the Oblates provided empowerment to the people.

She cited the example of Brother Blaise McQuarrie in the city of Chinchá, an area that was struck by a devastating earthquake in 2007 that destroyed many homes of the poor. "Brother Blaise did not say, 'I'm going to build you a house,' but rather, 'I am going to help you build your house'." Brother Blaise helps run a quarry and brick making facility in the area.

This collaborative approach was visible in all the sites visited, said Bosch. The Oblates run or work in a number of schools, hospitals, and parishes in Peru. Their involvement is not only in the spiritual dimension, but also the day-to-day survival of body and mind, she described.

Oblate missionaries have assisted in the creation of Radio Amistad. Staffed by lay volunteers the station broadcasts to remote areas, providing programs of evangelization, education, human rights and community service.

Bosch said she was struck by the

number of youth present in church and in mission work, suggesting that youth feel empowered: they are making a difference in the lives of their people.

The Oblate Peru Delegation is celebrating 52 years in La Paz. Only five members are not from Latin America: four are Canadians and one is Dutch. They are led by Saskatchewan-born Fr. Maurice Schroeder, OMI, Superior of the Peru Oblate Delegation.

"Fr. Moe" showed the group many of the missions throughout Peru. It was obvious that Schroeder was not only deeply respected by the people of Peru, but was loved, said Bosch.

After ordination and mission work Schroeder went on to study medicine. He then went to convert a health centre to a hospital in Santa Chlothilde, an isolated area on the Napo River in the Amazon watershed, with another priest-physician, where he worked for some 25 years providing medical services to the poorest of the poor.

Four years ago, Schroeder was named Superior of the Delegation, leading the Oblate mission work in Peru. As one parishioner observed to Bosch, in jest, "Some people mistake him for God." Such is the Christ-like ministry of the Oblates in Peru, she said.

There is quite a contrast in the ages of the Canadian Oblates in Peru and the youthful movement of missionaries, but there is little contrast in zeal, she noted. The Canadians are getting older but there are a growing number of Oblates and vocations from Peru.

The mandate of the Oblates is to serve the poor. Bosch described how the Oblate parishes of Peru are in need of financial support. The state assists somewhat in the mission work regarding health and education, but the parishes themselves must see to the corporal and spiritual needs of parishioners.

Bosch reported that her group did not arrive in Peru empty-handed. They contributed with donations from themselves and others, including financial assistance, and contributing education supplies. However the needs are significant, she said.

To learn more about the Oblate Missions in the world see the website: www.oblatemissions.org

To make a donation contact Oblate Mission Associates, 601 Taylor St. West, Saskatoon, SK., S7M 0C9. To donate specifically to Peru include a note stating that intention. Online donations can be made by cheque or credit card. Tax receipts will be issued upon request.

Life and justice issues

Walkers support Alliance for Life

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

“Youthful” was one description of this year’s Walk for Life organized by Alliance for Life Saskatoon, Sept. 25.

Students from Holy Cross and E.D. Feehan Catholic high schools made up just over half of the approximately 150 people who showed up for the 45-minute walk. Young families and university students also among those carrying signs. The walk this year started on Spadina Crescent at Kinsmen Park, went

down Queen Street, around Saskatoon City Hospital and then south on 25th Street before ending back at the park.

E.D. Feehan high school teacher Gayle Brodie said she had one student interested in attending last year but 17 students joined her this year. “They are mostly (high school) seniors who are feeling more confident and aware of what they can do as individuals and collectively,” she said.

Holy Cross Christian Ethics teacher Rick Sikora echoed the

importance of giving youth this opportunity to be involved.

“We have always been a pretty strong faith-filled student body. Students are mostly all pro-life, they just need a reason or some type of motivation to express that publicly,” suggested Sikora. “We are so moved at how warmly we are greeted when we come to this event. The youth are viewed as an asset. Youth need to be given the opportunity. They don’t feel a right to express an opinion. When they are told it’s okay, they really shine.”

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon sent greetings to participants, and Roman Catholic Bishop Donald Bolen of the diocese of Saskatoon attended registration to meet participants and offer support and encouragement for the walk.

Rev. Daniel Callam, CSB, visiting Saskatoon from Toronto for the STM 75th anniversary celebrations made time to attend the walk and to visit friends he had made in the pro-life work during his years teaching at STM. He said that he really appreciates the grassroots nature of the pro-life movement. “This is ordinary people. The strength of society.”

Nicole Pyle, president of Alliance for Life said she was happy with the number of people



Youth from E.D. Feehan and Holy Cross high schools were among those participating in the annual Walk for Life.

who had come out for the walk. “This is our major fundraiser for the year. Some collect pledges and some just come on their own and donate whatever they are able at the time.”

Response to the walk is largely positive, but some challenging responses in the form of gestures or yelling from cars can be expected. “There are always those who respond that way,” said Pyle. “Our response is to silently pray for them.”

“We want there to be a presence out in the public and make people think,” explained Pyle. “We don’t get to know the results of our walk. Someone may see us today and remember these signs and what we are saying

later. We have two hospitals performing a thousand abortions a year in Saskatoon alone. Abortion is alive and well.”

Saskatoon Alliance for Life operates a local pro-life educational resource centre, focusing on abortion and euthanasia, providing videos, books, pamphlets and other resources free of charge to anyone in the community wishing to educate themselves or others on these issues.

Located in St. Joseph parish rectory on the corner of 8th Street and Broadway Avenue in Saskatoon, the centre is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons or by appointment: contact (306) 652-2464.



Life Chain

Life Chain Saskatoon 2011 happened for an hour on the first Sunday of October along the corner of Idylwyld and 22nd Street in Saskatoon. Some 155 participated, including youth, families, and priests, such as newly-ordained Fr. Matthew Ramsay (right), and Fr. Mike Bedard. Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon also participated. The event received attention from those driving by, as well as coverage from a local television station.

– Photo by Denise Roth

Abortion hurts fathers too: Rachel’s Vineyard retreats offer healing

BY ANITA SONNTAG

SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL COUNCILLOR
SILENT NO MORE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

It is often said that for every aborted baby there is a hurting mother. For every aborted baby there is also a hurting father because, whether or not he is aware of it, the father is in some way involved in the abortion of his baby.

There are various ways in which fathers participate in the abortion decision. As stated in *Passage Through Abortion* by Mary K. Zimmerman, men play a central role in 95 per cent of all abortion decisions.

According to Dr. David Reardon of Elliott Institute, some of the most common ways that fathers participate in this decision include:

- Fathers who are told of the abortion after it happens.
- Fathers who are adamantly opposed to the abortion

and have tried their best to prevent it but found they had no say in the matter.

- Fathers who opposed the abortion but didn’t make an effort to stop it
- Fathers who are neutral on the issue and leave it up to the mother to make the decision.
- Fathers who simply abandon the woman in the face of pregnancy
- Fathers who force the abortion decision by threatening to withdraw support if abortion is not chosen or use violence to force it

Men can experience the devastating aftermath of abortion in a way that is similar to the experience of post-abortive women. As with women, it may take many years until men come to the awareness that the problems they are dealing with were precipitated by the abortion.

Some of the more common after effects of abortion for men are: chemical substance use and abuse; grieving, sadness and depression; obsessive thoughts of the lost child; nightmares of someone or something being threatened and being unable to offer protection; difficulty with commitments; no solid sense of identity; rage or anger; impotence; abusive or risk-taking behaviour.

For more information about this issue, see www.silentnomoreawareness.org or find testimonies from post-abortive fathers at: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Men as well as women can find healing by attending a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat.

The next **Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat** will be held in Saskatchewan **Jan. 6 to 8**.

For more information contact Bonnie at (306) 480-8911 or e-mail at r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

Desperate situation facing world’s refugees highlighted during Saskatoon rally

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A need to reaffirm support for refugees and to provide concrete help, protection and asylum was expressed June 20 during a World Refugee Day rally at Saskatoon City Hall.

Organized by the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition, the event highlighted the United Nations theme for the day, that “one is too many” – or more specifically, that one refugee without hope is too many, one refugee returned to danger is too many, one family forced to flee is too many.

“The ‘one’ campaign is to get us thinking about, and recognizing and understanding the challenges of refugees around the world,” said Klaus Gruber of the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition, noting that there are millions of refugees around the world, who have been forced to flee their home countries because of persecution, violence and war.

Every refugee journey begins with fear, begins with threats, and usually moves to many years without hope, as refugees move to seek asylum in countries,” Gruber said, describing the desperation of people in refugee camps, moving from one dangerous and desperate situation to another.

Canada is one of the signatory countries to the United Nations Refugee Convention and is therefore committed to protect refugees and their rights, said Gruber.

However, in practice, this responsibility for refugees is too often left to other, poorer countries, he noted. “In a recent report it was shown that 80 per cent of refugees are being sheltered in the poorest countries, and in the

meantime, we often present policies that criminalize refugees, or in some way prevent them from seeking asylum in this country, even with all the resources we have.”

Increasingly, there is a rhetoric that describes refugees as a security threat or as taking advantage, rather than recognizing the reality that refugees are human beings faced with desperate situations and fleeing for their lives, Gruber said, urging his listeners to become aware of the real situation facing refugees around the world.

As an example of a new harsh attitude to refugees, he pointed to Bill C49 which was recently re-introduced in Canadian parliament, which ostensibly takes aim at human smuggling, but which would also provide mandatory imprisonment for refugees who are being smuggled – including women and children. “This is not the Canadian way,” Gruber asserted. Other government policies penalize those who arrive under “irregular conditions” or prevent the reunification of families.

“Think for a minute about what you would do if you heard that the troops were coming down the street, headed for your house, and you knew that your life was at risk, and the lives of your children. Would you run? I suspect so. Would you pay somebody who promised to take you to safety? I know I would. Would you try to get a forged document if you didn’t have travel papers? I suspect you would,” said Gruber.

“These are the kinds of challenges faced by refugees day

to day, and yet we sometimes try to criminalize those acts, without recognizing as the United Nations does, that this is typical and normal behaviour for refugees trying to escape.”

Refugees who are fleeing desperate situations have little or no control over their own lives, said Gruber.

“They are reliant on strangers, on agencies, on whoever will help them, because they have become powerless... situations have made them powerless. One of the hardest things to maintain during those kinds of times is hope. And that’s one of the things that we can help with.”

During the noon-hour rally in Saskatoon, the desperate conditions facing refugees were described in first hand stories presented by three speakers, who all fled their home countries – two from Eritrea and one from Burma – because of persecution and violence. All are grateful to have now found haven in Canada.

However, all three said their thoughts are with those who are still undergoing persecution, or living as refugees. “I just want to say that without your help and without action, I am afraid that my people will pay for their freedom with their blood,” said Bwe Doh Soe of the situation in Burma (now known as Myanmar).

In the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon, Ellen Erickson is the contact person for parishes and groups in the diocese that wish to sponsor a refugee family. She noted that there are a number of faith communities undertaking sponsorship right now. For more information about refugee sponsorship, contact Erickson at (306) 955-5010.

Stained glass in new cathedral will depict salvation history

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Inspired by the scriptures and the beauty of Saskatchewan, stained glass windows depicting key moments of revelation will circle the worship space of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family.

“The windows speak of salvation history,” Bishop Donald Bolen described in a presentation about the stained glass at a diocesan liturgy meeting in June. The five windows designed by artist Sarah Hall that will encircle the area above the worship space are entitled Creation, Incarnation, Covenant, Resurrection and Heavenly Jerusalem.

“Sarah Hall is a great artist, and the windows she has presented are stunningly beautiful,” said Bolen.

He quoted a bishop from Ohio, where other stained glass art designed by Hall was installed: “When we step into a church, we’re moving from the ordinary to the transcendental. We are moving from the passing things of this world, to the eternal things of the world to come – stained glass helps us to make this transition.”

Bolen predicted that the beauty of the windows will be a witness to the world. “Their beauty is going to attract people in our community – even people who are not Catholic, or even Christian,” he said. “Just



Sarah Hall's design of the tree of life image for the Heavenly Jerusalem window.
- Image courtesy of Sarah Hall Studios

as the solar panel windows attracted an extraordinary amount of interest, these windows too, which are an entry point to say something about our faith, will capture people's attention and draw them into discussion.

“This is a way of evangelizing in a very gentle and profound way to our culture, through the beauty of these windows.”

Hall is also the designer of the solar stained glass panels that have been installed

in the Saskatoon cathedral's spire, which will collect solar energy to help provide electricity for the building.

The Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus have agreed to help with fundraising for the solar stained glass in the building's spire, and the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation has initiated a fundraising campaign for the conventional (non-solar) stained glass in the worship space.

Although some donors are eager to “purchase panes” in each stained glass window for a set amount, donations of all sizes are welcome and needed, said Chelsey Hagerty of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, describing the establishment of a Memorial Fund to help pay for the stained glass windows as a whole, unified project.

Contributions over \$100 will include an opportunity to memorialize a name with the donation. Contributions between \$1,000 and \$4,000 will have two or three lines for their memorial, while contributions above \$4,000 will have a picture and room for a short biography or message, explained Hagerty.

The memorials will be part of a permanent digital display that will be set up in the new cathedral building, she said.

To begin with, parishes across the diocese have responded to an invitation from the bishop to contribute to the stained glass. For example, two city parishes recently pledged their BAA Parish Sharing Incentive amounts to the project.

A diocesan-wide stained glass campaign will be launched in March.

For further information, please contact the Catholic Foundation at (306) 244-6667 or chagerty@dscatholicfoundation.ca



L'Arche Saskatoon retreat

Members of the L'Arche Saskatoon community, joined by five visitors from L'Arche Lethbridge, gather for a group photo during their second annual retreat day in July with the Benedictines at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster.

- Photo submitted by L'Arche Saskatoon

Catholic Family Services

Counselling - individual, couple and family counselling is available to assist those experiencing difficulties, to identify strengths, define problems and work toward alternatives and solutions. Fees assessed according to ability to pay, based on a sliding fee scale. CFS provides services for many Employee and Family Assistance Programs (EAP). Extended Health Benefits may cover costs for counselling.

“Bridging the Gap” for Parents with Out of Control Teens (ongoing) - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 5 to March 29

Reaching Out When Teens are Out of Control (10 weeks) - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 19 to March 29

Marriage Preparation Weekend March 9-10 or April 20-21 or May 11-12

Community programs:

- **“Savvy at the core”** drop-in life skills youth program.
- **“Family-to-Family Ties”** - building healthy parent/child relationships for young parents
- **Interactive Website:** teenparent.tv

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES, 200 - 506 25th St. East Saskatoon
Phone: (306) 244-7773; E-mail: staff@cfssaskatoon.sk.ca
Web: www.cfssaskatoon.sk.ca

Catholic Family Services - Supported by the BAA

CAMOUFLAGED - A NET retreat for Grades 9 to 12 will be held 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 29** at St. Augustine Parish Hall in Humboldt. NET stands for National Evangelization Teams - Catholic Missionaries who share Jesus' gospel message with young people! Cost is \$5 person. Please bring snacks to share. For more information: 682-2106.

TIME WITH THERESA “Silent Before the Crib” is a silent retreat series at St. Theresa Institute in Bruno, SK. **Friday, Dec. 2 to Saturday, Dec. 3.** To register contact: (306) 369-2555.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL - The Newman Players present an adaptation of Dickens' classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge as an old-time radio play. **Show only: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 4,** tickets \$5, at Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium, St. Thomas More College, 1437 College Drive. **Dinner theatre: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3,** tickets \$35 (must be purchased in advance for dinner theatre) in the STM College Cafeteria. Tickets are available online at www.stmcollege.ca or from the office at STM, call 966-8900.

WHAT WILL YOUR STORY BE Discernment Retreat for Grades 8 to 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 10** at St. Philip Neri parish, 1902 Munroe Avenue, Saskatoon. Praise and worship, testimonies, gym extravaganza, celebration of Eucharist, presentations by DYRT, discussions and food. Cost is \$10. Contact Anthony at 343-0325.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIG INTO GOD - a diocesan event for high school youth - “Mall Crawl” **Thursday, Dec. 8.** Meet at parishes at 6:30 p.m., before heading to Midtown Plaza for Mall Crawl from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For information call Colm Leyne at the diocesan Youth Ministry Office: 242-1500.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT - The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate present a “Personal History” discernment weekend (with great food, and fun too!) **Jan 20-22** at Discernment House in Saskatoon. By looking at your personal story, this retreat will help you to discover who you are and how you can best serve God. Offered for young, single, Catholic men and women 19 years and older. To register or for more info contact: Sr Evelyn or Sr. Lucie at 244-0726 or e-mail: sk.dhouse@gmail.com or e-mail Fr Ken Thorson at: kenthorson9@gmail.com Another retreat on “Prayer: Deepening your Relationship with Christ” will be held **Feb. 24-26.**

DR. PETER KREEFT is coming to Saskatoon **Sunday, Jan. 29.** Dr. Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and Catholic apologist. He is the author of over 60 books and contributes writings and talks to many Christian publications. He lays out practical and common sense arguments in defense of the faith and to better understand the faith.

The first talk at 4 p.m. is “*The Existence of God*.” After a banquet, Dr. Kreeft will give his second talk: “*God and Sex*,” which will explain the Theology of the Body. This event takes place at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon, **Sunday, January 29.** Ticket prices are \$50 each, which includes two talks and a banquet. Proceeds will go to the Knights of Columbus Council 8215 charities. To purchase tickets, e-mail Jonathan at roth.jonm@gmail.com or call 306-249-2764 or 306-370-9956. For more information about the speaker see www.peterkreeft.com

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER offers a weekend of discovery for a lifetime of love. Don't hesitate to invest one weekend in your marriage. Dates include **Feb. 3-5** at Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon; as well as **April 27-29** at St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK. To register, contact Marc and Anita Loiselle loiselle@baudoux.ca or (306) 258-2192.

IN SUPPORT OF LIFE Committee of the Knights of Columbus is hosting the annual Dine Dance and Auction fundraiser **Saturday, Feb 4** at St Patrick's Parish Hall. Proceeds support pro-life groups in Saskatoon. Tickets are \$30 each. For tickets or more information call Louis at 249-2764.

PURITY RALLY FUNDRAISER - A family dance with live music by the Trudel family will be held **Feb. 18** at St. Joseph Hall, Tickets \$10 per person or \$40 per family. A

Gospel Bluegrass Concert is also planned for **March 17**, watch for details. This year's Purity Rally will be held **May 12.** For more info: www.purewitness.com

LENT 40 DAYS FOR LIFE - Saskatoon pro-life community will once again walk an hour a day for 40 days, to show their opposition to abortion in our city. The vigils will take place from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in front of Saskatoon City Hospital every day from **Ash Wednesday Feb. 22 to Palm Sunday.** Signs are provided. Groups and individuals are encouraged to sign up for a particular day or for the same day each week of Lent by e-mailing: campaignlifecoalitionask@gmail.com

ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH at Burr, SK. will host a parish mission led by Ken Yasinski and his FacetoFace Ministries team **March 24 and 25.** Info: 682-5168.

SACRED HEART PARISH IN DAVIDSON will host the Knights of Columbus State mid-term meeting in December, as well as the Catholic Women's League diocesan CWL Convention **April 23.**

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS give couples who are planning marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together. Upcoming dates are **May 4 to 6** and **June 22 to 24.** For more information see: www.ceewest.com with registration available online or contact Heather and Craig Stomp (306) 682-3326.