

New diocesan home will be blessed May 13

Week of activities planned to mark opening of the Cathedral of the Holy Family



The candles of the Easter Vigil April 7 light up the circular worship space of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family as Deacon Bob Williston sings the *Exultet*. A week of opening celebrations for the new building will be held May 6-13, with the Mass of Blessing 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 13.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Hundreds travelled from near and far, coming from parishes across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon April 2 to celebrate the annual Chrism Mass, held for the first time in the new Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Parish representatives received the holy oils blessed by Bishop Donald Bolen during the Chrism Mass – the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Sacred Chrism – to be used in sacraments and celebrations throughout the diocese in the year ahead.

The Sacred Chrism blessed at that diocesan celebration was already being poured out a few days later during Easter baptisms and confirmations, and it will be used to anoint Greg Roth and Hoang Nguyen when they are ordained to the priesthood June 22.

Some of that same Sacred Chrism will be used to dedicate the new diocesan home and its altar at the Mass of Blessing for the Cathedral of the Holy Family to be held Sunday, May 13.

A week filled with events is planned May 6-13 to mark the dedication of the cathedral. The opening celebrations begin with Mass at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral 10 a.m. Sunday, May 6, followed by a procession walk from St. Paul's to the new Cathedral of the Holy Family, carrying the Sacred Chrism.

Other events during the week include a family carnival, quiet prayer and Eucharistic adoration, a sampling of food from across the diocese, concerts, a gala dinner, and an ecumenical prayer service (*find more details about all events on Pages 12-14.*)

Those wishing to attend the Mass of Blessing 2:30 p.m. May 13 can obtain a free ticket online at: www.picatic.com/ticket/cathedral (if assistance is required, contact Rhea at (306) 229-0321.)

- KLY



Parish representatives prepare to carry forth the blessed oils at the end of the Chrism Mass April 2. Delegates came from across the diocese to the Cathedral of the Holy Family for the Chrism Mass, to receive the three kinds of sacred oils blessed by the bishop for use in sacraments for the next year.

Gala Opening Week at a glance: See details on Pages 12-14

Sunday, May 6 - 10 a.m.

• **Mass at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral**

Sunday, May 6 - 11:30 a.m.

• **Procession with the Sacred Chrism**

Pilgrimage walk from St. Paul's Cathedral to Cathedral of the Holy Family

Sunday, May 6 - 1 to 4 p.m.

• **Family Carnival**

held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Monday, May 7 - 7 p.m.

• **Whispers of God and Taizé Prayer**

Peace, tranquility and time with God held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Tuesday, May 8 - 7 p.m.

• **Cathedral On Tap: "Build My Church"**

Adults explore faith in casual setting, refreshments, cash bar; held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Wednesday, May 9 - 6:30 to 9 p.m.

• **Taste of the Diocese and Musicfest**

Ethnic foods and music from across the diocese, come and go, tours available, cash bar; held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Thursday, May 10 - 7 p.m.

• **Father David and Friends**

Relaxing evening of music featuring special guest Bob Hurd Free will offering; cash bar; at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Friday, May 11 - 6 p.m.

• **Bishop's Dinner, TCU Place**

Gala evening, \$350 (partial tax receipt)

Friday, May 11 - 7:30 p.m.

• **CCO Summit**

Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Word, praise and worship music; held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Saturday, May 12 - 7 p.m.

• **"Clothed with Christ" An Ecumenical Celebration of Christian Discipleship**

Ecumenical service, followed by a reception, tours available; held at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Sunday, May 13 - 2:30 p.m.

• **Mass of Blessing**

at Cathedral of the Holy Family

Free tickets for the Mass of Blessing:
www.picatic.com/ticket/cathedral

Three diocesan priests recognized by Holy See with title 'Monsignor'

At the diocesan Chrism Mass April 2, Bishop Donald Bolen announced that Pope Benedict XVI has conferred pontifical honours upon three priests in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, entitling them to be addressed as *Monsignor*.

The three new *Monsignors* are: Rev. Michael Koch, Rev. Raymond Senger and Rev. Stan Urbanoski.

The pontifical honours recognize the unique service each man has made to the diocese, said Bolen, who first announced the news at the Chrism Mass banquet, calling the priests forward to great applause.

"I especially welcome this news as a sign of our Holy Father's appreciation for the good work of all our priests and as a tribute to the faithful ministry they offer," said Bolen. "These honours are indeed a spiritual gift from Pope Benedict XVI to our whole diocese and a cause for rejoicing among all our faithful."

After the announcement, diocesan Vicar-General Rev. Ron Beechinor asked all the priests present to stand and acknowledge the three new Monsignors. "In accepting this honour from the Holy Father, you honour all of us," Beechinor said.

CONTINUED on Page 2



Bishop Donald Bolen, Monsignor Raymond Senger, Monsignor Michael Koch, and Monsignor Stanley Urbanoski (l-r) at the Chrism Mass banquet April 2.

Parishes preparing to welcome refugees as part of gospel call

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parishes in the diocese of Saskatoon continue to pursue refugee sponsorship at different levels of involvement, in spite of many political challenges, delays and plenty of red tape.

Ellen Erickson, who worked for many years as a volunteer helping the late Fr. Paul Donlevy fulfill the diocese's role as a "Sponsorship Agreement Holder," has been hired part time to coordinate a new diocesan Office of Migration.

Erickson helps parishes, families and individuals navigate the application and sponsorship process, which can often involve frustrating delays.

Erickson describes how this spring St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon is preparing to welcome a couple with young children who are fleeing Syria. The parents are both deaf, so the St. Philip Refugee Committee is looking into locating needed resources, as well as recruiting help from individuals

familiar with hearing impairment.

"Whenever we have approached the parish for donations or help, we never have any trouble getting assistance," says St. Philip refugee committee member Sheila Flory.

Meanwhile, at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon, the community has started fund raising and preparing for a full sponsorship, hoping that through its visa posts, the Canadian government can find a family with young children for the parish to sponsor. There is no guarantee when and if this will happen, says Erickson, noting how frustrating it is to know there are people in dire need of a safe home, and a community eager to welcome them – and yet still there are such agonizing delays.

A recent "Chili Cook Off" fundraiser for refugee sponsorship was organized by parishioner Natalie Carreiro, a Food and Nutrition student at the University of Saskatchewan, said Our Lady of Lourdes refugee committee member June Rivard.

"That evening the community really showed their solidarity," said Rivard, describing the many who came forward to help with the

event, to donate chili, or to serve as contestants. Kieu Mieu, a young man from Sudan, spoke at the event, describing his experiences as a refugee, why he had to leave his home, and what it was like to live in a refugee camp with hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

The harrowing stories and the trauma that people face can seem overwhelming, Rivard noted, but she stands firm in an assertion by the late Fr. Paul Donlevy, that although we may not be able to help everyone, we can make a difference by helping some. "The primary reason to be involved in refugee sponsorship is to continue the work of Christ – feeding, clothing, visiting, as he called us to," she said.

At St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood, the faith community is presently involved in sponsoring two families: a pair of brothers from Eritrea, whose uncle in Saskatoon is the primary sponsor; and a family from Pakistan forced to flee to Malaysia for their safety, says pastor Fr. Jon Hansen.

"St Mary's has been involved in refugee sponsorship for many years, and continues to do so,

because it is a gospel imperative to take care of widows, orphans and refugees. It is a necessary form of Christian action that we take in those who are estranged from their homeland, especially those whose safety is imperiled by war or political circumstances," he said.

The parish's first hope is for sponsored families to be safe from the dangers that forced them to leave their homes, said Hansen. "Refugees come not by choice but by necessity."

Secondly, the parish prays for unification of families, he said. "Many families have been torn apart, with mothers and fathers being separated from each other and from their children. We hope that these bonds can be restored."

And finally, parishioners hope that when a family arrives in Saskatoon they will come to see this foreign place as home, he said. "We pray that they will see in us people they will be happy to call neighbours and friends, and that healing from their past traumas will begin."

For more information about refugee sponsorship contact Ellen Erickson at (306) 659-5842 or at: migration@saskatoonrcdiocese.com



Way of Cross

Hundreds took part in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross, following the cross through the streets of Saskatoon, stopping to reflect on suffering and injustice in our world. Find coverage at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Years of service by three priests recognized with papal honour

CONTINUED from Page 1

Monsignor is not itself an appointment, but rather is a form of address. It is a title associated with a pontifical honour, conferred exclusively upon diocesan priests in recognition of their dedication and exemplary service to the church.

All those who bear the title of *Monsignor* are honorary members of the "papal family" and are entitled to be present in the *Cappella Pontificia* (when the pope celebrates solemn Mass) and to participate in all public religious and social celebrations wearing robes corresponding to their respective offices.

For a number of years, Msgr. Len Morand was the only *Monsignor* in the diocese of Saskatoon until his death in 2007. Currently, there is one other *Monsignor* ministering in this diocese, Msgr. Matthew Tuffuor-Amoah, pastor of St. Ann in Watrous. His pontifical honour was conferred upon him before he came to Canada from Ghana in 2009.

The honour of *Chaplain of His Holiness* was conferred upon both Senger and Urbanoski, while Koch received the title *Honorary Prelate of His Holiness*.

Monsignor Raymond Senger:

Reflecting on the announcement, Msgr. Raymond Senger, who presently serves as pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon, said that receiving the honour was somewhat overwhelming.

"My priesthood has really been supported and encouraged all along by the people of faith, and the encouragement they have always given me," said Senger. He noted especially the commitment of the Catholic Women's League in so many of the parishes where he has served.

Raymond Senger was born Feb. 2, 1935 at Kerrobert, SK., the youngest of five children of Magdalena (Volk) and Michael Senger, educated by the Ursuline sisters at Broadacres and Tramping Lake before attending Teacher's College. He taught at several schools before entering Pius X Seminary in 1958, and then attending St. Peter's Seminary in London. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1965 by Bishop Francis Klein.

Senger has served in a number of parishes across the diocese of Saskatoon in the past 46 years, including parishes at Kindersley, Marengo, Eaton, Alsask, Watrous, Young, Colonsay, Biggar, and Landis as well as at St. Peter the Apostle, St. Paul's Cathedral, St.

Joseph and at St. Francis Xavier (where he is presently serving as pastor) in Saskatoon.

He has served as spiritual advisor to the CWL at the parish, diocesan and provincial levels, and is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, serving as chaplain to several councils.

Monsignor Stanley Urbanoski:

Asked about receiving the title of *Monsignor*, Msgr. Stanley Urbanoski, 84, said that he has been honoured and blessed to live and serve as a priest, to celebrate Mass every day and to have the "joy of ministering to the deepest needs of the people."

Stanley Urbanoski was born April 23, 1927 on the family farm northwest of Brooksby, SK., the fifth of six children of Sophie (Chmura) and Joseph Urbanoski. He attended school in Maryville and Fairy Glen, SK. before attending St. Thomas College/ St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford as a diocesan candidate. He then went to St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton and SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He was ordained a priest June 19, 1954 by Bishop Leo Blais in the diocese of Prince Albert, serving there for nine years, before transferring to the diocese of Saskatoon in 1963. Parishes he has served at include Our Lady of Czestochowa, St. Peter the Apostle, and St. John Bosco in Saskatoon, as well as parishes at Alvena, Dodsland, Viscount, and Meacham. He also served part-time in chaplaincy at St. Paul's Hospital. Since his retirement in August 1990, he has continued to provide replacement ministry and other sacramental ministry in the diocese.

Monsignor Michael Koch:

Msgr. Michael Koch presently serves as diocesan Director of Christian Initiation.

He was born Feb. 2, 1934 in Wilkie, SK., the eldest of nine children of Katherine (Lutz) and Jerome Koch. He studied mathematics and physics at the University of Saskatchewan, earning a BA in 1960. After spending time in the novitiate of the Basilian Fathers, he studied at St. Piux X Seminary in Saskatoon and St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, before being ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1966 by Bishop Francis Klein.

Over the years, Koch has served in a number of Saskatoon parishes including St.

Paul's Cathedral, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Philip Neri, Holy Family, and Holy Spirit; as well as rural parishes at Beechy, Elrose, Milden, Lucky Lake, Forgan and Kyle. He also served as chaplain of the Canadian Armed Forces Military base in Dundurn, SK. from 1999 until this past autumn. He was diocesan director of religious education for several years.

Koch was recently a member of the building committee for the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and has served on the Priests' Council, the Diocesan Consultors, the Liturgy Commission, the Vocations Commission and the Committee for the Restoration of the Order of Sacraments of Initiation for Children.

His years of involvement with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) began in 1974, when he studied under Christiane Brusselmans of Belgium at the University of

San Francisco. Koch was one of 12 founding members of the North American Forum for the Catechumenate, serving on the forum for five years. He was a contributing author to four books on the Catechumenate, and wrote articles on the RCIA for a number of Catholic journals. He founded the Western Canadian Conference for the Catechumenate in 1990, serving many years as chair. While on sabbatical he conducted research on the development of the RCIA in other parts of the world. He has facilitated RCIA workshops in a number of countries as well as in parishes throughout the diocese of Saskatoon. He was appointed diocesan director of Christian Initiation (RCIA) in 2010.

In 2011, Koch was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gherig's disease, but continues to provide ministry as his health allows (see related article Page 6). -KLY

Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon Statement of Revenue and Expenses For year end June 30, 2011

	2011	2010
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Bishop's Annual Appeal	\$ 995,938	\$1,197,655
Parish assessments	1,022,916	1,024,006
Investment income	63,608	49,679
Donations	1,081,941	5,979,667
Brazil collections	81,626	62,756
Ministry	160,747	221,039
Sundry	396,763	467,840
	<u>3,803,539</u>	<u>9,002,642</u>
EXPENSES		
Pastoral services	1,311,288	1,209,148
Outreach grants & donations	542,344	5,623,929
Clergy and vocations	952,972	664,534
Brazil mission	81,626	62,755
Administration and chancery	780,583	1,294,023
Parish support	220,351	217,234
	<u>3,889,164</u>	<u>9,071,623</u>
Revenue less expenses before undernoted items	(85,625)	(68,981)
Gain (loss) on disposal of investments	(4,459)	17,206
Unrealized gain (loss) in market value of investments	53,350	12,877
REVENUE, LESS EXPENSES	<u>(36,734)</u>	<u>(38,898)</u>
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,317,174</u>	<u>1,356,072</u>
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,280,440</u>	<u>\$ 1,317,174</u>

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) 659-5844 (office) or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005; Ext: 844 Fax: (306) 244-6010
Mail: 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1;
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Diocesan gatherings in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Kindersley

Congress Day begins with focus on faith

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A diocesan Congress Day presented in three locations across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon began with scripture and reflection, as an introduction to an upcoming Year of Faith announced recently by Pope Benedict XVI.

Held in Saskatoon Feb. 25; Humboldt March 10; and Kindersley March 24, the annual Congress Day was open to anyone interested in gathering with parish, deanery and diocesan leadership to reflect on a range of issues.

The Year of Faith will officially begin on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11, and is a call to return to the roots of faith, grounded in Jesus Christ.

Promoting and encouraging scripture study is one diocesan initiative planned for the Year of Faith, Congress Day participants heard. Each gathering therefore began with an experience of small group faith sharing, focused on scriptures related to covenant.

At the first Congress Day Feb. 25 for the Outlook, Saskatoon Rural and Saskatoon City deaneries, Deacon Bob Williston of Holy Family Cathedral parish introduced the covenant theme with song and prayer, before delving into scripture and encouraging faith sharing among participants.

Williston spoke about a covenant pattern revealed in a reading from Exodus: a pattern of assembly, covenant, sacrifice and banquet. With Jesus Christ, the “new and everlasting covenant” continues, grounded in the paschal mystery of Christ’s life, death and resurrection.

“Now we have another person (Jesus) who first assembles us together... and calls us to be a people. He makes a proposal to us, and that proposal is both individual and corporate. It’s a proposal to each of us in our own hearts, to live up to that baptismal identity that we have, to say ‘yes’ to the Lord,” said Williston.

Williston asked his listeners to relate the covenant pattern to the celebration of Eucharist, as well as

to discuss the reality of the covenant relationship in their daily life: to share together how the covenant is lived out in their work, families and communities, and as mission in the world.

At the Congress Day March 10 in Humboldt, Vocations coordinator Myron Rogal (who also coordinates the diocesan offices of Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities) presented the opening reflection about covenant for representatives of the Humboldt and Wadena deaneries.

God’s everlasting faithfulness to his covenant endures even when the people are not faithful, Rogal said. The prophet Jeremiah reveals the Lord’s plan to “put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

With Jesus’ words in the gospel of John to “abide in me,” as the branches are connected to the vine, the intimacy of this new covenant is further revealed, Rogal related. “Jesus gently reminds us that ‘apart from me you can do nothing’,” he said.

Congress participants were then asked to gather in small groups to discuss the scripture passages, and share their life experiences and insights about love and connectedness.

In Kindersley March 24, Fr. Paul Fachet, OMI, of Queen’s House of Retreat and Renewal presented the reflection on covenant and encouraged small group faith sharing.

Marriage trends

The Congress agenda then turned to the covenant of marriage, with speakers examining trends and issues related to matrimony. The sessions in Saskatoon and Humboldt were led by Blake Sittler, co-director of Pastoral Services and coordinator of Marriage and Family Life for the diocese of Saskatoon. In Kindersley, Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick of the diocesan Marriage Task Force led the discussion.

Marriage has changed over the centuries, along with changes in



Representatives of parishes in the Kerrobert and Eaton deaneries gathered March 24 for a diocesan Congress Day with Bishop Donald Bolen.

- Photo by Agnes Pelletier

society, observed Sittler, inviting the group to consider some of those changes, including: more women working outside the home, more common law marriage, changes to the definition of marriage, and increasing divorce rates. He added that the vast majority of couples, including Catholic couples, are now living together before marriage.

Sittler noted that one of the most revolutionary changes to marriage in the past 150 years was the shift that saw the decision to marry being taken away from the family or the community, and being given to the couple, based on feelings of love, rather than on political or economic alliances.

Statistics presented at Congress Day clearly showed the decline in the number of marriages happening in Catholic churches in the diocese of Saskatoon from 2001 to 2010. In conjunction with this decline, fewer couples are taking part in the marriage preparation courses offered by parishes or organizations such as Catholic Family Services or Engaged Encounter, he said.

“More people are deciding not to get married in church,” he related, comparing this “vocation crisis” in marriage to that affecting priestly ordinations and religious life.

One reason that there are fewer church weddings is that young people are no longer automatically identifying themselves as Catholic, just because their parents are Catholic, Sittler suggested, describ-

ing how some young couples see it as hypocritical to marry in a church they no longer attend.

Faith question

In recent discussions, the diocesan Marriage Task Force has stressed that marriage is alive and well: young people still aspire to have loving, stable, long-term marriages, Sittler said. “The crisis or the problem is not really about marriage itself, it is really about faith,” he said.

Finding effective ways to talk to each other, to others and especially

to our children about faith is critical, Sittler said. Congress Day participants were then asked to discuss effective ways to evangelize and to share faith with others.

Each diocesan Congress Day then continued with a report about the 2011 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (see article on this page), as well as an afternoon presentation about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event June 21-24 in Saskatoon (see Page 4).

The bishop celebrated Eucharist with participants at each Congress Day to conclude the event.

BAA 2011 report presented at Congress Day: \$1.4 million raised for ministries this year

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The 2011 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) raised \$1,425,427 for a wide range of ministries and outreach in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, achieving about 95 per cent of the year’s \$1.5 million goal.

BAA Administrator Cathie Rogers presented an annual report about the 2011 Appeal at a diocesan Congress Day Feb. 25 in Saskatoon, March 10 in Humboldt and March 24 in Kindersley.

Addressing the Congress Day participants after a morning of reflection and discussion about covenant, the Year of Faith and the issues facing marriage (see related article this page), Rogers stressed that at its heart, the BAA is not about numbers.

“At the end of it all, it really is about faith, and how do we support that faith and how do we encourage it,” she said, describing a need for resources so that faith can be supported and nurtured throughout the diocese.

Rogers emphasized that the Appeal would not happen without the help and support of the volunteers and the parish leaders that undertake the BAA each fall at the local level.

“I just want to say thank you. It’s a lot of hard work and takes a lot of dedication,” she said.

Rogers presented the Appeal results deanery by deanery and acknowledged those parishes that met or exceeded their goal.

For instance, the tiny St. Donatus parish in the Kerrobert



deanery (at 220 per cent), St. Scholastica, Burr in the Humboldt deanery (at 173 per cent), and Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon (at 199 per cent) topped the list of parishes for exceeding their goal. Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon raised the most in total dollars, at \$192,319, or about 145 per cent of their parish goal.

Ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal include: Catholic hospital chaplaincy at Royal University and Saskatoon City hospitals, native religious ministry, rural catechetics, youth ministry, education of seminarians, vocations promotion, justice and peace, ecumenism, Lay Formation, ministry development, marriage and family life, priests’ pension fund, and the diocesan resource library. A number of outside groups also receive support for their ministries from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Rogers noted the impact of sharing stories of how these ministries are making a difference.

“It’s not about the numbers of hospital visits, but the story about how one hospital visit had an impact on someone’s life,” said Rogers, reflecting on how BAA-funded ministries provide much-needed outreach and evangelization, as well as support for what parishes are doing in their faith communities.

Expert in Jewish-Christian relations Dr. Mary Boys will speak in Saskatoon

During a visit to Saskatoon April 26-28, Dr. Mary Boys, SNJM, will present several reflections on how perceptions about the death of Jesus have affected Jewish-Christian relations.

“Sr. Mary Boys is a world expert in Jewish-Christian relations, a great teacher, and her presence with us is a great opportunity,” said Bishop Don Bolen.

The diocesan Commission for Inter-Faith Relations has organized the local events featuring Boys, who is the author of *Has God Only One Blessing?* She is also a professor at the Union Theological Seminary and an adjunct professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, NY.

“Redeeming Our Sacred Story: The Death of Jesus and the Relationship between Jews and Christians” is the title of the public lecture Boys will present 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, co-sponsored by St. Thomas More College and the Department of Religion and Culture at the University of Saskatchewan.

This will be followed by a workshop for clergy 9:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, April 27 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, entitled “Preaching the Sacred Story.” Also offered at the cathedral will be an afternoon workshop designed for teachers, educators, catechists, RCIA teams, pastoral workers and all who share faith with others, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday April 27, entitled: “Teaching the Sacred Story.”

A final workshop open to the general public will be held 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at Holy Spirit parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, entitled “Witnessing the Sacred Story: The Death of Jesus and the Relationship Between Jews and Christians.”

All presentations are open to the public. A free will offering will be taken at all events. Registration is not required. More info: 242-1500.

- KLY



Sr Mary Boys

Preparing for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Impact and history of residential schools reviewed at Diocesan Congress

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The legacy of the Indian Residential School System was the focus of prayer, reflection and discussion during a diocesan Congress Day in three locations: Feb. 25 in Saskatoon; March 10 in Humboldt; and March 24 in Kindersley.

A diocesan committee has been established by Bishop Donald Bolen to encourage and prepare for diocesan involvement in a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) national event this summer in Saskatoon.

Members of the committee – which includes representatives of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon, and of the diocesan Justice and Peace commission, as well as other volunteers – led the Congress Day presentations.

“We want – in a very prayerful context, a context of listening – to think about how the people of the diocese can grow in awareness, so we can support and encourage participation in the Truth and Reconciliation event when it comes to Saskatoon,” said committee member Kathy Hitchings, introducing the Congress Day presentation.

An issue for all

Bishop Donald Bolen stressed that the issue of residential schools affects all Canadians. “Indian residential schools are not something that First Nations people simply need to deal with: this is part of our collective history and we all need to deal with that history, and with its pain, and with its hurt. It’s an issue for all of us,” Bolen said.

“A number of Christian churches, including the Catholic Church, were specifically involved in residential schools,” Bolen added. “Therefore it’s very important that we be involved in the truth and reconciliation process, and play our part in fostering a deeper education about residential schools and assisting in the work of healing.”

Committee member Gayle Weenie, elder and pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, described how the roots of the TRC process can be traced to the action of Manitoba Chief Phil Fontaine in 1990, when he stepped forward and asked the churches that ran residential schools to acknowledge the physical, emotional, mental and sexual abuse endured by students at those schools.

A royal commission convened soon after heard many presentations about residential school experiences, Weenie added. Eventually, the government of Canada and representatives of the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United churches were party to an Indian Residential Schools Agreement, by which former students could apply for compensation, called “common experience payments.”



Kathy Hitchings, Gayle Weenie, Bishop Don Bolen, Rev. Mick Fleming, Irene Sharp and Harry Lafond (l-r) presented information about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and residential schools at diocesan Congress Day in Humboldt March 10. Information was also presented at Congress Day in Saskatoon and Kindersley.

“The TRC hopes to guide Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians toward reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.” Find out more at: trc.ca

Commissioners Justice Murray Sinclair, Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild are attending hearings and gatherings across the country, including seven large national events, each taking a theme from traditional Aboriginal teachings.

The theme for the Saskatoon national TRC event June 21-24 is “Truth.” Held at Prairieland Park, the Saskatchewan event will include public sharing circles with the commissioners, statements by those affected or involved in residential schools, and cultural events.

A diocesan committee has been established to find ways to encourage members of the Catholic community to get involved, whether as participants, listeners or volunteers helping with practical logistics. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead. For more information contact Carol Zubiak at justpeace@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

As part of that agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed, in order to collect and record the history of residential schools and chronicle the impact that the schools and their policy of assimilation had on generations of children, families and communities.

Saskatchewan hearings and June event

Rev. Mick Fleming, CSsR, Priest Moderator at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon, spoke about the work of the TRC, and the hearings being held throughout Saskatchewan in preparation for the June 21-24 national TRC event.

“It is an honour for us as a community to be able to hold the national event this summer. It is an opportunity for all Canadians – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – to learn about and to bear witness to the legacy of the school systems and to find the truth,” said Fleming.

He described the impact of attending a recent TRC hearing in Regina. “It was an incredible moment to sit there and to listen to the pain, and to hold the sacred stories of these people,” he said, noting the resilience of the human spirit, and the hunger for healing and reconciliation.

Fleming stressed that Christian churches and their members are called to be involved in the process; to participate, to volunteer, to be present, to listen at the TRC events, and to help bring healing.

A panel that included Gayle Weenie, Irene Sharp of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, and Harry Lafond of the Office of Treaty Commissioner then presented an overview of the history of residential schools in a question and answer format, before sharing their own stories and experiences.

The story of residential schools in Canada

Residential schools were first established in Canada during the 19th century, with the last one closing in 1996.

The government turned to churches to run the schools, and attendance was mandatory, with agents employed by the government to ensure all Aboriginal children attended.

There were about 130 schools in total, located in every territory and province, except Newfoundland, PEI and New Brunswick. In all, about 150,000 Aboriginal children were removed from their communities and forced to attend the schools.

The schools were established to educate the country’s Aboriginal people, with the Canadian government adopting a policy of aggressive assimilation. “They were intended to remove the child from his cultural environment, in order for them to learn English and to learn the curriculum of the European,” said Lafond. “The schools were set up to isolate the child from their community, from their family.”

Conditions were often harsh, the gathering heard. “The students lived in substandard conditions in residential schools, the food was often poor, and they had to live under very strict conditions. Parents were not allowed to visit,” described Weenie. “Skills taught at the schools were substandard compared to non-Aboriginal schools. Students, especially the boys, spent more than half their school days working on the farms, and subsequently when they left when they were 16 or 18, they had very little education. Students were punished if they spoke their language,” she added.

“When they returned home, many found they could no longer communicate with their parents, because the parents did not understand English,” she said, describing how traditional language, clothing and customs were stripped away from the young students in the residential school settings. “Students became ashamed of their heritage,” she said.

“Students endured all kinds of abuse: emotional, physical, mental, sexual, and racism,” Weenie added. “Although, not all students experienced negative experiences. Some did have positive experiences.”

Lafond hearkened back to the historical and cultural context when the schools were first established. “The people who opened these schools had good intentions. From the First Nations perspective, we were just coming out of a period of great depression, because two-thirds of our population had died within a space of 20 years; whole villages had died from measles, and small pox and tuberculosis,” he said. “It appeared at that time that this (school system) was a good way to deal with the problems.”



Participants in Congress Day in Saskatoon Feb. 25, place words of response onto a tipi on display for a presentation about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The TRC will hold a national event in Saskatoon June 21-24 at Prairieland Park.

TRC continued on next page

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Committee preparing for national TRC event June 21-24 in Saskatoon

TRC continued from Page 4

However, the results of the residential school policy were far from good, leaving generations severed from culture, language, family and tradition, with many scarred and damaged by the hurt, humiliation and abuse they encountered in the schools, he noted.

“I think we witness the impact all around us and we don’t recognize it for what it is. These are impacts that cost all Canadians,” Lafond said. “For over 100 years the Canadian community was virtually silent on the subject. As Canadians we were not aware of our own story.”

Trauma continues: healing needed

Lafond pointed out that the residential school system is a source of many continuing problems. “We see all around us, people who are suffering, and exhibiting behavior that is really dysfunctional, and we have spent a lot of time blaming the victim,” he said.

“That comes from not knowing what the source is, and not understanding that trauma has an impact, not only on individuals, but on families and on whole communities.”

He reflected on his own experience of being separated from his family at the age of seven: the loneliness, the fear, and the reality of being exposed to negative experiences that he would not have encountered growing



Words of reaction were placed on a small tipi at Congress Day.

up at home. “I carry that with me even now,” he said. “I can’t imagine sending my own seven year old away for 10 months of the year. I don’t think I could do it. I don’t know how my parents must have felt when we climbed on the back of that truck.”

Panelist Irene Sharp shared how childhood abuse by a priest left her struggling for years with relationships and addictions. After years of struggle, she



Irene Sharpe, Gayle Weenie and Fr. Mick Fleming (l-r) work on a display at St. Joseph parish in Kindersley March 24.

- Photo by Agnes Pelletier

said she has finally found healing by returning to her faith, and through healing programs such as Returning to Spirit and Lay Formation. “I’m thankful to God for helping me through this. If we truly believe, we have to find ways to help others, and not to find fault,” she said. “It isn’t pity that a troubled person needs, it is understanding and listening to the best of our ability.”

She urged her listeners to have empathy for those who have experienced hurt. “For a few minutes, try to put yourself in the position of being taken away from your family and being put in a strange home or school, not being able to see your family and being abused in some way,” Sharp said.

“So much has been taken away from our people. It is time we get into action and have them heal by what God gave us: understanding, listening, giving hope and love.”

Need to be heard

It is not easy to listen to the harrowing stories of residential school survivors, acknowledged Weenie. “But the survivors need to tell their stories. I think that’s the message that I have heard at these hearings: they needed to tell their stories, and they need to have someone listen to them.”

Weenie briefly described her parents’ experiences at residential school and her own years of anger and hurt because of what she herself experienced at boarding school. After years of journeying, she has come to forgiveness, and finds support in her friends, coworkers and community, she added.

“I consider myself lucky because I have one foot in my traditional spirituality and one in the Catholic church,” Weenie said. “That is my journey and that is how I hope to open my heart to those on the streets, those who are suffering. To be a good listener, to pray.”

Meaning of reconciliation

In addition to remembering what happened in the past, Lafond said that it is also important to look forward.

“I have spent most of my life working with the Catholic Church in one way or another,” Lafond told those gathered for the Congress Day in Humboldt.

“The journey I am on right now is a journey to help the Catholic Church to recognize the gift that the Cree people have for the faith. We are not so different from each other when it comes to praying,” he said.

“I’ve spent my life trying to understand my Cree background, the world view and the spirituality, so that I can better understand Christ’s message for us in the Catholic Church,” Lafond added.

“That’s my journey, and that’s what reconciliation means to me. It means making this Catholic Church a richer Church, by virtue of celebrating diversity – and also recognizing that Christ speaks to us in our own languages, and Cree is no exception. He speaks Cree fluently.”

Responding as Body of Christ

After a moment of silence, those in attendance at each Congress Day were invited to respond to what they had heard by writing a single word on a piece of paper. The words – some prayerful, some hopeful, some challenging – were then carried forward and fastened to a small tipi at the front of the room, as the assembly sang a simple hymn.

Congress participants were then asked to consider how they might take further action – whether as individuals or as parishes. Suggestions included prayer, attending the upcoming TRC national event, volunteering to help with that event, telling others about the opportunity, listening to the stories of residential school experiences, and checking out the trc.ca website.

Remembering the Children Prayer

God of our Ancestors,
who holds the spirits of our grandmothers and grandfathers
and the spirits of our grandchildren,
remembering the children,
we now pledge ourselves to speak the Truth,
and with our hearts and our souls
to act upon the Truth we have heard
of the injustices lived,
of the sufferings inflicted,
of the tears cried,
of the misguided intentions imposed,
and of the power of prejudice and racism
which were allowed to smother the sounds and laughter of
the forgotten children.
Hear our cries of lament
for what was allowed to happen, and for what will never be.
In speaking and hearing and acting upon the Truth
may we as individuals and as a nation
meet the hope of a new beginning.
Great Creator God
who desires that all creation live in harmony and peace,
Remembering the Children
we dare to dream of a Path of Reconciliation
where apology from the heart leads to healing of the heart
and the chance of restoring the circle,
where justice walks with all,
where respect leads to true partnership,
where the power to change comes from each heart.
Hear our prayer of hope,
and guide this country of Canada
on a new and different path. Amen

Prière en souvenir des enfants

Dieu de nos ancêtres, toi qui veilles sur les esprits de nos
grandmères et de nos grandpères, et sur les esprits de nos
petits-enfants, en souvenir des enfants,
nous nous engageons à parler en toute Vérité,
à poser des gestes, de cœur et d’âme, en accord avec la
Vérité que nous avons reconnue à propos des injustices
subies, des souffrances infligées,
des directives maladroites imposées,
de la puissance des préjugés et du racisme assez
prédominants pour étouffer
les sons et le rire des enfants oubliés.
Écoute les cris de notre repentance
à propos de ce qu’on a laissé se produire
et à propos de ce qui ne pourra plus prendre place.
A l’heure où nous voulons parler,
écouter et agir en accord avec la Vérité,
puissions-nous, en tant qu’individus et en tant que nation,
relever le défi d’un nouveau commencement.
Grand Dieu Créateur, toi qui veux que toute la création vive
dans l’harmonie et la paix,
En souvenir des enfants
nous osons rêver à un chemin de réconciliation
où les regrets venant du cœur mûrissent en guérison du cœur
et en une occasion de rétablir le cercle,
où la justice guide les pas de chacun,
où le respect conduit à un véritable partenariat,
où la puissance du changement prenne son
inspiration dans chaque cœur.
Entends notre prière d’espérance,
et guide notre pays, le Canada,
sur un sentier neuf et différent. Amen.

Source: www.rememberingthechildren.ca

ALS diagnosis becomes part of priest's witness

By ARCH MCKAY

Monsignor Michael Koch continues to provide ministry and leadership in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, in spite of the physical challenges of a degenerative nerve disease that is taking its toll on the 78-year-old diocesan priest.

Although ALS may be deteriorating his body, Koch continues his crusade to make Christian initiation a fruitful journey and an engine of renewal in the Catholic Church. At the same time, his own struggles are helping him to minister to those in most need – including those suffering disability or illness – with joy, hope and courage, nurtured by a deep faith and a trust in the everlasting love of God.

In April 2011, Koch was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as “Lou Gehrig’s disease.” ALS is a degenerative disease that affects the connection of the nerves to the voluntary muscles, resulting in a progressive loss of muscle control.

Koch has worked as a pastor in many parishes over the years. He is currently the director of Christian Initiation for the diocese. He is widely known for his tireless work related to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) in the diocese and beyond, and is the founder of the Western Conference for the Catechumenate. He was recently named Monsignor by the Vatican in recognition of his years of service.

Koch’s disease is visibly taking its toll on his body, but his mind remains sharp and

focused, and he says that he intends to keep his vocation and his ministerial pursuits alive. Regardless of the topic, Koch attends as many church-related functions, meetings and workshops as he can, saying that he is still learning. “One can never know everything there is to know about God or our faith,” Koch says, adding that he hopes that his attendance can inspire others to recognize that learning about one’s faith is a lifelong process.

Koch strives to take each day and each setback in stride. Aware that ALS will continue to run its course and that it will eventually take full control of his body, Koch is determined not to let it conquer his mind or spirit. With the onset of his illness, Koch says he has been given a new ministry, called to inspire hope in others who are going through similar experiences.

As a pastor, Koch has witnessed many people who have become ill and have had to battle the ravages of illness on body, mind and spirit. By joyful living and using the gifts he still has, Koch says he hopes that others suffering through pain will deepen their understanding that life is a gift and that God is always present. He adds that he wishes to use his time and energy to live a life in Christ, whatever the circumstances.

Koch states that he remains cheerful and is at peace. Asked why he was not angry or upset by his diagnosis, Koch responds: “What good would that do? It doesn’t make things better.”

Melina Palendat, who works at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, says she has witnessed first-hand the impact of Koch’s attitude. “Recently I have had the occasion to speak with some people about the value and dignity of each person. We have discussed the concept that every person has value regardless of his or her circumstance,” she said. “With Father Mike some people might think, ‘He is infirm now, what has he to contribute?’ But I find him very inspiring. He is very aware of his circumstance, and he knows where it is going to end up. He has chosen to be upbeat about it and to accept the hand that has been dealt to him and to make the best of it.”

She added: “I find that (his attitude) honors the dignity of the human person. It honors God’s will for him. He is looking to find the silver lining and still have a useful purpose. He has commented several times that if he can give me the chance to exercise my gifts by taking care of him or being kind

Catechetics office: supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal



In spite of his battle with ALS or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” Monsignor Michael Koch continues to work on issues related to Christian Initiation in the diocese. He and Michelle Sieben of the Catechetics office discuss guidelines for parishes related to preparation for baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist.

to him, then he is being used as an instrument for me to grow.”

Friends Jim and Rochelle Caruthers have worked with Koch since his diagnosis. “It has been a gift to know him,” said Rochelle. “He has inspired me. Instead of feeling sorry for his situation, he wants to encourage others and live his life by example. He has a positive attitude towards it all. Instead of dragging him down, it (ALS) has built him up and given him the ministry to give hope to others.”

Jim Caruthers described how his friends have revelled in Koch’s joy and humour. “We have watched him laugh at jokes until tears have streamed down his face. Amidst all that is happening to him he can still find joy at small and big issues of life.”

Koch’s main concern is for continuing leadership in Christian initiation in parishes across the diocese and in other areas of western Canada. With the support of Bishop Donald Bolen, Koch is currently working with Michelle Sieben of Denzil and others in the diocesan Catechetics office on a document about Christian initiation — the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist — and how to create meaningful liturgies and guidelines for initiation, for evangelization and for post-baptismal catechesis (mystagogy). Koch says he hopes that this document will help those who are involved with the sacraments of initiation.

In the area of Christian initiation, Koch’s knowledge and influence is both historic and international in scope.

In January 1982, Koch was invited to be part of a group of 12 theologians, pastors,

liturgists and catechists who met in Washington, DC. Together they formed the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. Koch served on this Forum, helping to guide it for the first five years. He has also contributed material to four books related to RCIA. What started out 30 years ago with twelve participants has grown into an international network of dedicated Catholic scholars and ministers on Christian Initiation, says Koch.

From his experiences and knowledge gleaned from this forum, Koch has shared his dedication to Christian Initiation of Adults throughout western Canada and is known as an expert on the topic. On a diocesan level, he most recently shared his expertise and insights at a daylong workshop Jan. 28 in Martensville and continues to work to organize the next Western Conference of the Catechumenate gathering to be held May 25-26 at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon. This 22nd annual conference will feature a theme of “*Celebrating All the Rites and the Assembly*” with Jerry Galipeau of Chicago, a well-received facilitator at past Saskatoon conferences.

At times, however, Koch still expresses his concern that there is no consistency in RCIA, with parishes varying in how the process is embraced and implemented. Koch passionately desires that all sacraments of initiation would be taken seriously, presented well and continued through an ongoing, never-ending life-long “Mystagogy” (post-baptismal catechesis and formation). Most of all, he longs to inspire others with his passion for the catechumenate and the Christian initiation process, to continue his lifelong work.

“This is such a huge enterprise in the Church,” he said at the Jan. 28 Martensville workshop. “It is for the renewal of the life of the Church ... the way to bring more life to our faith and to our parishes.”



Monsignor Koch (right) watches as catechumens sign their name into the Book of the Elect at this year’s Rite of Election at the cathedral.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age - Matthew 28:19

Baptism begins a never-ending journey of post-baptismal catechesis or ‘Mystagogy’

By MONSIGNOR MICHAEL KOCH

The 2012 Triduum is now over (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations).

Some seven parishes in the diocese gave new Christian birth to sixteen adults and children of catechetical age. They were initiated into the Catholic faith community, the Church, the Body of Christ, through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and climaxing their initiation through the first reception of holy communion, the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. Nine parishes also received 17 candidates (already baptized Christians) into full membership in the Catholic Church.

The Easter Vigil is primarily the liturgical celebration of the



Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and is celebrated even if

there are no baptisms. However, the celebration of the sacraments of Christian Initiation are most appropriately celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

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

The process of Christian Initiation, after the Easter Vigil, now moves on to the period of post-baptismal catechesis or “Mystagogy.” This period is about reflecting, pondering, growing in faith and living the mystery of God’s love for us. Thus we are called to grow into eternal life in the Trinity. The period of Mystagogy is usually considered to be the time between the Easter Vigil and Pentecost.

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

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

The danger is that this period of Mystagogy is still seen by too many as a period of graduation rather than initiation and the beginning of living out the Christian life – something that lasts a lifetime.

As more and more of the parish leadership begin thinking and practicing the liturgical year as their frame of reference for their Christian Initiation process, there will be less need to worry about the period of Mystagogy. It will continue going on and on: Cycle A, then Cycle B, Cycle C, Cycle A, Cycle B ... until death do us part.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 29, 2012

Many strands came together as Greg Roth discerned his vocation

BY GREG ROTH

The story of how God worked in my life to call me to the priesthood is a complex one, involving many different characters and scenes. I was born Sept. 15, 1985 in Saskatoon, to a loving mother, Denise Hounjet, hailing from the French town of Prud'homme and a loving father, Louis Roth, hailing from the German town of Handel. In 1991, my little brother Jonathan was born.

My parents made sure to raise us in the Catholic faith. As a young child waking up to get ready to go to school, I can still remember the voices of my parents downstairs praying that familiar phrase "Hail Mary, full of grace..." The Rosary would remain a powerful part of my prayer life and my discernment. In addition to praying the Rosary, my brother and I were taken to Mass every Sunday, and sometimes more often.

We will never forget the weekly Holy Hour on Thursday nights, at my home parish of St. Augustine in Saskatoon. Every Thursday night, a group of parishioners would pray week after week in front of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for vocations. It may have taken several years, but I like to think that those long nights had no small effect upon my vocation.

There were many other ways in which my Catholic faith was part of my life at a young age. Throughout my childhood, my parents were (and still are) actively involved in the pro-life movement. Over the years, I learned that being called to leadership meant standing up for those who had no voice, those who I was called to protect and lead.

Parish priests were familiar faces for me. Every Saturday, my Grandma Hounjet would bake fresh bread, and sure enough, on a regular basis, Fr. Michael Bedard would be one of the first to show up to sample the new batch and enjoy some friendly conversations. But he wasn't just there for the bread, he would be at Grandma's house after baptisms, confirmations, birthdays, weddings, and just about any other special occasion. Seeing the priest present in every day life instilled in me the notion that the priesthood was not something in another world, but it was something right here and right now. The example of parish priests, both here and abroad, would be a powerful sign to me of those whose footsteps I would hope to follow. The saying "you can't give what you don't have" rang true for me. I could only become a priest because I had seen the priesthood lived out.

My discernment began at a young age. Our family would regularly go to Grandma and Grandpa Hounjet's house on the



Greg Roth

farm. And I remember my Grandpa saying to me as I entered the house, "Voilà le prêtre dans la famille" (there's the priest in the family). I don't know what motivated my Grandpa to say that, but ever since a young age, this thought would always be in the back of my mind: "Maybe Grandpa's right, maybe this is where God is calling me."

When I was in high school, I attended a retreat at the neighbouring parish, Holy Family, for a weekend, with the theme being the Holy Spirit. Up until this point, the thought of being a priest was just that, a thought. And I don't quite remember how, but somewhere on that retreat, I told someone that I was discerning the possibility of becoming a priest.

When I returned to high school Monday, there on my desk was a pamphlet of meditations on the Mass readings for the week. When I asked from whence came this mysterious document, my teacher replied "Monsignor Morand came by and left that for you." Monsignor Morand? I had just spent a weekend at his parish on retreat, but he was only there for Mass, and I certainly hadn't told him I was thinking about the priesthood! How he came to know I will also never know, but this snowball was quickly escalating into an avalanche. That same day, I was asked by the chaplain at St. Joseph high school, if I would come to talk to him. I don't know if I had ever felt more uncomfortable in my life! How did all these people all of a sudden know everything I had been thinking? This was uncanny. It was at this point that it became serious. I had to seriously ask God a question, and the answer came back in the affirmative.

Once I graduated, after talking with Bishop Albert, I still wanted to discern a bit more before entering the seminary. I left home, and spent the next four years in Front Royal, Virginia, graduating with a Liberal Arts degree in philosophy from Christendom College, a small



Hoang Nguyen

Gregory Roth and Hoang Nguyen will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Donald Bolen 7 p.m. Friday, June 22 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family

community of 400 or so students who are still some of my closest friends and support to this day. It was there that my prayer life sprouted and my discernment grew stronger. After I completed my degree, there was really only one option: I had to join the seminary.

Once in the seminary, my discernment gradually developed into decision. Every year I was becoming more and more convinced that this was where I was called to be. This culminated most recently in my ordination to the diaconate in May 2011. As I was lying there on the floor, everything just felt right. I had absolutely no doubt in my mind that this is where God wanted me to be.

It is said that the priest stands in the person of Christ, not only in a symbolic way, but in a real, sacramental way. Reflecting back on my life, there is no way that I can say in any way that I am prepared to represent Christ to the world. But through the amazing gift of the Spirit that I have experienced, God makes that possible. And so, there for the grace of God go I. As I contemplate moulding my life to that of Christ, the words of the Christian artist Chris Tomlin come to mind: "Where you go, I'll go / Where you stay, I'll stay / When you move, I'll move, I will follow you / Who you love I'll love / How you serve, I'll serve / If this life I lose, I will follow you."

To all who are reading this right now, as I close this chaotic tale, I will end paraphrasing something I heard preached by Bishop Bolen on two occasions now: "It happened then, why not now? If it happened there, why not here?" And if it happened to me, why not you?

Hoang Nguyen left home and family to follow God's call to the priesthood

BY HOANG NGUYEN

I was born May 3, 1971 in Sai Gon, Viet Nam, growing up the second oldest in a family of nine siblings.

It is not easy for me to have a concrete answer for those who have asked me how God called me to Canada for my priestly vocation. It was not an easy decision for me to leave behind people I love and the place where I grew up and lived since I was born. However, I put my trust in Christ who always takes care of me in his way: I have my family support as well as people's prayers throughout my priestly journey.

I came to Saskatoon to pursue my priestly vocation in 2006. The former Bishop of Saskatoon, Most Rev. Albert LeGatt welcomed me to the diocese. He then sent me to Saint Peter Seminary in London, Ontario for one year. In 2007 I moved to Saint Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta for theology.

In the summer of 2009, I did my internship at Holy Family parish in Saskatoon until autumn 2010 under the supervision of Fr. David Tumback. After the internship year, I returned to the seminary to continue my studies. I was ordained as deacon in May 2011 at a celebration at Holy Family parish in Saskatoon.

In January 2012 I was called to the Order of Priests by Most Rev. Donald Bolen, bishop of Saskatoon. I will finish my Masters of Divinity program at Saint Joseph Seminary in June 2012.

I thank God for being with me throughout my years of studying. Looking ahead to my future ministry, I also praise God and trust in God's care and blessing upon me and those who have been part of my priestly journey in various ways. Their prayers are treasured and continue to be treasured as the source of encouragement and hope for me in my priestly ministry.

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

-1John 4:16



Ordination to the diaconate in May 2011 at Holy Family parish.

Ordination as deacon: Colin Roy and Daniel Yasinski take step on journey to priesthood

Bishop Don Bolen will ordain two seminarians as deacons this May, in celebrations at the parishes where they served their internship year in 2010-11.

Colin Roy will be ordained to the transitional diaconate 7 p.m., Thursday, May 31 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.

Daniel Yasinski will be ordained to the transitional diaconate the next day at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon 7 p.m. Friday, June 1. All are welcome to attend the celebrations.

This is another step in the process of preparing for ordination as a priest. In the fall, the two new deacons will engage in another year of study and discernment. It is anticipated that the two men might then be ordained to the priesthood in 2013.



Colin Roy



Daniel Yasinski

Vocations – supported by the BAA

The Western Conference for the Catechumenate
Celebrating all the Rites and the Assembly

Speaker: Dr. Jerry Galipeau

Friday, May 25 - 7 to 9 p.m. (registration 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, May 26 - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

at Holy Spirit Church, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon

Registration: \$150 each (includes Saturday lunch and banquet)

Two or more from one parish: \$140 each

Contact Msgr. Michael Koch at 306-373-0404 or: mjkrcia@shaw.ca

Sisters of Presentation of Mary celebrate as April Mireau is received as Novice

BY SR. LISE PAQUETTE, PM AND
SR. CHANTELE BONK, PM

The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary received April Mireau as a Novice at a celebration on the Feast of the Assumption March 25, 2012, in Prince Albert.

The whole community gathered at the entrance of the Provincial House waiting for April to knock at the main door and request to enter the novitiate. Following the icon of the Annunciation and the book of the Word of God, the community proceeded to the chapel.

The provincial superior, the

director of novices, the formation community, April's family and all the sisters preceded April so that she would not be tempted to look backwards.

During the celebration, Sr. Lise Paquette, provincial superior of the sisters, presented April with a medal of Mother Rivier, sealing her commitment as a daughter of Marie Rivier (who founded the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary).

At that moment, Sr. Genevieve Thille was taking her last breath of life. What an experience: as one enters religious life, another one

leaves for heaven.

After a simple but moving vespers, the celebration spilled over into a special meal, a time of fellowship with the community and with the Mireau family.

April Mireau is the oldest of seven children; so there was much energy and laughter. The community continues to pray for April and for young women who will follow her example by saying "yes" to love.

April's entrance into the Novitiate coincided with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the

Provincial House. A well-prepared liturgy, readings from the annals and a special meal were part of the festivities.

Superior general Mother Angèle Dion joined in the celebration by sending a special message: "Yes, these walls would have many historical stories to share, memories of great desires, rooted in Christ, profound solidity and hope always renewed.

"Today, you live this hope together by celebrating the entrance of the new postulant, April Mireau to the Novitiate."



April Mireau of Saskatoon

This article was reprinted with permission from the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary website at: www.presentationofmary.ca

Reflecting on year of living with Sisters of Presentation at the Discernment House

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Six young women who spent the past year or more living in community with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary at Discernment House in Saskatoon were challenged, blessed and sometimes surprised by the experience.

Located on University Drive, Discernment House is a convenient home away from home for those who happen to be studying at the nearby University of Saskatchewan, or venturing into the work force.

But through the *Come and See Live-in Experience*, participants find more than a place to stay. They are actively involved in the family spirit of the community, sharing in the life and faith of the sisters and the other women who live at Discernment House.

It's a life that includes participating in daily Eucharist, praying the Liturgy of the Hours,

weekly adoration and regular faith sharing, as well as the opportunity to receive spiritual direction. Fun and friendship are also part of life at Discernment House.

"Living in community with other women has been one of the most beautiful experiences of my life," says Erika Rybinski, a trombone player enrolled in musical education. "It is amazing to see that so many women can live together, sharing responsibilities, opening our hearts to each other and to Jesus Christ, and building that reliability and trust in one another, as sisters of Christ."

No stranger to living in a large family (as one of eight children), Rybinski said this experience of community was nevertheless unique. "I have come to understand the importance of each individual in a community, and even how the presence or absence of just one person can make a world of a difference," she adds. "I have learned that we work together toward a common goal – that of building a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ, and this can be done through each other, as Christ lives in all."

As a first-year university student fresh out of high school, Rybinski said she had the "best atmosphere possible" by living at Discernment House. "I have seen so much growth in my spirituality, my personal life and my faith. I have come to acknowledge the holy



The "Come and See Live In Experience" at Discernment House builds friendships and faith.

- Photos submitted by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

presence of God in our world, through the Spirit. I am able now, to see just how much the Holy Spirit guides us in all of our days, and all of our ways," she said.

"As for personal life, I have witnessed first hand the humility, simplicity and beauty of the religious life. We do not need extravagant vehicles, designer clothing, or the newest and latest in technology," she said, describing how she has grown in faith and in her relationship with God through her experiences at Discernment House. "As well, living in community has really created an open heart in me – both to the spirit and to others."

Although admitting there are challenges to having 9-12 women living in community together, Rybinski said moving into Discernment House was one of the best decisions of her life.

"I am so thankful God brought me here, for I have found a world of faith and spirituality beyond what I had known, made lasting friendships, learned to trust, and believe that God has a plan for me, and this is just the beginning. I highly recommend living at the Discernment House if you feel called to work on faith, openness, soul searching, and making lasting companions who are on the same journey with the same Christ our Lord," Rybinski said.

Kinesiology student Katrina Burns said living at Discernment House really opened her eyes to both the beauties and challenges of community living.

"A retreat participant this year told me, from experience of his own

discernment: 'There are two successful ways to part from formation, by taking your vows or discerning that it isn't your calling,'" Burns pointed out.

"I will definitely not forget the experience of living here, and it certainly made me grow individually by challenging my introverted and independent nature to find joy in being with people, especially slightly larger groups and to grow in inter-dependence with the other members of the community."

Musical education student Amy Keller said she came to Discernment House to answer a call to pursue her relationship with Christ. "I have learnt so much about living in community, the Mass, discipline, and of course Jesus Christ and our beautiful faith. I would recommend anyone to this place if they are interested in a further and deeper relationship with our Lord because that is exactly what you get, but only if you want it and work for it."

A third year biology major at the University of Saskatchewan, Jessica Pratchler describes Discernment House as her personal – and sometimes literal – Noah's Ark.

"The basement suite that I was living in at the time flooded with the spring thaw and I needed somewhere to go the next day. The sisters saved me from the floodwaters and put me up on the third floor that I joke was my 'ark,'" she said. "Not only did they literally help me from the flood, but they helped me to come out of the flood that was capsizing my faith life.

They taught me that it is easy to live with a faith life in an everyday world and that I don't have to worry: God is always with me."

Shannon McAvoy, who is studying urban planning, said that her experience of living in community at Discernment House "was one of fun, personal growth, adventure, laughter and peace."

"If I had a message for someone considering living at the discernment house it would be to come with an open schedule, open mind and most importantly an open heart.

International student Penelope Sanz said Discernment House was a place of refuge and hospitality for her.

"I have also grown as a person because the program that is offered by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary enables those who are living here to be holistic, since they can live a balanced life with Christ at the center.

"Most importantly, the Discernment House has deepened my spirituality and faith through the spiritual direction we have with the sisters, the daily prayers and Mass, the retreats, and the activities that we take part in with the community at large," Sanz said. "It also made me appreciate the religious vocation and the charism of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary."

Applications are now being accepted for next year's Come and See Live-in Experience at Discernment House in Saskatoon. For more information, contact Sr. Lucie Hamel or Sr. Evelyn Nedelec at (306) 244-0726 or e-mail sk.dhouse@gmail.com



Sharing music and life.

Hike and Pray

A Discernment Walk on Religious Life and Priesthood from Bellevue to the St Laurent Shrine (18 km), sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and the dioceses of Prince Albert and Saskatoon. **Contact:** St. Evelyn / Sr. Lucie 306-244-0726; or Fr. Ken Thorson 587-985-3553.



Are you *fit...* for religious life or priesthood? Check and see if you can walk the 'walk.' Join us for this day of pilgrimage for men and women (18-35 years) curious about a vocation to religious life or priesthood. This will be a time to reflect on God's call in your life.

The walk will coincide with the Eucharistic Congress June 10-17, 2012, Dublin, Ireland.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 29, 2012

Unique diocesan initiative addresses and celebrates vocation of single life

BY WADE ST. ONGE

It is one of the largest demographics in the Canadian Catholic Church, and the only one that all people have, for at least part of their lives, belonged to. Yet, remarkably, there has never been a specific ministry devoted to this group in the diocese of Saskatoon.

However, that changed in the summer of 2011, when the diocesan Vocations Office held a retreat entitled *Called to the Single Life*.

Catholics young and old gathered – whether single and committed to remaining single; or single but hoping to get married and looking for a partner; or once married but having since gone through a divorce or been widowed and were now once again single.

From diverse situations and backgrounds, they gathered to learn more about their particular state in life from the presenter, Jeremy Rude, a CCO staff member who had lived as a committed single person for the previous five years.

What motivated these singles to attend a retreat was also what motivated the diocesan Vocations Commission to launch such an initiative. There are many programs and groups for families and couples in the Catholic Church, but very little specifically designed for single people.

Also, while there has been much said and written in the Church about the married state, whether in the catechism or in homilies or in various talks or conferences, almost nothing is said of the single state, and there is a dearth of materials explaining what this vocation means theologically, or giving practical guidance for living in that state.

The retreat would address both of these omissions. Brought together by the common experience of being single Catholics in the Church, those assembled heard – some for the first time – the single state explained biblically and theologically and outlined in positive terms.

Participants heard what single life “is”, rather than negatively – what single life “is

not”: namely, “being single means not being married.”

Those who attended found this validating and reassuring after years of wondering if there was any particular value to single life or special meaning or purpose for their singlehood.

Many were confirmed in their vocations and inspired to go forth and put into practice the suggestions given for living out the single state in a more fruitful and fulfilling way.

After the retreat, there was a hunger to learn more about their vocation, and grow more deeply in their particular state and continue the journey along with others on the same path.

To meet this need, the diocese began to organize bi-monthly gatherings for single people at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Although groups and gatherings of single people are not new in the Christian Church, they have usually consisted of social events and were designed to meet a need for fellowship among fellow singles in a particular peer group. Although this was also an aim of these gatherings, the main purpose was to deepen understanding of the single state in order to better prepare and equip each person to live out his or her vocation more perfectly in the world.

In the process, participants hoped to share what they learned with the broader Church community in order to raise awareness and educate others on the nature and purpose of the single state, which is not well understood and which is often overlooked or ignored in most parishes and dioceses.

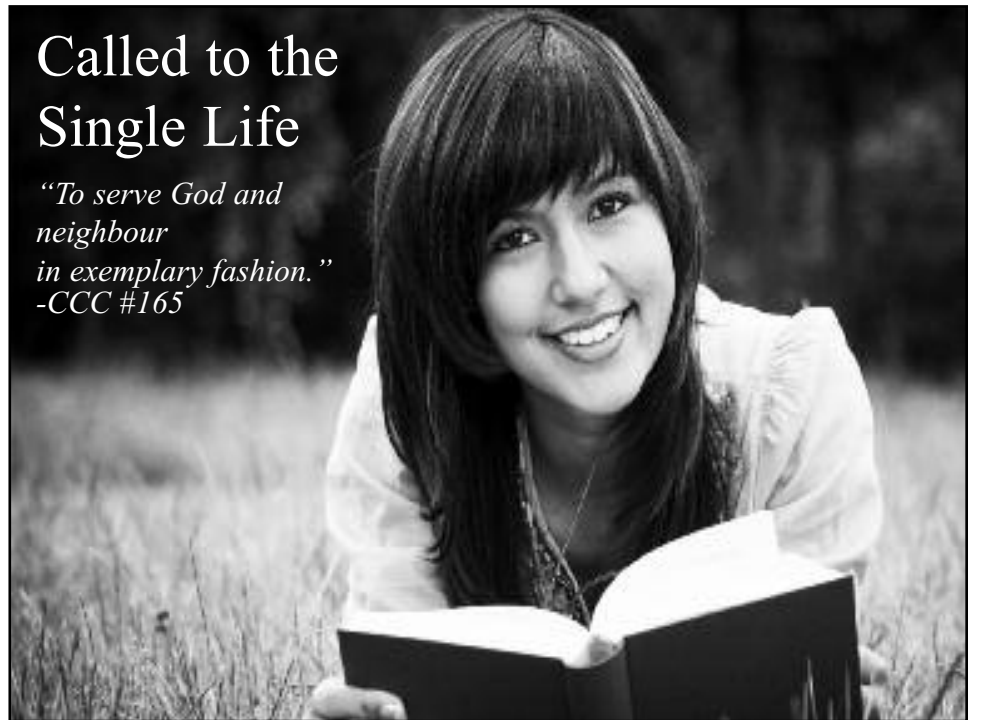
Those organizing the regular gatherings found out just how true this was when laying the foundations for this initiative. They began looking in vain for materials, topics, and speakers that addressed the single life.

The director of the vocations office, Myron Rogal, who was also facilitating this initiative, stated that the group was, in a sense, “pioneers.”

Indeed, just like their ancestors, who built

Called to the Single Life

“To serve God and neighbour in exemplary fashion.”
-CCC #165



sod houses from whatever was available, the group began to manufacture some semblance of a curriculum with talks and writings that could be applied to their lives as single people, and in the process, have seen a theology of single life beginning to develop.

Rogal also encouraged the group not to be afraid to “think big.”

Perhaps just as the Abbey of Solemnnes in the nineteenth century gave birth to the modern liturgical movement which was adopted by the Vatican II Council, and just as the schools in Antioch and Alexandria deepened understanding of the person of Jesus Christ that Catholics in most countries profess every Sunday in the Nicene Creed, maybe it will also be said that Saskatoon contributed to the Catholic Church a fully-developed theology of single life.

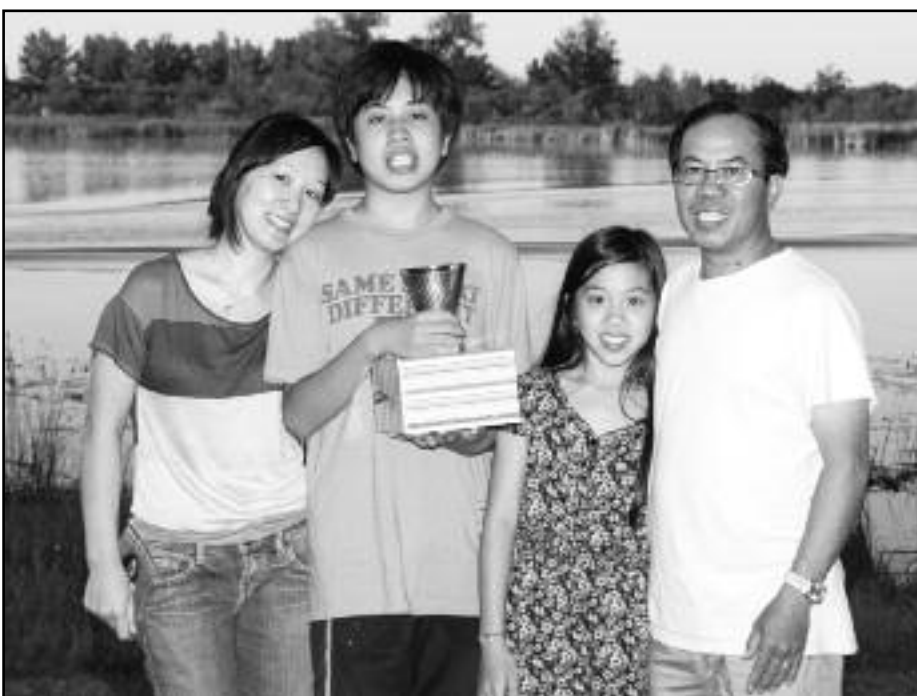
However, for now, faithful participants continue to gather twice a month to pray, offer

intercessions, share blessings and challenges as single people, deepen understanding of this particular vocation, and share fellowship with one another.

Those involved are simply trying to live out a common call to holiness through their everyday lives and the duties of their particular state in life and the many different forms that takes. The group invites every single person to consider joining them on that journey.

A Single Life Retreat will be offered through the diocesan Vocations Office beginning 7 p.m. Friday, April 27 and continuing all day Saturday, April 28 at Queen's House, Saskatoon. Participants will also be invited to participate in “Fill These Hearts” with Christopher West that evening. For more info, contact Myron Rogal at (306) 659-5841 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Ext. 841 or: vocations@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Vocations – supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal!



Vocation program

Thanh and Tram Pham and their children Quang and Vian were among the families to take part in a “Travelling Vocation Chalice Program” of prayer and vocation awareness undertaken by the Vietnamese Catholic Community in the diocese of Saskatoon. The faith community is looking ahead to hosting the Saskatchewan Marian Congress from Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20 at St. Mary's Church, Avenue 0 and 20th Street West in Saskatoon. Fr. Joseph Thang Nguyen from Mount Angel Abbey, Oregon, will lead the conference on the theme “Eucharist, a profound experience will change Christian life”

- Photo by Fr. Phong Pham

Tickets
www.St-T.ca/fth2012
306.384.7727

Fill These Hearts

GOD, SEX AND THE UNIVERSAL LONGING

AN EVENING OF
BEAUTY & REFLECTION
ON JOHN PAUL II'S
“THEOLOGY OF THE BODY”
CHRISTOPHER WEST
MIKE MANGIONE & THE UNION

Join renowned speaker and author
CHRISTOPHER WEST and indie-folk act
MIKE MANGIONE & THE UNION for an
evening of beauty & reflection through
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY—a bold, organic
and contemporary understanding of
human love in the divine plan.

Like a great work of art, the Theology of
the Body puts a finger on the pulse of our
universal aches and longings—the
universal questions of our humanity.
In a journey through art, music and spoken
presentation, come to a new depth of
understanding about sexuality and
how it illuminates life's deepest questions.

Saturday, April 28, 2012 7PM
Circle Drive Alliance Church • 3035 Preston Ave. S., Saskatoon, SK
Tickets: \$40/adult ~ \$25/student • Tickets in Advance or At Door until all seats sold!
www.St-T.ca/fth2012 • Persephone Box Office 306.384.7727

GO DEEPER
St. Therese
in Brunn, SK

Upgrade to the full 7-Day Theology of the Body Conference
“Into The Heart”
April 27 – May 3
 keynote: Christopher West
 includes “Fill These Hearts”
Conference Info:
www.St-T.ca/sotf
306-369-2555

Cathedral of the Holy Family

Vision, generosity and faith are part of story behind new cathedral

BY NED POWERS
(FILES: KIPLY YAWORSKI)

A dream first envisioned by leaders of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in 2005 became a reality with the December 2011 opening of the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

In one of the most emotional and greatest financial challenges faced by the Saskatoon diocese in its history, Most Rev. Albert LeGatt, who was then the bishop of Saskatoon, weighed many factors before launching the project.

In 2003, before the question of a new cathedral arose, LeGatt met with the families of Holy Family parish, spelling out reasons for constructing a new, larger church building for the northeast Saskatoon parish.

Areas served by Holy Family parish – including Sutherland, Erin-dale, Arbor Creek, Forest Grove, Silverspring and Willowgrove neighbourhoods – were rapidly expanding, with more development on the horizon. The Holy Family church building in Sutherland no longer had enough room even for existing parishioners, without taking into account anticipated new growth. Given the ongoing shortage of ordained ministers, there was no possibility of creating a second parish to serve the growing population in the area – Holy Family would have to expand.

Under the leadership of pastor Msgr. Len Morand, pre-liminary planning for a new parish home started, and fundraising was initiated.

The choice of location for the building was facilitated by the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools division, which offered to lease to the diocese a 5.75-acre parcel of land adjacent to St. Joseph High School on Attridge Drive, near Forestry Farm Park. The site was blessed and dedicated in June 2005.

As the Holy Family parish project developed, the question of a new cathedral also surfaced, LeGatt explained in spring 2006. “St. Paul’s Cathedral, with seating for 450 to 500 people, is too small for diocesan celebrations or gatherings which regularly number between 800 and 1,200 people,” he said.

The prairie cathedral had not been large enough to host diocesan

events (such as the Chrism Mass or ordinations) for several years, prompting LeGatt’s decision to raise the idea of building a new diocesan home.

“The very nature of a cathedral church is to be the church where the bishop invites the faithful and clergy to gather as a sign of the communion of faith, prayer and life that marks the oneness of the diocese. The presence of the ‘*Cathedra*’ or bishop’s chair within the cathedral marks the bishop’s ministry of teaching and governing the diocese. The cathedral is meant to be the visible and functioning centre of the diocesan church’s life and liturgical celebrations.”

LeGatt said it made sense that if Holy Family was to be the only new church built in the foreseeable future, that it should be designated as the new cathedral, with seating for at least 1,200.

At the heart of the decision to designate the new Holy Family parish building as the diocesan cathedral was the effect this might have on the St. Paul’s faith community. In existence in downtown Saskatoon since 1903, St. Paul’s has cherished its designation as a cathedral since the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was created at the height of the Great Depression in 1933-1934.

It was quickly determined that St. Paul’s must continue to exist, to serve a vibrant faith community in downtown Saskatoon. As well, permission was eventually obtained to designate the building as a “co-cathedral,” in recognition of its unique historic role.

Eventually the discussion about the parish and cathedral project led to the question of including Catholic Pastoral Services and Chancery offices as part of the new building complex. Constructed under the leadership of Bishop Francis Klein in 1964 the downtown Catholic Pastoral Centre building was no longer large enough to accommodate diocesan offices, as the number of ministries and the geographic area of the diocese had both increased over the years.

In addition to the need for more office space, and a larger diocesan Resource Library, there was a looming need to find a secure and environmentally-controlled home

plumbing bathrooms and fixing leaks in offices. Furniture was on back order and most of us had nowhere to put our files. This was shaping up to be a difficult transition indeed.

In time, our offices came together and we were gelling as a team once again. The difficult transition gave way to “possibility thinking”. Here we are in this amazing building, a result of incredible vision, dreaming of the potential such a space has to offer.

It is truly awe inspiring to be here for an evening meeting only to realize that each and every single room in the space has been booked. For our Town Hall Meetings (launching a visioning process for the parish) we had to get folks to stand at the doors to direct traffic for

there were five other meetings happening at the same time. What incredible potential!

As we continue our parish-wide Shared Vision process and as youth minister Jane Korvemaker continues with her visioning process with youth and their families, we are grateful to God and the people of this diocese for their incredible generosity and good will.

Our visioning will tell us in the end where it is that we want to go, and this space will provide us the opportunity to get there. That is the way it is with transitions; we step over the horizon only to discover an entire landscape yet uncharted, ready to be explored.



A distinctive cross and spire are features of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family. Opening celebrations for the cathedral will be held May 6 to 13 (see details about Gala Week on Page 12-14).

- Photo by Grant Kernan, Courtesy of Sarah Hall Studios

for precious diocesan archives as soon as possible, since temporary arrangements were soon coming to an end. At the time, most of the archives were being housed at Ogle Hall residence on the Saskatoon campus, which was recently sold to the University of Saskatchewan.

“From the beginning, we looked at all the options,” says cathedral rector Fr. David Tumback. “We didn’t want St. Paul’s to lose its identity as a downtown church. We looked at a possible expansion to St. Patrick’s church. Because we needed room for the Pastoral Centre, it was more realistic to start from scratch instead of creating more add-ons.”

Tumback, a diocesan priest, was appointed pastor of Holy Family parish in Saskatoon after spending eight years as parish priest at the Macklin, St. Donatus and Denzil parish cluster near the Saskatchewan-Alberta border.

Tumback was asked to steer the Holy Family congregation through the final days at their original location, while, at the same time, serving as a steward, working towards the construction and establishment of the new cathedral.

A parish and diocesan effort was launched to raise necessary funds for the \$28.5-million, 65,000-square-foot project. The diocesan share was set at \$12.5 million, with Holy Family parish responsible for the larger portion, at \$16 million.

A *Uniting in Faith* campaign was implemented, and in the process, a diocesan development office was established by LeGatt, which would eventually become the new Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, also responsible for other long-term

resources for the diocese, including planned and legacy giving, the ongoing Bishop’s Annual Appeal and stewardship awareness.

Development director Don Gorsalitz, who now serves part time as the executive director of the Catholic Foundation, says it was inspiring to see the response to the *Uniting in Faith* campaign, which brought in several significant major gifts, as well as sacrificial gifts of all sizes, at every level of giving, donated by a wide range of the faithful across the diocese and in Holy Family parish.

“To get 23 per cent participation from stakeholders, as we did across the diocese, is a phenomenal success,” whether one is speaking of secular or church fundraising, says Gorsalitz, who is also a parishioner at Holy Family.

“When this started, there was a perception that this project and campaign would not be successful. Many thought the amount needed seemed daunting and that our faith community would not respond well to a significant increase in the financial support needed. Some were critical as a whole of our ability to be successful as they have seen their parishes reduce services as a result of fewer people giving,” recalls Gorsalitz.

However, once the vision and the need was clearly communicated, people responded with amazing generosity at every level, including many five-year pledges toward the project. “For the first time in my generation, and perhaps the generation before, we were asked as a diocese to come together to support a major undertaking: to unite behind

a major capital project,” Gorsalitz says of the record-breaking campaign.

“I believe this success will inspire us to do even greater things. Moving forward from this campaign, the Catholic Foundation office will continue its efforts to strengthen financial resources.”

With the first Masses held at the new Cathedral of the Holy Family on the Dec. 18, 2011 and both the parish and the diocesan Pastoral Centre now settled into their new home, Tumback looks back at the sometimes overwhelming challenge of the building project, and reflects with excitement about the substantial way in which the community responded in generosity.

“I believe it was through a lot of prayers, some worries and some tears, that we were able to get the Catholic community to embrace the project,” says Tumback. “We had a wonderfully gifted leadership group. We had people who donated well beyond their means,” he says.

“We had many who readjusted their budgetary needs to make sacrificial gifts. We had children who gave up their birthday money, children who collected pennies and wheeled them into the church,” describes Tumback.

“Some knew they might not see the complete benefits but they stuck to the belief that they were doing it for their children, their grandchildren and younger generations.”

A decision to incorporate the uniqueness, beauty and logic of the large exterior solar stained glass windows, and five interior windows designed by Sarah Hall during the construction process led to an additional \$2.85 million fund-raising effort (see related article at bottom of Page 24).

Eventually, another \$1.2-million commitment will also be sought to install a pipe organ in the near future. Plans for a Cassavant pipe organ are in place, and the worship space was designed to accommodate it.

Tumback says he will look back on the project “as one of the greatest blessings in my life, getting to know my diocesan family at a deeper level, and being able to share what we can do in the community.

“What has unfolded has been beautiful and sometimes I wonder if the ‘Divine Architect’ wasn’t there to make sure we wouldn’t fail,” he says.

Parish experiences joy and pain of transition in move to cathedral

BY PAT CLARKE, CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR

Transition is a natural part of life. Whether a young couple welcomes their first bundle of joy home or experienced parents say farewell as their first child moves out of the house, transitions are attended by both joy and pain.

As a parish team we experienced a huge transition this past December. Having myself moved from an air conditioned office to the second floor of an un-air-conditioned rectory in July, I could hardly wait to get into my new office at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. I am sure all the staff of Holy Family parish felt the same way.

Imagine our surprise as we entered an unfinished building. Contractors were working all around us busily painting walls, laying floor,

Building features

Cross, stained glass, circular design: features of new cathedral communicate spirit of faith, witness and belonging

BY NED POWERS

A cross high atop the new Cathedral of Holy Family is a distinctive skyline feature and visible symbol elevating the character and spirit of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Adorned with solar stained glass panels recalling the colour and movement of prairie skies, the spire raising up the cross is a focal point for the new cathedral, which is home to Saskatoon's Holy Family parish, as well as housing the Catholic Pastoral Centre and Chancery offices that serve the entire diocese.

The day before the final portion of the cross was raised into place in August 2010, Holy Family pastor Fr. David Tumback blessed it and prayed: "May the cross be a sign of glory for all, may it be a beacon of welcome and hospitality to the stranger, may it be a sign of comfort for all those who see it and may it be a vessel of hope for all who desire to find peace."

The steel cross stands 176 feet in height; with the outer 40-foot-high, 10,000-pound section reaching dimensions that can be seen from different vantage points around the city, atop a spire with a shape reminiscent of a tipi.

The cross is one continuous unit that extends all the way through the roof structure, physically holding the building together, with the bottom 100 feet visible within the cathedral. Architect Obert Friggstad has said the design was inspired by the hymn, *Lift High The Cross*.

"When we talk of the church being built upon a cross, in our case, it is literally true," says Jim Nakoneshny, building committee chair and now facility manager for the cathedral. "The massive central cross is actually holding up the building, acting as the kingpin which locks the entire roof structure together."

The solar stained glass on the spire was designed by award-winning Canadian artist Sarah Hall.

"It soon became apparent that a blend of art glass and photovoltaic cells was perfectly suited to the large expanse of south-facing glass high atop the front facade," says Nakoneshny. "We called the

windows *Lux Gloria* ("Light of Glory") and they became a signature element... integrating solar energy collection and stained glass."

Stained glass

Inspired by the beauty of the prairie skies, the 54 large painted art glass panels in the spire were fabricated at Glasmalerei Peters Studios in Paderborn, Germany, and were installed in May 2011. More than 1,100 hand-soldered solar cells have been embedded in the art glass, helping generate some of the electricity used in the building.

Bishop Donald Bolen points out that striving for beauty in places of worship is a natural impulse.

"A church building and its art are designed to reflect the glory of God and God's creation," Bolen said. "To also do that in a way that is environmentally responsible is achieved wonderfully with the solar art glass."

Hall also designed the five interior stained glass windows that circle the worship space, and explore themes of creation, covenant, incarnation, resurrection and glory.

Tumback describes how Hall met with the building committee seeking input. "She sat down and threw out questions like: 'Who are you? What's your story? And what are your dreams?' She wanted to build wind, water, creation, life to come, peace and joy. As she designed the pieces, they just flowed beautifully. One of my favourites is a panel which adopted the trees which were once on the property and blended them with the waters of the South Saskatchewan River. It says so much about who we are."

A theological and personal reflection on the windows by Bishop Donald Bolen will be published in a book produced in collaboration with artist Sarah Hall this spring. Entitled *Transfiguring Prairie Skies*, the new book will feature photographs and a detailed look at imagery of the cathedral windows (*excerpt Page 24*).

Building features

The exterior of the cathedral building is clad in grey Tyndall stone, with split-face blocks at the bottom of the walls and smooth stone sections above. The roof and upper cladding are white.



Stations of the Cross carved by William Judt are in the Queen of Peace Chapel.

Tumback notes the extra height of the central entrance doors, which reach 10 feet to allow for ceremonial processions. Surveying the entrance, he likes "the sense of welcome and warmth with the couches and fireplace just inside the doors."

Field stones collected by some parishes in the diocese are among those used in the fireplace and a nearby feature wall, as a tangible sign of diocesan unity.

The circular worship space of the cathedral signals a sense of love, belonging, and oneness, says Tumback. The cathedral floor plan is in keeping with a circular building style common in the early years of Church history, he notes.

Path of faith in stone

On the floor of the central aisle, a path of Jerusalem limestone (shipped to Saskatoon from quarries in Israel) leads from the baptismal font, through the assembly to the altar, ambo and bishop's chair, before continuing up the back wall on which hangs the cross, leading to the 'Resurrection' window directly above.

Thus the path of stone from the Holy Land becomes a visible symbol connecting past and present; symbolizing the faith journey of the people of God that begins at baptism, embracing the Eucharistic sacrifice and meal as well as the proclamation of the Word of God, and encompassing the paschal mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

The baptismal font at the entrance to the worship space is



A 'fish eye' lens complements the circular design of the new cathedral's worship space. - Photo by Grant Kernan, Sarah Hall Studios

carved out of granite, featuring flowing water. For adult baptisms, the presider and those being baptized can walk right into the water. For children, there can be full immersion.

Curving hardwood pews surround the low sanctuary platform. The pews were hand-finished at New Holland, Pennsylvania, by a company employing Amish artisans. Seating capacity in the worship space is about 1,200, depending upon configuration of added chairs, yet no seat is farther than 70 feet from the sanctuary. The back wall of the worship space can also be opened up to add about another 800 seats for larger celebrations.

The cathedral altar and ambo are also carved from granite. In the centre, behind the altar, stands the bishop's chair.

Next to the altar is a large choir space, where the design will allow for future installation of a two-storey Casavant pipe organ that will measure 40 feet wide and be composed of 3,000 individual pipes.

Side chapels

Adjacent to the worship space (and open to it along one wall), is the Eucharistic chapel, with room for seating around the tabernacle holding the reserved Blessed Sacrament. A reconciliation room is accessible through this side chapel.

Located on the north side of the building is the Queen of Peace chapel, which seats some 75 people. Incorporating the altar and other furnishings from the former Pius X Seminary at the University of Saskatchewan, this chapel is used for daily Mass and smaller celebrations.

Stations of the Cross carved out of Saskatchewan northern white birch by Saskatoon artist William Judt adorn the walls of the chapel.

Parish and diocesan spaces

A large part of the main floor of the building features the gathering space, hall, kitchen and hospitality centre. Next to the gathering space is Bishop LeGatt Hall, a full-function banquet hall and event centre, which can seat up to 300 people for dinner and 500 in a theatre-style arrangement. Beyond the hall are several smaller meeting and program rooms. The west side of the main floor is occupied by offices and support space for parish staff, as well as the parish rectory.

The diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre is located directly above the parish offices. It includes the diocesan Resource Library and specially-designed space to house diocesan archives.

From the Catholic Pastoral Centre offices, diocesan staff work to implement diocesan programs such as Lay Formation, Restorative Ministry, Justice and Peace, Marriage and Family Life, Youth Ministry, Vocations, Catechetics, Scripture Resources, Migration, Ecumenism, Ministry Development, Diocesan Mission Office, Foundations, Communications, Marriage Tribunal and Chancery offices, as well as Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.

Tumback says the mission of the cathedral goes well beyond being a house of worship, and must include outreach, evangelization, service and healing.

"We have to reach out to those who are seeking meaning in life and that means people who are in crisis, people who are needy and people who are lonely. We have young people who are sometimes disillusioned and we have to find out what we can be for them in the community."

We gather in a new diocesan home to be filled with Jesus and sent forth

BY LEAH PERRAULT

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

Moving upsets the normal order of things in a simultaneously exciting and unsettling way. The same old dishes go in strange new places in the unfamiliar kitchen. If we don't pay attention, we end up driving on autopilot – to the old home.

I was on maternity leave while the Catholic Pastoral Centre moved from 5th Avenue out to the new cathedral on Nelson Road. When I returned to work after Christmas, I dropped Eliot and Robyn at daycare and then took a new route to the office, just blocks away. The ministry is the same – Lay Formation continues to happen once a month, the sick and imprisoned are visited, and staff members are out on the road for Congress Days and Foundations evenings, but the hallways are just a little longer and the offices still smell faintly of new paint.

The Cathedral of the Holy Family is indeed a beautiful building and a blessed place to work and it is starting to feel like home – both for the staff who work in the building and for the people who gather to worship here.

But following Jesus makes us prone to a certain kind of

homelessness: "As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head'" (LUKE 9:57-58).

Jesus has a funny way of turning things upside down. We want to follow Jesus, and we have a strange notion that God will lead us home – to a rest and peace that is somewhere other than where we are. Jesus is reminding this "would-be" disciple that God's home is inside of us.

When you have a chance to walk through the new cathedral, I hope that you recognize yourself in this new building somewhere – in the rocks of the fireplace that were gathered from across the diocese, in the candles of the stained glass windows which were placed there as symbols of God's people, or in the abundant pews to ensure that there would be a place for you to come and sit and pray.

This church is a diocesan home, a place where we can all come and find rest. It is also a place from which we will be sent out, to carry Jesus home – to our families, our parishes, and our neighbourhoods, that he might continue to touch the world through us. In as much as the people who fill this

cathedral are filled with Jesus, it will be our diocesan home. And when we leave, Jesus will make his home in us, so that "whether we are at home or away, we will make it our aim to please him" (2 CORINTHIANS 5:9).

So as we have gathered as a holy parish and diocesan family in this new building for many first liturgies, we will continue to gather in this "home," to be filled with Jesus and to be sent away with him – because "home" is where God is – in here and out there. May this Cathedral of the Holy Family gather us in and send us out to love the world.



Touching the Cloak
Leah Perrault

Gala Opening Week for Cathedral

Week opens with Mass; procession of sacred oil to new cathedral

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A week of activity planned for the official opening and solemn blessing of the diocese's new cathedral appropriately starts at the historic beginning.

The Gala Opening Week will begin with Bishop Donald Bolen celebrating Mass 10 a.m., Sunday May 6 at St. Paul's Cathedral. The celebration will be followed by a 7.6-km procession, walking with the Sacred Chrism oil to the new Cathedral of the Holy Family.

St. Paul's was the first Catholic church in the city of Saskatoon, and it is the oldest parish faith community in the geographic boundaries of the diocese.

The parish had its beginnings even before 1901, when the site on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River was purchased from Karl Kusch, a member of the first Catholic family to settle near the settlement of Saskatoon. The first church built in 1903 was replaced with the present church building, dedicated in August 1911, and renovated and expanded over the years.

St. Paul's beloved historic status includes being designated as the first diocesan cathedral when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was created in 1933-34, in the midst of the Great Depression. Since that time the prairie church has served as the *Cathedra* (or chair) of seven bishops.

With the transition to the new Cathedral of the Holy Family, St. Paul has now been designated "co-cathedral" and will continue to serve as a parish in the heart of the city.

After the Mass May 6, all are invited to join a walking procession, to accompany the Sacred Chrism oil from St. Paul's Co-Cathedral on Spadina Crescent to the Cathedral of the Holy Family on Attridge Drive and Nelson Road. Blessed by the bishop at this year's Chrism Mass, the Sacred Chrism will be used to dedicate the church building and the altar of the new cathedral. Fr. Don Hamel of St. Paul's proposed the idea for



At this year's Chrism Mass, committee member Francine Audy shows the oil to be blessed for dedication of the new cathedral and altar. The Sacred Chrism will be carried there in procession May 6.

the procession, which will begin at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 6.

"We thought that carrying the oil would be a strong visual image," said Karen Schreiner, chair of the diocesan Liturgy Commission and a member of the procession organizing committee. "The oil will be on display at St. Paul's beforehand and then it will be seen as part of this journey."

Mass at St Paul's 10 a.m. Sunday, May 6

Procession 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 6 accompanying the sacred oil from St. Paul's to new cathedral

The procession is not simply to deliver the oil, but is a multi-faceted event that has a strong spiritual element, stressed Schreiner. "We're rooted in prayer, we're rooted in the belief of the Lord's consecration. This to me is the action of God in our lives," she said. "The oil brings with it many blessings, and we're celebrating the royal kingship: this anointing of building and altar."

As participants walk step-by-step in prayer and solidarity, there will also be internal spiritual journeys, Schreiner said, noting that for some it will be a moment of joy, while for others it will include grieving the change in St. Paul's status.

"There will be rejoicing, but there will also be some sadness," she said. "In it all, God walks with us, hears our prayer and responds, and God will be present as we make this spiritual journey."

The procession will be a time of joy, laughter, singing and camaraderie, said committee member Francine Audy,

"Come and be part of this historic celebration," Audy urged, encouraging individuals and groups from across the diocese to participate in the procession.

Volunteers are also still needed; those interested are asked to call 242-2721.

From St. Paul's, the procession will cross University Bridge, continuing through the university campus, along Research Drive to Preston Crossing, before travelling through neighbourhoods along Attridge Drive to reach the new cathedral. A map is posted at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/cathedral

There are spots along the route where participants can enter and exit the procession, which is expected to take about two hours.

Participants are asked to plan their own drop-off and pick-up for the walk.

After the start of the walk at St. Paul's, the most accessible points of entry or exit will be behind the Agriculture Greenhouse on the university campus, along Research Drive or at Preston Crossing, said committee member Cathy Swarbrick. "But people are welcome to join at any time."

Swarbrick advised participants to wear appropriate walking shoes and comfortable clothing suitable for the day's weather. "As well, bring your rosary, a water bottle, snacks if desired, and an umbrella if it looks like rain or hot sun." But she is hopeful: "we look forward to a very blessed day full of sunshine and blue skies!"

Oasis of quiet prayer offered during opening week

BY THERESE JELINSKI

The first time Cathy Swarbrick went to a *Whispers of God* prayer service a few years ago during the hectic week before Christmas, she remembers entering the church and melting into the comfort and delight of a quiet place to think and pray.

"It was dimly lit with candlelight, soft music playing in the background, and silence – so much different than what we left at the malls, Christmas concerts, and at home, where there was such hustle and bustle," she says. "It was a time to reconnect and it was absolutely awesome. As a mom, I came in tired but I left revived. That's the part of *Whispers* that is a blessing."

At the time, Swarbrick was a member of the liturgical committee at the former Holy Family church on 105th Street, which held *Whispers of God* several times during Advent and Lent. Some people would arrive with a rosary or spiritual book to pray with, while others practised centering prayer or just sat in silence.

Swarbrick is now part of the committee organizing a combination of *Whispers of God* and *Taizé Prayer* during Gala Opening Week, Monday, May 7 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.



Whispers of God and Taizé prayer

7 p.m. Monday, May 7
Cathedral of the Holy Family

"In our lives we're always on the go," she says. *Whispers of God* and *Taizé Prayer* offers people a peaceful time "just to be."

The ecumenical event begins at 7 p.m. with meditative silence for the first 45 minutes, shifting to *Taizé* prayer and music for another 45 minutes, then back to silent prayer for the last half hour. People are invited to participate for any length of time. The evening will end with refreshments and a time to visit.

Karen Schreiner, committee chairperson, is organizing the *Taizé* part of the evening along with other members of her Saskatoon parish of St. Anne. The simple, contemplative prayer form takes its name from Taizé, France, an ecumenical monastic community where thousands of people from all over the world, especially youth, gather in prayer and song asking for peace, justice and reconciliation.

A *Taizé* prayer service, Schreiner explains, combines short chants that are repeated many times using different instrumentation and voice harmonies, Scripture, intercessions and prayer.

Francine Audy, another member of the planning committee, says the *Whispers of God* and *Taizé* prayer service is like Jesus' invitation to Peter to stay awake with him one hour. In a world that demands constant attention to meetings, social media, sports, and popular shows – when many people are "running out of time for God" – the prayer service is "an opportunity to forget all distractions and to sit with God for an evening and listen to what God has to tell me."

Casual evening of faith sharing for adults at Cathedral on Tap

BY THERESE JELINSKI

Billed as a time for adults to explore faith over drinks or coffee, Cathedral on Tap: "*Build My Church*" will be part of Gala Opening Week celebrations, Tuesday, May 8.

Patterned after the popular *Theology on Tap* and *Theology Uncorked* concepts, the evening will offer a casual atmosphere for adults ages 19 and older "to come together to listen, drink, eat, laugh, and discuss topics of faith relevant to our everyday faith lives, that challenge us to grow in our relationship with God," says Colm Leyne, a member of the planning committee.

Leyne says speakers will include young adults, married couples, retired persons and priests who will address the "*Build My Church*" theme, inspired by the call St. Francis of Assisi received from God to "build my church."

"The idea is that we've built the building, now how do we continue to build up the church and the Kingdom of God here in our diocese?" he says. Table conversations will be ignited by the speakers' accounts of their joys, sorrows, successes and struggles during their Christian journey.

The Tuesday event will begin at 7 p.m. in Bishop LeGatt Hall at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. Each panel speaker will be given 10 minutes, followed by small and large-group discussions and a

Cathedral on Tap: *Build My Church*

7 p.m. Tuesday, May 8

Bishop LeGatt Hall, Cathedral of the Holy Family

question-and-answer session. The evening is free but there will be a cash bar for those who wish to purchase drinks.

Theology on Tap and *Theology Uncorked* events "are two of the staple formation and evangelization opportunities for adults that we offer in the diocese," says Leyne, commenting on the format.

Speakers for *Theology on Tap* (which is geared to young adults ages 19 to 35 and held at Lydia's Pub) as well as for *Theology Uncorked* (which is offered for adults of all ages, and held at The Ivy) have included bishops, priests, religious and lay people, missionaries, theologians and ethicists.

Before getting involved in *Theology on Tap* as diocesan youth minister, Leyne experienced the program in several cities across North America.

"For me," he says, "it has been a great opportunity to gather with fellow Catholics in my city – many I didn't know beforehand – and forge some great friendships, share some great dialogue, and be encouraged in my faith journey."

Family fun event planned for Gala

BY THERESE JELINSKI

"Let the little children come to me."
- LUKE 18:16

Every Sunday, families with children of all ages fill the Cathedral of the Holy Family. For their enjoyment, and for the enjoyment of families from across the diocese, a Family Carnival will be one of the first events to be celebrated during the Gala Opening Week.

The three-hour event begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 6 at the new cathedral at 123 Nelson Road. There will be games, face painting, bouncing castles, a fish pond, a balloon man, popcorn, pie eating contests, cake walks, drawing contests, a petting zoo, and guided tours. Except for the petting zoo, all activities will be held indoors. And it's all free.

While the event is meant for all families, those with young children will especially enjoy activities such as petting the animals and meeting the balloon man, says Jane Korvemaker, a member of the planning committee who is also Holy Family's coordinator of youth ministry.

"This is going to be an amazing event full of life, joy, and family time," she says. "With all the activities and games happening, there will not be a dull moment for those who attend."

Volunteers are needed to help with various activities; for information call Blake Sittler at 659-5834 or toll free 1-877-661-5005, Ext 834.

Family Carnival

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6
Cathedral of the Holy Family

Father David and Friends event offers relaxed evening with Bob Hurd and other musicians



Composer and musician Bob Hurd during a visit to Saskatoon in October 2007.

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A celebration of liturgical music of the past 50 years will be part of the Gala Opening Week at an evening program dubbed “*Father David and Friends*.”

Internationally renowned composer and liturgist Bob Hurd and his wife Pia Moriarty will be among the special guests at the gathering held 7 p.m. Thursday, May 10 in Bishop LeGatt Hall at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

“Part of the reason that Bob is going to be here is that he has composed a song for the diocese, which is dedicated to the faithful as we bless the new cathedral,”

Fr. David & Friends

7 p.m. Thursday, May 10
Bishop LeGatt Hall
at new cathedral

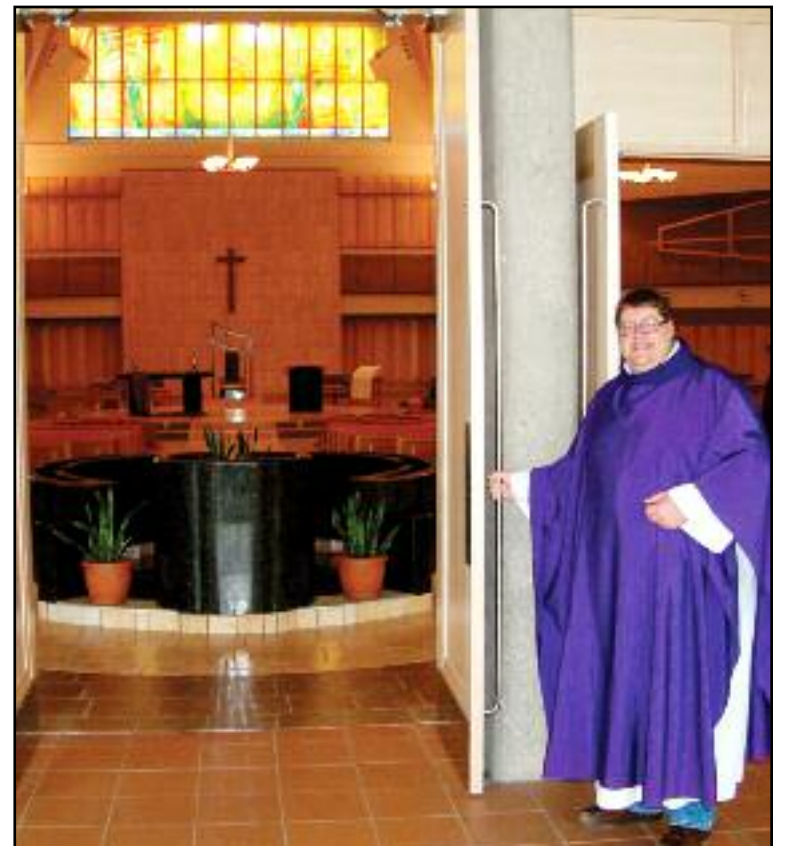
explains Fr. David Tumback, Holy Family cathedral rector. Entitled *A Listening Heart*, the new song will be performed by Hurd May 10, in a program that will also include a number of local musicians.

“Bob is a longtime friend of this diocese, and he wanted to be here for the opening celebrations,” said Tumback. “This evening gives us a chance to spend time with him while he is among us.”

Father David and Friends will pay tribute to some of the great liturgical music of the past and present, said Tumback. “For instance, we will recognize the great Sr. Miriam Therese Winter and the Medical Mission Sisters, and the great impact they had on the post-Vatican II use of vernacular in music.”

Although they are not always well known, musical leaders such as Eugene Walsh and Fr. Eugene LaVeriere “have moved us, and we have embraced their vision,” said Tumback. “Part of it too, will be to honour Bob, because he is one of those courageous individuals who continues to put his whole being out there, to produce quality music.”

The diocese of Saskatoon has a



Fr. David Tumback, cathedral rector, opens the door in welcome at the new Cathedral of the Holy Family. *Father David and Friends* Thursday May 10 offers an evening of music.

lot of passion and energy when it comes to worship and liturgy, Tumback says. “We pray hard and we play hard” – and that holds for singing and for worship too, he adds with a smile.

Honoured as 2010 Pastoral Musician of the Year by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Bob Hurd, PhD, lives in San Jose, California, teaching at Santa Clara University and

continuing to produce liturgical music. Among his compositions are the Mass of Glory, *Gather Your People, Flow River Flow, Holy is the Temple, All the Ends of the Earth, Our Blessing Cup* and *To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul*.

There will be a free will offering taken at Father David and Friends, and the Knights of Columbus will provide a cash bar.

Food and music from different cultures will be highlighted during Gala Opening Week

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Finger foods from a number of ethnic and cultural traditions will be featured as part of a come and go “Taste of the Diocese and Musicfest” event to be held during opening week at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

All are welcome to come and sample the delicacies prepared by volunteers from some 13 parishes across the diocese, and to spend time listening to music of several local choirs, says

Taste of the Diocese and Musicfest committee chair Heather Durand.

The list of cultures and countries that will be represented at the event which runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family includes First Nations, Vietnamese, German, Canadian, French, Filipino, and East Indian.

St. Gabriel parish in Biggar is even bringing food with a “Big Apple” theme, based on their community’s well known slogan: “New York is big, but this is Biggar,” Durand explains with a smile.

English, French and Polish choirs are among those providing music throughout the evening.

Describing the event as a bit like “Taste of Saskatchewan meets Folkfest,” she says it is sure to be fun and fascinating to taste and experience what different faith communities will contribute to the evening. “I think it’s going to be really interesting, we are going to have quite a few ethnicities represented, a little bit of decoration, flags on display, and some information about the different ethnicities that are part of our diocese,” says Durand.

There is no charge for the evening, although there will be a cash bar for those who wish to purchase drinks.

Taste of the Diocese and Musicfest

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9
Cathedral of the Holy Family

Summit prayer event features Eucharistic Adoration

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

All are welcome to attend an evening of prayer, music, and silent reflection before the Blessed Sacrament during a CCO Summit event 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, held as part of opening week at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) is a university movement working to call and support young adults in developing a relationship with Jesus Christ lived out actively in the Catholic Church.

In Saskatoon, CCO regularly holds monthly Summit events - an evening of Eucharistic Adoration that includes hearing God’s word, praise and worship, silence, and opportunities to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, explains John Hickey of CCO Saskatoon.

“The reason why we began Summit, was that we

wanted to offer an event that would allow students just to experience the Lord.” The impact of Eucharistic Adoration is often profound, he adds, describing how it deepens and enriches understanding and experience of the Mass, and enlivens personal faith in Jesus Christ.

CCO has always opened up the Summit experience to the broader community and welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to this prayer experience.

Hickey says that it is therefore a great blessing to be able to hold the next Summit at the Cathedral of the Holy Family 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, in conjunction with the week of opening events and activities.

CCO Summit

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11
Cathedral of the Holy Family

Cathedral opening includes Bishop’s Dinner

Bishop’s Dinner

6 p.m. Friday, May 11

TCU Place, Saskatoon

Tickets: \$350, Call: 659-5851

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For the past six years, the annual Bishop’s Dinner – a gala evening of elegant dining, spectacular entertainment and great company – has helped to raise funds for the highest priorities of the diocese: including

construction of the new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

So it seems fitting that the Bishop’s Dinner is also part of the Gala Opening Week schedule of events, said committee chair Jacqueline Ackerman, who organizes the lavish dinner with the help of a small army of volunteers.

This year’s theme is “*Dwelling in the Light*,” with a particular focus on the stained glass artwork of the new cathedral, designed by award-winning artist Sarah Hall. The always-stunning decor for the Bishop’s Dinner will this year reflect the designs of the windows that adorn the cathedral. Hall herself will be guest speaker for the evening.

The night starts at 6 p.m. with a champagne reception, followed by a gourmet, four-course meal with wine pairings.

Musical entertainment will include St. Joseph High School Choir, musicians Anthony Boyko and Matt Stein, as well as a string quartet, and a trio called *Spectrum*, which features flute, keyboard and bassoon. The night will conclude with a dance, with music by the band “Special Event.”

The whole evening is a chance to gather as a community and connect with friends, says Ackerman. “There’s lots of opportunity



At the Bishop’s Dinner in 2011, special guests were former Roughrider Coach Ken Miller and his wife Maureen. This year’s guest speaker is glass artist Sarah Hall.

- Photo by Jacquie Ackerman



Stained glass designed by artist Sarah Hall for the new cathedral inspired the theme for the Bishop’s Dinner: “*Dwelling in the Light*.” - Photo by Grant Kernan
Courtesy of Sarah Hall Studios

for visiting,” she stressed. “It’s really not an elite event... there are people attending from every walk of life. And it is a lot of fun!”

This year’s presenting sponsor is Prairie Meats, but there are many different levels of sponsorship available (contact Adele Dupuis at 227-5909).

Tickets to the Bishop’s Dinner are \$350, which includes a partial tax receipt. For tickets contact Chelsey Hagerty at the Catholic Foundation Office at 659-5851 or: chagerty@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Opening of Cathedral of the Holy Family

Christian churches will gather to pray together on eve of cathedral blessing

By THERESA JELINSKI

While the new cathedral was being built with its soaring cross and stunning windows, Catholics weren't the only Christians following its progress with great interest.

"Our neighbours have expressed a desire to celebrate with us, to 'rejoice with those who are rejoicing,'" says Leah Perrault, who is on the ecumenical committee planning an ecumenical service at the Cathedral of the Holy Family the day before it is formally blessed.

"Our diocese is committed to ecumenism," says Perrault, the diocese's Director of Pastoral Services. "We want this cathedral to be a place of welcome for all Christians, and this service is an intentional way to welcome Christians from other denominations around our shared mission to follow, serve and proclaim Jesus."

"Clothed with Christ": An Ecumenical Celebration of Christian Discipleship will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 12, followed by a reception and tours.

Bishop Don Bolen said that he wanted an ecumenical service to be a part of the week of celebrations for the new cathedral, to give expression to

Clothed with Christ: An Ecumenical Celebration of Christian Discipleship

7 p.m. Saturday, May 12
Cathedral of the Holy Family

our faith conviction that we are brothers and sisters in Christ despite our differences. "Gathering to pray on the eve of the dedication of the new cathedral is a way of indicating the importance of ecumenical relations as a diocese."

"The world is uniting in skepticism about the relevance of faith," says Perrault.

"We can, across Christian boundaries, proclaim together the hope that we find in Jesus and encourage each other to live our faith in a way that makes it relevant for the world around us."

She said the ecumenical service offers the opportunity to reflect on one's own relationship with Jesus "in the company of others who have also embraced this radical call to covenant and discipleship."

Mass of Blessing will be a moment of beauty and solemnity in life of diocese

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Mass of Blessing for the new Cathedral of the Holy Family will take place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 13.

The liturgy will contain special elements to enhance its beauty and solemnity, and to illustrate the diocesan unity involved in the dedication of a new diocesan home and the seat of the bishop, the shepherd of the entire Roman Catholic family in this part of the province.

A key part of the Mass of Blessing for the new Cathedral of the Holy Family is the dedication of the altar: "the principal part of the whole rite," according to documents about the dedication of a church.

A sign of Christ, the table of sacrifice and the table of the paschal banquet, the altar is anointed with Sacred Chrism during the celebration, as are the walls of the church.

Music for the celebration will be provided by the Diocesan Choir, with special guest Bob Hurd also on hand to introduce the hymn he has written for the diocese to mark this occasion: *A Listening Heart*.

Other special guests at the

Mass of Blessing 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 13 Cathedral of the Holy Family

celebration will include former Saskatoon bishops Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface, and

Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, as well as other bishops from Saskatchewan.

Free tickets for the Mass of Blessing are available on a first-come, first-served basis online at: www.picatic.com/ticket/cathedral or if assistance is required, contact Rhea at (306) 229-0321.



Book discussion

Artist Sarah Hall and Bishop Donald Bolen discuss themes behind the stained glass artwork in the new Cathedral of the Holy Family as part of preparatory work for a book about the stained glass. *Transfiguring Prairie Skies: Stained Glass at Cathedral of the Holy Family* will be available for sale during Gala Opening Week celebrations.



Librarian Norlayne Scott-Gaare stands in the large, bright Diocesan Resource Library, one of the much-improved features of the new Catholic Pastoral Centre, located on the second floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Diocesan Resource Library offers wide variety of faith enrichment materials

By NORLAYNE SCOTT-GAARE

The diocese of Saskatoon Resource Library is primarily a pastoral library helping individuals to develop their Christian faith and fulfill their baptismal call.

The library has an extensive collection of teaching/learning materials that include: books, periodicals, videos, DVDs and audio cassettes.

Library patrons include: teachers and catechists; Christian initiation teams, youth ministers and other group leaders in parishes; priests, Parish Life Directors and pastoral associates; ministry co-ordinators and staff at the Catholic Pastoral Centre; university students doing research for classes or preparing kits for religious education; children learning about religion; parents; youth ministers; bible study groups; and parishioners, both for work with parish groups or for their individual spirituality.

The library also has specific sections on scripture studies, as

well as other popular subject areas such as homiletics, ecumenism, musical resources (cassettes, CDs, hymn and song books), and more.

The library is here to serve the diocesan faith community, and welcomes suggestions for additions to the collection, and for programming ideas. Events such as children's storytimes are planned for the future, and will be advertised as they are set up. There are also volunteer opportunities available at the Resource Library.

Come by and see the library at its beautiful new home at 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Hours are Monday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reach the library by phone at: 306-659-5853; toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Ext. 853, or: library@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

The library's catalogue is also online. To search for items go to: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com and click on the "Resource Library" link.

Building the Church; Keeping the Faith

With the opening of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family, the people of God of the diocese of Saskatoon are also reminded of the many parish churches where the faithful gather for Word and Eucharist and are sent forth to bring the Good News to the world and give witness to the gospel.

As part of that reflection, a new book entitled *Building the Church; Keeping the Faith* by Margaret Sanche and Daniel Classen will provide information, history and photos of the parish churches and cathedrals of the diocese of Saskatoon.

Watch for information in the coming weeks, including how to order a copy



Liturgical Art

One feature of the new diocesan Cathedral of the Holy Family is a large Liturgical Art Workshop, where Art and Environment coordinator Rosa Gebhardt (above, right) and her team have room to create liturgical art and environment pieces and displays, including two large wall art features at the entrance of the building. Kindergarten student Carmina Haskil (at left) poses next to one of the entrance displays, featuring a Lenten path through green and purple hills, leading to a bright Easter sun.

Artwork donated to cathedral

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon recently accepted a donation of six large paintings from artist Gisele Bauche.

The colourful canvases, which explore scriptural and spiritual themes, are among the first works of art to be placed in the worship space, parish offices and diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre since the December move to the new building.

"It's a beautiful and fitting thing that Gisele's paintings are the first to decorate our magnificent new home," said Bishop Don Bolen, recalling Bauche's close ties to the diocese, including her years serving as diocesan director of pastoral services.

The bishop expressed his appreciation to the artist at a recent

gathering at the new cathedral to mark the arrival of the artwork. "Every time we see your paintings we will have that gratitude renewed within us."

Bauche said she is grateful to be able to share her work with a "beautiful church and a beautiful cathedral," stressing that "it is a gift to be able to create, to be creative, and especially to do so for the Glory of God."

Her brightly-coloured painting of the prophet Miriam, dancing after God liberates the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, now adorns the wall in the parish reception area. It is an image that "reflects our desire to be a joyful community," said cathedral rector Fr. David Tumback.

A canvas depicting Jesus and the disciples in a boat pulling in a net

filled with fish, illustrating the "Put out into the deep" scripture from the gospel of Luke, is hanging in the rector's office.

Upstairs in the welcoming area of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, Bauche's painting "The Eucharist" is now on display, depicting the Lord sharing the Last Supper with the disciples.

In the cathedral's reconciliation room is Bauche's painting of a figure travelling upon a road, under a sky swirling with colour. Another work entitled "Go Make Disciples," is presently on display in the hallway outside the cathedral's Queen of Peace day chapel.

Bauche's intimate and glowing depiction of the Madonna and Child is now at home in the Queen of Peace chapel, where daily Mass and other smaller celebrations are held.



Rev. David Tumback, rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Family; Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen and artist Gisele Bauche (left to right) stand with one of the six paintings donated to the new Saskatoon cathedral. The image of Madonna and Child has been placed in the Queen of Peace day chapel.

STM College to launch \$6 million campaign to expand facilities and establish Chair of Catholic Studies

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon will launch a \$6 million campaign later this spring, in order to raise funds needed to expand college facilities and to establish an Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies.

Plans to renovate and expand the federated Catholic college on the University of Saskatchewan campus will provide more classrooms, study space, research space and common areas, as well as more space for community-focused programs and events.

"We are bursting at the seams right now," said Dr. Terry Downey, the new president of STM, describing how the expansion will enhance the learning environment for students taking humanities and social sciences courses at the Catholic college. As well, the new facilities will include the latest in classroom technology and IT requirements, he noted.

"It is all about our students, and providing for them the very best possible learning environment."

A long-standing dream of establishing an Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at the university is also part of the "Creating More" campaign. The goal is to raise enough money to ensure the chair is permanently established, independent, and protected from financial pressure.

"This is fundamental to the mission of a Catholic institution: to ensure that our Catholic college is a source of the highest level of Catholic scholarship – not only for our students, but for the community at large."



An artist's depiction of the expansion planned for St. Thomas More College on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

Goals for the Chair in Catholic Studies include:

- fostering a vigorous dialogue between faith and reason;
- promoting a scholarly understanding of Catholic tradition and teaching among the laity, both on campus and in the broader Catholic community;
- providing high-quality programs for STM students, as well as for others seeking formation and scholarship, such as teachers in the Catholic school system or Catholic hospital administrators;
- encouraging ecumenism and appreciation of the world's great faith traditions.

"This is something that is very important – absolutely vital – to the future of this Catholic institution," said Downey. "It's also very exciting."

Details about the "Creating More" campaign will be released in the weeks ahead. For more information contact STM Development Officer Dianne Anton at (306) 966-8918.



Students and mentors preparing for an Intercordia experience in May-June 2012 gathered recently at St. Thomas More College.

STM Intercordia program provides hands-on experience of solidarity

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Eleven University of Saskatchewan students are preparing academically and personally for an experience of solidarity, living with host families while they volunteer in communities in the Global South.

Five will travel to Honduras and six to Ecuador for the grassroots experience of community life and another culture this May and June.

The opportunity is part of the Intercordia program offered through the Engaged Learning initiative at St. Thomas More College, the federated Catholic liberal arts college at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

As part of their preparation, all of the participants are taking Sociology 260 *Social Change and Global Solidarity* from Professor Darrell McLaughlin, explains STM Engaged Learning Coordinator Caitlin Ward. They are also participating in extra-curricular Intercordia seminars at STM, as a preparation for the upcoming experience.

Intercordia was started by L'Arche founder Jean Vanier and Gilles Le Cardinale in France in 2000, "to encourage moral responsiveness, develop respect for diversity and a valuing of other cultures, religions and socio-economic backgrounds that will enable Canadian students to attain a well-educated solidarity with others who are different."

This year, two mentors will also travel to the host countries as a support and resource for participants from the Saskatoon campus. Mentor Teryn Rostek was involved in Intercordia last year, while Philomena Ojukwu travelled to Ecuador in 2010.

Rostek and Ojukwu are assisting

in preparing the students, sharing insights from their own experience with the Intercordia program and the challenges involved in being immersed in a new environment, culture and language, in sometimes challenging conditions.

The mentors are presently answering a lot of practical questions, and will be on hand – one in Honduras and one in Ecuador – while the students are there, to be a resource and a support if needed. "My whole understanding of the mentor position is that there would be some emotional support available," Ojukwu said, noting that the experience can involve stress and culture shock.

The Intercordia program is the start of a life journey, she said, with participants absorbing its impact over time, seeing experiences in new ways as time passes. "It is a life journey, just because of the way the program is structured, and because there is such an emphasis on self awareness and reflection," she said. Participants are taught to keep a journal, recording what they are feeling, noting what is going on – and this written record becomes something that they can return to, and analyze later on.

This year, the Intercordia stay will be eight weeks, Ward noted. Shortening the time frame from an original model of 12 weeks meant that more students could manage the finances involved in the program, and would still be able to return home to work in July and August. Last year, the program was only six weeks in length, which proved to be a bit too short, she noted.

For more about this story, see the diocesan news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Thinkfast at cathedral

Some 40 high school students participated in a 25-hour fast from food while learning more about the work of Development and Peace, and issues facing small farmers in the Global South. The Thinkfast event was held March 22-23 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family organized by Holy Family youth leader Jane Korvemaker and St. Joseph high school chaplain Jason Cody.

Restorative Ministry

Volunteers make a difference through ministry at prisons

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Volunteers assisting with prison outreach in Saskatoon were recognized at a November appreciation event for their ministry, and the difference they are making in the world.

“You are helping to change people’s lives, bringing healing to people’s lives and changing the Church,” said Peter Oliver, chaplain at Saskatoon Correctional Centre and the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC) during an appreciation luncheon at Queen’s House Nov. 26 in Saskatoon.

Oliver acknowledged the impact that Restorative Ministry volunteers are making, in the lives of prisoners, and in creating safer communities by bringing about healing and reconciliation. Volunteers are also helping parish communities deepen their understanding about the importance of Restorative Ministry, he said.

“We need to continue to get the word out to our parishes, to bring people into connection with what is happening at the Correctional and in our society,” he said, noting how some 75 per cent of those in prison are Aboriginal – something which has not always been the case.

“We have within our Christian tradition the commitment to justice, and what is occurring in our community is not just,” he said. “Somehow as a community and within our Church we need to say this is not okay.”



Restorative Ministry volunteers in the diocese of Saskatoon were recognized for making a difference in the lives of prisoners and bringing healing to the community.

Oliver suggested a first step would be to gather people together to talk about the issues, ask questions, and raise awareness. “What is it that we are doing? And what do we need to do differently?”

Gathered in a circle at the appreciation event, volunteers described their various ministries at the prisons, and shared what the experience has meant in their own lives.

Helping with liturgy, visiting with prisoners, leading the rosary, and finding concrete ways for women at the RPC to stay connected with their loved ones were among the volunteer activities described by participants.

“The first time I was there, I was really impressed with the way the men were all so attentive,” said one volunteer who helps to lead prayer at the Correctional Centre.

“I find it rewarding and encouraging,” another said of the ministry he has helped with for some 13 years.

“I learn so much from the men,” another said of volunteer time at the prison. “I am not too confident that I’m giving them anything, but I know I am receiving a lot. It is extremely meaningful.”

“Of all the volunteering I have ever done in my life, I think this is one of the last ones I’d ever give up,” said a volunteer who works

closely with Dianne Anderson, coordinator of Restorative Ministry in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Many also spoke of Anderson’s support as coordinator of the ministry in the diocese, and of the love and dedication she brings to her ministry to those in prison. “The men respect her without resistance. She is like a mother to all the men,” described one volunteer.

“God has put his Spirit upon her,” added another, recognizing Anderson for her commitment to the men and for her authenticity. “She is the most open and honest person I know.”

Another volunteer said: “Dianne is an incredible, loving example of living what she deeply believes.”

A former prisoner who now volunteers with Anderson, described the impact of her “sharing and caring and always a shoulder to cry on... She cares about all the inmates.”

To conclude the celebration, Anderson presented tokens of appreciation to volunteers.

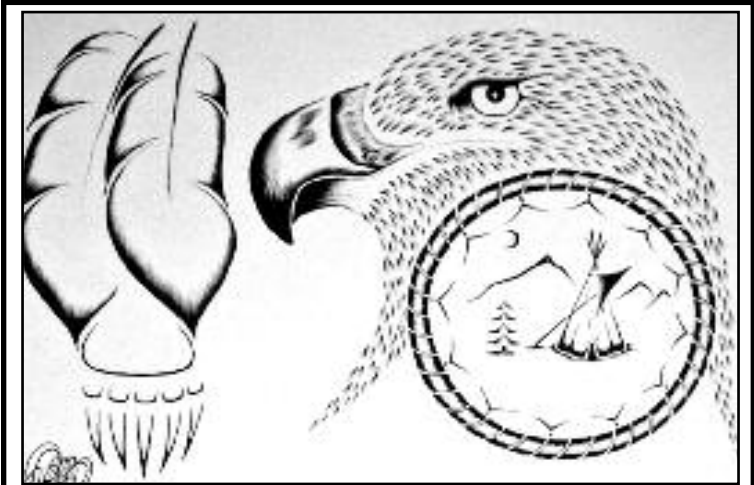
Some of the volunteers were also recognized for their outstanding commitment with the presentation of an eagle feather. Volunteer Mike Maurice of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish explained the importance of the symbol in First Nations’ tradition as a powerful sign of closeness to the Creator.

Mother Teresa Catholic school students donate rosaries to Restorative Ministry

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Rosaries created by Grade 7 and 8 students from Mother Teresa

Catholic school in Saskatoon will be distributed to men imprisoned in the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.



Inmate art show

An image created by artist James Phillips was among the artwork created by 13 inmates at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre recently featured in an art show at the SCYAP art gallery in downtown Saskatoon. Art on display took inspiration from nature, First Nations culture, life experiences and faith. Some of the participating artists are also working on creating an anti-gang book for children, through the organization STR8-Up.

Mother Teresa students recently presented the rosaries that they made during a school-wide retreat to Dianne Anderson, coordinator of the diocesan office of Restorative Ministry.

During visits to Grade 7 and 8 classrooms, Anderson spoke about the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, which houses about 450 inmates at its northwest Saskatoon location, though it was only built to hold 250.

She explained her ministry in the prison, and described how the rosaries that are donated to her office make a difference in the lives of inmates who are turning to prayer, and trying to find ways to heal.

A weekly group, where prisoners pray the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet together with volunteers, is one occasion where the rosaries will be used, she related, noting that the prayers the men say are almost always for other people – their families, their communities, even the guards.

Restorative Ministry – supported by the BAA



Student Josh Penner presents rosaries to Dianne Anderson.

The men also ask for rosaries to carry with them – and those that are made by children have particular meaning, she added.

“Lots of them have children of their own, and it means a lot to them that one of you made a rosary for them to use in prayer,” she told the attentive students. A priest blesses the rosaries for the men, and they know they are blessed, which also means a lot to them, she added.

Anderson explained some of the other outreach and activities that she and volunteers coordinate at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, which include celebrations of the Eucharist and liturgies, talking circles, and special events for Lent and Holy Week, as well as Christmas.

There is a great need for more Catholic volunteers to help in this ministry, she said, noting that many of the prisoners are baptized Catholics who need and want connections to their faith.

“God has changed lives. It is so important to walk with the men,” Anderson said.

She told students how she uses the image of the medicine wheel to talk about healing and the need to balance the physical, the emotional,

the intellectual and the spiritual in their lives. “I always start with the spiritual: it is so needed.”

Grade 8 teacher Leah Kouwenhoven said that the rosaries were made by the students in the context of a powerful and prayerful *Awakening* retreat day at the school led by Jon Courchene and Masson Normand of FacetoFace Ministries.

The retreat involved the whole school, with different grades taking on various activities at different times, she said, describing how the Grade 8 students mentor the Grade 7 class, teaching them how to make the rosaries.

“The Grade 8 students pass it down to the next leaders of the school, then they will do the same,” Kouwenhoven said, explaining the long-standing “legacy” of making the rosaries together.

This was the first time the rosaries were created to be given to prison ministry, she said.

Asked about the experience of creating the rosaries and donating them to men at the prison, one Grade 8 student said he was happy to do something that can help make a difference. “I hope this brings them closer to God,” said Josh Penner.

Will the Church be there for men and women in prison? How do we stand in solidarity with them?

A REFLECTION BY PETER OLIVER
PRISON CHAPLAIN

Thousands of people go through our prisons in Saskatchewan each year and many of them are Catholics.

My eldest son started high school this year. What a change from the safe little elementary school he attended. He has come to know students who are frequent drug users, others who are struggling with serious mental illnesses and individuals who are threatening suicide. He is being faced with choices and influences that can lead to prison. We talk about the people he meets and the decisions they make. I admire his good sense and see him making good choices but it is clear to me that he is encountering the pitfalls that send many young men and women to prison.

As I think of the young men and women who are in prison, I am reminded of the virtue of solidarity that was cherished by Pope John Paul II. If we are wealthy, it is unlikely that our children will experience prison, but as Catholics we are called to see the world through the eyes of the poor. Parents who are poor often can’t shelter their children from the drugs, gangs and violence that lead to prison. So we can ask, when this happens to our brothers and sisters, will the Church be there?

We need leadership in our parishes in this area of ministry. A small committee of just two or three people can make a great difference. Working with the diocesan coordinator of Restorative Ministry, Dianne Anderson, can be very

rewarding and it can open the parish to opportunities to live in solidarity with families who experience prison. Many volunteers say that ministry in prison deepens their faith and brings them a great deal of joy. To learn more, contact Dianne Anderson at the Catholic Centre: 659-5845.

Does visiting prisoners make a difference? In a recent article Paul McEnroe talks about a study of 16,400 prisoners. The study clearly indicates that there is a co-relation between visiting prisoners and reducing recidivism. But in Paul’s words: “It matters who shows up. Visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers and clergy were most likely to cut recidivism. Visits by mentors and clergy cut the risk of re-conviction by more than 25 percent.”

Outreach and Pastoral Care

CWL Clothing Depot blessed after renovation

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Providing affordable clothing and housewares in the heart of Saskatoon, the CWL Clothing Depot is one way that members of the Catholic Women's League have for many years lived out their current motto "*Centred on Faith and Justice*," according to diocesan CWL president Susan Melchiorre.

Melchiorre was one of the speakers at a celebration Jan. 10 to mark the re-opening of the non-profit store located on the lower level of the Saskatoon Friendship Inn building on 20th Street West in Saskatoon. The Clothing Depot was closed for some four months while the premises were renovated in conjunction with a recent Friendship Inn expansion.

"The surroundings are clean and bright and inviting, and best of all, we no longer have an upside down umbrella over the desk to catch the water!" said a smiling Melchiorre, expressing appreciation to all those involved in the renovation, the movement and storage of inventory, and the re-opening of the facility.

"Since the humble beginnings of the depot some 26 years ago, the ladies of the CWL in the entire Saskatoon diocese, along with many volunteers, have kept this viable enterprise going, supporting the need of people for clothing and miscellaneous items," explained Melchiorre during the afternoon program, which included the blessing of the building by Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen.



Past Clothing Depot chair Diane Hergott, present chair Cheryl Carlson, diocesan CWL president Susan Melchiorre, Bishop Donald Bolen and diocesan spiritual coordinator Claire Heron (l-r).

All items for sale at the CWL Clothing Depot are donated, and many volunteers assist with the project, supported by two paid staff members. "We've always tried to keep our items very cheaply priced and never turn away anyone for lack of funds," she described. "As well, dozens of boxes of clothing are regularly shipped to communities in Canada, particularly in the north."

Funds raised by the not-for-profit organization are never used for the benefit of the Catholic Women's League, but rather are channeled back into the community, she stressed. "Over our history, besides donations in kind, [the depot] has returned approximately \$300,000 to various charities and causes."

Melchiorre presented a certificate of merit to board chair Cheryl Carlson, recognizing the contributions of the CWL Clothing Depot.

Past chair Diane Hergott spoke about the recent renovation, expressing appreciation for the collaborative spirit between the Clothing Depot and the Friendship Inn, and all those involved in the construction project.

As owner of the building, the diocese provided the facility rent-free for many years, Hergott noted. Prior to the renovation, the diocese donated the building to the Friendship Inn.

"In the contract, it was stated that the Clothing Depot would have free rent for as long as we wanted it, for as long as Friendship Inn existed: we're so grateful for that," Hergott said, noting the diocese's commitment to the poor.

"What you are doing here is the work of the gospel," said the bishop, before blessing the Clothing Depot building.

"It is unambiguously serving those who are in need, and putting

to good use what we have. In a world which often becomes very commercialized... this place is a beacon of light."

Accompanied by the singing of *Holy God We Praise Thy Name* by CWL members, guests, volunteers, staff and customers, Bolen walked through the building, blessing the walls, floors and shelves. Tours and refreshments concluded the celebration.

Reflecting on years of volunteering at the depot, CWL member Marlene Reindl of St. Paul's Cathedral parish said it is the fun and companionship that keeps volunteers returning.

"There's just a good feeling, and that includes the people who come to purchase something," she said.

A long-time customer also described fond memories of shopping at the Clothing Depot, and expressed appreciation for the service it provides. "This place means a lot to me," she said.



Friendship Inn expansion

Volunteers, clients, board members and corporate representatives joined Mayor Don Atchison Dec. 6 to officially open the expanded Friendship Inn facility. Friendship Inn serves breakfast and lunch to some 500 people a day (about 40 per cent of them children), 365 days a year in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood. The facility also provides a range of other outreach services, including access to a family worker, free haircuts, a give-away table, job search assistance and a library.

Prayer Shawl Ministry members create tangible signs of love

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Creating warm and colourful knitted goods in a spirit of prayer and fellowship is a ministry for a dedicated group of women at St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon.

The prayer shawls, slippers, mittens and toques made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry group, which meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Catholic parish at Avenue 0 and 20th Street, are distributed widely, said Iris Riley, coordinator of Ministry of Care at St. Mary's.

The prayer shawls have been presented to the sick and dying; to those who are grieving; to care home residents and graduating students; while the warm clothing has gone to those in prison as well as to school children and others in the neighbourhood.

"These are tangible symbols of love when words can't adequately express our feelings," said Riley at an appreciation luncheon Dec. 13.

The soft knitted prayer shawls created by the group of 13 women are perfectly sized to wrap around the shoulders of someone who is ill, bedridden or in distress. In the corner of each shawl, a crocheted cross is sewn: a symbol of the prayer that has accompanied its creation.

Riley described the impact that receiving a prayer shawl can have, recalling times when she has seen the item in use at hospitals or care homes, clung to and carried – she reported even seeing the prayer shawl wrapped around someone in their casket at a funeral, demonstrating its impact. "They are very, very much appreciated by all," she said.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry started under the leadership of a previous coordinator, Irene Sikorski, Riley noted.

This year, some 110 shawls have been

given away. "That's a lot of prayer shawls, a lot of creative work."

Gathering to create the shawls and other items is also a blessing for members of the group who share fellowship and prayer as they create the items for donation, Riley added. "They are created with prayer and with love. It is really and truly a wonderful ministry."

Before Christmas, members of the ecumenical group also created 78 pairs of mittens, 71 touques, and 32 pairs of slippers, in addition to collecting some 75 other items on a parish "mitten tree" set up in St. Mary's sanctuary during the Advent season, said life-long parishioner Berniece Keindel, a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry group.

This year the parish group also collected 31 rosaries for the prison outreach led by diocesan coordinator of Restorative Ministry Dianne Anderson. Anderson was a special guest at the appreciation luncheon, receiving the group's donations for men at the prison.

Riley also thanked Anderson for her work at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, and presented her with a prayer shawl as a sign of the group's prayers for her and for her ministry. "We thank you for the valuable work that you do," Riley said to Anderson. "We pray that God's spirit of love and hope will embrace you... We pray that God's grace will be upon your shoulders."

Another special guest at the celebration was Fr. Jon Hansen, pastor of St. Mary's parish, who blessed a large collection of items to be distributed, acknowledging the "amount of work, the amount of prayer, the amount of love" that goes into every stitch, and prayed each item would be a sign of God's healing spirit in our world.



Pastor Fr. Jon Hansen blessed the group's handiwork at a luncheon in December.



Hospital volunteers

Those assisting with Catholic hospital chaplaincy at Royal University Hospital and Saskatoon City Hospital gathered for an appreciation luncheon with Bishop Donald Bolen and diocesan coordinator of chaplaincy, Céline Hudon in December. Parish volunteers, chaplains and priests assisting with providing pastoral care at the hospital are a profound sign of God's love to those who are sick and suffering, said the bishop, thanking all for their dedication to the ministry. To apply as a hospital volunteer contact Céline Hudon at 292-5531.

Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy – supported by the BAA

BRAZILIAN BULLETIN

Diocese of SASKATOON

sharing
partilha

Archdiocese of MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

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

“Thalita” program for girls evolves over years

By Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU

Preoccupied with the increasing number of street children, the Catholic Conference of Religious (CRB) of Maceió decided to take action in May 1994. After much research, discussion, prayer and planning, it was clear that various entities were working with street boys, but nothing existed for street girls. It was also evident that no one religious congregation could cope with the problem.

Therefore, an inter-congregational project was formed, taking its inspiration and name from the Gospel of Mark 5, 41, and Jesus' words: “Little girl (Thalita), arise!”

As we live in an age of change, over the years the project has passed through many moves and adaptations in its juridical and staffing aspects, on order to fulfill our inspiration.

The project always had three different poles of action: ongoing contact with the girls on the street,



Sr. Carmen Lúcia dos Santos, IRSV, and Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, (standing, l-r) and a group of young girls interested in taking part in the *Thalita* programs.

a support house or centre which in time became a residence for girls desiring to leave the street life, and assistance to the girls with their reintegration with family and society.

After having experienced

various locations in rented or temporary donated spaces, in 2000, with a donation from Alphonse Gerwing and a Canadian NGO (non-government organization), Rainbow of Hope, a permanent house was purchased.

What began as a program based on the volunteer labour of the sisters and laity, with experience, expansion and changing realities, in time came to require seven paid employees – a director; four monitors who, in shifts, lived with

and provided 24-hour guidance and care; a social worker; and a driver.

As the years passed, it became increasingly complicated to provide funds. (It is always easier to obtain funds for activities than for paying personnel).

Besides this, with increased societal awareness of the rights of children, the Brazilian government recently chose to phase out the residential aspect of *Thalita*, forcing our group to re-adjust our methods so that we can continue to touch the street girl with an invitation to “Arise!”

Though no longer a live-in residence, *Thalita* continues as a centre for day activities: educational, cultural, developmental and professional.

The house is in urgent need of electrical repair and some structural adaptations; aid for this would be a good project for any group or parish in the diocese of Saskatoon wanting to participate in Third World outreach.

Visiting Ursuline sisters witness contradictions of Brazil: a modern economy booming alongside devastating poverty

Sr. MAUREEN MAIER, OSU

URSULINES OF BRUNO, SASKATOON

During the 25 days Sr. Miriam Spenrath and I spent in Brazil in February, we experienced once again the diversity of this vast country. To fly into São Paulo, one of the largest cities of the world, and see the city sprawling in every direction, much farther than the eye can see, is itself a numbing experience for someone from Saskatchewan.

Near São Paulo, we spent several days at the Farm of Hope where Sr. Ana Lucia works as a psychologist.

This phenomenally successful addictions recovery program originated at that spot, but has now spread to many countries of the world. We enjoyed a supper in the small restaurant operated by the Farm, located at the very street corner where, in 1983, the first drug addict was inspired to change his life because of the concern shown to him by one of the Farm of Hope founders.

As anywhere, the real wealth of a country is in its people, and the richness of this first experience prepared us well for what was to follow when we left for our diocesan mission area in the northeast. There, in Maceió and in Santa Rita, we spent our time almost entirely with our Ursuline sisters and their many friends.

The occasion of Sr. Quitéria da Silva's celebration of temporary vows as a religious sister was truly a high point in our visit. The presence of her mother and others of her family on this special occasion helped to form new bonds between our differing cultures.



Ursulines of Bruno (l-r): Sisters Quitéria da Silva, Francisca da Silva, Claire Novocosky, Roseane da Silva and Louise Hinz (l-r).

I found it energizing to be with this mostly youthful Brazilian religious community at prayer, for meals and through many fun-filled sessions. There were serious moments too as we struggled through numerous discussions related to the future of this small Ursuline group. Their dedication to the people of the small communities that make up their large parish remains exemplary, no matter how many times I experience it.

Experiencing this region of Brazil in several visits over four decades leaves me with a wide range of observations and reflections. Everywhere one can see that

Brazil is to be reckoned as a successful modern economy. Many of the dirt roads of only a few decades ago have been replaced by a four-lane highway — a highway already overcrowded, particularly on weekends when thousands of vehicles travel between the city and the incomparable sandy ocean beaches. Now, the once ubiquitous donkey carts are few and far between.

Building this modern highway with its several bridges meant a forced relocation of some of the poor who, as squatters, had set up their flimsy homes under the bridge. But this occurred on one side of the highway only.

The other side is still lined with rows of miserable shacks providing shelter to the most destitute. It is to very poor families like these that the sisters offer what help they can. The food they are able to give often includes varieties of fruit produced in their own garden, but additionally, donations from Canada enable them to provide other basic necessities.

School supplies for the children are considered among those necessities. Clearly it is education that can lead to major changes needed throughout the system, and while the schools for the poor still do not get the best teachers, at least the children do have opportunities for learning.

And many of the women in their poor homes still carry on a small cottage industry which earns them only a pittance, with most profit going to higher levels in the marketing chain.

Visitors to this beautiful and richly endowed nation would obviously use different standards in viewing Brazil as truly progressive.

The enviable beaches were once clean and available to anyone who lived nearby. Now they are polluted by endless garbage left in the wake of the tourist industry. They are also now lined with dozens and dozens of large hotels and high-rise apartment dwellings.

It is left to each visitor to see or not see that, even though there are signs of development everywhere, there is an accompanying lack of progress that cannot be entirely hidden.

Brazil Bulletin

Saskatchewan priest finds hope in flood recovery efforts

By FR. EMILE APRIL
ST. AUGUSTINE, HUMBOLDT

In January, as I revisited the city of União dos Palmares in Brazil, I was brought back to the situation of a year and a half ago, when I visited this same area on behalf of our diocese, after the flood of June 18, 2010.

In my years as a missionary in Brazil, I had seen many floods, but never one this devastating. The houses on three streets along the river Mundau had been completely flattened and all the residents had been removed to makeshift lodgings. Some were living in the homes of relatives, others in school classrooms and still others in tents.

During that visit, after experiencing the initial shock of seeing the flood's ravages, I was introduced to a project which had been proposed by the archbishop of Maceió, Dom Antonio Muniz. This project, called *Bem Vindo Bebê*, would help a large number of women who were pregnant at the time of the flood and who had lost everything, including their houses.

To carry out the project, Dom Antonio asked if the diocese of Saskatoon could help in some way. The plan was to bring these women from outlying areas into Maceió once per week and assist

them throughout their pregnancy with the services of volunteer paediatricians, psychologists, nutritionists and babysitters to care for the children who accompanied them.

The diocese of Saskatoon decided to support the project financially by funding the transportation costs of bringing the women to Maceió in the coming months. Now, on my recent return visit to the region in January 2012, I looked forward to seeing the outcome of our help and also finding out about the new situation of the flood victims.

I found that all the families who were temporarily lodged in schools and tents after the flood are being moved into new but very small houses. As a matter of fact, thousands of houses are being built by the federal government. Some of the houses are finished and already have people living in them, while hundreds of others are still in the building process.

I couldn't believe my eyes at the number of new houses, all in neat rows. And the neighbouring cities are all in the same building process. In a way, I was overjoyed at the thought of so many poor people having a house of their own in a dry, safe place. On the other hand, the huge number of new houses struck me as such an



A grateful mother and her children who were helped by the *Bem Vindo Bebê* project.

artificial way for these cities to grow.

During my visit, I had an opportunity to meet with Archbishop Antonio, who was grateful for the help provided by the diocese of Saskatoon. He said the project had gone very well and hundreds of women and their families had received this unexpected support, which to some was no less than a miracle.

Some days later, I met one of the women in União dos Palmares who had received support from the project. She told me how she had been completely distraught by the situation created by the floods.

In her despair, she had taken some "home medicine" to try to

abort her baby, but it didn't work. Then she was introduced to the *Bem Vindo Bebê* project and decided to participate.

"That was my salvation," she said. "The people were so welcoming and the psychologist put everything in such a positive perspective that I was able to take hold of my life again. Now I am very glad and grateful to have my baby."

This one half-hour visit made my trip to Brazil worthwhile. Many people of the diocese of Saskatoon have contributed over the years to the Brazil Mission, but it is not often that we hear such a wonderful story resulting from our people's kindness and generosity.

This was a gratifying example of mutual support by two sister dioceses.

My trip to Brazil this time was all about visiting old friends. While there, I was asked to celebrate the wedding anniversary of a wonderful couple. The husband has now lost both legs as a result of his diabetes and several other health problems. Rather than being depressed, however, he is just grateful for the wonderful life that God has given him.

Sometimes we feel sorry for the Brazilians in our mission area because they are poor in so many ways, but we also discover that God has given them many gifts from which we can learn much.

Parish rejoices at arrival of Carmelite priests

By Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU

For eight long months we passed a desert time for lack of a pastor for our parish of ten communities. Then came the good news. Not only would we have a pastor, but a team of three Carmelite fathers would assume the care of this huge and diverse parish.

As of February 2012, two of the three members of the order, Frei Marcos Hideo Maatsubara, OCD, and Frei Everaldo Pontes, OCD, have come, seen, and been enchanted by the welcoming people of these communities. The third member of the pastoral team will be arriving in a few months.

Sharing a pizza one evening in our home, I asked Frei Everaldo what their impressions were of our northeast region of Brazil, since they have come from the far south where life is quite different from ours. He told us that it has been a long-time dream for the Carmelites to found a community in the suffering northeast. The time was right and the need was pressing. The invitation to come to the state of Alagoas, to the archdiocese of Maceió and the parish of St. Peter the Fisherman, was graciously accepted by the Carmelites.

One of their first impressions was the welcoming and open hearts of the people; their thirst for a good shepherd who would lead them to "living waters." The two padres, known as "Frei," which they explained means "brother," want to journey together with the people like a brother. "We want to be among them in health and in sickness, like in a good marriage," they said, laughing.

They are being prudent, gradually getting to



Two Carmelite priests have arrived to serve the parish of St. Peter the Fisherman in the archdiocese of Maceió: Frei Everaldo Pontes, OCD, and Frei Marcos Hideo Maatsubara, OCD.

know the reality, the problems, the challenges and then, after the Holy Week celebrations, they will begin more organized pastoral work in each of the communities, giving emphasis to the task of clarifying and fortifying the sacramental and liturgical life of the parish.

"God has given us a great gift. Knowing the reality of this parish, God has provided us with the opportunity for the dream of the Carmelites of so many years ago to finally be realized," said Frei Everaldo.



The 2011-2012 BMAC poster offers food for thought.

Brazil Mission Awareness poster contrasts two cups

This year's Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC) poster reminds the people of God of the diocese of Saskatoon that we are called to journey with our missionaries, and with them, be willing to "drink from the cup" of suffering, solidarity, mercy and compassion in bringing the gospel to the people of our diocesan mission area in northeastern Brazil.

In the poster, the gospel cup is contrasted with another cup — the World Cup of Soccer, which will receive a lot of attention in Brazil and in the world in the next while. What does the word "cup" mean to us? In the world of sport and national prestige, it means one thing; in the way of the gospel, it means something else. Food for thought.

The present BMAC members are: Margaret Sanche (chair), Fr. Emile April, Louise Bitz, Sr. Marie Gorsalitz, OSU, Shawn Lewandoski, Marcie Lukan, Sr. Leona Meier, SMS, Fr. Les Paquin and Dale Scott. More information about the Brazil Mission and BMAC can be found on the diocese of Saskatoon website www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com under "Programs."

Pilgrimage to biblical lands planned for November 2012 by Ministry to Tourism



Pilgrims Sally Woytowich, Steve Rambally and Heinrich Feldkamp stop to pray as they walk the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem.
- Photo by Ivan Hitchings

Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism, has announced his 21st Pilgrim Journey to Biblical Lands for Nov. 5-23, 2012, as a way to highlight the upcoming “Year of Faith.”

Fr. Kleiter indicated that the program will be similar to the successful October 2011 Pilgrim Journey. However, this time pilgrims will use only around four hotels as a base during the three weeks, he said.

For example, the group will stay four nights at the Dead Sea area and from there visit such places in Jordan as Mt. Nebo (where Moses looked upon the Promised Land), Jesus’ baptismal site, Petra and so on. After the usual stay in Galilee and Jerusalem, the group will move to the southern Red Sea area of Israel

and Egypt in order to visit Mt. Sinai and St. Catherine’s Monastery.

“I believe that the itinerary and its support is vital to the success of a Pilgrim Journey,” Kleiter said.

“Too often people purchase short ‘off the rack’ tours that are primarily economy-driven but really only offer an abbreviated and exhausting experience of these rich biblical lands. Most people have only one opportunity to go, and should therefore do it very well. The Ministry to Tourism Pilgrim Journey in 2012 will be quite comprehensive and almost all-inclusive.”

As with last year’s journey to the Holy Land (which featured facilitators Deb Rolfes and Kathy Hitchings), this year’s trip will also have a guest facilitator: Sr. Anna

Aulie, formerly of Saskatoon will enhance, guide and help manage the experience.

Participants will have the option to conclude their pilgrimage with a visit to Portugal, including Fatima en route to returning home. Kleiter will then be serving on board the *MS. Crystal Serenity* for cruises to the Canary Islands, West Africa and Spain. Those wanting to spend Christmas/New Years in the Caribbean may join him and there will be special incentives for making this holiday cruise inclusive for family members of all ages.

For more information, contact Lois McKay at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (306) 659-5837 or e-mail Kleiter at: kleiter@shaw.ca

Saskatoon participants head to Ireland in June

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Dublin, Ireland, June 10-17, 2012, exploring the theme “*The Eucharist – Communion with Christ and With One Another*.” The Saskatoon diocesan delegation will be led by Bishop Don Bolen along with Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism.

The general theme of the Congress will be explored each day with a special focus on a particular

aspect. Each day will offer “teaching” moments (catechesis) usually presented by a bishop. Words of encouragement and inspiration from a lay-person with a story of faith will follow. Wonderful celebrations of the Eucharist will also highlight each day’s theme and its challenges. Ample opportunities for encountering the universal Church and experiencing cultural events have been worked into the week by the Irish hosts.

After the Congress Week most of the 12-member Saskatoon delegation will continue to discover the “Emerald Isle.” It is hoped that there will also be opportunities during the Congress Week for independent travelers to Dublin from the diocese to meet with the Saskatoon delegation.

Pro-life event meets with opposition

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

“Well, we know we struck a nerve,” responded *40 Hours for Life* organizer Denise Hounjet-Roth of Campaign Life Coalition, when asked about pro-abortion protesters who made their presence felt at this year’s Lenten pro-life prayer vigil.

The *40 Hours for Life* event is held in front of Saskatoon City Hospital for 40 days of Lent for an hour each afternoon from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. The goal is to bring together members of the body of Christ in prayer and fasting, to offer a public witness in a spirit of love and repentance, said Hounjet-Roth.

“We are seeking God’s favour to turn the hearts and minds of our government leaders and all Canadians so that there will be an end to abortion in our country,” she explained. Having pro-abortion protesters attend the event was a change this year.

“We know we must really be striking a nerve or chord with people for pro-abortion people to start coming out now after all these years,” said Hounjet-Roth. “It has made the hour a little more tense, but we stay respectful. We are here to pray for an end to abortion, for the women who have experienced abortion, and to let them know there is healing and forgiveness.”

Participation in the prayer walk has gone from an average of 20-30 participants to 30-40 participants a day and they are younger than earlier years, she said. On days when bigger groups come in support – such as youth groups or student groups – there were as many as 70 people walking both sides of the street.

The counter protesters usually numbered about 5 to 10, and they would stand stationary on the corner with signs, while prayer participants walked up and down the block.

“There was one day when they numbered 17 and the people who joined them were quite confrontational,” said Hounjet-Roth. Another day there was an incident that caught the attention of a local television news crew.

“A passerby who was not part of our group made a confrontational remark to one of the pro-abortion people and she became very agitated to the point we were very concerned for her safety. Global News did come at the request of someone from the pro-abortion side to cover (the event), but unfortunately they were mostly interested in this one incident and not the point of *40 Hours for Life*, the goals of the walk, or information about why we are there for 40 days.”

Despite this year’s challenges, Hounjet-Roth remains optimistic about the event and chooses to focus



The 40 Hours of Life prayer walk is held in Lent.

on other experiences during the 40-days. Given the chance, volunteers at the walk would take time to listen to the stories and concerns of passersby who vocalize their distress or opposition to the pro-life messages being displayed on the street.

Vocal opposition at times comes from those who carry their own burden with abortion, she said.

“One young woman who used the road quite often was quite upset and engaged with walkers in very ‘my-side, your-side’ conversations. Over time we got to know her and through her conversations found she had gone through an abortion at the age of 14. ‘There was no help, there was no one there for me,’ this young woman told us,” explained Hounjet-Roth.

“We introduced her to Anita Sonntag who is herself an abortion survivor and member of *Silent No More* awareness. They talked for a long time about Rachel’s Vineyard and the support that is there for her now,” said Hounjet-Roth. “After that talk there was a hug. A week later she joined us in prayer,” describes Roth, obviously moved by the experience.

“There were resources there at the time but she couldn’t connect with them. How do we make this happen for women so they receive the support they need?” To try and connect to women with a message about alternatives and resources before an abortion takes place, Hounjet-Roth and Sonntag sometimes would quietly pray on the corner with signs early in the morning. “A nurse came by one day and said if you really want to help women before an abortion you should be here in the morning. Abortions are done by 4:30 in the afternoon,” said Hounjet-Roth. “It’s not a big crowd, just me and Anita wearing her ‘I regret my abortion’ sign. We want to be approachable.”



Oblate Parish Mission in Humboldt
Two youngsters participate in a presentation as part of an Oblate Mission March 25-27 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt. The Oblate Mission team returned to the community to offer Great Assemblies, faith sharing and testimonials, special rituals and music.
- Photo by Br. Louis Andreas, OMI

Dramatic entrance
A dragon was part of the program after Mass at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Saskatoon Jan. 22 as the Vietnamese Catholic community gathered to celebrate lunar New Year: *Tết Nguyên Đán*.



Diocesan Mission Office:
Northern Mission Experience

Enjoy being with children in the great outdoors, leading them in indoor and outdoor activities and sharing faith with them. Sr. Margaret Sadler needs assistance with a week long summer program for children in the far northern community of Lynn Lake, MB.

This is an ideal mission experience for a family, a team of three young adults, or for anyone who likes working with youth. For more information call Elan Ehresman at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Ext. 839.

Parish news and events

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish searching for church building

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

After some 28 years of serving First Nations, Métis, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Catholics in the heart of the city – and officially becoming a parish in February 2007 – Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon is now looking for a new church building.

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish pastoral council has appointed a committee to investigate alternatives and try to find an appropriate space for their church in the core neighbourhood.

“I think it is very exciting news for our First Nations community,” said elder and parish pastoral associate Gayle Weenie, describing the need for community members “to feel at home with our Catholic faith and Aboriginal spirituality.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish traces its history to ministry offered to the First Nations and Métis Catholic community starting in 1984 under the direction of Msgr. Len Morand in the basement of St. Paul’s Cathedral. As the faith community grew, the need for its own space became apparent, and in 1987, a house on Avenue J South in Saskatoon was purchased and became known as Guadalupe House.

“Our steadily growing First Nations Catholic community held Mass in the basement of the house, celebrated the sacraments, met for healing circles and celebrated other traditional cultural teachings,” describes the faith community’s recently-published parish directory.

Within a few years, the Guadalupe House space was no longer big enough for Sunday celebrations, which began to be held at nearby St. Mary’s church. Meanwhile Guadalupe House has continued to be a centre of outreach, evangelization and parish life.

In February 2007, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish was officially established and recognized by a decree signed by Saskatoon’s former Bishop Albert LeGatt in a joyful and spirit-filled celebration held at St. Mary’s Church.

The community is thrilled that Bishop Donald Bolen has now given Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish the go-ahead to investigate options for a church building of its own, reported Parish Life Director Mary Jacobi, a member of the parish leadership team, which also includes Priest Moderator Rev. Mick Fleming, CSSR.

Jacobi described how parish council decided to wait until Christmas to inform the community of the bishop’s approval. At the end of the Christmas Eve celebration, someone dressed as Santa Claus brought out a present, much to the delight of the children. Inside the package was the letter from Bolen, giving his blessing to the parish’s search for a church building. “They broke into applause – it was a very emotional time for our people. They are super-excited,” Jacobi related.

With the growth of the Aboriginal community, it is appropriate that the parish is looking at expanding and finding a home of its own, she said.

“The Redemptorists and St. Mary’s have been nothing but gracious, but there is nothing like having your own space, for your own celebrations, to place your own artwork: to make your own,” observed Jacobi. “In the time that I’ve been here, I can really see that this parish is ready to move into a place of their own.”

It was a “For Sale” sign on another nearby church building that first prompted parish leaders to begin investigating the idea with the diocese. That particular building has now been sold, but the search is on for



Our Lady of Guadalupe Foundations session

Life lessons, music, fame and theology were up for discussion March 1 at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish as speaker Blake Sittler presented the “Theology of Elvis” in a diocesan Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together session.

another space that could meet all of the parish’s requirements, she said.

“We just need a simple building, with space enough for us to gather. For instance, right now we don’t have a place to hold wakes – something which is so important to First Nations spirituality,” Jacobi said, listing some of the criteria identified by the committee. “It has to be located in this inner city neighbourhood, it has to be on a bus route, and it has to have a kitchen. But we are being really open and flexible, and considering the options.”

The parish has limited resources, but is working with the diocese to determine the best options for financing a church building, such as accessing a development fund, using income from the sale of the existing Guadalupe House, and fundraising, Jacobi described. “It is important for people to take ownership, this will be good for parish self esteem,” she said.

“I am looking forward to teaching our sacraments, having meetings and services in our own building,” added Weenie. “I think it is also a means of healing, especially with the history of the residential school abuse, and it will help to build momentum in that direction.”

Parish programs at Our Lady of

Guadalupe include active ministries such as sacramental preparation, RCIA, and ongoing catechesis to people of all ages, as well as pastoral care of the sick and infirm, 12-step pilgrimages, community outreach, and a variety of prayer evenings that include praise and worship, gospel singing, Bible sharing and healing circles.

The ministry of Our Lady of Guadalupe has also reached beyond the borders of the diocese over the years, with representatives traveling to areas such as Ile-a-la-Crosse, Wollaston Lake, Water Hen, and La Ronge to provide outreach, music and ministry.

Our Lady of Guadalupe recently held a Cursillo retreat, including a follow-up Ultreya event. In addition, Our Lady of Guadalupe parish is placing a strong emphasis on healing and reconciliation related to the Indian Residential School system, especially in light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) holding a national event in Saskatoon June 21-24 at Prairieland Park.

The goal of the TRC hearings is to raise awareness about the impact of government and church-run residential schools on Canada’s Aboriginal peoples, and to promote healing and understanding (*see related articles on Pages 4-5*).

Événement dans la Trinité

LISETTE FONTAINE

Les paroisses de la Trinité, Saints Donatien et Rogation de Prud’homme, Saint Denis de Saint-Denis, et Saint Philippe-de-Néri de Vonda, ont entamé encore cette année une mission paroissiale.

Ce rassemblement d’approfondissement de foi, animé par Face II Face Ministries, s’est déroulé le 31 mars et 1^{er} avril. Nous avons lancé l’invitation à tous les chrétiens des environs d’y participer. En plus d’invitations par la poste, certaines personnes ont entamé un projet de prière pour ceux que

Dieu appelait à cette mission, surtout ceux qui se sont éloignés de leur foi. Ils devaient ensuite relever le défi d’inviter personnellement ces gens à l’événement.

Nous prions que tous auront une expérience de renouveau de leur foi, un sens de communauté et d’appartenance à la famille chrétienne et catholique du monde entier, et aussi une confiance profonde en Dieu, une dévotion à son fils Jésus et une reconnaissance du pouvoir du Saint Esprit dans leur vie de tous les jours.



Humboldt youth enact Way of the Cross

Under the direction of youth leader Sr. Maybelle de la Cruz, MACE, youth portrayed Jesus’ passion during Stations of the Cross March 30 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt. *Front row (l-r):* Kyle Everitt (Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea), Daniel Everitt (soldier), Austin Knaus (soldier), Rebecca Engele (woman), Christian Manaloto and JC Arasa (bystanders); *Second row:* Angela Baran (Veronica), Stephen Revering (soldier), Kellin Everitt (Jesus), Jessica Engele (Mary), Kye Burton (John), Emily Engele and Paige Korte (narrators), Tiri Crook (woman). The choir (*not pictured*) included: Gillian Ramsay, Melanie Ramsay, and Greg Marquis.

- Photo by Fr. Emile April

Denzil parish hosts special events in Lent

BY JOAN KUCHAPSKI

SACRED HEART PARISH, DENZIL

Eight children are presently preparing for the sacraments of confirmation and Holy Eucharist at Sacred Heart parish, Denzil.

Other special events in recent weeks have included the World Day of Prayer service hosted by the Catholic Women’s League March 2, to pray for and with the people of Malaysia. It was well-received and though the attendance was low, it was recommended that this should not be a deterrent to continuing the service.

About 25 parishioners took part in a Lenten supper March 1 consisting mainly of beans and rice. A special baked treat of pretzels was shared. Pretzels were first made during Lent, centuries ago, when the people

were fasting from lard, eggs, and milk. They are made from a simple dough using flour and water and twisted it into shapes which symbolize arms crossed over the chest, which was a reminder to pray.

After the supper, a video was presented about the 40 solitary days Jesus spent before his death, encouraging us to slow down our lives and take time, especially during the 40 days of Lent, to be silent and listen for God’s voice.

Participants were asked to write down on small pieces of paper what they could do to accomplish this. The papers were then burned as a way to deepen our Lenten promises in our hearts. As the smoke lifted, so spirits were lifted, knowing that we can do all things in Jesus who lives in us and among us.



Blumenfeld Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to the heritage church at Blumenfeld, SK. is held the third Sunday of June every year. In 2011, the event was held June 12. The celebration begins by meeting at the prayer house. Participants start the rosary, praying as they walk around the grounds, past the cemetery and then up to the outdoor grotto where the Mass is held. Officiating last year were Fr. Emmanuel Azike, Fr. Modestus Ngwu and Fr. Jude Nzekwe. After the Mass everyone is invited for sausage on a bun, and tours of the historic church.

- Photo by Karri Wagman

Upcoming Events

Purity Fashion show: Come and be entertained, uplifted and inspired by fashion, beauty and glamour presented in a wholesome and virtuous setting. Guest Speaker is Weston Dressler of the Saskatchewan Roughriders: 1:30 p.m. **Sunday, April 29** at St. Joseph's High School Theatre, Nelson Road and Attridge Drive, Saskatoon. Adults: \$20. Seniors and Students: \$10. For tickets e-mail: stynan@sasktel.net

Development and Peace Regional Assembly April 27 to 29: *"Earth Justice: Renewed Humanity, Rediscovered Harmony"*. Held at 'The Quest at Christopher Lake' Centre; Christopher Lake, SK. For more information contact Louis 306-922-4747 ext.233, Bernie 306-893-4168 or Armella 306-937-7675. Registration: \$60 adults, \$25 students, no registration fee for children. Free childcare provided.

Who Makes Health Care Decisions For You? A presentation for the Community: advance health directives, proxies, health care decision-making and capacity to make health care decisions under Saskatchewan legislation. All are welcome: **7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 2** at Saskatoon City Hospital Rependa Auditorium. Presenter: Joy Mendel, Ethicist, St. Paul's Hospital and Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS).

Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Dinner will be held **Thursday, May 3 at TCU Place**. Call the GSCS Foundation at (306) 659-2003 or see: scs.sk.ca/foundation

F2F Family Retreat will be held at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt **Saturday May 5 to Sunday, May 6**. For details: www.humboldt.saskatooncatholic.ca

momentum

Momentum Youth Rally: for Grades 6-8, Saturday, April 28

Highlights: Praise and worship, great keynote talks, Mass with Bishop Donald Bolen; skits, epic games, faith enrichment, food and tons of fun.

All Grades 6-8 youth are welcome to this diocesan youth rally!

Location: Cathedral of the Holy Family; *Cost:* \$40
10 a.m. to 9 p.m., April 28; registration opens 9 a.m.

Register online at
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

High School students are able to apply as student leaders.
E-mail: youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Keynote Speaker this year is Greg Thompson; find out more at: <http://web.me.com/gtministry>

See a re-cap video about last year's Momentum online at: www.youtube.com/user/ymosaskatoon

Nashi presents YOUTH UNCHAINED, A Saskatchewan Youth Forum on Human Trafficking, **May 3 and May 4**. Keynote speaker is Craig Kielburger, internationally known for encouraging and motivating youth to be a voice for change. **Schedule:** 10 a.m. Thursday, May 3 morning session with Craig Kielburger at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, followed by noon barbecue. Students \$15 Adults: \$25. (Advance registration required) 7 p.m. Friday, May 4 at Oskayak School, 919 Broadway Ave. (films) and at St. Joseph Hall, 1006 Broadway Ave. (live music). Contact (306) 653-4646 or see the website at: www.youthunchained.org or e-mail: info@youthunchained.org

Engaged Encounter Weekends give couples planning marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together. Upcoming dates are **May 4 to 6** or **June 22 to 24**. For information see: www.cewest.com or contact Heather and Craig Stomp (306) 682-3326.

Campaign Life Coalition Sask. provincial conference will be held **Saturday, May 5** at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon. AGM followed by a spiritual talk, pro-life apologetics, and banquet speaker Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Contact Denise at (306) 249-2764.

St. Ann's Spring Gala - St. Ann's Senior Citizen's Village (St. Ann's Home) will be holding its annual "Spring Gala" from noon to 2:30 p.m. **Sunday, May 6** at the Sheraton-Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon. The Gala will consist of a brunch and entertainment along with auction items and door prizes. Tickets are \$50 for adults, with a tax receipt for \$25 (or a table of 8 for \$360); \$15 for children 6-12; and free for under age 6. They are available at St. Ann's or by calling (306) 374-8900, Ext. 221.

Saskatchewan March for Life, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Thursday, May 10**, at the provincial legislature in Regina. The march will take place along Albert Street; Mass will follow the march. The Knights of Columbus In Support of Life have organized a bus from Saskatoon to Regina. Contact Louis at (306) 249-2764 or John at (306) 477-1748

March For Life on Mother's Day 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Sunday, May 13**, followed by refreshments and a short presentation in front of Royal University Hospital along College Drive. Signs provided: the walk takes place rain or shine, Denise at (306) 249-2764.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event will be held **June 21-24, 2012** at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. For more information see the website at: trc.ca

Catholic health and Catholic education joint conference in November

By SANDY NORMAND, CHAS

The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) and the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) have announced a joint convention, *One Lord, One Call – A Rainbow of Ministries* to be held at the Regina Inn, Nov 2 to 4, 2012 in Regina.

Golf Classic- St. Paul's Hospital Foundation invites support for the *"Driving Fore Prostate"* Golf Classic **Monday, June 25** at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links, to raise funds for equipment for the Urology Centre of Health. For information contact 244-2424, email: golf@all-sask.com or see St. Paul's Hospital Foundation website to review sponsorship details: stpaulshospital.org/foundation/

Kateri Pilgrimage: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish **July 8 to 15**, week-long pilgrimage to the birthplace (Auresville, N.Y.) and the burial site (Kahnawake, Quebec) of Blessed Kateri Tekawitha. The pilgrimage is to celebrate the canonization of Blessed Kateri, which will take place in Rome, Oct. 21, 2012. Blessed Kateri will be the First North American Aboriginal person to be declared a saint. Included in the pilgrimage are visits to many other shrines and sacred places throughout Quebec and New York State. Cost for the pilgrimage is \$1,978. For information please contact Mary at 653-4945, or email maryjacobi@shaw.ca

Sisters of our Lady of the Missions 150th Anniversary: 5 p.m. **Friday, August 17:** Banquet at the Conexus Art Centre, Regina / 2-4 p.m. **Saturday, August 18:** musical afternoon at Christ the King Hall, Regina / 11 a.m. **Sunday, August 19:** Eucharist at Sacred Heart Parish, Lebreton, SK. For tickets or more information call Sr. Anna Aulie 586-2181 or see the website: mdm-sk150.com

Rock the Mount 2012 will be held **Saturday, Aug. 18** from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. with Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen. The 11th annual Catholic youth rally will again be held at the picturesque Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, just north of Carmel, SK. The day features Christian bands, inspiring talks, prayer, activities, games, reconciliation, praise and worship, and Eucharistic adoration. There is a booth on site where food can be purchased, or you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch / supper. (Bring lawn chairs or a blanket.) This is a youth-oriented family event, but people of all ages are welcome to all or part of the day. Rock The Mount is *free* for families and individuals and is supported by donations. All donations would be greatly appreciated. For info contact Doug and Cathy Swarbrick at (306) 242-2721 or e-mail: rockthemount@sasktel.net or find out more on the website: www.rockthemount.com

Mark your Calendars: "It Ain't Easy Being Green" will be presented Oct. 20, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oskayak High School, 919 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon. This creative ecumenical workshop in alternative economics and green alternatives will be presented by Mark Anielski and Mark Bigland-Pritchard, organized by the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission. Watch for info!

The conference aims to bring people together to celebrate Catholic health and education in Saskatchewan, to see, hear and experience how the charism of Catholic faith and tradition are carried out. Featured keynote speakers will be Jesse Manibusan and David Wells.

A provincial Youth Day Friday, Nov. 2 will bring together as many as 400 high school students to hear Jesse Manibusan's high-energy, interactive presentation. All Catholic youth are welcome to attend. Contact any Catholic school division or diocesan office for details.

Conference speaker David Wells will make his way to the prairies from a port town in East Devon, England, where he is the director for formation in the diocese of Plymouth. While in Saskatchewan, Wells will offer a humorous look at the state of culture, and propose that those who work in Catholic health and education are better at ministry than they sometimes think.

In the break-out sessions delegates will hear how health and education came to be in Saskatchewan and how Catholic laity are now entrusted to carry out the mission and ministry. Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR will speak about why we continue dual systems (Catholic and public) in education and health. Sr. Sarah Quackenbush, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie will focus on the personal call of each person to be a healing presence in society and a voice of hope, while continuing to build a legacy for the future. Other break-out sessions will provide delegates with tangible initiatives for faith development, stewardship, eco-justice and mission experiences, as explored by representatives of each of the eight Catholic school divisions.

For further information, contact CHAS at (306) 655-5330 or cath.health@sasktel.net or SCSBA at (306) 445-7744 or k.loenhndorf@scsba.ca

Purity Rally for Kids: May 5; for older youth and adults: May 12

This year's Purity Rally, organized by Pure Witness Ministries, has been split into two events - one for children under 10 years of age, and their parents, and the second a week later for older youth and adults.

The Kids' Purity Rally *Fools for Christ* will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Saturday May 5** at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1235-12th Street East, Saskatoon. This rally is for children 10 and under, and for their parents. Children 5 and under are welcome, as long as a parent is present.

This rally will be focused on children, teaching them about living pure lives by making Jesus their number one. It includes games, activities, skits, songs, and talks, with a pizza lunch and treat bag to take home at the end. There will be a presentation for parents on *Raising Our Children for Purity*, during which time all the toddlers and children will be cared for.

Early registration fees: \$15 per person or \$50 family rate. After April 23, registration fees: \$17 per person or \$65 family rate. (includes pizza lunch and treat bag for kids.) For more info and registration forms, visit the website www.purewitness.com or call Carmen at 651-3465 or email info@purewitness.com



The Pure Witness Team will lead the Purity Rally and provide music.

Purity Rally 2012 *Fools for Christ* will be held 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. **Saturday, May 12** at St Patrick Parish Centre, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon. This rally is for those 11 years and up, adults and parents. The Purity Rally is a fun-filled day of music, games, activities, inspiring talks, with Mass, confession, adoration, fun, food and fellowship.

Keynote speakers this year are Matt Nelson and Amanda Olson, an engaged couple who will share their

journey as a young couple through a dynamic and exciting God-centred romance.

Early registration fees: \$40 per person or \$180 family rate. After April 23, registration fees: \$45 per person or \$200 family rate (includes lunch, supper and all-day rally).

For more info and registration forms, visit the website www.purewitness.com or call Carmen at 651-3465 or e-mail: info@purewitness.com

Just Youth at St. Thomas More College engages in activities in support of D and P

By MADELINE OLIVER, STM CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The Just Youth group at St. Thomas More College has organized a number of activities this spring, including a high school retreat for some 40 students and staff from Holy Cross, St. Joseph, E.D. Feehan and Bethlehem high schools. They spent the day learning about the themes of the Development and Peace campaign, and participating in afternoon activities such as street theatre, and a carrot taste test.

Just Youth participated in a Carnival of Solidarity March 2 that was organized by the International Student and Study Abroad

Centre at the university. Just Youth organized a booth, giving out fair trade chocolate while talking to people about the work of Development and Peace. The event permitted the group to connect with other organizations involved in justice and peace, while raising awareness about D & P.

To support Share Lent, the Just Youth group hosted a St. Patrick's Day pub and concert, with a baked potato / toppings bar.

A fundraising concert March 21 featured musician Gabe Penna, who has performed for eight years in the band Gabe Penna and the Rising and who is a long time supporter of D and P.

Couple-to-couple instruction in the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning (achieve or postpone a pregnancy) highly effective, natural, inexpensive and free of health risks.



SERENA Saskatchewan
Box 7375
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4J3
306-934-8223
1-800-667-1637 (1NFP)
www.serena.ca
sask@serena.ca

Once-in-a-century picnic will hearken back to 1911 to wind up centennial year for Catholic school district

BY DONELLA HOFFMAN
GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A 1911-style *Picnic in the Park* Sunday, June 24 will wrap up the year-long centennial celebrations of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. Everyone is welcome.

The day begins with Mass at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 24 at the new Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, with Bishop Don Bolen as the main celebrant. Though this will be one of the parish's regular weekend masses, staff from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will provide ministries during the liturgy. A student choir will lead the music.

After Mass, everyone is invited to make the short trip over to the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo for the *Picnic in the Park*. Shuttles will operate between the cathedral and the picnic's location at the Forestry Farm. (For those wishing to park at the Forestry Farm, the regular \$2 per car charge will apply.)

It's anticipated the picnic will draw a large, diverse crowd. Students, their families and staff from the school division are all invited to the event, as are members of the wider Catholic community and the public at large.

The school division is expecting that many families and guests will choose to attend the Mass at the cathedral, while others will come to the picnic later in the day as a family outing on a summer afternoon.

"This will be the culmination of our year-long celebration and it kicks off the next 100



years of Catholic education," said Robin Mitchell, chair of the school division's Centennial Committee. This group has been involved in planning activities throughout the year as the school division celebrates a century of faith and learning. Mitchell is also executive director of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation.

A key feature of the June 24 picnic will be the food – which will be available at 1911 prices. Hamburgers will be 25 cents, while hot dogs, iced tea and lemonade, as well as ice cream cups, will be sold for 10 cents each. There will also be lots of free watermelon.

Along with classic picnic food, there will be classic picnic games like wheelbarrow and three-legged races for kids of all ages. In a nod to modern-day tastes, kids will also be able to visit inflatable jumping castles, a balloon man and face-painting stations.

An entertainment stage will feature 1911-style singers and other entertainment from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will be held rain or shine. If the weather is inclement, the festivities will be moved inside to nearby St. Joseph High School at 110 Nelson Road.



Chapel blessed at Samaritan Place

The chapel at the newest Catholic special care home in Saskatoon was dedicated Jan. 13 by Bishop Don Bolen. Pictured are (l-r): Care Services Director Penni Carron, Life Enhancement Director Carter Bannister, Bishop Donald Bolen, Amicus CEO Brenda FitzGerald, Spiritual Care and Mission Director Thomas Bluger, and Executive Director Juanita Tremeeer. The new facility was developed by Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan. (For more on this story, see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm)

Walk for Catholic schools May 12

BY ROBIN MITCHELL

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation is sponsoring a Walk for Catholic Education Saturday, May 12.

Supporters of Catholic education, including students, staff, parishes and families are invited to participate in the walk to raise awareness about the 100th anniversary of Catholic education in Saskatoon and to raise funds for the GSCS Foundation and school communities.

Through pledges, walkers will raise money for both GSCS Foundation and local Catholic schools. Pledge sheets are available at local Catholic schools or under "events" at www.gscs.sk.ca/foundation

Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m. at Bessborough Park North, across the street from St. Paul's Co-Cathedral, with the walk beginning at 10 a.m.

The course will follow a scenic route along Spadina Crescent, north to the 42nd Street Bridge where participants can choose to end

their walk (at 3.5 km) and receive shuttle service back to the starting point, or they can continue across the pedestrian walkway under the bridge over the South Saskatchewan River and proceed east along the Sutherland Beach park area to the Cathedral of the Holy Family (at 8 km).

Following the completion of the walk, shuttle service will be provided for those who need a ride back to St. Paul's Co-Cathedral. (Organizers hope that many will make arrangements for pick up at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.)

Participants and volunteers are welcome to enjoy a barbeque in the parking lot of the cathedral at the end of the walk. If weather is inclement, the barbecue will be held inside St. Joseph High School.

For more information contact Robin Mitchell, Executive Director, GSCS Foundation at catholicschoolsfoundation@gscs.sk.ca or (306) 659-7003.

Knights of Columbus continue to focus on spiritual enrichment

BY ED GIBNEY
STATE DEPUTY, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The second annual Knights of Columbus Men's Spiritual Enrichment Weekend was held March 16 and 17 at Holy Child Parish in Regina.

In recent years the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan have endeavoured to help strengthen the spiritual life of members, and others in the community, through a greater focus on faith. These spiritual retreats have been one of the state council's major efforts.

This year's theme was "*So that the World May Know New Hope*" and was ecumenical in scope. Over 150 men registered for the event, which was a program of the Saskatchewan State Council of the Knights of Columbus, organized by Resurrection Parish Council and sponsored

by the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation, and the Knights of Columbus Insurance Agency.

The Friday evening sessions began with an opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dan Bohan of Regina and concelebrated by Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. The archbishop focused on the theme of the weekend during his homily and his keynote address. In the discussion that followed, participants discussed several ideas, including "*Why am I still a Christian?*" and "*What does hope mean to a man of faith?*"

Saturday morning's session was led by Bishop Donald Bolen of Saskatoon. He opened the session with an ecumenical covenant service. The bishop then spoke on the need for the Knights and all Christians to look for ways to work together for the good of the church; for

the good of the Body of Christ. He called all those present to find ways to better witness to our faith and to do so with the idea of including members of other Christian communities.

State Deputy Ed Gibney's message focused on the importance for men to develop their faith for the good of the Church, acknowledging the importance of both a strong male and female faith-filled presence in families and communities. Spiritual enrichment weekends are opportunities to build a more rounded commitment from the entire laity, who will proclaim the glory of the Word of God through how they live their lives, he said.

Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg spoke about how important hope is in our relationship with God; that hope is more than just wishing for something. It is about expecting, waiting and preparing for

something, relating back to our covenant with God. God has not only created us in His image, but is constantly trying to refine us to perfection. And the most wonderful aspect of this relationship is that the deeper we get into it, the more challenging it becomes. Yet at these difficult times, we know that Jesus will remain with us.

The concluding session of the weekend was a panel discussion, led by Bishop Bryan Bayda, involving several guests from other Christian communities. Panelists included Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson the Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle, Rev. Charles Kooger of the Christian Reformed Church, Otto Dreidger from the Mennonite Church and Harold Zettl. Panelists supplied feedback about the weekend before answering a few questions from the gathered group of men.

Queen's House programs offer "peace at home in the land of the living"

A REFLECTION BY LUCIE LEDUC, QUEEN'S HOUSE

I found a poem by DH Lawrence worth having around as a reminder of what Queen's House and Retreat Centres in general provide for the world weary traveler.

Pax by D.H. Lawrence

All that matters is to be at one with the living God
To be a creature in the house of the God of Life.
Like a cat asleep on a chair
at peace, in peace
and at one with the master of the house,
with the mistress,
at home, at home in the house of the living,
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.
Sleeping on the hearth of the living world
yawning at home before the fire of life
feeling the presence of the living God
like a great reassurance
a deep calm in the heart
a presence
as of the master sitting at the board
in his own and greater being,
in the house of life.

We tend to race through our days and cloud our souls with cell phones, texting, e-mails and facebooking, not to mention the hundreds of other 'apps' and games we dull our senses with; or the shopping extravaganzas or the excessive activities in our ordinary

day to day. Never mind the big addictions, we find a thousand and one small ones to occupy ourselves with, so that we can avoid connecting with whatever lurks beneath the surface of our busyness. This is true for 'religious' people, as it is for anyone, when "*all that matters is to be at one with the living God, to be a creature in the house of the God of Life. / Like a cat asleep on a chair/at peace, in peace...*"

Queen's House provides retreats for the wearily addicted; every kind of retreat. For the more seriously addicted in recovery there are Spiritual Days Twelve Step Retreats that have been provided for 30 or more years. Hundreds have been renewed, inspired and healed at these retreats.

We might tend to move about the world like we are in control, organizing this, and commanding that. We might not know how "*to be a creature in the house of life*", but rather find ourselves falling into playing at "being God." Or, we might simply be going along in a routine that is holding us back from growing with God, or opening ourselves to be healed of deep-seated wounds. Queen's House offers weekly gatherings of centering prayer to support the prayer journey into a deeper rest and trust in God's work in the world. There are opportunities for private and directed retreats to let go and surrender more deeply into God's will for our happiness and fullness of life.

Sometimes we need another's presence to walk with us, gently listening and companioning us through the maze of life's crises, decisions, and turning points. Spiritual directors are on hand to

lend an ear and compassionate presence.

We might be walking around in a daze, filled with fear and confusion about grief and losses we have yet to deal with. We are not "*at home, at home in the house of the living*" and need some place safe to open the grief and let it pour out and to be healed. There are weekend grief retreats that will help with releasing and coming home to the "*house of the living.*"

Living in the city, it's sometimes easy to lose sight of the connection with nature, with the larger world and universe. To reconnect there is an "Evolutionary Christianity" series, or the Earth Day Retreat to renew the union "*with the presence of the living God, / like a great reassurance, / a deep calm in the heart.*"

Or consider how we convince ourselves that we are too busy to get involved with volunteering or with good causes that need our support and attention. How do we move with others for change that betters our world? A weekend 'on retreat' to pause, ponder and recommit might just be the inspiration needed to actively engage and "*be at one with the master of the house, with the mistress.*"

Yes, this poem is worth pinning to my bulletin board; a reminder of what a retreat house is for my own world-weary spirit, putting me in touch with "*a deep calm in the heart, a presence, / as of the master sitting at the board, / in her own and greater being, / in the house of life.*" There are many other offerings at Queen's House. See: www.queenshouse.org call 244-1916 or drop by to pick up a brochure.

We are waiting in peace to welcome you!

Resurrection light: Love overcomes all

(The following reflection is drawn in part from Bishop Donald Bolen’s text on the Resurrection in the forthcoming book *Transfiguring Prairie Skies: Stained Glass at Cathedral of the Holy Family*.)

On Good Friday, Eastern Catholics have a tradition of symbolically processing into the tomb where Jesus is buried. There’s a deep wisdom to that, for the joy of Easter is not in view without an understanding of the darkness which comes with Jesus’ death. The Word of Life has been silenced; the one in whom all things were created has been put to death by his creation. The disciples are shattered. Everything Jesus promised about God, life, and the future, seem to have come to a brutal and meaningless end. This was a darkness more dense than the darkness before creation. That was the absence of light; this was the destruction of light.

It is from the heart of death, from a tomb which signalled an end to hope, that the light of the Resurrection bursts forth, a light greater than the first light of creation. That was the birth of light, and this is the eternal victory of light over darkness. When the Risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene and calls her name, ‘Mary’, an unimaginable joy rings forth. When the Lord comes to where the apostles have gathered, stands in their midst, and says ‘peace be with you,’ a hope of untold depths resounds, because it is seen and heard and touched precisely in the face of the darkest experience of humanity, born in a place where hope had been extinguished.

It’s as though Jesus has come out of the tomb to seek his disciples who are in the tomb of grief and despair.

The Resurrection changed everything for Jesus’ disciples. They who had been afraid, who had abandoned him and even denied



The Resurrection window designed by Sarah Hall is above the altar at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, one of five stained glass windows that circle the worship space. A book of images and reflections about the windows written by Bishop Don Bolen and Sarah Hall will be published in conjunction with Gala Opening Week celebrations. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

knowing him, now went forth speaking with confidence and courage of the startling events which they had witnessed. Suddenly the community of disciples grew by leaps and bounds, and the refrain ‘Christ has risen’ began to rise up from the far-reaching corners of the earth.

Unlike other events in history which happen then pass away, this event endures, because the Risen Christ lives on. The horizon against which life is lived is changed by an act of God which undoes the power of death.

We live in a world where death still holds sway, which is still broken and in need of redemption, and we feel that brokenness and need for redemption within ourselves most days. In a recent song, Leonard Cohen articulates beautifully the need we feel for a powerful light to come into our

darkness: ‘Show me the place where they rolled away the stone, show me the place, I can’t move this thing alone....’ We need a foundation for hope to go on living with trust, and the resurrection is our foundation for hope.

How do we allow that Easter hope to transform our living and dying? I would propose that this transformation happens by engaging in ‘paschal thinking’ and ‘paschal living.’

Paschal thinking is grounded in a profound trust that God is at work in the world, and in human history, despite all evidence to the contrary, bringing life from death, light from darkness, hope from despair. Paschal thinking allows us to embrace the world and the human condition as they are, within a framework of trust that something larger is going on.

Paschal thinking should rightly lead to paschal living, which is living with the freedom to respond fully with our lives to the call to discipleship. When Jesus was raised from the dead, the tomb was left empty, an eternal sign of life’s power over death.

For us as his disciples, the empty tomb is also a task: to empty all the tombs, to undo the power of death in a broken world by living as he lived, loving as he loved, setting free as he set free.

We are the ones called to go into places of darkness, confident that God will raise us and our world out of the ashes, again and again and again; confident that in this life of ours, God will have the last word, and that word is life: forgiving, generous, abundant life.

Happy Easter! + Donald Bolen

Foam Lake couple among those to contribute to stained glass

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The ‘Resurrection’ window above the altar at the Cathedral of the Holy Family has become a visible sign of a family legacy of faith for Alex and Cecile Halyk.

Members of Christ the King parish in Foam Lake, SK., the Halyks are among many individuals, families, organizations and parishes across the Roman Catholic Diocese

of Saskatoon who have contributed to the stained glass windows that adorn the sanctuary of the new diocesan cathedral.

“We want to leave this legacy behind for our children. We hope it will be a beautiful reminder for our descendants as they continue to carry the torch, the Catholic Christian faith, received from countless generations on both sides, then from my parents and my wife’s

parents,” explained Alex. “We are ever and always very, very thankful for this gift of faith they strived to live and passed on to us,” he said. The couple’s donation was made “in loving grateful memory” of Alex’s parents, Theodore and Julia Halyk, who worshipped in the Ukrainian Byzantine tradition, and Cecile’s parents, Andre and Gertrude Nimegeers, who raised her in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Alex reflected on why he and Cecile decided to contribute to the ‘Resurrection’ window. “We look at faith as an essential part of our life,” he said, reflecting on 44-plus years of marriage, raising six children and welcoming 18 grandchildren. “We’ve had some tough times, but we never suffered anything serious,” he said. “We have been blessed.”

Filled with gratitude, the Halyks respond to blessings in their lives by contributing in a variety of ways to their parish, diocese and community. “We are both very involved in our parish and we have thought about how we’ve got to set an example for our children.”

With two married daughters living in Saskatoon, and a sense of belonging to a diocesan community that goes beyond their own parish, the Halyks said they were pleased to be able to contribute to the cathedral as a once-in-a-lifetime historic project.

“How often in our lifetime do we get a chance to contribute to a new cathedral?” Alex queried, describing how church buildings around the world are “stories in stone” of the

faith of the people. “We felt inspired to really participate, and to take ownership of our cathedral. It’s not just for those in Saskatoon, but for all the diocese.”

The couple describe themselves as ordinary people of modest means: Cecile was a teacher, but left the workforce to care for their six children, and the family lived on the single income Alex earned as a self-employed mechanic.

“But you learn to live within your means, and we were gifted with enough to live on,” he said. The couple sacrificed a vacation in order to make their contribution to the ‘Resurrection’ window. “We thought it was worth it,” he said. “That vacation would have been a two-week stint. This is for a lifetime.”

Alex described the new cathedral building as “awesome,” noting how different family members are interested in the structure, and in features such as the solar cells included in the exterior stained glass art work on the spire. As for the ‘Resurrection’ window, it has definitely become a family favourite, he said.

Reflecting on the artwork, Alex recalled the witness given through the ages by stained glass windows and floor mosaics that he and Cecile saw on a trip to Rome and to Assisi. “This is such a part of our tradition,” he said.

The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation continues to raise funds for the stained glass artwork and other features in the Cathedral of the Holy Family. For more information contact Chelsey Hagerty at (306) 659-5851 or 1-877-661-5005, Ext. 851.

Enrich your faith
Deepen your prayer life
Experience community

Lay Formation

NOW ACCEPTING FOR SEPTEMBER
For information contact:
Mona Goodman at 306-659-5846 or
Kate O’Gorman at 306-659-5847

