



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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- Image by Zeljko Bilandzic

First Nations saint brings joy and healing

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI AND TIM YAWORSKI

The heartbeat of the drum, the jingle of dancers' bells and joyful praise filled the Cathedral of the Holy Family Oct. 21 during a diocesan celebration marking the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Earlier that same day in Rome, the young First Nations woman was named a saint by Pope Benedict XVI, one of seven new saints for the Church. The historic moment



Drumming and dancing were part of the celebration.



Our Lady of Guadalupe parish children carry lilies to a newly-blessed statue of Saint Kateri during the diocesan Mass Oct. 21.

recognized Saint Kateri's great gifts of holiness as she became the first North American indigenous person to be canonized. Among those attending the celebration in Rome was Debbie Ledoux, diocesan coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation, representing the diocese and Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon.

The day of celebration began with a pancake breakfast at the new St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre, where members of the community were rejoicing and reflecting on the impact of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

"On so many levels, it is such a blessing. For me, new to my Catholic faith again, for Kateri to be named a saint is such a reinforcement," said Darwin Gardypie of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. He predicted the historic happening will bring reconciliation and healing.

"Kateri is not only going to be the catalyst for that change, She is going to be a beacon for many First Nations people to come back to the Church," he said.

"Kateri has been somewhat of a hero to me," said Patricia Gardypie, describing how she learned more about the 17th-century First Nations woman as part of a research paper she wrote in a Native Studies course.

"She achieved inner peace in a time when all her world was changing, and today a lot of women still haven't found that. So I pray to her to help our women find that inner peace, find the balance, so that we can begin to heal our families."



Darwin and Patricia Gardypie and daughters Isabella and Cassandra at the Oct. 21 celebration, which included a pancake breakfast at the new St. Mary school and Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Gayle Weenie, First Nations elder and pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, opened the diocesan celebration at Saskatoon's new cathedral with words of welcome, and an explanation of some of the First Nations traditions that were part of the Mass, including smudging, drumming, praying in the four directions and using a star blanket to hold the gift offering.

"When the late Pope John Paul II came to visit us, he told us that we had permission to use our culture and our language, so that is what we do," Weenie said.

SAINT KATERI continued on Page 24 (BACK)

Covenant of Care: updating the abuse prevention policy

A revised policy about the care of vulnerable persons is being implemented in parishes and ministry offices across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The new *Covenant of Care* and *Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol* was recently launched in parishes and ministry offices, with a diocesan workshop about the policy held Oct. 10

The two new documents are an update of a previous diocesan policy first established in 1992, which has been revised several times over the years. The new version was revised with input from the insurance company and a local committee.

The new protocol is found online at: saskatoonrcdiocese.com/covenantofcare

PROTOCOL continued on Page 2



Bishop Donald Bolen (right) introduces members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee at a recent workshop about the new protocol (l-r): Randy Warwick, John and Michelle McAuliffe, Dr. Larry Shepel, Laura Foley and Reb Materi.

Cathedral of Holy Family dedicated during Gala Week of celebration

Bishop Don Bolen of Saskatoon, former Saskatoon bishops Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface and Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, along with Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina (l-r) anoint the altar of the new diocesan cathedral during a Mass of Blessing May 13, 2012.

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Parishes implementing revised policy

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The new diocesan *Covenant of Care* is a code of conduct designed to create safe and respectful church communities and healthy ministerial relationships.

It strives to protect people from abuse and the harm that results – including children, youth and vulnerable adults, as well as those who minister, such as clergy, employees and church volunteers.

The *Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol* is designed to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly and transparently.

New structures are part of the policy, with each parish now asked to appoint a Parish Coordinator of Care to assist with implementation and to receive reports or allegations of misconduct or abuse, in the event that someone is unable or unwilling to make a report to the pastor or parish life director.

As well, Blake Sittler, co-director of pastoral services for the diocese, has been appointed Diocesan Coordinator

“We take up this responsibility and corresponding preventative and reporting requirements not only because of incidents of abuse in our Church, but primarily because the protection and care of those most in need is at the heart of the Gospel we proclaim and in the heart of the God who gives us life,”

- Protocol conclusion

of Care to oversee training, reporting and investigation procedures for the protocol.

A Diocesan Advisory Committee, which has been in place for many years, will also continue, consisting of at least five members who annually meet with the bishop to assess the protocol and its implementation, and to assist as needed with any investigations.



Facilitator Christie Meinema of Catholic Family Services and Blake Sittler, Diocesan Coordinator of Care, presented the new *Covenant of Care* and *Sexual Abuse & Misconduct Protocol* at an Oct. 10 workshop. www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/covenantofcare

Bishop who attended Vatican Council speaks in Saskatoon

Just a couple of weeks after the launch of the Second Vatican Council 50 years ago, Bishop Remi De Roo was appointed as the new, young bishop of Victoria. He quickly joined the ranks of other bishops from around the world who gathered in Rome over the next few years, attending all the sessions of that great, collegial “act of worship” known as Vatican II.

Fifty years later, as the Church around the world marked the 50th anniversary of the Council on Oct. 11, De Roo chose to spend the date speaking in the Diocese of Saskatoon – even passing up an invitation to join other surviving council fathers at a gathering in Rome. De Roo also spoke at two workshops the next day at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and visited St. Thomas More College.

“The Second Vatican Council will rate in history as one of the most important councils ever held,” De Roo said. The council was global, it was pastoral and as a gathering of the bishops of the world in communion with the Holy Father, it represents the highest teaching authority of the Church, he noted.

The Council and its documents continue to challenge and to transform the Church, and in his talks De Roo addressed some of the highlights of Council teachings, while also describing



Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo launched a Vatican II lecture series in the diocese of Saskatoon on Oct. 11.

how the experience transformed his own faith and understanding of the Church, of the universal call to holiness and the role of the laity, of a renewed commitment to Christian unity, and of the centrality of the Word of God – including for the poor, who wish to reclaim scripture and apply it to their own struggles in life. *- KLY*

(Bishop De Roo’s book *Chronicles of a Vatican II Bishop* is available in the diocesan Resource Library; 659-5853.)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Vatican II Lecture Series continues:

Dr. Catherine Clifford

Second Vatican Council: A Defining Moment for Anglican-Catholic Relations

Monday, Nov. 26 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon

with vespers at 7 p.m. and presentation at 7:45 p.m.

Dr. Catherine Clifford of Saint Paul University in Ottawa has written extensively about the Second Vatican Council and ecumenical renewal.

Bishop Bolen appointed to Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon as a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome.

Serving on the council will mean a week-long meeting at the Vatican every two years, beginning this November, when it happens to precede another meeting in Rome that Saskatoon’s bishop was already scheduled to attend.

Before he was ordained bishop of Saskatoon in March 2010, Bolen served as a staff member of the Pontifical Council in Rome from 2001 to 2008, with a

particular focus on theological dialogue with the Anglican Communion and the World Methodist Council.

News of Bolen’s appointment as one of the bishops serving on the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity came June 12, as he was attending the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. “It was a great privilege to work for many years at the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, and I am delighted by the invitation to continue to play a role in the Church’s dialogue with other Christian communities, and to give direction to its overall ecumenical engagement.”

One area that the Pontifical Council gave special attention to near the end of Bolen’s tenure on staff was a harvesting of the results of the many dialogues with which the Catholic Church has been engaged since the Second Vatican Council.

This is the second international ecumenical appointment for Bolen this year, as he was also recently named the Catholic Co-Chair of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission. IARCCUM was established in 2001 as a commission of bishops focusing on how Anglicans and Roman Catholics can translate their

“manifest agreement in faith” into joint witness and mission in the world.

Bolen is also a member of the international conversation between Catholics and Evangelicals, which meets annually; and was recently named Co-Chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic theological dialogue in Canada.

“My hope is that serving on

international and national dialogue commissions also provides resources and experience which will help strengthen local ecumenical relations.”

Saskatoon will be hosting the Canadian Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in November, an event that will provide the local community with firsthand experience of a national dialogue.

Damaged solar art glass in cathedral spire will be replaced in spring 2013

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A repair of solar stained glass windows on the spire of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon will happen in the spring of 2013. The cost is expected to be covered by warranty and by insurance.

Portions of the solar art glass were removed from the spire in May, and replaced with wood panels after parts of the tempered glass lining cracked and pieces of clear glass fell into the interior of the newly-dedicated building. The worship space was not occupied at the time of the incident.

A careful and thorough review was conducted to discover what caused the failure, and the cause was found to be a problem with the wiring leading from the solar cells embedded in the windows, Cathedral rector Fr. David Tumbach recently reported. Electrical arcing resulted in isolated hot spots on the glass, which caused some of the glass panels to crack.

The glass studio – Glasmalerei Peters Studio of Paderborn, Germany – has accepted responsibility for the failure and is working to remanufacture the windows and to address the arcing issue.

The process is nearing completion and the windows will be ready for re-installation in the spring. “We have been in close contact with both the stained glass artist and the glass studio throughout this process, and they continue to work closely with us to ensure that we obtain a technically sound solution to this problem,” said Tumbach.

He stressed that the detailed investigation undertaken by architects, engineers and technical consultants has verified that there were no structural problems with the cathedral which led to the glass failure.

“There was no settling of the building, no shifting, no twisting, and no problems with the wind,” he said.

The Lux Gloria signature windows are designed by Canadian artist Sarah Hall, who for several years has worked with the studio in Germany to create art glass that contains solar cells, in order to gather electrical energy from the sun.

The innovative vision of combining the artistic coloured glass on the exterior of the building with solar cell technology is something that the diocese hopes to preserve, if the technical problems can be addressed, said Bishop Don Bolen.

“Everyone involved is clearly disappointed that this has happened, but all are determined to address the problems. We look forward to the replacement of the beautiful glass panels when the repair and the weather permits in the spring,” the bishop said.

“We are striving to create something beautiful and functional, using brand new technology. With anything new there are sometimes problems, but we trust that with the good will of all involved, these can be addressed,” he said. “Ultimately, we trust that with the repair, the building will be enhanced by the windows for many years into the future.”

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Delisle parish bids farewell to St. Anne church building

In a candlelit prayer service Nov. 1, members of St. Anne Catholic parish in Delisle bid farewell to their 100-year-old church building, which was closed suddenly at the end of August because of severe structural problems.

The same candles were lit the following Sunday at Delisle United Church, where the Catholic community has found a temporary home for Sunday celebrations.

The St. Anne community will gather in the new location Sundays at 9:30 a.m., while the United Church congregation celebrates at 11 a.m. – “and the coffee pot is on in between,” said St. Anne Parish Life Director Rose-Anne Kielo.

“The United Church has been so incredibly generous and welcoming,” said Kielo, describing how such concern and community spirit has helped to ease the heartache for parishioners at having to leave their church building.

After damage to the St. Anne building trusses was discovered at the end of August, the building was immediately

closed. The parish was left scrambling, trying to accommodate its congregation, which includes many young families, an active Children’s Liturgy program, and a developing sense of community, she said.

For the first several weeks, parishioners travelled to the Vanscoy parish for Sunday celebrations, but a lack of space prompted the St. Anne community to approach other Christian churches in Delisle about possible alternatives. The fit with the Delisle United Church was the best possible solution for now, said Kielo.

She noted that such cooperation is a visible sign of the ecumenical spirit of the small prairie community west of Saskatoon. For instance, different denominations have joined together to provide youth ministry in the community.

After so much stress and upheaval, the St. Anne community now wants to move ahead with parish life, with the Year of Faith and with spiritual enrichment, she said. “This has been a very emotional and difficult time.”



Administration Day coffee breaks are a time to re-connect for those gathered from across the diocese: (l-r) Sr. Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE, coordinator of youth ministry in Humboldt, diocesan Director of Pastoral Services Leah Perrault and Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, pastor at Martensville and Langham share some conversation.

Other highlights of the day included a presentation about the Lay Formation program by coordinators Mona Goodman, Debbie Ledoux and Kate O’Gorman, who described the impact of the two-year program on the lives of participants and presented details about how the program works.

Now in its 25th year, the Lay Formation program has three “pillars”: adult faith learning, the development of prayer and spiritual life, and an experience of Christian community, the gathering heard. Lay Formation includes three streams: a diocesan, an Aboriginal, and a Ukrainian Catholic eparchial stream, which journey together sharing their common Catholic faith, while also separately exploring their own faith traditions.

Although Lay Formation is not a ministry training program, “ministry is often a fruit of the program, as participants come out with a renewed sense of mission,” said O’Gorman.

Truth and Reconciliation

Justice and Peace Commission Chair Carol Zubiak, Our Lady of Guadalupe parish elder Gayle Weenie, and other members of a diocesan TRC committee described the experience of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) event in Saskatoon this summer.

The presentation reviewed the involvement of parishes and individuals, and reflected on what happens next on the

path to heal damage done by Indian Residential Schools and other policies (*see Page 4*).

Those gathered for the diocesan Administration Day shared in reading out loud a diocesan pledge presented to the TRC in June. The diocese promised to establish a committee of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal representatives to work in concrete ways to raise awareness, address justice issues and further the work of reconciliation. Details about the make-up and mandate of that committee are now being worked on, Zubiak reported.

“We are going to move forward on this,” Zubiak said. “We are moving into the new ministry of what is reconciliation, and how do we work together to become a more inclusive church for all of our peoples.”

Year of Faith

Following up on a workshop Aug. 29, a discussion about relationships in ministry was part of the day, as was an introduction to the upcoming Church-wide Year of Faith in the diocese.

Co-director of Pastoral Services, Blake Sittler, said the Year of Faith is a call to refocus efforts already underway. “Pope Benedict is asking everyone, not just cardinals and bishops, to be part of this new evangelization. There are opportunities every day to deepen our own faith”. Resources for the Year of Faith can be found on the diocesan website at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/yearoffaith



Jewish-Christian relations

Neil Schwartz, Hazzan (Cantor) of Congregation Agudas Israel, rabbinics scholar Simon Lasair of St. Thomas More College and internationally-renowned scholar and author Sr. Mary Boys, SNJM, (l-r) spoke April 26 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon about Christian-Jewish relations. The public lecture featuring Boys was co-sponsored by STM, by the University of Saskatchewan department of religion and culture, and organized by the diocesan Commission for Inter-Faith Relations. For more coverage of Boys’ presentations on how interpretations of the death of Jesus have contributed to anti-Semitism, see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/documents/Mary_Boys_in_Saskatoon.pdf

Representatives from across diocese discuss initiatives at annual Administration Day

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Representatives of parishes from across the diocese joined Bishop Donald Bolen and Catholic Pastoral Centre staff for an annual Administration Day Sept. 12 to discuss the year ahead, make connections, and share news about recent initiatives and upcoming events.

Children and elders from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon led the opening liturgy for the annual gathering, praying in the four directions, smudging with sweet grass and using symbols important to First Nations spirituality. They also reflected upon the Oct. 21 canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous woman from North America to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church.

Bishop’s Annual Appeal

The 2012 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) was introduced by BAA administrator Cathie Rogers of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, who

introduced this year’s theme: “A Sower went out to sow” and premiered a video about the appeal.

This year’s BAA video can also be found at the diocese YouTube address: www.youtube.com/user/saskatoondiocese

Bishop Donald Bolen expressed appreciation for the vitally important involvement of parish leadership and local volunteers, which ensures that the BAA can continue to fund much-needed ministry across the diocese, including such initiatives as Lay Formation; Catholic hospital chaplaincy; Youth Ministry; adult faith formation; prison ministry; vocations promotion; Christian Initiation and Catechetics; communications; Justice and Peace; marriage and family life; education of priests and future priests; ecumenism and the diocesan Resource Library.

“The energy and effort and enthusiasm that you bring to this Appeal matters, along with your ability to communicate that this is not just another collection,” Bolen said.



L’anné des Fransaskois 2012

René and Carmen Bussière and their children Eve, Éric and Sophie of Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens parish were among four families from across the diocese participating in the procession of gifts Oct. 28 as the francophone Catholic community gathered at the Cathedral of the Holy Family for a Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Donald Bolen to mark the Year of the Fransaskois in Saskatchewan. About 20,000 residents of the province have French as their first language and more than 50,000 are able to communicate in French. The Saskatchewan francophone community – the Fransaskois – share a unique francophone prairie culture.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Truth and Reconciliation national event addresses legacy of residential schools

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) held a national event June 21-24, 2012 in Saskatoon, focusing on the experiences, history and ongoing legacy of the Indian Residential School system in Canada.

TRC commissioners Justice Murray Sinclair, Dr. Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild and a 10-member Indian Residential Schools Survivor Committee led the Saskatchewan National Event, with the help of elders, a regional planning committee, health and cultural supports and local volunteers.

About 15,000 former residential school students and their descendants registered for the massive four-day national event. As well, an estimated 40-50 per cent of those attending were non-Aboriginal.

In addition to statement gathering sessions with the commissioners, the Prairieland Exhibition Centre and two adjacent parks were the setting for traditional ceremonies and prayer, cultural events such as concerts and film screenings, historical and educational displays, church archives, artisan booths,

and a “Tipi Village” of activities and presentations. An education day June 22 involved some 2,000 students.

A “Churches Listening to Survivors Area” provided an opportunity for those affected by residential schools to speak personally with volunteers from the four denominations involved in running the government-mandated schools in Canada: Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Church of Canada.

The TRC was created as part of the Residential Schools Agreement of 2007 to document the history and the legacy of the schools and to provide a forum for former students to share their experience as part of creating a national and permanent historic record.

From the 1870s until the last one closed in 1996, some 130 Indian Residential Schools operated across Canada. More than 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were taken from their families – often by force – and placed in the schools, separated from their families and communities. Mandated by the government, many of the schools were run by churches and religious orders.



As a gesture of reconciliation during the TRC national event, the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon pledged to create a diocesan dialogue/advisory circle of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal representatives to find concrete ways to raise awareness, address justice issues and further the work of reconciliation. The promise was placed into a decorated Bentwood Box during the TRC event by (l-r): TRC Residential School Survivor Committee member Eugene Arcand; diocesan Justice and Peace commission chair Carol Zubiak; First Nations elder Gayle Weenie of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish; Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen; and Madeleine Basile of the TRC Survivor Committee.

During the Saskatoon event, commissioners heard often-harrowing and emotional stories from those who were taken away from parents and grandparents, and separated from siblings as small children. Reports included details of harsh punishments and sexual abuse, and of isolation, despair and humiliation.

The TRC commission also heard how profoundly the experience of residential school damaged the lives of individuals, severing family ties, often leaving those wounded by the schools unable to properly parent their own children, burdened with shame and anger, and inflicting damage on family and community relationships through the generations.

“We need that circle of understanding to grow much, much wider if we have any hope of meaningful reconciliation for the years to come. Before we can start reconciling, we have to understand exactly what has gone on, what has happened,

where are we coming from: and how did we end up where we are today,” said Commissioner Marie Wilson.

Some TRC sessions provided time for expressions of reconciliation from individuals and organizations, including church and government representatives.

Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen spoke before the TRC June 22, and stressed the need to bear witness to the truth in order to foster genuine reconciliation.

“We do seek your forgiveness and we do hope and pray for true reconciliation. We can’t change the past, but there is an opportunity to work together,” he said.

Bolen also noted that inequality is ingrained into society and into policy, and that the entire Church and wider society needs to become engaged in issues that are part of the residential school legacy as well as other injustices that continue today.

“This is about all of us: our community, our people, our churches,” said the bishop.



Commissioners Justice Murray Sinclair, Dr. Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild (l-r) at the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) event held in Saskatoon in June.

Allan parishioners respond to TRC with Project of Heart

By ANNE MOLDENHAUER

St. Aloysius parish in Allan held a Truth and Reconciliation workshop June 6, preparing for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) national event held in Saskatoon June 21-24.

The parish workshop was hosted by the Catholic Women’s League and supported by the Knights of Columbus of St. Aloysius parish. Facilitator Lynette Brossart presented some of the history of the Indian Residential Schools and the experiences of survivors.

In commemoration, those in attendance participated in a national “Project of Heart” (projectofheart.ca) endeavour.

Participants decorated a number of tiles – each tile honouring the life of one child who died as a result of the residential school experience. The tiles were brightly decorated with messages such as “love and peace,” “healing to grow,” “blessing on all nations,” and “let us all be one in spirit.”



Messages of healing, love and hope were created in Allan, SK.

The decorated tiles were sent to Ottawa, where arrangements will be made for them to be blessed through a ceremonial smudging by a First Nations elder. The finished project will eventually be presented to the Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg to become a part of history.

“Project of Heart” was a featured activity during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s



Participants in a workshop at St. Aloysius Catholic parish in Allan gather around “Project of Heart” tiles created in memory of children who died in Residential Schools. - Photos by Kyla Brossart

first National Event in Winnipeg. The creator and co-ordinator of the project – Governor General award-winning teacher Sylvia Smith – was born and raised in Allan and graduated from Allan School, so the workshop participants have a community connection to her.

“Passion and empathy were felt as we decorated the tiles in memory of the dear children who had lost their lives,” said one

CWL participant, Bea Brossart.

“As a follow-up, we accomplished the important social justice piece of putting our words into action. It was important to do our part, to show that we too wished to help deal with the injustices of what happened. Moving forward may we all live in one spirit with unity for all!”

As a form of reconciliation, all those present were invited to sign

two petitions to support justice for all Aboriginal people. The petitions were: “Stolen Sisters; Amnesty International” and “To Endorse the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.”

Local volunteers for the Truth and Reconciliation national event came forward as a result of the workshop. Participants could also take pamphlets and other information home for further reading or to share.

Justice and Peace



Myron Rogal: Justice and Peace coordinator.

Justice and Peace
is supported by the:



New diocesan coordinator emphasizes central place
of Justice and Peace in the gospel of Jesus Christ

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Myron Rogal, 29, was recently appointed diocesan coordinator of the Office of Justice and Peace – while also continuing as part-time coordinator of the Vocations Office and the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team.

Working out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, and collaborating closely with a diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, Rogal follows in the footsteps of longtime Justice and Peace director Tony Haynes, who retired last year. Justice and Peace Commission Chair Carol Zubiak, who generously took on additional coordination roles this year, will continue her role as a volunteer.

Born in Saskatoon and growing up as a member of St. Mary's parish, Rogal has worked for the diocese for nearly four years. He now lives in Vonda with his wife Chantale and their daughter Magalie.

Rogal says that his goal as coordinator is to continue working with commission

members, who have a broad range of experience and involvements in a variety of areas; to look for gaps that need to be addressed; and to foster communication with parishes and groups in the community.

Special events such as the recent *"It Ain't Easy Being Green"* workshop in Saskatoon, as well as annual undertakings like the multi-faith peace service at New Year's, and an ecumenical Way of the Cross on Good Friday are organized with support from the diocesan office.

The establishment of a dialogue and action advisory circle as a follow up to the national Truth and Reconciliation event in Saskatoon is another priority, he said.

He also noted that his office motto is: "Divide the work, not the church."

Here are some of Rogal's reflections:

...
"Jesus said: 'whatsoever you do to my brothers and sisters, you do unto me.' He doesn't specialize that by saying what type of brothers and sisters, or what creed or colour, or what issue they're working out in their lives — but he says this about all human beings and he calls on all human beings to carry out this mission."
...

"This office is about evangelization. What excites me about Justice and Peace is that it's a practical matter, it's a part of people's lives, it is infused in every single human being — they are asking these questions about justice — and so it's a great way to evangelize."

"How we are evangelizing right now, first of all within the Church — how do we connect with other groups, whom we might not necessarily agree with and how do we work together for a common purpose? But also, how do we make those connections outside the Church?"
...

"A way that I like to think of it is that Jesus talked to the poor, the rich and everybody in between, the sinners, the tax collectors. And we are called to do that as well.... called to work together, to collaborate with groups, perhaps with those whom we might not necessarily see eye to eye on in every particular issue. But we reach out, because they're doing something good, and we can find the common ground, working together to build up the kingdom of God."
...

"It's not a call to minister in just one particular area of justice. The baptismal call is to reach out in all these areas. We each have different gifts of the Spirit that we bring to the table, and yet we need to cross-pollinate, to learn from one another — which lens are they looking through to see the Christ in each of us? And how can we clear our own lenses to see a little bit more of that? How can we try on our neighbours' glasses to see more clearly the Christ in another person? That's the big vision. We not only should work together, but we need one another for the sake of our salvation."



Participants of all ages and walks of life participated in Life Chain 2012 Sept. 30, calling for an end to abortion in the annual public witness and prayer event.

Life Chain participants
call for an end to abortion

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Some 200 people gathered for an hour of prayerful witness during a Life Chain event Sept. 30 in Saskatoon, calling for an end to abortion.

Participants prayed, walked and held signs along streets surrounding the busy intersection of Idylwyld and 22nd Street, receiving both honks of support and rude gestures during the event organized by Campaign Life Coalition. Life Chain happens across the country around the first week of October.

As the event concluded, organizer Denise Hounjet-Roth encouraged participants to contact Members of Parliament about the way they voted on the recent private members motion calling for a re-examination of when a child is considered a human being in Canada's criminal code.

The present definition says that a child becomes a human being only at the moment of complete birth.

The motion lost by a vote of 203-91, but prompted discussion and raised awareness about issues related to the human rights of unborn children, she said.

The motion had support from a number of cabinet ministers and from members of more than one political party (87 Conservatives and four Liberals).

It is important to affirm those politicians who stepped out to call for another look at Canadian legislation related to the humanity of unborn children, Hounjet-Roth said, especially as some, like cabinet member Rona Ambrose, have faced heavy criticism for their stand.

At the same time, she encouraged writing the Prime Minister and other members of parliament, who voted against the motion, to express dismay with their lack of support for M-312.

The vote revealed which MPs really do stand by pro-life principles, asserted Hounjet-Roth.

Participants in Life Chain were also encouraged to sign and circulate a petition in support of a new private member's motion introduced by Conservative MP Mark Warawa of Langley, BC, calling for an end to sex-selective abortion that targets baby girls for female "gendercide."



Poverty Awareness Week

In a symbolic action of outreach and connection, residents joined hands and attempted to span the Broadway Bridge Oct. 21, as part of Poverty Awareness Week in Saskatoon. Though they did not make it all the way across the bridge, participants attracted the attention of drivers and passersby, and shared in conversation and refreshments. At a press conference before the "Hands Across the Bridge" event, Vanessa Charles, chair of the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition called for sustained and concrete action to address poverty, which continues to plague our community, even during supposed prosperity. "We want people to start stepping out of their comfort zone to address these issues," she said, describing poverty as a violation of human rights.

Prayer to End Poverty:

From the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

May God bless us with discomfort
at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.
May God bless us with anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for economic justice for all people.
May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer
from pain, hunger, homelessness and rejection,
so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless us with enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in the world
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

(Source: Education for Justice: www.educationforjustice.org)

Bishop participates in Food Basket Challenge held to raise awareness about impact of poverty

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Walking in solidarity with those in poverty, a group of community leaders experienced first hand what it is like to live for a week on a food basket from the Saskatoon Food Bank.

Organized by the Food Bank and the Saskatoon Health Region, the Food Basket Challenge is held to “foster a dialogue about poverty in our community and strengthen the relationships between people who possess the lived experience of poverty and those who do not.”

Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon joined other community leaders Sept. 12 at the Saskatoon Food Bank, standing in line to show their health cards and register, before receiving a typical hamper.

The food hamper was their only fare for the week, with an option to use up to \$5 to purchase extra food items. Participants could not eat out or accept free food or drink during the challenge. However, to make their food supplies last longer, participants were welcome to use community meal programs (such as Friendship Inn).

“In working with the churches in supporting the Good Food Junction, I learned a good deal about poverty in the city, and the food security issues that many people face,” Bolen said. “This is another way of helping to draw attention to these needs and the challenges many face every day.”

“The gospel calls us to be attentive to the needs of others, and the Food Basket

Challenge specifically draws attention to the needs of those who for one reason or another need to draw upon the food bank,” the bishop said. It also shows the limits of that resource in responding to the issues of poverty and hunger, he added.

Through online blogs and video interviews, participants reflected on the contents of hampers, what it is like to deal with health and work issues without the option of choosing what or how much to eat, and the impact of hunger and food restrictions on well-being and self worth.

In one online post, participant Heather Morrison of Magic 98.3 described feeling sluggish and disconnected as she struggled to subsist on the hamper offerings.

“I feel like I don’t fit in anymore, which is another discovery that is making me sad: this lack of food security has gone beyond hunger; it is affecting my sense of self-worth,” Morrison said in her blog. “I look at everyone else who can eat whatever they want, whenever they want and I feel like I am a whole different world than them. It’s lonely you guys.”

Other reflections include descriptions of day-to day struggles to stretch or prepare the food provided, as well as how to deal with diabetes or allergies without control of food choices.

“There seems to be three models for tackling poverty: hand-outs (philanthropy and charitable giving); hand-ups (programs and services that assist people to make positive changes in their personal lives); and confronting the underlying causes. The last option, while potentially the most effective, is the trickiest and hardest to do,” wrote participant Dr. Julie Kryzanowski.

“What I have learned in this challenge is how completely and thoroughly hunger affects one’s life. When tackling poverty and its associated problems, it’s our moral



Bishop Donald Bolen picks up his hamper for the Food Basket Challenge, held in September to raise awareness and prompt discussion.



Good Food Junction opens

Good Food Junction manager Ralph Winterhalt (right) welcomes Bishop Don Bolen to the newly-opened Good Food Junction cooperative, located in the community enterprise centre, Station 20 West. The store answers a need in the heart of Saskatoon’s core neighbourhood, which was without a full service grocery store for many years. For the past two years, local Christian churches and faith communities have joined together in Advent campaigns in support of the Good Food Junction.

Speak out against euthanasia and assisted suicide says Schadenberg

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

In the debate about legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide, opponents must be persistent in their opposition and clear in their message, the director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition said recently in Saskatoon.

Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition was one of the

speakers at a Campaign Life Coalition provincial conference May 5 in Saskatoon. He also participated in a public debate about assisted suicide at the Saskatoon public library May 3.

Those opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide must continue to speak out, Schadenberg stressed. There are continually new challenges in the courts, as

well as ongoing efforts by euthanasia advocates to introduce new legislation, he said.

It is important to be clear about definitions, as distinctions become blurred and emotional language is introduced into the debate, he said. He pointed to a range of medical ethics issues surrounding death and dying, the withdrawal of medical treatment, the use of sedation and pain medication, and the provision of basic care.

Euthanasia is an action or an omission of medical treatment that directly and intentionally causes the death of another person with the intention of relieving suffering, he said. It is a form of homicide.

The withdrawal of treatment to permit someone to die naturally is *not* euthanasia, he noted. “There is nothing wrong with accepting the limits of life.”

He challenged and disputed a pro-euthanasia argument that there is no difference between killing someone and allowing a person to die.

The key consideration is an intention to cause death, he said. Consent or motive – even of compassion – does not change the reality of actively killing a human being.

As for assisted suicide, and the push to make this an accepted form of medical treatment, Schadenberg stressed the law criminalizing the aiding or abetting of suicide is designed to protect all of us, including the most vulnerable.

Human beings are capable of taking advantage of others, and are known to hurt, abuse and kill others for their own purposes. If the law permits aiding and abetting suicide, or active euthanasia, the

potential for abuse is significant, he maintained.

He pointed to serious concerns about euthanasia and assisted suicide becoming part of an escalation of elder abuse, and raised the question about the vulnerability of those who are depressed.

One study about depression and euthanasia that set out to demonstrate that the two are not connected, instead discovered that a depressed individual is four times more likely to request euthanasia, and that depression is a primary risk factor in requests for euthanasia and assisted suicide, Schadenberg reported.

He also presented examples of inadequate safeguards, poor monitoring and questionable reporting in countries that have legalized euthanasia and/or assisted suicide.

Another serious concern is the often mistaken perception that those who are ill or disabled are suffering, when in fact they are not “suffering from” but “living with” their condition, Schadenberg said.

“People with disabilities are threatened by this,” he asserted.

Increasing understanding and respect for the dignity of human life, enhancing government support for hospice/palliative care systems and services, and maintaining and enforcing existing laws against euthanasia and assisted suicide are goals of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. See: www.euthanaisaprevention.on.ca

Other speakers at the May conference included Fr. Geoffrey Young of Holy Spirit parish and Alana Gomez of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform.



Faith, economics and the environment

Mark Anielski (left), author of “The Economics of Happiness: Building Genuine Wealth” and technical consultant Mark Bigland-Pritchard of Low Energy Design Ltd. were the keynote speakers at an ecumenical day of education and community-building focused on finding faithful alternatives for energy, economics and the environment. Entitled “It Ain’t Easy Being Green,” the Oct. 20 Saskatoon event was organized by a committee made up of members of various denominations, with support from the diocesan commission for Justice and Peace.

Farmland Legacies: Home Quarter project will promote sustainable agriculture while helping local food banks

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A local non-profit organization is working to transform a Wynyard-area farm into a place of education and outreach.

Located in the diocese of Saskatoon on seven quarters of organically farmed land – some of which was donated to Farmland Legacies by the Gillis family – the project is dubbed the Home Quarter.

The project goal is to find ways of improving the current food system, while feeding the hungry – specifically, those who rely on food banks.

Beef raised on the Home Quarter will eventually be donated to food banks throughout the province. At the same time, the project will seek to model agricultural practices that will “build a healthy, sustainable food future,” explained Duane Guina, Farmland Legacies executive director and Home Quarter project manager.

A fund-raising campaign for the Home Quarter was launched on World Food Day, Oct. 16.

“When the Home Quarter is fully developed, donations will ensure a high quality hamburger reaches a food bank to help feed

the hungry,” said Guina, noting that food bank hampers are often short of fresh protein.

“It takes \$500 a year to cover the production costs of one grass-fed animal. A donation of \$1,000 will sponsor a cow in the herd for her productive term and ensure that she lives a high quality life producing calves each year that will be used to sustain the lives of people in need,” he described.

“This is grassroots faith in action.”

With a minimum donation of \$100, all those with roots or connections in Saskatchewan are also being invited to submit the legal description of their family’s home quarter to be displayed on a Home Quarter “wall of fame.”

“The buildings on your family’s home quarter may be gone, but the memories and the connection to the land remain,” said Guina.

“The spirit of those who have walked the rural path before us is woven into the fabric of this wonderful province. This is a way to honour those roots.”

In addition to the legal land description, donors are invited to submit a short description or

anecdote about their family, their history or their land, he added.

Managed by Earthcare Connections, Farmland Legacies is a registered charity that strives to demonstrate that sustainable living and environmentally-sound agricultural practises are viable in today’s world.

For instance, the Home Quarter models the production of food without the use of chemicals, fertilizers or growth hormones.

As headquarters for Farmland Legacies, the Home Quarter is also envisioned as an “agricultural retreat centre” where people can visit, learn about sustainability, or just nourish body, mind and spirit in a harmonious environment, Guina said. The long term plan is to welcome visitors during all seasons of the year.

Launched in 1998, Earthcare Connections was initially funded through sponsorship from the diocese of Saskatoon Bishop’s Annual Appeal. In addition to managing Farmland Legacies, Earthcare offers educational programming in schools with the Earthcare earth balloon.

As well, Farmland Legacies land trust holds and manages farmland, removing it from the

commodity market to treat it as a long-term resource. Land is made available to farm operators under lease, as a way to foster a new generation in sustainable farming.

For more information about the Home Quarter or to contribute to the project’s fundraising campaign contact (306) 554-5263 or: info@farmlandlegacies.org



Development and Peace support

Students Denae Pellerin (left) and Carmen Holmes presented a cheque to Development and Peace representative Michelle Dinter-Lipinski (centre) June 19, announcing the \$42,559 raised this year by Holy Cross Catholic High School for Development and Peace. The amount topped previous records set by staff and students who raise the funds through an annual Box Lunch Auction. The new diocese of Saskatoon co-chairs for Development and Peace are Reanne Lajeunesse and Richard Medernach. This year’s fall campaign offers a reflection on Canada’s international aid policies.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

‘Prairie Prism’ celebrates culture and diversity during Culture Days event at new cathedral

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A celebration of culture and diversity, featuring music, artwork, crafts, food and stories from around the world was held Sept. 30 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The hall and meeting rooms of the diocesan cathedral were filled with activity as hundreds gathered to experience Prairie Prism, initiated this year by the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition as one of many Culture Days events held across Canada Sept. 28-30.

Elaine Harder, chair of the Prairie Prism organizing committee, said she was delighted with the response to the lively, multi-faceted afternoon event, saying it testifies to the growing multi-cultural diversity of the prairie city.

“I feel blessed to count among my friends a growing circle of people from many different parts of the world whose cultures and traditions are different than my own. It brings an indescribable richness to my life and to my beloved country, my

province, and my city,” Harder said. “It is this richness of diversity and this sense of belonging that all of us on the planning committee wanted to highlight and focus on.... as one more step in the process of getting to know each other and understand each other better.”

The afternoon opened with Helen Smith-McIntyre of the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition acknowledging the welcome that the indigenous people of Canada gave to newcomers who first came to this land, and the harm often done to First Nations people by the colonizers.

She also noted that many of those who come to Canada as refugees today are indigenous peoples of other countries, who come seeking protection and safety.

Smith-McIntyre presented a ceremonial gift of tobacco to elder Mike Maurice, who welcomed participants to the Prairie Prism event on behalf of First Nations and Metis peoples.

“Please feel welcome here, in your new home. Enjoy what we have to offer you,” Maurice said. “We offer you friendship, kindness and support whenever you need it. Don’t be scared of us, and we won’t be scared of you either.”

The elder encouraged everyone to work together, especially in building communities that cherish and care for children. “Wherever I go, there is always a concern for our little ones,” he said.

Activities during the Prairie Prism afternoon also included a chance to sample food from many cultures, information booths about different organizations and community services, as well as displays of braiding, African coffee making, embroidery, henna tattooing, origami, sari wrapping, ukulele, and weaving.

A children’s corner offered face painting and crafts. In another room, storytellers told stories from Myanmar (Burma), Afghanistan, Trinidad, Nepal,

Costa Rica, Philippines, Africa, India and Canada, including First Nations stories.

The Saskatoon Refugee Coalition worked with partners and sponsors to present Prairie Prism, including Saskatoon Open Door Society, Global Gathering Place, International Women of Saskatoon, Family Service Saskatoon, Newcomer Information Centre, the City of Saskatoon, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, and St. John Anglican Cathedral, as well as SaskTel, the University of Regina, Affinity Credit Union, Elite Property Management, Saskatchewan Culture, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



A demonstration of Eritrean coffee making was one offering at Prairie Prism.



Helen Smith-McIntyre of the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition presents a ceremonial gift to Elder Mike Maurice at the Prairie Prism event Sept. 30 in Saskatoon.



Volunteers served samples of traditional food from around the world.

STR8UP book warns about realities of gang life

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A book about the pitfalls and realities of gang life was recently published in Saskatoon.

STR8UP and Gangs: The Untold Story was written by 13 men who got caught up in the gang lifestyle, struggled to escape, and now want to prevent other at-risk youth from falling prey to lives of violence, crime and addiction. One of the authors, Curtis Eklund, also illustrated the 100-page book.

Produced through STR8UP, a Saskatoon program of grassroots support for those who want to leave gang life, the book features the complex, harrowing and inspiring life stories of ex-gang members, as well as poems, song lyrics and descriptions of STR8UP's history and philosophy.

Two of the 13 authors were on hand for the official book launch May 14 at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Saskatoon, with the other 11 still incarcerated at that time. All continue on a journey to healing and wholeness.

Phillip Charles Bear Morin, 21, whose story opens the book, spoke about growing up surrounded by gangs, and experiencing pressure to join – something that he managed to resist.

"There's a lot of gang-related behaviour where I live. It's kind of hard sometimes because you always have to watch your back, watch the colours you wear," he said. "It shouldn't be like that, living in your home, you shouldn't have to worry about walking down the street and someone trying to jump you or shoot you or try to make you join."

Morin said he wants to help others deal with that pressure. "My hope is that my message that I wrote in the book for the kids, that they get something out of it; that they take what we all said in the book into

STR8UP program described

At a recent book launch written by ex-gang members, Stan Tu'Inukuafe described STR8UP, which works with individuals who want to get out of the gang lifestyle.

STR8UP asks participants to commit to five conditions, Tu'Inukuafe described. The first requirement is to drop "colours" and leave the gang. "How they do it is up to them. Each gang has a different process," he said.

"The second condition is that they have to deal with their addiction. All gang members are addicts. And so they have to figure out a way of how they are going to manage their addiction, as well as over time get healthy enough where they don't need to rely on drugs."

The third condition is to be honest. "That might kind of sound simplistic, but when you have lived a certain lifestyle, a lifestyle of manipulation, a lifestyle of lying, a lifestyle of muscling people for what you want, it's kind of hard to be honest, and it doesn't happen overnight," he said. "The fourth condition of STR8UP is be humble... you have to get rid of your street attitude that you can 'do whatever you want, to anybody you want, whenever you want.'"



Phillip Charles Bear Morin, one of 13 authors of *STR8UP and Gangs: The Untold Story*, speaks at a book launch in May, alongside (l-r) Allison Piché, Dr. Nancy Styvendale, Diann Block, and Father André Poilievre.

consideration, even though it may be hard," he said. "Because it is hard, especially for the young ones – the older ones are after them to do the dirty work."

Author Cory Cardinal, 28, read an excerpt from his portion of the book.

"I sought change upon release, but pride proved perilous and I was embraced by old ways, landing me in prison several times," he read. "After a lengthy incarceration, I came upon many young kids, all of who were in the midst of initiating into a gang life, without a clue as to what it was about. It was then that I finally decided that I had gained enough responsibility to become a positive role model, as I was already a negative one."

Cardinal said that seeing his work published and attending the book launch is a dream come true, after a lifetime of writing as an escape and a form of therapy.

He described his struggle to break free of the gang code. "It was very hard to leave the gangs, because it was all I knew. I was

The final STR8UP condition is to give four years to STR8UP. "You can't live a certain way, where you stick needles in your arms in the morning and stab people at night, and change that in 48 hours. It's going to take time."

STR8UP's goals for members include becoming loving parents, as the vast majority have children.

The second STR8UP goal is be faithful to one partner and the third goal is to be responsible citizens. "For some that means going to school, for some it's finding work." None of this is easy, and all of it takes time, he stressed.

Co-founder Father André Poilievre stressed the grassroots origins of STR8UP, which began about 12 years ago when two young men high up in the gang structure approached him for help and support in leaving the gang.

"From two, we now have over 100 guys who have left the gangs. Not because of Stan or myself, or anybody else, but because of their decision. The power in STR8UP comes from the bottom, it doesn't come from the top, and that is so important to remember," said Poilievre. "It's their program; it's up to them."

always almost institutionalized to the functions of the gang code, I was segregated and prejudiced," he described.

Then one of Cardinal's cousins introduced him to STR8UP and its founders Father André Poilievre and Stan Tu'Inukuafe. "It's the best thing that ever happened to me, because, look at me now. I'm in treatment; I'm dealing with my addictions...I'm getting healthy, I'm dealing with my past," Cardinal said.

"To all the youth, and to all the struggling gang members out there: there is a way. There is hope. There is, truly. And to all those lost kids out there: just pick up that pen. It's a form of therapy. And thank you to STR8UP – man, you guys changed my life."

The book came about when STR8UP members who were healing began to look for ways to use their talents to give back to the community, related Tu'Inukuafe.

"By sharing their story, they want to give hope to young people who are experiencing challenges in their own lives, so they could recognize that... despite the fact that they struggle with their addictions, despite the fact that they come from dysfunctional backgrounds, that over time, through healing, they can change their negative lifestyle to a more positive one. "

Tu'Inukuafe and Poilievre both acknowledged the help of those who worked to make the book a reality, including Diann Block, First Nations and Métis Community and Cultural coordinator at the provincial Correctional Centre in Saskatoon; and Fawn Einarson of Hear My Heart Books; as well as the coordinators of a creative writing program held at the Correctional Centre: Dr. Nancy Styvendale of the University of Saskatchewan

"We're not dealing with bad people; we're dealing with hurting people. One thing about hurting people is that they can heal."

- Father André Poilievre

department of English and Allison Piché, an MA candidate in the department of Native Studies. The book also received support from other organizations and sponsors such as the John Howard Society and the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon

"There are so many people who worked so hard to make this book happen, and it's an educational book," said Poilievre, stressing the importance of prevention. "It's primarily to help young kids not to get involved in the gang world."

Poilievre said he is extremely proud of all the young men and women who make the "radical, drastic and dramatic decision" to leave gangs and seek healing.

"They are heroes. They are our sons, they are our daughters, they are our nephews and nieces. They are our relatives," he said. "STR8UP is all about relationships. And it's a struggle, but I tell you, the 10,000 little steps that they have to take to succeed, every little step is a success."

Proceeds of the book sale will go to STR8UP, but asked what else would help meet the challenges facing at-risk youth, Poilievre called for a change in attitude about those who are struggling in our society. "The attitude is that the guys in jail, the guys on the street, all these people are bad people," he said, calling for a change among politicians and religious people who want to punish and condemn.

"Let's get rid of that. We're not dealing with bad people, we're dealing with hurting people. One thing about hurting people is that they can heal," he stressed. "Our guys are hurting. They're sick. They're in pain."

Political pressure calling for longer prison terms and stiffer penalties is not going to work, he said. "You need to think seriously about that when you cast a vote."

He also encouraged churches and organizations to invite STR8UP members to come and tell their stories. "We have done over 800 presentations over the last 10 years," he said. "Our guys stand up and tell their story – honestly and humbly – and that's where healing takes place.... Then slowly, perhaps we can help one another."

Messages from *STR8UP and Gangs: The Untold Story*

"I believe that God has spared my life on many occasions for a purpose. I believe that purpose is to help educate disillusioned young people like myself about gang life. Being a gangster will appear glamorous but that's only superficial. You can't possibly see what is behind the mask. Behind the mask there is a life filled with misery, pain, loneliness and drug induced deliriums." – excerpt from "Darkness" by Curtis Eklund

"Take in everything you possibly can, and hopefully you can learn from my mistakes without having to make them yourself." - Michael Gambel, 21

"For those who read this, don't look at me with pity. Look at me with strength cause that's what I am now, a strong person. I am a proud person. I may be broken, but the world is broken too, so I fit right in." – Lazar Journey, 27

"I know children have thrown their futures away because of gangs, violence, drugs and many other bad things and I can't live with that guilt anymore. We've got to do something about it. So let's stand together and heal our hearts." – Jeovanny Vasquez

Restorative Ministry reaches out to prisoners, to victims & to families in an effort to bring healing

In Matthew 25, Jesus says that when we visit his sisters and brothers in prison, we are visiting him. There are many ways to assist with Restorative Ministry in our diocese. For more information call Dianne Anderson in the diocesan Restorative Ministry office at: (306) 659-5845

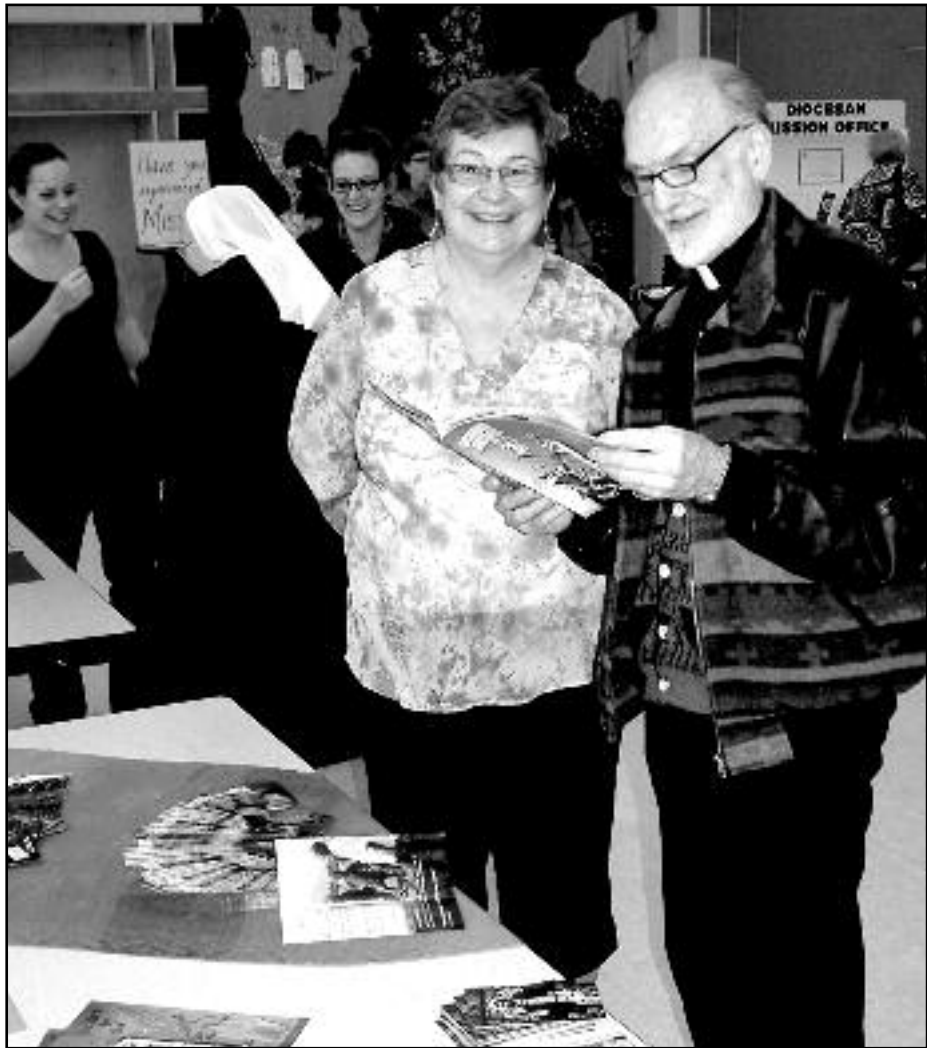
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Compassionate Healers Mass

The 7th annual Compassionate Healers Mass was held Sept 20 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. In the entrance procession (l-r) St. Paul Co-Cathedral Pastoral Associate Brigid Fuller carries a blanket and a medical chart; Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) representative Sandra Normand brings up the sacred oil; and Sr. Evelyn Nedelec, PM, holds a stethoscope. Organized by CHAS, the annual Mass is held to celebrate and pray for all those continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in a variety of settings: as medical professionals, support staff, administration, spiritual care providers, or care givers.



Diocesan Mission Fair

Former Brazil missionary Father Lawrence DeMong, OSB, looks over material at one of the displays during “Where in the World?”— a three-evening Diocesan Mission Fair held Oct. 16-18 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. On each of the three evenings, different speakers described a variety of mission and development projects that have involved residents from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and surrounding area. A wide variety of agencies and mission opportunities were featured in displays, where visitors could ask questions and discuss options related to mission. For more information about the Diocesan Mission Office, which includes the Brazil Mission (see Pages 10-11) visit the website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/mission/index.cfm

Volunteers are needed to visit those in hospital

If you feel a call to serve Jesus in the sick and the suffering, please consider applying as a volunteer in diocesan hospital chaplaincy offered at Saskatoon City Hospital and/or Royal University Hospital.

Hospital chaplaincy is supported by the

For more information call
Céline Hudon in the diocesan Hospital
Chaplaincy office at: (306) 292-5531.



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Support for vital Parish Nurse ministry

St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon recently held an auction of donated items to raise funds for Parish Nurse ministry. Through the auction, sales and draws Oct. 13, the Saskatoon parish raised about \$22,000 in support of the vital outreach provided by their Parish Nurse. Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, is a registered nurse employed by St. Mary's parish, who assists with health issues in the parish community and surrounding area, including those with low income in the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood. She supports and refers families to appropriate government, medical and social agencies, and she assists many who are dealing with health issues such as addictions, mental health, aging and chronic health problems. She also responds to many non-emergency situations in the neighbourhood and provides preventative intervention.



Ursuline Sisters of the Chatham Union

**A Journey of Life and Hope
Celebrating 50 years in Chiclayo, Peru
1962-2012**

**We are grateful to the people of Diocese of Saskatoon
who have been partners with us for the past 50 years
in this journey of life and hope in Peru.**

The sending forth ceremony for the first four Sisters was held in St. Joseph's Church in Chatham, ON. in November 1962. Four Ursulines arrived at the Peruvian port of Calleo on Dec. 16, 1962. In November 2012, the mission continues with two Ursulines, Sisters Pauline Maheux and Loretta Ducharme, who with Peruvian women form a leadership team to carry on what was begun in 1962. We will be celebrating in Chiclayo, Peru from Nov. 14 - 30, 2012. Other celebrations will take place in Chatham, London and Toronto in May & June 2013. Please join us in spirit and prayer as we give thanks for 50 years of graced solidarity.

BRAZILIAN BULLETIN

Diocese of SASKATOON

sharing
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Archdiocese of MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

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

Ursuline lives out gospel through nursing

BY SR. LOUISE HINZ, OSU
What follows is a conversation with Sr. Francisca da Silva, OSU.

Hinz: I know that you have just finished your practical nursing course, which lasted two years. Could you explain the objective of this course and what qualification you now have?

da Silva: The conclusion of this course gives me great joy, love and personal fulfillment because I know that I can put into practice everything I have learned during these two years. Thus I am able to reduce the pain and suffering of so many people. As a practical nurse I will have an important role in the area of health. We are the health workers that stay with patients and accompany their progress 24 hours a day through invasive and non-invasive procedures. For example, we take vital signs, do bandaging... give medication, collect samples for exams: blood, feces, and urine; help doctors and nurses when needed; and most of all, work at humanizing health procedures.

Hinz: Was it easy to get into this course? Is it expensive or can anyone enroll?

da Silva: It was easy to enroll in the course but not so easy to follow it through. You must feel at home with the course, discipline yourself with study times and love what you are doing. In that way you will be



Sr. Francisca da Silva, one of the Ursulines of Bruno from Brazil, recently finished a practical nursing course.

able to face the hardships. It's not like a university course but there are serious challenges.

Hinz: What are some of the difficulties and challenges that you have had to face?

da Silva: The first hardship was to pass everyday exams and to work in groups. Working in groups is not very encouraging because, very often, the other students don't take the responsibility of doing the work

well. They want to do it any which way and at the last minute. Also, the seminars that we are asked to take part in twice a week require good command of the content and then the ability to present it well and creatively.

Hinz: Considering all this work, are you happy with your choice as preparation for the work force? Would you recommend it to other young people?

da Silva: I not only feel happy but also fulfilled as a person and as a professional practical nurse. I always look to the needs of those who look for my care. I ask myself what Jesus would do to respond to the needs of this person before me. What would be his attitude toward life. Thus my role is simply to put myself in the place of the other person and work with compassion, attention and love, trying to make the best of that person's suffering.

Hinz: With your training, will it be easy to find work?

da Silva: It is not that easy, even for a person who is aware of being well-prepared and a good worker. The work opportunities are few, if you consider how many people apply for each position. You have to compete in exams with other applicants and even then you need to know someone on the inside. Even if you pass everything with flying colours, you may not get the job if you have no one to "help" you.

Hinz: The Brazilian Church, this past year, chose as its theme for the Lenten Campaign: "May health be extended throughout the earth." What was the Bible theme for this reflection? Could you talk about the importance of this theme for our people?

da Silva: *Fraternity and Public Health:* "God's work will never be finished, and from him health

spreads over all the earth" (Sirach 38:8). The Lenten Campaign wanted to alert the people regarding their rights and duties in the area of health. Health, according to the Lenten Campaign, is not only physical, but also mental, spiritual and social well-being. The opening hymn of the Lenten mass emphasized this.

Hinz: Brazil has a health plan that is open and free of charge for all its citizens. Is it a good plan or does it have flaws?

da Silva: The health plan is called "SUS" – "Health Plan for all." It is a good health plan. It has good doctors and nurses who are well-equipped with general hospital and surgical materials as well as medicine. The problem is with the distribution of these materials. Much of what should go to the public facilities go, in fact, to the private hospitals. The public health facilities only get the leftovers.

Hinz: In your way of seeing things, what are the main problems with the public health system in Brazil?

da Silva: In my view, the greatest problem is that money that is destined for the public system and for the poor – who cannot afford private health plans – is hijacked by the private system to serve the rich. The poor get very meager leftovers, are poorly attended and rate very low on the priority scale.

Struggles facing little Maria continue

BY SR. JEANNINE RONDOT, SMS

As you may remember, some time ago [see the *Diocesan Newsletter* Dec. 2011] Sr. Marie Noelle wrote an article about little Maria, a three-year-old girl whose young mother (our next door neighbour) had been murdered in her own home in the middle of the night, in front of her four small children.

Following the death of their mother, the four children were placed in different homes, as the individual fathers of the three oldest had also been killed on separate occasions. Let me tell you of the latest developments in the lives of these children.

Vito, now an 11-year-old boy, has been moved from home to home as everyone seems to have had difficulty keeping him. He was deeply affected by the irresponsible way of life his single mother lived out. Vito seldom had the opportunity of being playful as a young child, due to the demands laid upon him very early in life in taking care of his younger brother and two sisters, because their mother was often gone. Vito no longer wanted to go to school, spent much time on the streets at all hours of the day or night, and he eventually got involved with the wrong kind of friends, already introduced to drug life. As a result of all this, Vito became quite rebellious. He is known to have said to a friend: "I know the man who killed my mother. When I am big, I will kill him too!" Life's circumstances certainly have been unfair to him, and now Vito is already suffering the consequences, with a lot of healing to take place if he is to have hope for a happy future.

Gabriel (eight years old), went to live with a family who took great care of him, treating him firmly, but lovingly too. He found a new family life that seemed to assure him of a certain stability and a brighter future. Gabriel was known as an aggressive little boy but he was now going back to school with a bright smile on his face, willing to fall into the good principles of a well-balanced family set up.

Little Maria, now four years old, was unofficially adopted by a loving couple who already had three children of their own. The couple did everything they could for her so that she would become a gracious and loving young child. Maria had previously learned to be a determined little girl and certainly did not make life easy for her newly adopted family, but was settling down nicely as she felt more and more at home with everyone there.

Finally, the smallest child, a little girl of about one year and a half by now, is being raised by her paternal grandmother. From what is being said, it sounds like all is going reasonably well for her and that she may be blessed with a good and stable way of life.

The three oldest children were receiving a pension since their respective fathers and common mother had now died. This appeared to be an attractive aspect for the maternal grandmother who suddenly arrived on the scene and decided to take all three older children to her own home in Maceió.

It was a heart-breaking and sad day for these children and their foster parents, but unfortunately, in this case the grandmother had that legal right over the foster parents. However, being a very unstable person herself, the situation became quite unmanageable for her, and soon after, Vito and Gabriel were sent away to yet another place to live with an uncle in Recife. This means one more separation for them to face with all its consequences of letting go and readjusting to another unknown situation.

One is left wondering what will become of these children who are being up-rooted again and again. We also admire the great generosity and goodness of heart of those people who were so willing to take such risks in accepting to raise these parentless children. They gave their best and were left suffering the pain of separation.



Little Marie and her siblings have been devastated by violence in the community and continue to be shuffled from family to family.

As for the children concerned, it is hoped that they will finally meet the kind of parent models who will take a genuine interest in them and love them into a way of life that will assure them greater stability, with serenity, joy and peace, able to flourish in their wounded young hearts.

Brazil Bulletin

Visit to Canada keeps ties alive between diocese of Saskatoon and its Brazil mission

By Fr. Emile April

We were pleased to receive the visit of three Brazilian friends to our Saskatoon diocese during the months of August and September.

The three – Alcilene Santos de Lima, Genilda Medeiros Cavalcante and Reginaldo Bezzera da Silva – are parishioners of the parish of Santa Maria Madalena in União dos Palmares, where priests and religious sisters from the diocese of Saskatoon have shared their lives and pastoral work with the Brazilian Church over many years, beginning in 1964.

All three of the Brazilian visitors are very involved in the parish life there.

Alcilene is the teacher-principal of a large local high school and has worked very hard with the victims of the latest flood.

Genilda is the parish secretary of Santa Maria Madalena parish in União dos Palmares. As such, she contributed much to the life and works of the priests from the diocese of Saskatoon who were stationed there.

Reginaldo is the manager of one of the local banks in União dos Palmares. Reginaldo is very involved in the Church's *Organization of Community Centres*. The centres were built by the people of each of about 20 small Christian base communities of the city and serve as meeting places for children's catechism, youth activities, Liturgies of the Word, and so on.

The main purpose of the Brazilians' visit was to participate more directly in the continuing connection between the diocese of Saskatoon and the Brazilian archdiocese of Maceió.

They wanted to meet Bishop Donald Bolen and visit the new diocesan cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre. They wanted to pay a visit to Fr. Les Paquin, whose health has not been good, and renew friendships with myself (Fr. Emile April), Benedictines Fr. Lawrence DeMong and Fr. Bernard Stauber, and also re-connect with many of the Saskatchewan people who have visited the Saskatoon Mission in

Brazil over the years. During their visit, the Brazilians got a taste of life and church in Saskatchewan.

The three visitors toured the new Cathedral of the Holy Family and the Catholic Pastoral Centre, they visited several parishes both in the city of Saskatoon and the surrounding rural area.

Other stops included Holy Cross Catholic High School, the Prelate Ursuline Convent on Cree Crescent, and some prairie farms. There was also a touching and powerful visit to Wanuskewin Park in Saskatoon. Genilda (*shown in photo at right*) shed tears of emotion during a First Nations dance, recalling her own heritage as the grandchild of indigenous grandparents.

The visitors were especially delighted to connect again with people of our diocese who had stayed with them in their homes on visits to União dos Palmares. These and other friends of the missionaries, including members of the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee, were happy to receive them into their homes and places of work or leisure.

Our Brazilian friends were able to get a sense of life in Saskatchewan and enjoyed their visit immensely. They appreciated the welcome they received from everyone, including our Bishop Don, when they talked about the importance of the diocese's mission in Brazil. (The visitors also were delighted to receive the gift of Saskatchewan Roughrider hats from the bishop.)

The visitors felt comforted in being able to visit with former missionary Fr. Les Paquin and offer their spiritual and emotional support as he continues to struggle with health issues.

One highlight of their visit was at Samaritan Place, where they visited Fr. Al Pich who had served in the Brazil Mission in União dos Palmares many years ago. Fr. Pich is now bedridden and is unable to communicate very much at all. But when Alcilene called his name and spoke to him in Portuguese, Fr. Pich, gracious as always, smiled a bit and said "Como vai a senhora?" (How are you, my friend?)



A dancer at Wanuskewin Park in Saskatoon (*left*) embraces one of the Brazilian visitors, Genilda Medeiros Cavalcante, who was moved to tears at the encounter with First Nations culture. Cavalcante herself is a descendant of indigenous grandparents. Most Aboriginal peoples in Brazil were exterminated during the first 65 years of colonization. There are only 350,000 full-blooded Indians left in Brazil.



Genilda Medeiros Cavalcante, Canadian friend Hazel Neglowich, Reginaldo Bezzera da Silva, and Alcilene Santos da Lima (*l-r*) enjoyed a meal together during the summer visit.



Alcilene Santos da Lima (*left*) and Genilda Medeiros Cavalcante comfort beloved former Brazilian missionary Fr. Al Pich during a visit to Samaritan Place in Saskatoon this summer.

Cathedral of the Holy Family and Catholic Pastoral Centre officially open with week of celebrations May 6-13, 2012

Beginning with a celebration at the diocese’s first cathedral – St. Paul’s – on May 6 and concluding with a Mass of Blessing to dedicate the new Cathedral of the Holy Family May 13, a Gala Opening Week of activities featured prayer, music, food, tours, reflection and community.



Youth volunteers prepare prizes for a Family Carnival held Sunday, May 6 at the new Cathedral of the Holy Family.



Members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League formed an honour guard at St. Paul's Cathedral May 6, as the Sacred Chrism was sent forth to the new cathedral. A planned walk between the two cathedrals was cancelled because of rain.



A candlelit 'Whispers of God' and Taizé Prayer evening was held May 7.



"Cathedral on Tap" at the new Cathedral May 8 featured conversation and refreshments.



A "Taste of the Diocese" event at the new cathedral on May 9 included food from around the world (left and above) as well as performances by choirs from around the diocese (below).



Catholic Christian Outreach held a "Summit" evening of music and prayer, including Eucharistic adoration May 11.



"Father David and Friends" May 10 was an evening of music featuring many musicians, including composer Bob Hurd and his wife Pia Moriarity.



Representatives of other Christian churches joined Bishop Bolen for an ecumenical prayer service May 12.

Thank you to all who volunteered, to all who attended, and to all who contributed in any way to the project and/or to the opening celebrations!

Find more about the opening events online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/documents/Gala_Opening_Week.pdf (Photos by Tim & Kiply Yaworski)



Led by Joe Kurtz of Assumption of Our Lady parish in Kerrobert, parish representatives from across the diocese carry candles into the Cathedral of the Holy Family at the start of the Mass of Blessing.

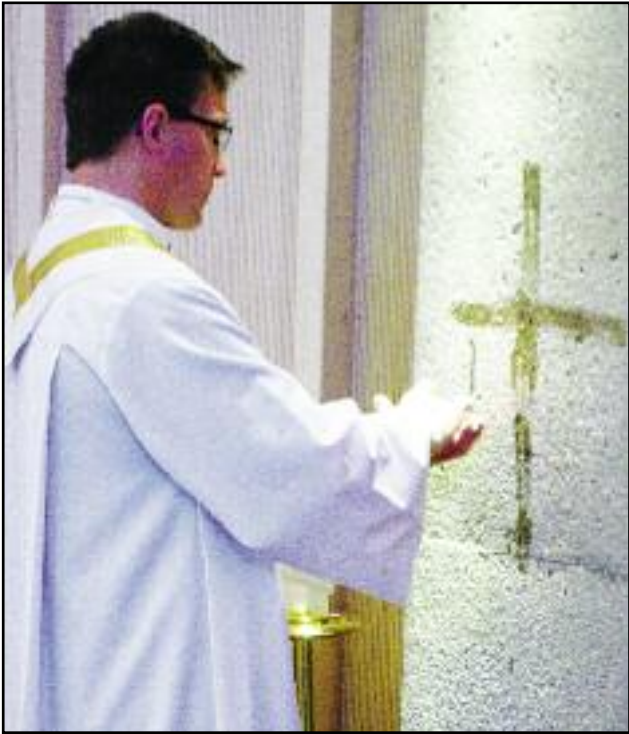
Mass of Blessing dedicates new diocesan home

“The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon rejoices and gives thanks to God for the many gifts which we have received. Echoing the motto of Bishop Mahoney, ‘God is faithful,’ we celebrate how we as church have received grace upon grace from the fountain of God’s faithfulness. We also rejoice in the way that faithfulness has summoned forth great and generous responses on behalf of the people of this diocese...

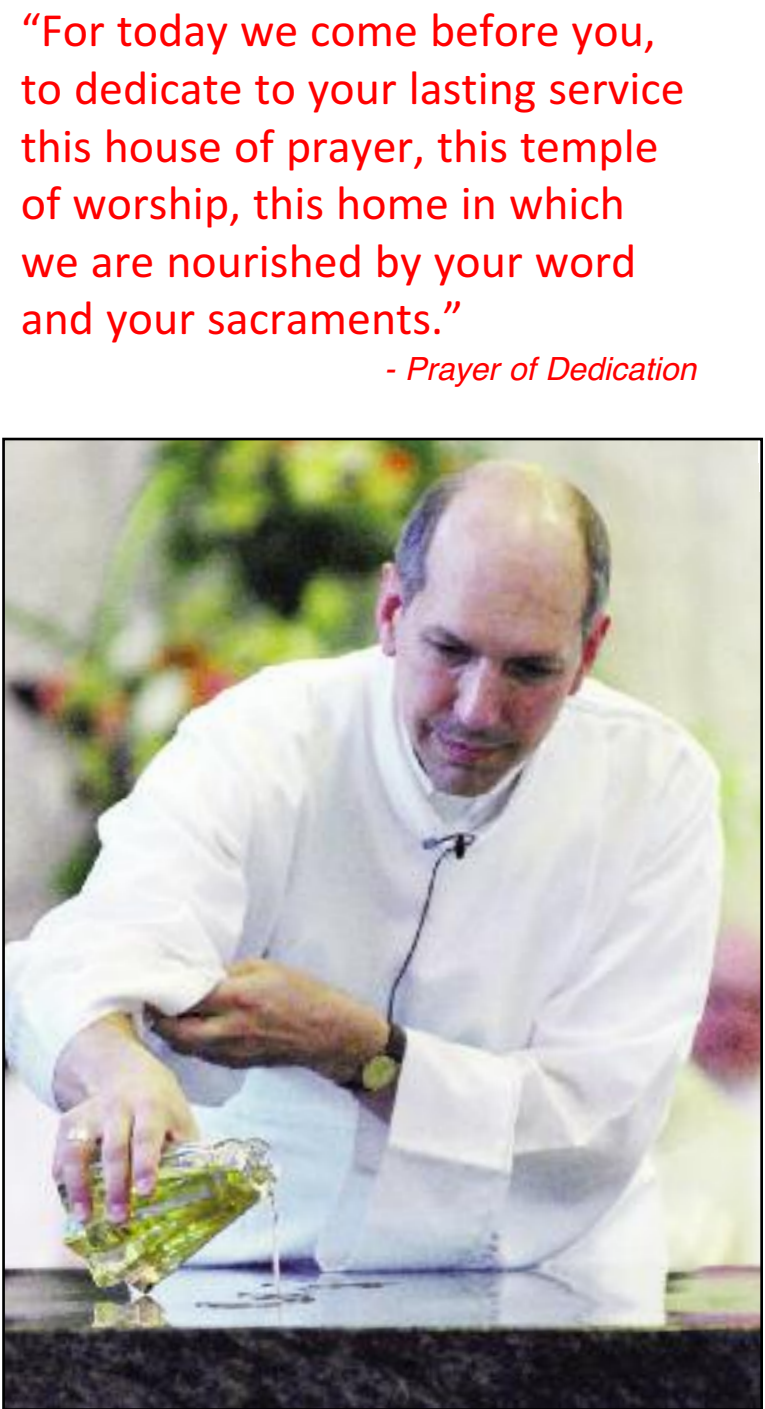
“Let us rejoice together as we dedicate our new diocesan home, this Cathedral of the Holy Family, and pray that it will truly be a temple of living stones and a house of love. Here we will encounter the mysteries of the Incarnation and life of Jesus Christ, and of the Paschal Mystery of his death and resurrection; and from here we will be sent forth by the Holy Spirit to love and serve God as part of his holy family in the world.

“God is good. Let us rejoice!”

+ Donald Bolen
Bishop of Saskatoon
May 13, 2012



Father Kevin McGee anoints one of the walls of the building during the dedication May 13, 2012.



Bishop Donald Bolen pours the Sacred Chrism upon the altar during the dedication liturgy.



Father David Tumback, rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and Bishop Don Bolen greet the assembly.



The new cathedral’s worship space with the baptismal font in the foreground.



A child watches as candles are put in place by parish representatives.



Bishop Don Bolen accepts the gifts from a local family during the Mass of Blessing for the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Discernment and Vocations



Hike and Pray concluded with Mass at the historic Batoche church.
- Photo submitted by Sisters of the Presentation of Mary



Hikers were blessed with sunshine and blue skies as they walked and prayed along the prairie roads June 16 as part of a Hike and Pray pilgrimage. - Photo submitted by Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

Hike and Pray features prayer and reflection about God’s call

SUBMITTED BY SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

A two-day Hike and Pray pilgrimage focused on vocation and discernment was held June 15-16, with participants walking a path of reflection and prayer from Bellevue to Batoche, north of Saskatoon.

In communion with the International Eucharistic Congress in Ireland, focusing on our “lives offered up in communion with Christ and for others,” the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the dioceses of Saskatoon and Prince Albert hosted the 24-hour retreat/pilgrimage for men and women, 18 to 35 years, curious about a vocation to religious life and priesthood.

The group gathered on Friday evening June 15 for a barbecue at the novitiate of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary in Bellevue Sk.

Participants spent time exploring different aspects of being called and reflecting on each of these elements and their place in their lives. A seminarian who was newly ordained as a deacon shared his vocation story. A sister with over 50 years as a consecrated religious spoke on what sustained her through the years. Evening prayer and socializing concluded the day.

The group reconvened on Saturday morning June 16 for a hearty breakfast and

prayer before setting out under a “Mary-blue sky.” Each segment of the 16-kilometre walk consisted of a presentation, testimonies, questions for reflection, prayer, silence and sharing.

The group ended the Hike and Pray event with celebration of the Eucharist in the historic Batoche Church. Each one left joyful and grateful for the challenge to nurture the seeds of their personal call, ready and renewed to respond to God’s invitation to love and serve others.

A few reflections from the participants: “I really enjoyed the day as well as hearing the others’ testimonies.”

“I really enjoyed the chance to spend a day walking and talking with many consecrated people, to be able to hear their stories and talk about my life with them.”

“My favorite part of the ‘Hike and Pray’ was being together. It gives so much hope just to be in each other’s presence.”

“I appreciated so much the whole of this event, it was well organized: the diverse talks and hearing from different people’s experiences, the rich reflections, and the beautifully prepared prayer time.”

“It gave me an opportunity to visit with the priests, deacons and sisters, to get to

know their story and how they were called to the religious life. I found it fascinating just how God called each one individually to their vocation.”

“It was a great event! The one thing I appreciated the most was how you arranged the weather with God: a perfect day

sandwiched in between rain, wind, etc...How did you do that?”

“I loved the sign in the heavens and the rainbow around the sun overhead as we walked our path. Yes, God’s presence was with us in a special way.”



Discernment House retreats
Retreat participants recently took some time to toss autumn leaves at Discernment House in Saskatoon. As the Year of Faith begins, Sisters of the Presentation of Mary – working with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate – continue offering retreat weekends at Discernment House. Young adults gathered for a “Personal History” retreat Oct. 12-14, reflecting together and journaling to come to a better understanding of who they are and how they are called to follow Christ.
- Photo submitted by Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

Couple experienced hardship and uncertainty in fleeing Afghanistan

BY BLAKE SITTLER

A couple new to Canada spoke at the 10th annual diocesan Marriage Appreciation Banquet April 21 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. The evening included Mass, a banquet and a dance.

Sangin and Muhammad Niazi presented the keynote entitled: “The New Canadian Experience: Marriage in Migration.”

Sangin and Muhammad’s story began in Afghanistan where both of them were born. Muhammad was an economist with the government in the Ministry of Economics and Population, and Sangin was a professor at the local university where she taught chemistry to medical students.

“We have had war in Afghanistan for more than 36 years... we wanted to stay with our education to give back to our poor country but once the Taliban came in we had to get out because women couldn’t work or go to school or have an education.”

Muhammad was threatened at work because when the Taliban came into power and everyone in his office was forced to pray five

Vocations and Marriage & Family Life are supported by:



times a day, he said: “This place is to work, not for prayer; I can pray at home.” The statement led to his arrest. Sangin was left alone with their four children.

After six months, even with help from her family, she was still unable to locate him. When they eventually heard from him, Muhammad’s note was dire. “Please leave with my kids and go somewhere safe,” he wrote.

On the advice of her brothers who were living in Russia, she spent the next two months trying to obtain visas and passports for her and her children so she could try to get to Moscow. She sold everything the family owned and packed two small bags to make their trip — a journey that took them through Iran and included several legs by bus and train that lasted over 24 hours with her small children.



Sangin and Muhammad Niazi at Marriage Appreciation Banquet

After a year, Sangin took on a job helping at a school for refugees run by the United Nations. The schools were far from her home and she could only get there via a combination of several bus and train routes. It took three hours to get home and back each day. “We lived this way for another three years. It was not an easy life,” she said.

Sangin decided to try to make her way to Canada. The process was difficult. In the midst of waiting for their papers to be accepted, the attacks of Sept. 11,

2001 happened in New York.

Sangin remembered saying, “Now we can’t go...because all people think we [Muslims] are terrorists now.” To her great surprise and relief she was told that she and her children could come to Canada.

The immigration officer advised Sangin not to settle in Ottawa. “He told me, ‘I’m from Saskatoon...it’s a nice city, you’ll like it,’” she recounted. Sangin and her children made their home in Saskatoon and learned English. At this time, she did not know if her

husband was alive or dead.

Three years after arriving in Canada, Sangin heard the phone ring at seven in the morning. She heard her child answer the phone and then hang up. When she asked who it was, her daughter said, “Someone on the phone just said, ‘My daughter! My daughter!’” and she started to cry.

Muhammad called back later that night and said, “I’m alive! But I have to get out of the country now.”

Sangin and Muhammad had an arranged marriage. They noted that marriage was not only about a nice wedding – or, Sangin joked, simply washing more clothes – but that it was about sacrifice and taking care of each other, no matter what. “Marriage is a commitment; it’s not about always being happy...I believe life is hard and you have to live for your family,” she concluded.

Sangin now works with refugees coming to Saskatchewan and Muhammad works for the city of Saskatoon. They have four children, two in high school and two in university studying medicine and pre-medicine.

Vocations

Diocese celebrates recent ordinations

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Two priests were ordained for the diocese of Saskatoon in June, at a joyful celebration at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Fr. Gregory Roth, 26, and Fr. Hoang Nguyen, 41, are now serving as associate pastors: Roth at St. Augustine in Humboldt, and Nguyen at St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon.

As well this year, two seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate – another step on their journey toward the priesthood.

Colin Roy was ordained a deacon in a celebration at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt May 31, and Deacon Daniel Yasinski was ordained June 1 at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon. Both Roy and Yasinski returned to St. Peter's

Seminary in London, ON. this fall for one more year of study.

At the ordination celebration June 22, the assembly responded “thanks be to God” and broke into applause when Bishop Don Bolen introduced Nguyen and Roth. They are the first priests to be ordained in the new diocesan Cathedral.

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, and some 70 priests joined Bolen in blessing Nguyen and Roth in the presence of family, friends, diocesan representatives and visitors from around the world.

“This is a day when we are super abounding with joy,” Bolen said at the start of the liturgy that included proclamations in French and Vietnamese, with music ministry led by a diocesan choir.



The community prays the Litany of the Saints at the ordination of Fr. Gregory Roth and Fr. Hoang Nguyen, held June 22 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

Diocesan vocation director Rev. Gerard Cooper presented the men for ordination, calling forth seminary representatives to speak about each of the candidates.

Today's culture tends to doubt the language of call, observed Bolen in his homily. “And yet, we are here. And you are here: ready to prostrate yourselves on the floor and implore the saints to give you the grace to carry out the ministry that has been asked of you, ready to live in obedience to the gospel and your calling.”

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, it is God who is described as saying “Yes” to us in Christ, said Bolen, which “allows us to be a people of boundless hope, no matter what we experience.” In response, we are called to say “amen” with our lives, the bishop said. “Brothers, may your ‘amen’ be carried on the wings of grace, may

it give life to your brothers and sisters every day of your ministry in His name.”

The rite of ordination continued with Roth and Nguyen declaring their intention to care for the Lord's flock, promising to serve faithfully and reverently, and pledging obedience to the bishop and his successors.

As a sign of surrender to God, the two young men lay prostrate upon the floor in front of the altar while the assembly prayed for the intercession of the saints and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The bishop then conferred ordination by laying his hands upon the head of Roth and Nguyen – a gesture repeated by the many priests present at the celebration, as a sign of unity and shared spirit.

After a prayer of consecration by the bishop, Roth and Nguyen were vested with the stole (a sign of

the priestly office) and the chasuble (the Eucharistic vestment) with assistance from Rev. Pius Schroh and Rev. Phong Pham.

Each newly-ordained priest then knelt before the bishop, who anointed their hands with the Sacred Chrism oil, blessed at the diocesan Chrism Mass in Holy Week. A chalice and paten were presented by the bishop to each of the newly-ordained priests, with the words: “Know what you are doing and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross.”

Nguyen and Roth then joined the bishop and priests at the altar to celebrate Eucharist.

Born May 3, 1971 in Sai Gon, Hoang Nguyen is the son of Nhu V Nguyen and Ky T Hoang of Viet Nam, who attended the celebration June 22 in Saskatoon along with Fr. Hoang's aunt Hong T Hoang and his brother Huynh H Nguyen.

Born Sept. 15, 1985 in Saskatoon, Gregory Roth is the oldest son of Denise (Hounjet) and Louis Roth, and has one younger brother, Jonathan.

News articles about the three ordination celebrations this year can be found on the diocesan website's News Archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Fr. Hoang Nguyen and Fr. Greg Roth listen to the bishop's homily at the ordination celebration. - Photo by Tim Yaworski



Bishop Don Bolen prays over seminarian Colin Roy during his diaconate ordination.



Deacon Daniel Yasinski greets guests at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon during a reception after his ordination to the transitional diaconate.



Deacon Colin Roy (right) speaks at a program held at St. Augustine parish hall in Humboldt after his ordination to the transitional diaconate. Roy served his pastoral internship in Humboldt.

Vocations Office and Education of Future Priests supported by the



Youth Ministry



Youth stand at the base of the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel during this year's Rock the Mount Catholic youth rally.

Rock the Mount 2012: hillside filled with youth and families praising God

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Under sunny prairie skies and surrounded by lush fields, hundreds of youth and their families filled the hillside at the historic Our Lady of Mount Carmel shrine Aug. 18 for Rock the Mount, an annual celebration of Catholic faith featuring music, talks and prayer.

Beginning as a follow up to World Youth Day in Toronto in the summer of 2002, Rock the Mount Catholic youth rally once again brought together many groups, ministries and individuals to lead the free youth-centred event.

Music was provided by the Alberta band *FX of Grace*, as well as by the Saskatchewan-based FacetoFace Ministries evangelization team.

FacetoFace founder Ken Yasinski was master of ceremonies throughout the day, and a team led by assistant director Jon Courchene provided activities for children 12 and under. For FacetoFace Ministries, Rock the Mount was also the concluding event of a week-long *Ignite* youth camp held at nearby St. Therese Institute in Bruno.

After a penitential service led by newly-ordained diocesan priest Fr. Gregory Roth, assistant pastor at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt, priests from around the province celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation at stations throughout the picturesque site.

The Diocesan Youth Retreat Team and seminarians from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon led the rosary in prayer sessions throughout the day, and a number of groups, religious orders and vendors set up displays at the base of the hill.

Peter van Kampen, a youth ministry coordinator from central Alberta, was the featured speaker, focusing on the theme “St. Joseph, Our Faithful Protector” in several talks.

Bishop Donald Bolen also provided an afternoon reflection about vocation, in addition to presiding at the celebration of the Eucharist.

With the Year of Faith about to begin throughout the Catholic Church, it is a time not only to deepen our faith, but to “deepen our ability to speak our faith,” Bolen said, stressing the faithful presence of God in these efforts, and God’s deep desire to draw all into the fullness of life.

Rock the Mount ended with Eucharistic adoration, followed by a lively praise and worship session under the stars.

Rock the Mount organizing committee is seeking new members to help with a variety of tasks, large and small, in preparation for the 2013 event

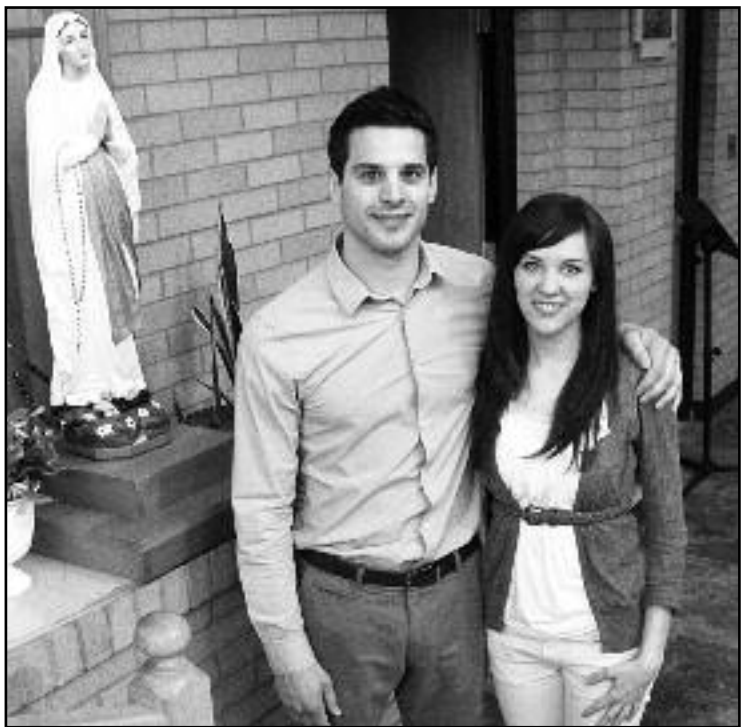
Contact Doug or Cathy Swarbrick at (306) 242-2721 or info@rockthemount.com



Theology on Tap

Another season of faith discussion began Sept. 17 for young adults 19 to 35, with speaker Blake Sittler (left), co-director of pastoral services in the diocese of Saskatoon, talking about faith and religion. Theology on Tap’s 2012-13 themes will relate to The Year of Faith. Held at Lydia’s Pub in Saskatoon, Theology on Tap is organized by the diocesan and eparchial Youth Ministry offices and the St. Thomas More College campus ministry team.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes



Purity Rally speakers

An annual Purity Rally was held May 12 in Saskatoon, with keynote speakers Matt Nelson and Amanda Olson speaking on the “power of purity.” The event is organized by Pure Witness Ministries, which also holds monthly youth gatherings (YEP) and family Re-Connect events at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. See: www.purewitness.com

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

Catholic youth clubs organize event in support of Chalice

Three Saskatoon youth clubs joined forces Oct. 12 to hold a fund-raising dinner and dance for Chalice, a Catholic charity working in many countries around the world.

Members of the Challenge Catholic Girls Club, the ConQuest Catholic Boys Club and Pure Fashion raised about \$15,000 for Chalice through the event held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. As well, 22 child sponsorships were initiated as a result of information provided during the evening.

The event included Mass celebrated with Fr. David Tumbach, dinner, a talk about the work of Chalice, as well as music by Brad Johnner and the Johnner Boys, and a family dance.



Servants for Christ at St. Augustine

Members of the *Servants for Christ* youth group at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon recently helped clean up the yard of the church office and rectory. Meeting one or two Saturday evenings a month, the Grade 3-8 group grew out of the parish *Kids for Christ* program (for children from 4 years of age to Grade 3). For more information contact Janine Baier at 978-5205.

- Photo by J. Baier

Thank you to all who made Rock the Mount possible

Bishop Donald Bolen and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; The Benedictines of St. Peter’s Abbey; St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt; Catholic Christian Outreach; the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team; Saskatchewan K of C Charitable Foundation; K of C Council 7315, Nipawin; Council 1517, Saskatoon; Council 11888 - Our Lady of Lourdes, Saskatoon; Council 8215, Saskatoon; and other K of C councils; many Catholic Women’s League councils; Bishop James Mahoney Foundation; Immaculate Heart of Mary World Youth Day Committee, Martensville; Ursuline Sisters and other religious orders in the province; Night Owl Audio; Murray Hergott; St. Peter’s Press; Culligan Water Matters, Saskatoon; Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division; and many individuals and organizations for their prayers, time, wisdom and resources. Above all, we praise and thank the Lord for providing all that is needed and Our Lady for her intercession.

Rock the Mount 2012 Organizing Committee www.rockthemount.com

Youth Ministry



Youth and their families gathered with Bishop Don Bolen to celebrate Mass as part of a diocesan Momentum youth rally.
- Photos taken by Tim Yaworski

Momentum: *The Voice* provides faith enrichment for Grades 6-8

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

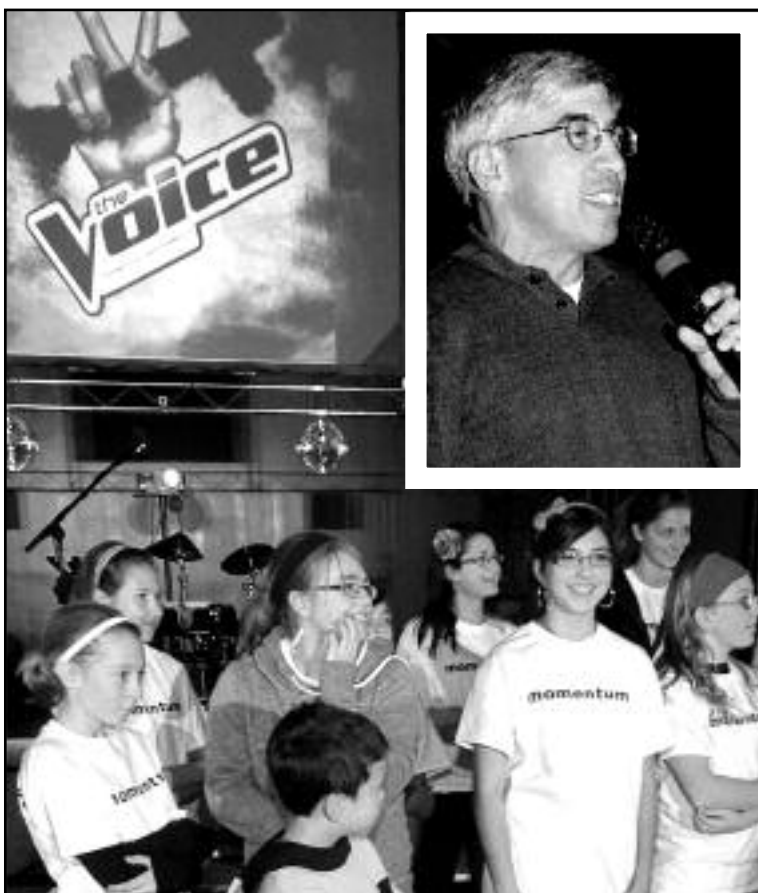
"I am a man in need of a stepping stool" is how Greg Thompson describes himself.

Born with a physical disability, Thompson stands less than five feet tall. When speaking to youth, the Catholic speaker from Alabama draws upon his life experiences of bullying and ridicule. Youth relate to his challenges and struggles, as he then describes how he overcame these issues, and how his faith deepened because of them.

Thompson was the keynote speaker at the Oct. 13 diocesan "*Momentum: The Voice*" youth rally for grades 6 to 8, held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

"I used to walk into a room and call myself crippled kid and people would say 'Ah that's cripple kid' and then you get comfortable with cripple kid and then you can make fun of him," related Thompson. His father explained that when he did that, he never gave "cripple kid" a chance to say who he really was. "So I took that opportunity from that day on to say 'This is who I really am. This is what I am really about.'"

Thompson related how by the end of high school he was student government president. His election speech spoke of the earlier bullying he received from classmates: "I don't hold any of



Grades 6-8 youth gathered Oct. 13 for "*Momentum: The Voice*" with keynote speaker Greg Thompson (inset). - Photos by Tim Yaworski

that against you. You just didn't know what you were talking about, so I am the smart one, so elect me," he said with a laugh.

Involved with youth ministry for 25 years at both diocesan and parish levels in Alabama, Thompson is currently serving as director of liturgy and music for

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Madison, where he lives with his wife Jaren and his two daughters, Michelle and Meagan. He is a year away from ordination to the diaconate, which will change how much time he will be able to spend speaking to youth, he predicted.

While keeping his talks relevant to young peoples' lives, Thompson rooted his presentation in Catholic theology and faith discussion. He said that he found the young Saskatoon group unique in being up to the task.

"Usually Grade 6 and up, it's very entry level; mostly fun and games and very surface. I am humbled to follow Michael Chiasson who spoke here last year. He has done some amazing work here and in following his footsteps we called this group to a higher standard," said Thompson.

"I talk to them in a real way and I talk about teachings," Thompson said of his wish to push the envelope in terms of theology. "I snuck in some teachings today about virtue. In a quick nutshell I taught them about 14 paragraphs in the catechism about natural law."

He also reflected on the Momentum rally in terms of what it means in relation to the restoration of the order of initiation sacraments. In the diocese of Saskatoon the sacrament of confirmation is now celebrated in Grade 2, in conjunction with first Eucharist, as opposed to celebrating confirmation years after first Eucharist in Grades 6 to 8. The change has highlighted the need for ongoing faith formation of youth, and the Momentum rally is

envisioned as one way to encourage that process.

"I used to say confirmation was a lot like a Bar Mitzvah (the coming of age celebration in the Jewish faith) and maybe it is, but that is really only because of the age we present it in the States. I feel like I am here for a type of Bar Mitzvah type of event that calls these kids forth," he said of the diocesan Momentum youth rally. "Now here is an opportunity to redefine a calling forth of children to their young adulthood, a coming of age experience that is unique here."

With live music, video screens and podcasts – which the guest speaker called "*GregCasts*" – being recorded and immediately posted to YouTube and Facebook, the diocesan rally in Saskatoon was cutting edge in using multimedia and social networking.

The 2012 Momentum rally involved some 150 Grades 6-8 youth from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon gathering for the day of praise and worship, games, fellowship and inspirational talks. Families joined the youth for Mass with Bishop Don Bolen and supper, before the day wound up with an annual Bishop's Cup basketball tournament between clergy and youth, held later that evening at nearby St. Joseph high school.

Diocesan youth ministry coordinator Colm Leyne pointed to the collaborative nature of the event, which also featured the Awakening retreat team from FacetoFace Ministries.

"We also received a lot of support from other youth ministries in the area. The Challenge Girls Group helped with registration and catering, and Pure Witness Ministries were the masters of ceremonies for the day. All of that – combined with good attendance from out of town youth – made this rally a truly diocesan event."

Youth Ministry
is supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL



Momentum participants were among youth who gathered with Bishop Don Bolen (above, right) and members of the clergy Oct. 13 at St. Joseph high school for the annual Bishop's Cup basketball tournament. Fr. Greg Roth takes control of the ball (in photo at left) during a game. Clergy won this year's cup for the first time ever.

Christian Initiation and Catechetics



Michelle Sieben, Mary Comeault, Lynda Statchuk and Elan Ehresman are coordinators of the newly-renamed and expanded diocesan Office of Christian Initiation and Catechetics.

Diocesan catechetics office includes resources and coordination related to Christian initiation at every age

The former office of Rural Catechetics has been restructured as Christian Initiation and Catechetics (CIC) in the diocese of Saskatoon.

The change is part of an ongoing diocesan discernment about the importance of Christian initiation and how to use the Church's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process as a model for evangelization. This will include the preparation for all initiation sacraments at every age: baptism, confirmation and First Eucharist.

The expanded office continues its previous work supporting rural parishes in offering catechism to children. The office now also works with city parishes. The goal is to support all parishes in the good work that is already happening, and to provide resources and coordination

related to sacramental preparation.

The newly-renamed office also takes on coordination of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) after the death this spring of diocesan initiation coordinator Monsignor Michael Koch.

Staff members now coordinating Christian Initiation and Catechetics in the diocese include Mary Comeault of Viscount, Lynda Statchuk of Wadena, Michelle Sieben of Denzil, and Elan Ehresman of Richmond.

Christian Initiation
and Catechetics
is supported by the



Humboldt parish provides faith enrichment to parents in tandem with children's sacramental prep

By MARIE-LOUISE TERNIER-GOMMERS

Raising children in the Catholic faith has become a monumental task. Today's secular world offers a smorgasbord of religious paths to choose from and family life is dictated by a multitude of commitments in work, school, sports and leisure, with church often at the bottom of the list. But we cannot pass on to our children what we ourselves do not first claim, understand and cherish.

It is this obvious fact which motivated us at St. Augustine Parish to invite parents of children preparing for sacraments into a more extensive adult faith formation process this past year.



Children sing and pray at a sacramental preparation session in Humboldt.

- Photo by Mary Comeault

Some 35 children in Grade 2 celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time and another 37 Grade 3 children were confirmed and received the Holy Eucharist for the first time. While some of the preparation for these sacraments occurs in our two Catholic elementary schools, both parents and children of these 72 families were invited to supplemental sessions in the parish.

While sacramental catechesis with children is a much-honed skill in our Church, the process is more challenging and less developed with adults. For starters, we ran general faith formation sessions throughout the fall, asking parents to sign up for four random sessions out of a total of eight, choosing whichever offerings fit best into their schedules.

Then in the winter and spring we offered two parent sessions on the sacrament of reconciliation and six on confirmation and Eucharist, none of which were optional. The large number of families prompted us to offer each session in two different time slots, a weekday evening and a Saturday morning. Eighty per cent of the families accepted this invitation, clearly appreciating the elements of choice built into how the sessions were offered.

The basis for the general sessions in the

"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



Marie-Louise Ternier Gommers (right) facilitates an adult education session with parents in Humboldt.

- Photo by Mary Comeault

fall was the video-series by Thomas Groome entitled "What makes us Catholic?" Each video-talk was about 30-40 minutes, followed by table discussions with the help of focus questions, which was then summarized in large group reporting. Prayer at the start and end of the sessions wrapped this experience of building community, strengthening bonds between families and parish, and encouraging reverent learning about our Catholic faith. Children's sessions ran concurrently and were led by our Youth Ministry Coordinator along with teenage volunteers.

The session format invited parents to share among themselves about the joys and challenges of Catholic parenting, to articulate with one another their faith understandings and questions, and to enter ritual experiences of prayer and reflection.

Some of the feedback included: "I really enjoyed hearing others express their feelings, thoughts and questions they had about our faith." and "I gained a better understanding of what is involved in being part of the Church."

Another parent wrote: "At first I thought (the sessions) were for us to teach our children better, but now I realize I needed to look more closely at my own life with regard to my faith and the Catholic religion."

We then began the more focused preparations for each sacrament. Through presentations and short videos, quizzes and discussion questions, parents explored the Church's seven sacraments, the meaning of

the symbols used in the Baptismal Rite and how to explain these symbols to their children, the changes which have occurred with the sacrament of confirmation and why, and various sessions on helping parents to plumb the depths of the mystery of the Eucharist in order to help them connect the Eucharist to their daily lives.

Careful attention was given to set-up, content delivery and process in order to facilitate an adult approach to faith formation in which parents basically "evangelized" and helped one another to learn and grow. A light-hearted spirit allowed for a generous sense of hospitality and openness, as indicated by one parent's surprise that this was not a "being lectured at" type of learning.

Given the large numbers, parents were organized in small table groups of seven with one designated group facilitator. One parent wrote on her evaluation form: "At first I was frustrated that we had to attend six sessions, but looking back I now understand why. I learnt a lot about my faith." Some families, as a result of the sessions, renewed their commitment to regular Mass participation.

This doesn't mean that the experience had the same effect for all parents/families. What it does indicate, however, is how tremendously important it is to provide opportunities for parents for faith renewal and learning when preparing their children to celebrate sacraments – and how vital it is to provide such faith formation in a user-friendly, caring and hospitable way. Then God's Spirit will do the rest.



Sacramental preparation in City Deanery

Mary Comeault of the diocesan office of Christian Initiation and Catechetics leads a recent discussion among sacramental preparation coordinators from Saskatoon city parishes, including pastoral associates. The gathering discussed the coordination of the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and first communion in their parishes and building a stronger liaison in support of each other, as well as encouraging more collaborative networking with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. Gilbert Chevrier represented Catholic schools.

Adult Faith Formation

Lay Formation graduates reflect on blessings as program marks 25th year

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty-one graduates of a diocesan Lay Formation were sent forth by Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen and Prince Albert Bishop Albert Thevenot during a June 3 missioning celebration at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The group journeyed together for two years in monthly weekend gatherings held at Queen's House, in a program designed to help adult Catholics deepen their baptismal commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus. The program provides faith education and learning, an ongoing focus on prayer, and an experience of Christian community.

Lay Formation is also celebrating its 25th anniversary in the diocese of Saskatoon this year, with alumni and past and present team members celebrating at their annual fall retreat Oct. 19-20.

Several 2012 graduates of the program recently reflected on the Lay Formation experience and what it has meant to their journey of faith and their relationship to God and others.

"I learned to accept God's love for me," said Lorne Keller of St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon. "That's pretty powerful."

Lorne went through Lay Formation with his wife Helen. At times it was difficult to juggle the schedule, but Lorne said he made

Lay Formation is supported by the



Lay Formation a priority. "It was well worth it," he said, describing the experience as having many great blessings and many surprises.

"When I first came, I was very apprehensive," he said of the formation experience. "I'm from the old school, and when I grew up you just didn't do things like this. But once I started getting into the weekend, it was a life-changing experience."

Experiencing different kinds of prayer, deepening a relationship with God, growing in understanding of faith, and building Christian community are major elements of the program.

Lorne says he was especially touched by the people that he met and journeyed with over the two years. "I know I have friendships for the rest of my life with people I've journeyed with here in the Lay Formation program," he said. "They are friends that will carry you, you can draw from them."

Sharon Guina of St. Augustine parish in Humboldt emphasized the richness of the Lay Formation experience. "What I really love is



Debbie Ledoux (centre) is the new coordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation, joining Lay Formation team members Kate O'Gorman (right) and Mona Goodman, coordinators of Lay Formation in the diocese. Debbie is also a pastoral associate and active member of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon. Lay Formation is marking its 25th anniversary in the diocese.

the balance of the program," she said. "I think that it offers everything for you, you've got things that are there for your brain, you've got things that are there for your soul, for your spirit, for your emotions, healing experiences."

Saskatoon residents Carine and Jared Podhorodeski were able to experience Lay Formation thanks to the support of Carine's parents, who took care of their young son while they attended the weekends every month from September to June over two years. Shortly before they began Lay Formation, the young couple discovered that Carine was pregnant. Daughter Annabelle was born during their first year of the program, and joined her parents every weekend after that.

It has been a special blessing to journey through the program



Lay Formation 2012 grads renew their baptismal promises at a missioning celebration in June.

with a baby, said Carine, describing the love and support they have shared with the Lay Formation community. "It's a whole other family."

Lay Formation has had a huge impact on their lives and on their faith, say Jared and Carine.

"I just don't know who I would be without Lay Formation. The support, and the growth that you get from the people here, from the teachers, from the staff: it's just incredible," said Carine.

In alternate years the Lay Formation program offered in Saskatoon also includes participants in an eparchial Ukrainian Catholic stream and an

Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation stream supported by three dioceses (Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin Le-Pas).

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

"The common thing is that God touches all of us," said Jared, describing the joy and the richness of sharing Lay Formation with Catholics of different backgrounds and traditions.

Lay Formation 2012 graduates include: Sharon Guina of St. Augustine, Humboldt, SK.; Serge Halde of Sacred Heart, Marengo, SK.; and Renske Averyt of Sacred Heart, Prince Albert; as well as Saskatoon parishioners Darren and Kerrie Anderson of St. Anne; Helen Butag and Duane Muyres of St. Paul Co-Cathedral; Ron and Elaine Frehlich of St. Patrick; Jocelyne Hamoline, Carine and Jared Podhorodeski, and Andy Wilson of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon; Lorne and Helen Keller of St. Augustine; Linda Klassen and Robert Perverseff of Our Lady of Lourdes; Debbie Ledoux of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Arnel Mendoza of St. Mary; Loretta Tetzlaff of St. Philip Neri; and Kim Morrison of Holy Spirit.

For more information about Lay Formation – including the diocesan and Aboriginal Catholic streams – check out the website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/layformation/index.cfm



Thinking Catholic(s)

Nick Jesson presents the final instalment of a diocesan Foundations series entitled "Thinking Catholic(s)" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3 at the Queen of Peace Chapel, Cathedral of The Holy Family. "Thinking Faithfully" will consider concepts such as growing in faith and holiness and making moral choices. Includes discussion. Pre-registration is not required. Free will offering.

Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together

Foundations programs in the diocese of Saskatoon include:

• **Making Sense of the Old Testament** - with facilitator Fr. Matthew Ramsay, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13 at St. Theresa, Asquith, SK. Contact Louise Brecht at (306) 329-4705 to pre-register, \$5.

• **"Bless Me Father, For I Have Sinned"** - the sacrament of reconciliation and adult moral development - with facilitator Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13 at St. Michael, 18-33rd St. East, Saskatoon. Contact Myrna Wolfe at (306) 242-5150 to pre-register, \$5.

• **Twelve Signs of a Healthy Spirituality** - with facilitator Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 at St. Francis Xavier, 222 Willow Street (corner of Hilliard & Melrose) Saskatoon. Contact: Irene LeGatt at (306) 933-1108 to pre-register, \$5.

• **Prayer: An intimate conversation between friends** - with facilitator Christy Dupuis 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 at Holy Trinity, Pilger, SK. Contact Madeline Schmitz at (306) 367-4931 to pre-register, \$5.

• **End of Life: Advance Directive, Proxies and Substitute Decision Making** - with Joy Mendel (ethicist, St. Paul's Hospital / CHAS) 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15, at St. Peter, Unity, SK. Contact Elizabeth Reiter at (306) 228-2341 to pre-register, \$5.

• **Building Parish Community and Hospitality - "A Christian Way of Life"** - with facilitator Sr. Dianne Sehn, OSU, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21, St. Paul Co-Cathedral, Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon. Contact Brigid Fuller at (306) 652-0033 to pre-register, \$5.

• **Theology of Johnny Cash** - with facilitator Blake Sittler 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29, organized by St. Anne, Delisle, SK. Contact Rose-Anne Kielo (306) 493-2233 to pre-register, \$5.

Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together is supported by the



New Coordinator

Sharon Powell is the new coordinator of the diocesan faith enrichment program "Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together," taking over from Marci Deutscher, who retired earlier this year. The diocesan office organizes a range of faith enrichment sessions, inviting parishes or groups to use the resource.

Sister serves in Humboldt parish 28 years

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The St. Augustine parish community in Humboldt gathered Oct. 14 to express appreciation to Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU, for her 28 years of service and care as pastoral associate.

Sr. Loretta Konlup recently retired to Samaritan Place in Saskatoon, where she helps provide spiritual care for residents of the new Catholic care facility.

Parishioner Dianne Schenn noted that Sr. Loretta's time in St. Augustine parish spanned two popes, four bishops, eight parish

priests, many staff changes, as well as the change from being part of St. Peter's Abbey to joining the diocese of Saskatoon, the construction of a new church and parish hall, and countless moments of service and connection.

"Over the years you have welcomed many new parishioners and you've said goodbye to a good number of them as well. You have reached out to us when we were in need, you've stood beside us in our times of grief," said Schenn. "You gave us hope when we felt unable to cope, you showed us love when life got tough, you cheered up our hearts when you made us laugh."

A native of Humboldt and an Ursuline Sister of Bruno for some 59 years, Sr. Loretta Konlup taught music at the Ursuline Academy in Bruno and in surrounding communities, as well as teaching in British Columbia, and working in adult education for the former St. Peter's Abbey. In her role as pastoral associate at St. Augustine parish, she coordinated RCIA and baptismal preparation, prepared children for confirmation and first Eucharist, coordinated funerals and

weddings, as well as overseeing liturgical ministries on Sundays and weekdays, taking care of countless details.

Sr. Konlup was also active in the local ministerial association, encouraging ecumenical prayer and joint social projects, as well as providing help to the poor, the unemployed and the lonely. For many years she coordinated the local food bank, an initiative of the Humboldt Ministerial Association. She was also involved with the local Kinsmen Christmas Cheer campaign. Such contributions led to her being named Humboldt's Citizen of the Year in 2006.

"Your work extended beyond the parish into the community, helping anyone in need and it will never be forgotten," said Schenn, who presented Sr. Loretta with a tree to be planted on the parish grounds in her honour, as well as a book of messages from parishioners.

Jenny Irwin spoke on behalf of the Catholic Women's League, noting Konlup's years of service as CWL spiritual director.

Grand Knight Fred Staniec brought words of appreciation from the Knights of Columbus,



Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU, stands with youth from St. Augustine parish who performed a musical tribute at a recent farewell.

while associate pastor Rev. Gregory Roth spoke on behalf of the St. Augustine parish staff.

Young parishioners presented a song to the guest of honour, led by youth ministry coordinator Sr. Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE.

The walls of the parish hall were decorated with artwork created by students in Humboldt Catholic schools for the occasion.

St Augustine pastor, Rev. Ephraim Mensah, said that Sr.

Loretta is "a living example of one who has left us a legacy of devotion and love and hard work among the people of God." He prayed in thanksgiving for her years of love and service, as well as the example and care provided to the community by all the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno.

Responding to the celebration, Sr. Loretta encouraged parishioners to keep their hearts open, in order to permit God to continue to work in their lives.



Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU

The Spirituality of Stewardship: grounded in Christian identity, trust, gratitude and love

By JOCELYNE HAMOLINE, DIOCESE OF SASKATOON CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Stewardship is often associated with money; we tend to only hear "treasure, Treasure, TREASURE." We often identify ourselves with our money, our possessions, the size of our homes, new cars, trips we take, etc. But the spirituality of stewardship goes much deeper. There are underlying values that "dare us to give all" in our relationship with God. These values are identity, trust, gratitude and love.

"God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them" - Genesis 1:27

Our Christian identity is founded upon the basic idea of God as Creator. God created us in His image and likeness, created by God for God. We belong to God and therefore we can say, "I am a child of God. I belong to God. God meets all my needs." If we are not our own, then the things we have are not our own either. God has

blessed us with gifts and entrusts our possessions into our care, to be good stewards. 'In the Parable of the Talents (*Matthew 25:14-30*) the slave did not bury his own money, but his master's money. The master gave the slave "talents" to be used wisely, not squandered or stashed away. The same is true for us. We are to use and invest the gifts God has given for his kingdom. The world tells us "I was created for self so that I can satisfy all my own needs and wants"; the world tells us our outward success is our identity. Our Catholic Christian faith teaches, "I am created by God and for God, to serve him in this world and to be happy with him in the next." The things in this world bring us fleeting happiness. God has blessed us with many things and he wants us to enjoy them. But our identity must be in Christ, not in our possessions.

"Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord" - Psalm 40:4
The underlying value of trust builds upon

our identity. Since everything we have is from God, then we can allow God to be in charge of our lives. As we live our lives for God, we are caught up in something much bigger than ourselves. This value of trust allows us to let go of what seemingly is in our control.

In the midst of our turmoil and pain, God has a plan to bring about life. He can take us wherever we are, our messes and stresses, and turn them into victory and glory. God can bring good from evil. All we have to do is trust.

Stewardship becomes a way of life by activating that trust. Acceptance comes from letting go of control. Our control is self-centeredness, a false belief that the world is created in our own image and that we are in charge. When things don't go our way, anger and resentment fuel a cynical view of life then we become frustrated and bitter. We do the blame game; it is someone else's fault, or we even blame God.

Trusting in God is realigning our belief in God's almighty power to bring about what is best for us in the midst of a struggling world. We "let go and let God." God does not let us down. He sends calming grace that says, "Everything is all right, you'll be OK." When we accept and we receive this calming grace, the result is God's peace and assurance.

"Give thanks to the Lord who is good, whose love endures forever" - Psalm 107:1

Trust and acceptance naturally lead to gratitude. This is an attitude shift of looking at what we do have, not at what we don't have. Gratitude fills our hearts as we realize the wisdom and foresight God has in giving us just what we need. If we don't have something, perhaps we don't need it.

Gratitude is a quality of humility versus greed and envy. We need to lose our selfishness and, perhaps some sense of control. We focus on God (and hence others), we realize we don't need anything more because we already have so much. Our gratitude and humility help us to be thankful for the simple: hot water, clean safe food, shelter, our churches and freedom of religion, our beds at night, democracy, good roads, our jobs, families, clothing, our pay cheques --and so much more. Everything we have and all that we are is gift. God gives and we receive, we share with gratitude.

"So faith, hope, love remain, these three, but the greatest of these is love" - 1 Corinthians 13:13

Love is the requirement of the Christian.

Love in action: kindness, tolerance, compassion, charity, and understanding. All of these are love and love is not self-seeking -- requiring one to give. One cannot love if all one does is contemplate selfish wants. The good steward understands that our charitable giving is based on the awareness that we have an innate desire and need to give (because we were created in the likeness of God and God is a giver). God asks us to give our time, talent, and treasure in thanksgiving. And, when God sees our loving and giving response, He gives us even more. We cannot "out give" God.

What can we give? We can give a portion of our time, talent, and treasure. These are not optional. We say we love God, yet find it hard to give generously in the Sunday offering basket. Why is it hard to give a portion of our time when we are asked to volunteer? Do we come to church only to receive? Do we not see that others before us gave generously and freely so we could enjoy what we have? If we give of ourselves, even if we only start with a little and then begin to stretch our giving, it teaches us to focus on someone else rather than on self. When we focus on God and others, our own lives become richer, our problems diminish, our worry is lessened, our peace and joy increase.

The spirituality of stewardship deals with time, talent, and treasure. But as we look into the core values of identity, trust, gratitude and love, we understand how to be good stewards. We remember who we are, the image of Christ. We trust enough to let go and let God. Out of gratitude we put God first in our lives and in our spending. We express our love of God and Church by giving of our time, talent, and treasure without fear, proportionately, and generously with gratitude.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" - 1 Peter 4:10

For more information and/or a presentations on the spirituality of stewardship, please contact Jocelyne Hamoline at the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation: (306) 659-5849 or jhamoline@dsccatholicfoundation.ca

Sacred Heart Latin Mass Community events

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community, which celebrates Latin Mass 9 a.m. Sundays at Our Lady of Czestochowa parish in Saskatoon, held several special celebrations in 2012.

The community welcomed Fr. Gregory Pendergraft of Pennsylvania for a visit in March. A priest with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, he celebrated a Latin High Mass here March 18. There was a coffee social after Mass, as well as a Lenten reflection by Fr. Pendergraft. He also said Mass here on Monday, March 19 for the Feast of St. Joseph.

Our Lady was honoured with the annual crowning of her statue by Jacinta Bumphrey May 6, followed by the rosary, Benediction, and a potluck supper.

The community welcomed Bishop Donald Bolen for confirmation and first communion May 29. Three children, Mark Fleischfresser, Jada Trinidad and James Sidloski, were confirmed by Bishop Bolen, and received their First



Bishop Don Bolen with confirmands Mark Fleischfresser, Jada Trinidad and James Sidloski.

- Photo by Shawn Bumphrey

Communion. The community gathered afterwards to meet the bishop.

For more about the community see: www.saskatoonlatinmass.com

News and events

Blessed Sacrament parish at High Tor closes: one of several changes in the Wadena deanery

The Catholic faith community at High Tor, SK. gathered with Bishop Donald Bolen Aug. 26, 2012 to mark the closure of Blessed Sacrament parish.

After many years of declining numbers, parishioners at High Tor decided this summer that it was time to close the small parish, located in the Wadena deanery.

"As we gather, we remember the past generations who have called Blessed Sacrament their parish home and we acknowledge them for their vision, determination and enduring faith," said the bishop during the Eucharistic celebration in which the building and its people were blessed in a closing liturgy.

"We come together with so many good and treasured memories, but with a strong sense

of grief at saying farewell to this holy place. We come together, also, with great hope for our life of faith as we continue to give witness to God's great love," Bolen said.

Blessed Sacrament parish was one of those in the Perigord region that was served by pastor Rev. Jean-Marie Lacasse, OMI, for some four decades. With his retirement earlier this year, a number of other changes have also taken place in the Wadena deanery.

St. Athanasius parish in Perigord has joined the Wadena pastoral region, served by co-pastors Rev. Fred Caylan and Rev. Raphael Vezhaparambil, VC.

St. Lawrence parish in Nobleville, SK and St. Felix parish in Archerwill will remain



Bishop Donald Bolen joined parishioners of Blessed Sacrament parish at High Tor, SK. Sunday, Aug. 26 to mark the closing of the parish in the Wadena deanery. After many years of declining numbers, combined with the recent retirement of long-time pastor Fr. Jean-Marie Lacasse OMI, parishioners decided this summer that it was time to close the parish.

- Photo by Lynda Statchuk

open from June 1 to Labour Day weekend each year, but will close during the winter, with parishioners invited to attend a

neighbouring parish in the Wadena region.

Formerly part of that Wadena pastoral region, St. Catherine

parish at Quill Lake has joined the parish cluster Watson, Englefeld and St. Gregor, served by pastor Rev. Darryl Millette.

Sr. Juliana Heisler pioneered role of Parish Life Director in diocese

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Sr. Juliana Heisler, NDS, recently retired as Parish Life Director of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon after nearly two decades of service.

It was a pastoral leadership model that she pioneered, as the first Parish Life Director appointed by the bishop – called to serve as a non-ordained pastoral leader who works in partnership with a Priest Moderator to care for a parish.

At a parish farewell celebration in May, Rev. Ron Beechinor, Vicar General of the diocese of Saskatoon, recalled the dilemma Bishop James Mahoney faced some 20 years ago, when he did not have a priest available to serve as pastor for the east side parish, and the inspired solution to appoint a Parish Life Director. Mahoney was confident the idea would work, because he had the right person to take on the challenge, said Beechinor.

Sr. Juliana had the pastoral heart, the gifts and the energy needed to make this new idea of a pastoral team a working reality, described Beechinor.

Her pioneering example has since led to the Parish Life Director model of leadership being implemented in other parishes across the diocese, he noted, paying tribute to his friend and colleague.

Led by MCs Phil and Mary Wrubleski, the parish program May 27 continued with other tributes and words of appreciation, as well as entertainment and presentations.

Sr. Kay MacDonald, NDS, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes, spoke about Sr. Juliana Heisler's commitment as a Sister of Sion, which began with her entry into the community 62 years ago, and her final vows 54 years ago.

Other speakers included CWL representatives and Sr. Juliana Heisler's former teaching colleagues Phil Dumont and Ileen Boechler, who recalled Sr. Juliana's pioneering work at both the parish and in Catholic schools, where she served as a teacher, reading consultant and teacher. Heisler was also the first woman to serve (at more than one level) as a spiritual advisor to CWL councils – positions usually held by a priest. Grand Knight Adrian Piché related how the Knights of



Sr. Juliana Heisler, NDS, recently retired as PLD of Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Columbus council was created at the parish at her request.

During the program, members of Our Lady of Lourdes children's choirs, directed and accompanied by Carmen Marcoux, Jacqueline Couture and Danielle Mase provided a selection of lively music, ending with a song of tribute, holding up letters of the message: "Sr. Juliana we love you."

Parish youth coordinator Dan Brulé spoke of Sr. Juliana's profound commitment to youth, her welcoming spirit, and her enthusiastic efforts to involve parishioners of all ages in their faith and in the life of the community.

Sr. Juliana's nephew Larry Brossart of Shellbrook brought greetings from the extended Heisler family, and shared stories of her family life over the years.

Parish council chair Sue Dosman and her husband Jim concluded the program, expressing appreciation to Heisler for her years of service.

"You lead through relationship," said Sue. "Your people are fueled by you, and you are fueled by your people and your God."



Parishes bid farewell to pastor

Fr. Jean-Marie Lacasse, OMI, stands before those gathered May 27 at St. Athanasius Parish in Perigord, SK., to express appreciation and bid farewell to their longtime pastor. For some 40 years he provided ministry to parishes at Perigord, Nobleville, Archerwill and High Tor, while living and farming in the area.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Vespers celebration held to mark papal honours

Dennis Koch, brother of the late Monsignor Michael Koch; Monsignor Raymond Senger; Sister Juliana Heisler, NDS; Monsignor Stan Urbanoski; and Bishop Donald Bolen during a July 1 Vespers service and reception held to recognize the contributions of Sr. Juliana Heisler and three new monsignors in the diocese of Saskatoon over many years. Sr. Juliana Heisler was awarded a "Benemerenti medal" from the Vatican, while Monsignors Senger and Urbanoski were recognized as "Chaplains of His Holiness." The title "Honorary Prelate of His Holiness" was bestowed on Monsignor Koch just before his death May 10.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

Donation establishes Chair of Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College

Local philanthropists Leslie and Irene Dubé donated \$1 million in support of an endowed Chair for Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon.

The Catholic college is in the midst of a \$6 million “Creating More” capital campaign to establish the endowed chair, as well as to expand the existing STM building on University of Saskatchewan campus.

With this \$1 million leadership gift, the newly-named “Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies” will be established by the college to support scholarship and research related to Catholic teaching and tradition, to foster Catholic education, and to promote ecumenical dialogue and awareness of other faith traditions, said STM President Dr. Terry Downey.

“This chair is to be a source of intellectual leadership for STM and for the broader Catholic and local communities through an annual public lecture, guest lectures, invited presentations, availability to the diocese and Catholic school boards and to the Catholic and secular media for commentary and expertise on Catholic issues, and publications to be available to the local and provincial community,” said Downey.

The Chair for Catholic Studies will support and enhance the Catholic vision and mission of the college – a timely and historic undertaking as the Basilian order formally withdraws from the institution they established at the University of Saskatchewan more than 75 years ago, Downey said.

“St. Thomas More College’s venerable tradition is going to be enhanced by this Chair,” said Bishop Don Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

“The Catholic Studies Chair addresses a profound need in our day,” Bolen said. It



Dr. Terry Downey, Les and Irene Dubé and Bishop Don Bolen (l-r).

responds to “a call to be creative in speaking the word of faith and hope which is at the heart of the gospel, and to speak that word in a way that captures minds and hearts.”

Fundraising for the endowed chair will be ongoing, as in the long term the Chair for Catholic Studies will be funded by interest from the endowment – which will ensure the Chair’s role will continue at the Catholic college, independent of other funding, fees or tuition, said Downey.

Les Dubé said that when the idea of the Chair for Catholic Studies was presented, it was easy to step forward to support it. He added that it is a very humbling experience to be able to make such contributions for the good of the community. Les and Irene Dubé’s donations have supported the Community Service Learning project at STM and a wide range of health institutions and initiatives in the city, as well as ongoing efforts to feed the hungry through the Saskatoon Food Bank, and support for the diocesan cathedral project.

Meanwhile, construction on the STM building expansion is now underway, with an official ground-breaking celebration held Oct. 15. It was also announced that David and Karen Holst of Warman, SK, have donated \$500,000 to the construction project, as has Allan Markin of Calgary.



Humboldt fundraiser for African orphanage

A benefit concert for the Kenya Orphanage Mission project in Africa was held May 11 at St. Augustine parish hall in Humboldt, featuring the live bluegrass music of The Trudel Family, as well as a silent auction. The event raised over \$3,000. A Halloween Cabaret fund-raiser was also held Nov. 2 at the Humboldt parish, in support of the same cause, featuring music by The Classy Chassys. For info about the Kenya project see www.jesusleadsus.com - Photo by Michelle Peters

Upcoming Events

Grand Opening of the E.D. Feehan Child and Family Center, 411 Avenue M. North, Saskatoon will be held 4 to 6 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 14**, with the ceremony at 5 p.m.

Time Out for Moms Catholic Enrichment for Women Prayer Breakfast Fundraiser will be held 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Saturday Nov. 17** at the Parktown Hotel in Saskatoon. Features guest speaker Leah Perrault, director of the diocese's Pastoral Services, speaking about the Holy Family. Tickets are \$30 each. Contact Theresa at (306) 244-0470 for tickets or information.

The Starting Point - Premiere 7 p.m. **Monday, Nov. 19** at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon, showing three thought-provoking short films following the lives of local people. One features Lorne Molleken, Saskatoon Blades coach, as he participates in the Food Basket Challenge and shares his insights on how the challenge touched him, his family and friends. Then, follow a day in the life of a Saskatoon resident, Della Kinequon, as she candidly speaks about raising a family on a limited income, living with diabetes and her dreams for her family's future. “Let's start a conversation about health and talk about more than healthcare” rounds out the short films for the evening and showcases the event's theme. A panel of guest speakers will discuss what can be done, and answer questions. This free public event is presented by Saskatoon Health Region, University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Food Bank.

Gala Fundraiser Dinner and Live Auction for Queen's House will be held **Thursday, Nov. 22**: enjoy an evening with the Greystone Singers. Reception is at 5:30 p.m., dinner and auction at 6:45 p.m., entertainment, raffle, draws to follow at 8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$75 with a \$50 charity receipt issued. RSVP by Nov. 16. Only 150 tickets are available. Contact: (306) 242-1916 or receptionist@queenshouse.org

Centennial - St. Andrew Parish in Kenaston, SK will celebrate its 100th Anniversary **Sunday, Dec. 2** with Mass at 11 a.m.; reception to follow. Call the Davidson Pastoral Region office for details: (306) 567-2116.

Michael O'Brien Christmas Tour will be held at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral on **Friday, Dec. 7** at 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students are available from the parish office during regular office hours. A former rock n' roll artist and non-practicing Catholic whose life took a turn after an unexpected pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Michael O'Brien has given his testimony at more than 80 Catholic conferences and 600 city events from major city arenas to small town churches across North America.

SERENA Saskatchewan, a Natural Family Planning service, will hold its annual Social 6:30 to 9 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013** at Our Lady of Lourdes gym, 1235-12th Street East, corner of Wiggins Ave, Saskatoon. The evening includes a catered banquet, entertainment, guest speaker, and awards. All are welcome! For tickets, \$20/person, contact Serena at (306) 934-8223, 1-800-667-1637, or e-mail: sask@serena.ca by Jan. 12. (Annual General Meeting 12:30-3 p.m. Jan. 19 at same location.)

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation presents *Icebreaker*, a rock concert to entertain high school students during the semester break 7 to 10:30 p.m. **Sunday, Jan. 27** at the Odeon Event Centre in Saskatoon. (Parents and grandparents, take note, this is a great idea for a Christmas gift!) The bands showcased will be talented high school student rock bands: *The Johnner Boys* from Holy Cross High School; *Rumours* from St. Joseph High School; *Misterfire* from Bethlehem Catholic High School. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Odeon Event Centre.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: The best gift a couple can give their children is to love each other. Rediscover joy and deepen your love in this enlightening and empowering Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: **Feb. 1 to Feb. 3, 2013** at the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon. Contact: Anita and Marc Loiselle at (306) 258-2192 or loiselle@baudoux.ca

FacetoFace Ministries: presents a United Conference Feb. 16 and 17 at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Saskatoon, for youth in Grades 9 to 12 and Adults of all ages. The purpose of the United Conference is to unite, support, and challenge youth and adults in striving for holiness. The conference includes meeting like-minded people, incredible fun, solid Catholic teaching, Eucharistic Adoration, and much more. Registration forms and more information can be found online at www.f2f.ca or contact Jon Courchene at (306) 381-7789 or jon.courchene@f2f.ca

Engaged Encounter marriage preparation weekends give couples communication techniques to foster a deeper understanding of each other. It is an intensive weekend of preparation, in which each couple is offered the time and opportunity to question, examine, and deepen their relationship, share in community and be open to God's plan. Upcoming Engaged Encounter weekend dates at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster are **March 15 to 17** or **May 3 to 5**. Contact: hgantfoer@sasktel.net or register online: www.cewest.com

Queen's House upcoming retreats

601 Taylor Street W, Saskatoon (306) 242-1916 programming@queenshouse.org

Centering Prayer Retreat - Learn a simple method of Christ-Centred silent prayer with Fr. Kevin McGee and Marge Copeland; 7 p.m. **Friday, Nov. 16 to Sunday, Nov. 18**.

Advent Retreat - Through Mary's Eye with Teresa Hanlon; 7 p.m. **Nov. 23 to Nov. 25**.

Centering Prayer with Fr. Paul Fachet 7 - 8 p.m. on **Monday evenings**, Dec. 3, 10, 17; Jan 7, 14, 21 and 28; Feb. 4, 11, 25;

Journeying with Scripture - an exploration into the Book of Revelation with Fr. Paul Fachet; 10 a.m. to noon **Wednesday, Dec. 5**.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebration 7 p.m. **Saturday, Dec. 8**; prayer service with social to follow. RSVP: 242-1916.

Taizé Prayer for Christian Unity – music, prayer, praise, silence and scripture: 8-9 p.m. **Dec. 11; Jan. 8 and Feb. 12**.

A Day Away with Fr. Paul Fachet and Jacques Leblanc: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Dec. 12** and/or **Jan. 9** and/or Ash **Wednesday, Feb. 13**

Noon Prayer for Christian Unity during week of prayer **Thursday, Jan. 24**, noon to 1 p.m.; lunch and social to follow. RSVP: 242-1916

Walking With God in our Sacred Universe with Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. **Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26**

Men's Retreat: Establishing and maintaining healthy relationships - *Warrior to Elder*; with Brad Bodnarchuk and Brian Bauche: 7 p.m. **Friday, Feb 8 to Sunday Feb. 9**, after lunch.

Knights of Columbus Twilight Retreat for all Knights and spouses with Brendan Bitz; will be held 7 p.m. **Tuesday, Feb. 12**.

Grief Retreat with Ron Evans: 7 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 22 to Sunday, Feb. 24**, after lunch.

Upcoming programs at St. Therese Institute

St. Therese, 650 Ursuline Ave., Bruno, SK.; Register: www.StTherese.ca or (306) 369-2555

- **Friday Nov. 30 - Saturday Dec. 1**: *Time with Thérèse* silent mini-retreat series "Silent Before the Crib: Advent with Thérèse". Cost: \$75, includes meals and accommodations.
- **Thursday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.**: St. Nicholas Community Christmas - a free evening of fun, family-friendly 'coffee-house' style entertainment, with sweets and treats, and a visit from St. Nick (portrayed as Bishop Nicholas). Includes a short presentation on the historical St. Nicholas and his connection with the modern-day figure of Santa Claus.
- **Thursday, Feb. 21 to Sunday, Feb. 24**: 4th annual St. Therese Divine Mercy Conference, with keynotes: Dr. Bryan Thatcher, medical doctor, author and founder of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy and, Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, author and director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy. Cost: \$295-350, includes meals and accommodations.
- **Friday Mar. 23 to Sunday, March 25**: St. Therese School Come and See Weekend: Great for prospective students or anyone wanting to discover more about St. Therese's nine-month Faith Formation Program.

- **March, April and May**: *Springtime of The Faith 2012 Conferences* - seven day-to-back conferences provide an opportunity to become a St. Therese student for a week, with special "Year of Faith" individual and group rates.
 - March 24-26: *In His Image - Holy Week Icon Writing Retreat*; presenter: Fr. Ivan Nahachewsky.
 - April 7-12: *Called for a Purpose – A Theology of the Laity*; presenter: Jim Anderson.
 - April 14-19: *Ignation Discernment 1 - Introduction*; presenter: Fr. Terry Donahue, CC.
 - April 21-26: *Ignation Discernment 2 - Practical applications*; presenter: Donna Kristian.
 - April 28 - May 2: *Into the Heart - Journey through Theology of the Body*; presenter: Christopher West.
 - May 5 - May 10: *Apologetics & Ecumenism in the New Evangelization*; presenters Jim Anderson and Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD.
 - May 12 - May 17: *You Shall be My Witnesses - Theology of Evangelization*; presenter Fr. Scott McCaig, CC.



During a public lecture Sept. 19 at St. Therese Institute in Bruno, SK., Fr. Terry Donahue, CC, of Ottawa presented extra-Biblical arguments supporting the historical occurrence of the Resurrection of Jesus. The capacity audience included the 22 students studying full-time at St. Therese this year. Listen or watch this “*Christian Culture Series*” presentation online at: www.St-T.ca/talks-20120919 - Photo by James Riley



Columbian Place officially opens

Bishop Don Bolen blesses the Knights of Columbus affordable housing complex Columbian Place at its official opening Sept. 11 in Saskatoon. Located across from St. Mary's parish on 20th Street, Columbian Place is a project of KC Charities, constructed with support from all levels of government. The 75-unit building is now home to some 105 residents, and is making a difference in the life of the community, said guest speakers at the opening celebration.



Run for the Family

Serena Saskatchewan hosted its first *Run for the Family* Sept. 30 along a scenic South Saskatchewan River route in Saskatoon. Runners and walkers ranged from toddlers in strollers to those in their 70s. Serena provides information and support about Natural Family Planning, and like the Run for the Family, the organization is active, vibrant, healthy and family-friendly. For more info, contact Serena at 934-8223, 1-800-667-1637 or e-mail: sask@serena.ca - Photo by Danielle Mase

Events highlight St. Peter's College at Muenster

Events at St. Peter's College in Muenster this fall have included an annual career fair, an awards day, and an open house highlighting the recently-completed renovation of college facilities.

Students attend St. Peter's College at Muenster to begin their University of Saskatchewan education in arts and science, business/commerce, agriculture and kinesiology; to fulfill the

entry requirements to colleges such as dentistry, medicine, nutrition, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, law and education; or to complete the college's innovative writing diploma program.

Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, chancellor of the college, recently cut the ribbon to officially reopen Michael Hall after four years of renovations.

Guests at an open house Sept.

14 were invited to tour the complex and see what students at St. Peter's enjoy daily – beautiful grounds, a building updated for educational needs, sports facilities and more, said Rebecca Cross, Special Projects Manager. "We are very happy that the fully renovated building enables us to provide an even higher level of service to our students."

A reception for guests was held in the student lounge during the open house. A showcase of student artwork, science displays and alumni memorabilia were available for viewing on guided or self-guided tours.

The next day, Sept. 15, an annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony was held at the college. This year, over \$39,000 of scholarships and awards were presented to St. Peter's College students for their leadership, community involvement and academic excellence.

"We are celebrating our students for their exceptional academic achievements, positive leadership and community involvement. Today's students are the scholars, leaders, and visionaries of tomorrow and we wish to recognize their contributions at this special event," said Rob Harasymchuk, President of St. Peter's College. "Awards also help to fund the education of those who might otherwise not have had the opportunity."



Tours highlighting recent renovations at St. Peter's College were part of a Sept. 14 open house.

The number of scholarships and awards presented at the annual ceremony saw an increase from last year.

Since St. Peter's College is affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, some students attending the college received scholarships from the University of Saskatchewan as well.

Opportunities Edge, an annual career fair organized by St. Peter's College, was held Oct. 3.

Over 35 exhibitors from across the province introduced high school students to different careers and post-secondary institutions.

"Opp Edge" is the largest career expo in east-central Saskatchewan, attracting between 400 and 600 students every year.

Students gathered throughout the day and had the opportunity to talk to a wide variety of exhibitors from education and industry to learn more about potential career paths as well as academic learning and training possibilities.

Students also had the option of attending presentations to become even more familiar with specific professions and institutions.

"This is an important event in the region because it brings together a number of great companies who are looking to find future employees. Opp Edge also allows young learners to explore a wide range of careers and interact with actual employers from across the province," said Cross.

Lands and Seas of Jesus, St. Peter and St. Paul Follow their Footsteps in 2013 Oct. 14 - Nov. 9 or Oct. 25 - Nov. 9



Celebrating with
Fr. Ralph Kleiter
Director, Ministry to Tourism,
Diocese of Saskatoon

"50 Golden Years of Ministry" to parishes and travel pilgrims

This Pilgrim Journey to Biblical Lands will be enriched by special guest facilitator **Gisele Bauche**: the former director of the Catholic Pastoral Centre and of Queen's House of Retreat and Renewal in Saskatoon. Having also completed studies in Jerusalem, she now facilitates workshops and retreats on scripture, spirituality and sacred art.

Join this festive "Jubilee Pilgrim Journey" during this Year of Faith.

In leading his 22nd pilgrim journey to Biblical lands and around ancient seas, Fr. Kleiter is highlighting his two favorite destinations and experiences in world travel. It is around ancient seas and lands that Divine Providence revealed for Jews, Christians and Muslims the sacred mysteries in this "Cradle of Civilizations." The journey begins where the early church began its outreach in Asia Minor (today's Turkey), Greece and the city of Christian Martyrs: Rome. With the varied enrichment choices offered aboard the world-class Crystal Serenity cruise ship, Gisele Bauche will provide insights, making this pre-Holy Land experience ideal for deep inspiration, community building and enjoyment. Then actually visit the Holy Land, where Jesus walked around the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and up to Jerusalem. Your life will never be the same! Start planning today. Invest wisely in memories for a life-time!

By BOOKING NOW you will be able to take advantage of many financial savings. Estimated cost for this "once in a lifetime" Pilgrim Journey for all inclusive land/sea – Oct. 14 - Nov. 9, 2013 (4-6 Star quality) per person sharing including \$1,500 discount for booking now (discount is based on bookings by Dec. 31, 2012): \$7,000- \$8,000. For modified program (Rome and the lands of the Gospels) – Oct. 25 - Nov. 9, 2013, all inclusive land program per person sharing, including discount as of Dec. 31/12: \$4,000. Estimated air fare Saskatoon return \$1,800-\$2,500 for programs (extra). Discounts are reduced by approximately \$200-\$300 every other month (bi-monthly) into the new year. Enquire about other savings. Deposits: \$600- \$800 per person to Thomas Cook Travel Saskatoon, plus cancellation insurance protection.

For advance detailed information: (306) 244 3747 or Kleiter@shaw.ca
For program enrichment details: (306) 380-3577 or gbauche@sasktel.net
For Bookings: Rhonda at Thomas Cook Travel Saskatoon (306) 652-1272;
1-800-667-6962 Ext. 7341 or e-mail: Rhonda.Bruynoghe@thomascok.ca
www.pilgrimjourneys.ca www.crystalcruises.com

Resources for The Year of Faith

Did you know that the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon has a Resource Library with a wealth of faith enrichment resources? This year marks the "Year of Faith" and the library continues to build the collection in this area. We are currently ordering more new material and suggestions are always welcome. Please come in, phone or email librarian Norlayne Scott-Gaare with any requests or suggestions you have.

Contact:
Norlayne Scott-Gaare, Resource Librarian
Catholic Pastoral Centre
2nd Floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1
Ph: (306) 659-5853; 1-877-661-5005, Ext. 853
E-mail: library@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Search the catalogue at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Resource Library hours are Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Resource Library
is supported by the:

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL



Blessing the Fields

Bishop Donald Bolen blesses the fields July 22, during the 90th anniversary pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Humboldt deanery, north of Carmel, SK.



Dancers enter the cathedral.

First Nations traditions part of diocesan celebration

(Continued from Page 1)

Bishop Don Bolen presided at the diocesan Mass to mark the canonization of Saint Kateri Oct. 21, concelebrating with Our Lady of Guadalupe Priest Moderator Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR, Monsignor Raymond Senger, and other priests of the diocese.

"Saint Kateri knew what it was to be a disciple of Jesus. She stands as an example of a faithful First Nations woman who pays the price of discipleship, who hears Jesus' challenge and says: I will follow you wherever you lead," said Bolen.

"She was known for her piety, for her care of other people," Bolen described, adding that Saint

Kateri is also remembered for the simple yet daring motto: "Let me know what the will of God is, so that I can do it."

At her death in 1680 at the age of 24, Kateri Tekakwitha's last words were "Jesus, I love you," as recorded by the Jesuit missionaries who wrote about her life, her sufferings and her devotion to God.

"Her holiness is a sign of encouragement for all of us, and the fact that she is named a saint means she is somebody who can hold a special place in our lives," Bolen said. "I think especially of the people of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish... you can ask her to assist you and be with you. If it is to find or to build a new parish church, you can ask her to be with you. If it's a struggle in the ongoing cause for truth and reconciliation, you can invite her to be of support."

Bolen acknowledged the importance of enculturating the gospel in all traditions, quoting Pope John Paul II: "The gospel of Jesus speaks all languages, it respects and embraces all cultures. Today this gospel is inviting you to become totally Aboriginal Christians. This is in harmony with your deepest desires. There is no need for you to be divided into two parts," he said.

"It's a beautiful thing today

that we entered with drumming and with dancers," said the bishop. "May we continue to receive gifts from each other. May the whole church welcome the gifts that our First Nations and Métis peoples desire to bring, so that we might grow ever closer to Christ."

At the start of Mass, Bolen blessed a statue of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha that was placed in front of a small tipi near the altar. During the celebration, children brought forward lilies and plants sacred in First Nations tradition to place at the foot of the statue.

In addition to traditional First Nations drumming and singing, the choir of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish provided music ministry during the celebration.

Visiting dignitaries included Vice-Chief Simon Bird of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Councillor Caroline Dagnault of Fishing Lake First Nation, and Robert Doucette, president of Métis Nation Saskatchewan.

At the conclusion of Mass, a relic of Saint Kateri from the altar of Saint Paul's Co-Cathedral was brought forward for prayer and veneration.

Demonstrations and teachings about traditional dancing, drumming and regalia were part of the program that followed.

"It was just such a beautiful day. This couldn't have happened

reaching or nearing parish goals. Funds raised over and above the BAA goal are shared between the Appeal and the parish as part of a Parish Sharing Program.

In the diocese of Saskatoon, the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds many ministries, such as vocation promotion, hospital chaplaincy, youth ministry, justice and peace, prison ministry, Lay Formation, and catechetics. For more information, as well as a link to this year's video, see the Catholic Foundation website at: www.dscatholicfoundation.ca

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha recognized for holiness: One of seven new saints

Known as "the Lily of the Mohawks," Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in what is now upstate New York, to a Mohawk chief father and an Algonquin Christian mother.

Orphaned in a small pox epidemic that left her scarred and nearly blind at the age of 4, Kateri grew up with a desire to follow Jesus. She was baptized by Jesuit missionaries in 1676, in spite of opposition and persecution.

The young First Nations woman eventually travelled hundreds of kilometres to settle at a Jesuit mission near what is now Montreal, in order to practice her faith and serve God. She died in 1680 at the age of 24, recognized for her holiness, devotion and deep spirituality.

Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980, Kateri Tekakwitha's intercession was recognized by the church in the miraculous healing of a young boy in Washington state in 2006, which finally led to her canonization as a saint of the Church.

Her feast day will be celebrated April 17 in Canada, and July 14 in the United States. She is a patron saint of the environment and ecology, of exiles, of loss of parents, and of those bullied or ridiculed for their piety.

With the exception of the eight French Jesuit priests martyred in Canada and the United States in the 17th century, Saint Kateri is only the fourth Canadian saint, joining Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700), Saint Marguerite d'Youville (1701-1771) and Saint André Bessette (1845-1937).

There is also a local connection to another of the saints canonized Oct. 21 in Rome: Saint Marianne Cope of the United States, who ministered to those suffering from leprosy in Hawaii in the 19th century, was born Barbara Koob in Germany – a distant relative of Koob family members in the diocese of Saskatoon.

In addition, the local Filipino Catholic community were among those around the world rejoicing at the canonization of 17th century martyr Saint Pedro Calungsod of the Philippines.

Other saints canonized Oct. 21 were Jacques Berthieu, a French priest martyred in Madagascar in 1896; Maria Carmen Sallés y Barangueras of Spain, who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in 1892; Giovanni Battista Piamarta, an Italian priest who died in 1913; and Anna Shaffer, a German woman who was bedridden for many years before her death in 1925.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha pilgrimage

Sixteen pilgrims from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon travelled this summer to important sites in the life of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, visiting her birthplace in New York, as well as her tomb at Saint Francis Xavier Mission in the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake, near Montreal, Quebec. The pilgrimage July 8-15 was a powerful experience of prayer and learning, said participants. See: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/documents/Kateri_Pilgrimage.pdf

- Photo submitted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish