



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Our diocesan family joins Catholics around the world this month in praying for an increase in vocations to religious life and the priesthood, and for an increasing awareness of how God calls each person to their vocation in life. Testimonies by some of those in our own diocese who have discerned a call to religious life can be found in this edition of the Diocesan Newsletter, including articles by Colin Roy and Daniel Yasinski (pictured at left with Bishop Don Bolen), who will be ordained to the priesthood 7 p.m. Friday, June 14, 2013 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

VOCATIONS • PAGES 14-17



**Bishops reflect on call to care for the environment
DOCUMENT • PAGE 7**



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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

APRIL 2013

Benedict XVI resignation and the selection of Pope Francis sparks interest and reflection in diocese

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The attention of many in the diocese – and around the world – was focused on the papal transition this spring, as first Pope Benedict XVI took the historic step of resigning as head of the Catholic Church, and then the cardinals elected Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, SJ, of Argentina, who was installed March 19 as Pope Francis.

Bishop Donald Bolen called for prayers throughout these weeks of transition -- for the retiring pontiff, for the cardinal electors and for the newly-chosen Pope Francis. With the new pope announced March 13, a diocesan vespers service March 14 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon became a time of thanksgiving and prayer for the new Holy Father.

Bolen said that he experienced a thrill of surprise and delight when he heard the name Bergoglio.

"It was the recognition that we were being taken into completely new territory in an inkling – that the cardinals had chosen someone from

Latin America, that they had chosen a Jesuit, that they had chosen someone who I had met before, and who had struck me as a person of simplicity and humility, someone who was self-effacing and gentle," said Bolen.

While working in Rome for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity several years ago, Bolen met and shared a meal with Cardinal Bergoglio, whom he describes as a down to earth person who did not draw attention to himself.

"It's a stroke of genius that he has chosen the name Francis," said Bolen. "As a Jesuit, the Holy Father stands in the tradition of St Ignatius of Loyola, the tradition of the pursuit of knowledge and of mission and radical discipleship. But that he should connect the papacy to St. Francis of Assisi is a way of saying to the Church: 'I will be a servant leader. I want to lead in humility and simplicity. I want to lead with joy in the spirit of St. Francis.'"

PAPAL TRANSITION Page 3



Easter baptisms

Rev. Ron Beechinor baptizes Sawyer Scott during the Easter Vigil celebration at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon March 30. Sawyer's older sister Keanna (right) also received the sacraments of initiation at the celebration, supported by godparents Brent and Delous Scutchings, and parents Kim and Willy Scott (l-r). The initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist were celebrated in many parishes across the diocese during the Easter Vigil and will continue throughout the Easter season, as the season of parish confirmation and First Eucharist celebrations begins.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Year of Faith Festival planned

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The diocese of Saskatoon will mark the conclusion of the Year of Faith with a three-day festival of events **November 8-10, 2013.**

Special guest speaker for the diocesan *Year of Faith Festival* in November will be Most Rev. Gérald Lacroix, who is the Archbishop of Quebec and the Primate of Canada, announced Bishop Donald Bolen at a Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting April 6 in Saskatoon.

Parishes, deaneries, CWL and Knights of Columbus councils and any other interested organizations or small groups will be encouraged to organize concurrent events across the diocese during the Nov. 8-10 weekend for this diocesan *Year of Faith Festival*, said the bishop.

All the independently-organized events throughout the diocese would then be promoted as part of the festival, along with the main keynote talks by Archbishop Lacroix, which will be offered in English and in French, he said.

Ideas for the festival suggested at the DPC meeting

included parish breakfasts, a family dance with faith testimonies, a faith-based concert for young children, speakers and presentations, and special times of prayer.

"We really encourage you to think about how you are going to be involved," he told DPC representatives from deaneries and groups across the diocese.

The Year of Faith has been "a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord," as described by Pope Benedict in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*.

Catholics are being called both to renewal and to find ways to give new and relevant testimony about their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, said Bolen.

"We are called to find creative ways to be in dialogue with the culture around us," Bolen said, describing recent public challenges that insist that faith does not have a place in the public sphere.

The *Year of Faith Festival* will hopefully create an exciting opportunity for many groups to step up and host faith-centred events that will enrich and engage many in our communities, he said.



"I Love Life and Family" Video Contest

Get out your camera and create an original video (under two minutes) celebrating life and family!

It is a chance to win fun prizes, share your insights and joy, and help the diocese and the eparchy of Saskatoon celebrate Life and Family Week (May 12-19).

The contest deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. Monday, April 29 to give contestants of all ages a bit more time to polish up their entries!

For more information about how to enter, contest guidelines, and needed forms visit our website:

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

INSIDE:

- Congress Day held at three locations across the diocese • **Page 4**
- Idle No More and Catholic Social Teaching • **Page 6**
- Brazil Bulletin • **Pages 20-21**

Diocese continues to work toward long-term financial stability

As one of the first dioceses in Canada to have a Bishop’s Annual Appeal – first established under the leadership of Bishop James Mahoney – the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has a long history of financial leadership and innovation.

“Over the last decade,” says Diocesan Finance Committee Chair Neil Redekkop, “under the leadership of Bishop Albert LeGatt and then Bishop Donald Bolen, the diocese recognized the need to find additional ways to raise funds and ensure long-term financial stability. That was the reason behind establishing the development office in 2007.”

The diocese hired fundraiser and local Catholic Don Gorsalitz as the director of development, with a view to long-term financial stability for the diocese, and in conjunction with a Uniting in Faith campaign that was undertaken to build a new diocesan Cathedral and Pastoral Centre.

The people of the diocese of Saskatoon responded generously, raising close to \$22 million for the construction of Holy Family Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre as well as sustaining participation in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

During the winter of 2012, the development office was incorporated as the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, a distinct fundraising organization for the diocese whose mandate includes planned giving, major gifts, the administration of all diocesan campaigns, and fundraising support for parishes who want it. The Foundation’s sole purpose is to raise funds for the use of the diocesan church, according to the priorities established by the bishop.

Over this same time, however, the diocese had anticipated that the Uniting in Faith campaign would impact the growth of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. “While the average gift to the Appeal has increased,” says Appeal Administrator Cathie Rogers, “the total number of givers has decreased in recent years, keeping the total collected relatively stable during the campaign.” The 2012 campaign came close to raising \$1.4 million.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal was started with a vision for supporting ministry out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre for the benefit of parishes and the larger community. This continues to be the case. In recent years, however, the appeal has not kept up with inflation and the growing ministry needs.

“We have managed to maintain current programs in the diocese by reducing funding to our Catholic ministry partners in the community,” says Bishop Donald Bolen. “This is not a sign of our lack of support for these ministries, but an indication that we are under many of the same financials pressure faced by many organizations today.”

The diocese also receives income from parish assessment, wherein the parishes submit 15 per cent of their annual collections to the diocese. As many parishes can attest to, parish revenue is not generally keeping up with inflation.

Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the Catholic Pastoral Centre

acknowledges this reality, saying, “The ministry and administration of the diocese is dependent on a declining source of revenue and smaller, less financially stable parishes are looking to us for increased ministry and administrative services.”

The Episcopal Corporation (the diocese) finished the fiscal year with a planned deficit of \$265,041 (see Note C). The Foundation originally anticipated having a much larger deficit this fiscal year, but an increase in unrestricted donations (accounted for in General Donations) significantly reduced the projected deficit at the end of the year. As such, funds were transferred after the end of the fiscal year to cover the diocesan deficit, while creating a larger deficit for the Foundation.

“We cannot and will not run successive deficits,” noted Redekkop, “but it was a sound decision as we waited for the completion of Uniting in Faith Campaign.

As pledges for the construction of the Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre wind up, the Foundation office is connecting with donors, asking them to consider continuing the same level of giving, but now directing Uniting in Faith donations to ministry and programming needs in the diocese.

A video message from the bishop was recently mailed to a number of donors making this request. To view the video or find out more information about stewardship and planned giving, see the Catholic Foundation website at: www.dscatholicfoundation.ca

Gorsalitz is confident that the diocese is on the right track, explaining,

“We have established the Foundation to allow us to continue to grow toward long-term financial stability and are already seeing the fruit of that decision. And we will have to continue to work at communicating the needs of our church family to ensure that we are providing ministry and service that is both pastorally needed and fiscally responsible.”

The faithful in the diocese can be assured of the gratitude of the diocese for their generous support of their parishes, the Uniting in Faith campaign, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and the ongoing fundraising efforts of the Foundation, says Bishop Don Bolen.

“I am overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our people,” the bishop said. “And the scriptures remind us that much will be asked of those who have been given generously. God has given us so much, and will continue to ask us for faithful stewardship of those gifts. As a diocese, in turn, we will continue to ask for what we need, trusting that God will provide in abundance.”

Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation	
Allocation of Assets (See Note B at right)	
June 30, 2012	
Education of Seminarians	\$ 830,751.63
Seminarians - Philosophy Tuition	\$ 247,755.50
Unspecified use (General use)	\$ 968,582.64 (C)
Education of Priests	\$ 271,727.91
Brazil Mission	\$ 594,053.20
Refugee Aid	\$ 40,134.82
Native Ministry	\$ 190,072.06
Diocesan Mission Works	\$ 11,578.92
Priests' Pension	\$ 168,452.03
TOTAL	\$3,323,108.70

Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon		
Statement of Revenue and Expenses		
For year end June 30, 2012		
	2012	2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Bishop's Annual Appeal	\$ 946,590 (A)	\$ 995,938
Parish assessments	1,072,822	1,022,916
Investment income	67,134	63,608
Donations	560,528	1,081,941
Brazil collections	96,305	81,626
Ministry	128,618	160,747
Foundation asset allocations and external grants	368,615 (B)	396,763
	<u>3,240,612</u>	<u>3,803,539</u>
EXPENSES		
Pastoral services	1,251,291	1,311,288
Outreach grants & donations	314,412	542,344
Clergy and vocations	584,325	952,972
Brazil mission	96,305	81,626
Administration and chancery	923,565	780,583
Parish support	324,609	220,351
	<u>3,494,507</u>	<u>3,889,164</u>
Revenue less expenses before undernoted items	(253,895)	(85,625)
Gain (loss) on disposal of investments	(6,144)	(4,459)
Unrealized gain (loss) in market value of investments	<u>(5,002)</u>	<u>53,350</u>
	(265,041) (C)	(36,734)
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES		
	<u>1,280,440</u>	<u>1,317,174</u>
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 1,015,399	\$ 1,280,440

Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation Inc.		
Statement of Operations		
For year end June 30, 2012		
	2012	2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Bishop's Annual Appeal donations	\$ 1,426,281	\$ 1,354,326
Bishop's Dinner revenue	125,000	127,105
General donations	586,981 (D)	48,274
Investment income	95,682	159,649
Uniting in Faith donations	2,327,294	2,517,282
Unrealized (loss) gain in the market value of investments	<u>(71,005)</u>	<u>194,611</u>
	<u>4,490,233</u>	<u>4,401,247</u>
EXPENSES		
Operations and administration	513,756	522,489
Bishop's Annual Appeal allocations	1,134,735 (A)	1,093,874 (A)
Bishop's Annual Appeal parish sharing	153,561 (A)	126,818 (A)
Asset allocation	347,478 (B)	694,639
Management fees	25,497	31,086
Professional fees	18,698	7,103
Uniting in Faith allocations	2,227,195	2,345,000
Uniting in Faith parish sharing	<u>106,082</u>	<u>113,076</u>
	<u>4,527,002</u>	<u>4,934,085</u>
DEFICIENCY OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES		
	<u>\$ (36,769) (C)</u>	<u>\$ (532,838)</u>

- Explanatory notes for the financial statements**
- (A) Revenue from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal does not all come into the diocese. Some of the revenue is dispersed to Catholic organizations and ministries outside of the Catholic Centre, as reported in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal brochure. Further, the revenue for the 2011-2012 fiscal year includes a segment of funds from both the 2011 and 2012 Appeals.
- (B) Allocated donations to the diocese are held by the Foundation. Many of the funds are specified, and the diocese must honour the intention of the donors by using these funds as allocated. As per the annual budget, income is transferred to the diocese to cover expenses in these areas. This shows as income for the Episcopal Corporation and expense for the Foundation. The diocese also receives external grant money that is accounted for in this income line.
- (C) The deficit in the Episcopal Corporation (diocese) was covered with a fund transfer from the Foundation after the end of the fiscal year. This money comes from the Unspecified Asset account.
- (D) The general donations to the Foundation include income from all fundraising efforts for the year, including major, planned and other gifts.



Hospital chaplaincy gathering

A number of the Catholic hospital chaplaincy volunteers and priest chaplains who provide spiritual care at Saskatoon City and Royal University hospitals in Saskatoon gathered for a luncheon at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in December with diocesan chaplaincy coordinator Céline Hudon, and Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen. The diocesan Chaplaincy Office is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Those seeking more information about volunteering are invited to contact Céline Hudon at (306) 292-5531.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

7th ANNUAL

BISHOP’S DINNER

Friday, May 10, 2013

TCU Place, Saskatoon

This delightful evening focused on “Things Old and New” will begin with a champagne reception at 6 p.m., followed by a gourmet dinner and dance.

Tickets are \$350 per person and are available by contacting Myla Telig at (306) 659-5851 or e-mail: mtelig@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Bishop reflects on papal transition

(Continued from Page 1)

Christ's call to St. Francis Assisi at San Damiano to "Rebuild my church" also comes to mind, Bolen added.

"The choice of that name, coupled with what we know about Cardinal Bergoglio as leader – that he chose not to live in the archbishop's mansion, but in a single apartment, caring for a brother priest with many needs; that he chose to use public transportation; that he carried himself simply and led in a way which was strong but not ostentatious; that he is deeply concerned with the poor, making frequent visits to the slums – all of this suggests that he is going to lead the Church in a way that will call us dramatically back to the simplicity of the gospel, in its simple but profound proclamation of hope and joy in Christ, and in its radical invitation to live Christian discipleship deeply and freely," said Bolen.

The morning after the announcement, the bishop celebrated Mass with staff at the Catholic Centre in Saskatoon, reflecting on the Gospel of John 21, in which Christ questions Peter three times, urging him each time to feed his sheep.

"In that threefold call to love, Peter is called in a way that draws to the forefront his denial, his failure to follow Jesus, but which reveals the profound forgiveness that is given him in that moment of deep calling," said Bolen. "No

doubt Cardinal Bergoglio – now called to this office as successor of Peter – has also struggled to be a faithful disciple and has also fallen short. In the days to come we may hear of his shortcomings and we may experience them. This will not minimize God's grace working through his ministry and the Petrine office. So it ever was: God does not scorn what is human to redeem what is human."

The bishop called for continuing prayer for the Holy Father and for the Church. "Let us keep him in prayer; that the Holy Spirit might send every good blessing on him, that he might be a shepherd after the heart of Christ," he said.

"My hope and prayer is that Pope Francis, by his example and by his pastoral leadership, will lead us more deeply down that path of lived discipleship, so that the good news might be heard throughout the world, and that those whose faith is marked by doubt might come to a deep trust in the integrity of the Christian message – a trust in a discipleship that is worth everything, because it is of God and it is lasting," said Bolen.

Integrity of Benedict XVI

The announcement that Pope Benedict XVI had taken the historic step of resigning also prompted reflection about his legacy.

Bolen descried Pope Emeritus Benedict as a person of profound integrity. "I think his decision to retire comes out of that integrity," said Bolen. "The Holy Father had

communicated beforehand his conviction that if a pope is no longer able to carry out the responsibilities, then it's not irresponsible to retire, and there might even be a moment when there would be an obligation to do so."

Bolen made particular note of the legacy of Pope Benedict XVI's teaching ministry.

"He has really focused on the foundations of Christian faith. His encyclicals – such as *Deus Caritas Est*, *Spe salvi*, *Caritas in Veritate* – have been a great blessing. They have explored those foundations of Christian faith in a very intelligent, thoughtful, creative way, speaking to a 21st-century audience."

Bolen also noted the impact of Pope Benedict in clearly identifying the secular push towards relativism, and in challenging the secular notion that there is no certain truth, but only competing points of view. "He was saying that long before I could see it – and I think I am not a minority in that regard. He has taught us something about the challenges with which the secular world confronts Christianity, and given us a language to face that challenge."

In doing so, Pope Benedict has also helped to open a path for dialogue with that secular culture. "He hasn't done that alone, but I think in particular of the work of the Pontifical Council for Culture, the appointment of Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi and the creation of the 'Court of the Gentiles'."

This new initiative – designed to foster dialogue between believers and non-believers – was first proposed in a December 2009 address by Pope Benedict XVI to the Roman Curia, in which he spoke about the "Court of the Gentiles," a space in the ancient Temple of Jerusalem open to those of any culture or religion.

"What an excellent initiative: it models the way in which Christian faith can faithfully and intelligently be brought into dialogue with non-believers in a way which is respectful," said Bolen. "It is a way forward, and it is preferable to simply complaining, or judging harshly, or lamenting. It's a way that is faithful to the gospel and the call to give an account of our hope in a respectful way in our day."



Students at St. Therese Institute in Bruno watch the news reports about the appointment of a new pope. - Photo by James Riley

Reaction to Pope Francis: joy, hope and thanksgiving

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Visiting family in Calgary, Sister Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, first heard that a pope was elected when her sister received the text "white smoke" on her cell phone. As the news about Pope Francis unfolded, Kambeitz said she was pleased with what she saw and heard.

"I was so touched by the sight of the crowd of 250,000 people in silent prayer: how he asked them to bless him," she said of the scene in St. Peter's square March 13.

"There is such a sense of joy to hear that we have a progressive pope in the sense of outreach to the poor and marginalized," Sr. Teresita added, reflecting on reports about the new pontiff's simple lifestyle and commitment to the poor. "The man's whole demeanor suggests to me a gospel holiness, a humility."

Having a pope from South America celebrating with youth at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro is something that diocesan Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne is eager to experience this summer.

"I am really encouraged by his witness of the gospel, how he was among the poor, living a simple life: that's going to be a great witness," Leyne said.

Reflecting on the moment when Pope Francis stepped out on the balcony in St. Peter's square, Leah Perrault, diocesan director of Catholic Pastoral Services said: "I didn't see his power, or his fame or all the things that he would do for us. I saw a man who loves us like Jesus loves us."

"I'm really looking forward to

seeing what Pope Francis will bring to the Church," Perrault added.

During a diocesan Vespers service March 14 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Fr. David Tumback reflected on the joy of Pope Francis' appointment.

"This wonderful moment that we share today is one in which we as disciples are called to give of ourselves again: with renewed hope, renewed faith and renewed vigour, to be agents of God in a world that is so desperately in need of God's love," Tumback said.

"We have a man (as pope) who for the first time comes from outside Europe; it is the first time we are blessed with a Jesuit father in the seat of Peter; we have a man who represents a part of the world that has forever experienced poverty," he described.

"I remember the prophetic words of the late great John Paul II when he spoke in Edmonton of the oppressed people of the world. He said 'my brothers and sisters, the day will come when the poor south will reign over the rich north.' At one o'clock yesterday afternoon our time, the poor south came to rule over the rich north, but not in a way that in any way degrades any of us, but in the way in which God's promise of faithfulness is experienced in a new and exciting way."

This new moment in the life of the Church represents a call to each of us to be present to the poor and the suffering, and to be an instrument that will help "all our brothers and sisters find in our Church a haven and a home," Tumback said.



Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop Don Bolen.

- Photo courtesy of L'Osservatore Romano

Young diocesan priest reflects on legacy of Pope Benedict XVI

By FR. MATTHEW RAMSAY
PASTOR OF PARISHES AT DODSLAND,
KERROBERT, LUSELAND, MAJOR
(Originally published by The Globe and Mail)

Pope Benedict was elected around 9 a.m. Pacific Time. I know this because at that time I was studying at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, preparing for the Catholic priesthood. Between morning Mass and our first class, the monastery bells began to ring. Knowing what those bells meant, seminarians and faculty gathered in front of whatever TV we could find, turned on CNN, and waited to see who had been elected.

The reaction among the faculty when the name Joseph Ratzinger was announced was mixed. Some were excited, as were most of the seminarians. Others were quieter, concerned he would be too conservative. Once the cheering, celebrating, and arguing was over, I went to class. There my Benedictine monk philosophy professor told us he was concerned because Ratzinger was such a liberal.

This anecdote illustrates the diversity that exists within the Catholic Church, and even within the faculty of a single seminary. Pope Benedict's legacy reflects this diversity, which is why our world has such a difficult time pinning him down.

Was he conservative? He stood against abortion, gay marriage, and the ordination of women.

Was he liberal? He spoke for the poor, condemned the Iraq war, and had solar panels installed at the Vatican, hoping to make Vatican City the world's first carbon neutral state.

He argued against philosophical relativism and defended Catholic dogma. And he sought common ground with other Christians, Jews, Muslims, atheists, and anyone willing to talk seriously.

There are two ways of looking at such a man. Maybe he was confused, unwilling to pick a side, trying to please everyone. This is doubtful, because each of these positions upset many people. Rather, he followed a Master

who makes liberal/conservative categories superfluous. In his own words, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (*Deus Caritas Est* 1). Maybe he was a man in love, and the one he loved explodes our limiting human categories.

In the summer of 2011 I travelled to Madrid with 30 Saskatoon college students to see Pope Benedict at what we now know was his last World Youth Day.

These students came from all sides of the Catholic Church, daily Mass-goers to Christmas and Easter (if that) attendees. Seeing the Pope in person, one word stood out for them: humility. Whether he greeted the Spanish royal family, knelt in prayer, hid from the rain under a white, papal umbrella, or was applauded by a crowd of one million, the impression remained: humility. Many of them were surprised. The harsh, doctrinaire image they had imbibed from CBC specials and their religious studies courses seemed far removed from the smiling, grandfatherly man who had come to see them.

Humility is a good word for this Pope, but for me another word better sums up his legacy. That word is love. His first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), ends with the

following words, as a prayer to Mary, "Show us Jesus. Lead us to him. Teach us to know and love him, so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world." His first papal word was a prayer that Christians would know the love of Jesus and be able, in that love, to love the world.

His last *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas message contains what is, for me, his greatest summary of the Christian faith: "Only the God who is love, and the love which is God, could choose to save us in this way." By "this way," the Pope means the way of Incarnation—the way of taking on our humanity, living our life, and dying our death.

To a world that didn't always seem to care, Pope Benedict asked, What if this is true? What if God exists? What if this God loves? What if this love became man to be near you and to bring you forever to himself? Most importantly, if this love is true what can we do but live for it?

As a young priest, less than two years into my ministry, this is the legacy I take from my Holy Father. He challenged us to walk the way of love. This was his way, but more importantly it's the way of Jesus. It's the way of the Gospel. And it's the way all Christians strive, stumbling, to follow.

With funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, this newsletter is published by the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications
Phone: (306) 659-5844 (office) or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005; Ext: 844 Fax: (306) 244-6010
Mail: 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1;
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Diocesan Congress



Leadership focus of Congress Day 1

Keynote speaker Brett Powell of Catholic Christian Outreach presented sessions on leadership to pastors, parish and deanery representatives at a diocesan-wide Congress Day Nov. 22 in Saskatoon. Congress Day planning committee member Madeline Oliver of St. Thomas More College chaplaincy team was the MC for the diocesan event. Find more on the leadership vision presented at Congress on the website news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



The structure and role of deanery councils was one of the topics of discussion at the Congress Day 2 sessions held in three locations across the diocese. Humboldt deanery co-chairs Victor Granger (left) and Don Courchene (right), and Wadena co-chair Marion Sigstad were among the speakers at a Congress Day 2 session with Bishop Donald Bolen held March 2 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt. Saskatoon City Deanery chair Joe Simonot, Saskatoon Rural Deanery chair Lisette Fontaine and Outlook Deanery Chair Bill Paslawski spoke at the Congress Day 2 event Feb. 2 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Kerrobert Deanery Chair Stephen Kloster (below right) spoke at the Congress Day March 9 in Kindersley. Eatonia Deanery does not have a chair at the moment.

- Photos by K. Yaworski and B. Sittler

Congress Day 2 repeated in three locations

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A Congress Day was recently held in three locations across the diocese of Saskatoon, offering parishioners a chance to meet with diocesan leaders to exchange information and ideas.

Held Feb. 2 in Saskatoon for the Outlook, Saskatoon City and Saskatoon Rural deaneries; March 2 in Humboldt for the Wadena and Humboldt deaneries; and March 9 in Kindersley for the Eatonia and Kerrobert deaneries; Congress "Day 2" included discussion of the Covenant of Care protocol, presentations on the deanery and consultative structure of the diocese, and a Year of Faith enrichment session.

Since 2010, the diocese has divided its annual Congress Days into two portions – a one-day

gathering of all parish and ministry leaders in the fall (see photo above left), and a second day in the New Year, held in various centres across the diocese and open to anyone interested, including deanery and parish pastoral council members, parishioners or members of groups such as the Knights of Columbus or the CWL.

Discussion about the implementation of a recently-revised diocesan policy began the day in each location. The new *Covenant of Care and Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol* addresses the care of vulnerable persons, and outlines policies to prevent and address any abuse and misconduct.

Requirements such as a criminal record check for anyone working with vulnerable persons – including volunteers – are well underway.

Parishes are also adjusting to meet the requirement of always having at least two adults present for activities or pastoral outreach involving youth or vulnerable persons.

While some expressed dismay that such policies are necessary, one parishioner in Saskatoon said his community is enthusiastic about the document and the education process. "It gives us an opportunity to improve our image – the image of our diocese, and the image of our church: and it is really about creating a community that is safe, caring and compassionate," he said.

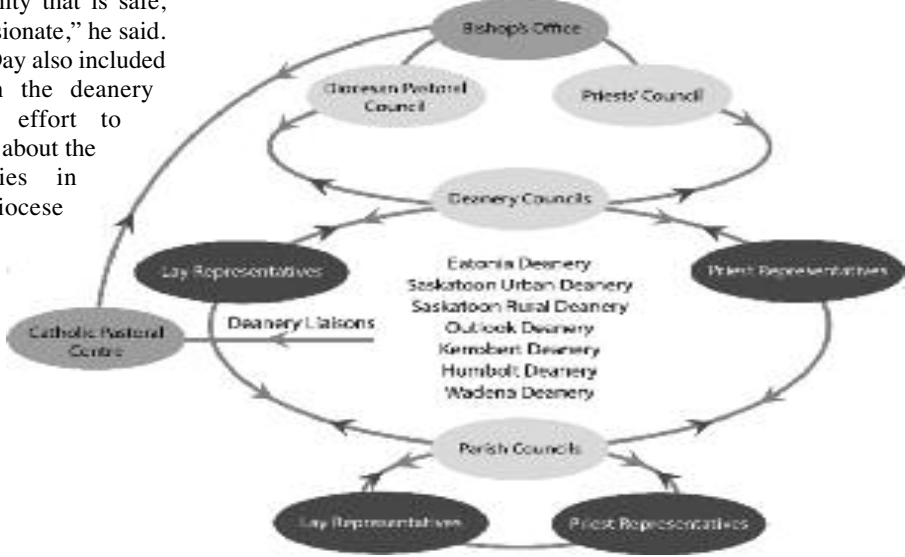
The Congress Day also included a presentation on the deanery structure, in an effort to increase awareness about the consultative bodies in place in the diocese

(see chart, below). "We are trying to strengthen the structures that the bishop uses to listen well to his people," explained Director of Pastoral Services Leah Perrault.

Each Congress Day 2 agenda concluded with an experience of faith enrichment that might be undertaken in this Year of Faith: a screening and discussion about one episode of the 10-part video series *Catholicism* by Fr. Robert Barron. And at each location, Eucharist was celebrated to close the Congress Day.



Stephen Kloster, chair of Kerrobert Deanery



Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR, Priest Moderator at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon shares his table's response to questions about the diocesan Covenant of Care during a Congress Day Feb. 2 in Saskatoon.



Religious, lay and clergy gathered together at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt for discussions at a diocesan Congress Day for the Humboldt and Wadena deaneries.



Celebration of Mass at Congress Day for the Kerrobert and Eatonia deaneries was held at St. Joseph parish in Kindersley March 9, with (l-r) Fr. Michel Bedard, pastor of parishes at Biggar and Landis; Fr. Johnny Mangalath, VC, pastor of parishes at Unity and Tramping Lake; Bishop Don Bolen; Fr. Aloysius Anyichie, administrator of parishes at Wilkie, Handel and Leipzig; and Fr. Gerard Cooper, pastor of parishes at Kindersley, Marengo and Eston.

Covenant of Care / Development and Peace

Western dioceses gather to discuss sexual abuse prevention

By BLAKE SITTLER

Eighteen people representing 13 dioceses in Western Canada, gathered March 7 at the Faithful Companions of Jesus Center in Calgary to discuss the respective diocesan policies on the prevention of sexual abuse and misconduct in the Church.

The one-day event was a collaborative effort of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Calgary and Saskatoon.

The purpose of the gathering was to develop a network of those responsible for the development, implementation and education around the various protocols that exist to create safe ministry environments in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis in the church.

Some members of the group had only been working in the area for less than a year while others at the meeting had been involved indirectly or directly in the field for nearly twenty years.

"We have lost the trust of the culture and community in which we minister," began the moderator, Deacon Stephen Robinson. "We must work to rebuild that trust."

Andrew Papenbrock, the director of the Youth Evangelization Office for the archdiocese of Edmonton, began the day with a formal presentation of the archdiocese's experience of implementing their policy.

"This was an opportunity to share best practices and mistakes that we've made along the way," said Papenbrock. "Whether we've been involved two months or twenty years, we all still feel like we're just beginning to deal with this issue."

Papenbrock told the story of his involvement with Softball Canada and his



Representatives of western dioceses gathered March 7 in Calgary.

- Photo by Blake Sittler

role in helping to develop some of the boundaries being developed in that organization. He noted that some people resisted and most had difficulty with some of the new expectations around appropriate styles of relating to the players.

He said that in all groups and organizations, there is a particular culture of how things have always been done. Attempts to shift practice of any culture in a new way, even a healthier more transparent direction, will be met with resistance.

"We are trying to change culture," he said. "And this is not an easy or quick thing to do."

One of the most important changes that is taking place in every diocese represented is the evolving practice of ministers visiting in twos if there is no one else present with the person being visited. This will have very real implications for priests and lay ministers who visit the sick and elderly in their private

homes. It means that more preparation will be necessary to plan visits.

Five steps to maintaining a safe environment were outlined, and included everything from screening to monitoring and training. Information about common grooming practices of potential abusers was also provided. Some practices, while benign on their own, are now being examined to ensure that they are not attempts at grooming. Grooming is the active effort to create an unhealthily intimate relationship of trust that will allow a leader or person in authority to manipulate the relationship in such a way that abuse will be easier.

While some in ministry were initially

concerned about implementation of new policies, volunteer screening coordinator for the diocese of Calgary, Barbara Raleigh-Smith, reported that the numbers of volunteer visitors increased after new practices were implemented.

The group was a mix of lay and ordained, male and female, pastoral and financial representatives.

Participants said they appreciated the opportunity to hear about the development of good policies from the various perspectives of those who attended.

"When I hear the story about a priest [abusing a child], I mourn for that child and I am ashamed," said one ordained participant. "We have to set a new, healthy example."

The group discussed the many issues that are involved in implementing diocesan policies and protocols. For instance, non-diocesan groups ministering in the diocese must come to understand how they relate to the policy practices. Audits of implementation need to be done regularly. Records of accusations, interviews, and Criminal Record Checks of all staff and volunteers need to be maintained, not just while individuals are actively ministering but decades into the future.

Chris Rigg, an insurance broker and partner in the Capri Insurance Group also spoke, discussing the importance of education and getting all partners on-board.

Find the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon's Covenant of Care and Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol online at:
www.saskatoonrctdiocese.com/covenantofcare/index.cfm

CWL welcomes solidarity visitor from Afghan women's centre

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

During a presentation March 15 at St. Anne Catholic parish in Saskatoon, members of the Catholic Women's League – along with friends, family members and fellow parishioners – learned more about the struggles of women in Afghanistan, and how a women's organization supported by Canadian Catholics is making a difference.

Partawmina Hashemee, director of the Afghan Women's Resource Centre, a partner organization supported by the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development and Peace (CCODP), was a Solidarity Visitor in Saskatchewan from March 4-18. She was the guest speaker at a Lenten poverty supper at St. Anne parish, hosted by the CWL.

Established in 1989 in Pakistan as an outreach to Afghan women living as refugees, the Afghan Women's Resource Centre is dedicated to gender equality and the education and empowerment of

women as a road to sustaining peace and promoting democracy, Hashemee explained to her Canadian audience.

"We have a vision," she said of the organization that she helped to establish. "Because in our culture women are seen as passive victims. We want to make them active agents of positive change in their community and nation."

Life is difficult for women in Afghanistan, with widespread poverty, she said, describing basic facts about the nation. Some 87 percent of women are illiterate and only about 30 per cent of girls have access to education – but even that number is a vast improvement to the "darkest time for women in Afghanistan" from 1996 to 2001, during the civil war when the Taliban took power over much of the country, and rights disappeared.

Even with the Taliban removed from power, cultural barriers continue for women in Afghanistan. However there was a great step



Some of those in attendance at the St. Anne event pose for a photo with Partawmina Hashemee.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

forward in 2004 when the country received a new constitution that recognizes rights – for men and for women, she explained.

Now operating in six provinces of Afghanistan, the Afghan Women's Resource Centre uses a number of strategies to promote gender equality, education and improving livelihood for women, Hashemee described.

"We believe education is the key to women's empowerment and self sufficiency." The centres for women offer home-based literacy programs for women; as well as kindergarten

for children of very poor families, in which the mothers are engaged in vocational training, or learn about nutritious food.

The centre also offers classes in journalism, to give women the capacity to raise their voices; classes in management, so that women can get involved in decision-making; as well as classes in computers and English, Hashemee listed. Programs that will enhance the livelihood of women and their families – beekeeping, kitchen gardening, food processing – are also offered.

"We believe that our work at the

grassroots level is important if we want to change our country."

She expressed fears about the international community's plan to leave Afghanistan next year. The Afghanistan government is not strong enough to stand alone, she said, adding that negotiations are going on with the Taliban.

She asked her listeners to encourage Canada to continue to play a role in supporting peace and democracy in Afghanistan. "We want you to raise your voice," she said. "We don't want the dark time back."

Rachel's Vineyard participant shares testimony about post-abortion healing

My name is Molly, and it was a little more than two years ago when our Lord placed in my ear a call to a vineyard.

By coming back to the Church with a granddaughter who came to live with my husband and me, it all began. In a simple homily, 30-plus years of denial about my abortion was awakened. How did this priest know to reach into my heart and squeeze it?

"God's desire," he said, "is to grant us mercy, forgiveness and love, softening our hardened hearts so that we can repent and have eternal life with him." The priest was telling us about Rachel's Vineyard, a confidential weekend retreat for people exposed to abortion. I found myself shrinking down in the

pew, wondering if people could see that it was me to whom he was speaking. I told myself he had to be talking to someone else, that it couldn't be me because I didn't need to bring it all back up again. I had buried it so long ago.

Answering every reason I gave not to go, I eventually gave in. I finally laid down the fear I blanketed myself with so long ago, fear that I used to deny my access to my Lord.

I went to the weekend retreat, and through the living scriptures, I came face to face with Jesus. As I shared with the group, I remembered all the sins that piled up over the years and with my eyes closed, feeling vulnerable, afraid and full of shame, I cried once more in fear that God would see me as I

saw myself, dirty and unlovable.

I continued to feel God's presence in the leaders who guided us through the weekend. When I finally emptied myself of all the pain, I felt Jesus wrap his arms around me and weep with me. Jesus took my hand and told me that he loved me and that I was forgiven. He asked me to forgive myself and told me that a very dear child in heaven was praying for me and was waiting to be reunited with me. When my tears slowed down, I found that all I hated in myself seemed to be dying, and thoughts of new life, filled with his love, rose up in me. He turned something ugly and sinful into a joyful and beautiful awakening of God's love and mercy.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries believes that Jesus calls us to walk with him and to spread the news of his forgiveness. I am grateful for the gift of support it offers to singles and couples, men and women alike, all ages and faiths. You can help by becoming informed on what Rachel's Vineyard is about. You can become educated in life before birth. It is likely many of us are connected in some way to abortion, as one in four men or women is suppressing this trauma in their life.

I believe God wants us to love each other, reach out to each other, and bring those in pain to the path of his mercy.

(Reprinted from the Life in Focus Newsletter. Contact Rachel's Vineyard at: (306) 480-8911.



**Coordinator
Justice and Peace
Myron Rogal**

To live as one human family: 'Idle No More' and Catholic Social Teaching

**BY MYRON ROGAL
OFFICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

At a recent social justice conference in Saskatoon, Mary Jo Leddy referenced Northrop Frye in a phrase that it is "a colonial trap to define ourselves by what we are against." How often have we as individuals and as a collective body fallen into these clever trappings?

Parts of our society feed on, thrive, and attempt to survive with the sustenance of division. In our

local church, we tend to grow comfortable in theological, academic and ideological ghettos: places where we disregard our neighbour at times to the extent of indifference. We tend to look not for the truth our neighbour speaks, but how their truth is a siege on the truth we hold.

Father Raymond De Souza recently mentioned in an interview that the Church is "used to persecution." Indifference on the other hand, is the new persecution. A contemporary band named *The Lumineers* allude in their music that the opposite of love is indifference. The story of God's people reminds us in Genesis 4:9 where Abel is asked where is his brother, to which Abel replies: "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

Evangelium Vitae #19 in response reminds us that "God entrusts us to one another." Jesus challenges us to "love our neighbour as we love ourselves." (Luke 10: 27) We thus know who our neighbours are, however it is the "how" that requires a workout.

G.K. Chesterton once wrote that "the only benefit we deserve is the benefit of the doubt." If we practice charity towards our neighbours in freedom, not blinded by semantics, we will uncover and fall in love with the living truth in each human being and even each grouping of human beings: "seek and ye shall find." (Matthew 7:7)

What has been found, or rather what is already present, is that the Holy Spirit is flourishing in our midst. "Idle No More" is a democratic movement representing, as one of the founders described: pro-democracy, pro-environment and pro-human rights. The scope of issues represented appears as a flurry on their Facebook site, yet these three broad principles serve as the umbrella which all else stems from, a grassroots base.

In a way, we have become accustomed to more polarized movements that we can swiftly support, or dismiss, that have clear short term goals, that are focused on "them." What is clear about Idle No More is that the focus is all of us.

Catholic Social Teaching, instructs us that the cycle of life is not birth, life, and death, but

Justice and Peace
is supported by the:



conception, life, death and eternal life in Christ's Paschal Mystery.

Catholic Social Teaching takes the long road; it is highly idealistic and eternally hopeful. Idle No More, clearly reflecting four of the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching, sheds light on the gospel.

Idle No More, now out of the fog of media attention, is committed to the long road, a road that has many curves, is not often clear, has many parts, and frequent decoys. It is the road of peace, marked with the prayer of the sacred round dance: the movement is relentlessly idealistic and believes that real change can happen on this side of heaven. Idle No More is igniting the message of Jesus to the people in reminding us of our responsibility to justice and relationship.

To be one human family is not a burden or an impulse toward petty charity, but a gift. "Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." (*Sollicitudo rei Socialis*, #38)

Solidarity brings to our awareness an empathic outlook, breaking us out of selfishness – it moves us out of the mindset of victim and aggressor into dialogue, understanding and friendship.

The reality of human solidarity, which is a benefit for us, also imposes a duty. "Many people today would claim that they owe nothing to anyone, except to themselves. They are concerned only with their rights, and they often have great difficulty in taking responsibility for their own and other people's integral development." (#43 *Caritas in Veritate*)

Rights and responsibilities and the option for the poor are intertwined in the pro-human rights

work of Idle No More. "The poor have the first claim in our personal and social resources. The church does not pit one group against another but instead follows the example of our Lord who is poor and vulnerable." (USCCB, 1986 *Economic Justice For All*)

Pacem in Teris #30 reflects many rights that are being petitioned for in the Idle No More movement, such as the right to water and the right to social services. *Caritas in Veritate* #43 makes explicit that these rights are not an excess, or entitlement, but basic.

Treaty rights, for example, are not a one-way street, they ought to lead us into consultation, dialogue, common prayer and friendship.

We are all treaty people. It is important to name (as the movement has clearly stated) that this is not about money; money can make problems deeper, and no justice issue is ultimately about money.

Environmental movements at times can point fingers and lack hope. First Nations people have a beautifully harmonious understanding of living in relationship with all life around us, without disconnect. There exists a true love story for the environment, one which we are full participants.

Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus writes in his book *The Environment* that "ultimately whatever we do to the environment we do to ourselves."

Idle No More presents an enveloping and holistic outlook on the environment that unites, invites questions and is bringing in freshly cross-pollinated perspectives.

Idle No More breathes life into our community and Church as the movement brings to the light with expounding energy the suffering of our neighbours and the injustices that we hide in ourselves.

We are called not to hide from suffering, to live with the lepers, work with our enemies, to see the Christ right in front of us and remain relentlessly hopeful in the search for truth.

Idle No More points us not only to injustice but to truth. Join this universal community of change by watching announcements for upcoming events in your neighbourhood and consider participating.

Principles and Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching is grounded in scripture and the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is contained in a range of church documents: from Pope Leo XII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* to the documents of Vatican II, as well as the writings of John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Catholic Social Teaching is not a fixed doctrine, but has focused on major themes that have evolved in response to challenges of the day and the *"Signs of the Times."* Principles and themes of Catholic Social Teaching include:

- **Life and the Dignity of the Human Person** - Every person is created in the image of God, and every person is precious. All social laws, practices and institutions must protect – not undermine – human life and human dignity, from conception through natural death.
- **The Common Good and the Call to Family, Community and Participation** - We are social beings who realize our dignity and human potential within families and communities. The family is the basic cell of society; it must be supported. Government has the mission of protecting human life, promoting the common good of all persons, and defending the right and duty of all to participate in social life. Every individual has a duty to share in promoting the welfare of the community and a right to benefit from it. This is true at every level, local, national and international.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** - The Church upholds both personal responsibility and social rights. The right to life is fundamental and includes a right to food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and essential social services. Every person has the right to raise a family and the duty to support them. Human dignity demands religious and political freedom and the duty to exercise these rights for the common good of all persons.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** - The Church follows the example of our Lord, who identified himself with the poor and the vulnerable (*cf. Mt 25:31-46*). Giving priority concern to the poor and the vulnerable strengthens the health of the whole society. The human life and dignity of the poor are most at risk. The poor have the first claim on our personal and social resources.
- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** - Workers have rights to decent work, just wages, safe working conditions, unionization, disability protection, retirement security and economic initiative. The economy exists for the human person; the human person does not exist for the economy. Labour has priority over capital.
- **Subsidiarity** - All power and decision-making in society should be at the most local level possible, compatible with the common good.
- **Solidarity** - We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. There is a universal common good that reaches beyond national borders to the global community. Solidarity recognizes that the peoples of the earth are linked. Solidarity requires richer nations to aid poorer ones, commands respect for different cultures, demands justice in international relationships, and calls on all nations to live in peace with one another.
- **Care for God's Creation** - We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Humans are a part of creation itself. We must live in harmony with the rest of creation and preserve it for future generations.

This summary was compiled using excerpts from two websites:
www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles/ and:
www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm



Idle No More event held near Saskatoon's Vimy Memorial. - Photo by John Lagimodiere, Eagle Feather News

Justice and Peace

Document highlights recent Church teaching on the environment

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new Canadian bishops' document summarizing themes of recent church teaching on the environment is an urgent cry for action, says Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

"Recent church teaching and papal statements are clearly telling us that the way we are living is not sustainable," said Bolen, one of the bishops on the Canadian bishops' Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, which released the new resource April 8 entitled *Building a New Culture: Central Themes in Recent Church Teaching on the Environment*.

"Care of the environment is a growing area of concern for the Church and for all human beings, and in fact the Church has been speaking about this – and in particular, recent popes have been speaking about this – not only with regularity, but with passion," said Bolen.

Bolen noted that it is important to understand the genre of the document. Rather than addressing specific government policies, it lays out guiding principles for Catholic engagement on such issues.

"The bishops are trying to foster a mature church, where educated, passionately committed, well-informed laity will take the lead in addressing these critical issues of the day," he said.

For those who believe the environmental crisis is not the Church's concern, the document will hopefully serve as a wake up call, encouraging them to become responsibly engaged, he said.

Yet it does so not by entering into debate about particular strategies, but by setting forth a vision, he said. "It makes clear that for Catholics, the care of the environment is part of a larger vision. We want to situate the environmental issue within this vast vision of what we are called to on this earth," Bolen said, describing how the new document makes connections between different areas of moral responsibility for Christians.

"It makes connections between care for the environment and economic issues," he explained.

"It makes connections between environmental responsibility and concern with human beings, especially those in greatest need, especially the poor and the marginalized. It makes connections between environmental work and the promotion of dignity of all human beings, and protection of human life from conception to natural death.

"And it challenges the Catholic community to make those connections as we address environmental concerns or as we

engage in other work for the common good."

It is a holistic model of social engagement that places each issue within the broad vision of the common good, inspired by Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God, and "by the notion that we are in a covenantal relationship with all of creation (as we hear in Genesis 9: 9-10) as well as with all human beings," he stressed.

In the past decade, the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCCB) social affairs commission has released two pastoral letters addressing the Christian ecological imperative (2003) and *"Our Relationship with the Environment: The Need for Conversion"* (2008). The latest document from the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace is described as a resource, offering an overview of Church teaching.

"The unique contribution of this document is to say: these are the principles we would invite you to draw on as you go forth and engage in this issue and as you take action," said Bolen.

The document highlights teaching by John Paul II and Benedict XVI "who both spoke very strongly and wisely on this subject," Bolen said.

The document distills eight foundational themes from recent papal teaching on the environment, namely:

- Human beings are creatures made in God's image;
- Creation has an intrinsic order;
- Human ecology and its relationship to environmental ecology;
- Responsible stewardship;
- Care for the environment is a moral issue;
- Solidarity;
- Creation and spirituality;
- Responses to current environmental problems.

Within those eight themes, the document affirms that there is a significant environmental crisis, that this is an urgent situation, and that human beings must change their behaviour to become faithful stewards of God's sacred creation, described Bolen. "It is critiquing our society's preoccupation with short term economic interests and the selfish quest for pleasure or profit," he said.

In the words of John Paul II, quoted in the document: "I encourage public authorities and all men and women of good will to question themselves about their daily attitudes and decisions, which should not be dictated by an unlimited and unrestrained quest for material goods without regard for the surroundings in which we live, and which

should be capable of responding to the basic needs of present and future generations. This attention constitutes an essential dimension of solidarity between generations."

Responses to current environmental problems cited by the bishops' document include the urgent need for action, a need for policy development to protect the environment against selfish interests, whether corporate or individual; and a need for international cooperation and policies that go beyond borders.

The document also states that the costs of implementing policies to address environmental problems should "lie primarily with the states who bear responsibility for the problem in the first place and not with those states who are its victims and who represent the poorest populations."

The bishops' message also calls on those in developed nations to reduce their consumption of goods, citing a message for the World Day of Peace 2010 in which Benedict XVI stated: "Natural resources should be used in such a way that immediate

benefits do not have a negative impact on living creatures, human and not, present and future; that the protection of private property does not conflict with the universal destination of goods; that human activity does not compromise the fruitfulness of the earth, for the benefit of people now and in the future."

The document invites human beings to a stance of wonder before the created world, added Bolen. "This profound wonder is what can motivate us to care properly for the environment, and it also points us to God's presence in creation."

As the document states, quoting a 2002 statement from Blessed John Paul II: "Through the human person, spokesman for all creation, all living things praise the Lord. Our breath of life that also presupposes self-knowledge, awareness and freedom becomes the song and prayer of the whole of life that vibrates in the universe."

The complete document can be found online at: www.cccbpublications.ca or call 1-800-769-1147.

A reflection on human health and the evanishment, and the Christian call to care for creation was presented Feb. 12 at Queen's House
by Dr. Dennis O'Hara. For coverage see the diocesan website at:
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Participants in 40 Hours for Life gathered each day from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday for an hour outside Saskatoon City Hospital – praying for an end to abortion.
- Photos by Denise Hounjet Roth

Forty hours of witness in Lent: praying for end to abortion

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Lent arrived early and winter is staying late – but that did not deter dozens of people from holding a daily prayer vigil in February and March, outside a Saskatoon hospital where abortions are performed.

Known as "40 Hours for Life" the event involves participants spending an hour each day in a peaceful vigil on the sidewalk outside Saskatoon City Hospital.

The event ran for 40 days, from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13 to Palm Sunday, March 24. Participants prayed for an end to abortion and provided a public witness to the value of each unborn child.

The 2013 event went well, reported Denise Hounjet-Roth of Campaign Life Saskatchewan, with about 10 to 20 people participating each day. "There are some family groups that come almost every day, and others on one day a week."

Members of Catholic Christian Outreach were among the regular participants during the Lenten season.

Such youth involvement is encouraging, she noted. For instance, the youth group from the Trinity pastoral region of Catholic parishes at Vonda, Prud'homme and St. Denis came out this year, as did members of the Catholic ConQuest Catholic Boys Club.

Again this year there were some counter protesters gathering nearby on some afternoons, noted Hounjet.

The mission continued: rain, snow or shine, she said.

"God used 40-day periods to transform individuals and communities and the entire world. During these 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, we seek to change the hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life," she said.



The Saskatoon March for Life (pictured above) will be held this year from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12** along College Drive in Saskatoon. Signs are provided and following the walk there will be short presentation and refreshments. For info contact Denise at (306) 249-2764 or e-mail: campaignlifesk@gmail.com

The Provincial March for Life will be held **Thursday, May 9** with a gathering at 1 p.m. at the Saskatchewan Legislature in Regina, followed by prayer, greetings, addresses and a march along Albert Street. Those needing transportation can contact Louis at (306) 249-2764.



Social Justice since Vatican II

The heart and history of the Second Vatican Council and its abiding impact on the search for social justice and the common good was explored from a range of perspectives March 8-9 at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon. Sponsored by the Catholic college's newly-established Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies, the two-day conference brought together some 100 participants to listen and reflect on how Vatican II involved a "turning to the world" for the Catholic Church. Seated in the front row at the conference opening are (l-r): speakers Dr. Catherine Clifford and Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo, with Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen, speaker Dr. Michael Duggan and STM President Dr. Terry Downey. For more coverage see the news archive at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Holy Family vision includes outreach and mission

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Partnering with the Saskatoon Friendship Inn to provide concrete local outreach to those in need is one part of a new vision being implemented by the Cathedral of the Holy Family parish community.

The parish has committed itself to serve meals at the local soup kitchen one day a month. As well, the “loose” collection from Christmas Masses at the Cathedral of the Holy Family – amounting to some \$16,000 – was recently donated to the Friendship Inn.

The generous response of parishioners in stepping forward and signing up to volunteer to serve at the Friendship Inn has been extremely moving, says Holy Family pastor Rev. David Tumback.

“We do recognize that we are in solidarity with the poor. So having that very concrete service provided by our parishioners at the Friendship Inn, answering a need right here in our city – and their willingness to step up to help – it all speaks to that solidarity,” Tumback says. He added that he hopes such concrete, personal action will help build understanding and overcome perceptions of an east-west divide in the city.

“Making a difference in our world” was one of three priorities identified in a parish visioning process launched when the Holy Family parish moved into their new cathedral home just over a year ago, explains Cathedral Administrator Pat Clarke.

Within that particular priority, there are two focuses: making a difference in the local community (which is how the decision to



On a snowy Saturday in February, a team of 13 volunteers of all ages from the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon were serving meals at the Friendship Inn.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

support the Friendship Inn came about) and making a difference beyond our borders. In terms of international outreach, connection and mission, the parish is working to establish a relationship with Bunda diocese in Tanzania, he says.

“What was most important to us was that making a difference in our world was not just about raising funds, giving cash and wiping our hands,” says Tumback, “but it is also about relationships. With Friendship Inn, it’s about giving up time to go and serve meals throughout the year.”

In addition to teams of Friendship Inn volunteers who signed up in a matter of minutes in the welcome area following Sunday

liturgies this fall, the parish youth ministry coordinator Anthony Olusola worked with administration from four elementary schools in the parish attendance area to have students assist at the Friendship Inn once a week during Lent, noted Clarke.

The other two priorities identified in the parish visioning process were faith formation and youth ministry, he reports, explaining how the process included surveys and “Town Hall” meetings that attempted to engage the entire parish, which in recent months has grown to include 1,900 families.

In the priority area of faith formation, coordinator Andy Korvemaker has been organizing a

range of events and faith enrichment activities; and the parish is also working on engaging more people in the diocesan Lay Formation program, recognizing the contributions that those graduates make to building up the life of the parish community, says Clarke.

In the priority area of Youth Ministry, Olusola is aiming to make sure youth are “active tomorrow, starting today,” says Clarke.

Youth gatherings, dances, and groups for all ages are being offered at Holy Family. The parish is also challenging young people to make a difference in the world: in addition to the participation of youth in the Friendship Inn initiative, 10 senior high youth and five adults will travel

to Haiti on a mission trip through the Broken Wings ministry established in Haiti by Saskatchewan resident Peter Eyvindson.

Engaging in a visioning process is already helping the parish to focus, said Clarke. “We truly are focusing on areas where we can make a difference, recognizing that we can’t be all things to all people,” he says.

“I think sometimes that is where churches go wrong: we try to do everything, and we wind up doing a lot of things poorly. If you narrow your focus, you can perhaps do a few things with great impact.”

Clarke adds that in everything related to the parish vision, there is a strong focus on the parish’s identity as a “holy family” – a community of love and belonging.

By intentionally choosing the Friendship Inn, for instance, the faith community is being asked to journey with others, Tumback stresses.

“It means that we have to totally eradicate the walls of discrimination, racism, and all of those kinds of things that have to come down before we can build relationships,” Tumback says.

“We do this with a great hope that as we break down barriers with the poor and we break down barriers with those in other parts of the world, that it will all be part of breaking down walls, including walls among our brothers and sisters who share our Christian faith, and our brothers and sisters of other faiths, so that we can all walk in solidarity, together in the beauty of God’s creation ... it’s all part of the larger goal.”

Refugee sponsorship is part of St. Philip Neri vision

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Welcoming the stranger is one key element of a parish vision recently implemented at St. Philip Neri in Saskatoon.

As part of a parish visioning process, a priority to engage in “intentional outreach” as “a response to Christ’s call to touch our world” has included a long-term and dedicated commitment to welcoming and sponsoring refugees, as well as supporting the work of a local initiative in Saskatoon’s core neighbourhood called The Bridge on 20th.

Right now, the parish and its refugee sponsorship committee are busy providing extraordinary support to a refugee family from Iraq (who arrived in Canada via Damascus and Amman). The parents, who

are both deaf, have three young children, and struggle with literacy, numeracy and American Sign Language.

Parish refugee committee member Sheila Flory said she originally got involved in the parish refugee sponsorship committee because she wanted to support and promote social justice.

“When I heard the stories of the refugees’ lives before they came to Canada, I realized we had not only made a real difference in their lives – it made a real difference in my life. I became much more appreciative of the freedoms that we enjoy – and take for granted.”

Generally, the parish refugee committee begins a sponsorship with some 15-20 members, but as time goes on, the

Others involved in refugee sponsorship (either full sponsorships or in partnership with sponsoring families) under the diocesan Sponsorship Agreement include: Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Augustine, Sacred Heart Chaldean, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Mary parishes, as well as St. Patrick Knights of Columbus, the Ursuline sisters, and many other constituent groups.

June Rivard of Our Lady of Lourdes explains: “We are all called by Jesus to care for those less fortunate whether it be a matter of hunger, isolation or persecution ... The more I became involved, the more my passion and my love grew for all of the newcomers I have been privileged enough to have met.”

commitment falls to a small group of some four to six who carry through until the completion of the sponsorship, noted Flory. Each person is critical to the successful outcome of the sponsorship, as is the support of the parish, she said.

“Most of us are complacent in our safe, secure environment, we don’t have a real appreciation for what people in other parts of the world have to deal with on a daily basis. Working with refugees certainly opens our eyes.”

Parishioner Mary Nordick has been involved in refugee sponsorship for years, beginning when the Southeast Asian “Boat People” were arriving in Canada.

“This is a chance to give people a new life,” she says of the sponsorship outreach. “And we probably gain as much as they do. It reminds us of the importance of some things. You certainly learn about the resilience of the human spirit when you hear what some of the refugees have gone through.”

The greatest need of the refugees who arrive in our community is friendship, said Nordick. “The simplest thing is to be friends: talk with them, share experiences: that is more important than anything else we do.” Sometimes it is also the hardest thing to do, she added, pointing out that it can be easier to

just donate money or goods, and not get personally involved.

But this parish outreach comes down to the gospel imperative to “welcome the stranger,” she said. “That is what we are called to do – ‘whatsoever you do to the least of these in need.’ This is an active expression of our faith and our belief.”

Both Nordick and Flory say they appreciate the assistance and advice provided to parish committees by the diocesan coordinator of the Migration Office, Ellen Erickson, who oversees issues related to the diocese of Saskatoon’s sponsorship agreement with the government.

“All of our refugee work comes under the Sponsorship Agreement Holder, which is the diocese of Saskatoon,” said Nordick.

“*Joyfully Building Up the Church*” is the mission statement of St. Philip Neri parish. In addition to the “intentional outreach” of having an active committee undertaking refugee sponsorships and supporting the Bridge on 20th in various ways, other priorities of the parish vision include creating a vibrant parish community by facilitating faith development; and building parish community through initiatives such as increasing the number of Small Christian Communities in the parish.



Breast Friends cookbook wins top prize

The “Breast Friends” cookbook phenomenon was recently highlighted on the international stage as their fifth publication “*Breast Wishes for the Men in Our Lives*” won the top prize in the charity-fund raising cookbook category at the Gourmand Awards held Feb. 23 in Paris, France. Dedicated to men’s prostate cancer awareness, the latest cookbook had also previously won the Gourmand Award for top charity cookbook in Canada. The Breast Friends cookbook series is an initiative of 10 women from Foam Lake, SK., responding to the devastating impact of cancer on so many lives. The books have raised about \$1.3 million, donated to cancer research, equipment, patient needs, awareness and prevention. Eight of the women were able to travel to Paris for the awards (l-r): Darlene Cooper, Val Helgason, Jacquie Klebeck, Linda Helgason, Cecile Halyk, Anne Reynolds, Patti Hack, and Nat Dunlop.

Photo courtesy of www.breastfriends.ca

Restorative Ministry

Grieving program addresses unresolved feelings, brings healing

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A prison ministry program to help inmates deal with grief and trauma is bringing healing and changing lives.

The grief support program being offered at Saskatoon Correctional Centre to different groups of men each month includes music, meditation, journaling, therapeutic art, and sacred rituals.

Diocesan Restorative Ministry coordinator Dianne Anderson and volunteer Yvonne Powell both received grief support training last year from Dr. Jane A. Simington of *Taking Flight International*. They are now regularly providing the program to inmates with the help of Yvonne's husband Russ, and a prison ministry coordinator from Mennonite Central Committee.

When providing ministry at the prison, it soon becomes obvious that most of the men have suffered losses and experienced often-severe trauma, says Yvonne. "I was hoping that this program would help to heal some of the deep wounds in their past."

The grief is often related to the



Dianne Anderson, Yvonne and Russ Powell (l-r) with grief boxes created by men in the program.

Photo by K. Yaworski

deaths of family and friends, but it also stems from other losses: loss of freedom, loss of a childhood, or traumatic incidents, said Russ.

"There is always grief in there... and we can clearly see that they're not dealing with it," said Dianne.

The program, which has so far been offered three times at Saskatoon Correctional Centre, is a

way to offer something more than just one-on-one listening, said Russ.

"It is a bigger and more comprehensive and more human way of dealing with the problem. This is very intentional and it gives them tools to work with the feelings," he said.

Those tools include visualizing and expressing grief in a variety of ways, including creative outlets

such as clay and paint, as well as journaling about feelings, and the creation of a box as a place to hold what is created throughout the process. "The box becomes where they keep their grief, and when they want to deal with it, they open it up," explained Dianne.

The results fill the team with hope. "I am just amazed by these guys and what they have done, how far they've come and the transformation that takes place," said Dianne.

She recalls one young inmate, whose 16-year-old sister committed suicide. "He had never ever dealt with the pain. It was just buried, and he's been so angry. By the end of the program, he had worked through his feelings. He made a figurine of her – he just made it so bright, so beautiful and created flowers that are there for her like a garden... saying he now just wants to let her fly. He doesn't want to hold her now, he wants to let her go. He just blossomed: it was amazing to watch the change in him."

As part of the process there are ritual moments: letters to loved

ones who have died are written and then placed ceremonially into a fire; signs of grieving are buried; and at the end, participants engage in a movement session, with fringed arm bands flying as they leap, dance and "fly" with a new-found sense of freedom.

Asked about the program's impact, Yvonne points to some of the many positive words written by participants themselves in their evaluations:

"This is the first time dealing with my trigger to disaster and its been holding me and my family from moving forward."

"It gave me a chance to look at what I need to deal with in life."

"I am now able to think about my grievances and how to work them out, rather than dwell on them with anger and sadness."

"It helped me and made me realize that I needed this and maybe if I knew about this class a long time ago and how to use these tools, maybe certain stuff in my life would have been different."

Blessings of ministry at Correctional Centre

BY KERI KOTYK

ST. ANNE'S PARISH, SASKATOON

For several years I felt a tugging at my heart – a calling if you will – to get involved in prison ministry. For that same several years, I "ran like hell" in the other direction! Why would I want to get involved with prisoners, they're bad people, right?

Wrong. I finally came to the realization that these are not bad people, but good people who have made some bad decisions, not unlike the rest of us.

I have since been involved with St. Anne's Prison Ministry team, going out to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre every five or six weeks and helping with the Catholic lay-led service.

I have enjoyed the Stations of the Cross with the inmates on Holy Thursday, had fun playing Easter Bunny and distributing chocolate bunnies to all the gentlemen, then celebrating Easter Mass with them and Bishop Don, and playing Santa Claus on Christmas Day, giving a small gift to everyone, and again, celebrating Christmas Mass with the men and with Bishop Don.

These men, some so lost and lonely, light up when they find that

people care. It isn't so much the chocolate bunny or the socks and note pad, it's that someone actually came and cared enough to visit.

When we open up the Prayers of the Faithful at our service, you know what these gentlemen pray for? Sure they pray for their families, etc., but they also pray for their enemies, for peace, for those suffering under addictions, and for us, the volunteers who come there. They are amazing men!

My favourite Bible passage is Matthew 25:31-46 about our judgment day: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, **I was in prison and you visited me.**"

I think that sometimes we forget this part about those in prison.

The blessings I get back from these gentlemen are far greater than anything I can give. I encourage anyone who is still "running like hell in the other direction" to stop,



Bishop Donald Bolen blesses worshippers during Easter Sunday Mass at the Correctional Centre.

- Photos courtesy D. Anderson

get involved and be truly blessed.

I also think that society needs to take this a step further. Instead of sending the men out on Miller Avenue with their garbage bag of all their worldly possessions to catch a bus when their sentence is done, we need to provide a home, food and support for a transition period for each one of them. Many have nowhere to go, and thus, return to their old lives, the lives that brought them to the Correctional Centre in the first place.

For more information about ways to assist with prison ministry contact Dianne Anderson, diocesan coordinator of Restorative Ministry at (306) 659-5845.



Volunteers donned bunny ears and Easter bonnets to deliver chocolate rabbits to all the prisoners on Easter Sunday.



The Stations of the Cross were prayed outdoors at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre during Holy Week. - Photos courtesy D. Anderson


Messages from prisoners at Saskatoon Correctional Centre about the work of Restorative Ministry (names have been withheld)


"I am writing this letter to tell you how much Dianne Anderson has helped me get through this time in jail. She has given me guidance and spiritual strength with her wisdom, faith, and unconditional love for us all. She makes so many inmates smile and have a new outlook on how we treat each other, and staff, everybody, but most important, ourselves and our family relationships on the street, outside of prison. She gives me hope I have never quite known before."

"What does it mean to me for Dianne Anderson to come into the Correctional Centre to see us inmates? For me it is a sign that someone cares and gives me hope and the strength to forgive and stay alive in here. Before I started to go to chapel, I felt depressed, upset, and I felt that life wasn't worth living anymore. I go to chapel to open up to God and now the thoughts of ending my life are gone. My girlfriend noticed that I have changed. If there was no one to come and spend time with us, there would be no peace in the Correctional. Dianne has shown us to move forward, to forgive, and she has helped us heal in our hearts. I thank the chaplains and Dianne for coming in to help us. Thanks so much for helping me change my life."

Restorative Ministry is supported by the


Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL





Easter Vigil in Wadena

Fr. Fred Caylan (*above, left*) welcomes two newly-received candidates at the Easter Vigil at St. Mary's parish in Wadena where they made a profession of faith, were confirmed and welcomed to the Table of the Lord. Two young children were also baptized during the joyful celebration (*photo at left*).
- Photos by Susanne Byman



Outlook catechism service project

Students involved in catechism classes at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook recently participated in a service project to raise funds for Chalice, a Catholic sponsorship and development program (www.chalice.ca). With support from the parish, over \$500 was raised for the purchase of equipment and small farm animals for families in the Third World. - Photo by Lisa Clark



Preparing for sacraments and reaffirmation of faith


A young parishioner in the pew watches as children preparing for sacraments, along with junior and senior "Steps in Faith" participants, presented commitment contracts to Fr. Joseph Gym-Austin at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook. The parish is preparing eight children for the sacraments of confirmation and first communion. There is also a class of young people who are completing their final year of the diocesan "Steps in Faith" program to deepen their personal commitment to their faith. Both groups will be presented to Bishop Don Bolen when he comes to the parish to celebrate with the community June 5, 2013. - Photo by Lisa Clark

Evangelizing through the Lens of Faith and Culture

23rd Conference of the Western Conference for the Catechumenate June 7-8
at the FCJ Sisters Christian Life Centre, 219-19th Avenue SW, in Calgary, AB.



The WCC conference **June 7-8** features speaker Msgr. Michael Clay, a priest of the diocese of Raleigh, NC, and an assistant professor in pastoral studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington. For 25 years, Msgr. Clay has been an internationally recognized authority on the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). For information or to register, contact Michelle Sieben at (306) 358-2057 or e-mail cic.michelle@saskatoonrcdiocese.com
Registration deadline is May 27. Cost per person: \$150, or for two or more people from the same parish, there is a reduced rate of \$140 each (includes Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as light refreshments throughout the event). Pre-registration is required.

This is a great conference for anyone who prepares adults or children for the sacraments, or works in offices of liturgy or catechesis, including lay people, volunteers, pastoral associates, and priests!



Rite of Election

Stanley Riehl (*second from right*) of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Outlook was among the catechumens welcomed by Bishop Don Bolen Feb. 17 at the Rite of Election held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, pictured here with his sponsor Lawrence Kardash and RCIA team members Maxine Prentice, Marguerite Chomyshe and Donna Kardash.



Chancellor Kroeger (*right*) of St. Andrew parish, Kenaston, watches as his sponsor signs a page in the Book of the Elect, in which all the names of those to be baptized at Easter are enrolled during the Rite of Election celebration on the first Sunday of Lent.

Harley Jones of St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon was welcomed at the 2013 Rite of Election in Saskatoon.
- Photos by Tim Yaworski

Christian Initiation and Catechetics is supported by the





Members of the RCIA team from St. Paul Co-Cathedral applaud for the newly-elect enrolled at the 2013 diocesan Rite of Election.
- Rite of Election Photos by Tim Yaworski

Faith Formation / Ecumenism



Lay Formation alumni gathered for a recent 25th anniversary celebration. - Photo by Francine Audy



At a recent Lay Formation weekend at Queen's House, participants gathered in the chapel for worship. The program focuses on prayer, learning and community.

- Photo by Kate O'Gorman

Lay Formation is supported by the



Participants in the three streams of Lay Formation celebrated the Great Water Blessing led by Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy on the January weekend.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

To find out more or apply for Lay Formation, go online at:
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/layformation/index.cfm
or call (306) 659-5847 or 1-877-661-5005 Ext. 846

Prayer series offered in Lent

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Response was positive to a Lenten prayer retreat experience offered this year by the Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* diocesan office.

For the past several years the faith enrichment office at the Catholic Centre has organized a multi-session speaker series to complement the single-night Foundations sessions popularly offered in many parishes. This year, coordinator Sharon Powell organized the weekly series at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, with a focus on different prayer forms – including time to pray.

Entitled “*Be still and know that I am God*”

the series included Mona Goodman prayerfully reflecting on how we are God’s beloved; Christy Dupuis addressing the idea of prayer as an intimate conversations between friends; Sr. Dianne Sehn introducing “Lectio Divina” (praying with scripture); Garth Horn presenting prayer in the style of Taizé; and Fr. Kevin McGee introducing centering prayer.

Attendance was around 50 or 60 participants each evening, with one parish – Our Lady of Guadalupe – making the series a Lenten enrichment for staff and volunteers.

“There seems to be a real desire to deepen one’s prayer life and spend more quiet time with God,” Powell observed.



Sr. Dianne Sehn, OSU, (left) leads a session on praying with scripture, with help from Margot Taylor, Marci Deutscher, Mona Goodman and Sharon Powell (l-r).

- Photo by K. Yaworski



De Margerie Series on Christian Unity

Fr. Bernard de Margerie (left) greets Bishop Gregory Cameron of the Anglican Church of Wales, who was the inaugural speaker in a new “De Margerie Series on Christian Unity and Reconciliation” launched this January by the diocese of Saskatoon and St. Thomas More College. Named for local ecumenical pioneer de Margerie, the series coincided with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Find coverage online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo by K. Yaworski

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism continues work for unity

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new website – found at www.pceecumenism.ca – is one of the latest undertakings for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in a year that has seen the arrival of new staff and new initiatives.

Dr. Darren Dahl was appointed director of the PCE in May 2012, Administrator Hilary Klassen was hired in the summer, and Pastor Ron Bestvater became the new coordinator of Ecumenical Shared Ministries in October. Ecumenical Shared Ministries includes “any shared arrangement between two or more Christian denominations that involves facility, program or staff.”

This is one of three priorities identified for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, explains Dahl, along with education and raising the profile of ecumenical dialogue.

The centre also continues with such long-standing initiatives as organizing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon, and



Pastor Ron Bestvater, Dr. Darren Dahl and Hilary Klassen (l-r).

- Photo by K. Yaworski

hosting the Summer Ecumenical Institute, which this year will be held June 10-13 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Plenary speaker is Bishop Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada’s first indigenous bishop, speaking on *Reconciling Churches, Reconciling Peoples*. Workshops topics include, *The*

Challenges of Aging and Spiritual Growth in the Healthcare Setting and *Inter-cultural Inter-racial Journeying Together*. The conference will also feature a panel discussion and enriching worship. Find the detailed brochure at www.pceecumenism.ca or e-mail info@pceecumenism.ca or call (306) 653-1633 for information.

Catholic education

News briefs from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

By DONELLA HOFFMAN
GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Spring break trips are a tradition for many high school students, but when teacher-chaplain Louise Bitz takes her Holy Cross Catholic high school groups out of the country, they do more than see the sights.

One day of their trip is dubbed "Mission Day," where the students spend time helping out in the country they are visiting.

This year, for the second year in a row, Bitz is travelling to Ecuador with 18 students. Other years have seen her take students to Brazil, Thailand and Peru.

This year on Mission Day, Bitz and the students will spend the morning at a school for children with special needs. One group of students is bringing Canadian food so that they can cook Canadian dishes with the children, another will bring art supplies for art projects and the third will do music and games with the youngsters.

In the afternoon, the Canadians will move on to an orphanage for boys. The nun who runs the facility will speak to them about social justice and the importance of caring for "people on the margins," then the students will meet the boys, playing games like Jenga and Twister that they have brought with them and will leave as gifts.

Though the trips are also filled with sight-seeing and experiencing local culture and food, Bitz says many of her students say that Mission Day is their highlight.

"What I witness is the students having a tremendous compassion. Their hearts are moved as they see themselves as brothers and sisters with these people whose faces and names they didn't know before that day."

St. Anne School wins national award for innovation

The Canadian Education Association (CEA) has recognized St. Anne School for its innovative teaching and learning. It was awarded second place out of 78 entries.

Staff at the K-8 school, led by principal Darren Fradette, have moved to a new way of



Superintendent Gordon Martell

- Photo submitted by GSCS

teaching called "inquiry-based learning," where teachers let students' own questions in various subject areas take them down various learning paths. Desks have been replaced with tables to make group work easier and student work is prominently displayed in the hallways.

Gordon Martell recognized for leadership in First Nations education

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Superintendent Gordon Martell was one of the inaugural winners of Indspire's Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards. (Indspire is the new name of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.)

"Gordon Martell is a visionary leader with big dreams for First Nations people. He is a thinker and a doer . . . and has the best interests of his community at heart," reads his nomination for the national award, which was led by the 11 principals Martell supervises in the division.

GSCS on Twitter and Facebook

Our school division has joined the "Twittersphere" - follow us @GSCSNews.



Photo by K. Yaworski

Students present Stations of the Cross

Jared Binsfeld played Jesus in a dramatization of the Stations of the Cross presented March 20 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family by Grade 8 students from Mother Teresa Catholic School in Saskatoon. The dramatized prayer was presented to an afternoon gathering that included younger students, teachers, parents and parishioners, and repeated that evening for the broader community.



Photo by K. Yaworski

Youth and Liturgy

Bishop Donald Bolen recently blessed and commissioned a group of students from four Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools who completed a Youth and Liturgy Project March 14, after learning about elements of liturgy and how to plan liturgical celebrations for their fellow students. Meeting several times at different church settings, including St. Anne parish, the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Our Lady of Guadalupe Aboriginal parish and a Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic parish, youth learned about liturgical symbols, kinds of prayer services and the liturgical year. Before their commissioning celebration, each group presented a sample liturgy on a different theme, including thanksgiving, friendship, the Hail Mary, and forgiveness. St. Augustine, St. Edward, St. Mary and Father Robinson schools participated in this year's session, with support from GSCS Foundation.



Photo by K. Yaworski

Roughrider visit

Teacher Mary Wrubleski (left) and a Grade 2 class at St. Volodymyr Catholic School in Saskatoon pose with Roughrider Ben Heenan (right), as students hold up the picture of two crosses that they managed to fill with toonies in Lent, as a fundraiser to help feed the homeless. The "Toonie for Your Thoughts" event raised \$1,630, which will go to a St. Joseph Catholic High School outreach in which high school students will deliver sandwiches to the homeless in downtown Saskatoon, reported teacher Janine Baier. By the end of the program, 15 St. Volodymyr classrooms had earned a visit from Roughriders Patrick Neufeld and Ben Heenan, who answered questions, played dodge ball in gym class, and read stories with students.

St. Thomas More College holds Thinkfast in support of Development and Peace

By ANNA YAWORSKI

Students and staff gathered together March 1 and 2 to raise awareness and just over \$1,600 for Development and Peace, exploring issues facing the global south in a spirit of solidarity as part of St. Thomas More College's first-ever Thinkfast event.

Thinkfast – a 25-hour fast to raise money for Development and Peace and inform youth about justice issues around the world – was introduced 25 years ago as a Development and Peace initiative to bring awareness about the work of the organization to a broader audience.

Speakers at the STM Thinkfast included

Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS; representatives from the campus Oxfam outlet; and Assistant Professor Chris Hrynkow. The speakers addressed topics such as eco-justice, food sovereignty, and solidarity in history.

Thinkfast participants stayed overnight at the college, concluding the first evening with a session of Taizé prayer, and getting up the next day bright and early to discuss "Justice in the Justice League" with campus minister Michael MacLean.

At the conclusion of the event, the group came together to break their fast at a meal provided by the parish community of St. Thomas More Chapel.



Photo by Anna Yaworski

STM Thinkfast participants engaged in activities prompting discussion of issues facing Development and Peace partners and their communities in the global south.

Youth Ministry

FacetoFace launches United conference

By BRANDI OLSON

FacetoFace Ministries staged a new weekend conference, entitled United, attracting some 200 participants to St. Mary Parish Hall in Saskatoon Feb. 16-17.

United brought together those who had been involved in FacetoFace Ministries events in the past 12 years, along with many first timers.

It was a time to unite, support, and challenge Catholics in their faith, said organizer Jon Courchene, executive director of FacetoFace Ministries.

The uplifting weekend was full of music, inspiring talks, sacraments, prayer and fellowship. "The Holy Spirit was tangibly present as youth and adults alike prayed and worshipped together, participated in Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation and Holy Mass," he said.

Speakers included Ken Yasinski (founder of FacetoFace Ministries), Fr. Clair Watrin CSB, Masson Normand, Garth Wruck, Colm Leyne, and Leah Perrault.

Each session started with worship music lead by a team of skilled musicians. Music also contributed to an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a highlight for many participants.

Rev. Clair Watrin CSB, gave several talks during the United Conference, including one focused on how to get the most out of Mass and another on sainthood.

One participant said: "Fr. Clair's challenges for sainthood were amazingly inspiring."

Watrin encouraged everyone to keep praying and to never quit on



Ken Yasinski, founder of FacetoFace Ministries speaks at the first-ever United Conference held Feb. 16-17 in Saskatoon.

Photo by Tianna Mallet.

the journey to sainthood. He said that those who have deep peace are those who choose to be a saint. Sainthood was a strong theme throughout the weekend.

There was also a segment of the weekend where everyone had the chance to break off into groups focused on different areas of interest.

Examples included: pro-life, youth ministry, building up parish communities, and a range of other relevant tasks related to faith and to parishes. It gave each person a chance to share their own gifts with others, to see where the Holy Spirit was leading them to use their gifts, and to connect people of the same interest so that they can support each other.

"Those [interest groups] impacted my life!" said one participant. "They made me feel so encouraged to find other teens that wanted to pursue the same ministry

as I did. I feel now like I have support to accomplish things. I can't wait to reunite with my group next year to compare what we've done."

Courchene summed up the conference by describing it as an incredible weekend. "We came into the United Conference with great expectations but God had even greater. A real highlight was witnessing the authentic love and desire for holiness the participants had as they prayed with one another for courage and humility to go forward from the conference and share Christ with the world."

This is a conference that FacetoFace Ministries would like to see happen every year, he added.

FacetoFace Ministries upcoming summer events include the youth camp Ignite Saskatchewan August 12-17, and Ignite Alberta August 20-25. More information about events can be found online at www.f2f.ca



Michael MacLean of STM campus ministry and guest speaker Leah Perrault (l-r) speak to youth at a recent Theology on Tap.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

Young adults meet at local pub for faith discussions

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

This year's Theology on Tap sessions for young adults have included a range of discussions related to faith and every day life, including a first-time-ever three-week series for the Year of Faith.

Blake Sittler opened the 2012-13 season in the fall with a presentation on faith vs. religion.

A diverse crowd of some 50 people attended the second of the Year-of-Faith-inspired sessions, with Bishop Don Bolen speaking about faith and creativity.

The author of the new book *Theology of the Body for Every Body* and the Director of Pastoral Services for the diocese, Leah Perrault led discussions in November about faith and sexuality.

During Lent 2013, Theology on Tap ran once a week for three weeks. On Monday, Feb. 25, two

professionals, Greg Mallon and Micheline Thibault, talked about living their faith at work. On March 4 the topic was "faith in your social life" and the series concluded March 11 with "faith in your family life."

Theology on Tap is offered for young adults 19-plus at Lydia's pub on Broadway Ave. in Saskatoon. It is coordinated by the youth ministry offices of the Roman Catholic diocese and the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy of Saskatoon, along with the St. Thomas More College chaplaincy team.

Youth Ministry
is supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

Rock the Mount 2013

10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24

Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, north of Carmel, SK

Theme: "March of the Saints" / Keynote: Fr. Domenic Roscioli

Mass with Bishop Don Bolen at 5 p.m.

The Rock the Mount organizing committee is seeking new members to help with a variety of tasks, large and small, as well as seeking donations to support this FREE family and youth event.

Contact Doug or Cathy Swarbrick at (306) 242-2721 or e-mail info@rockthemount.com or see: www.rockthemount.com

Diocesan group will attend World Youth Day in Rio

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will send a small delegation to World Youth Day this summer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The group of 12 will be on pilgrimage July 16-30, with visits to the diocesan mission in Maceió for mission week and to Rio for WYD week, as well as to the world-renowned shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida.

Diocesan Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne is the only diocesan coordinator from Western Canada attending World Youth Day.

"So look forward to the tweets, blogs, and youtube videos of our experience," says Leyne. Follow "ymosaskatoon" on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, and watch the diocesan website for WYD and all year round.

"We ask for your continued prayers for a safe and blessed journey. You can send any prayer requests for our pilgrims to offer during their daily masses by e-mailing youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com," added Leyne.

"World Youth Day will be Pope Francis' first major visit to South America since his appointment. With organizers already anticipating between 1.5 and two million pilgrims, there is sure to be even more now with our Holy Father hailing from Brazil's neighbor!"

For WYD details visit www.rio2013.com/en

For those looking to celebrate WYD closer to home, Alberta's Catholic dioceses are partnering to host the One Rock Festival at Mount St. Francis in Cochrane, AB. from July 26-28. Details can be found at www.onerock.ca

In the diocese of Saskatoon, Rock The Mount was originally envisioned as a post-WYD opportunity for youth and families to gather at picturesque Mount Carmel, west of Humboldt, for a day of celebration, music, worship and enrichment. This year's Rock the Mount will be held **Saturday, Aug. 24**, including Mass with Bishop Don Bolen. For more information see the website at: www.rockthemount.com

Our MC's the Pure Witness Team!

May 12th 9am-9pm **PURITY RALLY 2013** Ages 16 to adult!

at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on 12th Street and Wiggins

Early Registration \$40 Per Person
\$180 Family Rate
After April 23rd \$45 Per Person
\$200 Family Rate

Free To Be Me!

Mass with Bishop Bolen
Praise and Worship
Games
Food
Confession
Amazing Talks
Musical Adoration

He's Catholic!
He's Funny!
He's... **Sam**

Inspirational Speaker **Arish Dapris**

www.purewitness.com
(306) 934-3511



Photo by K. Yaworski

We Day excitement

About 15,000 youth from across the province earned their way to a "We Day" rally Feb. 27 at Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon, by undertaking service, justice and peace advocacy, and charity efforts for a variety of causes, striving to "Be the Change." Featuring celebrities, musicians, performances and inspirational videos, We Day is an initiative of Free the Children, founded by Craig Kielburger. Find more coverage at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 21, 2013



PRIESTLY
ORDINATION
of
Daniel Yasinski
and Colin Roy

7 p.m. Friday, June 14
at the Cathedral of the Holy Family
with Bishop Don Bolen presiding

All are welcome to attend!



Daniel Yasinski:
Surprised by God’s call
to consider priesthood

BY DEACON DANIEL YASINSKI

Our God is a God of surprises.

My life began on a cold autumn morning, Oct. 5, 1983. The night before, my mother, Madeline Yasinski, whispered to my father, David Yasinski, “I think it’s time to go to the hospital.” Dad knew the drill. He had done this all before. I was to be the fifth child. Dad calmly rolled out of bed, got dressed and prepared my mother for the short one-block drive to the small town hospital in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan. The nurses rolled my mother into the maternity ward (which consisted of one room), and a few hours later I was born.

Now one may think that this is the end of my birth story, but it is not. As soon as I entered the world, the doctor looked at me and said, “He’s so small.” I was just over six pounds. He was perplexed because my mother was quite large when she was pregnant and so the doctor was expecting a baby of more substantial girth. Before the doctor could utter another word my mother exclaimed, “I think I have to push again.” And seven minutes later my twin brother David Yasinski was born.

My parents were not expecting twins; it was a surprise (my mother would say that this is an understatement). In the one ultrasound my mother had, they were only able to make out one heartbeat.

I share this story because we have a God who is a God of surprises. My life began with a surprise, that gift of a twin brother. And in many ways my call to the priesthood was a surprise, in that I never seriously expected to become a priest.

I have many fond memories of growing up in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan with six other siblings, in a house always bustling with activity.

Thanks to my parents, faith always had a important place in our home. We had prayer before meals and before bed. Mass was a priority on Sundays and it was always followed by a sumptuous pancake breakfast with extended family and friends.

One of the most tangible ways the faith was visible in our home was in the late evening, when my father would go around the house and call all his children to the family room to pray the rosary. And here each night my father would entrust his family to the Virgin Mary while leading us on his knees in the recitation of the rosary. In this sense, my call to the Catholic priesthood is a result

of my parents’ deep faith, for without it I know I would not have been able to answer the call. To them I am eternally thankful.

I never gave the priesthood much thought until I entered the University of Saskatchewan in 2002, where I studied chemistry and biology and received a Bachelor of Education. Here as a young adult, I began making the faith my own.

At this time in my life I was blessed with many genuine friendships with other young adults who were also striving to live their faith. It is here where the call of the priesthood started to take shape in my heart.

I vividly remember gathering with my male friends at the pub, and as always the conversation would turn to faith, and eventually the priesthood. Some of us would say, “Wouldn’t it be something if one of us became a priest?” But of course, it was just conversation over a beer at the pub. The reality of the priesthood for each one of us seemed too far removed for anyone to take it seriously. But of course, our God is a God of surprises.

It all changed the day that Blessed John Paul II, of happy memory, died. I remember sitting in a church thanking God for the gift of this man, when all of a sudden I felt a burning desire within my heart for the priesthood.

At the time I was in a long-term relationship, discerning marriage with a beautiful young Catholic woman. I wanted to get married and be a father. But the call to the priesthood that I felt that day, persisted. And I soon came to realize that if I wanted to follow God’s will in my life, I at least had to give the priesthood a chance. And so in 2007, I entered St. Peter’s Seminary in London Ontario, as a seminarian studying for the diocese of Saskatoon, and I have not looked back since.

This summer I humbly anticipate to be ordained to the Catholic priesthood. Now those evening conversations at the pub with my friends do not seem far off. Our God is indeed a God of surprises: I thank him every day for that. And to the many young men and women who are reading this that see the priesthood or religious life as something that is far off, I hope that God surprises you!

Colin Roy:
Discernment is filled
with abundant graces

BY DEACON COLIN ROY

I was born on April 17, 1984, and grew up on a farm near Hoey, SK. I have been blessed with good parents, Ben and Gisèle, and one older brother, Gilles, with whom I am very close.

My journey of faith began in my family, and it was through my family that my faith grew and took shape. I can always recall my mother’s insistence that we attend Mass on Sundays without fail, and the encouragement I received when preparing for sacraments.

Active involvement in the Church was also instrumental in helping to cultivate a greater openness to God within me. As soon as I received my first Holy Communion, I began to serve Mass. I loved to serve, and this also allowed me to get to know our parish priests on a more personal level.

However, it was not until my high school years that the seeds of faith within me began to germinate. It was during this time that I took part in a youth group at our parish in St. Louis. It was through this experience that my faith became real for me. I always believed that God was watching over me, but I had never realized just how close God was to me through His Son Jesus, and through my baptism. I realized that God desired a personal relationship with me.

Up to this point, I had never really thought about the priesthood. I was always convinced that farming, getting married, and raising a family was the life for me. Since I was a kid, this had always been my goal, because it was what I enjoyed and it was familiar to me. I have many great memories working with my brother and my dad on the farm.

Nevertheless, in my grade 12 year I had an experience that was kind of like a rock going through a combine. I attended a *FacetoFace* Retreat in Albertville, SK, and at the end of the retreat, those who felt called to the priesthood or religious life were invited to receive a blessing. In that moment, I felt the Holy Spirit stir in my heart and I had the distinct sense that God was calling me to the priesthood. I literally squirmed in my seat, since I really was not open to the priesthood, thinking that this amounted to a

“life sentence.” Praise God for his patience!

In the fall of 2002, I attended the University of Saskatchewan, having made the decision to become a teacher and continue helping on the farm. I tried my best to put the idea of priesthood out of my mind, but it seemed that I was constantly being reminded of it.

Having felt the call to priesthood strongly throughout this time, I finally opened up to actually discerning this call after my third year of university. I remember attending “come and see” weekends, discernment retreats, and finally getting a spiritual director. All of these things, along with a couple of close friends with whom I shared helped me to take the next step.

In the spring of 2007, upon completing my Bachelor’s of Education, I was accepted to study as a seminarian for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. I applied to St. Peter’s Seminary and was accepted later that summer. It was a real moment of freedom for me. My good friend Daniel Yasinski had also been accepted to study for the priesthood, so I have been extremely blessed with his friendship and mutual support.

My time in seminary has been filled with abundant graces, but periods of trial as well. The word “seminary” means seed plot, so it makes sense that as we grow, God is also at work pruning us so that we might bear fruit.

Nevertheless, looking back over my time at St. Peter’s, I readily recognize the privilege of having studied the faith, growing in a life of prayer, and discovering more fully, through both the Church’s discernment and my own, that God is calling me to the priesthood. What a tremendous gift.

I have also been blessed with numerous friendships that I have made over the years. Throughout my time in formation for priesthood I have received the unfailing support and encouragement of my family, and for this I am grateful.

As I look ahead to the priesthood, I desire to respond to this great invitation of our Lord to come and work in his vineyard, knowing that the harvest is indeed plentiful. Above all, as a priest of Jesus Christ, I want to be a man of communion, to help bring souls to Christ, and ultimately to allow our Lord to use me in order to help him care for his flock and bring souls home.

The Vocations Office
and the
Education of
Future Priests are
supported by the
Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: April 21, 2013



Sr. April Mireau became a novice with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary in March 2012 - Submitted photos

Mireau's vocation journey grounded in Christ's love

BY SR. APRIL MIREAU, PM

I like to think of my journey in life as a love story. I often say to those who know me well: "I'm the most spoiled girl in the whole world!" That is, spoiled by the Lord – he has been wooing me since birth.

Born April 7, 1988 in Saskatoon, I grew up as the oldest of seven children in a faithful, loving family. Though they were not perfect, my parents, relatives and friends showered us children with love and exemplified for us the virtues of Christ.

Because of my parents' faithfulness to the sacraments, especially daily Mass and regular confession, I was able to discover a love for Christ in the Eucharist.

This love was nourished through religious education and fellowship received at the parish and diocesan level, as well as my involvement in different ministries such as FacetoFace, Catholic Christian Outreach, Rock the Mount and Pure Witness Ministries, to name a few. In this atmosphere I developed openness to all vocations and a desire to conform my will to that of my Father in Heaven. I had experienced first hand the love and faithfulness of the Lord and therefore I was able to trust Him with my life.

After high school, I moved to Edmonton to complete a four-year bilingual Bachelor of Science in Nursing. During these years, my openness to religious life developed into a keen interest and gradually into an ardent desire.

By the time I finished my degree, I could no longer ignore this longing and sought a place where I could engage in further discernment with a community, while spreading my wings as a nurse.

The Sisters of the Presentation Discernment House in Saskatoon was where I was able to accomplish this, surrounded once more by a loving community who encouraged me along my journey in nursing and in vocational discernment. As I looked around and visited different religious

congregations throughout the year, I realized bit by bit that I really felt at home with the Sisters of the Presentation and asked to enter their loving community.

In September 2011, I moved to the formation house in the small town of Bellevue, SK. During my postulancy, the first six-month period of my formation, I deepened my knowledge of the spirit and mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and discerned with the community if we felt that God was indeed calling me to this specific community.

Sensing a continued peace and recognizing many little signs that suggested that indeed this was the community for me, I took the next step in becoming a novice.

The first year of my novitiate was an intense year of prayer and study focused on deepening my relationship with Christ and learning our Rule of Life, which describes our particular call and way of life as Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

During this year, I deepened my understanding of the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and contemplated Mary as she was presented in the Temple as a young child. This mystery of Mary's life is an icon of our spirituality as Sisters of the Presentation. We are called like Mary to be consecrated to God in the Temple of His Church and then to be overshadowed by the Spirit, becoming living temples of His loving presence in the world.

Having recently completed this time of preparation, I am presently beginning my second year as a novice with a missionary experience in Regina, SK.

During this time, I will be attempting to integrate my ministry as a nurse into my life as a religious, learning to be in the world without being of the world, and carrying the presence of Christ within me to all those I meet.

So far, following the Lord's call has led me into an ever-deepening relationship with Christ and has challenged me to love as he first loved me.

Call of monastic life leads Predy to St. Peter's Abbey

BY BR. STEPHEN PREDY, OSB

Born to Betty Zatylny and Patrick Predy on June 23, 1993 in Winnipeg, I was baptized Linden Steve Predy at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Selkirk, Manitoba.

When I turned three we moved to Saskatoon and began attending Sunday Mass at Holy Spirit Parish. I count myself extremely blessed for the upbringing that I received as a child. My mother's "down to earth" spirituality and love of Christ shaped me into the man I am today.

Both my older brother Logan and I went through the Ukrainian bilingual program (now Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School) in Saskatoon, where we were taught about the Byzantine

rite of the Church. I learned a great deal about my roots and heritage through this program. During my childhood I also had the experience of "grassroots" ecumenism, as I attended The Quest at Christopher Lake, an evangelical Baptist Bible camp, every summer for nearly a decade. I treasure the friendships that I formed, and the growth that I made there.

It was while attending Holy Cross High School that I truly grew as a Catholic. My experiences there lead me to where I am today: in a Benedictine monastery discerning my vocation.

At Holy Cross I gained a love for Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation, like I never had before. It was during my year in Grade 10 that I came to one of those "crossroads" in my life. I felt that I had two options, corresponding with my two loves: music and Jesus Christ. The first path that I discerned was a career as a professional musician. I had been playing the tuba in band class and had taken private lessons since elementary school. All of my teachers agreed that I had great potential. Personally, I felt that music was my passion but it did not define me. Then my thoughts turned to religious life. I knew next to nothing about this life, but I could not get this thought out of my head: "what about being a monk?"

This thought stayed with me for the next few months. Then I read the nineteenth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, where after hearing Jesus' teaching about divorce, the disciples say: "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." But he said to them, "Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those

to whom it is given" (Matthew 19:10-11). After reading this, I knew that God had called me to be celibate.

My discernment took a new turn. I was struck by another act of providence when I heard a monk from St. Peter's Abbey give a lecture to my Christian ethics class. My spirit burned within me as I heard him speak of his life as a Benedictine monk and priest.

After completing high school, I applied for the two-week "Live-In" experience at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, SK. During that time I got to live, work and pray with the monks. Those weeks confirmed my feelings about the religious life.

I spent a year studying at the University of Saskatchewan, however, honouring the request of my mother. I spent that year learning about religion, philosophy, and other fascinating subjects. I met very good people at the university and had some very good experiences. During that year I was very blessed to attend Holy Mass at St. Thomas More (STM) College Chapel. I found the STM community to be very welcoming and I thank them for their kindness to me.

After completing my first year at university I applied for the candidacy at St. Peter's Abbey and was accepted. For the past several months I have lived with the monks, worked, prayed with them and taken classes on scripture from my vocations director. Having completed my candidacy, I entered the Novitiate March 21, 2013, when I was invested in the monastic habit and given my new religious name: Brother Stephen.

It never ceases to amaze me how much grace God has poured

into my life. He was always there, he forgave all my failings and he dried all my tears. I never did a single thing to deserve all these blessings. In fact I deserve the opposite. But God is kind and he wills that sinners repent and return to him. During this Lenten and Easter season, when we call to mind the passion, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, I pray that we would all confess our sins to him and return to him.

Together let us live the words of St. Benedict, that we should "prefer nothing whatever to Christ. And may He bring us all together to life everlasting!" (*Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 72*).



Brother Stephen (Linden) Predy, OSB



Studying in Rome
Brother Cosmas Epifano, originally of Sydney, NS, is a junior monk of the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK. He is presently studying theology in Rome.



Seminarians at CCO Rise Up

Diocesan seminarians Greg Smith-Windsor (left) and Cody Redekop were on hand to answer questions at a Vocations display during Rise Up, the Catholic Christian Outreach event held between Christmas and New Year's in Saskatoon. Smith-Windsor is presently serving a pastoral internship year at St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon, and has also organized a casual "Mocha to Melchizedek" coffee chat Tuesday afternoons to talk to anyone with questions about the seminary. For more information contact the diocesan Vocations Office at (306) 659-5841 or e-mail: vocations@saskatoonrncdiocese.com

- Photo by K. Yaworski

Discernment and Vocations

Women blessed by live-in experience of community at Discernment House

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Discernment House in Saskatoon welcomes young women who wish to share a live-in community experience with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, as a way to grow in self-knowledge and deepen their relationship with God.

Located in a beautiful neighbourhood near the University of Saskatchewan, Discernment House offers a faith-based community grounded in prayer, where young women live in a family spirit with each other and the sisters.

Ava Menezes, a second-year student at the U of S working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology and immunology, says she was at odds about where to live this year. "But God made it apparent to me that He had a place in mind," she said.

Starting her studies at St. Peter's College in Muenster last year, Menezes became friends with another young woman whose cousin was staying at Discernment House. "I contacted the cousin and listened to what she had to say about her experience. My heart was lit aflame - I could feel God drawing me to this place," she described.

"The day I came to the house to receive an application and talk with the sisters was the day I had to notify the University of Saskatchewan if I was going to accept or decline my offer for a room in residence without financial penalty. That day I took a leap of faith, placed my trust in God, and said 'no' to residence and 'yes' to the Discernment House."

Seven months later Ava Menezes has no regrets.

"I have truly treasured my experience at the Discernment House," she said.

"The abundant support for my faith in this strong community setting was just what I needed to build my personal relationship with Jesus."

"There have been many days when I come back from a frustrating day of school and was greeted with the presence of God in the fun and loving environment we have created within this house."

Spiritual direction has enriched her faith journey, Menezes added. "The weekly spiritual accompaniment sessions with one of the sisters has mediated a personal discovery in my faith life and it has provided me with tools to take with me in the years to come as I continue my spiritual journey."

She says she would encourage women considering the live-in program to listen to their hearts. "It is essential that you have a will to grow in your faith and are willing to give some time each day to this community," Menezes said. "You also need to have good time management skills to prioritize your time so that you are able to give focus to your academic, spiritual, and community life."

Third-year nursing student Courtney Koch heard about Discernment House through word of mouth before attending one of the regularly-offered discernment weekends which are also held there.

"I've had a desire to live here since I first heard about it and



Young women living at Discernment House share life, faith and friendship with Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

- Photos submitted by Sisters of Presentation of Mary

then this past year I felt was the right time to come. It was the perfect environment for discerning where my next steps are to be taken since the end of my schooling is fast approaching," she said of this year's live-in experience.

"Living here has made an environment easy for God to really reach me and show me different things about myself so I have some direction for those next steps," Koch said, adding that it has been a blessing and a joy to journey with others at Discernment House.

Jacquelyn Gibbs, a second-year student in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan said: "Living at Discernment House has been a blessing to my life!"

"I have met many wonderful friends who really love me for me. My prayer life has grown and I've been able to work on



little bits of my character that had been weighing me down," Gibbs said.

"I will never regret my decision to live at Discernment House and I know that living and being a part of Discernment House has changed me."

Discernment House has started taking applications for the fall live-in community experience. To learn more about this opportunity for young women, contact Discernment House at (306) 244-0726 or e-mail: sk.house@gmail.com



Weekend retreats offered at Discernment House

Twenty-one young adults took time to reflect on their life experiences and prayerfully explore the meaning and direction of their lives at a personal history discernment weekend held Jan 11-13 at Discernment House in Saskatoon. "Great hospitality, good food, most enjoyable," said one participant, while another reported: "I was gifted with clarity and insight." The retreat was "a great opportunity to step back from the busyness of life and look at where God has brought me," said a participant, while another described the retreat as "a refreshing time of both renewal and recognition of where I am right now in my life." The live-in weekend retreats are regularly held at Discernment House on University Drive in Saskatoon, with the next one planned for April 26-28 to explore Christian vocations and lifestyles. To register (before the deadline of April 23) or for more information contact: sk.dhouse@gmail.com or call (306) 244-0726.

- Photo submitted by Sisters of Presentation of Mary

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life marked

By SR. EVELYN NEDELEC, PM

Those involved in consecrated life and those who want to support them in prayer were invited to an evening gathering Feb. 8 in Saskatoon as a way to mark the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

Held at St. Paul Co-Cathedral, the evening was a time for young adults and those in consecrated life to "meet and greet" one another, before joining together in prayer, praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration.

The gathering was a sign of support and solidarity for each other in living and proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel. Participants prayed that others will hear the call to consecrated life and will respond generously.

The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life was established by Pope John Paul II in 1997, set for Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Pope John Paul called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal Church and asked for all to reflect on the role of consecrated religious in the Christian community.

There are several ways to live out the consecrated life, including as religious sisters, nuns, brothers, religious priests, and monks who consecrate their lives through their profession of the evangelical vows and live as part of a community; as well as single lay people who choose to be consecrated virgins and make private vows to the local bishop as they live out their vocation in various walks of life. Secular institutes are another form of living the consecrated life as single people.

Vocations promotion
and the office of
Marriage and Family
Life are ministries
supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 21, 2013

Five men begin a new stage in their monastic journey with Benedictines

BY FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB

Five men recently responded with generous hearts, letting God's word become enfleshed in their lives through the monastic way of life, Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB said March 21 at a Mass celebrating the feast day of St. Benedict and the Rite of Initiation into Monastic Life.

"Like Peter in today's gospel, they've heard the invitation to leave all things to follow Jesus and the payoff will be hundredfold blessings and to inherit eternal life," the Benedictine abbot said of the candidates being invested as novices.

First entering St. Peter's Abbey as candidates in September 2012, the men now mark a new stage in their monastic journey.

At the ceremony, the candidates publically requested that they be allowed to enter the novitiate. A community member responded on the candidate's behalf with his acceptance and recommendation.

The community then gave its approval. The novices were given their monastic names and donned Benedictine habits.

Three of the novices, Linden Predy, 19, of Saskatoon; Christopher Weber, 36, of Hanover, ON; and Peter van Ginkel, 50, of Winnipeg adopted religious names of saints. Predy will now be known as Brother Stephen; Weber will be called Brother Damian; and van Ginkel is Brother Benedict.

The other novices are Brother Andreas Hofer, 29, of New Zealand, and Brother Dominic Leo, 42, of Vancouver.

Hofer, originally from Austria, came from New Zealand where he was self-employed in residential, commercial and industrial construction, as well as carpentry, joinery and cabinet making. His skills in carpentry have been noticeable around the abbey where he has helped in repair and construction. Hofer noted that he feels a special connection to Jesus who was a carpenter before beginning his ministry.

"This life means walking in the footsteps of Jesus and that makes it easier for me to understand him, because Jesus was about my age when he started his official ministry and he was also a fit and healthy carpenter by trade. It might also mean in other words to be 'weak' in the hands of God, but confident and trusting that he will help me to take away my bad habits and my ego and become a better version of myself."

The youngest novice, Predy, said it is an honour to be accepted into the monastic community. His model, Jesus, walked with a meek and humble heart and he wants to learn how to let go of vanity, pride and all worldly passions to follow Christ.



Five men were invested as novices, March 21, at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, SK. They include: (l-r), Brother Andreas Hofer of New Zealand; Brother Damian (Christopher) Weber of Hanover, ON; Brother Stephen (Linden) Predy of Saskatoon; Brother Dominic Leo of Vancouver; and Brother Benedict (Peter) van Ginkel, of Winnipeg.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

"I want to study, pray, discern and hopefully give myself entirely to Jesus without holding anything back so that he can conform me to himself. It means giving glory to God in every aspect of my life and offering him all my time and efforts to balancing my work and prayer. It means following St. Benedict's example in his obedience, simplicity and single-hearted following of Christ," he said.

It is hard to believe that the six months of candidacy have come to a close and another phase of monastic life has begun, Weber said. The next phase of the monastic journey will be helpful in learning what it means to live as a faithful monk of St. Peter's Abbey.

Weber said his aspirations for the novitiate year will be to do God's will through prayer, and continuing to learn how everything depends on God.

"The Benedictine way is God's gift to me, to be accepted with the utmost gratitude. It is the path given and chosen by God for me. This path will be the means for me to obtain our Lord's gift of eternal Life," he remarked.

"Wearing a habit is helping me to understand my role in a more meaningful way as a member of St. Peter's Abbey," van Ginkel said. (He joked that his habit makes him look taller.) Van Ginkel is looking forward to his next year of study, spiritual reading and scripture.

The classes during the candidacy made him realize how there is so much to learn. The routine of monastic life, van Ginkel added, is helpful in teaching about the importance of structure and the beauty of Gregorian chant, psalmody and

scripture reading. There is time for listening, reading, meditating and reflecting on events at the abbey.

"Though I knew that this was an important step in my monastic journey, there weren't any nerves involved before the event, as I did not comprehend the enormity of the investiture that was soon going to take place," Leo remarked when reflecting on his new role as a novice.

The ceremony at the Mass opened him to sensing the awe and wonder of the new phase of monastic life. The rite of initiation gave him the feeling that he was one more step closer to Jesus and with the members of the monastic community, Leo said.

"The habit signifies my dedication to Jesus, and brotherhood with the members of my monastic community. Even though at the moment, the habit will be for some time a bit trying in taking on and off, and even treacherous at times when climbing the stairs. The habit gives you a sense of privilege and of confidence that you belong to Jesus because the habit points to him. Your habit also signifies that you are a public witness to the world, and of the Gospel values of the church," he remarked.

"I am keenly looking forward to this year, which will be much more intense than the candidacy. Not knowing what to expect in this new experience makes it much more interesting. By the grace of God and Our Lady's intercession, I am sure that this period of study, prayer, spiritual growth and discernment will be much more fulfilling and filled with joy."

11th Annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet

Speakers reflect on God's every-day presence in marriage

BY BLAKE SITTLER

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon's Marriage Task Force held its eleventh annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet March 9 at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. This banquet is a gift from the bishop of the diocese to all couples who help with marriage preparation and enrichment throughout the year.

Bernard and Sandy Normand, a couple who have been involved in marriage ministry for many years in the diocese, hosted this year's banquet. The evening began with celebration of the Eucharist by Rev. Ken Beck.

The keynote address at the banquet was presented by Doug and Donna Darbellay speaking on "Marriage and the Year of Faith." Donna is a professor of psychology at the University of Saskatchewan and Doug is a retired teacher. They have eight children.

The Darbellays began reflecting on the readings about the transfiguration of Jesus, describing this as a "honeymoon scene" for the disciples who were there. They then



Doug and Donna Darbellay

- Photo by Blake Sittler

described how Jesus moved them beyond this point, so he could get to the cross.

"In marriage, there is a honeymoon, there is suffering, and there is resurrection, too," Doug said.

Doug shared a line from G.K. Chesterton who compared marriage to war. He elaborated to say there

are skirmishes, fire fights, truces, cold war periods and even battles. The Darbellays reflected though that, in the end, what both sides are fighting for is peace.

They shared stories from their life and made connections between their experiences with where God was present day-to-day.

The Darbellays spent some time

in Nigeria early in their marriage, teaching in an area known as Biafra. During their time in Africa, there was no radio, TV or telephones that they could access. This was a source of culture shock for the couple.

"The culture shock of coming home to Canada was more difficult though," Doug said. "There was poverty (there), but the children were well-adjusted, respectful, happy."

Doug and Donna also spent time in Annandale, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. They noticed that even though they were living in one of the richest nations in the world – especially compared to where they were in Africa – that the children had more problems.

"In contrast...the children in DC were anxious, disrespectful, insecure, unhappy, angry, and violent," Donna described.

"This highlighted for us that there is no more important job in the world than parenting," Donna said. "Done right for one generation, it could change the world."

The Darbellays spoke of the changes they have seen in the world and in their church since they married. They noted that change, even positive change, is stressful because it moves people into the unknown.

"When we said, 'I do', we were committing ourselves to a lot of unknown," said Doug.

The Darbellays also spoke of marriage as a part of God's plan of redemption.

"For each other, we had to become more understanding, seek forgiveness and acceptance and to face truths about ourselves that we were unable to face alone," said Donna.

"Marriage is not just a human institution, it is a part of God's plan for our salvation and the salvation of all."

The evening ended with a dance and words of thanks to all the various marriage ministries undertaken in the diocese. Retrouvaille, a ministry for couples whose marriages are going through difficult times, was highlighted.



Bishop Donald Bolen led a celebration dedicating and blessing the newly-renamed library.

Diocesan resource centre renamed as the Msgr. Michael J. Koch Library

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Msgr. Michael Koch's passion for faith formation and evangelization was recalled during a dedication ceremony for the diocesan resource library, as it was renamed in his honour during a ceremony March 10 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon.

Msgr. Koch, who died in 2012 after a battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), will be remembered every time someone walks into the Msgr. Michael J. Koch library, said Bishop Don Bolen.

"We will remember what he stood for, his deep passion and desire for knowledge, for the knowledge of God, for growing in wisdom and understanding – things that this library is meant to foster," said Bolen during a prayer service held to bless and rename the diocesan facility.

Msgr. Koch's service in the diocese included a strong commitment to evangelization and the implementation of the catechumenate, in particular, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Many of his books, art and other resource



Dennis Koch (right), brother of Msgr. Michael J. Koch, unveils a new sign at the entrance of the renamed diocesan library.

- Photos by K. Yaworski

materials have been donated to the diocesan library, along with a bequest from the Koch family.

"We recall his life's journey, a journey of faith in action, made evident in his ardent and all-encompassing vision of Church, his deep commitment to evangelization through the initiation process, and his

enthusiasm and perseverance," Bolen said.

During the celebration attended by parishioners, colleagues and family members of Msgr. Koch, his brother Dennis unveiled a new sign at the entrance of the library, located at the Catholic Pastoral Centre on the second floor of the diocesan Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Alexandria and Rebecca Koch also spoke briefly about their "Uncle Father Mike," recalling how much he loved "his new and beautiful cathedral."

The Msgr. Michael J. Koch Library includes books, periodicals, video and audio materials focused on faith formation, education and resources.

The library is open from Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The library catalogue can be searched online by clicking on a box on the home page of the diocese of Saskatoon website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com or for more information contact librarian Norlayne Scott-Gaare at (306) 659-5853.

Msgr. Michael J. Koch Library is supported by the

Bishop's
ANNUAL APPEAL



Mona Goodman reads to children at the first story time held in the children's corner at the diocesan library Dec. 11.

Sacred Heart parish hosts variety of events in Denzil

BY JOAN KUCHAPSKI

Sacred Heart parish at Denzil has had a busy few weeks.

The parish Catholic Women's League recently organized and held a service for the World Day of Prayer. About 25 people joined in praying with and for the women of France whose theme was "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Twelve children from Sacred Heart parish in Denzil and St. Mary's parish in Macklin are preparing for the sacraments of communion and confirmation. Together they will celebrate these initiation sacraments at Sacred Heart parish on Sunday, June 9.

An icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been travelling to the Knights of Columbus councils throughout the province and it arrived in Denzil on March 14 where a prayer service was held to honour Our Lady.

About two dozen people participated in a recent Lenten Hunger Supper at the parish, eating only beans and rice. Those in attendance thanked the Lord for what they have and were reminded that many people throughout the world have little to eat.

Afterward, some of the children who are preparing for the sacraments led and participated in the Stations of the Cross.

All are welcome to join Sacred Heart parish for an upcoming day away retreat entitled: "Healing a Wounded Heart: Grief, Loss and Transformation" to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27.



World Day of Prayer display.

- Photo by Joan Kuchapski

Cost is \$30 (includes lunch) but space is limited. Register by calling Michelle Sieben at 306-358-2057 or e-mail mgsieben22@sasktel.net

"Our losses are many and varied. They range from the loss of a significant other owing to death, a loss of a child, loss of self-esteem, loss of physical ability, loss of a job, to the breakdown of a marriage.

"Losses can lead to debilitating grief and painful emotions. Art is a powerful healing agent that can help transform the pain of loss and grief into renewed life and growth.

"This retreat will use scripture, creative expression, story, music, reflection and sharing to help participants voice their grief and loss and transform it into new life," said Sieben

Facilitator of this workshop will be Gisele Bauche, who holds a B. Ed. from McGill along with a Bachelor of Theology from St. Paul University. She teaches and facilitates workshops and retreats in the areas of scripture, spirituality, prayer, art and wellness across western Canada.



Fr. Stephen Ripplinger at Holy Redeemer parish in Elbow.

- Photo courtesy of Helen Kretsch

Father Steve Ripplinger marks 60th anniversary

BY HELEN KRETSCH

Father Stephen Ripplinger will celebrate 60 years as a priest this year. He was ordained on May 30, 1953.

A priest of the archdiocese of Regina, Fr. Ripplinger has spent several years of his retirement helping out the diocese of Saskatoon.

Since his retirement in 1996, when he moved to his cabin at the resort village of Mistusinne (several kilometres south of Elbow, SK.) he has provided relief to various pastors of the

Davidson Pastoral Region by regularly celebrating the Sunday Eucharist at Holy Redeemer Parish in Elbow.

A community celebration of Fr. Ripplinger's 60th anniversary will be held **Sunday, June 2**, with Mass at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at the civic centre hall, where there is more room to visit.

The Davidson Pastoral Region "extends hearty congratulations and good wishes to Fr. Ripplinger, and asks God's blessings for his continued good health and future ministry."

Pastoral reflections

Loss of gentle companions deepens trust in the care of our loving God

BY FATHER KEVIN MCGEE, PASTOR
ST PATRICK, ST. MICHAEL, ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

Recently I made a decision dreaded by every pet owner: to put to sleep my two canine companions of over 13 years – Bosco and Molly.

These precious pugs entered my life within a few months of each other and through the years have gifted and guided me by their gentle, clownish and loving presence.

The sorrow I feel at losing them is beyond words.

The fact that I welcomed them into my life to begin with was a surprise to those who know me. I was not always a ‘dog person.’ There was a time when I was a stranger to the profound influence a pet can have in one’s life.

My previous lack of sensitivity to this unique relationship is reflected in the following story:

A few months after I was ordained a priest, an elderly man met me in the sacristy after Mass. Tears flowed down his face and in great sobs he told me that he had just put his beloved dog of many years to sleep. He asked me if he would see his dog again.

I don’t recall what I told him. I hope it was sensitive and caring. Inwardly, however, I wondered if his grief was excessive. It was, after all, just a dog.

Today I am that man.

I held my precious pugs together on my lap as a medical procedure – administered with great care and compassion by

a veterinarian who came to my rectory – completed what old age had begun. Their bodies, once the willing servants of playful gestures and exuberant antics had become a collection of measured, arthritic movements and mounting disabilities.

When they died, my tears fell upon their small, quiet bodies. Their large, soft eyes that once gazed upon me with alert attention and devotion were now forever closed.

There is pain in the parting. Dare I hope to see them again?

The younger version of myself may have answered (as perhaps I said in similar words to the man in the sacristy), “If your happiness in heaven depends on them being there then, yes, you will see them again.”

Today, I would say that this ‘wait and see’ response does not fully honour the enduring quality of love that is found even in the love we have for our pets. Jesus reminds us that even the fallen sparrow is not forgotten by our heavenly Father (*Matthew 10:29*).

The love we have for our pets is a way of participating in the sacred truth that all creation finds its source in Christ in whom all things exist (*cf. Colossians 1:16*).

Can we not dare to hope then, that in the new heaven and the new earth we shall be reunited with these furry friends God has given us as companions and compasses in this life?

If the psalmist is right, and even the (fallen) sparrow finds a home in God’s dwelling place (*Psalms 84*), then there is also a place for my pugs; and through the final door I may find them faithful as always, to welcome me home.



Father Kevin McGee of the diocese of Saskatoon, with long-time canine companions Bosco and Molly. - Submitted photo

Father Lacasse – “human being” – reflects on 60 years as a priest

BY SUSAN LOWDNES
(Previously published in
The Wadena News)

Fr. Jean-Marie Lacasse, OMI, recently celebrated 60 years of priesthood, a feat of significance in the Catholic community. He was recently recognized for his years of service by his own parish at Perigord, and the diocese of Saskatoon.

Jean-Marie Lacasse was born in 1926 at Clarence Creek, Ontario, up river from the city of Ottawa, into a family of two sisters and two brothers. His immediate maternal lineage includes four nuns and one priest.

At 14 years of age, he attended Sacred Heart College in Ottawa where he began his studies for the priesthood before proceeding to Ottawa University where he studied philosophy, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts. He later went on to Lebret, SK, to continue his schooling at Sacred Heart Seminary.

Ordained as a priest in 1952, Lacasse describes his



Fr. Jean-Marie Lacasse was honoured by parishioners at a 60th anniversary celebration last year in Perigord.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

first posting in 1954 at Little Grand Rapids northeast of Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, as a six month guardianship to an older priest already located in the mission. Surrounded by the Little Grand Rapids First Nation, the community boasted one Hudson’s Bay store and a Catholic and Anglican mission.

In the summer of 1955, he attended school in Winnipeg to get an industrial arts teaching certificate and then moved to Gravelbourg, SK, teaching the industrial arts program at the college of Gravelbourg for seven years.

His first parish was in the Gravelbourg diocese, and each Sunday he also looked after two little missions, one at Mossbank, just south of Old Wives Lake, and the other down the road at Mazenod.

His next residence was Lestock where he was the priest at the Muskowekwan, Poorman, Fishing Lake and Gordon Indian Reserves.

Muskowekwan and Fishing Lake each had a church, but the others did not, so Lacasse would say Mass in homes or at the school.

In 1970 the bishop asked Lacasse to go to Perigord because ‘they wanted to have someone who knew the French language’.

At Perigord, he looked after Nut Lake (now called Yellow Quill) and Kinistin reserves, as well as the communities of High Tor and Nobleville.

Describing his ministry as ‘a tool of our Lord and maybe not too good a tool, either,’

Lacasse said that in his 60 years as a priest, he has watched families move away from the church and a God-centered home.

“When I was brought up, every evening you had the night prayer. Today, we don’t have what we had even thirty years ago. Where do you have a nightly prayer together?” Lacasse asked. “In what home? Not too many.”

His early years in native ministry were unique among many priests in this province, so much so that he was recognized by the Regina archdiocese last year, at the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, for the great part he played in ministering to First Nations people.

Lacasse described his ministry to the First Nations as one that recognized their close relationship to the land and nature, quite different from his ministry to ‘white people’.

“There is a power that looks after everything in nature. That power is God. The native people survived for thousands of years before we whites came into this country. They adapted to the land and the environment around them. They survived. Look at the Eskimo and the conditions that they have survived in,” he pointed out, stressing that human beings cannot survive without respecting the power of nature around them.

Preparing Mass for his native ministry always included examples from nature, he added.

For example, Lacasse explained, looking out the common room window of Rose Valley Manor where he now makes his home: “You look at the buds (on the trees), they will be getting bigger as we get closer to spring. Native people would relate to that. I would use these examples when preaching to them.”

He noted that the older people on the reserves used to

have quite a bit of influence in their community, connecting the younger generation to the land and nature. Now it is less. The big concern, he explained, is the distance created between people and God.

“We think we are so smart, that we can do so many things, with inventions, especially in the last 50-60 years, so that we forget who is the master of everything,” Lacasse observed. Not so much frustrated with this new reality as saddened, Father said he had pity for people that don’t go a step further in their relationship with God.

“My job is helping others to be aware of the presence of God, because we spend years and years not even thinking (about our relationship),” he explained. “How many of us think to be thankful to God if you have good health? *Bonne Santé?* To thank God for all that is good in our life?”

“And at night when you say goodnight, you ask your guardian angel to look after you all night,” he said, describing how every person has their own guardian angel that looks after them.

A jack-of-all-trades, Lacasse was called on many times to weld a broken piece of machinery, fix a pump on a furnace, get a motor running.

“Once I went out to a farmer’s field where he was so upset with his tractor that he was hitting it with his hammer. I said to him, ‘You sure did a good job on that,’” Lacasse recalled, laughing.

“The younger kids were there and they took the story home to their mother. Swearing means that you cannot control your computer,” he said, pointing to his head, thoroughly enjoying his own understanding of computers. “It is good to have emotions but it is also good to have control,” he added.

To settle his own frustrations, Lacasse would

get on the tractor and work the land, up and down the hills northeast of Perigord, because it would clear his mind. “When I have too many things on my mind, I would go on the quarter that dad bought for me (because, belonging to an order, I cannot own land) and release my frustrations. It worked for me,” he said, admitting he is human too.

“By being a priest,” Lacasse continued, “you receive some special help, by ordination, the sacrament of the holy orders, it is like a sacrament of marriage. You receive special help to get a message out to people and to bring out the role of God in our daily life.”

The sunset over the Perigord hills is a sight that Father Lacasse has witnessed for more than 40 years, and when asked to contemplate what lies beyond the deep orange and red clouds of a summer’s evening, he responds with more stories and then says: “I believe in God as a life giver who permits me to make a pilgrimage here on earth doing good, helping others to do good.” And when he goes to heaven one day, he believes he will meet his father and mother, his first grade teacher, his professors at college, all the people that have helped him here on earth.

He asks the community just to accept him as he is. “I make errors and mistakes. I have some abilities. But I am a human being.” It was a sentiment Father Lacasse repeated over and over as he discussed his 60 years as a priest: “but I am a human being.”

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” says Deuteronomy 31:8. It is an appropriate message for Father Lacasse, a servant of the Lord for 60 years: a human being.



Anniversaries recognized

At the banquet before the diocesan Chrism Mass March 25, Bishop Don Bolen (centre) presented Father Ron Beechinor (left) and Father Lawrence DeMong, OSB, with papal blessings marking the 50th anniversary of their ordinations in 1963. Other priests celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2013 include Fr. Ralph Kleiter (50 years); Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, Fr. Bernard de Margerie, Fr. Syl Lewans, OMI, and Fr. Albert Ulrich, OMI (all celebrating 55 years); as well as Fr. Al Pich (60 years) and Fr. Leo Engel, OMI, and Fr. Valentine Fix, OMI, who are celebrating 75 years of priesthood. Bishop Bolen also announced that Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, of Prince George (who has retired and moved to Saskatoon) is celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination this year.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

Diocese of
SASKATOON

BRAZILIAN BULLETIN

sharing
partilha

Archdiocese of
MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

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

Lent 2013:

Brazilian church focuses on youth

By Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS

How many times have we heard comments being made about youth being the future of our society? And yet one wonders: where do young people really stand in relation to society? Also, where do they stand in relation to the Church? Are they really the future of our church community? Do they feel well-integrated? Are they themselves hopeful about the future? Do they believe in the importance of their presence and personal contributions?

These questions, and likely many others, come to mind as we meet these adolescents on our faith journey and listen to them sharing their stories, hopes and dreams.

Here in Brazil, the year 2013 is providing us with ample opportunities to focus on youth.

It started on January 27 with a tragedy that occurred in Santa Maria, a city in the southern part of the country, where some 250 young people lost their lives in a nightclub fire.

The national television news clearly communicated how terribly devastated those families were as they mourned the loss of a loved one – and in some cases, of several loved ones. A feeling of deep sadness was felt throughout the country. The president of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, spoke in such a compassionate way about the incredible loss, commenting on the potential those young people had to make a difference for their country, but now: they are all gone.

This most upsetting event provoked many reactions. We grieve the loss of a loved one because we deeply treasure the person, and more often than not, that loss opens our eyes to the intensity of the gift we treasured. Such was the case, I would imagine, with the tragedy in Santa Maria when all these young people left home that night, but never returned.

Lent 2013 was another opportunity to reflect and focus on youth. Weekly, and sometimes two or three times per week, Sr. Jeannine and I – along with all the other pastoral leaders of our parish community – met with practicing and



Sr. Marie-Noelle and Sr. Jeannine Rondot facilitate encounters with young people.

non-practicing Catholics from throughout our city to share ideas on the Lenten theme promoted this year by the Brazilian bishops: “Fraternity and Youth.”

The general feeling of many adults participating in those gatherings was: “So many of our young people have been baptized, received their first Eucharist, been confirmed, but what happened to them after? Where are they?”

This reality led us into deeper reflection as a group – a reflection which was focused on the following questions:

- How can we show young people how much they matter to us and to the church community?
- How can we help young people to discover the

importance of their presence at the heart of our Church so that each one may come to know and believe that she or he has a place there, and a very specific mission?

Several options were proposed and a number of decisions were made. One of these options gave birth to the initiation of a new group in our parish, called: “Eucharistic Youth Movement,” an international church movement for the Christian formation of young people. The main objective is to prepare young people to live as Christian adults, committed to the mission that has been entrusted to them.

We and other lay leaders are now meeting on a regular basis with this group, which is relatively small. We hope and very much believe that more will join us as time goes on.

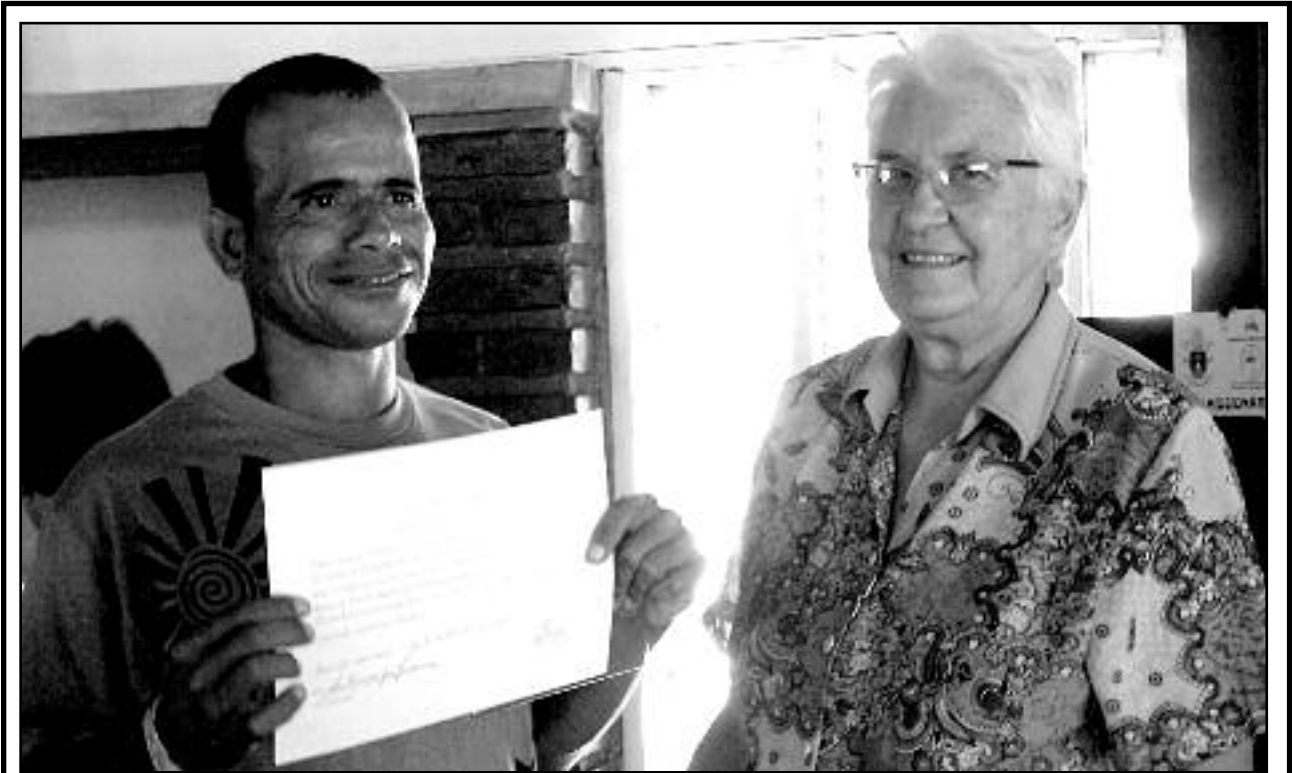
Each time we gather, we discuss specific themes, reflect on the Word of God, pray together, and share experiences. We try to determine concrete ways for these young people to become involved in the community and to lead more meaningful lives. Last, but not least, we have lots of fun, for this is a highly energetic group.

All this is done with the hope that, through this experience, each participant will grow as a person and, of course, in a relationship with God. It is hoped that the youth will make a connection between life and faith as they learn to share the light of the gospel.

Pope John Paul II, speaking on the relationship of the Church with youth, once said: “As Jesus walked with the disciples of Emmaus, so the Church must become today the travelling companion of young people.”

As this year 2013 continues to unfold, the Brazilian and world population will soon be given another wonderful opportunity to celebrate the gifts of youth and mission, when an estimated two million young people will gather in Rio de Janeiro in July for World Youth Day. During World Youth Day all will be strongly encouraged to take to heart the words of Jesus: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

May the themes of this year’s Lenten program “Fraternity and Youth,” of World Youth Day and – as difficult as it may be – of the tragedy of the fire at Santa Maria, all become occasions for us to reflect more deeply on the presence and importance of young people in our lives. It is our hope that the Church will be a place where they truly feel welcome to share their energy, vitality and hopeful vision.



Farm of Hope success

Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU, presents a diploma to one of the men who completed his year of recuperation at the Farm of Hope, a rehab facility for those who struggle with addictions. During her weekly visits to the Farm of Hope, Novacosky does “down to earth” evangelization, helping the men to understand their Christian faith and how to live it. “Recuperation is mainly learning to live the Word of God, which, summed up, is learning how to love: oneself, others and God,” she says.

Brazil Bulletin



Echoing the call of our new Pope Francis, a “poor Church” continues to work with, and for, the poor.

Pastoral da Criança provides outreach to poor families

By SR. LOUISE HINZ, OSU

The national program of the Church’s outreach to children and families – *Pastoral da Criança* – was founded by the late Dr. Zilda Arns at the request of the bishops of Brazil in 1983 to reduce the high mortality rate of children in Brazil.

The program continues to be active in all of Brazil and in many other countries of South America, Africa and Asia. It differs from the various governmental programs for the poor in that the work is carried out by trained volunteers.

In each of the communities where the *Pastoral da Criança* (ministry to children) functions, once a month there is a gathering of all families involved. Like all good projects, this monthly event requires preparation by the leaders.

During the week before the gathering, each leader visits her 6 -12 families in their homes and discusses with them their living conditions, especially with regard to health, education, and stages of infant growth.

Each month, some of the leaders volunteer to prepare a nutritious lunch which we try to vary: soup made with donated beef bones, vegetables and with at times a generous portion of beef; or a hot-dog type of sandwich with fruit juice; or a favorite offering of various types of fruit. This latter item is an attempt to have the children try new

foods and encourage the mothers to provide healthy alternatives to various sweetened cereals and soft drinks.

On the day itself, the leaders arrive early to set up the space and to divide the tasks. First there is the welcome of the families, with some type of spiritual and educational component.

While one leader calls and weighs each child, other leaders record their weights and other relevant data. At the same time, the children are placed into groups where they play with toys and with one another.

After all of the children under the age of six years have been weighed, they go to a station where they wash their hands before going to lunch.

In each step of the process, the children are made to feel welcome and important, and it is hoped that the mothers will be more confident when they return home.

We leaders later gather to pool the data gained in the visiting and weighing, which is collected and sent to the national office each month.

We also evaluate the visits and the celebration and do any necessary planning for the following month, conscious of the final words of the founder of the ministry, Dr. Zilda Arns, in the lecture she gave before her untimely death in Haiti three years ago: “We ought to look after our children as a sacred gift, promoting and respecting their rights and protecting them.”

Celebrating milestone anniversaries of Canadian missionaries in Brazil

By SR. CLAIRE NOVECOSKY, OSU

This year we are celebrating 50 years since Vatican II, the great Church event responsible for the sending of missionaries from the Saskatoon diocese and St. Peter’s abbacy to Brazil.

This year, Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, has completed 25 years in the Brazil mission, and I have now been here 40 years. Recently, the original parish of São José (St. Joseph) in the city of Maceió decided to celebrate these significant anniversaries.

Old friends, community leaders and pastoral agents from the early years were invited to participate in a celebration of thanksgiving, followed by a festive luncheon and program recalling the Ursulines of Bruno who have served over these many years in what is now the Saskatoon diocesan mission.

Looking back at these 40 years, which certainly were not 40 years in the desert (although certain moments and events were “desert experiences”), I can only say that these years were life-giving, enriching, and filled with much for which to be grateful.

We came and were warmly welcomed and received by the Brazilians here in the northeast, a poverty-stricken area in this vast country. It was a mutual “love at first sight” and this love has continued to the present day.

We had arrived at a time when Vatican II was being implanted in church life: through liturgical, biblical and catechetical renewal, the building up of Basic Christian Communities, the formation of pastoral agents and the formation of the laity through courses, study days, reflection and fun days. The parish assemblies and youth encounters animated and sparked a lively interest in the participants to engage in active participation in all levels of parish life.

One presentation in the celebration program featured a group of the original *Sementinhas* (seedlings), the name chosen for the 40-plus catechists at that time. They sang their theme song, which delighted all present. It is good to know that the fruits of these “seedlings” are still being harvested today, as a number of them continue to carry

out their mission in the diverse parishes in which they reside.

So we are grateful: grateful to God who inspired Pope John XXIII to call the Vatican Council in which he invited Catholics to send missionaries to Latin America; grateful to the archbishop of Maceió, Dom Adelmo Machado, who hounded Bishop Klein and Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB, to send some of their personnel to Maceió; grateful to our Ursuline community for their continuous interest and support; grateful to all the people of the Saskatoon diocese who over the years have maintained our stay here; and, last of all, grateful to the many, many friends and parishioners of St. Joseph and St. Peter the Fisherman parishes for all the kindnesses, cooperation and love shown to us all these years.

After a break-in and attempted robbery in our present home before Christmas, one of our dear ladies said, “You have God who protected you, you have angels who watched over you and you have us to be with you.” Amen. Alleluia!



Canadian missionaries, Sr. Louise Hinz (left) and Sr. Claire Novecosky, celebrate 25 and 40 years of service in Brazil.

Mission and Outreach



Chelsea Pratchler of Humboldt (back, left) and Ana Perrault of Prince Albert recently returned from a three-month missionary trip to Kenya to visit the school's progress.
- Photo submitted by Michelle Peters

Humboldt and area residents support the Kenya Orphanage Mission: "Jesus Leads Us"

BY MICHELLE PETERS
"Kenya Orphanage Mission: Jesus Leads Us" is a mission that began in 2006 after Jaclyn (Bjarnason) Sandmaier and Michelle (Possberg) Peters travelled to Kenya to discern their vocation. While there, they stayed with the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ).
They also discovered the dream of Sr. Augustina Ngwu (1963-2011), to build a boarding school/orphanage in the city of Eldoret. Since then, a vacant piece of land now holds Ancilla Boarding/Day Academy, which opened in 2009.

In 2011, "Kenya Orphanage Mission: Jesus Leads Us" became 'official' through International Christian Mission Services, enabling the organization to issue taxable receipts.
With much support from St. Scholastica Parish at Burr, SK., from Humboldt residents,

and many others, the mission has raised over \$90,000. This year, both St. Dominic and St. Augustine Catholic elementary schools in Humboldt have agreed to focus on raising money for the mission.
Recently, Chelsea Pratchler of Humboldt and Ana Perrault of Prince Albert returned from a three-month missionary trip to visit the school's progress. The young Saskatchewan women got to experience a simple life with the HHCJ sisters, teaching catechism in the school, leading praise and worship, and playing with the orphans who boarded at Ancilla. They will be sharing their testimonies this spring.
There will be a fundraising banquet for the orphanage at 6 p.m. **May 24** at St. Augustine hall in Humboldt. Tickets: michelle@jesusleadsus.com (Adults \$20; children 6-12 years \$6; 5 and under free). For more info see: www.jesusleadsus.com

Local entrepreneur envisions sustainable projects for Tombura

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Moving forward with a sustainable, grassroots development model, the Yubu Development Agency (YDA) is making a difference in the lives of those living in Tombura, South Sudan, says Saskatoon businessman Ron Schira.
Schira is involved in the Saskatoon "support branch" of YDA – a role he came to through a commitment to the gospel, to practical and sustainable business practices and a huge desire to improve life in Africa.
In 2006, he established a staff charity for his company, which runs a number of Subway restaurants in Saskatoon, matching any donation staff made. He had two reasons for the initiative: to help those in need at home and around the world and to encourage a spirit of philanthropy in the young workers.
"We decided to sponsor a few children in the third world, donate annually to The Bridge on 20th in Saskatoon and we hoped we could support digging some wells in Africa." After a number of frustrations in trying to find an organization digging wells that they could support, Schira connected with a non-Catholic Christian initiative called "Encounter Uganda" (EU). He became involved with EU, travelling to Uganda in 2007-08 and learning a lot about aid and development.
Then through his sister Emilie, Schira met Luka Beru Francis in Saskatoon, who along with Michael Tomburo of Nairobi, had started an organization called the Yubu Development Agency to help the community of Tombura in the South Sudan. Francis asked Schira for his



Ron Schira (front, right) and members of the Tombura community in South Sudan.
- Photo submitted by YDA

assistance in creating long-term self-sustaining projects.
Sustainability is YDA's measuring stick for every project, says Schira. "If you give a man a fish he will eat for a day. If you teach a man to fish, the lake will run out of fish," he asserted. "Unless someone takes the responsibility for re-stocking the lake and making sure its environment is protected, one day the good fishing will end."
If a program or project stops when outside funding stops, it is not helpful in the long run, he said. "There has to be a time when the funding from us stops and the Tombura community has to carry on without us," he says of the YDA philosophy.
Schira has committed himself to help YDA until 2020, with a view to all the development projects being operated locally and completely self-sustaining by that time. "The community also wants to move forward as individuals, families and communities with the pride and dignity of knowing they can own their future," he said.
On a recent visit to Tombura, Schira connected with local officials, including King Mboribamu and Catholic Bishop Eduardo Hiibora Kussala. Schira has also forged a

partnership with a religious order of sisters in the community – the Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Peace – who will assist with staffing a YDA-established medical clinic. In exchange, YDA will assist the order with costs of recruiting and training newcomers to the order.
Opening in July 2012, the Yubu Health Clinic treats some 600 patients a month, covering over 70 per cent of its operating costs through small fees for medicine and lab service, he explained. During his recent visit to the community, Schira said he was moved by "spending days there watching lives being saved and suffering being erased."
Other YDA initiatives include an agricultural program, as well as a woodworking program, providing training and producing saleable items like tables, chairs and beds. In addition, 20 women graduated from a recent sewing program.
The vision of the Tombura community for the future includes such goals as a new, expanded medical clinic, a vocational training centre and an expansion of the Tombura Orphanage. The local Catholic Church is also in great need of repair, said Schira. "Our goal is to raise funds for materials and have the local people contribute the labour."
For more info about the YDA, which is a registered charity, able to issue tax receipts – including details about upcoming fundraising events April 28 and 29 in Saskatoon – see the website at: www.ydahelps.org or contact Ron Schira at: ron@yдахelps.org or Luka Francis at luka@yдахelps.org

New VICS director continues "the dance"

BY JOYCE DE GOOIJER, VICS DIRECTOR
"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."
- Alan Wilson Watts
That certainly describes how I'm feeling as the new director of Volunteer International Christian Service (VICS).
VICS, a lay volunteer mission organization, was started by the Canadian Spiritan priests 42 years ago. Through their discernment, they have chosen to continue their support and involvement in the program with one major change: handing the directorship over to a lay person - me!
My name is Joyce de Gooijer and though I plunged into the position in early January of this year, in many ways I joined the VICS dance a long time ago.

My history with VICS started 25 years ago when my husband John and I experienced our first two-year volunteer posting. We've been out three times now – serving in Kenya, East Africa; Kiribati, Central Pacific and Tanzania, East Africa.
VICS matches requests from developing countries with the professional and technical skills of Canadian volunteers. Twenty years of teaching and principal experiences in rural Saskatchewan (most recently in the Watson and Drake areas) served me well for my experiences overseas.
Working alongside people in developing countries often leads to unexpected experiences. In Kenya, I taught math and English to high school students. Expecting to once again teach in Kiribati, I became the principal at St. Joseph's College, a 400-student boarding school. And

Tanzania? Well, that unfolded in a way I never expected, teaching 13-year-old to 56-year-old students with physical disabilities to read and write their national language – Swahili.
And now as director, I plunge in, move with and am part of the VICS dance in a new way; continuing to respect the program and its philosophies within the context of change and moving forward. What an exciting place to be!
For more information about VICS, including postings seeking qualified volunteers around the world, see the website online at: www.volunteerinternational.ca
For more information about this and other mission experiences contact the Diocesan Mission Office by calling (306) 653-4945, or e-mail DMO chairperson Mary Jacobi at: mary@sasktel.net



Joyce De Gooijer (left), the recently appointed director of VICS, with a student who is suffering from cancer. - Photo submitted by VICS

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Lands and Seas of Jesus, St. Peter and St. Paul - Contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter immediately if you are interested in this pilgrim journey to Biblical lands happening **Oct. 14 - Nov. 9 or Oct. 25 - Nov. 9**, with special guest facilitator Gisele Bauche. Contact: Kleiter@shaw.ca or (306) 244-3747 or see: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association convention "A Measure of Justice" will be held **April 26-27** in Melfort. Speakers include: singer and songwriter Mark Mallett; Wilma Wheeler of Nipawin; Dr. Chris Kahlenborn; Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard; and Dawn Eden, author of *Thrill of the Chaste*. To register for the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association convention, call (306) 752-9421 or email kenott@sasktel.net

An Engaged Encounter Weekend gives couples who are planning marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together: **May 3-5, 2013** at the picturesque setting of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. Cost is \$340. Registration or information: www.ceewest.com or contact: Heather and Craig Stomp at (306) 682-3326.

Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting and Banquet will be held **May 4**. The AGM is at 4 p.m., a banquet with speaker at 6 p.m. at Holy Spirit parish hall, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon. Tickets: \$25 each, contact Denise Hounjet-Roth at (306) 249-2764 or e-mail Campaignlifesk@gmail.com

Grants available - The James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family provides grants to registered charities with initiatives and programs intended to strengthen and support the family in rural and urban communities within the geographic area of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. All grant applications are reviewed for their impact on families (activities involving couples, parents, children or youth or the family as a whole). The Mahoney Institute does not fund infrastructure, such as playground equipment and building projects. Apply online **before 4 p.m. May 15**. Contact the James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family (306) 665-1766; at: www.saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca

"Conversations in Indigenous Intercultural Ministry" May 13-17, a course offered by Saskatoon Theological Union at the U of S. The course is open for graduate credit to those who have an MDiv or Master of Theological Studies or equivalent, or audit to those who have any prior theological degree. It will introduce students to contemporary First Nations, Inuit and Metis contexts of ministry and mission. For more information visit www.circle-m.ca

Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference - "Our Call to Holiness: Using Our Gifts to do God's Work" - will be held in Prince Albert **May 31 to June 2**. See: www.wccsc.ca or: www.pastewardship.com

The Provincial Catholic Women's League convention will be held **June 3 and June 4** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. It will feature a special workshop for all parish CWL spiritual advisors. Guest speakers are National CWL Spiritual Advisor Archbishop Martin Currie of St. John's, NL; and author Leah Perrault. Theme of the convention is: "We have seen the Lord. Go tell everyone." All CWL members are invited to attend: contact your parish CWL council for more information.

Night Fever - an evening outreach of prayer in which volunteers invite passersby into a church to light a candle and pray - will be held again this summer in Saskatoon. Dates and places for Night Fever 2013 include St. Paul Co-Cathedral at Spadina Crescent and 22nd St. on **June 21** (during the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival); again at St. Paul Co-Cathedral on **July 19** (during Taste of Saskatchewan); and then at St. Joseph Parish at Broadway Ave. and 8th St. on **Aug. 9** (during the Fringe Festival). Watch for more details about Night Fever from "yomosaskatoon" on Twitter and Facebook or contact Colm Leyne at the Catholic Pastoral Centre at (306) 659-5843 or youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism - Summer Ecumenical Institute will be held **June 10-13** in Saskatoon: see the article on Page 11 or check out the website: www.pcecumenism.ca

CHAS Convention - Marking its 70th anniversary, the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan will hold its annual convention **Oct. 27-29** at the Sheraton Inn, Saskatoon. The theme is "Gamechangers: how people of faith change the landscape of healthcare." Speakers include John L. Allen, senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter; and Bill Brinkman, former vice president of mission initiatives with Ascension Health in the United States. For more information contact CHAS at: (306) 655-5330 or cath.health@sasktel.net or see the website: www.chassk.ca

Miscarriage awareness - Women, couples, families suffer when a baby dies by miscarriage. Often those suffering feel isolated because few know about the loss or don't know how to respond. To find out more, visit our website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/miscarriage

Catholic author and broadcaster Micheal Coren is coming to Saskatoon **Nov. 17** and to Humboldt **Nov. 18**. A person of faith, he fearlessly delves into subject areas where few care to venture. Watch for details.

SERENA - Couple-to-couple instruction in the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning (to achieve or postpone a pregnancy) is available. This family planning method is highly effective, natural, inexpensive and free of health risks. Contact: SERENA Saskatchewan, (306) 934-8223; 1-800-667-1637 or see the website for more information: www.serena.ca



Pastoral Care

An annual Pastoral Care Appreciation Evening was held in Saskatoon Feb. 11 for those providing out-reach to the sick, the elderly and the isolated in a variety of settings. The evening included entertainment by the group "Young at Heart," prayer, and refreshments

- Photo by K. Yaworski

Queen's House upcoming retreats

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

May 1 and June 5 - "Journeying with Scripture, the Book of Revelation" with Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI, 10 a.m. to noon (\$15 session).

May 2 - "Scriptural Themes for Seniors and Friends: Parables" with Vern Ratzlaff 1:30 to 3 p.m. (\$10 session if you can pay).

May 6, 13, 27 & June 3, 10, 17, 24 - "Centering prayer" with Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI, at 8 p.m.

May 8 - "A Day Away" with Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI, and Jacques Leblanc 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (\$25 includes lunch).

May 13-18 - "6-day Iconography Byzantine Writing Course" with Fr. Nazari Polataiko, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Live-in \$875 / Commuters \$790).

May 14 & June 11 - "Taizé Prayer for Christian Unity" 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. (donation).

May 16 - "CWL Twilight Evening" with Brendan Bitz 7:30 p.m.

May 25 - "Christianity Rooted in Cosmic and Earth Awareness: As Followers of Jesus" with Maureen Wild, SC, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$95, includes lunch).

June 9-12 - "Women in Ministry Retreat: Finding our voice in leadership" with Rev. Catherine Harper, Rev. Amanda Currie, Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers and Anne Zimmerman. (Live-in \$225 / Commuters \$150).



Linda Labelle is the new program coordinator at Queen's House.

- Photo by Arch McKay

June 15 - "The Monastic Way: Benedictine spirituality for today" with Sr. Mary Coswin, OSB, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$95, includes lunch).

June 16-21 - "Six-Day Silent Directed Retreat" with Queen's House spiritual direction staff (\$600).

NOTE: Spiritual Direction by trained and experienced staff is available on request. Contact coordinator, Sr. Adeline Behm FDLP: (306) 242-1916, Ext. 234 or a.m.behm@sasktel.net

July 1-5 - "Growing in Faith in the Year of Faith: silent preached retreat" with Fr. Joseph Schner, SJ. (Live-in \$450 / Commuters \$300).

July 5-7 - "The Earth is the Lord's: Opening the dynamics of scripture and ecology" with Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA (Live-in \$270 / Commuters \$210).

July 6 - "Sacred Journey: Stages of Faith" with Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (\$95, includes lunch).

July 8-11 - "Stunning implications of the incarnation" with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI. (Live-in \$390 / Commuters \$325).

July 11-14 - "I Saw A New Heaven and a New Earth: the Book of Revelation" retreat with Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI. (Live-in \$300 / Commuters \$280).

July 14-22 - "Ignatian Silent Directed Retreat" with Fr. George Morris, SJ. (\$975).

July 14-22 - "8-day Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat" with Fr. Kevin McGee and Marge Copeland. (Live-in: \$800).

July 15-19 - "The Journey with and to the Divine" with Emily Cherneski. (Live-in: \$650 / Commuters \$590).

To register for a retreat at Queen's House in Saskatoon, call (306) 242-1916 or e-mail: receptionist@queenshouse.org

St. Therese Institute in Bruno: Upcoming workshops, programs and faith enrichment

To register or for more information about upcoming events at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, located at 650 Ursuline Ave., Bruno, SK. phone: (306) 369-255 or visit the website at: www.StTherese.ca

• **April 28 - May 2: "Into the Heart - Journey Through the Theology of the Body"** with Christopher West. What is it that we are truly searching for? During this Year of Faith, discover the life-changing truth stamped into each one of us and reflected in our body and our human sexuality. Group rates are available. Register/Info at: www.St-T.ca/tob2013 or (306) 369-2555.

• **May 5 - 10: "Apologetics and Ecumenism in the New Evangelization"** with Jim Anderson & Dr. Robert Stackpole.

• **May 12 - 17: "You Shall Be My Witnesses - A Theology of Evangelization"** with Fr. Scott McCaig, CC, of Ottawa.

• **May 25: Commissioning of the Class of 2013** - Mass and ceremony with Bishop Donald Bolen; banquet and program to follow. Please RSVP by May 20 to order banquet tickets (\$20).

• **Aug. 2 - 11: "triumph: Results God Gives"** is a gentle yet powerful inner healing and spiritual growth experience for anyone wanting to cast off that 'extra baggage' that we all tend to carry in our lives. Whether you feel stuck in a rut, need a recharge, or want to move your faith-life further along, come and attend this nine-day experience. Additional 2013 dates for "triumph" will include: **Oct 18 - 27**; as well as **Nov. 8 - 17** for young adults. Find out more at www.St-T.ca/triumph

• **Aug. 18: Bruno Cherry Sunday** will be hosted by St. Therese, featuring food, entertainment, speakers and "Cherry U-Pick" on the grounds! Come on out to Bruno, SK, 90 kilometres east of Saskatoon, and enjoy a day of honest-to-goodness small-town fun. Find out more at www.CherryFestival.ca

Knights hold spiritual retreat in Prince Albert

By GILLES DOIRON, STATE DEPUTY, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
A Knights of Columbus provincial spiritual retreat took place March 15-16 at St Joseph Church in Prince Albert.

Under the title "Living our Christian Faith in Our Times", Deacon Terry Murphy served as MC for the day. The weekend started with Mass celebrated by Bishop Albert Thévenot of Prince Albert, who in his homily introduced the theme. This was followed by a reception.

Saturday started with Lieutenant-Governor Graydon Nicholas of New Brunswick providing insight as to what it was like to grow up as a young First Nations boy in the late 50s and early 60s, explaining all the challenges that it brought, and his decision to resist bullying and succeed.

State chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon explained various elements contained in the image of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Bishop Michael Hawkins of the Anglican Diocese of Prince Albert also spoke. Fr. Travis Myrheim, Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Prince Albert, SK, demonstrated using technology in the Church, in particular his use of social media to attempt to guide young people back to the Church.

Deacon Terry Murphy described a project in which an

icon of "Our Lady of Guadalupe" was taken across Northern Saskatchewan in December 2012, revealing how much the Aboriginal people have a devotion to Our Lady.



Abortion trauma

A billboard highlighting the post-abortion "Silent No More Awareness Campaign" was set up in the fall along Highway 11 at Maymont, with the yearly rent covered by Weyburn Pro-Life Association. - Photo by Anita Sonntag

creating **more** for students

STM is expanding space for...

- more classrooms
- more study and research space
- more common focused programs and events
- more student/professor interaction

STM is creating an Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies

- high quality programs
- better knowledge of Catholic tradition and teaching

help us create more **DONATE TODAY!** creatingmore.ca (306) 966 2191

As a Catholic liberal arts college academically integrated with the University of Saskatchewan, we have grown to approximately 2000 students. Join us in creating more opportunities for our students.

\$6 million CAMPAIGN

creating more. **ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE** UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Servants for Christ strive to serve others

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Some 35 members of a Saskatoon parish youth group met with Bishop Don Bolen at the Cathedral of the Holy Family March 3, describing their commitment to service, as well as praying and singing together, presenting a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and sharing ice cream sundaes.

A youth group for Grades 3 to 8 based at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon, "Servants for Christ" grew out of a program for younger children established at the parish several years ago, explained parishioner, teacher and group founder Janine Baier.

The popular "Kids for Christ" program held after Mass one Sunday a month helps younger children (preschool to Grade 3) learn about their faith, hear Bible stories, sing and have fun with friends at church.

Designed and launched at St. Augustine parish about five years ago, Kids for Christ is now also being offered by St. Anne's parish in Saskatoon.

As children grew too old for Kids for Christ, many have returned as helpers, Baier described. "So then we thought, well, we need another group for the kids who have graduated, and that's when we started Servants for Christ."

Baier added that with some 50 youth involved in Servants for Christ and another 64 children in Kids for Christ at St. Augustine parish this year, the hope is that eventually as these children grow older, they will stay involved, and a



Youth from St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon described their "Servants for Christ" program to Fr. Don Hamel and Bishop Don Bolen at a recent Sunday afternoon event held at the diocesan cathedral.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

"Teens for Christ" group might be established.

Wearing their blue T-shirts (the younger Kids for Christ group have red shirts), the members of Servants for Christ do not just get together for fun: the group's mission is to put faith into action, Baier explained.

"Service projects are the main focus of the group," she said during a brief program presented to the bishop, as well as to St. Augustine

pastor Rev. Don Hamel and a number of parents gathered at the cathedral. "We don't just get them together to play games and play basketball ... and the kids have said the most fun is when they actually get to do projects and help other people."

Even when there are no treats or rewards, Servants for Christ members choose to help, as a way to show their love of God to the world, she described.

Making scarves for those in need, volunteering at Saskatoon Friendship Inn, preparing the parish rectory yard for winter, and holding bake sales to raise funds for different causes were among this year's undertakings.

"For our service project in December, we had a bake sale at church," explained one young member of Servants for Christ. "Everyone brought cookies, brownies, cupcakes and many other delicious things. We sold them after both Masses. All together we made \$100 for pro-life and \$500 for the Bishop's Annual Appeal."

The bishop expressed his appreciation for the donation, describing some of the ministries supported by the BAA, such as catechetics, faith formation,

education of seminarians, hospital chaplaincy, justice and peace, youth ministry, and outreach to those in need and to those in hospital.

Bolen commended the group's focus on service, saying that when he saw the "S 4 Christ" message on their shirts he thought it could also stand for "Superstars for Christ." He urged them to keep living their faith and so become "T - teens tremendous for Christ, A - awesome adults for Christ and then back to S - superstar seniors for Christ."

After a closing prayer led by other members of the youth group, the Servants for Christ continued to give witness when it came to sharing ice cream sundaes, choosing to serve their guests first.

Liturgie de la Parole

Carmen Bussière, catéchète dirige une Liturgie de la Parole, dimanche matin dans la paroisse des Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens. (Catechist Carmen Bussière leads a Sunday morning Children's Liturgy of the Word at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Francophone parish in Saskatoon.)

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Wadena Deanery Celebration

Bishop Don Bolen presided over a Deanery Mass held in the Wadena Legion Hall Sunday, Nov. 4, with Fr. Fred Caylan from Wadena and Fr. George Chatholil from Wynyard. The Wadena Deanery includes parishes in Archerwill, Nobleville, Perigord, Kelvington, Lintlaw, Wadena, Fosston, Rose Valley, St. Front, Foam Lake, Wishart and Wynyard. Parish communities were consulted ahead of time about the feasibility of holding a joint deanery Mass. The idea received 100 per cent support, and even though the weather did not cooperate and the roads were icy, 220 people from all across the deanery attended. Following the 10 a.m. Mass, a question and answer period was held with the bishop, before a pancake and sausage lunch prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

- Photos by Wendy Burghardt



Holy Week celebration

Children in the Grades 6-8 youth group at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon wash the feet of the Grades 3-5 group at a youth event which took place during Holy Week.

- Photo by Anthony Olusola