



Bishop initiates discernment on possibility of ordaining permanent deacons

Bishop Donald Bolen (*left*) has called for prayer, reflection and discussion about the idea of ordaining permanent deacons for the diocese. Information is posted on the diocesan website and the discussion will be part of a Congress Day in three locations in the New Year: Jan. 25 in Kindersley, Feb. 1 in Saskatoon, and March 8 in Humboldt.

DEACON DISCERNMENT • Page 3



Remaining four diocesan missionaries leaving Brazil

Sisters of Mission Service Sr. Jeannine and Sr. Marie-Noëlle Rondot (*left*) and Ursulines of Bruno Sr. Claire Novocosky and Sr. Louise Hinz will leave Brazil in the summer of 2014.

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Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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DECEMBER 2013

Year of Faith wind-up celebrated



Special guest Archbishop Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, joined Fr. Marc Mireau and the people of the Trinité pastoral region for celebration of the Eucharist Nov. 10 in Prud'homme during the diocesan festival. - Photo by Keith Gerwing



In concert at the cathedral Nov. 9, Audrey Assad shared selections from her album *Fortunate Fall*. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Faith and celebration were themes of a festival of events held Nov. 8-10 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to mark the end of the 2012-2013 Year of Faith.

The diocesan Year of Faith Festival began with celebration of the Eucharist Nov. 8 with special guest Archbishop Gérald Lacroix of Quebec at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and continued that evening with a prayerful concert by acclaimed Catholic singer-songwriter Audrey Assad. Recently-retired Winnipeg Archbishop James Weisgerber and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon were also among the special guests at festival events.

In his opening homily, Lacroix described the core of the faith journey as "letting the gospel of Jesus Christ transform our lives, converting our hearts, rooting us even deeper in faith... as we strive to be better Christians, witnessing to our faith in today's world."

Talks by Lacroix in both English and French Nov. 9 focused on the gospel story of the two disciples meeting the risen Lord Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. The archbishop reflected on the reading in light of our own faith journey and as a model for sharing faith with others.

Other speakers, and an annual youth vs clergy Bishop's Cup basketball tournament were also part of the weekend festival.

In launching the Year of Faith last year, Pope Benedict XVI described it as a "summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Saviour of the world." (*Porta fidei* 6)

Opening on Oct. 11, 2012, the Year of Faith coincided with the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second Vatican Council. In the diocese of Saskatoon, the year has been a time of reflection on the teachings and the impact of that watershed event in the life of the Catholic Church, with several speakers and special events throughout the year highlighting the anniversary.

During the Year of Faith, Bishop Don Bolen also encouraged the faithful to reflect on their reasons for faith and to articulate those reasons in an initiative entitled "I Believe Because" (*Page 2*).

MORE Year of Faith PAGE 24



The youth all-star basketball team won the Bishop's Cup Nov. 9, defeating the clergy team led by Bishop Don Bolen and Bishop Bryan Bayda, with coaching provided by Archbishop Gérald Lacroix during an evening of fun and fellowship. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Sponsored by the Diocese of Saskatoon:

Mary of Nazareth

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18



Broadway Theatre, 715 Broadway Ave, Saskatoon
Tickets at the door: \$10

For information about this film: www.maryfilm.com

Youth leaving gangs and turning lives around with support from STR8 UP

A lifetime of hurt – including abandonment, foster homes, addiction, abuse, gang involvement, jail and violence – finally led Cheryl Taniskishayinew to STR8 UP and a path of healing. She has now left behind the gang lifestyle, is in counselling, and is attending school, caring for her two young children and working hard to make their future better than her past.

The young STR8 UP member joined founder Fr. André Poihièvre and STR8 UP president Stan Tu'Inukuafe at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon on Nov. 10 to describe the organization and its work. In the past 12 years, STR8 UP has helped over 200 young men and women leave behind the gangs, find healing and become good parents, faithful partners and responsible citizens.

STR8 UP will receive funding from the Catholic Church's "Moving Forward Together" collection, in order to offer a conference in Saskatoon about gang prevention and intervention. Initiated as a way to raise awareness and find solutions, the Feb. 5-6 conference "10,000 Healing Steps: Resilience and Community" will include Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, of Los Angeles, founder of the largest anti-gang initiative in North America, Homeboy Industries, as well as some of the Homeboy members. A collection for "Moving Forward Together" and this local project will take place in the diocese Dec. 7-8.

• MORE Moving Forward Page 9



STR8 UP member Cheryl Taniskishayinew and founder Fr. André Poihièvre spoke recently at St. Francis Xavier parish.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Catholic and Evangelical Christians participate in dialogue; celebrate second shared worship service

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For more than two years, a group of Evangelical and Catholic Christians in Saskatoon have been meeting to talk about their common faith in Jesus Christ, discussing what is shared, as well as examining where their understandings and convictions differ.

Formally appointed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship, the local dialogue group is now in the process of writing a joint statement.

It was after the first Catholic-Evangelical shared worship service in March 2011 at St. Paul's Catholic Cathedral, that a small group of

church and ecumenical leaders met to try and find ways for the two traditions to further engage in common prayer, common witness, common mission and common study. A dialogue group was subsequently launched, with the first meeting in December 2011.

Rev. Harry Strauss, associate pastor at Forest Grove Community Church and a member of the Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship, and Nicholas Jesson, the ecumenical officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, are part of the 20-member dialogue group, which includes 10 representatives from each tradition.

Both Strauss and Jesson are also serving on the four-member committee that is now drafting the joint statement emerging from two years of conversation, study and relationship-building.

Strauss joyfully describes the joint statement: "We confess our common faith, we acknowledge our differences and we affirm our common mission."

Although the joint statement is not yet complete, the process was highlighted at a shared Evangelical-Catholic worship service hosted Nov. 14 by Circle Drive Alliance Church, led by Pastor Eldon Bolt.

Other local dialogues among Christians in Saskatoon have usually revolved around studying a particular document or a specific concern. For instance, Restorative Justice was the theme of a local dialogue between Catholics and Mennonites a few years ago, describes Jesson.

"But the Evangelical-Catholic dialogue is much more general. We are exploring areas of historic difference, of disagreement – or at least the perceived disagreement – and sometimes we are just teaching each other our language."

The diversity of the dialogue group has brought different perspectives to the discussion, with the Evangelical representatives including a number of pastors and members of Pentecostal, Mennonite, Alliance, Baptist and other evangelical traditions. Catholic participants include members of clergy (Bishop Don Bolen, Fr. Bernard de Margerie and Fr. Geoffrey Young) as well as laypersons. The Catholic group also includes a representative from the Ukrainian Catholic tradition. Some members of the dialogue group have had extensive ecumenical experiences; others are new to the path of Christian unity.

"I find this whole experience so invigorating," says Jesson. "It is affirming the unity that we share as Christians. We are able to come together and it's not just that we like each other – which we do – but we have been talking about issues,



A group of musicians from both traditions led music during a Catholic-Evangelical worship service held in Saskatoon Nov. 14. See article online: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

some hard issues over these years, in areas where we would not expect to have great levels of agreement: discussions about Mary, the Eucharist, or the Church."

Catholic members of the dialogue have also asked tough questions of Evangelicals about their beliefs, Jesson adds.

"We have talked about our differences, acknowledged those differences, recognized them," agrees Strauss. He also admits that there may be voices of opposition or some who might challenge the idea of a dialogue or common witness between Catholics and Evangelicals.

"However, when I talk to people on the Evangelical side, I say, yes, there are grey areas, in terms of just having different perspectives and different points of conviction about how we understand things, but when we come to the centre, I look at the motto of the diocese: 'Rooted in Christ' ... well, we can embrace that. We do embrace that," Strauss says.

"There is an honesty about how we approach it," Jesson says of the two-plus years of dialogue. "There is a certain integrity about wanting to make sure that we reflect what our whole tradition holds, even if it's something that we do not particularly feel comfortable with, or which is not part of our particular piety. We see the need to get the diversity of our respective communities reflected here."

Bishop Donald Bolen says the local Catholic-Evangelical dialogue has its roots in years of relationship-building, led by leaders such as Fr. de Margerie (a Catholic priest who

Ecumenism is one of the ministries supported by the



has for years been involved in working toward Christian Unity), and the late Rev. Ken Rutherford, an Alliance Church pastor with a heart for getting to know mutual friends of Jesus Christ.

Bolen describes the warm welcome he received from the Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship shortly after his appointment as bishop, a meeting which included a chance to share together a profound love for God's Word.

Bolen also serves on the international consultation between the Catholic Church and the World Evangelical Alliance, which meets annually, most recently this September in Guatemala. "There is a hope that this international consultation will produce a report which will offer an initial sketch of what Evangelicals and Catholics hold in common and identify remaining differences, which we will continue to address," he says.

"That report will also seek to identify practical initiatives, which could be responsibly undertaken together, given the degree to which we share a common faith."

Colleagues on the international consultation suggest that there are few places in the world where ecumenical relations between Catholics and Evangelicals are as strong as they are here in Saskatoon, notes Bolen.

"It is a privilege for me to be involved in the dialogues, both at the local and at the international level, and to allow each experience to nourish the other."



Dr. Terry Downey, president of St. Thomas More (STM) Catholic College; Dr. Paul Murray, guest speaker from Durham University in England; Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen; and Fr. Bernard de Margerie (left to right) at the keynote event of the De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity, a public lecture Nov. 7 at STM, Saskatoon.
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Receptive ecumenism grounded in trust and ongoing conversion, says De Margerie Series speaker

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At workshops, supper meetings, a diocesan Study Day and a public lecture, Dr. Paul Murray recently explained the joyful hope of receptive ecumenism to enhance and continue the journey of Christian unity.

The De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and The Les and Irene Dubé Chair in Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College featured Murray exploring the theme "Healing gifts for wounded hands" in many settings around Saskatoon Nov. 5-8. Murray described the heart of receptive ecumenism as moving away from wishing that others could be more like us, to instead begin asking what we can and must learn, with integrity, from the other.

"Our traditions are limited as well as life giving, wounded as well as grace-bearing: we need to show rather than hide our wounds, and to ask our 'others' to minister to us." Traditions as well as individuals are constantly called to graced conversion, he noted.

Receptive ecumenism involves a shift from promoting increased mutual understanding between traditions, to deepening the growth within traditions. It requires trust and time, but offers hope when it seems as if no further ecumenical progress can be achieved in the face of doctrinal differences, he said. For more complete coverage see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Jan. 18 to 25: "Has Christ Been Divided?" - 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

The 2014 materials to be used around the world during the Week of Prayer were developed by a Canadian ecumenical team brought together at the invitation of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism. **Watch for local events!**
Find resources at: www.weekofprayer.ca

I BELIEVE BECAUSE... #IBELIEVEBECAUSE

"#ibelievebecause every part of my work involves collaboration with members of the community ... this community rocks! I had an amazing day of 'yes, I would love to be a part of this!' Well, what is amazing is the 'yes' without hesitation. Now, I am no musician, but for the first time I think I can appreciate what it must take to orchestrate an ensemble of such diverse talentlook out, the Holy Spirit is moving to make some... beautiful noise!"
- Posted on Facebook by Sandy Normand

'I believe because...' prompts reflection on reasons for faith

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Donald Bolen asked "Why do you believe?" and the response has included hundreds of Tweets, as well as e-mail messages, school bulletin boards, student artwork, interactive homilies in parishes, and poignant hand-written letters delivered to the Catholic Centre.

"I want to initiate a reflection, a conversation, about faith, and how we can articulate our reasons for faith to others," said Bolen in launching the "I believe because" initiative in August as a way to mark the Year of Faith in the diocese of Saskatoon.

Engaging social media was one thrust of the initiative, using the hashtag #ibelievebecause, and the bishop himself joining Twitter with



Youth ministry coordinator Colm Leyne videotapes an Instagram message from the bishops after an opening Mass for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools staff in August. To read more about the GSCS opening see articles posted at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

the address @BishopDonBolen and posting several of his own 140-

character Tweets. Some of the "I believe because" responses are

Communications is supported by the



found in this edition of the Newsletter, and plans are to eventually have a selection posted on the diocesan website. In the meantime, the bishop is preparing a pastoral letter on faith, using the feedback and insights from "I believe because."

The conversation is not over simply because the Year of Faith has ended, Bolen noted.

For more info see the website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/ibelievebecause/



Crowds delighted with Pope Francis

This remarkable Year of Faith has seen a papal transition with the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, and the selection of the first pope from the developing world, the first Jesuit pope and the first to choose the name Francis. The world has been captivated by the simplicity and joy of Pope Francis, as well as by a series of remarkable gestures, images and words from the Holy Father: from his washing the feet of a Muslim woman in prison, to visiting soup kitchens, to interacting joyfully with young and old. As well, there have been engaging and captivating interviews ("Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?" asked America magazine; "I am a sinner...which the Lord has looked upon") and heartfelt teachings on joy, on the mercy of God and on the love and forgiveness offered by Jesus Christ.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB (Courtesy of The Prairie Messenger)

Mercy is cornerstone for new pope

In addition to reflecting on a number of "mega-trends" affecting the Church, the 2013 CHAS convention keynote speaker, journalist and Vatican correspondent John Allen Jr., recently shared insights about Pope Francis.

The "centrality of mercy" is the pope's missionary strategy, Allen said.



John Allen, Jr.

"The answer that Pope Francis would give (about how to evangelize) is that in the first instance, you would evangelize by outreach. You make it clear that you are interested in walking with them and having a conversation," he said.

"Of all the terms used by Pope Francis since his election, by far the most common word he has used is 'mercy'." Allen noted that mercy is also part of the pope's motto, a phrase from an account by Venerable Bede about Christ calling Matthew the tax collector: "He looked upon

me with mercy, and called me."

Over and over again Pope Francis has joyfully demonstrated that the strongest message of the Lord is mercy, and that the Lord never tires of forgiving, Allen related to the Saskatoon gathering.

"Mercy is the cornerstone. Why is that important in terms of reaching those who think that faith is irrelevant? In different ways we are all broken, we are all wounded, we are all struggling," Allen said, "and an institution which can credibly project a message of mercy to this wounded world, I think stands a fairly decent shot of being heard."

The Christian gospel has to express both judgment to, and mercy on, a fallen world, Allen acknowledged, but it seems to be Pope Francis' calculation that "the world has heard our judgment very clearly, but it is now time for them to hear and see and experience our mercy." - KLY

For complete coverage of talks presented by Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ; John Allen Jr. and Sr. Gill Goulding, CJ, see the diocesan News Page online: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Pope Francis: expressing faith in images that engage the culture

Imagery, imagination, culture, faith and hope were themes explored by author and educator Fr. Michael Paul Gallagher, SJ, during a talk Sept. 10 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon - part of a speakers' series held to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.



Fr. Michael Gallagher

The Irish-born Jesuit, author of *Faith Maps* and the rector of the a Jesuit house of studies in Rome, began by exploring the "hope that was born with Vatican II."

He also reflected on the impact of Pope Francis, the first pope who was not at the Second Vatican Council, and the first who was ordained after that important moment in the life of the Church.

Launching a reflection about the challenge of culture and the importance of imagery, Gallagher presented a series of recent images of Pope Francis: washing the feet of prisoners, joining a group of youth to photograph a "selfie", embracing the poor in a Brazilian slum, placing a beach ball from World Youth Day on the altar of St. Mary Major church in Rome, and leading thousands in a peace vigil in St Peter's Square.

Such remarkable images appeal to the

heart and the imagination, and are engaging the culture in new ways, Gallagher said.

Huge changes in technology are part of an ongoing cultural revolution, with new ways of communicating, new assumptions, and new imagery forming and re-forming the ground where faith must engage culture, he added. "The challenge to faith is on the level of images and not of ideas."

Gallagher then turned to the nature of faith and how to express it in images that speak to the heart.

Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar said "if you want to understand faith, ponder an infant's first smile," related Gallagher.

In the words of Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan, SJ, "Faith is the knowledge born of love," continued Gallagher.

According to Pope Benedict XVI, "faith is not a message about God, but an event of encounter, recognizing a relationship," said Gallagher. "This is a question of the longing of the human heart."

Pope Francis is now also alerting us that we are in a battle of images that capture the heart and the imagination, Gallagher said. "Other popes have done it, but he's doing it in his own way, with his own style of deep, deep feeling of the poor and so on."

Although Pope Francis may not talk much about the New Evangelization, he is doing it, suggested Gallagher.

Author Paul Valley says that "Pope Francis shows that there are deeper poetic qualities to religion that go beyond beliefs," quoted Gallagher, adding: "In other words, he is speaking to imagination." - KLY

Employing a language and image of mercy

Pope Francis is pursuing the New Evangelization and its "leitmotif" focus on contemplation, conversion and mission, Sr. Gill Goulding, CJ, of Toronto's Regis College told a Study Day gathering Nov. 8 in the diocese of Saskatoon.

For Francis, these three elements are spoken of in terms of prayer, the mercy of

God and outreach, she said. "Pope Francis is employing the language of mercy, made up of gestures, even before words," she added.

"For Pope Francis, God's mercy is the foundation stone for his vision for the Church," she said, citing the pontiff's statement that "the Church is not a club for those who consider themselves perfect: the Church is a hospital for sinners."

Flowing from that, his emphasis on outreach is focused on the "little ones," the poor and marginalized,



Sr. Gill Goulding

the rejected, the forgotten, the elderly and suffering families, she noted. -KLY

Discernment: Should this diocese ordain permanent deacons?

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The diocese of Saskatoon is discerning the possibility of establishing a permanent diaconate.

The diocesan-wide discernment about whether to ordain permanent deacons was introduced at Administration Day, an annual gathering of parish leadership and ministry representatives, Sept. 11 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

At the Second Vatican Council, the bishops of the world re-established the permanent diaconate after an absence of many centuries. The diocese of Saskatoon does not presently ordain permanent deacons, although permanent deacons ordained in other dioceses have provided a "lived experience" of the diaconate by their ministry in our diocese, noted Bishop Donald Bolen.

A committee established this spring by the bishop has been discussing, reflecting, and praying

about the possibility of establishing a permanent diaconate in the diocese of Saskatoon.

Committee members — Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP; Glenn Hilton; Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU; Linda Labelle; Kate O'Gorman; Agnes Pelletier; Leah Perrault; Myron Rogal; Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers; Rev. David Tumback; Deacon Bob Williston; and the bishop — have brought a diversity of opinion and experience to the reflection, noted Bolen.

"That committee has prayerfully concluded that, at some point in the future, our diocese may be called by God to provide a way for those who have a vocation to the diaconate to say yes to that calling within our diocese," Bolen said. "They have also recommended that the discernment process be extended to the diocese as a whole."

Resources to aid in the wider discernment process were distributed to those attending

Administration Day and are also posted on the diocesan website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/diaconatediscernment

Using these resources can help prepare for the collective discernment process that will be part of Congress Days held in the deaneries in the New Year, said committee member Kate O'Gorman.

This process of education, reflection, prayer and dialogue about the permanent diaconate will take place in each of three Congress locations: Jan. 25 in Kindersley, Feb. 1 in Saskatoon and March 8 in Humboldt. The repeated Congress Day is open to all those interested in attending. More details about times and registration for the Saturday sessions will be distributed in the New Year.

"The day will include prayer, and some catechesis, not just on the diaconate, but informed by Vatican II on the role of the bishop, the role of priests and the role of the deacon and the apostolate of the laity," said committee member Leah Perrault, diocesan coordinator of pastoral services. "There will be time spent with the scriptures, and time spent in dialogue and in prayer. It's important to remember that this is a discernment day, and not an

argument or debate day. It is a day to say: 'where is the Spirit leading us?'"

Permanent deacons are members of the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church who proclaim the gospel and preach at liturgical services; lead the community in prayer, and conduct baptisms and witness marriages, as well as provide outreach and service to others. Permanent deacons can be married.

"The discussion about opening the permanent diaconate to women is a very important discussion for the universal church, but here we have been clearly focused on the present parameters of Church teaching and practice, and that is that the permanent diaconate would only be open to men at this time," noted Bolen.

"There are different models of permanent diaconate. It has taken different shape in different places," said Bolen.

"We as a diocese need to go through some of the reflection process that this committee went through, in order to come to a decision that we can all move forward with together."

Speaking of the permanent diaconate discernment at a Saskatoon City Deanery meeting Sept. 17, the bishop also noted that there are a number of implications to prayerfully consider — for instance, does the diocese have an obligation to respond to those who have discerned a call to the diaconate, how would a permanent diaconate impact lay ministry, and if established, what formation would be needed.

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(Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications)

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

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Archdiocese of
MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

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

Remaining four diocesan missionaries will leave Brazil in 2014

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Four remaining Brazil missionaries from the diocese of Saskatoon will return home in the summer of 2014.

Sr. Louise Hinz and Sr. Claire Novacosky of the Ursulines of Bruno, and Sr. Jeannine Rondot and Sr. Marie-Noëlle Rondot of the Sisters of Mission Service, recently announced that they will all be leaving Brazil next year.

Their departure will end an ongoing diocesan missionary presence in Brazil that has existed for 50 years.

“After much discernment, prayer, listening to the signs of the love of two countries, of two families – and now with a divided heart – we prepare to say farewell to these beautiful Brazilian sisters and brothers, knowing that they will always remain in our hearts, as they have shared so much of their Christian legacy with us,” writes Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU, from Marechal Deodoro in the Archdiocese of Maceió, where she and Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU serve together. Sr. Claire has been there since 1973, and Sr. Louise since 1987.

“This was no small discernment and decision, but with the grace of God, we both clearly feel and believe the time has come,” said Sr. Marie-Noëlle Rondot, SMS, writing from São José da Laje, where she and her sibling Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS, have lived and worked, providing a “ministry of presence” since the Sisters of Mission Service discerned a call to Brazil in 1993.

“Looking back, we are filled with gratitude. Looking ahead, we are filled with a mixture of many feelings – but believing that God will undoubtedly provide as we take each step along the way,” writes Sr. Marie-Noëlle.

Bishop Donald Bolen expressed gratitude for the decades of service provided by the missionaries, and the positive impact of the Mission on two dioceses, one in the north and one in the south.

Bishop expresses thanks

“The announcement from the Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters of Mission Service that they will be leaving their respective missions in the archdiocese of Maceió in the forthcoming year is a time for us as a diocese to give profound thanks for their ministry and for the ministry of all who served in the Brazil Mission over the past 50 years,” says Bishop Donald Bolen.

“God has given the grace, one day at a time, one project at a time, one mission at a time, to make this Mission a work of the Holy Spirit.”

As for what is next in the diocese’s relationship with Brazil, the bishop says that in the months ahead there will be discernment about this time of transition, and about possible future involvement.

“I hope and pray that the dioceses of Maceió and Saskatoon will continue to be bound together in a deep communion, buoyed up by the memories of common mission and the bonds of leadership and of service to God’s people, especially those in greatest need,” says Bolen, who will be visiting the Brazil missionaries in February.

“It is important at this time to give thanks to God for all that has come through this

Time has come to say farewell to Brazil mission

BY SR. MARIE-NOËLLE RONDOT, SMS

As the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us: “There is a time for everything.” And sure enough, there is even a time to leave Brazil, after 21 years for Jeannine and 18 for myself!

As many of you would guess, this was no small discernment and decision, but with the grace of God, we both clearly feel and believe the time has come. Therefore, at this point, we are making plans to leave Brazil in order to return to Canada in the summer of 2014.

The mission in Brazil has been the mission of the Saskatoon diocese since 1964. We feel privileged to have been able to serve and live out our commitment to God in this capacity. It has certainly been a rich experience.

Archbishop Oscar Romero once said: “We plant seeds that one day will grow... We water seeds already planted... We may never see the end results but we are ministers and not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.”

Throughout all these years in Brazil, we hope to have been and done a little bit of that! One thing we certainly know is that we often receive more than we give – which can be quite an overwhelming reality at times!

And so, looking back, we are filled with gratitude. Looking ahead, we are filled with a mixture of many



Sr. Jeannine and Sr. Marie-Noëlle Rondot of the Sisters of Mission Service are living and working at São José da Laje.

feelings...but believing that God will undoubtedly provide, as we take each step along the way!

Jeannine and I thank God for all of you: first of all, our religious community (the Sisters of Mission Service) and all the people from the Saskatoon diocese who have prayed and worked hard for the mission. You have been faithful companions on this great journey. And once again, we shall count on your prayers to help us walk gently and courageously through this last stretch of our time here.

May God bless all of you, for the countless ways that you too “have planted and watered seeds” and been “prophets of the future.”



Sr. Claire Novacosky and Sr. Louise Hinz, of the Ursulines of Bruno are serving at Marechal Deodoro.

Hearing the Spirit whisper: ‘return to your homeland’

BY SR. CLAIRE NOVECOSKY, OSU

A popular song in Brazil sings of Abraham leaving his land and going to where God will lead him. He knows what he has left behind, but what has God in store for him? And the answer is: “a great people and the promised land.”

I think we could truly say this as we ventured into our mission many years ago. We were warmly welcomed by a wonderful people and together with them we struggled and worked for “the promised land.”

There were many obstacles, but also many victories; many sorrows, but outweighed by tremendous joys; many challenges, but many more conquests.

Now as the years have passed we hear the whisperings of the Spirit: “return to your homeland.” And so after much discernment, prayer, listening to the signs of the times, we have decided to return to Canada.

We have experienced the culture and love of two countries, of two families and now with a divided heart we prepare to say farewell to these beautiful Brazilian sisters and brothers, knowing that they will always remain in our hearts as they have shared so much of their Christian legacy with us.

We feel that our three Carmelite pastors will continue with great zeal and dedication the pastoral work begun in this immense parish, for each of them has the heart of the Good Shepherd.

For them and for the many many people whose lives we have touched and who have touched us, we say a most profound “thank you and God reward you.”

Mission – the years of relationship, the tangible service to those in need, the justice that was embodied, the formation of disciples and the formation of missionaries who have learned as they have walked, and who have blessed this diocese upon their return.”

This will also be a time to remember the Brazil missionaries who have now died, including Fr. Syl Vredegoor, OSB, who was killed in an accident there while in the service of others, adds Bolen. “We also remember with gratitude all the people in the diocese and the abbacy who have supported the Brazil Mission with financial gifts, with prayers, and with solidarity expressed with the mission in so many ways over the past 50 years.”

How can we stay connected?

Fr. Les Paquin of the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee, who served in the Brazil Mission for eight years, says it would be wrong to sever ties with our sister church in Maceió. “From what I understand, the relationship between the dioceses will continue, and we will help each other in whatever way we can,” he says.

“It is a time to think about how we can maintain the meaningful relationship with that part of Brazil, and what the relationship will

look like once there are no missionaries present. Would there perhaps be periodic tours, staff sent to help out, or financial support for different projects down there?”

Citing the Portuguese word *acompanhar*, Paquin said the people of our diocese and the people of Brazil have been companions, sharing together and journeying in a way that recalls the Road to Emmaus.

“This is an historic mark, because we will no longer have any personnel from our diocese down there, but everywhere that the personnel have served has become family. From a Brazilian point of view, we are very much a part of their family – and you don’t abandon family,” says Paquin. “It is as simple as that.”

He stresses the two-way nature of the relationship. “We in this diocese have been immeasurably blessed and graced by the Mission.”

“Over the past 50 years, this mission has been a tangible expression that the local church is not to be turned in on itself, but it is to be turned towards the world, attentive to the needs and struggles of all human beings, and bearing a special responsibility towards the challenges and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the world,” says Bishop Don Bolen. “That responsibility continues.”

The Brazil Mission had its beginnings in the days (and the theology) of the Second Vatican Council, when Archbishop Adelmo Machado of Maceió spoke about the needs of Brazil to Saskatchewan bishops in Rome for the Council, including Bishop Francis Klein of Saskatoon and Abbot Jerome Weber of St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster.

Bishop Klein was moved by the Brazilian archbishop’s request, as well as

by the appeal of Pope Paul VI for Catholic leaders to address the disparity between rich and poor nations of the world.

In response, the Saskatoon bishop established the diocesan Mission in União dos Palmares in northeastern Brazil in 1964. The original team consisted of three diocesan priests, Fr. Don Macgillivray, Fr. Bernard Dunn and Fr. Bob Ogle, and two lay nurses, Ida Raiche and Cecile Poilievre.

Only a short time later, St. Peter’s Abbey sent its first two missionaries, Fr. Alvin Hergott, OSB, and Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB, to the Maceió area.

They were joined in January 1968 by Fr. Leander Dosch, OSB; two Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth from Humboldt, Sr. Marcella Haag, OSE, and Sr. Dolores Jansen, OSE; and two Ursulines of Bruno, Sr. Maria Doecker, OSU, (who stayed for almost 30 years) and Sr. Bernadine Fetter, OSU.

Over the next half century, other missionaries followed, including members of the Sisters of Sion from Saskatoon, the Ursulines of Prelate, the Sisters of Notre Dame D’Auvergne (including Sr. Lea Desharnais for many years), and the Sisters of Mission Service. The Elizabethan sisters’ contingent also included Sr. Sida Hrbachek, OSE, and the Ursulines of Bruno missionaries included Sr. Marie Gorsalitz, OSU.

When St. Peter’s Abbey joined the diocese of Saskatoon in 1998, efforts were combined into one common Brazil Mission.

Other diocesan priests who served in União dos Palmares were Fr. Al Pich, Fr. Emile April (for about 26 years), Fr. Bernard de Margerie and Fr. Les Paquin, as well as Benedictines Fr. Bernard Stauber, OSB, and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB.

World Youth Day in Brazil brings joy, moments of connection and faith

BY SR. MARIE-NOËLLE RONDOT, SMS

World Youth Day 2013 made a deep impression on the hearts and minds of many people throughout the world – Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Even though we Canadian missionaries here in Brazil from the Saskatoon diocese did not participate directly in this event, it certainly gifted us with joy-filled moments.

First of all, it provided us with the opportunity of meeting, welcoming and sharing life here with a wonderful group of young adults from Saskatoon diocese who spent several days in our area before travelling to Rio de Janeiro.

Secondly, it gave us great satisfaction and joy to see seven youth from this parish participate in WYD.

Our time with the Canadian young people was blessed. Both Jeannine and myself very much appreciated the quality of their presence.

It was characterized by a real simplicity, a feeling of “being at home,” a genuine interest in everything and a great ability to reach out and “feel with” the poor in spite of the language barrier, which several of them said was a difficult aspect of the journey for them.

Six of the seven young people from here who went to Rio for World Youth Day certainly would never have had the means to do so if they had not been partly financially supported by the Saskatoon diocese and our parish. They are grateful to Bishop Don Bolen, BMAC (the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee) and the Saskatoon diocese for helping to make this dream come true for them – as are we.

Here are thoughts and feelings about World Youth Day which our youth shared with us one Sunday afternoon (while thoroughly enjoying ice cream and popcorn):

- **WYD opened my eyes and heart.** I saw the Catholic Church much more alive than I ever thought and I hope this will help me discover how I can live out my faith in a deeper and more committed way.
- **Everything I was longing to be before WYD,** I desire even more now.
- **This experience in Rio gave me the courage to reconcile** with my Dad when I came home. I believe this was perhaps the greatest gift for me!
- **Pope Francis helped me see another dimension of “church”** – a more open, humble and hope-filled church that needs to “go out” to the poor on the street. And when he said: “I did not come to bring gold nor silver but Jesus Christ” – he did that so well!
- I don’t know if WYD deepened my faith but I feel it confirmed what I believed in and **it certainly renewed my spirit.**
- This last year I have been going through a lot of inner turmoil concerning faith, church and other issues. WYD seems to have come at such a perfect time. **It was an inspiring, encouraging and healing experience.**
- One day, while in Rio, we came across a group of Italian young people sitting and eating under a bridge with the homeless – **I was deeply moved** by that!
- **It was awesome to be in the midst of thousands of other young people from all over the world** and feel such overwhelming energy and a spirit of “oneness” in spite of being all strangers to one another.



Seven young WYD pilgrims from São José da Laje hold their banner beneath Rio's famous statue of Christ the Redeemer.

- **The most important part of WYD for me is the seed that, I believe, was planted in the heart of everyone.** To have been able to participate in this fantastic event was such a great privilege but now ... how to live out what WYD was all about? Each one will have to look deep inside...

May we have many more young, enthusiastic and committed “disciples of Jesus” in a society that longs so much for deeper meaning.

Hearts which receive become hearts that give

Diocesan youth ministry coordinator Colm Leyne and Holy Family associate pastor Fr. Colin Roy accompanied 10 young people from the diocese of Saskatoon to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 2013. Before continuing on to Rio, the group travelled to the archdiocese of Maceió, the site of our diocese of Saskatoon mission. During these “Days in the Mission,” the group was hosted by our own diocesan missionaries – Sr. Claire and Sr. Louise in Maceió and Sr. Marie-Noëlle and Sr. Jeannine in São José da Laje – and also had an opportunity to visit União dos Palmares, where priests from the diocese of Saskatoon served for many years in the past.

BY FR. COLIN ROY AND COLM LEYNE

When we arrived in Maceió to begin our Mission Week experience, the excitement was contagious.

Nothing could have prepared our group of 12 for the welcome we received at Zumbi dos Palmares International Airport. Sr. Claire Novacosky, Sr. Louise Hinz, and a group of boisterous young Brazilians greeted us with cheering, clapping, and singing. It was like a homecoming, and in a real sense that is exactly what it was.

We weren’t meeting strangers for the first time, but encountering brothers and sisters in Christ, connected through faith and the special relationship between our dioceses. In a word, we were treated like family.



Sr. Jeannine and Sr. Marie-Noëlle showed Saskatchewan pilgrims some of the sights in their area, accompanied by youth from their parish.

- All photos on Pages 4 and 5 submitted by Brazil Mission Awareness Committee

The time we spent in the archdiocese flew by quickly with many highlights. We had several moving experiences, including: visiting Hacienda Esperança (Farm of Hope), a place of recovery and rehabilitation for men struggling with addiction; sharing a meal and spending time with children at an after-school program in Maceió; hearing one couple’s powerful story of losing their home and church building to floods in União dos Palmares in 2009; witnessing material poverty and its impact on living conditions; celebrating Mass and enjoying fellowship with parishioners in Laje, União, and Maceió; and finally, encountering lively faith and vibrant joy in the hearts of the people we met.

Despite the language barrier, smiles, laughter, eye contact, hand gestures, a soccer ball and music went a long way in helping us to connect with each other.

We were also profoundly blessed and owe special thanks to Archbishop Dom Antonio, Sr. Claire, Sr. Louise, Sr. Marie-Noëlle, Sr. Jeannine, Fr. Cleronaldo and our young Brazilian friends for showing us such incredible hospitality. It was clear by the end of Mission Week that the real mission for us was opening our hearts to receive.

We often think of mission concretely in terms of “doing.” However, it is clear that being able to receive well is also a gift that goes a long way in establishing the Kingdom.

Although we were sad to leave

the archdiocese of Maceió, we were tremendously excited for the week of World Youth Day. Shortly after our arrival in Rio de Janeiro July 22, we had the memorable experience of seeing Pope Francis drive by the Cathedral of São Sebastião located right next to our hotel. We had a bird’s eye view from our perch on the rooftop above the 14th floor of our hotel, where Fr. Colin had just finished celebrating Mass for our group.

Each morning we attended catechesis sessions at Vivo Rio, the English pavilion, where we heard terrific speakers such as Cardinals Timothy Dolan, Sean O’Malley, and Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

The walk to and from the centre was often a catechesis in itself. On Rio’s streets, we encountered many hungry homeless people, to whom many in our group responded by giving food to them. Towards the end of the week, one member of our group reflected on her experience, revealing that she had been so conscious to share her food with these poor people and yet was often unaware of the poor in Saskatoon. Her words challenged each of us to be more cognizant of the poor in our midst on our return home.

Finding ourselves among millions of pilgrims was often a struggle, but moments of stress were opportunities for solidarity and spontaneous prayer. Always, it seemed, the Lord provided in one way or another: perhaps with a taxi, a laugh, or a quiet moment.

Being on top of Corcovado in



Fr. Colin Roy and a new friend.

torrential rain, only a shadow of the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer was revealed to us. We reflected on how often we see only glimpses, but nevertheless, Christ is always present to us, even in our darkness.

Seeing our Holy Father and encountering the faith and enthusiasm of millions of young Catholics was a profound experience. It was impossible not to be moved by the faith of our Chief Shepherd. Of all the magnificent moments and events of World Youth Day, the Saturday night vigil was tremendously powerful. To have so many people packed on Copacabana beach adoring the Lord together in testimony, song, and silence was profound.

Finally, we had the chance to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida. There we had the opportunity to light candles and offer prayers of thanksgiving and intercession for all those we carried in our hearts on our journey. To everyone who helped us on our pilgrimage: thank you!



Pilgrims touched by WYD experience

Three young people from Maceió who received some assistance from the diocesan Brazil Mission Fund to attend World Youth Day this summer were (left to right): Ilton César Mendes da Silva Oliveira, Lucas Santos de Brito and Joyce Santos de Brito. Missing from the photograph is Jilvancide Mendes da Silva Oliveira, who was the chaperone. Asked what most impressed them about the experience, the group said it was the spontaneous welcome they received from the family (unknown before then) who received them into their humble home for the week. All said they now feel a greater responsibility to evangelize among their peers, and of course, being so near to Pope Francis was most touching.

Holy Family youth describe impact of mission visit to Haiti

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The impact of a missionary trip to Haiti this summer by ten youth from Cathedral of the Holy Family parish in Saskatoon was described at an Oct. 9 information evening.

Accompanied by parish youth minister Anthony Olusola and four other adult chaperones, the students travelled Aug. 11-19 to Haiti, meeting disabled children and disadvantaged youth, providing care to infants and the dying, and helping with service, chores and projects.

They also took along 12 wheelchairs as part of their checked luggage, a no-fee way to bring the donated chairs where they are so desperately needed, said Shawn Scherr, the father of one of the missionaries and a member of the parish Knights of Columbus which donated the chairs purchased through the K of C Wheelchair Foundation.

Missionary Erin Remai of St. Joseph Catholic high school said the experience was different than she expected.

“Normally when you think of the idea of a mission trip, you are expecting that they go there to do something specific, like build a house or build a school or run a bible camp... but it was less structured than I expected, and we had time to interact with people,” Remai said, describing how sharing time with those in Haiti prompted her own growth.

“We ended up working with people. That was what we were called to do. It was just about sharing love, and it was heart-to-heart. It was more than us just going there to help them.”



Youth from the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon delivered 12 new wheelchairs to the Wings of Hope home in Haiti during their August mission trip.
-Photo submitted by Anthony Olusola

In an overview of the week in Haiti, Olusola described challenges of travel and culture shock, and the hard work embraced by the young missionaries. Most of all, he described the human connections, heart to heart, that deeply affected the missionaries and those they came to meet and serve.

The parish first learned about the St. Joseph Family of Homes in Haiti from Broken Wings Missions Inc., a Clavet-based registered charity, founded by children’s author Peter Eyvindson. Michael Geilenfeld, an American Brother of Charity, who wished to create a family home for abandoned street boys, founded the St. Joseph’s Family of Homes 25 years ago.

Boys who grew up in St. Joseph’s Home are now helping to operate that facility and other projects, providing leadership and mentoring to the next new

generation, Olusola described. Since 1994, the St. Joseph’s Family has included the Wings of Hope home for disabled and developmentally challenged children located in Fermathe, Haiti, which was the first stop for the young missionaries from Holy Family.

The Saskatchewan youth assisted with horseback riding therapy and personal care, as well as chores, such as washing the old, broken down wheelchairs being used by residents.

Later in the visit, they delivered the new chairs provided by the Knights of Columbus, a great moment of joy and celebration, Olusola described. One resident, Josephine, sang to the visitors: “Yes Jesus Loves Me.”

“To me, she was seeing beyond the wheelchair. She professed the love of Christ, and she called all of us to that reality,” Olusola said. “In Matthew, Jesus says, whatever you do for my friends, you do to me. It’s not about thinking about it, but actually doing it.”

He described how Holy Family missionary Aimee Roberge became friends with Vivian, a young girl at Wings of Hope who was deaf. “Aimee and Vivian connected in such a wonderful way, beyond my comprehension,” said Olusola, describing how in spite of all the language differences and communication challenges the two bonded.

“I could tell she understood me, and I knew I could communicate with her in a different way than I could communicate with anyone ever,” Roberge described. “She warmed my heart. She just has so much joy and happiness. I was just so thankful to have met her.”

Sometimes it was a small

gesture – such as painting fingernails, or learning to write someone’s name — that brought moments of great joy, Roberge described, visibly moved at the memory of saying goodbye to her new friend. “It was so hard to leave someone I loved. I want to go back to see her again. She is one of my best friends,” she said.

“We heard stories of the residents, and got to know them,” Olusola said. “Some residents cannot speak; they cannot even leave their bed,” he described explaining how in Haiti, if a child is disabled, they are considered deformed, or bewitched, and the child is often abandoned. “Most of the kids at Wings of Hope were picked from the garbage or the road side.”

Prayer time with the residents was another moving experience, he added.

Other stops during the week included time at St. Joseph’s Home for Boys, as well as at an orphanage run by Mother Teresa’s sisters of charity, and a home for the dying. The group also travelled to another home for children, Trinity House in Jacmel, and saw the location of a planned new Wings of Hope facility.

It was so powerful for the missionaries to go to Haiti and meet the people and see conditions for themselves, Olusola said. He also stressed how youth in the parish are also engaged in local outreach, describing how in Lent they made sandwiches and took them to give out to those in need on our own city streets.

Chaperone Shana van den Heuvel said she was impressed by how the Holy Family youth threw themselves into the mission

experience of the Haiti trip, jumping in to help even when the work was challenging.

“They were constantly interacting and constantly giving it their all, and just getting so emotionally invested,” she said, telling parents of the young missionaries: “your children were fabulous.”

Cathedral Administrator Pat Clarke opened the information evening by describing how the trip grew out of two priorities identified in a five-year shared vision process undertaken by the cathedral parish: “passionately growing the next generation” and “making a difference in the world.”

“Anthony coined the phrase ‘active tomorrow, starting today,’” said Clarke.

“If we want the next generation of adult Catholics to be active and engaged in their faith, we had better give this generation of teen Catholics a reason to be active and engaged.”

Evangelical Christians have long recognized how powerful it is to involve young people in missionary outreach, he added. Haiti is not specifically part of the parish’s global strategy to make a difference in the world – the parish is actually twinned with the Bunda diocese in Tanzania, but that community in Africa is not yet ready to receive mission visits, he said.

“It is our hope that in roughly three years time, they will be ready to receive us. Until that happens we had better learn what it means to be a missionary parish. First off, it’s a huge financial commitment,” said Clarke, noting the Haiti trip cost about \$43,000. “The reality is that this is an investment in our faith community, it’s an investment in our future, and the dividends will be paid out for many, many years to come.”

Being missionary is also about going and learning from those we visit, and gaining experiences to help us to grow in faith, he added.

The parish is committed to missionary outreach in Haiti for the next two years, he added. After that, Holy Family Cathedral Parish will turn its attention to Tanzania and the Bunda diocese.

As part of implementing the parish priority to make a difference in the world, Holy Family is also engaged in outreach to Saskatoon Friendship Inn at a local level, he noted. Volunteers from the parish regularly help at the Inn, and special collections have been held.



The mission group from Holy Family Cathedral helped provide personal care and other chores at a number of facilities during a trip to Haiti this summer.
- Photo submitted by Anthony Olusola

Development and Peace fall campaign addresses abuses by mining companies in developing world

By ANDRÉA LEDDING

Bishop Nicolas Djomo Lola, president of Congo’s episcopal conference, spoke Oct. 5 in Saskatoon, describing the negative impact of foreign mining practices and policies on the people, the communities and the environment of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The bishop’s talk was part of a regional launch of the fall education and action campaign by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), which is focusing on Canadian mining practices in other countries. Djomo Lola is one of four international bishops Development and Peace invited to Canada to speak on the issue.

The gathering at St. Patrick parish began with Mass celebrated by Djomo Lola and Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen,

who is a member of the CCCB (Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops) national justice and peace commission. Both bishops expressed support and solidarity with the CCODP fall education campaign, as well as giving an official blessing of its launch in the region.

Bolen introduced Bishop Djomo Lola and spoke of the importance of the issue to Canadian bishops.

Although acknowledging that not every mining company is involved in such practices, Bolen said that when the activity of Canadian corporations is a source of injustice to the poor or the destruction of the environment, Canadians must listen to the voices of those who are suffering. “We as Canadians are called to be accountable for what our country does, for what the companies from our country do, what companies

listed in our country do,” he said.

Attended by some 100 people, the event included a sample campaign skit about the issue. Provincial CCODP animator Michael Murphy also provided tips about bringing the fall campaign forth in every parish, in order to raise awareness, as well as to encourage people to take action by encouraging MPs and the federal government to pass legislation to hold mining companies accountable, and/or create an ombudsman’s office to address damage caused by Canadian mining in other countries.

The vision for this action is that Canada would create a mechanism to effectively resolve conflicts, investigate transgressions and enforce ethical practices, as well as have some type of enforcement power that mining companies would have to respond to, and a code of conduct to adhere to, or face



Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen, Bishop Nicolas Djomo Lola, president of Congo’s episcopal conference, and Michael Murphy, Development and Peace regional animator (l-r) at the Saskatoon launch Oct. 5.

- Photo by Andréa Leding

consequences, Murphy described.

Djomo Lola reported that Congo suffers greatly from the ill effects of mining. Companies come in and do a lot of human and environmental damage with mining operations, and then leave without consequence. A high number of those companies are Canadian — 70 percent are registered on the

Toronto Stock Exchange, noted Murphy.

The new Education Campaign, entitled “A Voice for Justice,” was developed as a response to such ongoing reports and pleas for help from mine-affected communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, he said. For more information see the website at: www.devp.org

Justice and Peace Commission launches focus on poverty

BY MICHAEL MACLEAN

JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

Did you know that our diocese has a Justice and Peace Commission?

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has clearly prioritized justice as a core value.

Bishop Donald Bolen has assembled a number of different commission members, people who represent many different areas of justice and peace work and outreach.

This year, the commission is looking to highlight all that rural and urban parishes do to reach out to those in need.

Beginning in September, parishes across the Saskatoon diocese received packages to help Parish Pastoral Councils engage in guided discussions, asking the question, "What is poverty?" Other questions include:

- How do we respond to poverty?
- What are we as a parish doing now, and what could we be doing?
- What's happening in our outreach to the poor, and how can we do better?

The Gospel calls us to reach out to the poor and the marginalized, and share our faith with them. So, how are parishes in Saskatoon doing that?

Our parishes are a valuable resource to those in need. There are lots of efforts, undertakings and projects happening in and through the parishes of the diocese of Saskatoon, and the Justice and Peace Commission is interested in hearing about them. The commission wants to highlight these projects and activities, because we are our own best resource. For example, what is happening in St. Augustine parish in



The diocesan Justice and Peace Commission: (Standing, l-r) Richard Medernach, coordinator Myron Rogal, Commission Chair Carol Zubiak, Bishop Don Bolen, Blake Sittler, Michael MacLean, Eileen Bear, Sr. Ludvina Sheck, Fr. Jon Hansen, CSsR, Owen Fortosky, Sean O'Connor; (Sitting, l-r) Connie Crichton, Mary Deutscher, Michael Murphy, Mildred Kerr, Ellen Erickson, Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, and Fr. André Poillève.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Humboldt might be of great interest to those doing ministry at St. Augustine's parish in Saskatoon. The Justice and Peace Commission wants to make sure that all the parishes in the diocese are aware of what's going on, and we are looking to highlight all the outreach ministry for the poor that does exist in our diocese.

Very early in his pontificate Pope Francis said he prayed that we would be a poor Church that is for the poor.

In addition to that big question "what is

poverty?", other questions follow, including: "Who are the poor in our midst? How do we discuss poverty with dignity for all? What is justice? What is charity?"

Parish Pastoral Councils and other parish groups are being invited to discuss these questions over the beginning of this ministry year.

In the New Year, the Justice and Peace Commission will try to move the discussion about poverty and justice into concrete action. Parish groups will be encouraged to think about the question: "Knowing what we know now, how do we move forward?"

The next step is to discuss a plan. Ideas are some of our most exciting resources, and the diocese will be richer when these ideas are shared. The Justice and Peace commission wants to help this sharing to happen. Parishes can reach out and report the ongoing outreach

Justice and Peace is supported by the:



to the less fortunate that is already happening, and also talk about some of the new projects being planned and who is involved.

After parish projects get underway, an evaluation tool will be posted online. All are encouraged to undertake a process of ongoing evaluation and reflection. The diocese of Saskatoon and the Justice and Peace Commission want to support these initiatives.

We are Church. How are we going to serve the world's needs?



Hands Across Bridge

To mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Oct. 17, hundreds turned out for "Hands Across the Bridge" in Saskatoon, with some carrying signs and all joining in the creation of a hand-to-hand human chain on the Broadway Bridge, as a sign of solidarity in the fight against poverty. Once participants were in place, a loaf of bread was passed from one side, and a bouquet of roses from the other. Meeting in the middle, the symbols were a reminder that a human being "must have bread, but she must have roses too" – to nurture both body and soul.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski



Children and families are among those who visit the Saskatoon Friendship Inn – for special events such as this summer barbecue, and also for breakfast or lunch, served free every day, 365 days a year. The Friendship Inn is seeking community support to help cover day-to-day operating costs.

- Photo by Angela Nimchuk

Friendship Inn seeking community support as need increases

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Every day, the Saskatoon Friendship Inn serves two nutritious meals to some 600 to 900 individuals – men, women and children of all ages who are facing poverty and other challenges.

The city's largest and oldest free meal service, open 365 days a year, Friendship Inn is seeking community support for its outreach, to help cover the operating costs of feeding the hungry, which averages about \$5,000 a day.

"As winter nears, we are preparing for an increase in the numbers coming to the Friendship Inn for nourishment," says Angela Nimchuk, volunteer coordinator at the Friendship Inn.

Fall 2013 fundraising efforts have included an "Overflow the Soup Pot" campaign among local businesses, and a "Pot of Soup" campaign providing an opportunity for one-time gifts, or ongoing monthly support for the work of Friendship Inn.

A number of December fundraising initiatives are also being planned, including a Holiday Festive Dinner. It is hoped such efforts will



Youth from St. Augustine parish's Servants for Christ group in Saskatoon are among the volunteers helping Friendship Inn to live out its mission to feed the hungry two meals a day, 365 days a year.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

help fund operations in the year ahead.

The community has always played a huge role in making Friendship Inn what it is: a grassroots organization that meets a fundamental need for nutritious food, for friendship and for dignity, says executive director Lynda

Brazeau. "Saskatoon Friendship Inn relies 100 per cent on donations."

Friendship Inn began in 1969, when a group of concerned citizens stepped forward to work with the Catholic diocese to launch a soup kitchen for those in need: a handful of men were served on the first day.

Now operating as a community-

based, non-denominational and not-for-profit organization, Saskatoon Friendship Inn feeds hundreds of men, women and children every day, says Brazeau. A building expansion completed in 2011 has created a bright, accessible space where families and individuals feel safe and welcomed.

As the city has grown over the decades, so have challenges facing those on low incomes or without adequate housing, she said. "We have seen major growth in the number of people we are serving, as well as in the number of programs that are offered here at the Inn."

Those on low incomes, including seniors, or those struggling with physical or mental disabilities, can also often "fall through the cracks," and desperately need the service that the Friendship Inn provides, she stressed. There has also been an increase in the number of "working poor" – families whose income is not enough to provide for housing and living expenses.

"We work every day to build relationships with our guests, and work with several other helping agencies to improve the life of those

who are struggling in our community," Brazeau added.

Community and outreach programs that use Friendship Inn as a base include a mom and baby clinic, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, a woman-to-woman group, and a parenting class. Organizations connecting with clients at the Friendship Inn include public health nurses, an Aboriginal elder, mental health workers, the John Howard fine options program, and a full-time Family Worker.

Special events at the Friendship Inn have included traditional dinners at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, Grey Cup and Stanley Cup gatherings to watch the games, an annual parking lot barbecue, and a New Year's Party with music videos.

But the heart of the organization remains that day-to-day, vital mandate: feeding the hungry, in a spirit of respect and welcome, says Brazeau.

To learn more about Friendship Inn, or to volunteer or donate, check out the website at: www.sfinn.ca or call (306) 242-5122 or mail: 619-20th St., Saskatoon, SK. S7M 0X8.



Pro-life Millennium Cross

Pilgrims who walked in a relay from Saskatoon to the site of the Millennium Cross Sept. 8, gathered beneath the 100 foot structure north of Aberdeen before the start of an annual pro-life pilgrimage afternoon of prayer and reflection. The cross was constructed by the Knights of Columbus as a millennium project. For more coverage of this event see the news article on the website at: www.saskatoonncdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Parishioners from Our Lady of Guadalupe carry a statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in procession on the April 17 feast day of the first North American Aboriginal Catholic saint, praying the rosary and singing along the way. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish lives and celebrates Catholic faith in context of First Nations culture

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The healing journey for those hurt by racism, injustice, abuse – and the legacy of damaging national policies such as the residential school system – is not a quick process, affirm two members of a new Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation. But both say that they know from their own lives and the lives of those they serve, that reconciliation is not only possible, it is vital.

Elder Gayle Weenie, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon, and Irene Sharp, a parishioner and Lay Formation graduate, are two members of the new council established by Bishop Don Bolen as a diocesan response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in the community last year (see article on Page 9).

For both of them, healing and reconciliation has been a long, slow process, bolstered by their faith in Jesus Christ and the help of caring people in their Church community.

Irene Sharp points to the recent baptism and first communion of a 79-year-old woman as one sign of hope. “After all this time, she has found peace,” says Sharp. “She had

abuse in her life too, in the school that she went to. I told her how I had come to forgive from my heart, and I invited her to my Church. She said ‘I want what you have’ ...now, after all this time, she decided to join the Church. Sometimes you have to heal a long time before you can forgive.”

Not everyone has had the same experiences, not everyone is in the same place in their journey, and not everyone has been involved in the TRC process, notes Gayle Weenie. “I think healing takes small steps. And it’s going to take a long time for that to happen,” says the pastoral associate and parish elder. “It’s not like everything is over and solved because we had the TRC last year, and the prime minister apologized. There is so much that people have to work through.”

At the same time, there is still a lot of racism and injustice today in our communities. Weenie points to the unfairness even in such small things as the city locking up of a portion of the neighbourhood park so that it can be used by a bike polo group. “But in this area a lot of kids don’t have the luxury of having bikes or helmets,” says Weenie.

There are also divisions among First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal people themselves, and many have rejected Christianity and the Church altogether.

“But I think we have to keep on praying, keep on doing small things,” she said, describing Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and the outreach it provides. “For instance, this spring we celebrated St. Kateri’s feast day: we had a procession. It was not a very large procession, but those people who came were delighted, and we picked up more along the way. Another thing that people are very involved with is our native Cursillo (a live-in retreat of healing and spiritual growth).”

Our Lady of Guadalupe parish – with Fr. Mick Fleming, CSSR giving pastoral leadership, and a group of committed Aboriginal Catholics on staff and serving as volunteers – struggles to meet the many needs they are faced with every day.

For instance, even though the parish is short of space at the Guadalupe House parish centre on Avenue J, they continually answer requests from grieving families for a place to hold wakes – a hugely important tradition for First Nations people. Although St. Mary’s parish provides space in their church every week for 1 p.m. Sunday Mass, wakes are often squeezed into a former garage at the parish centre, explains Weenie.

Space is also desperately needed for healing circles and for other parish programs, as well as for the emergency food pantry that the small parish provides to desperate people from all over the city – and beyond – who come to their doors. Stocked with donated food (gathered with the help of other Catholic parishes and individuals in the community), the pantry is serving people sent over even by larger community agencies and churches in the neighbourhood, notes Weenie.

“We need a building, and we’re working on that,” she adds, describing the parish’s desire to obtain a church building with space both for worship and for programming.

“We need a building so that we can open our doors to more people,” she said. “If we had the facilities, when people came to the door for food, I would be able to ask them to come in, and to volunteer and help bag the groceries, and then that would be giving something back, connecting, and building a relationship, and not just getting food. But we just don’t have the ability here, because there is no space.”

Asked what they hope for the new Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation, the two council members point to a continuing need to build an awareness in the entire Church about why there are social problems and poverty.

“Be aware of the residential school system and the impact it has on people today. Why are so many people unemployed? Why are so many people homeless? Why are so many people having drinking, alcohol problems and drug addiction? There are reasons,” says Weenie.

Both leaders also reflect on the difficult lives so many are living, without knowing that God loves them.

“For me, the centre of my world is God: Jesus Christ,” says Weenie. “I can’t think of living my life without Jesus in it. But what about those who don’t believe, who don’t have that help? It’s an awful way to live and an awful way to die... I try to reach out. And I pray for them: nobody should have to go through life without God.”

L’Arche prepares to open second home

BY KATE O’GORMAN

After opening their first home – Christopher House – in February 2008, L’Arche Saskatoon is planning to open a second home, pending government funding.

Wyndham Thiessen is the local community leader for L’Arche, an ecumenical Christian community of people with and without developmental disabilities who live and share their lives together inspired by the Beatitudes and the Gospels. The spirit and foundation of L’Arche is one of belonging. Each individual is mutually cared for and accepted within a family-styled community, where every person is valued.

“We’ve just passed our fifth anniversary,” explains Thiessen. “About two years ago we started to feel more established and rooted here in Saskatoon, so we began to consider growing our community. Today, our board is strong and we have great leadership in the home. We definitely feel ready to expand right now.”

There is an increasing demand for housing for those with special needs, he adds. “In our conversations with Social Services, we also recognize that there is a growing need in this city for additional housing, particularly housing for able-bodied persons with developmental disabilities,” says Thiessen.

“Group homes typically offer services to people with high-level needs in terms of physical and personal care, but here are many who have few physical needs and yet aren’t necessarily able to live independently. So, we stepped out in faith and bought a second home where people who fall into this category can be welcomed.”

The new home will eventually accommodate four persons with disabilities, or core members, and up to four assistants.

“We are always fundraising to help support our needs,” continues Thiessen. Particular areas of need include the new home renovations, furnishings and a van to be used for community outreach.

The creation of a second house will contribute to a larger vision of L’Arche Saskatoon for the future.

“Having another home would broaden our mandate to be community and deepens our ability to reach out in service to the public,” Thiessen explains.

Prospective plans include the expansion of a day program, which involves friends of L’Arche, volunteers and affiliated groups.

“Finding different ways for people of all abilities to get involved and belong is important to us, so we’re excited about this first step towards expansion and growth,” concludes Thiessen.

For more information on L’Arche Saskatoon or to make a donation, please contact Wyndham Thiessen at 306-262-7243 or visit the website at: www.larchesaskatoon.org



Members of L’Arche Saskatoon community in front of the soon-to-be second L’Arche home in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kate O’Gorman

**I BELIEVE
BECAUSE...**
#IBELIEVEBECAUSE

@St_Goretti (St. Maria Goretti Catholic School):

“I believe because God made us to enjoy the earth and have fun with our family and friends.”

- Vincent, a student at St. Maria Goretti on Twitter

New diocesan council seeks path of reconciliation

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A promise made at the Truth and Reconciliation event last year has been fulfilled with the creation of a new consultative body in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

During the national TRC event about Indian residential schools held in Saskatoon in June 2012, the bishop, along with Justice and Peace Commission diocesan chair Carol Zubiak and Our Lady of Guadalupe parish Elder Gayle Weenie placed a document in the “Bentwood Box” as a gesture of reconciliation, pledging the diocese’s commitment to continue to journey on a path of healing with Aboriginal peoples, including the creation of a new council of dialogue and action.

The Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) has now been formally established to raise awareness about First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal issues, and work to bring about concrete action for justice and healing in the diocese and the broader community, said Bishop Don Bolen.

“By virtue of calling it a Diocesan Council, it puts this new body into the same context as the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Pastoral Council which are profoundly important advisory bodies for the bishop and for those responsible for leadership in the diocese,” said Bolen.

“We have spent this first year, coming out



The Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) was recently established by Bishop Donald Bolen, joining the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Council of Priests as a consultative body in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

of our promise placed in the Bentwood Box, meeting and reflecting on the establishment of the council,” explained Myron Rogal, coordinator of the diocesan Justice and Peace office. “This is a group where decisions can be made. If we want to move toward actions, this council can make decisions to move forward.”

DCTR members include Aboriginal leaders, diocesan directors, parish leaders and representatives of diocesan offices, councils and commissions. After spending time getting to know each other and time in prayer, the

group has engaged in discussion of issues and possible action items, Rogal described.

Elder Gayle Weenie said the path of reconciliation is long, and healing cannot happen overnight. She pointed to steps being taken by Our Lady of Guadalupe parish every day as Aboriginal Catholics engage in building faith and reaching out to the broader community (see article Page 8).

In the near future, the DCTR will be one of the groups lending its support to an upcoming local conference of healing and education:

DCTR Members:

Michael Maurice - Elder
Irene Sharp - elder
Loretta Wilson - elder
Danny Musque - Elder
Marie Bear - elder
Shirley Shearer - elder
Louise McKinney - elder
Ernestine Lidguerre - elder
MaryAnne Morrison - Métis peoples / teacher
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
Fr. Ron Beechinor - Vicar General, diocese
Bishop Donald Bolen - Diocese of Saskatoon
Myron Rogal - Justice and Peace office, diocese
Blake Sittler - Pastoral Services co-director, diocese
Carol Zubiak - Justice and Peace Commission
Linda Klassen - Diocesan Pastoral Council
Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Gayle Weenie - Elder / Our Lady of Guadalupe
pastoral associate
Fr. Jon Hansen, CCsR - St Mary's Parish /
Council of Priests / group facilitator
Harry Lafond - Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Gertrude Rompré - St Thomas More College
Fr. André Poilièvre - STR8 UP
Dianne Anderson - Office for Restorative Ministry

Youth leave behind addictions, violence and despair with support from STR8 UP

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A grassroots organization helping young men and women leave the violence and despair of a gang lifestyle recently received seed money from the government of Saskatchewan to develop resources and funding partnerships.

Corrections and Policing Minister Christine Tell announced the \$49,500 in funding to STR8 UP - *10,000 Little Steps to Healing Inc.* at the organization’s new main office in the Kinsmen Activity Place on Avenue V in Saskatoon.

Recently incorporated as a non-profit organization, STR8 UP was founded about 12 years ago by Fr. André Poilièvre, a retired prison chaplain, after he was approached by two young men looking for help to leave gangs.

“As our name states, it can take 10,000 little steps to make changes in one’s life, and the STR8 UP

members and board are excited and grateful that the ministry has now partnered with STR8 UP to take steps forward together,” said President Stan Tu’Inukuafe.

Tu’Inukuafe acknowledged the STR8 UP members who are turning their lives around: “Thank you for believing in yourself and that you can live a life free from violence, jails and drugs. Your sincere commitment to be loving parents, faithful partners, and responsible citizens is an inspiration.”

Three members – Dwayne Saskamoose, Jorgina Sunn and Stacey Swampy – are training as leaders of STR8 UP.

Tu’Inukuafe also recognized the community partners that help to support STR8 UP initiatives such as the STR8 UP In-School Mentorship Program, the STR8 UP Culture Camp, and the organization’s first anti-gang book: *STR8 UP and*

Gangs: The Untold Stories. In the last 12 years, STR8 UP has also facilitated some 1,000 educational presentations to reserves, treatment centres, correctional facilities, churches and schools.

Tu’Inukuafe said that when one STR8 UP member was asked by Fr. André what STR8 UP provides, the answer was simple: “hope.”

Founder and lifetime board member Fr. André Poilièvre stressed that STR8 UP is a spiritual program, all about healing. “It is based on values of honesty and humility, and values of forgiveness – those human values that are common to every human being on the planet,” he said.

“It’s all about positive and healthy relationships, starting with themselves.”

STR8 UP does not duplicate programs that exist in the community, but helps members connect to them, he added.



Young STR8 UP leaders were special guests at a recent announcement of government funding for the grassroots organization.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Another guiding principle is that healing comes from within, Poilièvre stressed. “Their journey of healing begins where they are, not where they want to be, or where the courts want them to be, or where probation wants them to be, or where parole wants them to be. They have to start from where they are at. And they are addicts, and they are violent, and they are hurting, and

they are in pain. So that’s where we start – from where they are at.”

Healing is a long, difficult journey, Poilièvre said, noting that STR8 UP asks four years of those seeking to change their lives, and it is not easy.

“These guys and gals – they’re heroes! We need to stand back and just be amazed by these young men and women.”

Moving Forward Together collection will support Aboriginal healing and education

By BLAKE SITTLER

CO-DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

On Dec. 7-8, Roman Catholic parishes are taking a special collection for the *Moving Forward Together* campaign.

Moving Forward Together is the group managing the money that Roman Catholic dioceses and religious communities across the country have undertaken to raise to support local programs that promote healing in Aboriginal communities. The goals include creating healthier relationships between First Nations and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Moving Forward Together programs focus on community health and education for former residents of residential schools and their families and communities. Programs are not to be operated directly by the *Moving Forward Together* committee but by the local groups organizing them.

Funds raised by Catholic dioceses can be used locally as long as projects meet particular criteria, namely that they are new initiatives of existing organizations with a proven history of effectively offering successful programs that will provide “lasting, positive outcomes.”

Another criteria for projects follows the idiom “*Nothing for us without us*.” Programs that seek to use money raised in this campaign must include the voices of Aboriginal people from the start.

The goal is to address intergenerational problems stemming from First Nation families being dismantled over many years. Children were separated not only from their culture but

“10,000 Healing Steps: Resilience and Community” conference Feb.5-6 featuring speakers from STR8 UP in Saskatoon and Homeboy Industries in L.A.

also from their parents, siblings and community. Upon returning, many could not even speak the same traditional language as their parents. The legacy of this system is one of the factors leading to the startling disparity in the most essential standard-of-living indicators between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Moving Forward Together is a collaboration between Aboriginal, business and Catholic leadership from across Canada and is totally separate from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Phil Fontaine, one of the national co-chairs of *Moving Forward Together*, speaks of this collaboration as a model of hope for all Canadians. When challenges are faced and overcome together, the process itself becomes a form of reconciliation and healing.

Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg is also on the national committee, representing the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He stresses the need for the Catholic Church in Canada to support this campaign. “For us, this campaign is a symbol and sign of good will...these are all projects that support job creation, reconciliation, cooperation. They are meant to make a real difference.”

Weisgerber went on to speak of the racism that is still a huge factor in our communities.

“This comes from an ignorance of our history, the history of the Church and the residential schools. Our church needs to learn about our history and grow from it,” Weisgerber stated.

Bill Shead was invited personally by both Weisgerber and Fontaine to help organize the campaign. “The money [raised] would be devoted to the efforts to create a better rapport between the Aboriginal community and the Church, by developing projects they could work on together,” said Shead, who is retired from roles as regional director for Veterans Affairs Canada and CEO of the Aboriginal Centre in Winnipeg.

The diocese of Saskatoon plans to move forward with several ideas for programs. One that has already received the green light from *Moving Forward Together* is a conference Feb. 5-6, 2014 entitled “10,000 Healing Steps: Resilience and Community.” The conference will feature the powerful voices of several leaders working in successful programs to help young Aboriginal men and women get their lives back together after leaving gangs.

Order of Canada recipient Fr. André Poilièvre and several members of STR8 Up, a program that helps young people leave behind the gang lifestyle, will present on the success of their model. Fr. Greg Boyle, author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and four members of the organization he founded in Los Angeles –

Homeboy Industries – will also speak.

Myron Rogal, who oversees the Office of Justice and Peace for the diocese of Saskatoon, is also helping to organize the February conference. He said that he hopes the conference will be a place where First Nations and other community members will be able to work together for real change by building trust with each other.

“Diversity enriches all of us and I have a hope that this conference will renew, strengthen and rebuild relationships in our community in order to move forward in a common direction through a mosaic of gifts that we have to offer,” Rogal said.

The *Moving Forward Together* campaign will partially fund this local event, and the diocese of Saskatoon hopes to work with the newly-formed Diocesan Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) to discern other projects to bring hope and healing between the Aboriginal community and the Church.

While some are at first reluctant to support *Moving Forward Together* financially because they feel they were not responsible for the original injustice, upon hearing the history, many eventually choose to support the initiative, so that they can be part of the healing.

“This is a Canadian issue, not just a Church issue or a First Nations issue,” stressed Sr. Donna Geernaert, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Halifax and past co-chair of the *Moving Forward Together* campaign.

“It’s a Girl: the three deadliest words in the world” - film screening and discussion held

By ANDRÉA LEDDING

Alliance for Life and the diocesan Justice and Peace office co-sponsored a film night at Holy Family cathedral, presenting the documentary “It’s a Girl – the three deadliest words in the world.”

The film describes how females around the world are killed, aborted or sold, due to gender. The United Nations places this number at about 200 million worldwide, naming the offense “gendercide.”

About 60 people attended the screening Aug. 16, which was preceded by a brief introduction to the film by Myron Rogal of the diocesan Justice and Peace office.

The film largely investigated India and China, where pre-selective screening of unborn

children discriminates against giving birth to girls. This is because of cultural views and societal norms such as a need to provide girls with dowries, and sons being seen as the ones who will care for their parents in old age, whereas daughters marry and leave. This cultural bias can be worsened by government influence, such as China’s strictly enforced one-child policy.

The filmmaker interviewed mostly women; some talking about why they had aborted or killed daughters when they were born, and others who fought to keep their daughters alive, sometimes to great opposition from both their partners and wider society. Cultural quotes and sayings valuing sons over daughters and emphasizing the

misfortune of having a daughter were interspersed throughout, demonstrating the pervasive and longstanding discriminatory factors that have contributed to thousands of women not surviving infancy, and being generally devalued even if they are allowed to live.

But not all parents feel that way. One segment talked about the abuse of an adult woman from the perspective of her parents, who loved her very much and sold what little they had to provide for her dowry. They now fear for the safety of their infant granddaughter, since their daughter has now been killed by her abusive husband.

After the screening, participants engaged in lively discussion.

“The documentary was taste-



Natalie Steffl of Alliance for Life and Myron Rogal of the diocesan Justice and Peace office hosted a film screening and discussion about gendercide.
- Photo by Andréa Leding

fully done yet very disturbing,” noted Annette Bentler, who attended with her husband Kevin. “But as easy as it is to wag our fingers at these societies who allow gendercide, we need to be careful ...

we are just as messed up as they are — we kill our children for lesser reasons than they do.”

Information about the film by Evan Grae Davis can be found at www.itsagirlmovie.com

Importance of refugee outreach discussed at diocesan gathering

By KATE O’GORMAN

Information about refugee sponsorship was shared at a diocesan gathering Oct. 20 at St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon.



Alex Schadenberg

Euthanasia threatens the most vulnerable says Schadenberg

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide threatens vulnerable people, including the frail elderly and those living with depression or disabilities, said the director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition at a gathering in Saskatoon Oct. 20 sponsored by Alliance for Life and Campaign Life Coalition.

While supporters of legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide assert that this is a matter of providing people with a personal choice, the real issue is about the safety of everyone in our society, said Alex Schadenberg.

“I don’t live in a Utopia,” he said.

The experience in other countries has also shown that legalizing euthanasia opens the door to ever-broadening use of the procedure, as incidents and advocates push the envelope of what can be allowed, Schadenberg said.

He cited studies from countries that have legalized euthanasia, which demonstrate that safeguards do not always work, and abuses do occur. Medical personnel do not always abide by regulations, with studies revealing that vulnerable people, such as the disabled and the elderly – those whom one Dutch doctor describes as “bed blockers” — are being killed without their consent.

As well, in the Netherlands, requests for euthanasia are four times higher among patients suffering depression. Those suffering chronic depression, or disabilities such as blindness, have been euthanized in countries that originally wanted a law simply to cover terminally ill patients, he related.

Legislation (such as Bill 52 in Quebec) and court challenges continue to come forward, he said, describing a new case in British Columbia seeking to define spoon feeding as “medical treatment,” and therefore, something that can be legally withdrawn.

Schadenberg urged those concerned about the issue of euthanasia and assisted suicide to continue to write to political representatives, and to support organizations like the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, which is actively working to intervene in assorted court challenges.

Read more at: www.saskatoonrncdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

The Refugee Support Gathering began with Blake Sittler, co-director of pastoral services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, explaining the current status and vision for the diocesan Office of Migration.

The diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) through a system established by the federal government. As a SAH, the diocese works in conjunction with constituent groups – including parishes, small groups or organizations like religious orders or the Knights of Columbus – who wish to provide direct refugee sponsorship or community support and solidarity to family-linked sponsorships. The Office of Migration is the administrative centre through which refugee sponsorships are managed for the diocese.

Originally the diocese’s role as a SAH was overseen by volunteers, but in 2012 the Office of Migration was established with a paid part-time staff member, thanks to a donation from the late Fr. Paul Donlevy and family. The original vision for the office was that it would also foster, support and encourage outreach and ministry to all newcomers, immigrants as well as refugees.

In recent months, the future of the office has been under review. While ongoing funding for the office remains an issue, Sittler confirmed the necessity of the Office of Migration and said that it has been raised as a

priority for the diocese. “As a SAH, we recognize that we have an obligation to the families and parishes who are actively involved in the sponsorship of refugees,” Sittler said.

Two initiatives are currently being considered as ways to ensure sustainability of the Office of Migration, he said. A committee is being considered to act as an advocate for the office and to draft a proposal outlining the need and priority status of the office within the diocese. At the same time, the possibility of the diocesan Migration office working in tandem with other like-minded agencies as an ecumenical partner is also being discussed.

As the discernment process continues, those involved with the Office of Migration remain hopeful. “We trust that there will be the means available to solidify this initiative,” said Sittler.

Ellen Erickson, coordinator for the Office of Migration, invited those in attendance to reflect and discuss ways to strengthen connection between the diocese, the constituent groups and family-linked refugee sponsors.

Due to the high number of cases it is a challenge for the Office of Migration to connect with each family-linked refugee sponsor directly, she said. In the case of family-linked sponsorships, the role of the constituent group is to be a liaison between the sponsor and the Office of Migration. According to Erickson,

“the constituent group is asked to become the sponsor and/or the refugee’s best friend.”

“Relationships take time,” commented Shirley McGuire, a member of the Holy Spirit parish refugee committee. “It is a process of regularly inviting sponsors to our home for a meal and taking time to invest in these new friendships.” She added: “Befriending the sponsors and family members of refugees is a parish commitment, not just a committee commitment.”

Those in attendance were given an opportunity to discuss potential solutions and brainstorm possible strategies for cultivating authentic relationships with family-linked sponsors and refugees.

“There are so many things that are overwhelming for newcomer sponsors,” said attendee Marie-Jean Will, a representative for the Community of Francophone Africans in Saskatchewan. “Often times the sponsor themselves work two, sometime three jobs and may be pressed for time, making it difficult for them to meet with the constituent group representative.”

A highlight of the gathering was a presentation by Lori Nixon of Global Gathering Place about community resources available to newcomers and sponsors to assist with integration. (See news page on the diocesan website for complete article.)

Euthanasia: “My aunt’s killer should not be an excuse to kill”

By REBECCA RICHMOND

ALS often comes up when euthanasia and assisted suicide are discussed. The disease seems to be the poster child for the ‘right to die’ movement, and has been a part of major court cases including Gloria Taylor’s involvement in the recent Carter case and the 1993 Supreme Court case of Sue Rodriguez.

“Don’t you know about ALS/Lou Gehrig’s disease?” I have been asked by those who support assisted suicide. “How would you feel if it was your loved one dying of ALS? Do you know what the disease does?” Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis? Yes, I do actually.

Several years ago my dad’s sister – my aunt and godmother – was diagnosed with the degenerative motor neuron disease that had also killed her grandmother many years before. Most patients only live between three to five years, but my aunt deteriorated quickly and we lost her on Sept. 29, 2009 – only 13 months after diagnosis.

Even before the disease was officially diagnosed, she had to stop teaching due to problems with balance and standing. She called it ‘getting tippy’. By the time the disease had been officially diagnosed later that August, her mobility had been severely curtailed and the disease was already beginning to affect

her speech. She warned my dad to let us kids know that if we picked up the phone and heard a drunk person on the other end, it was just their aunt.

Her approach to the disease mirrored her approach to life: blunt and practical. She quickly mobilized her husband and friends to rearrange the house for her so she had access to her scrapbooking materials and computer, and had a chair lift put in to help her get up and down the stairs. Legal matters were taken care of soon after the diagnosis as well. There was never any “Why me?” questions; she just hunkered down to handle life as it was presented to her. It was her way of doing things.

Despite living in a small farming community in Saskatchewan, she was able to get the assistance she needed to live at home for several months. Her condition worsened rapidly – much too rapidly – and despite the heroic efforts of my uncle and her home care providers, she had to be admitted to a palliative care unit in a nearby small town hospital early the next spring where she remained until her death in the fall. Her memorial service was held at the community hall to accommodate the crowd of friends, colleagues, family and former students from decades of teaching who came to pay their respects.

ALS is a ghastly disease. My aunt quickly lost her independence, and became reliant on others for the basics that we take for granted. She soon lost her ability to speak, and near the end of her life it was almost impossible for her to communicate. Through it all, her husband and the medical team continued to lavish their love and care on her to alleviate her pain and suffering as much as possible until she died. She was an individual with dignity, and was treated with dignity, despite all the indignities the disease subjected her to.

I hesitated before I began to write.... I do not want anyone to misinterpret my meaning. I am not glorifying my aunt’s suffering nor am I trying to make her the new poster child of our movement. My aunt would not want to be anyone’s poster child, thanks very much.

My point is this: I am aware that ALS has a very human face to it. But it is precisely that humanity, and the humanity of all the vulnerable, that puts me firmly against euthanasia and assisted suicide. I hate the fact that my aunt’s killer is being used as an excuse to allow killing.

I shudder to think how the medical system would have treated my aunt if euthanasia and assisted suicide was a part of the Canadian health care system.

Would they have seen her as a financial burden to the system? Would they have done a cost-benefit analysis on her life? Would her ability to function have come to define her value?

And while Gloria Taylor and Sue Rodriguez gave a face to the euthanasia and assisted suicide movement in Canada, their stories are not the only stories. Legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia endangers our seniors, our friends and family with special needs and those suffering from diseases. These stories and our stories matter too.

I certainly wish my aunt hadn’t suffered or died, especially from such a horrific disease. I would like to see more research done on currently incurable diseases like ALS. I would like to see palliative care and pain relief improve. But creating a right to kill will not make that happen, nor is killing an acceptable way to ‘alleviate’ suffering. Instead, by allowing doctors to kill the sufferers, it only endangers the lives of all the vulnerable.

Rebecca Richmond is executive director of National Campus Life Network. She is also the granddaughter of Teresa Richmond, a member of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral CWL in Saskatoon. This article was previously published by Lifesite News and in The Prairie Messenger.

What happens after incarceration?

By KERI KOTYK, ST. ANNE'S PARISH
RESTORATIVE MINISTRY VOLUNTEER

Do you ever wonder what happens to inmates when they are released from the Correctional Centre? Many of them have no one, and nowhere to go, so they end up back in their old lives, heading down a path of destruction again. They need support and a chance to make a good life.

A young man from our parish was sentenced to two years less a day for child pornography charges. Some day this young man will be released and come home to our faith community again. Do you think it's important that we, as a faith community, support him?

Jesus went to the cross for the sins of all. He has already paid the price: His life. Over and over again we are given the opportunity for forgiveness. If forgiveness has been sought and God has already forgiven, who are we not to forgive?

The Fifth Commandment is "You shall not kill." When you delve into this commandment, you find that it doesn't just mean actually killing a person's body. It also means defamation of character, destroying someone through gossip, and so on. Do you think, perhaps, a lot of us are guilty of fertilizing that rumour weed, and "sharing stories" or "giving opinions" about other people: "killing" them? It comes down to what our moms always told us: "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Instead of fanning the flames of gossip, what if we instead try lifting this young man up in prayer? Let us pray for the healing that he needs in his life, the support that we, as Catholic Christians, are called to give.

Some parishioners are fearful of this young man returning to our faith community. Those of us who are parents often fear for our children in today's society. I know, I get it – I have two children; including one who is among the most vulnerable of society, a non-verbal special needs child – but I also have faith. Fear is the absence of faith. We need to let go of fear, and live our faith.

I am called to recognize Jesus in everyone, including this young man. In light of that call: how will I respond when he returns to our parish and our community? Let us pray for hearts of forgiveness and welcome.



Donated vegetables grown by inmates

In a harvest celebration and media event Sept. 10 at the provincial prison, young dancers from St. Mary Wellness and Education Centre stand beside some of the bountiful harvest donated to their community school (and to other helping agencies, such as Saskatoon Food Bank). The food was planted, tended and harvested by men from the Urban Camp section of Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

- Photo by Dianne Anderson

Restorative Ministry
and Justice and Peace
are supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

Billboard destroyed by arson

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

One early August morning, Maymont volunteer firefighters were called to extinguish a blaze on the outskirts of their village, where a pro-life billboard was on fire.

By the time the fire was extinguished, half the billboard was destroyed – structure and picture – causing some \$8,500 in damage.

Owned by David Sidloski of Saskatoon, the Silent No More billboard was one of many constructed by John Sidloski of Weyburn, said Anita Sonntag, Silent No More Awareness regional coordinator.

"Mr. Sidloski has used many of his billboards to display pro-life messages. This particular billboard carried a message for women and men who suffer from the consequences of abortion, giving them information on how to access healing programs through contacting Silent No More



A pro-life billboard offering help to women who regret their abortion was vandalized in August.
- Photo by Anita Sonntag

Awareness Campaign," she said.

"In the summer of 2012 I was contacted by David Sidloski, telling me he had a billboard available and asking me what message I wanted on it. The graphics for the billboard went up in October of 2012," said Sonntag.

She expressed appreciation to the Sidloski family for the support for ministry such as Silent No More and Rachel's Vineyard, which offers post-abortion ministry.

The outreach message on the billboard, sponsored by the Weyburn Pro-Life Association, read: "Regret your abortion? There's help: 306-230-6017 www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org."

There are plans to salvage parts of the billboard that were not burned.

"There are also plans to put up the same picture again on a 10-foot by 40-foot billboard in another location," said Sonntag.

Rachel's Vineyard reaches out to those haunted by abortion

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The founder of Rachel's Vineyard – an international ministry offering psychological and spiritual healing after abortion – spoke in Saskatoon in April 2013, expressing profound compassion for those suffering from the unaddressed and often unacknowledged trauma of abortion.

The loss of a child through abortion devastates many women, men and family members, described Dr. Theresa Burke of Philadelphia at a gathering hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic Family Life Office.

Burke has devoted some 20 years to researching and treating women struggling with post-abortion issues, which are often ignored or downplayed by medical personnel and counsellors.

"Many women felt they had no choice but to submit to an unwanted

abortion," she said, calling for a spirit of love and compassion, not judgment. "So many factors get swept into someone's decision to have an abortion, which is really an act of great despair. I know of very few women who didn't feel forced into it by circumstances."

Some face immediate feelings of grief or regret, while others deny their feelings for years, suffering trauma in other areas of their lives. "The beautiful thing about healing is that a lot of people's vocations are restored," Burke says of the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard, which now holds over 1,000 retreats each year, in 57 countries. "There is no teaching and there is no preaching. It is an experience of Jesus Christ in the context of community," she described.

For more info about Rachel's Vineyard and the next retreat e-mail



Dr. Theresa Burke

r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net or call 1-306-480-8911 or see the website at: www.rachelsvineyard.org

For the complete article about the April 2013 talk in Saskatoon see the diocesan news page at:

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Life Chain 2013

Families and individuals of all ages gathered for an hour of public witness during a Life Chain event Oct. 6 in Saskatoon, calling for an end to abortion. Participants prayed, walked and held signs along Idylwyld and 22nd Street, during the event organized by Campaign Life Coalition.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Serena Run for the Family

Fifty-five runners of all ages participated in the 2013 SERENA Run for the Family, a fundraising event held Sept. 21 in Saskatoon. The SERENA run featured a stroller-friendly 1-km event as well as 3-km and 5-km routes. SERENA volunteers teach an effective and all-natural sympto-thermal method of family teaching, used by couples to avoid or achieve pregnancy. For more information call (306) 934-8223; e-mail: sask@serena.ca or visit the website at: www.serena.ca

- Photo by Jenn Diehl

**I BELIEVE
BECAUSE...**
#IBELIEVEBECAUSE

@janekorvemaker 11 Sep: " #ibelievebecause I continue to be inspired by holy people around me." - on Twitter

Lay Formation:

Lives touched and transformed

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Lay Formation process is a time of spiritual transformation and growth for participants, who journey together one weekend a month for two years, praying, learning and growing in community.

"The people that were strangers last year, are brothers and sisters now," said **Denise Cheke**, a former teacher and principal, on the weekend of the 2013 missioning this spring.

"It has been a big journey, it has been a heavy journey, a transformational journey."

Cheke described how she came to Lay Formation at a time when she was experiencing a "spiritual desert" after going through health problems and taking medical leave. "I was disconnected and really struggling with my faith, and really struggling with my relationship with God, who God was, why things were happening the way they were – and I was angry."

After struggling during the first few months of the program, Cheke eventually began to heed the words of diocesan co-coordinator Mona Goodman, who urged participants to remember that Lay Formation is "a heart program, not a head program."

"I finally made a decision to put my pen down and just listen, and just be there, and open up my heart," said Cheke, describing how Lay Formation helped her to know that God has not abandoned her.

For Cheke, the challenges and blessings of the Lay Formation program were often two sides of the same coin. Long days of the weekend were physically taxing for her, but worth it in terms of the enrichment gained. As an introvert, she would struggle to carve out bits of time to "just sit and absorb and reflect" in the midst of a program calling for connection, bonding, sharing and praying with others: something that also required a lot of trust.

"The gifts are almost the same thing that the challenges were: The people, the sharing, being vulnerable," she said.



Denise Cheke of Saskatoon
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

For **Richard and Helen Stang**, who were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on the day of their Lay Formation missioning in June, the entire experience was well worth the effort of travelling two and a half hours each way, month in and month out for two years.

Active members of St. Mary's parish in Macklin, the couple had heard for many years about Lay Formation, supporting it through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, and knowing of others from the area who had taken part.

"It was a time in our life when our youngest child had left home, and we had a year of empty nest, so to speak," said Helen, describing the need for a "spiritual boost."

She stressed that journeying through Lay Formation as a couple has provided a chance to grow spiritually together.

With a family farm, it was sometimes tough to get away for the Lay Formation weekends, especially at seeding and harvest time, admitted Richard.

"But once I was there, I could just leave it all behind," he said. "Every time I came home each weekend, I was just astounded at what happened in my personal life. It was just such a wonderful feeling." For instance, he said, his prayer life deepened. "It has been very much a blessing."

The Stangs emphasize the



Diocesan Lay Formation graduates were blessed and sent forth by Bishop Don Bolen June 2, 2013.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Richard and Helen Stang of St. Mary parish, Macklin.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

quality and the passion of the presenters throughout the two-year program, and the joys of learning more about the Byzantine Catholic traditions of the eparchy as well as First Nations spirituality and traditions in the three-stream diocesan, eparchial and Aboriginal program.

"Experiencing the diversity, the richness, and the speakers have just been tremendous. The presenters have just been outstanding," said Helen.

"God, our God has blessed us!" said Helen, describing how the experience of Lay Formation has given her a deeper appreciation of her faith, and the sacrifices that her parents and family made in order to share that faith through the generations.

Brigid Fuller enrolled in Lay Formation after she was hired as a pastoral associate at St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon.

"It was very transformative. I came in to the first weekend kind of expecting a lot of things," she said. "What I did encounter was so much more than I thought it was going to

be." Uncertain and a bit nervous, Fuller was surprised and delighted to make connections and build friendships almost immediately.

"There just seemed to be this love for each other before we knew what it was. We were all in this together and we were committed to it," she said, describing community as the "heart beat" of Lay Formation. "It's been miraculous. I've met friends that I'll keep for the rest of my life."

The depth and the content of the program was another huge blessing, she added. "I've been able to take a lot of the things that I've learned at Lay Formation and apply them in a way that's beneficial to the people that I minister to."

Fuller also emphasized the richness and the diversity of Lay Formation. "I love the Eastern spirituality. It is so rich, and bountiful. The symbols and the singing and everything," said Fuller. "It was like coming home to that... when you breathe with both lungs, you know, it's beautiful."

Fuller expressed appreciation

Lay Formation is supported by the



"Every time I came home each weekend, I was just astounded at what happened in my personal life."

for the work of the Lay Formation team and in particular to diocesan co-coordinators Kate O'Gorman and Mona Goodman.

"The fruitfulness from it, from their labours is huge. It's transformative and I think that it will reach far beyond the people who are here."

All four of the graduates said they would happily recommend Lay Formation to others.

"If somebody is on the fence, I'd say go. Just go. And don't wait until you think it's the right time," said Cheke.

"Go even if you don't want to go. If somebody is asking you, or somebody is saying 'go', then the time is right. It is God calling you. It might sound like the voice of a friend, but it is God calling you."

For information about Lay Formation in our diocese, contact **Kate O'Gorman: (306) 659-5847** or **Mona Goodman: (306) 659-5846**; or call toll free: 1-877-661-5005, Ext: *846 or Ext. *847 or e-mail: layform2@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Lay Formation grads sent forth in celebrations

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Graduates of a two-year Lay Formation program were sent forth in two missioning ceremonies in June: one for 16 participants from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon and another for 20 graduates from the Roman Catholic diocesan program.

Three groups journey through Lay Formation in alternating years, a diocesan Latin-rite stream, an eparchial Byzantine-rite stream and an Aboriginal Catholic stream.

The groups spend time together in formation, in prayer and as a community, as well as gathering in their individual "streams," focusing on their own traditions and spirituality. The Lay Formation program emphasizes spiritual growth, forming community and personal transformation, rather than providing ministry training.

"You have been formed to be a people who are now called to feed others with what you have learned, just as Jesus in today's gospel says to his apostles who want to send the crowds away: 'you feed them,'" said Bishop Donald Bolen to the 2013 graduates at the June 2 missioning celebration.

Focused on three pillars of prayer,



Diocesan and eparchial graduates of the Lay Formation program gathered with coordinators, team leaders and celebrants at the diocesan missioning celebration June 2, 2013 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

learning about the Catholic faith and experiencing Christian community, the Lay Formation program runs one weekend a month from September to June at Queen's House of Retreats in Saskatoon.

Diocesan graduates in 2013 were: **Richard and Helen Stang** of St. Mary parish, Macklin; **Sandy Stack** of St. Theresa parish, Asquith; **Myron and Chantale Rogal** of St. Philippe Neri parish, Vonda; **Brother Anthony Nguyen**, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster; **Cecilia Littlewolfe** of Holy Rosary parish, Onion Lake; and from Saskatoon: **Yvonne Armstrong** and **Paolo Fernandes** of St. Mary parish, **Zeljko**

Bilandzic of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, **Denise Cheke** of Holy Spirit parish, **Brigid Fuller** of St. Paul's Co-Cathedral parish, **Judy Gatin** and **Anthony Olusola** of Cathedral of the Holy Family parish, **Rita Lemay** of St. Philip Neri parish, **Sharon** and **Colm Leyne** of St. Anne parish, and **Bernard** and **Sandy Normand** of Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Seminarian **Greg Smith-Windsor** also journeyed with the Year II Lay Formation group this year, as he served his pastoral internship at St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon.

The Lay Formation program team includes leadership from both the diocese and

the eparchy – staff as well as volunteers – who help to present the program at its location at Queen's House of Retreat and Renewal in Saskatoon. Team members include: Mona Goodman, Kate O'Gorman, Debbie Ledoux, Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki, SSMI, Sr. Marijka Konderewicz, SSMI, Carol Kohnke, Agnes Pelletier, David Schaam, and Henry Spilchuk.

For decades, the Lay Formation program has enriched our Catholic faith community, said Bolen. "We have great trust that the Holy Spirit who has been working in you will continue to work."

For information about Lay Formation contact: (306) 659-5847 or (306) 659-5846.



Remembering Baptism

Confirmants at St. Mary parish in Fox Valley hold their baptismal candles as they prepare to complete their initiation into the Catholic faith with celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist. The vision for Christian Initiation and Catechetics in the diocese is that all formation will be inspired by the RCIA process, which is one of formation and apprenticeship for a lifetime of living the faith after Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

I BELIEVE BECAUSE... #IBELIEVEBECAUSE

"As a young girl I grew up on a farm 12 miles from town. I was baptized at birth but we rarely ever went to church ... Somewhere along the way (about 8 or 9 years of age), I found a night prayer in a magazine that I thought was nice, so I began to say this prayer every night.

"... In Grade 11 I went to a Christian college with a friend where I was introduced to the scriptures. I thought something was perhaps missing, so I decided to go to the convent in Grade 12 (since I had been baptized Catholic), to find out about the Catholic Church.

"There I found everything I was looking for and made my First Communion. This meant a lot to me. I believe through prayer and the gift of faith, God has kept me on the right path, through Mass and the sacraments."

Excerpts from "I believe because" reflection
by Kathy Burgardt



Bishop Don Bolen blessed the Macklin park in June.

- Photo by Sandra Kary

Park dedication commemorates service of OSE sisters in Macklin

BY SANDRA KARY

Bishop Donald Bolen officially blessed and dedicated St. Joseph Park in Macklin June 9, recognizing the years of service and ministry that the Sisters of Saint Elizabeth have provided in the community.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth came to Macklin in January 1922, with two sisters, Euphrasia Weiss and Marianna Schmidt, stepping off the train and going to work immediately canvassing for funds. By the spring of that year, they bought a large house that became a 15-bed hospital, with their living quarters in the basement.

At a time when there was no subsidized health care and no government grants, the sisters were determined to provide excellent health care. By 1927, they built a new hospital with a capacity for 35 patients, and built an addition in 1928 to add 10 additional beds. This served the community until 1996 when the new St. Joseph's health facility was opened.

Master of ceremonies and board chair of St. Joseph's Health Centre, Jack Daley welcomed dignitaries, honoured guests and Macklin-area residents to the park dedication.

"These women of wisdom, foresight and courage did all this as volunteers; they didn't take a salary until 1947," stated Helen Stang in her thank you on behalf of the St. Mary CWL Council in Macklin.

The focal point of the park, and the site at which the dedication

ceremony took place, is the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Etched in a prominent stone in the grotto is the year it was built, 1933, reminding all that the paths of this park, and this gathering place for the sisters, were long filled with prayer and meditation.

Sr. Philomena Dobmeier, OSE, Sisters of Saint Elizabeth superior, offered a special thank you to Larry Stang for his courage and initiative, noting Larry's humble sentiment that "it was all God's doing, not Larry's doing" to prepare and dedicate the park to the sisters.

Others who brought thanks included Fr. Augustine Ebido, pastor of St. Mary parish in Macklin, Scott Irwin of Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan, Rev. Greg Parker of Grace United Church, Pat Doetzel, mayor of Macklin, Christopher Holst on behalf of the Macklin Knights of Columbus, Darlene Weinkauf on behalf of St. Joseph's Health Centre staff, Teresa Brost on behalf of St. Joseph's Auxiliary, and Sandra Kary on behalf of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.

Vocations and
Christian Initiation
and Catechetics are
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Diocese rejoices at ordination of two priests

Fr. Colin Roy (left) and Fr. Daniel Yasinski (right) were welcomed with the applause of family, friends and supporters who filled the Cathedral of the Holy Family for their ordination June 14, celebrated by Bishop Don Bolen, who was joined by some 50 priests in blessing the new diocesan priests. Diocesan director of seminarians, Rev. Gerard Cooper presented the men for ordination, and St. Peter's Seminary rector Rev. Stevan Wlusek of London Ontario provided testimony about each of the candidates. Born Oct. 5, 1983, Daniel Yasinski is one of seven children of Madeline and David Yasinski of St. Walburg, SK. Born April 17, 1984, Colin Roy grew up on a farm near Hoey, SK., one of two sons of Gisèle and Ben Roy. Both are presently serving as associate pastors in Saskatoon: Roy at Holy Family and Yasinski at Holy Spirit. Find more news coverage of the ordination on the website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Celebration for Sr. Cindy Lewans

Bishop Donald Bolen exchanges a sign of peace with Sr. Cindy Lewans, PM, at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon Oct. 30, during a Mass held to commemorate and give thanks for her profession of final vows this summer in her home town of Assiniboia (July 27, 2013). During the Saskatoon celebration in October, Lewans stepped forward to renew her vows, and then was joined by consecrated religious, both women and men, from several orders, who gathered in front of the altar to also renew their commitment to discipleship and religious life. Find a news article about this event: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Wide range of groups gather as diocese focuses attention on strong partnerships

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An impressive range of service, outreach and ministry was represented at a June 17 gathering of organizations and groups that work alongside the Roman Catholic diocese of Saskatoon.

The first-time Partnership Meeting was held to articulate, recognize and strengthen relationships that the diocese has with many partners in the community – Catholic and ecumenical as well as secular, explained Leah Perrault, the director of pastoral services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

“These partnerships have emerged from a shared commitment to the gospel, or out of a shared commitment to the people of our communities – or both,” said Perrault, who expressed delight at the positive response, in terms of both the scope of the work represented and the numbers of those attending the day of discussion and networking.

A desire to connect and to share vision and resources was expressed by many of those in attendance.

“We’re here to solidify partnerships we have developed over time, and create new partnerships,” said Stan Tu’inukuafe of Oskayak High School and STR8 UP, a group for young men and women who are leaving gangs.

“My hope is that we would be able to reach out to more in our diocese, to make marriages better, because better marriages make better communities,” said Annette Bentler of Serena Saskatchewan, which teaches couples the symptothermal method of Natural Family Planning.

“Today we are looking for points of collaboration, and how together we can continue to

“The vision that we are trying to support is Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God. It’s not a small vision and it doesn’t fit neatly into categories.” - Bishop Donald Bolen

advance our own mission and vision. I like to describe the Church as a big canoe: we’re all paddling in the same direction,” said Jim Anderson, director of formation at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK.

“I’m here to recognize the great work that happens all around us, and to be able to make some connections with each other so that we can continue to build healthy families in this community,” said Trish St. Onge, executive director of Catholic Family Services.

“If we are going to talk about people living in poverty, we have to include those people in our conversations,” advised Vanessa Charles, co-chair of the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition, and a member of “First Voice,” a group of people living in poverty.

“We think eating is a moral act and there should be a lot more attention paid to the things we do around food and the connections to the environment and justice issues,” said Duane Guina, representing Farmland Legacies, a land trust that includes an 1,100-acre farm near Wynyard, which is being developed as a model of sustainable food production. “I’m hoping that from today, people will become more aware of that, and more aware of us; and that I’ll also become more aware of places within the diocese that we might connect,” he said.

“The reason we’re here today is to gain a better idea of what’s happening in our community, so that we can share that information

with our staff and our students,” said Gilbert Chevrier, religious education coordinator with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. “We’re looking at ways to work with more and more groups to advance our own vision, which is ‘Rooted in faith, growing in knowledge and reaching out to transform the world.’”

Emerging priorities

Perrault explained that “strong partnerships” is one of the emerging priorities coming from a time of strategic planning in the diocese, along with “vibrant healthy parishes.”

The diocese works with a range of organizations and groups at many levels and on many fronts, she pointed out. Some are entirely diocesan in nature, others are affiliated Catholic groups, others are ecumenical partners and some are secular groups.

Perrault noted that in some cases, partnership groups that were once supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal are no longer included in that particular fund-raising effort — simply because of increasing financial pressures on the diocese’s own ministries.

However, that does not signify a lack of support for those organizations: the diocese is eager to continue to work together and to support the efforts of others who are involved in outreach and ministry, stressed both Perrault and Bishop Donald Bolen.

“The vision that we are trying to



Representatives from a wide range of groups gathered at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in June to discuss partnerships, mutual areas of interest and collaboration. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Groups represented at the Partnership Meeting:

- Oskayak High School
- STR8 UP: 10,000 Little Steps to Healing
- SERENA natural family planning
- St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission
- Catholic Family Services
- Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition
- and First Voice poverty advocacy
- Elizabeth Frye Society
- Farmland Legacies
- Development and Peace
- Rachel’s Vineyard
- Equal Justice for All
- Catholic Health Association of Sask.
- Silent No More Awareness Campaign
- Saskatchewan Pro-Life
- Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre
- Saskatoon Health Region
- Poverty Reduction Partnership
- Emmanuel Community
- Lighthouse Assisted Living
- TeenAid chastity education
- The Bridge on 20th
- Friendship Inn
- Parish justice and peace committees
- Pointmen Ministries
- Discernment House
- Prairie Centre for Ecumenism
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Catholic Christian Outreach
- The Micah House
- Several religious orders
- Holy Yoga
- Alliance for Life
- Cat Chat
- FacetoFace Ministries
- READ Saskatoon
- Saskatoon Eucharistic Adoration Committee
- Saskatoon Refugee Coalition
- Queen’s House of Retreat and Renewal
- Fountain of Hope
- Pure Fashion
- Pursuit of Truth Ministries
- St. Paul’s Hospital
- Pure Witness Ministries
- Diocesan ministry offices
- Members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women’s League
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Diocesan Initiatives in Fall 2013

For complete coverage see:
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Administration Day

The 2013 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) was launched at Administration Day Sept. 11, as parish representatives from across the diocese gathered with Bishop Don Bolen and Catholic Pastoral Centre to launch another ministry year.

This year’s BAA goal is to raise \$1.5 million for a wide range of ministries and programs in the diocese, including hospital chaplaincy, youth ministry, Christian initiation and catechetics, lay formation and vocations.

An update about the diocese’s strategic planning process was also presented at Administration Day by Leah Perrault, director of Pastoral Services.

Initiated in the spring of 2012, the strategic planning goal is to streamline procedures, review and address needs, and examine diocesan priorities, she reported.



Bulletin board display: Kerrobert is first parish to exceed their BAA goal in 2013. - Photo by Joe Kurtz

A number of speakers gave presentations about programs in the diocese, including representatives of Catholic Engaged Encounter, Retrouvaille, and the Catholic Foundation planned giving office (see articles on Pages 20-21).

In addition, a discernment about whether or not permanent deacons should be ordained within the diocese of Saskatoon was introduced (see article on Page 3).

Congress Days

Leadership – how to lead with encouragement and affirmation, and how to deal with conflict – was addressed by facilitators Leah Perrault and human resources consultant Randy Warick at Congress Days Oct. 8-9.

Congress also included a working session to discuss a proposed new salary grid for parishes and diocesan ministry.

Coordinators of the diocesan office of Christian Initiation and Catechetics also spoke about the vision of creating disciples in the Church, and shared their own faith stories.

The two days concluded with a creative visioning session about parish and diocesan ministry, and how to develop and nurture healthy, vibrant parishes.

Study Day

Speaker Dr. Paul Murray of Durham University in England



Randy Warick and Leah Perrault facilitated Congress Day sessions on leadership. - Photo by Kip Yaworski

spoke about the call to Christian unity at a diocesan Study Day Nov. 8 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon in a presentation entitled “*Ecumenical Learning in Life and Mission: Building on the Foundations of the Second Vatican Council*.”

Study Day also featured Sr. Gill Goulding of Regis College in Toronto speaking on “The New Evangelization Imperative.”

The Study Day led into the diocesan Year of Faith Festival Nov. 8-10, featuring special celebrations, a concert, Bishop’s Cup basketball, and speakers.

Solar Art Glass Repair

Repairs to the solar stained glass in the spire of the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon are now complete.

Portions of the art glass designed by Canadian artist Sarah Hall were removed from the spire last year, after a problem with the solar wiring caused some sections to crack. Cost of the repair was covered by insurance.

I BELIEVE BECAUSE... #IBELIEVEBECAUSE

“I was hired ...as a night man mainly for fuel up of Greyhound buses as they came in during the night. ‘If you miss one shift, you’re out,’ the boss said. There I was afraid, all alone, felt like a sitting duck in the well-lit shop.

“Outside it was pitch black dark and several school buses were parked there and gasoline went missing out of the buses’ gas tanks. I wished I could memorize some psalms to console me and went to a Bible store. Ended up buying the whole New Testament on audio tape which I played on my Walkman (tape player) all night long, over and over again every working night for over two years. This very much consoled me and strengthened my faith ...”

- Excerpt from “I believe because” reflection by Hans (Last name withheld)

Rock the Mount ‘March of the Saints’ held Aug. 24

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A day of music, worship, celebration and community for youth and families – surrounded by the beauty of the prairies – once again unfolded at Rock the Mount this summer. The theme for the Aug. 24 event was “March of the Saints.”

Keynote speaker was Fr. Dominic Roscioli, a priest from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in Wisconsin, a storyteller with a focus on joy.

The annual celebration of Catholic faith at Mount Carmel shrine included a few changes this year, noted committee chairs Doug and Cathy Swarbrick of Saskatoon.

One new highlight was a candle-lit procession held at dusk, walking around the sheltered Stations of the Cross path that circles the base of the hill, described Doug.

After the procession, participants carried their tea lights back to the grotto on the hill for adoration, where Fr. Greg Roth invited them to bring forward the candles and place them around the altar as a sign of a commitment to grow in holiness and strive to be saints in our time. It was beautiful to see the amount of light growing, said Cathy.

“The day is all about evangelization,” Cathy said, describing how it was their own daughter Amy who first got them to attend Rock the Mount, the year she went to World Youth Day in Toronto. Cathy noted that young people who attended the first Rock the Mount are now bringing their own children to the family-friendly event.

The Swarbricks described the enthusiasm of performers and guest speaker Fr. Dominic about the Saskatchewan event. “God was definitely on that hill,” Cathy said, quoting one of the overwhelmed musicians.

“The adoration is the most awesome adoration I have ever been to,” she added. “As the sun sets behind the chapel there is a peace and tranquility that comes over everything.” For many, that remains a highpoint of the Rock the Mount experience. For others it’s the



Children at Rock the Mount play the role of the poor and suffering, and approach “St. Elizabeth of Hungary” for help, during one of the vignettes on the lives of the saints.

- Photos by Francine Audy

chance to reconnect with friends in an atmosphere of faith and fun that brings them back year after year.

Rock the Mount also featured more music this year – with three bands instead of two – and a greater variety of musical style. Musicians included Vision, a Catholic praise and worship band from Regina; Saskatchewan-born country music artist Catherine Lewans; and bluegrass-gospel performers The Trudel Family and Erik Paquette.

Masson Normand was master of ceremonies for the day, and a Catholic Christian Outreach worship band led music ministry for Mass at 5 p.m. with Bishop Donald Bolen, attended by about 500.

In keeping with this year’s theme, four saints made an appearance on the hill during the course of the day, with St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Joan of Arc, St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Francis of Assisi enacted by Anna Duffley, Jenna Hill, Marcella Brule and Felipe Paredes, all arriving in costume. Joan of Arc rode in on a horse, accompanied by an entourage of helpers, dressed as soldiers.

Some 50 youngsters taking part in an afternoon’s children’s program also held a “Find the Saints” scavenger hunt, searching for people throughout the crowd, related Doug.

Another change this year was to pray the entire five decades of the rosary at one time, rather than spreading the decades throughout the day. Led by alumni from St. Therese School of Faith and Mission, the rosary was extremely prayerful, Cathy said.

Other features of Rock the Mount included a penitential service and the sacrament of

Moment of grace at the top of the hill

By FR. DOMINIC ROSCIOLI

SPEAKER AT 2013 ROCK THE MOUNT

Rock the Mount 2013 in Saskatoon, Canada really rocked my faith. As I experienced the love and devotion for Our Lord in signs, saints, sacraments and song, I could not absorb the joy fast enough, as it just kept coming.

The hot blazing sun in the sky gave way to a procession of lights by night. The presence of God among us in the gift of the altar and tabernacle kept sending forth the love into the world after clapping and jumping for joy on a mountain high, a mountain of little lights spilling into the darkness. So, praise God, praise God’s holy name.

During the Adoration, I knelt and then stood next to the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the child Jesus. I stood leaning against the pole that has a lightning rod on the top. A five-year-old boy was busy putting tea lights at the back base of the statue, “to share the light,” he told me.

Later he brought his mother to see how he made the light shine on the darkness behind the statue, lights which faced east waiting on the morning sun – keeping vigil.

“What do you think?” he asked me in the midst of the prayer and adoration of our Lord, brilliant with light on the west side of the statue. “How did I do?” he asked. I smiled, shook his hand and said “Thank you, you made the dark side bright with light.”

He beamed a smile from ear-to-ear. The tea lights danced in his eyes.

At that point, the lightning rods guarding the statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel sent a signal to the rest of the world: “Be still, be quiet, be at peace, God is here, God is with us.” And from the darkness came a sigh, a sigh of gladness, a sigh of relief, a sigh of hope, because of the light shattering the darkness in the east and the west. Lights glistened on the altar and lights glistened in a little boy’s eyes as that light, the light of Christ radiated new life to still another generation.

All the time, all the planning, all the work to prepare for Rock the Mount 2013 could never foresee or anticipate how our Dear Lord would make things known in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar and the Holy Sacrament of a child’s eyes. Praise God, praise His Holy Name.



Fr. Dominic Roscioli at the foot of the statue of Our Lady at Mount Carmel.



A moment of camaraderie on Mount Carmel during Rock the Mount 2013.

reconciliation, with four portable confessionals set up around the pilgrimage site. And for some of the youth, playing football with the bishop this year during the supper break was another highlight, added Cathy. This year the concession was operated by Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Martensville as a fundraiser for their parish building fund.

The 10-member Rock the Mount organizing committee is extremely grateful for the support received – contributions of time, expertise, prayer and funds that ensure Rock the Mount can continue, and can be offered with no admission fee, they said, expressing appreciation to individuals, parishes, businesses, religious orders, and Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women’s League councils who financially support the event.

The committee is seeking to enlist new members, said Cathy, noting that new ideas,

new energy and new kinds of expertise are always needed. “We want to find ways to get more people to come out to experience the day or part of the day,” said Doug.

Cathy suggested that youth and others who attended Rock the Mount might consider making a presentation about it at their own parishes, to share what they enjoyed about the day, describe what it is like and encourage others to attend.

Plans are already underway for Rock the Mount 2014, to be held either the third or fourth Saturday in August – watch for details.

Those interested in learning more about Rock the Mount or in joining the organizing committee are invited to contact Doug and Cathy Swarbrick at: (306) 242-2721.

(Please note: a set of binoculars was found on the site after Rock the Mount; to identify and claim, contact the Swarbricks.)

Bishop Wiesner leads latest Foundations series reflecting on ‘Theology of God’ - concludes Dec. 9

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Retired Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, was the featured speaker for “Theology of God,”

the latest Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* series in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

“Faith seeking understanding: that’s theology,” Wiesner said Oct. 7 at the opening session in the four-part series held at 7 p.m. Mondays at Cathedral of the Holy Family. The series continued Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and concludes Dec. 9: with no pre-registration.

Theology is a participation in God’s own knowledge, said Wiesner. “First and foremost it is seeking a deeper understanding of the word that God speaks to us, the word that God speaks about God’s self. Theology thus demands humility, to be touched by God.”

Although we can never grasp

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Richmond celebration

Bishop Donald Bolen and Fr. Modestus Ngwu with youth from St. Mary’s parish in Richmond: those who celebrated confirmation and first Eucharist, and those who made a public affirmation of faith as part of the Steps in Faith process. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI,
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

the inexhaustible mystery of God, “theology does lead us to a deeper understanding of our God, who we worship and serve – that is the whole purpose,” he stressed. Divine self-disclosure comes through nature, through the events of history, through the life of the community and in individual, personal experiences, he listed, before pointing out how the Psalms address all these areas of God’s revelation to us.”

For more, see the article at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Saint of the Day for Kids

A team of parents from Saskatoon recently created a “Saint of the Day for Kids” application for IOS devices such as the iPhone or iPad. Seeking a resource for their own families, Cary and Sandra Molyneux (seated), and Sharon Leyne and Erin Lockert (back, l-r) developed a \$2 ap that can be downloaded to mobile devices via iTunes or from the website: www.saintofthedayforkids.com It is easy to use, with age-appropriate descriptions and printable colouring sheets of 365 saints searchable by date or name. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Celebrating 25 years of outreach

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Catholic Christian Outreach marked 25 years of evangelization Oct. 18 in Saskatoon, where the university movement began in 1988.

CCO founders Angèle and André Regnier, president Jeff Lockert and his wife Renée, and vice-president Brett Powell and his wife Andrea all returned to Saskatoon for the 25th anniversary, attended by past and present CCO missionaries, supporters and students.

CCO's goal is to bring university students into a relationship with Jesus Christ, equip them to live in the fullness of the Catholic faith, and build them up as leaders in evangelization. CCO is now present on 11 campuses across the country, with plans to next expand to the University of Victoria in 2014.

CCO has 81 staff serving as missionaries on various campuses and at the organization's Ottawa headquarters, said MC Brett Powell. The organization has also undertaken 20 mission projects in Canada and around the world.

In addition to those touched by the outreach and ministry of campus programs and summer *Impact* events, thousands of students have attended national CCO *Rise*



Saskatoon CCO core team celebrating the 25th anniversary of Catholic Christian Outreach (l-r): Luke Hergott, Julia Marsh, Kara Kindrachuk and Elliot Baldwin. For more on this event, see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm
- Photo submitted by CCO

Up conferences held at New Year's. (The 2013 event runs Dec. 28 to Jan. 1 in Ottawa.)

Over the past 25 years, some 25,000 have participated in CCO faith studies, and the organization has developed online training and a *Courageous Catholic* video curriculum.

The anniversary celebration in Saskatoon included grace led by Fr. Marc Mireau, CCO Saskatoon chaplain. A hallmark of CCO – praise and worship – was also part of the anniversary gathering, with alumni Val O'Reilly and Theresa Boehm leading music ministry. Speakers included Donna Dupuis and Sr. Lise Paquette, PM, as well as CCO alumni Annette Bentler and Derrick Kunz.

Catholic Christian Outreach began in 1988 on the U of S campus, where Angèle and André Regnier started

reaching out to fellow students in an effort to inspire greater zeal and commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church.

"Today is chosen as Foundation Day because we know it is the first day a CCO faith study small group was held," recalled Angèle, noting the inspiration and support of Fr. Clair Watrin, CSB, and the encouragement of Bishop James Mahoney.

In a recent interview, Pope Francis compared the Church to a field hospital, André noted. "If the Church is a field hospital, we are the first responders or paramedics. Our work, the reason for our existence, is to go to the scene of the trauma; to go where students have wandered away from the Church and give them the emergency care that they need. Our work is to bring them back to the hospital, where they can get better care."

St. Thomas More College hosts regional Catholic students' conference

BY MICHAEL MACLEAN
STM CAMPUS MINISTRY

St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon hosted students and campus ministers from Toronto to Victoria Oct. 18-20, for the Western Regional conference of the Canadian Catholic Students Association (CCSA).

The conference began Oct. 18 with a talk by Fr. Matthew Ramsay, a priest in the diocese of Saskatoon, and a Taizé prayer service.

Other conference highlights included an ecumenical prayer service, a talk on "*Poetry, Creativity and Call*" by Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen and a student panel on service opportunities, here in Saskatoon, in the Maritimes, and in the global south.

Conference presenters included Mel Zimmer, recently retired science teacher from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and Dr. Alisha Pomazon, professor of Judaic studies at St. Thomas More. The two speakers examined our stories of creation from both a religious and scientific perspective.

Fr. Andre Lalach presided at a Divine Liturgy during the weekend. Another highlight was a Creativity Coffeehouse sponsored by the Newman Centre, one of the oldest campus clubs at the University of Saskatchewan, founded in 1926.

The conference culminated Sunday, Oct. 20 with a CCSA annual general meeting, and a chance to reflect on the weekend.

In evaluating the conference, students



Some of the students who gathered for the CCSA event Oct. 18-20 in Saskatoon.
- Photo by Richard Medernach

said they enjoyed the talks, the coffee house, and the chance to meet other Catholic students from across Western Canada.

Participants were left looking forward to next fall's national gathering for the CCSA which will be held at St. Joseph's College in Edmonton.

St. Peter's College update

BY LORELLE HOLOWATY

The halls of St. Peter's College are once again filled with students from all around the central/northeast Saskatchewan region and beyond. SPC welcomed new and returning students to the historical institution at Muenster, SK. on Orientation Day Sept. 4.

It was 'standing room only' at the annual St. Peter's College Awards Ceremony Sept. 21. Students, parents, staff and faculty, joined together for a formal ceremony in celebration of student accomplishments.

A September "Lunch with Benedict" program featured Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, describing the history of St. Peter's College and the

Abbey. "Lunch with Benedict" is a monthly event in the dining room, with lunch supplied by the "Men In Black," and speakers addressing relevant topics.

St. Peter's College is known for its exceptional educational, trades, and industry fair. This year, some 600 students (from over 20 schools) from throughout the region attended *Opportunities Edge* on Oct. 2. Students gathered knowledge from different educational institutions, trades and employers in the region and beyond, with over 40 exhibitors participating.

October "Lunch with Benedict" guest speaker was James Burns, who was born on the James Smith Reserve near Kinistino, Sk. and who



Abbot Peter Novocosky presents one of the SPC awards Sept. 2.
- Photo submitted by SPC

has worked and served as Elder for his community for the past 25 years. Burns has facilitated an inner child healing program for men held at St. Peter's Abbey since 2001.

Compassionate Healer's Mass celebrated for all involved in health care

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A Compassionate Healers Mass for all those involved in health care – at every level and in all settings – was held Sept. 19 at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon, organized by the Catholic Health Association of

Saskatchewan (CHAS).

Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon presided at the Mass, along with Fr. Nestor Gregoire,

OMI, and hospital chaplain Fr. Rhéal Bussière.

Those who have been wounded are often the best healers, Bolen noted. "Those who know that they need God's mercy, and who know that they have received God's mercy are able to go forth and bring that mercy and that healing to others, to touch others in his name."

Jesus told us that he is present in those who are most in need, added Bolen. "We are called to anoint Jesus' feet in our nursing homes... in our hospitals, and when our parish nurses go into homes and bring Christ's healing touch. It is Christ himself that they are healing as well, that they are bringing God's compassion to; Christ that they are touching."

Bolen also recalled the image of Pope Francis washing and kissing the feet of the most vulnerable. "Our shepherd is showing us the way, faithful to our incarnate shepherd Jesus."

Bishop Bryan Bayda invited all those present to come forward to deepen their commitment to the



STM Academic Mass

St. Thomas More College held an annual Academic Mass Sept. 29 in the STM chapel on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Led by an academic procession, STM students, faculty and staff gathered as a community to pray for God's blessing on the coming Academic Year and for renewal in the many and varied roles at St. Thomas More College.
- Photo by Dean Schmidt



Bishop Bryan Bayda (left), Bishop Donald Bolen, Fr. Rhéal Bussière and Fr. Nestor Gregoire, OMI, anointed the hands of those attending the Compassionate Healers Mass in Saskatoon.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

healing mission of the Church, "to be anointed as a sign of your resolve to live more fully as a healer, source of God's presence in the community."

Sandra Kary, executive director of CHAS, noted that this year marks the eighth year of the celebration for those involved in health care.

"This Compassionate Healers

Mass allows us to focus on the healing ministry of Christ, and it strengthens our vision to be a faith community, sharing in this healing ministry," she said.

Coming face-to-face with the fact that someone you love is vulnerable, fragile and in need brings home the importance of compassionate care, she stressed.

I BELIEVE BECAUSE...

#IBELIEVEBECAUSE

"... I remember going to St. Paul's Cathedral and praying over and over: 'please don't let this happen.' Suddenly I felt (heard?) a voice or presence tell me; Even if that happens it will still be ok. A simple phrase. It floored me. It was so real. It was so calming. Miraculously I was taken from a state of intense anxiety to calm. I was able to believe it might be okay even if I was sick.

"I found that Jesus never let me down through many other health problems and scares. He was always there, and he was always enough..."

- Excerpt from an "I Believe Because" reflection
Name withheld by request



Diane and Gene Waldbillig won a diocesan "Date Day" draw held in conjunction with Life and Family Week. Couples were encouraged to plan a Date Day May 18 to be entered for a draw to win a trip to the Temple Garden Spa. Date Day happened to fall on the Waldbillig's 39th anniversary, which they spent attending two weddings and enjoying a game of Scrabble.

- Submitted photo



Colm and Sharon Leyne and their daughter Jacinta won the I Love Life video contest organized by the diocese and the eparchy of Saskatoon in conjunction with Life and Family Week May 12-19. The joyful Leyne family entry features Jacinta explaining when she received the gifts of eyes, mouth and heart beat. All three winning videos can be found on www.YouTube.com by searching the YouTube site for "Saskatoon Catholic Diocese I love life".

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Initiatives highlight life and family

The diocese and the eparchy of Saskatoon worked together to mark Life and Family Week May 12-19, with initiatives such as billboards and a video contest taking the message out into the community.

The Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCC) launched Life and Family Week this year as part of a national pastoral initiative to build a culture of life and the family in Canada.

The theme for this year's inaugural week was "The Family: Facing life's challenges together with Christ."

Billboards placed at four locations in Saskatoon for the month of May announced the week, offering positive messages to the wider community as part of the Catholic celebration.

"We wanted one of our efforts to be a visible sign of outreach and gratitude and affirmation for all

families in our community, well beyond our own parishes and faith groups," explained Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services in the diocese of Saskatoon.

One billboard design, appearing in two locations, featured the phrase "Life Is..." followed by many descriptive words (such as "busy", "full", "complicated", "fun", "hard", and "blessed") and the phrase "Live it deeply."

Another billboard simply stated "Thank you for everything you do for your family" and the third design (pictured below) recalled a favorite phrase of the late Bishop James Mahoney: "PPF (Put your Partner First)."

"This initiative is a way of witnessing to something that we treasure and value deeply," said Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen.

"When people saw the billboards, I hope they were drawn into a little meditation

about the beauty and complexity of human life, and I hope they associated the celebration of life – and the call to live it deeply – with the Catholic moral vision."



Michael MacLean's video about his family was another prize winner.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Marriage and Family Life and Youth Ministry are supported by

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Sr. Maybelle dela Cruz, MAZE, Fr. Greg Roth, Fr. Ephraim Mensah and Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers (l-r) of St. Augustine parish in Humboldt with the collection of videos that the parish won for their video entry in the I Love Life video contest, which featured words of wisdom from children of the parish.

- Submitted photo



Pentecost at Our Lady of Lourdes

Many cultural traditions were represented at the Pentecost celebration this year at Our Lady of Lourdes parish, a joyful celebration of the rich diversity within the unity of the Body of Christ.

- Photo submitted by Fr. Phong Pham



Nightfever

Dan Brule and Veronica Neufeldt offer candles to passersby during one of three Nightfever events held in Saskatoon during popular city festivals this summer. Nightfever involves area churches opening their doors, while youth and others provide outreach on the street outside, initiating conversations and inviting people to step inside the church to light a candle and take a moment of prayer. Nightfever was held downtown at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral during the jazz festival and again during Taste of Saskatchewan. St. Joseph parish on Broadway Avenue and 8th Street was the site for Nightfever in August during the Fringe theatre festival. For more information about Nightfever contact Colm Leyne of the diocesan Youth Ministry office: (306) 659-5843 or e-mail: youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Purity Rally

An annual event organized by Pure Witness Ministries, this year's Purity Rally on May 11 included games and activities and inspirational talks, exploring the theme "Free to Be Me." For more information about Pure Witness Ministries and youth programs such as the rally or YEP, see the website at: www.purewitness.com

- Photo by Laura Rice

Covenant of Care education sessions held in deaneries

BY BLAKE SITTLER

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR OF CARE

This fall and continuing into the winter, the diocese of Saskatoon has been offering education to parishes around issues pertaining to the implementation of the Covenant of Care – the "code of ethics" for laity and clergy in ministry – and the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol.

This latest series of meetings primarily focuses on the Parish Coordinators of Care (PCC).

PCCs are the local individuals who assist parish leadership in implementing the protocol and helping with on-going education.

The sessions began with a brief summary of the history of abuse in the Church. News stories about Mt. Cashel orphanage in the late 1980s are considered the eruption of this scandal, but references to abuse go back to the Council of Elvira in the year 309 AD, and in the 8th and 11th centuries, writers are speaking out against clerical sexual abuse.

This segment is always couched in terms of positive awareness: since we are now speaking openly about this sin, we can more ably protect the vulnerable and also work towards healing potential perpetrators before they hurt anyone.

A discussion and overview of the actual Covenant of Care document is a regular part of such educational gatherings. Awareness about the document will help to ensure that this policy does not

simply become a neglected manila folder in the back of a cabinet in the parish office.

During these latest gatherings, the role of the Parish Coordinator of Care was reviewed in detail. The duties of the PCC vary slightly from parish to parish, but primarily the PCC is asked to meet with the pastor and Diocesan Coordinator of Care annually to discuss issues pertaining to implementation. The PCC name and contact information should be readily available to parishioners; some parishes have even printed the name and phone number on the cover of the bulletin.

The PCC is expected to be a fully-initiated and generally well-respected Roman Catholic, who has read and signed the Covenant of Care agreement.

Some confidential record keeping is necessary in the role of PCC, and they would also take calls from parishioners with questions, or about allegations of misconduct. PCCs are a local alternative for individuals who may not feel comfortable speaking directly to the pastor or to the diocese about a particular situation.

Educational workshops of this nature will continue to be organized annually about different aspects of the policy. Individual parishes and deaneries that wish to have additional training related to the Covenant of Care are invited to contact the Diocesan Coordinator of Care to arrange to discuss the possibilities: (306) 659-5834.

For more information about the Covenant of Care:

Contact: Blake Sittler, Diocesan Coordinator of Care at (306) 659-5834

Toll free: 1-877-661-5005 Extension *834; or by e-mail:

co-director@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/covenantofcare



Rev. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, blesses the hands (and the wedding rings) of (from l-r) Thérèse and Laurent Lepage and Emile and Alice Detillieux during the 60th wedding anniversary celebration of the two Peterson, SK. couples, who were married in a double ceremony in 1953 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon. - Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Couples married in double ceremony in 1953 celebrate 60th anniversary in Bruno

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Married in a double wedding ceremony on June 10, 1953, Emile and Alice Detillieux and Laurent and Thérèse Lepage of St. Agnes parish in Peterson recently celebrated their 60th anniversary in Bruno, surrounded by friends and family.

The two couples renewed their vows and were blessed during a Mass June 8 at the St. Bruno parish by pastor Rev. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, who was himself celebrating an anniversary that same day: the 55th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

"I won't bless the rings, but I will bless the hands that wore them," Ackerman said during a homily focused on the love, service and sacrifice lived out over 60 years of marriage for each of the couples.

Love is never without struggle, said Ackerman, reflecting on the love and the suffering of Jesus Christ, who said "Love one another as I have loved you," as the cross was waiting for him "around the corner."

God set human beings on the

earth to love one another, to be fruitful, to work with their hands to build and beautify the world, "which you have done," he told the couples. "The Church shares your joy today and is thankful to you for being such wonderful, powerful signs of God's loyal and faithful love for the world."

Sisters Alice and Thérèse – the daughters of Jean-Baptiste and Louisa Tremel of Peterson – were married to the young men from Vonda at St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon, because St. Agnes church in Peterson was under construction in 1953.

Both couples farmed in the Peterson area until their retirement, when both moved to Bruno. They remain faithful members of St. Agnes parish, attending Mass in Peterson every Sunday.

Some 200 family and friends gathered at the Bruno community hall during a come and go reception, followed by an informal dinner.

Asked if he had any advice for enjoying a long and happy marriage, Emile Detillieux said: "Honour your wife." Alice laughed, and agreed:

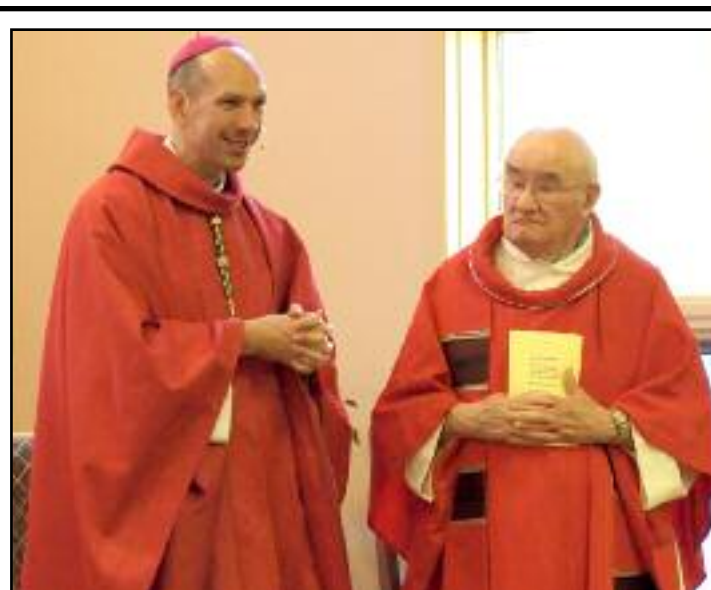


Bruno/Peterson pastor Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, celebrated his 55th anniversary of ordination to priesthood on the same day.

"The best way to be happy, is to make your wife happy."

Laurent and Thérèse Lepage reflected on how blessed they are to be able to celebrate this 60th anniversary surrounded by family. "We are so lucky to be here together, and to have all the children and grandchildren and nephews and nieces here with us," Thérèse said.

Laurent added with a smile, that he is looking forward to the next 60 years.



Sixty years of priesthood

Bishop Don Bolen acknowledged Fr. Steve Ripplinger (right) during a confirmation and first Eucharist celebration for the Elbow and Outlook parishes. In June, Fr. Ripplinger celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Although retired from the Archdiocese of Regina, he still regularly celebrates Sunday Mass at Holy Redeemer parish in Elbow. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Golden anniversary

Parishioners Joanne and James Moorhead congratulate Fr. Ron Beechinor on 50 years of priesthood during a recent celebration at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon. Ordained June 1, 1963 by Bishop Francis Klein, Beechinor's 50 years of priesthood have included decades of service to the Catholic school division, two terms as diocesan administrator in between bishops, and parish leadership at St. Philip Neri, Holy Family, St. Paul Cathedral, St. Peter the Apostle, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Bosco and St. Francis Xavier in Saskatoon, as well as at Delisle, Blucher, Colonsay, Asquith, Langham, Arelee, Radisson, Vanscoy, Dundurn and Allan. He has also served as the diocese's Vicar General since 1996. Fr. Beechinor presently serves as Priest Moderator at St. Francis Xavier, with Judy Schmid as Parish Life Director. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Latin Mass community news

BY DOROTHY ABERNATHY

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community had several celebrations in 2013.

Community members welcomed Fr. Gregory Pendergraft from Pennsylvania April 26-30. Fr. Pendergraft is a priest with The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

Approximately 110 people attended the High Mass celebrated by Fr. Pendergraft on Sunday, and they appreciated his meditations at the lunch after Mass.

On Sunday, May 5, Our Lady was honoured with the annual crowning of her statue by Jada Trinidad. This was followed by rosary, benediction, and a potluck supper.

Also on May 5, the community had a farewell celebration for Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz, who has graciously said the Latin Mass, and looked after the spiritual needs of the Latin Mass community for 16 years, from 1997 to 2013. Community members presented Fr. Kartanowicz with a spiritual bouquet, flowers and a gift.

The community welcomed Bishop Donald Bolen when he came to celebrate confirmation and First Communion June 2.

Three children, Janua and Macarius Robertson, and Libby Shantz, were confirmed by Bishop Bolen, and received their First Communion. After Mass, the community held a coffee social with Bishop Bolen.

After Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz left for Poland in July, the Latin Mass community welcomed Fr. Andrew Wychucki, who is pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish parish, and who will say the Latin Mass and attend to the spiritual needs of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community.

On Oct. 20, some members of the Latin Mass community made a pilgrimage to Mount Carmel, one of the designated sites for the plenary indulgence for the Year of Faith.

Anyone is welcome to attend the traditional Latin Mass, which is celebrated at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 301 Avenue Y South, Saskatoon. Missals with English translations are available. High Mass with Gregorian chant is on Sundays at 9 a.m. For more information, visit the website at www.saskatoonlatinmass.com or visit Facebook: *Extraordinary-Mass-Saskatoon*.



Outlook CWL: pastor appreciation

Sue Kuffner, Fr. Joseph Gyim-Austen, Stella Tomasiewicz (l-r) at an appreciation potluck supper held to mark Pastor Appreciation Month in October. At the end of the supper, CWL members toasted their pastor, thanking him for being their shepherd and teacher, and for administering the sacraments. Fr. Gyim Austen then spoke, offering insights about applying the mysteries of the rosary to prayer intentions. - Photo by Laura Rafoss



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community held a farewell for Fr. Bruno Kartanowicz this spring. - Photo by Shawn Bumphrey

Ursulines of Bruno mark 100 years in Saskatchewan

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Hundreds stood to give an ovation “of appreciation, of love and of gratitude” to the Ursulines of Bruno at a centennial celebration Sept. 1 at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.

The afternoon tea and program marked the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Ursulines to St. Peter’s Colony – and a century of service by the Ursulines of Bruno in parishes and schools, as well as in a range of other educational settings and pastoral undertakings in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Brazil.

“I hope the sisters realize the gratitude that we all have in our hearts for their presence in our lives, in our communities, and with our children,” said Helen Jule, a former student at St. Ursula’s Academy, a school for girls operated by the Ursulines from 1922 to 1982.

During the afternoon program, Sr. Marian Noll, OSU, welcomed some 300 colleagues, former students, parishioners, friends and family members who filled the parish hall at St. Augustine church in Humboldt for the celebration.

Author Sr. Maureen Maier, OSU, read excerpts from her book about the Ursulines of Bruno – *Women of Service for the Glory of God* – revealing both hardships and humour in the adventures and challenges surrounding the arrival of the first sisters from Germany and their early years in Canada.

A skit led by Benedictine monks from St. Peter’s Abbey brought to life the story of how Abbot Bruno Doerfler invited the sisters to St.

Peter’s Colony in Saskatchewan, to educate the children and assist in the communities springing up across the fledgling colony. Just a few years before, Doerfler had also invited the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth from Klagenfurt in Austria to care for the sick in the prairie colony.

Sr. Miriam Spenrath, OSU, described the history of the Ursuline order, established in 1535 by St. Angela Merici; their dedication to education; as well as reporting on the origins and development of the Ursulines of Bruno.

“The first establishment in St. Peter’s Colony began in Muenster, with the arrival of two sisters at 1:45 p.m. on Sept. 2, 1913, with school beginning Sept. 3. Lots of challenges right off: German sisters, quite fresh culture and language; no home – but warmly welcomed into the small quarters of the Elizabethan sisters; no school – however the sacristies of the church provided two classrooms.”

Soon after, other Ursuline sisters from Germany arrived, with schools established in Leofeld, Bruno, and Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg), which was also the site of the order’s first motherhouse.

With donations and help from many in the area, a new convent was built at Bruno. St. Ursula’s Academy opened there in 1922. The school was home to about 2,500 young women over the next 60 years, including international students. In addition to the Academy, the Ursuline sisters continued to operate or to teach at schools in the area for many years, including at Lake Lenore, Watson, Annaheim and



Those attending the gathering expressed appreciation to long-serving sisters, like Sr. Loretta Konlup.
- Photos by Kiply Yaworski



Sr. Marion Noll gets a bit of help to quieten the crowd.

Humboldt, as well as Carmel, Englefeld and St. Benedict.

Ursulines of Bruno have also served in B.C., and in Brazil, and have been involved in a variety of educational undertakings, including musical and faith formation for all ages, and pastoral roles in a range of settings.

“The most recent education we Ursulines of Bruno have assumed for ourselves is that of seeing through an ecological lens, reverencing and cherishing creation, focusing on appreciating, sharing and guarding the gifts of our earth,” said Spenrath.

Abbot Peter Novacosky, OSB, stressed the continuing legacy of the Ursuline sisters. “Times have changed and the sisters face new challenges, but their presence in St Peter’s Colony has left a deep impression, their influence lives on,” he said, before asking the crowd to stand and applaud the Ursulines of Bruno as a sign of appreciation and love.

“Your presence here is a tremendous support for what we have been and what we could still be,” Maier told the gathering in closing words of thanks. “This gives us courage to move forward.”

For more, see the news page online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm



Sr. Miriam Spenrath (left) and Sr. Maureen Maier cut the cake.



Monks from St. Peter’s Abbey presented a skit about the arrival of the Ursuline sisters in Muenster – well-received by the appreciative crowd.



Anniversary honoured at Mount Carmel

Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, (right) was honoured on his 50th year of priesthood during the Mount Carmel pilgrimage in July, celebrated with Bishop Don Bolen. The rain held off for the annual pilgrimage, which DeMong recalls attending as a child. The Benedictine monk of St. Peter’s Abbey was ordained a priest by Bishop Klein in 1963 at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Saskatoon, and has served in many capacities over the past five decades, including as a pastor, a teacher, a missionary and a justice advocate. He is presently serving as pastor of St. Anne’s parish in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

**I BELIEVE
BECAUSE...**
#IBELIEVEBECAUSE

“I believe because a lively faith has been witnessed by my ancestors over the generations. They treasured their Catholic faith which gave them hope, meaning and moral compass. I want that lively faith for life...”

“I believe because of the witness of faithful sisters and priests who were my teachers and pastors. They were content and seemed happy living lives of service and sacrifice. I have seen the faithful witness of families that has bolstered my belief...”

“I believe because I trust in the promises of Christ as revealed in His Holy Word and through the Church He left behind to be His presence here on earth...”

- Excerpts from “I believe because” reflection
by Cecile Halyk

Two Oblates mark 75th anniversary of ordinations

Fr. Leo Engel, OMI, and Fr. Valentine Fix, OMI, both celebrated 75 years of priesthood this June. The remarkable anniversaries were celebrated with cake and champagne by fellow Oblates, family, friends, and caregivers at Samaritan Place in Saskatoon where the two are now retired.

Fix, 98, and Engel, who turned 100 years of age in September 2012, were also both celebrating 80 years of religious life, as members of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Both men were born in Regina, both attended St. Joseph’s School as boys, and both attended St. Paul’s College in Winnipeg and Campion College in Regina, before entering the OMI novitiate in 1932 at St. Charles, MB.

Fix and Engel both took their first vows as Oblates on Aug. 15, 1933, and then attended St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, SK. together, until Engel left in 1936 to study in Poland.

The classmates were ordained to the priesthood two days and many miles apart: Fix was ordained June 10,



Fr. Valentine Fix (left) and Fr. Leo Engel at the June celebration at Samaritan Place.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

1938 in Battleford, SK. and Engel was ordained June 12, 1938 in Obra, Poland. Engel returned to Canada shortly after his ordination.

The two Oblate priests have served in many places and positions over their lifetimes. For more coverage of this celebration and Fr. Leo Engel’s 100th birthday, see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Ministry to Tourism offers pilgrim journeys by rail

Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism, is offering a new series of pilgrim journeys for 2014-2015. “Getting to Know Our Canada” via railways and waterways, will begin May 22, 2014 with pilgrim journeys to Ontario.

Besides rail travel, these programs will often integrate small river type boats, enabling a friendly and casual atmosphere while guests experience magnificent heritage waterways like the Rideau Canal, he said.

In autumn 2014 destinations will be Atlantic Canada, Newfoundland and Quebec. Next year Quebec will celebrate 350 years as a diocese, the first for the entire country. A special ‘Holy Door’ for pilgrims is planned at Notre Dame Basilica Cathedral in Quebec City. Also, in 2014 the church will mark the 375th anniversary of the arrival of the Ursuline sisters. Future plans include trips to the west coast, mountains, and north. For information visit www.pilgrimjourneys.ca or contact (306) 244-3747 or kleiter@shaw.ca



Rail has been described as a “more human way to travel.” Fr. Ralph Kleiter hopes it will nurture greater appreciation for the vast beauty of our own country.
- Photo submitted by Ministry to Tourism



Special evening at Unity parish

St. Peter's church in Unity recently hosted an evening for widows and widowers, with Mass celebrated by Fr. Johny Mangalath, VC, followed by a meal served by the CWL. Master of ceremonies was parish council chairperson Gary Bertoia; speakers included Elizabeth Reiter, Iris Merk and Anne Mitzel, as well as Fr. Johny Mangalath, VC.

- Photo submitte by Elizabeth Reiter

Lanigan couple installed as Parish Life Directors

**THE LANIGAN ADVISOR
SEPT. 9, 2013 EDITION**

During Mass Aug. 25 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic church in Lanigan, Fr. Ron Beechinor, the Vicar General for the Diocese of Saskatoon represented Bishop Don Bolen in installing Don and Bonnie Courchene as the Parish Life Directors for St. Mary's Parish.

The Courchenes officially who began their new position on July 1, were appointed Parish Life Directors by Bishop Bolen this past spring, when he announced that Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, would be the Priest Moderator for the Lanigan parish. (As of Nov. 15, Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, is now Priest Moderator in Lanigan).

Beechinor explained the model of Parish Life Directors and Priest Moderators working together in parishes. He said this is not new in the church; a few parishes have been using this model in the Saskatoon diocese over the last several years and it has been working very well. Fr. Beechinor said the Priest Moderator is responsible to celebrate Masses on Sunday and administer the sacraments while the Parish Life Directors are responsible to oversee everything else in the parish, including things such as administration, finances,

preparation of sacraments, liturgy, adult faith formation, etc. He said this style of leadership works well when the Priest Moderator and Parish Life Directors collaborate and work well with their pastoral councils, finance committees and the other groups in the parish. He stated that although Parish Life Directors have authority in the parish, it works best when a team approach is used. Fr. Beechinor asked the parish to join him in prayer over Don and Bonnie, invoking the Holy Spirit and graces from God for their ministry and service.

The Courchenes have been parishioners of St. Mary's since 1979 and over the years have been volunteers in many capacities within the parish. Bonnie has worked as the secretary of St. Mary's for the past nine years and as pastoral assistant under Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, for the past four years. Don has served since 2001 as the co-chair of the Humboldt Deanery and as a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which is one of the major consultative groups that meets regularly with the bishop of the Saskatoon diocese.

Four of the Courchene children attended Catholic Bible Schools in Alberta and Manitoba, and Don followed an inspiration



Don and Bonnie Courchene and their son Matthew (l-r), are all serving as Parish Life Directors in the diocese: Don and Bonnie at St. Mary's in Lanigan and Matthew at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

he had for a Catholic Bible School in Saskatchewan. In 2004 he was the founding chair of the St. Therese School of Faith and Mission Board, serving for three years. The school opened in Bruno, SK in 2007, with a one-year program, and this year has 31 students enrolled.

Bonnie and Don have five children and 10 grandchildren. Their oldest son Matthew Courchene was recently installed as the Parish Life Director of St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon. Matthew has worked as a youth minister and pastoral associate for various parishes in Saskatoon, since 2000.

The Courchenes' youngest son Jonathan is currently the

executive director of FacetoFace Ministries (www.f2f.ca), which is a Catholic Evangelistic Ministry that serves across Western Canada, leading retreats, missions, conferences, summer camps and projects. Their daughters Terri, Michelle and Jessica are all married and working at raising faith-filled families in the Catholic Church, reported the Courchenes.

The couple said they are thankful to the Lord Jesus for the many blessings upon them and their family. They add that they are grateful for the support they have received from St. Mary's and the community of Lanigan over the years, and are looking forward to serving in their new role.

Retrouvaille offers hope and healing to marriages

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Hope for struggling marriages was described in an Administration Day presentation about Retrouvaille Sept. 11 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Mike and Celia Caswell spoke about the ministry and impact of Retrouvaille – a program of healing and renewal for couples living under strain, experiencing conflict, coldness, or disillusionment.

Married over 36 years, and the parents of three adult children, Mike and Celia attended the first Retrouvaille weekend that was offered in Saskatchewan in September 2007 and have been actively involved in the program since then, now serving as the program's provincial coordinators. "Pope Benedict very wisely referred to Retrouvaille couples as beacons of hope," said Celia.

She related how over the years she had sought help for her marriage in many places, reading books and seeking counseling. "I was virtually at the point of desperation and was consulting with a lawyer, when I read about Retrouvaille in our church bulletin. I was so confused and broken at this time, I didn't think anything would work."

She spoke to her parish priest, who encouraged her to sit with her feelings and wait for the Retrouvaille weekend. "He suggested after experiencing the weekend, I would be in a better position to know if there really was no hope for my marriage. He gave



Mike and Celia Caswell saved their marriage through Retrouvaille.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

me the courage to endure my lowest and most lonely period ever, and I thank God and him for this advice."

Retrouvaille principles that helped rebuild their marriage were the "cornerstone decisions" to commit, to love, to trust and to forgive, she described.

"I became aware of how everyone has a story of pain in their marriage," said Mike of the weekend. "I was encouraged to see how the presenting couples were able to overcome their pain. And I was inspired to renew my marriage and try again."

Seeing more clearly what God intended for all married couples has impacted his own attitudes and behavior, Mike said. Key areas of learning were how to communicate effectively, how to share feelings, how to

problem solve together. "This has helped me focus on making healthy decisions for the benefit of my marriage."

Retrouvaille means "rediscovery" and is designed for couples who have lost their way, explained Celia.

Couples who are experiencing strain in their marriage; those who are considering counseling, separation or divorce; or those who are already separated or divorced and are considering reconciliation, have all found help through the program, she stressed.

"It operates from a premise of hope and the belief that if you and your spouse want your marriage to endure and are willing to put in your best effort, renewal in the relationship can be achieved."

Acknowledging diocesan support for the program, the Caswells asked parish and ministry leaders to keep Retrouvaille in mind, and to actively encourage couples who are facing difficulty to attend a weekend as a "ministry of hope."

Retrouvaille Saskatchewan holds two weekends annually, one in September and another in April, where couples are provided with insights and communication techniques to help heal their relationships. The next weekend is **April 11 to 13, 2014**.

More about Retrouvaille can be found online at: www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.com or by e-mailing: retrouvaille@sasktel.net

Engaged Encounter highlighted

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Catholic Engaged Encounter was one of the programs highlighted during a diocesan Administration Day for parish and diocesan leadership Sept. 11.

Lynn and Wanda Freistadt introduced the Engaged Encounter marriage preparation program, which is offered at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster.

"Love is not enough to build a successful marriage," said Lynn, listing some of the things he wished he had known before he got married. "Marriage is hard work, it's not magical or mystical. It must be worked on everyday."

Family patterns and finances can impact a marriage, added Wanda, noting how some young couples "expect the magic wand of a wedding to create happily ever after."

Involved in Catholic Engaged Encounter for 13 years, and in marriage preparation for nearly 20, the Freistadts spoke about the value of the program in preparing couples for the reality of marriage.

"It allows couples to peek into the real marriages of the presenters, to learn that marriage is both wonderful and work. We think it is awesome, and we wish that all engaged couples would have the opportunity to experience a weekend," said Wanda.

Rather than seeing marriage preparation as a "hoop" they must jump through, most couples leave the weekend grateful for the opportunity to dialogue so deeply, said Lynn. The Engaged Encounter curriculum was recently updated. Topics include: family of origin, sacramental marriage, communication, intimacy, values, and issues such as finances, decision making and issues around children.

The Freistadts asked for the support of parish leadership, requesting prayers and encouragement for engaged couples to take an Engaged Encounter weekend. More couples are also needed to serve as presenters at the Engaged Encounter weekend, added Wanda, noting that the experience also enriches the marriages of presenters.

Upcoming dates are Jan. 24-26 or April 4-6 at St. Michael retreat house in Lumsden, or March 14-16 at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. See: www.ceewest.com



Reward pilgrims

Representatives of parishes from throughout historic St. Joseph's Colony carry banners in procession July 14, during the start of Mass with Bishop Don Bolen at the annual pilgrimage to Holy Rosary Shrine at Reward, SK.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

I BELIEVE BECAUSE...
#IBELIEVEBECAUSE

@BishopDonBolen

"September evening on the prairies, combines shifting grain and spreading dust under the sheltering sky. Love this place."

- Bishop Don Bolen on Twitter



Grosswerder district visit

Bishop Don Bolen visited the historic 100-year-old church of St. Anthony, southwest of Denzil in the Grosswerder district this June, meeting former parishioners, many who have helped maintain the building since the church closed in 1982. Declared an historic site by the RM of Eye Hill, the gothic-style church is the site of an annual Mass, celebrated each year as close as possible to the June 13 feast day of St. Anthony of Padua. Visiting the nearby church cemetery, the bishop found the grave of Fr. Gabriel Schachtel, who was born in the Grosswerder community. Fr. Schachtel served for 31 years in the Archdiocese of Regina and was the priest who married Bishop Bolen's parents.

- Photo by Naden Hewko

Volunteers: giving the gift of service

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1. Peter 4:10

By St. Paul's Hospital Foundation

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God into our world in the flesh, in the person of Jesus. To celebrate this gift and give thanks for it, many of us choose to give gifts in return.

One special gift is that of volunteering our time, talent, and service. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, share joyfully in the act of service, and connect with community.

Everyone volunteers for different reasons. Some people volunteer because they are committed to social justice. Others are looking for meaningful involvement or to deepen their relationship to God. Still others are searching for ways to explore their strengths.

After retiring from a busy car dealership in 2004, Tekla Garrecht made a conscious decision to give back by volunteering at St. Paul's Hospital Gift Shop. When asked about what motivates her to volunteer, Tekla says: "We are privileged to receive the health care we get for free. I like to give back for that by volunteering."

Research shows that volunteers have lower mortality rates, report good health more often, are less likely to get depressed and report greater functional ability as they get older.

However, volunteering requires a relatively high level of commitment on a number of levels: physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually. Therefore, it is important to be aware of what you can comfortably give before jumping in.



Tekla Garrecht is a long-time volunteer at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Sandhya Padmanabh

Over the past nine years, Tekla has logged over 2,500 volunteer hours with St. Paul's Hospital. She volunteers nine hours a week because she enjoys working with customers and providing good customer service.

"Christmas is my favourite season because of all the beautiful things in the shop, but also because it's a busy time," she says. "It's important to carry through on your commitment because there are other people there who need you."

All Gift Shop proceeds benefit St. Paul's Hospital via St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.

If you would like to volunteer your services at St. Paul's Hospital, contact St. Paul's Hospital Gift Shop at (306) 655-5856 or visit Saskatoon Health Region Volunteer Services online at: www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/your_health/ps_volunteer_services.htm

Spirituality of stewardship: core Christian values

By JOCELYNE HAMOLINE
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON FOUNDATION

Stewardship is often associated with money; we tend to only hear "treasure, Treasure, TREASURE." We can identify ourselves with our money, our possessions, the size of our homes, new cars, clothes, trips we take, the limit on our credit cards, etc. But the spirituality of stewardship has roots deeper than time, talent, and treasure.

Again and again God asks us to renew our stewardship commitment, our sharing of ourselves. There are four underlying values: identity, trust, gratitude and love that "dare us to give" in our relationship with God.

We are created in God's image and likeness so that we would image forth (duplicate) God's glory in the world. We were made to be prisms deflecting the light of God's glory into all other life. We were created to live for the glory of God, but what does that mean? It means to acknowledge God's glory and wonder, to give credit to God for all of creation (earth, sky, water, all living creatures and especially human life), to value it above all things, and to make God's glory known. It implies heartfelt gratitude (Psalm 50:23). It also implies trust (Romans 4:20). We have been "Blessed to be a blessing."



International award

Leslie and Irene Dubé, long-time supporters of health care, education, religion, and poverty relief, received the 2013 Award for Outstanding Philanthropist, given by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. It is the international organization's top philanthropy honor. The Dubés are the first Canadian couple to receive the award, and only the second Canadians to receive the honour since the award's inception in 1980. The couple's many local contributions have included leadership donations to the construction of the diocesan Cathedral of the Holy Family; to St. Thomas More College scholarships, justice/service bursaries and an endowed Chair of Catholic Studies; as well as health initiatives at St. Paul's Hospital and other health care facilities in the city, related to urology, mental health, and breast cancer; and more.

- Photo by Jesse Karras

Our giving serves as an external, material testimony that God has ownership of both the material and spiritual elements of our lives. The giving that flows from our spiritual personal quiet prayer and the giving of our material possessions are both indicators of obedience to God's commandments. God is looking for the right attitude in our giving.

God has blessed us in so many ways. In particular, God has given us the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ so that we can trust, rejoice and find comfort in Him. Faith in Christ, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life are the most important gifts. God has blessed us with many non-monetary gifts to use in service to God. God has given us gifts to build up the Church. Our different vocations, natural abilities, and talents all have the same source, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. God has also blessed us with an abundance of material possessions. Canada is among the top 10 best countries in the world to live in. We enjoy an incredibly high standard of living and are individually wealthy beyond imagination, compared to most of the world's populations.

Christian Stewardship is primarily concerned with giving from what God has given us. This sets Christian stewardship as a life-long process. St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians Chapter 8: 13-14: "I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance."

Paul says we should give when we can to create just balance, because those we help today will be in a position to help when we are in need (need of any kind, not just financial). Truly God has blessed us and it is God's desire that we respond to blessings by being a blessing to others.

The Spirituality of Stewardship starts with an understanding of these core Christian values: our **identity** in Christ as children of God; **trusting** that God's plan is all good and greater than our own imagination; **gratitude** and thanksgiving for what God has and is accomplishing in our lives each and every day; **love** as we put in action what we are called to be and called to do. "Truly I tell you, just as

Lay Formation Alumni Profile: Jocelyne Hamoline

Parish: Cathedral of the Holy Family
Lay Formation Missioning Year: 2012

What are you doing now?

- I volunteer on the Stewardship Committee at my parish. Our responsibilities include educating parishioners about all aspects of stewardship, such as hospitality and how to financially support our parish community.
- I volunteer at my parish as a Proclaimer of the Word.



Thoughts on your Lay Formation experience:

The Lay Formation program left me with a profound desire to continue and deepen my experience of Small Christian Communities. I am keenly aware that no faith community can survive without the involvement of the laity. As lay people, we evangelize through our desire to build community, both inside and outside of the Church.

Lay Formation is supported by the



you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Mathew 25:40)

Hamoline speaks of blessings of stewardship

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 11 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Jocelyne Hamoline spoke about her passion for stewardship.

The Major and Planned Giving Officer for the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, Hamoline shared her own personal struggle to find financial balance, determine her priorities in life and to learn to give back to God.

"Stewardship to me is freedom. Freedom from worrying about my future," she said.

A spirituality of stewardship changes all aspects of our lives, Hamoline said,

stressing that it is about more than money, or giving to the Church. Rather, stewardship is about relationship to God, to others and to our possessions.

"We can become more grateful, more generous in our relationships at home, at work, at Church, in our communities in the world," Hamoline said.

From a stewardship perspective, money, possessions, time and talents – all that we have, both material and non-material – is recognized as a gift from God, she described, adding this is a gift that must be used responsibly and shared. "Stewardship is not about the church's need for money, but about our need to give; to give of ourselves, and to

share a part of what God has given us."

Rather than being trapped by an attitude of scarcity and fear, Jesus wants us to focus on what we do have, Hamoline maintained, recalling the miracle of the loaves and fishes. "We cannot out-give God. His grace and mercy is always much wider and deeper than anything we can imagine."

Hamoline reported that the Catholic Foundation office has resources, bulletin announcements, information and examples of stewardship programs for parishes, which can be customized for each faith community. Hamoline is also willing to come and speak to parishes or groups: (306) 659-5849.



St. Ann's Home 60th anniversary

Residents, staff, and board members of St. Ann's Senior Citizens Village were joined by special guests, friends and family June 25, for a 60th anniversary celebration for the Catholic home. Bishop Donald Bolen, Monsignor Raymond Senger and Monsignor Stan Urbanoski celebrated Eucharist in the chapel to begin the celebration, followed by the dedication of a statue on the grounds. The artwork depicts St. Anne in her role as a grandmother, along with her daughter the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus, designed by sculptor Ed Gibney (before he left to attend a seminary in Rome this fall, where he is studying and discerning a call to the priesthood). St. Ann's Home opened in 1953, established under the leadership of Bishop Francis Klein. The faith-based care home moved and expanded over the years. It is now known as a village, with a variety of housing options for seniors. For more on this story see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Mass celebrated each month in lively African style

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

On the first Sunday of every month, those homesick for Mass the way it is celebrated in Africa gather at 2 p.m. for a lively celebration at St. Thomas More College chapel on the U of S campus in Saskatoon.

The monthly "African Mass" was initiated about two years ago by Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, and Fr. Patrick Ampani, two priests from Nigeria serving in parishes in or near Saskatoon, after they identified a need for outreach.

"We came to the observation that a good number of Catholics, especially students, would arrive here, but shortly afterward would end up at a Nigerian Pentecostal church," said Enwerem.

Members of the Pentecostal congregation were going to the airport to greet students from Africa as they arrived, befriend them and eventually inviting them to celebrate at their church, where the worship service is celebrated in a familiar, African style, he related. Dismayed that Catholics were leaving their faith to join another denomination, Enwerem and Ampani decided they would offer an African Mass in their spare time



Members of the African Catholic community gather after Mass, held at STM on the first Sunday of the month. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

one Sunday afternoon a month, as a way to encourage more people to hold on to their Catholic faith.

"One of the culture shocks we experience is that the liturgy here doesn't speak to us. It is too quiet," said Enwerem. "We call the Mass a celebration, a thanksgiving. Well back home, when we celebrate, we really celebrate!"

Movement, singing, dancing, and clapping are part of the monthly celebration, as are songs in different African languages. The Mass prayers, homily and readings are in English, to make sure it's accessible to those who come from many ethnic backgrounds, with

participants from Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, Southern Sudan, and Kenya, he listed.

In addition to students, he said he would like to see more families attend, perhaps to return to their faith after drifting away because they weren't comfortable with Canadian-style liturgies.

Everyone is welcome, including Canadians who might want a taste of worshiping in the African style, said Enwerem. "The more the merrier," he says with a chuckle, then adds: "Our Church is a big huge umbrella that welcomes everybody, every culture, under the umbrella of Christ."

Farmland Legacies: Gifts that make a difference

By MARIAN NOLL, OSU

Once again thoughts are turning to the upcoming celebration of Christmas, a time of tradition and family gathering and giving.

Sometimes a family or a staff decides to change their traditional Christmas giving into providing a gift for someone else. People may "get" a goat for Christmas, or a flock of chickens or a beehive. Those gifts go to the needy elsewhere in the world, but the real recipients are those who know they have made a difference.

That kind of giving fits well with the intent of the *Home Quarter*, a Farmland Legacies project whose goal is to find ways to improve the current food system while feeding the hungry, specifically those who rely on food banks.

The *Home Quarter* project was launched a year ago by Farmland Legacies, a charitable land trust headquartered in Wynyard, SK. The project models agricultural practices to build a healthy, sustainable food future. Donors receive tax-deductible receipts.

In the fall 2012 Diocesan Newsletter, project manager Duane Guina noted several possible ways groups or individuals could participate in the charitable mission of the *Home Quarter*. The production cost of one grass-fed, grass-finished beef is \$500. A gift of \$2,000 would sponsor a cow for her productive lifetime, while providing her with a healthful and humane environment.

Her mature offspring would provide much-needed hamburger for Saskatchewan's food banks. Several people or a family could share in such a contribution.

Another way to give is to register your ancestors' home quarter legal descriptions for display on the *Home Quarter Wall of Fame*. The gift of \$100 per land title honours the pioneer spirit on which this province was built; the funding would be used to develop the *Home Quarter's* agricultural education capabilities.

A third kind of giving works like a tree, which starts from a seed and grows into a plant with many individual, separate leaves. This

kind of gift is called *The Legacy of One*.

A person might not be able to make a large donation, but a regular smaller gift may be possible. A promise, for example, of \$20 monthly would add up to \$240 yearly. Or collect a loonie from every person joining in your birthday party or family reunion.

This kind of giving could also be a way to encourage children, family members or co-workers to contribute. When many people participate, what looks like a relatively small donation will grow into a significant amount. When each person contributes a little, the total becomes much more than one can do alone.

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Together we can grow that love into a mighty blaze warming our province. Use *The Legacy of One* to make an ongoing gift to the *Home Quarter* to provide food, education and environmental benefits for many people.

For more info see the website: www.farmlandlegacies.org



BUILDING THE CHURCH, LIVING THE GOSPEL

By Margaret F. Sanche, author
Daniel J. Classen, photographer

*Designed and typeset by Donald Ward
Printed and bound at Houghton Boston, Saskatoon*

The construction of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family for the diocese was the inspiration for this book project featuring photographs and descriptions of 99 parish churches and worship spaces (including three present and past cathedrals) gathered here in a "family photo album" of the Diocese of Saskatoon as of the year 2013.

Price: \$20

Available from: The Catholic Pastoral Centre,
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1; (306) 242-1500

Also Available: *Transfiguring Prairie Skies:
Stained Glass at Cathedral of the Holy Family*
by Bishop Donald Bolen and artist Sarah Hall; Price: \$25

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Christmas donations - The diocesan Restorative Ministry Office is seeking cash donations to assist in purchasing small Christmas gifts for all the inmates at Saskatoon Correctional Centre, as a sign that they are not forgotten at this joyous time of year celebrating how our Saviour came into the world to bind up the broken-hearted, find the lost and redeem us all. If the Holy Spirit is moving you to respond to this request, place your donation marked "Prison Ministry Christmas" in the parish collection or call Dianne Anderson at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (306) 659-5845.

Rise Up - New Year's faith conference for young adults aged 18-35 hosted by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO - a university student movement dedicated to evangelization), in Ottawa from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1 with amazing speakers, a worship band and banquet, and an opportunity to meet young Catholics from across Canada and to grow in holiness: www.cco.ca/riseup or contact: eloisa.tamondong@cco.ca

Anxiety Support Group for Adults is held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Drop in, no fee). Contact: Catholic Family Services at (306) 244-7773.

CWL Clothing Depot, which operates at 619-20th St. West, Saskatoon, is seeking donations of new items for its annual Christmas sale - for example: toys, socks, underwear, gloves, toques, sheets, comforters, towels, jewelry, health and beauty products, or individually wrapped candy.

St. Patrick Parish Marriage Prep begins Sunday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. Eight weekly sessions (no session Feb. 16). Cost is \$150. Contact Pat and Gail Fitzpatrick at (306) 382-8955 or (306) 227-5594 or e-mail: fitzpatrick@shaw.ca

A workshop for all those who long to set hearts ablaze, inspire a lifelong faith and bring more life to their parishes! This opportunity, open to all, will be held Feb. 7 and 8 at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon, hosted by the diocesan Christian Initiation and Catechetics office. It begins with an all-day music workshop Friday, Feb. 7 with Diana Macalintal. Then a workshop about nurturing and forming active and engaged Catholics will begin that evening, Feb. 7, and continue Saturday, Feb. 8, featuring facilitators Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal. (A popular speaker, Nick Wagner is founder/director of TeamRCIA.com and his wife Diana Macalintal is a liturgist, musician and director of worship for the diocese of San José.) Watch for more details!

Children's Story Time at the Catholic Centre is held from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Thursday morning at the Msgr. Michael J. Koch Resource Library, located on the 2nd Floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road and Attridge Drive, Saskatoon. All children and their caregivers are welcome to drop by. The Resource Library is also seeking volunteers to help with weekly storytime, as well with the every day needs of the library: for info contact (306) 659-5853.

Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre offers a variety of programs and retreats every month in Saskatoon. For details see: www.queenshouse.org

Catholic Engaged Encounter - a weekend for engaged couples to dialogue deeply about their life together (see article on page 20). Upcoming dates are Jan. 24-26 or April 4-6 at St. Michael retreat house in Lumsden, or March 14-16 at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. Cost: \$350 per couple, includes accommodations and meals. See: www.cewest.com

Marriage Preparation Weekends offered by Catholic Family Services in Saskatoon run from 6:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. **Three upcoming dates** are: Feb. 7-8; March 14-15, or April 25-26. \$225 per couple. (306) 244-7773.

'triumph' Results God Gives - a nine day program of inner healing and spiritual growth for transforming lives through the sacraments, adoration, facilitated sessions and prayer. Discover life as God meant it to be. To be held Feb. 21-March 2 at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, Bruno, SK. See: www.sttherese.ca or call (306) 369-2555.

Swing into Spring - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation 14th annual 'Swing Into Spring' Fashion Show and Dinner will be held Thursday, May 1, 2014 at TCU Place. Call now to book your table for this popular event: (306) 659-7003. Proceeds support faith-based initiatives in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

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"I guess my faith is strengthened by what I observe in the natural world. The harmony, efficiency, and complexity of various ecosystems and how the plants, animals, earth, rocks and water, and of course, weather, all work and fit to make it a self sustaining working system.

"The beauty, serenity and even the harshness of nature amaze me and I feel I can see God's work and planning if only I pay attention. This instills in me a great awe and love for our creator.

"Other events that help me to feel I understand a little of God's love are when I see people selflessly give of their time and money to help others. These people often show me what courage, humility, and toughness is all about. Some fight for justice, others for peace and still others go about their business every day and try to make another's day a bit better. This is where I see Our Lord at work."

- Excerpt from e-mail by Daniel Dauvin

Iconography: a prayerful experience

By KATE O'GORMAN

Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche share a passion for iconography, the centuries-old practice of writing religious images.

Stepping into Mycyk's studio, surrounded by icons, it feels as though one is being welcomed into a place of great reverence.

"In an iconography workshop we want to create a sacred space for prayer," says Bauche. "The process of creating an icon is itself a prayer and it is also a metaphor for life."

Spiritual themes such as surrender, compassion, forgiveness and acceptance are explored and wrestled with through the process of writing an icon. As Mycyk explains, "we are invited to encounter our imperfections, to discover our abilities and our limitations, to re-evaluate our expectations and ultimately to rest in the perfect will of God."

Bauche adds: "Through the process of writing an icon, we learn who we are and where we are in our journey with Jesus."

The technical process of writing an icon is rich in its symbolism and theological meaning. The method begins with a wood board that is representative of Christ's cross. "It is also symbolic of our personal and spiritual growth. The wood is a living thing, it grows" explains Mycyk.

The board is then carved down along its perimeter allowing for a

raised border around the circumference of the icon. This frame or kovcheg, represents the Old Testament while the indented center of the icon represents the New Testament. "The kovchek is also symbolic of the physical world while the center signifies the spiritual side of ourselves," continues Mycyk, as she explains the multiplicity of meanings behind the icon.

The next step in the process involves the application of a linen cloth with rabbit skin glue so that it adheres to the entire icon. A symbol of the shroud, the linen offers a layer of protection, it holds the icon together. A Gesso mixture of white chalk and marble dust is applied over the linen so that the icon begins clean and smooth representing purity.

"It mirrors new birth," describes Bauche, "a clean slate on which to begin the spiritual work of the icon."

The iconographer then draws the prototype – a master image of a saint, angels, the Blessed Mother or Jesus that has typically been in existence for many centuries. The prototype is etched onto the surface of the icon with a stylus "so that we don't lose our way," explains Bauche.

From there, all steps in the process continue to bring spiritual lessons.

Iconography is accessible to

everyone. While Mycyk and Bauche are accomplished artists and have studied under a dozen iconography masters each, they both affirm that having an art background is not necessary. "It is open and available for all people," explains Mycyk.

"The process is well established and we are simply invited to enter into this spiritual process and discover who we are in Christ by following the centuries-old techniques. Iconography is a process of prayer that mirrors the spiritual journey we are all on."

Bauche and Mycyk have invited people to journey in their faith through icon writing sessions held over the past five years, and continue to offer this ministry at Gisele's studio throughout the fall and winter seasons.

"By sharing our insights and discoveries as we journey through the icon writing process, we not only become connected to God but



Gisele Bauche (left) and Anna Mycyk - Photo by Kate O'Gorman

we become ever more connected to each other in community" observes Bauche.

"People often comment on how nourishing it is for them to come to the workshops and spend time in the prayerful process of icon writing," says Mycyk.

"We invite people each week to

come away to a sacred space to come into union with God and with themselves" says Bauche, "it really is a transformative experience."

For information or to register for future sessions contact Gisele Bauche at gbauche@sasktel.net or 306-380-3577.



Shared Sunday worship part of Burstall fair

The Burstall community held a 32nd annual Old Fashioned Fair Sept. 7-8, and for the first time all three church congregations and community members in the town and district joined together for worship on the Sunday. Pastor Larry Glaske of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Deacon Bob Williston, pastoral associate at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, and Pastor Shane of Hope Evangelical Church (left to right) participated in the worship service, with Tegan Bodarch of St. Michael parish (right) as Master of Ceremonies. The Community Hall was filled with a large crowd of about 150 people (below). The singing was inspirational and a designated offering was received for the ministries of the churches. People also gave towards building a new Community Hall with \$744 received.

- Photos submitted by Vivien Fiesel



Facelift for Wilkie parish

A renovation at St. James parish in Wilkie was recently completed thanks to the work of Parish Council members, Fr. Andrew Wychucki, Fr. Aloysius Anyichie, those who volunteered, cooked meals and donated, as well as to Sharayhah Ulrich who designed the plan, David Ziegler who built the arches, and Chad and Jessica Huard who did painting and drywall.

- Photo by James Exley



Catholic Culture conference

Ryan Topping and Joseph Pearce (l-r) were guest speakers at a grassroots conference organized by the Sidloski family this summer in Saskatoon. Topping, author of *Rebuilding Catholic Culture: How the Catechism Can Shape Our Common Life*, and Pearce, author of books on G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, Hilaire Belloc, Shakespeare and J.R.R. Tolkien, are both from St. Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in New Hampshire.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Miscarriage awareness workshop part of outreach

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A diocesan Miscarriage Awareness Committee continues to find ways to reach out to women, couples, and families who suffer when a baby dies by miscarriage. The committee sponsored a workshop on the subject Oct. 5 in Saskatoon.

"Often those suffering feel isolated because not many people know of the loss," says committee member Shannon Granger. When she and her husband Dan lost a child by miscarriage, they found profound comfort in the words of sympathetic friends and family – and from the liturgy presided at by their parish priest.

A miscarriage is defined as "the spontaneous loss of a fetus before the 20th week of pregnancy." This loss of life impacts parents and families. "We loved this child and we had hopes and dreams for our baby," says Granger.

"We can let families know that it is ok to share news of pregnancy, and if the precious, tiny life is lost in miscarriage we can support them," she adds.

Statistics say some 25 per cent of pregnancies end in miscarriage. That means there are families around us, in every community, mourning the loss of a child, stresses Carol Kostuik, a member of the diocesan committee, who serves as a Parish Nurse for several Saskatoon churches. Not knowing what to say, or what resources are available can create barriers, but the answer is to build awareness and understanding, she



Miscarriage Awareness Workshop facilitators (seated, l-r): Shannon Granger and Russ Hannan, (and standing, l-r): Ethna Martin, Dr. Phil Carverhill, Shirley Hannan and Carol Kostuik.

- Photo by Ryan Leblanc

says. In addition to the recent workshop, the committee has established a website of resources, prayers and liturgies.

The committee is planning to plant and dedicate a tree on the grounds of Queen's House as a place of memorial and reflection for all those affected by miscarriage. Watch for details of this celebration in the spring.

For more information about the work of the Miscarriage Awareness Committee, contact Elan Ehresman at the Catholic Pastoral Centre at (306) 659-5839 or visit the website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/miscarriage



Faith journey

Special guest Archbishop Gérald Lacroix of Quebec spoke Nov. 9 at the French Catholic parish of Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens in Saskatoon and at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, breaking open the Emmaus story from the Gospel of Luke as a model of both faith and evangelization. “God loves us where we are, but he does not leave us there,” said the archbishop.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Opening Mass

Archbishop Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada (left) joined Bishop Donald Bolen and several priests of the diocese at the Cathedral of the Holy Family Nov. 8 for the opening Mass of the diocesan Year of Faith Festival.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Year of Faith Festival

www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news_articles/news_articles.cfm

Nov. 8-10, 2013



Bishop's Cup

Youth, seminarians, and clergy enjoyed several rounds of basketball Nov. 9, before an all-star youth team finally reclaimed the Bishop's Cup (right), winning the final game in an evening of fun and fellowship at St. Joseph High School in Saskatoon, as part of the diocesan Year of Faith Festival.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Catherine Lewans opened the Nov. 8 concert.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Speakers Nov. 9 included Robert Stackpole of John Paul Institute of Divine Mercy (left) on Eucharist and Reconciliation; and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, (right) joining Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, Rev. Michael Poellet and Dr. Jim Penna speaking on living our faith as caretakers of God's creation.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Call to reconciliation

Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg celebrated Mass with Our Lady of Guadalupe parish at St. Mary's church in Saskatoon Nov. 10, during the Year of Faith Festival, along with Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSSR, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and Fr. Mick Fleming, CSSR, Our Lady of Guadalupe pastor. Weisgerber called for reconciliation among all people, as part of “becoming who God wants us to be.”

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Our Lady of Guadalupe parish choir leads music ministry at a Mass with Archbishop James Weisgerber.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

The Vietnamese Catholic community of Saskatoon held a Year of Faith Festival Nov. 16-17, with a weekend of activity marking the feast of the 117 Vietnamese martyrs. Guest speaker was Fr. Peter Tuyen Tran (right) of the diocese of St. Paul, Alberta.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Audrey Assad: a prayerful experience of beauty and faith

BY LEAH PERRAULT

Friday evening is one night of the week when the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon tends to be quiet and uninhabited. On Nov. 8, however, the opening Mass for the Festival of Faith was underway, followed by a wine and cheese by the fireplace. The evening sky was clouded over, and the city light was reflecting back over the cathedral while over 350 people were making their way to a concert in celebration of faith.

Catherine Lewans, local recording artist and a parishioner at Holy Family, opened the evening, with a half hour of her signature country style, with a spiritual focus. She covered a few songs by well-known country artists including Miranda Lambert and Keith Urban, and she sang some of her own songs as well. Singing in the Cathedral where she worships was a real gift, she said, and finished her set with her song, “My Heart is at Home.”

Slipping unassumingly into her place at the piano during her introduction, Audrey Assad gave the first hint of what would follow. She started to play before the welcome applause swelled, beginning with the title track on her new album, *Fortunate Fall*. Following that first song, she talked about

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how the album was inspired by a line from the exultet: “O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, that won for us so great a redeemer.” This mystery, she said, is worth pondering, because “we don’t understand – that’s why they are called mysteries.”

Assad wrote this album to be sung and prayed, rather than performed. While the album is an excellent listen in the kitchen or car, it was written as a movement of prayer. The concert was an invitation into the three movements of the album, from reflection on the mercy we encounter through our sinfulness, into Jesus’ saving work, and ending with the Spirit’s continual work in us.

Throughout the evening, Assad artfully resisted applause, holding a space of prayer and quiet reflection, teaching the lyrics to the songs, and inviting people to sing along. Where I am normally disappointed by crowd

singing at concerts, this was pure grace. The sound filled the cathedral, and the voices singing added depth of sound, harmony and prayer to Assad’s voice and her solo piano.

As she came into the second part of the concert, Assad stopped playing and spoke about her own struggles to believe: “I have this melancholic personality – you know, Eeyore – so I have to preach the gospel to myself.”

The crowd gave an understanding laugh, which she barely seemed to notice before the lights faded to red and she launched into a song based on Psalm 23, “Lead Me On.”

In a couple of places, her own music gave way to older, familiar praise and worship pieces. Having played “Open the Eyes of My Heart” in English, she asked permission to sing the song in French, with a good number singing along in that language as well.

In a quiet moment over half way through, Assad talked about her desire to be humble and her awareness at how often she fails. When she found a litany of humility, she said she found it difficult to pray, because it was just so painful. Therefore, she decided to write a song about it, “so that I would have to sing it over and over again.” The song, “I Shall Not

Want” has been one of the most highly praised by reviewers and fans.

The evening seemed both to linger on and on, and to pass in a moment, the way prayer can. As the concert drew to a close, Assad had the room singing a chorus over and over again. She faded away on the piano, initiated a final verse a cappella and then silently slipped off the piano bench and left the room, without staying for the standing ovation offered to her in gratitude for sharing her gift and ministering music.

In conversation with Assad before the show, I asked about the noticeable shift between this album and her first two. She said that moving away from her contemporary Christian music label afforded her the freedom to make the music she really feels called to make.

“I believe that Catholic art, and music, is inherently sacred,” she said. “The first two albums were pop music for Christian audiences, and there was something inauthentic about that for me.”

I don’t think I understood what she meant until she had left the room, my spirit filled up by the kind of art that is simply a medium to draw us to our Creator.