



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

February 2014

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon



In this newsletter for the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, we take time to reflect and to praise God for the Blessings Without Number that are poured out each and every day throughout our diocese. We are filled with thanksgiving and with joy at the generosity, the zeal, and the many good works of our diocesan family.

Day by day, thanks to your support and assistance, the gospel is alive in this time and this place – lived out in parishes and hospitals, in prisons and homes, in classrooms and community centres, in ministry and outreach of every kind.

Thank you for all the ways in which you are living out the mission of Jesus Christ in our world.

- Bishop Donald Bolen

*Blessings
without
Number*



What is the Catholic Foundation?

The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation began as the fundraising arm of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in the fall of 2007.

We work on behalf of our diocese, our parishes and our parishioners to provide the necessary funding for programs, ministries, care of our priests, education of seminarians and much more. We work closely with Bishop Donald Bolen, the Board of Directors for the Catholic Foundation, and staff at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.



123 Nelson Road
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1

Efforts we have coordinated and managed include:

- **The Bishop's Annual Appeal** - an annual diocesan appeal to the Catholic community, supporting a wide range of ministry and outreach throughout our diocese;
- **Uniting in Faith** - to fund construction of the diocesan Cathedral of the Holy Family and Catholic Pastoral Centre offices;
- **Stained Glass Window Campaign** and Solar Glass Window Campaign;
- **Stained Glass Window Memorial Fund** - ongoing support of diocesan ministries;
- **Priest Pension Fund** and other special collections;
- **Major Gifts and Building Our Future Campaign** - to fund diocesan ministries/programs;
- **Moving Forward Together** - a diocesan collection in December 2013 for Moving Forward Together, which is working to bring fundamental, lasting change to Aboriginal communities through healing and educational programs (the diocesan collection raised more than \$33,000 to support initiatives such as a 10,000 Healing Steps STR8 UP conference held Feb. 5-6, 2014 in Saskatoon);
- **Legacy Giving** - Supporting your faith community through a bequest in your will or other giving opportunities;
- **Stewardship Corner** - providing Diocesan Weekly Bulletin announcements reflecting on the gospel call to stewardship;
- **Assisting parishes with their fundraising needs** (upon request).

It is our goal and mission to continue to provide the necessary resources needed to assist the diocese and parishes to continue the work of building the Kingdom of God and changing lives.

Supporting our seminarians

The education of future priests and vocations promotion are among many ministries supported in our diocese by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Cody Redekop, Jeffrey Sautner, Bishop Don Bolen, Gregory Smith-Windsor and Michael Yaremko (l-r) gathered with members of the diocesan Vocations Commission Dec. 19, while the seminarians were on a break from studies at Edmonton and London, Ont. seminaries. A fifth diocesan seminarian, Edward Gibney, is attending the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, and was not able to attend. Please continue to support our seminarians with your prayers.



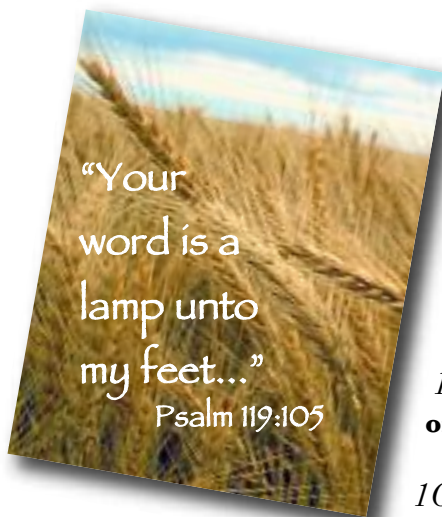
Pay it Forward – Transforming Lives

By Jocelyne Hamoline, Major and Planned Giving Officer

Your assignment is to devise and put into action a plan that will change the world for the better. Can you do it? What will you do?

Eleven-year-old Trevor McKenney, in the movie *Pay it Forward* ponders the magnitude of that mission and chooses a simple project. He is successful in transforming the lives of his mother, teacher and a wide circle of people completely unknown to him. Remarkable! His simple idea is to pay a favour forward. He repays a favour with a good deed to three new people, and each one in turn repays the favour with a new good deed to three new people, and so on – a gift with increase.

We should not be surprised that paying it forward transforms lives. Jesus, the ultimate transformer, “pays it forward” by redeeming through his saving grace all who come to him. He gives us peace to know our sins are forgiven yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Our favour to him is simply to come with an apologetic and humble heart. Jesus’ death and resurrection is the definitive model of paying it forward. Jesus calls us to be stewards, to care for others, to look beyond ourselves and our families. We are a community people.



Galatians 6:9: “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those of the family of faith.”

Luke 12:48: “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

1 Peter 4:10: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Corinthians 4:1: “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries.”

How can you pay it forward? We have received the gift of faith, the gifts of forgiveness, salvation and everlasting life. One way you can pay forward everything that Jesus offers to an ever-widening circle of inheritors is by leaving a legacy gift to your parish and/or the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation. A bequest of any size to your faith community is a way to share the gift of faith and to broaden the outreach, ministry and services extended to others.

The diocese strives constantly to spread the love of Christ in many ways: through refugee support, prison ministry, hospital chaplaincy, lay formation, marriage and family life, aboriginal ministry, Christian initiation and catechetics, vocation promotion, youth outreach and more! Please see our Ministries and Programs on the diocesan website at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.ca or the Catholic Foundation website at www.dscatholicfoundation.ca for more details about the programs and ministries we provide. As a diocese, we are paying it forward and making the world a better place.

We ask you to consider joining us in paying your faith forward by leaving a legacy (planned) gift. You can add a statement to your will affirming your desire. If, after pondering and prayer, you choose to transform lives by leaving a legacy gift, or have already done so, please inform us. The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation can provide more information, gift options and methods of making a legacy gift, or assist in drawing up the necessary documents.

We extend our gratitude to all who respond to this call. We are all one as Jesus has directed us to be. May the blessings of the Lord be upon you now and forever!

For more information, please contact: (306) 659-5849 or jhamoline@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Bishop's ecumenical work enhanced, thanks to Leslie and Irene Dubé

A donation from Leslie and Irene Dubé will help Bishop Donald Bolen with ecumenical commitments on the national and international stage.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, the Dubé donation is completely funding a new position in the diocese – the Bishop's Assistant for Ecumenical Affairs.

The diocese's longtime volunteer ecumenical officer Nicholas Jesson has now been hired to assist Bishop Bolen with work related to appointments by the Vatican and the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCCB) – appointments that are specifically related to the Saskatoon bishop's expertise, gifts and experience in the area of Christian unity.

"I am exceptionally grateful to Les and Irene for making this position a reality," said Bishop Bolen.

"The creation of this new position will cut down my workload in relation to ecumenical dialogues, and it will enable me to carry out my work on those dialogues much more effectively."

As a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome, Saskatoon's bishop has been asked to co-chair two international ecumenical dialogues – one with the Anglican Communion, and a second with the World Methodist Council. Bolen has also been appointed by the Vatican council as a Catholic theologian on a third international group: the International Evangelical-Roman Catholic Consultation.

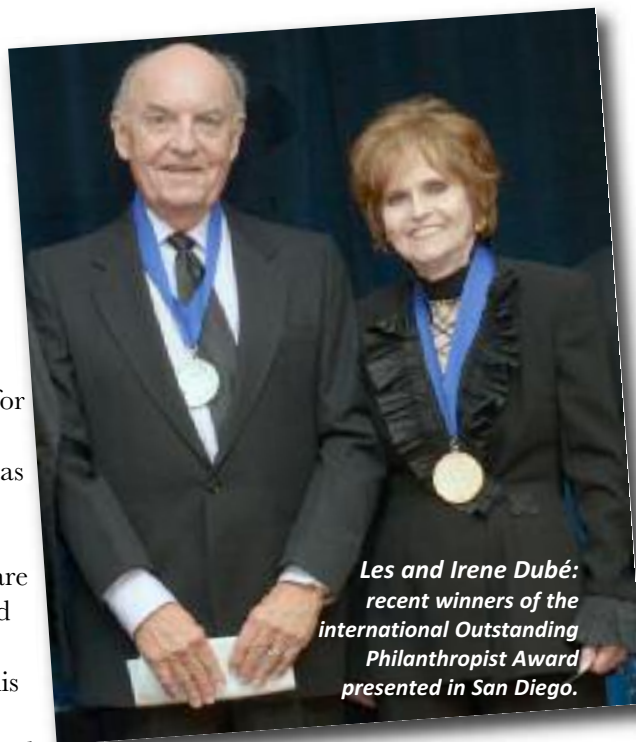
In addition, Bolen is chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada, and also serves on the CCCC Commission for Justice and Peace.

Having additional administrative support to tackle his major ecumenical commitments will be a huge help, said Bishop Bolen, and will ensure that everything can be done well, without impacting his primary call as shepherd of this diocese.

"From my side, this involves a two-fold gift," said Bolen. "The gift from the Dubés makes this arrangement possible in the first place, and there is also the gift of Nick Jesson's willingness to serve in this capacity, with all the skills and energy he brings to it."

For Les and Irene Dubé – well-known supporters of education, health, religious and anti-poverty efforts in the community – the decision to make this latest donation in support of Catholic ministry came out of a desire to assist the bishop with an important undertaking.

"The bishop explained to us the many different areas of required leadership that he is being asked to do – asked by our Church and our Pope to undertake," said Les, when asked why the couple decided to make a donation to create the new position and support the initiative for the next three years. The fact that Saskatoon's bishop has been asked to serve in these international and national capacities is "a real compliment to our diocese and to Bishop Don," added Les.



Les and Irene Dubé: recent winners of the international Outstanding Philanthropist Award presented in San Diego.



Bishop Don Bolen (left) and Rev. Eldon Boldt at a recent ecumenical service in Saskatoon.

"Everything we have really is not ours. We come into life with nothing, and we go out with nothing. Everything that is in our possession is there through the will of God and the Holy Spirit, who has given us opportunity and talent and energy. Therefore, we all have a responsibility when we have some wealth to share it."

- Les Dubé

Nick Jesson hired as Bishop's Assistant for Ecumenical Affairs

Continued from Page 4

Christian unity is a vital undertaking, said Irene.

"I think that's the only way that we will ever get world peace, is to have the Christians talking to each other, and then to have all religions working for peace."

The bishop, like the pope, is only one person, Irene stressed. To do their work, both rely on the help of those around them.

"As stewards and children of God, it is our duty to do this. It is something that all people should be looking at... I believe that we should call upon all Christians, in particular Catholics, to assist in every way that they can. Let's go above and beyond to aid our Church, to help in the work of the bishop and our pope," she said

Sharing what they have is grounded in faith, say Les and Irene Dubé.

"God puts each of us on this earth for a reason, and Leslie and I believe we have found our reason," said Irene.

It is not a matter of giving back, but a stewardship call to share what God has placed in their hands, added Les.

"We honestly believe – and we've repeated this many times – that everything we have really is not ours. We come into life with nothing, and we go out with nothing. Everything that is in our possession is there through the will of God and the Holy Spirit, who has given us opportunity and talent and energy," he said.

"Therefore, we all have a responsibility when we have some wealth, to share it," Les stressed. "We take the position that we are sharing the wealth that God has actually put in our hands for the welfare of his people."

As the new Bishop's Assistant for Ecumenical Affairs, Nicholas Jesson is providing administrative support, such as researching, writing and assisting with projects related to Bishop Bolen's many ecumenical commitments. "Many of the international dialogues have limited staff support," Jesson noted.

The International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), which Bolen co-chairs, is undertaking a major project to put material from 45 years of dialogue online, ensuring that significant writings from both international and national discussions are more accessible to Christians, said Jesson, who is already working on the new website.

Jesson is also assisting the bishop with preparation of CCCB materials planned to mark the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, which has been a key text in launching the Catholic Church into the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical achievements are not always easy to

measure: they take time, and are a matter of building relationships, Jesson noted. "And yet in the 19 years since I first came to Saskatoon, I have seen some dramatic developments in the ecumenical relationships among churches. These are the experiences that we bring to our international participation."



Nicholas Jesson

Jesson's past ecumenical involvements have included serving as both the director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, and volunteering as diocesan ecumenical officer. Jesson has also taught at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon and he established the Ecumenism in Canada website at www.ecumenism.net

A Roman Catholic, Jesson is married to Rev. Amanda Currie, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Saskatoon. The couple were members of the Canadian team that prepared resources for the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, along with Bishop Bolen and Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsall of Saskatoon.



Planned Gift for Ecumenism

Planned Giving Officer Jocelyne Hamoline (left) meets with Shirley and Bernard Karstad and their great-niece.

The Karstads are among those who have thought about the legacy they want to leave in our world. The inter-church Catholic-Lutheran couple has made a planned gift to the Catholic Foundation directed to the work of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

Bishop's Dinner supports diocesan priorities

The annual Bishop's Dinner is a gala evening of fine dining and entertainment, as well as a chance to gather with old friends and meet new ones, all while supporting a worthy cause: the needs of our diocesan church.

Since the Bishop's Dinner began seven years ago, proceeds have been directed towards the highest priorities of the diocese. For several years, funds raised at the annual gala event went towards the building of our diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre. Last year, a portion of the proceeds of the 2013 Bishop's Dinner went toward prison ministry in the diocese.

Community Chaplain Peter Oliver – who has served in local prisons and is now part of the Micah Mission outreach in Saskatoon – was one of the speakers at the 2013 Bishop's Dinner held in May. He reported that each year, there are some 6,500 admissions at the two prisons in Saskatoon. Many are Catholic. All are in need of outreach, healing and connection.

By going into prisons and bearing witness to the dignity and respect of inmates, “the church is a treasure in the prison: it brings hope, changes hearts, makes our communities safer,” Oliver said.

Oliver described the impact of caring outreach by people like Fr. André Poilièvre, a former prison chaplain and a founder of STR8-UP, a gang intervention and healing support group.

**The 2014 Bishop's Dinner
will be held Friday, May 2, 2014
at TCU Place in Saskatoon.**

One young man, talking about the difference that Fr. André Poilièvre has made in his life, said: “When Fr. André looks at me, there is no judgement. He believes in me. And when someone believes in you, you can do anything.”

Oliver challenged his listeners to live out the gospel call to reach out to those in prison, even though prison ministry has many difficult moments and backward steps happen alongside the forward ones.

In the diocese of Saskatoon, prison ministry is one of the ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal through the diocesan Office of Restorative Ministry, coordinated by Dianne Anderson (*see article on Page 7*).

A crowd of about 300 attended the 2013 Bishop's Dinner, which began with a champagne reception and students from St. Joseph high school providing live jazz music. The gala evening also included a gourmet meal and dancing.

Agnes Pelletier offered grace for the meal, calling on God, “ever ancient and ever new” and giving thanks for the people and communities whose faith in days past built up the “parishes, schools and hospitals that carry on faith and enrich our diocese in so many ways today.”

The 2013 Bishop's Dinner also featured a tribute to long-time philanthropists Les and Irene Dubé, who in April of last year received the International Award for Outstanding Philanthropist, presented in San Diego by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Les and Irene Dubé are long-time supporters of health care, education, religion and poverty relief in our community. The crowd rose to honour and applaud the couple and their generous example.

Plans are now underway for the 2014 Bishop's Dinner, to be held Friday, May 2 at TCU Place. This year's theme is “*Bearing joyful witness to the mercy and tenderness of God.*”

Tickets for the Bishop's Dinner on May 2 are \$350 with a partial tax receipt. Contact Cathy Gilje at: (306) 659-5851 or e-mail: cgilje@dscatholicfoundation.ca



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Annual General Meeting

**3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 22**
Cathedral of the Holy Family
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK.

Join Bishop Don Bolen and the Diocesan Finance Committee for the AGM, which will include presentation of 2012-13 Financial Reports.

**There will be an opportunity for questions.
Everyone is welcome!**

“I was in prison, and you visited me...” - Matthew 25:36

Restorative Ministry reaches out

While most people were home celebrating around the tree and eating Christmas dinner, representatives of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office were at Saskatoon Correctional Centre Dec. 25, praying with inmates, carolling through the units and delivering small gifts to all the men.

“We started at 9 a.m. and ended by about 5 p.m.,” said Dianne Anderson, describing Christmas Day at the prison, which included two celebrations of the Eucharist, with Bishop Donald Bolen and Fr. Mick Fleming presiding.

At Mass, the men reverently followed the bishop in kneeling to pray before the manger scene, she said.

One inmate had created a beaded necklace with three crosses, that he gave to the bishop. “All of the men were so thankful. It was very moving,” said Dianne, thanking parishes and donors for their generosity.

Restorative Ministry is one of the many ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Dianne visits and prays with inmates, runs healing programs and liturgies, and connects with families. She also recruits, mentors and coordinates volunteers and works hard to raise awareness about prison ministry and the justice system in our parishes and community. Donations of warm jackets, rosaries, Bibles, and blank greeting cards are other tangible ways that parishioners are assisting in this ministry.

Letters and testimonies from the men demonstrate how this difficult but important ministry is truly making a difference:

- **“Thank you** for the mittens and chocolates ... it brought a lil’ light to our Christmas in jail.”
- **“It strengthens my heart** to know that human nature is still alive and well, spreading hope and love.”
- **“I thank you for being there for me when my time here got a little rough or difficult to handle. I want you to know that wherever life takes me out there, I’ll always remember to pray and think of you.”**



Dianne Anderson presents a rosary to an inmate at Saskatoon Correctional Centre



Dianne Anderson with artwork created by a man in prison.



Catholic hospital chaplaincy

Thanks to funding from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, our diocesan Catholic hospital chaplaincy office is providing vital outreach at two city hospitals.

For those who are ill, those dealing with a difficult diagnosis or struggling with mental illness – or for those facing the suffering or loss of a loved one – there is often a great spiritual need to connect with someone who can offer prayers, a listening and compassionate heart and a connection to the Church. Chaplaincy coordinator Céline Hudon (*left*) works with a team of volunteers and priest chaplains to respond to spiritual needs of patients and families from across our diocese, and beyond, at Saskatoon City and Royal University Hospitals.

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2013

BAA total nears \$1.5 million goal

The 2013 Bishop's Annual Appeal has raised \$1,457,030 for a range of ministries and programs in the diocese of Saskatoon. The total raised as of Dec. 31, 2013, is a record amount for the Appeal, falling just shy of this year's \$1.5 million goal.

Bishop Donald Bolen expressed deep appreciation for all those who contributed to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal through their gifts and their leadership.

"By coming together in generosity and in love, we are truly responding to all of the 'blessings without number' that God pours out upon us. As a diocese we will once again be able to reach out in so many important ways, providing ministries that would not happen without the Bishop's Annual Appeal," said Bishop Bolen.

"The success of the Appeal is the result of the hard work of parish leaders and volunteer coordinators, and the generous response of thousands of individuals and families in our parishes. Thanks to each and every one for ensuring all the efforts supported by the BAA can continue in our diocese."

Launched by Bishop James Mahoney more than 25 years ago, the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports programs and initiatives that both build up the church and help our diocese to reach out in love.

"Building up the church" - Faith formation and evangelization, education of priests and laity, children's catechism and adult initiation, youth ministry and faith enrichment – these are among the diocesan efforts funded by the BAA that support parishes in efforts to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world.

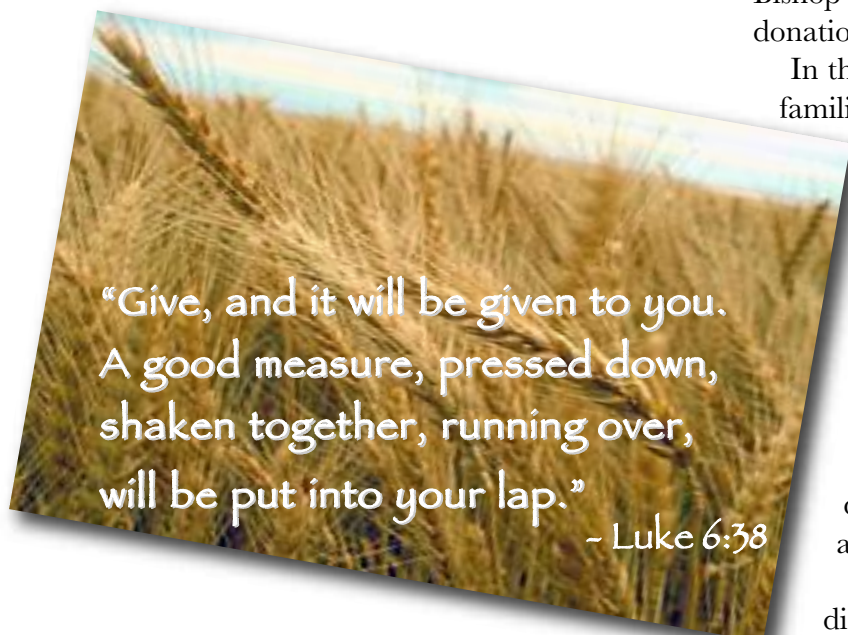
"Reaching out in love" - Pastoral care and outreach to the sick and imprisoned, to refugees and newcomers are among the pastoral ministries funded by the BAA, as are justice and peace efforts, assistance to families, to those in need, and to the Aboriginal Catholic community.

For the past four years, the diocesan goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal has been \$1.5 million. Total donations have remained relatively constant.

In the past five years, the number of registered families has decreased by about 6.5 per cent in the diocese, and the rate of participation in the BAA has declined by 5.5 per cent.

In 2013, 35.7 per cent of Catholics across the diocese contributed to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The average gift size has increased by about 34 per cent in the past five years, with the diocesan average gift standing at about \$240 in 2013.

This year, a total of 25 parishes across the diocese met or exceeded their parish goal.



"Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap."
- Luke 6:38

BAA: 2013 Allocations

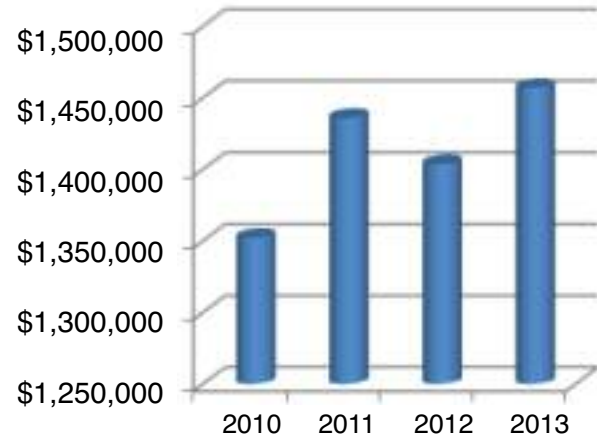
Aboriginal Parish Ministry	\$ 65,000
Catholic Family Services	\$ 50,000
Christian Initiation and Catechetics	\$ 114,000
Communications	\$ 94,000
Deaf Ministry	\$ 8,000
Ecumenical Commission	\$ 8,000
Education of Laity for Ministry	\$ 17,000
Education of Priests & Future Priests	\$ 100,000
Foundations: Exploring Our Faith and ministry support	\$ 39,153
Friendship Inn	\$ 5,000
Hospital Chaplaincy	\$ 100,000
Lay Formation /Aboriginal Lay Formation	\$ 137,000
Liturgy Commission	\$ 10,000
Marriage & Family Life and Ministry Development	\$ 60,000
Office for Justice and Peace	\$ 29,000
Prairie Centre for Ecumenism	\$ 20,000
Priest Pension Fund	\$ 135,000
Resource Library	\$ 2,500
Restorative Ministry (Prison)	\$ 52,000
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults	\$ 4,000
Vocations	\$ 20,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 58,000
Parish Sharing Incentive	\$ 172,725

BAA administration (projected to June 30 2014) \$ 140,000

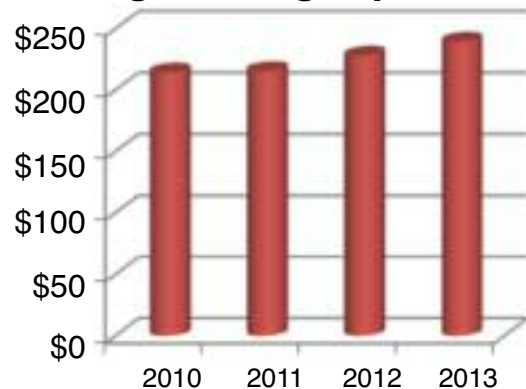
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS \$ 1,440,378

Note: Each year, BAA funds are allocated over two Catholic Pastoral Centre budget years, which accounts for the difference in the total amount donated in 2013 and the allocations in 2012-13. The remaining amount will be accounted for in 2013-14 budget year.

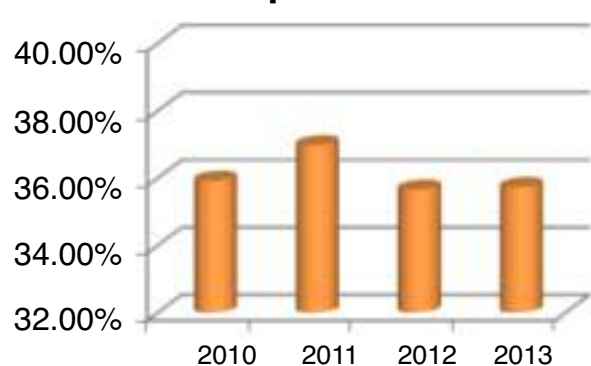
Total BAA Donations:



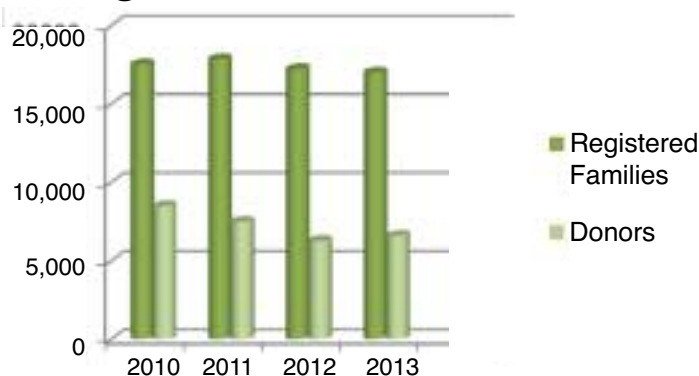
Average BAA gift per donor:



Rate of Participation in the BAA:



Registered Families / Donors:



Creating Christian disciples

The Office of Christian Initiation and Catechetics (CIC) – which assists parishes with preparing all ages for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – hosted a workshop Feb. 7-8 in Saskatoon.

Facilitators explored how to create lifelong disciples using the vision of RCIA -- as a gradual process of conversion and discipleship that happens within a community, grounded in the Paschal Mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Adult catechumens will be baptized in parishes across the diocese at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation of children, followed by first communion, will be celebrated in many parishes throughout the 50 days of Easter. The diocesan CIC office is one of the ministries funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Diocesan participation assists in responding to world hunger, and to recent crises in Syria and Philippines

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis, the helping arm of the Catholic Church around the world. In December, Caritas launched a world-wide campaign called “One Human Family, Food For All,” with Pope Francis leading a global “wave of prayer” calling for an end to world hunger.

Development and Peace has also made this the theme of this year's Share Lent campaign. “To die of hunger in our world of plenty is a scandal, and denies the most basic human right: the right to food,” states Development and Peace. Many of the organization's partners work to ensure food sovereignty: the right of people to healthy food and to develop their own agricultural systems.

This past year, Development and Peace also joined Caritas in responding to crisis situations in our world.

Development and Peace and the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCCB) launched a joint emergency campaign for Syrian refugees in 2013, raising a total of \$2,450,000 nation-wide, with \$67,000 contributed by parishioners in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. This enabled Development and Peace to answer to the growing needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis in Syria. Help is also being extended to refugees in surrounding Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

A CCCCB and Development and Peace special national collection for victims of the Philippines' “Typhoon Haiyan” was also launched in November 2013, raising a total of \$11,331,833 with parishioners in the Saskatoon diocese contributing \$170,700.

“Your donations have helped to put in place a reconstruction program that will make communities more resilient to future disasters. This long-term plan will address both the reality of poverty in the region and the impacts of the disaster,” stated Armella Sonntag, provincial animator for Development and Peace. “A heartfelt thank-you from Development and Peace for your kindness and generosity toward our sisters and brothers in Syria and the Philippines.”





Lay Formation: Class of 2013

Christian disciples nurtured in program funded by BAA

For more than 25 years, Lay Formation has worked to form and nurture active disciples of Jesus Christ.

One of the many ministries supported in our diocese by the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Lay Formation offers a two-year journey of personal transformation, focused on prayer, learning and community.

Since it was created under the leadership of Bishop James Mahoney, Lay Formation has sent forth some 800 graduates, empowered to live



their Catholic Christian faith with more understanding and more commitment, grounded in a prayerful relationship with God and with the Christian community.

The impact of the Lay Formation experience has echoed in the lives of

each of these graduates. In turn, it touches the families, parishes and communities where each Lay Formation graduate lives and serves.

"We come to the tasks with a fresh zeal, more joy, peace and confidence. As well, we have a renewed vision of collaboration and the need to encourage the giftedness of all," wrote one Lay Formation participant from Christ the King Parish in Foam Lake.


"Our faith, knowledge, prayer life and spirits were bolstered in this unique setting, and our appetites were whetted for more."

The Lay Formation Program is hosted and lived in the peaceful setting of Queens' House of Retreat and Renewal in Saskatoon on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. A range of gifted presenters join the Lay Formation team to offer a program rich in theology, spirituality and community.

Participants commit to Lay Formation for a period of two years – one weekend per month, September through June. Cost is shared between the diocese (funded by the BAA), by the parish and by a personal contribution or bursary.


For more information contact Mona Goodman at (306) 659-5846 or Kate O'Gorman at (306) 659-5847 or check out the diocesan website at: saskatoonrcdiocese.com/lay-formation

Enrich your faith
Deepen your prayer life
Experience community



Lay Formation

For Information Contact:
Mona Goodman at (306) 659-5846 or
Kate O'Gorman at (306) 659-5847



A lasting gift of faith: preparing your will

By Jocelyne Hamoline
Major and Planned Giving Officer

Although my parents and grandparents are no longer physically with me, each and every day they are a part of my life through the richness and strength I have received through my faith – a faith that continues to grow, shape and support me. Every day I feel their presence: sometimes with a brief memory, and other times I draw upon their reliance on God. My faith gives me hope, keeps me grounded and is an incredible gift that I can share through the blessings of my family and friends. I believe that I must also play a similar role for my own children and grandchildren. This is a gift, an opportunity I'm blessed to have and blessed to share.

As a Catholic, I know that working on my estate plans, which includes a *Last Will and Testament*, makes a statement of faith and is an act of love. By arranging my estate before I die, my children will not have to bear the strain of making decisions on my behalf. It will allow them the time and space to grieve, knowing their mother cared for and watched over them to the end.

When planning a *Last Will and Testament*, many people focus only on distributing their money, property and possessions. But estate planning can be much more than that. It is an opportunity to proclaim your love of the Lord to family and friends and to show them you care.

Catholic estate and end-of-life planning seeks to guide the faithful in opening hearts to the call of the gospel. Catholic teachings can be applied to one's estate planning in the following ways: 1) passing on an inheritance; 2) making health care decisions in

conformity with church teachings; 3) sharing one's faith through proper planning; and 4) leaving a legacy as a steward for the common good.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus states that his family (mother and brothers and sisters) are those who do the will of his Father in heaven. Jesus teaches us to work and share for the good of all: our family, parish, diocesan faith family, and our greater community.

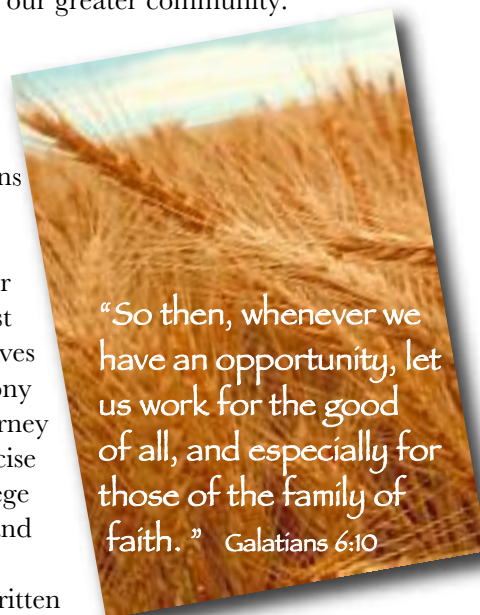
Your *Last Will and Testament* is the cornerstone of your estate plan. Your actions during your life-time become a statement of your faith. As your last act, your will serves as a final testimony to your faith journey in life. You exercise a spiritual privilege when you plan and write your will.

A properly written will is one of the most important papers you will ever sign. This document ensures that your wishes with respect to your family, loved ones and property are carried out. If you do not have a will, the government and the courts decide for you. As a result, your wishes may not be carried out, and the lack of a will could be a detriment to your family; a larger portion of your estate will be lost through probate fees, executor fees, and taxes.

If you already have a will, take the time to regularly update it. You should revisit your will, estate plans and beneficiaries on life insurance and retirement accounts about every five years in light of changing circumstances. Life events are good reminders to review these important documents: marriage, birth of a child, divorce, moving from another province, death of a trustee or guardian, starting or selling a business, changing a beneficiary, and determining if your current executor is still capable and willing to deal with your final estate.

Other matters to consider:

- **Preamble to your *Last Will and Testament*** - This can be a personal statement of faith proclaiming your love of



A *Last Will and Testament* can include a statement of faith.

LAST WILL and TESTAMENT continued on PAGE 13

Your lasting gift :

Continued from Page 12

the Lord to family and friends, allowing you to share your true wealth: your belief in Jesus Christ and His gift of everlasting life.

- **Catholic Health Care Directive and Enduring Power of Attorney** - Plan for decisions that will be made when sick or dying and not able to communicate your wishes. This document would reflect your Catholic beliefs and the dignity of human life.

- **Legal Guardian** - Provide for the care of minor children and those with special needs.

- **Legacy Giving - an act of stewardship** - consider whether you want to give a percentage of your estate or a specific amount to the Church.

- **Funeral Planning** - Decide upon hymns, scripture readings, burial type, where your remains are to rest, obituary, notification to family and friends. Preparing your funeral beforehand is an act of love to your family and loved ones that are grieving.

- **Communicating your wishes to your loved ones** - Ensure your loved ones and family are aware of all your decisions, possibly by including them in your decision-making process.

- **"In Memory" of or "In Lieu of Flowers" statement** - Consider inviting others to make a donation in support of the faith you love.

- **Forgiveness** - Take time to mend and reconcile relationships, especially with family.



- **Last will and testament preamble for Catholics** - A Christian Preamble is a source of comfort to mourning family and friends assuring them that their loved one died in faith, sure of God's promise of eternal life. It can be a powerful message of love and encouragement urging others to trust in Jesus Christ and strengthen their own faith. It is also a public record of Christian love (when used with a will) because, filed in probate court, a Catholic Preamble becomes part of the public record.

For examples that you may want to use when writing a preamble to your *Last Will and Testament* and/or for information on Legacy Giving, please contact Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 659-5849 or e-mail: jhamoline@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Planned Giving: take time to think about your legacy

Estate planning is the strategy for providing an efficient transfer of wealth (accumulated assets) after your death, but there is a scriptural element to this process as well. The Bible teaches that we are stewards of all we have in this life, and we have a responsibility to ensure that everything God entrusted to us is accounted for and put to good use.

We are stewards, not owners. This first and overriding principle recognizes that everything we have is a gift from God. We have a tendency to act as if we "earned" what we possess, but without time, talents and wisdom from God, we would not have anything! Everything truly belongs to God. He simply allows us the great privilege of caring for it.

By using some of your accumulated resources, you can bless others both now and after your death, bringing glory and honor to God. Scripture tells us that through your giving, God will bless you and God's glory will multiply! That is a lasting legacy, sharing a portion of what God provided to you with others through a planned gift.

Tax laws in Canada are changing to encourage Canadians to give generously to charities from their accumulated wealth, not just their current income. With these tax laws, you can make a gift to the Church through your estate, while your heirs

benefit from the tax savings. More Canadians are also choosing to make more sizeable donations to the charities of their choice while still living, in order to take full advantage of the tax-benefit and because they want to see the fruits of their generosity while they are still alive.

Some of the ways to make a planned gift include: wills and bequests, life insurance, gift annuities, publically-traded securities, gifts of residual income and charitable remainder trusts.

The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation Planned Giving Office, grounded in Biblical stewardship, provides planned giving information at no cost. To receive more information contact Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 659-5849 or e-mail: jhamoline@dscatholicfoundation.ca

The "Just in Case" Binder: A one-hour seminar on compiling information to help your executor and loved ones in the event of your death, will be presented by Harold Empey in memory of his wife Betty: **3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 or 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 21** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Cost: \$30 for the Just in Case Binder. Jocelyne Hamoline will also present: *"A Catholic Guide to Your Estate and Legacy Planning."*

A Prairie Annunciation

The Archangel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary
 Stained Glass Windows and Mosaic planned for the Queen of Peace Chapel
 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon



Thank you for your commitment to creating this beautiful space in our diocesan family home!

Total Donation Amount: _____
☐ Over _____ Years (maximum 5 years) ☐ One Time Payment OR
 Initial Payment: _____ Remaining: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Post-dated Cheques ☐ Annual ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Monthly

Cheques are payable to the "Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation"

_____ (# of Cheques) enclosed for a total of \$ _____

☐ Pre-Authorized Debit ☐ Annual ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Monthly

I authorize the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation to deduct \$ _____ from my bank account on the 1st day of the month, beginning the month of _____, 201____.

(Enclose blank cheque, marked VOID.)

☐ Visa or ☐ MasterCard ☐ Annual ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Monthly

I authorized the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation to charge \$ _____ to my credit card on the 1st day of the month, beginning the month of _____, 201____.

Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annunciation mosaic design connects stained glass

When Bishop Don Bolen first saw the distance between the two windows in the Queen of Peace chapel, one on either side of the front wall, he wondered how the Annunciation could be effectively depicted in stained glass, with so much space between the Archangel Gabriel on one window, and the Blessed Virgin Mary on the other.

The solution came with the re-imagining of the artwork as a mosaic on the stone wall behind the altar, framed by stained glass windows on either side, filled with images familiar to the Prairies.

Award-winning Canadian artist Sarah Hall – who also designed the stained glass windows circling the main worship space in the diocesan cathedral, as well as the solar stained glass art in the building's spire – rose to the challenge, and has been working on fabrication of the brilliantly-coloured mosaic and windows at Glasmalerei Peters Studios in Paderborn, Germany.

"What Sarah Hall has produced is a combination of mosaic and stained glass which is going to be breathtaking," said Bishop Bolen. "Such beauty can evangelize hearts in a gentle and profound way."

When it is finally complete and installed, the mosaic image will feature the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she is to become the Mother of God, and Mary saying yes to God's call, with a long and loving look. Mary's *fiat* – "let it be done unto me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) – is the beginning of the Incarnation, with Christ coming to dwell among us, bringing life and redemption.

The images of the Angel Gabriel and the Blessed Virgin Mary were inspired by a fresco painted by Jacopo da Pontormo in Santa

Felicità church in Florence in the early 16th century. The two figures are situated on an image of the earth and the cosmos, creating the shape of a chalice in the stone background. The two stained glass windows on either side incorporate prairie imagery, to frame the Annunciation in this time and place.

The beauty of the Cathedral, with its stained glass windows, has already drawn many visitors since it opened in December 2010. The Cathedral is a place where people come to pray, a holy place. The artwork planned for the Queen of Peace chapel will create a space to rest in the incarnate God's loving embrace and rejoice in Mary's humble gaze and the gesture of her open hands, and to be filled with the joy of God come among us.

For more information about how to contribute to the Prairie Annunciation artwork in the Queen of Peace Chapel, see Page 14 or call (306) 659-5849. **Note:** A blessing celebration for the mosaic and chapel will be held May 25: watch for details.



Artist Sarah Hall works on the mosaic.

Stained Glass Memorial Fund

The Stained Glass Memorial Fund was established as a means to share and preserve the memory of a loved one(s), a family or group, and to cherish and express your feelings about your loved one using words and pictures. Your memorial will be a part of a multimedia display that will be set up within the Cathedral of the Holy Family as a perpetual remembrance.

The Stained Glass Memorial Fund enables family and friends to create a lasting legacy that will enrich current and future lives within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. The funds raised through the Stained Glass Memorial Fund are considered general donations, which are used to enhance the lives of others through the ministries and programs of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – Catholic Pastoral Centre.

Our team at the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation will help guide you through the process of remembering and honouring your parents, a child or friend, a group like the CWL of your parish, a pastor or anyone else you love. We can guide you in preserving and sharing your loved one's legacy and help you to share your memories.

Stained Glass Memorial Fund: Recognition Levels - No limit on availability:

\$100 - \$999 - recognized under the name of which the memorial is made.

\$1,000 – \$3,999 - 2-3 lines in multi-media display.

\$4,000 - \$6,499 – max 50-word short story/bio in multi-media display and a picture.

\$6,500 - \$9,999 – max 100-word short story/bio in multi-media display and a picture.

\$10,000 or more – max 300-word short story/bio in multi-media display and up to two pictures.

For more information about the fund, to create the story/bio for your loved one or for a copy of the pledge form, contact Jocelyne Hamoline at 306-659-5849 or email jhamoline@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Youth ministry prayers

Youth ministry leaders from across the country participate in a prayer service during a Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network event held Jan. 17-19 in Saskatoon. Diocesan coordinator of youth ministry Colm Leyne helped organize the conference that inspired and affirmed youth leaders in their evangelization efforts. The theme of the conference was “@HOME” – recognizing how today’s young people are longing for authentic connections and caring relationships. Youth ministry in our diocese is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.



New book offers a “family album” about churches across our diocese

Rural and urban, new and old, large and small – the parish churches and cathedrals of our diocese are treasures of faith from which generations of Catholics have built up the church and lived the gospel. A new book by Margaret Sanche (photos by Dan Classen), features a look at 99 church buildings across our diocese. ***Building the Church, Living the Gospel*** is available from the Catholic Pastoral Centre for \$20 (or \$25 if mailed). Copies will also be available for sale before and after the diocesan Chrism Mass to be held at 7 p.m. Monday, April 14 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.



History and architecture
are part of a new book about the churches of our diocese.



Change of Address Announcement: Have you moved, or changed your phone number or e-mail? Please send the Catholic Foundation an update! Ensure that you won't miss out on mail outs, including income tax receipts and the latest news.

Your Name: _____ Signature: _____ Change Effective On: _____

Former address:

Former phone number: _____

Former e-mail: _____

Previous parish: _____

New address:

New phone number: _____

New e-mail: _____

New parish: _____

Mail changes to: Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1

Or send changes via e-mail to: jhamoline@dscatholicfoundation.ca

Thank You!