

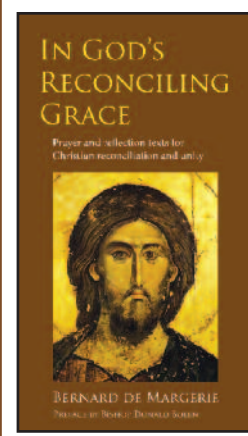


Brazil Mission Pages 14-15

Bishop's Annual Appeal making a difference.

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds a range of ministries and programs that are helping our diocesan church to 'reach out in love' and to 'build up the church.'

BAA Page 3



New book launched

Written by Fr. Bernard de Margerie, *In God's Reconciling Grace* is "intended to help members of all Christian churches learn and grow into ways of thinking, desiring, hoping, and praying for the healing of divisions among Christians according to the unmistakable will and prayer of Christ." It is available free of charge.

In God's Reconciling Grace • Page 10



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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NOVEMBER 2014

Bishop says yes to permanent deacons and outreach ministry formation program

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

After a diocesan-wide discernment about whether or not to ordain permanent deacons in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Bishop Donald Bolen is accepting the recommendation of a 12-member committee to move ahead with a permanent diaconate program, grounded in service and outreach.

The bishop outlined the diaconate discernment committee's recommendations and possible next steps at an Administration Day for parish representatives and ministry leaders from across the diocese held Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The diaconate discernment committee has recommended "that the diocese move forward in discerning the permanent diaconate with those who feel called to serve those on the peripheries of church and society, and that their formation be primarily, but not necessarily exclusively, facilitated within the diocese."

However, beyond addressing simply the formation and ordination of men as deacons, the committee recommends a broad approach, focused on ministry in general to the marginalized, suffering or most in need.

Their first recommendation calls for the establishment of a new one-year program of ministry formation in the diocese, open to both women and men, which would be focused on ministry "to the peripheries."

DIACONATE continued on Page 2



Season's bounty

Julia Ramsay and her mother, Melanie, were among volunteers from St. Augustine parish in Humboldt participating in a Fresh Harvest Youth Garden Fundraiser this year, in support of parish youth ministry. Dr. Gerald and Bernice Junk donated the use of their land for the project, in which students from Grades 2-12 and their families took care of a large garden throughout the growing season, planting and harvesting vegetables. The fresh produce was delivered weekly to area families for a \$100 donation. Some families also chose to donate weekly shares of vegetables to the Humboldt Food Bank.

- Photos by Sr Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE

Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue produces joint statement

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A Saskatoon Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue group presented a common statement of faith at a recent public meeting held at the Church of Christ in Saskatoon.

Outlining common points of agreement, central differences and possible mission opportunities among Evangelical and Catholic Christians, the new statement grew out of conversations at regular meetings between 10 Catholic and 10 Evangelical representatives that began in December 2011.

The dialogue partners were joined Oct. 16 by others from both traditions to discuss the first part of the three-part document – "We Confess Our Shared Faith."

Two other public meetings are also planned in the weeks ahead to introduce the second and third sections of the joint statement: "We Acknowledge Our Central Differences" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at St. Paul's Cathedral; and "We Affirm Our Common Mission" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

"It is important to understand that the goal of our dialogue is to build mutual understanding, to address stereotypes that we have of each other, and to increase opportunities for common witness, mission and service," said dialogue co-chair Nicholas



Many of the members of a Saskatoon Evangelical-Catholic dialogue attended a public meeting Oct. 16, held to introduce the first part of their recently-drafted common statement of faith.

Jesson, the ecumenical officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

"This dialogue is not a negotiation. Any dialogue – any true dialogue – is an exchange of understanding and a joint search for the truth," Jesson explained.

Reflecting on the dialogue process and the shared commitment of Catholics and Evangelicals to Jesus Christ and the gospel, co-chair Harry Strauss quoted the words of his seminary professor: "a first-class gospel deserves a first-class fellowship."

The common statement of faith opens with words of affirmation and reconciliation:

"In recent years, Evangelicals and Roman Catholics in Saskatoon have discovered each other in new and positive ways. This new relationship has developed between pastors and ministers, church leaders and laity from our churches, but has its roots in the close relationships between neighbours, co-workers, and family members who have shared with each other their desire to be faithful disciples."

"Breaking from the old pattern of distrust and dismissal, we have discovered in each other people of faith who seek to sincerely follow Christ. Like the disciples on the road

to Emmaus, we have discovered that Christ is present with us as we walk together, breaking open God's word and sharing in all that God has been doing," the common statement continues.

Discussing the first section, "We Confess Our Shared Faith," participants at the Oct. 16 meeting said they were struck by the large amount that is held in common about central tenants of Christian faith.

During the course of the three public meetings, the dialogue group will gather feedback, with the hope that the document will eventually receive affirmation and approval by the Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers' Fellowship and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, said Strauss.

"Ultimately we aren't really looking for just a wonderful conversation between Catholics and Evangelicals – we are looking at how Evangelicals and Catholics can work together to be salt and light in the community of Saskatoon and even more broadly," said Strauss, expressing the hope that the joint statement of faith will lead to engaging in common mission.

The Evangelical-Roman Catholic Common Statement of Faith, Saskatoon, 2014 is online at: www.ecumenism.net or contact: jesson@ecumenism.net

Formation of permanent deacons addressed in recommendations

Continued from Page 1

“This program could be an optional third year in the Lay Formation program, open to all Lay Formation alumni,” notes the report.

The new ministry formation program should also be “an integral part of the discernment for and formation of permanent deacons within the diocese,” suggests the committee.

Formation of men as permanent deacons in the diocese consistent with Church norms should also happen in a way that “does not jeopardize funding or resources already allocated to existing ministries,” recommends the committee.

The decision-making bodies involved in designing and establishing the permanent diaconate formation program in the diocese should include people at the peripheries of society, the report adds.

The committee also recommends that the focus of diaconal ministry be on active outreach and service, with “the liturgical ministry of deacons (being) a celebration and expression of their active ministry of service in the community.”

Discernment process

During his presentation at Administration Day, Bolen reviewed the background and history of the discernment process and the work of the diocesan committee, which was established by the Saskatoon bishop in the spring of 2013, after Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina invited other bishops in the province to consider ordaining permanent deacons in their dioceses.

“I tested the waters in a few places on this

question, and had a fairly good sense that this would be a highly contested issue here in the diocese of Saskatoon, with strong feelings on opposing ends. In prayer I knew we had to broaden the discussion, seeking out options that would move us past a decision that would polarize, and letting the Spirit assist us in finding a way forward,” Bolen said.

The discernment process included in-depth discussion, research and prayer by the 12-member committee that was formed in the spring of 2013, representing a broad range of experience and opinion on the issue of ordaining permanent deacons. Chaired first by Glenn Hilton and then by Leah Perrault, the diaconate discernment committee also included: Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP; Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU; Linda Labelle; Katherine O’Gorman; Agnes Pelletier; Myron Rogal; Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers; Fr. David Tumback and Deacon Bob Williston.

The committee subsequently broadened the discernment to include the diocese at large, through vocation-focused presentations and prayer at Congress Day in the Deaneries, held at three locations early in 2014. In addition, discernment sessions were held with clergy, with women religious, and with lay leaders and employees.

The bishop noted that this extensive diocesan consultation was undertaken during the first year of Pope Francis’ pontificate. “His frequent call for us to proclaim the Gospel with our lives, to make personal decisions which witness to the joy and freedom and mercy which God came to bring us in Jesus, and to go out to the peripheries, to find and love and serve the Lord there – all of

this has been part of the air we have been breathing in the Church as we have been discerning a permanent diaconate.”

Bolen said that the diocesan discernment was characterized by dialogue and was “full of grace,” and proved to be a “coming together of minds and hearts,” despite a range of opinions and ways of thinking.

“It has been a privilege to work alongside the diaconal discernment committee, and alongside so many of you, as we have considered the possibility of a permanent diaconate,” Bolen said.

“I believe that the process has been a graced one, and trust that the Spirit which has guided us thus far will continue to lead us, probably in directions a little different than we anticipate at present. So it has ever been in walking with the Holy Spirit!”

Next steps

Bolen announced that in the coming weeks he will call together three committees to further reflect upon and take forward recommendations.

The first committee will be asked to come up with a more detailed proposal about the idea of a year of formation for lay ministry and service on the peripheries.

“The committee will be asked to reflect on how we can offer a quality formation program drawing on limited financial resources, wherever possible using resources, presenters and staff already in place or easily accessible and affordable,” he said.

“The second committee will include those acquainted with diaconal formation and its requirements, with skills in pedagogy and human formation, and familiar with pertinent

academic and formation programs in the region,” said Bolen.

Finally, a third committee of finance and stewardship will be asked to assess the financial and human resources required for the new initiatives, “and to reflect on how the programs could develop stably and effectively without being a financial drain to existing programming and services,” Bolen added.

There are still many questions, and much work to do and decisions to make before the formation of permanent deacons might begin in the diocese.

“I anticipate that September of 2016 would be the earliest potential start date for diaconal candidates, as well as any lay programming coming out of the committee’s recommendations,” the bishop said.

“It is my profound hope that over the next two years as a diocese, we will be able to give shape to a formation program and vision for a permanent diaconate that is strongly rooted in service and integrated into a collaborative approach to ministry among ordained, lay, and religious; and that the preparation for such ministry will be integrated with the development of a year-long lay formation program for outreach to the peripheries, with both initiatives developing in the spirit of where Pope Francis is calling the Church to be.”

Bolen concluded by expressing thanks to God “for bringing us from what certainly felt like irreconcilable visions to a place that I believe will address many of the most significant longings that dwell in the human heart and the most urgent needs of our communities.”

Study Day: Sr. Nuala Kenny reflects on sexual abuse crisis in Church

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Using language of diagnosis, prescription and healing at a recent diocesan Study Day, Sr. Nuala Kenny, MD, explored the causes and harm caused by the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Church, and possible ways forward.

The pediatrician, ethicist and member of the Sisters of Charity, Halifax, is the author of *Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Abuse Crisis*.

Kenny was a member of the commission of enquiry that investigated the Mount Cashel Orphanage cases that brought the issue of sexual abuse by clergy to light in Canada. She also assisted in the preparation of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops 1992 document “From Pain to Hope,” which prompted dioceses across the country – including the diocese of Saskatoon – to begin to try to address the issue.

Dealing with this crisis must involve more than setting up policies and procedures, Kenny said, challenging her listeners to a path of change and conversion, calling for



Sr. Nuala Kenny, OC, MD, FRCPC

the entire Church – lay and ordained – to end denial, secrecy and clericalism, to support each other in love and mutuality, and find solutions in the gospel and the example of Jesus Christ.

“Structural change isn’t worth the paper it is written on, if there is not a spiritual conversion,” she said.

“Unless we hear the truth, we cannot be free, unless things are taken out of the darkness and into the light, we are not following the way

of Christ in dealing with sin and failure,” she said, during a day-long presentation that was peppered throughout with quotations from Pope Francis and others who have reflected on the issue.

Kenny asserted that St. John Paul II expressed the “deep diagnosis” of exactly what the clergy sexual abuse of minors is all about when he said: “Sexual abuse within the Church is a profound contradiction of the teaching and witness of Christ.”

She noted that the crisis has two components – first the great harm done to children and youth by individual priests who abuse power and trust, and secondly, the inadequate and sinful response of Church leadership mired in denial, who too often, and in every part of the world, minimized the harm, engaged in secrecy to protect the reputation of the institution, marginalized whistle blowers, and gave more care and attention to offenders than to victims.

The roots of the crisis lie in a Church culture that held priests and bishops in an unrealistic high esteem, placing them on pedestals

and conferring power and authority in a way that leaves all-too-human men without support or accountability, said Kenny. “The crisis is a crisis of power, authority, transparency, accountability and compassion in the culture and practises of the Church.”

Of course individual priests or bishops who offended against children are morally responsible for those crimes, she stressed. “But to understand how this happened, and how we have managed it, you have to put the individual priest in the context of his formation, of the culture which supports him, the culture of laity which interacts with him, and the culture of the Church.”

Pope Francis has described clericalism as a great evil in the Church – an evil that laity all too

often go along with and are part of, because it’s easier than fully living their baptismal responsibility in a spirit of mutuality, she described.

The “prescription” for the sexual abuse crisis and the harm it has done to the Church will be found in the gospel – as Pope Francis continually articulates, Kenny said. It calls for all of us “to be truthful, to bring things out into the open, to be supportive, to recognize and respond to the weakness in ourselves and in each other.”

She concluded: “The one element that we cannot underestimate is dialogue: finding new ways to talk together, finding new ways of being responsible together, because the denial and secrecy has been what has killed us on this issue.”

House sold, bishop moves to apartment at Columbian Place

The bishop’s house on Spadina Crescent has been sold by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and Bishop Donald Bolen has moved into an apartment in Columbian Place, near St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon.

The decision was made in consultation with the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Administration Council. A portion of the funds from the sale of the house will be set aside for the possible purchase of a bishop’s residence at some point in the future.

Downsizing to a rented apartment will eliminate the need for continual upkeep of a residential property, and is also the result of a

desire to live more simply, said Bolen. He noted that “the example of Pope Francis has been an encouragement to step aside from privilege and to try to witness to the Gospel in one’s daily choices.” Bolen added that he looks forward to getting to know the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood better.

It has been an autumn of moving and transition for some other members of the diocesan clergy, and for members of several religious orders as well, with many recently moving into Trinity Manor, a new retirement community built by Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan in the Stonebridge neighbourhood of Saskatoon. - KLY



Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation

Members of the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation have recently spent time reflecting upon the situation of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada, a process that has included examining the March 2014 parliamentary report: “Invisible Women: A Call to Action.” The Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) was established in 2012 by Bishop Donald Bolen, joining the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Council of Priests as a consultative body in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

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BAA launch part of diocesan day

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Bishop's Annual Appeal was highlighted when representatives from across the diocese gathered to launch a new ministry year at an Administration Day held Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Materials for the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) distributed at the diocesan Administration Day focused on the 2014 theme: "Sharing the Hidden Treasure."

Parables about the discovery of the hidden treasure or the pearl of great price illustrate the value of faith, said Bishop Donald Bolen. "God turns on the lights of our lives and we see our world filled with grace; it makes our hearts sing," noted Bolen.

"Many ministries in our diocese are supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. It is a way of evangelizing and strengthening faith and giving life to people," the bishop continued.

"It's about reaching out, it's about spreading the gospel and it's about giving life. The Appeal facilitates that."

The BAA funds a wide range of ministries and programs in the diocese, which both "build up the church" and "reach out in love," including:

- Christian Initiation / Catechetics
- Education of seminarians
- Vocations
- Youth ministry
- Marriage and family life ministry
- Justice and Peace
- Catholic hospital chaplaincy

- Restorative (prison) ministry
- Lay Formation
- Aboriginal Lay Formation
- Diocesan resource library
- Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith*
- Ecumenical commission
- Communications
- Aboriginal parish ministry
- Deaf ministry
- Education of laity for ministry
- Liturgy commission
- Saskatoon Friendship Inn
- Prairie Centre for Ecumenism
- Catholic Family Services

The 2014 goal remains unchanged from last year, set at \$1.5 million, reported BAA administrator Cathie Rogers.

An arrangement to support St. Peter's College was also announced for parishes in the Humboldt Deanery.

Funds raised over and above 70 percent of the Humboldt Deanery's BAA goal will go toward the ongoing capital campaign at the Catholic college in Muenster, Rogers explained. This will not affect the rebate that goes back to those parishes that achieve more than 100 per cent of their goal.

At the same time, it will help one of the "hidden treasures" in the community -- the Catholic college established by the Benedictines at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, with its small classes and rural setting providing area students with close-to-home advantages when enrolling in first and

second year University of Saskatchewan classes.

Rogers thanked parishes and volunteers for their support and urged them to share the personal stories about how the ministries of the Bishop's Annual Appeal impact lives in the diocese.

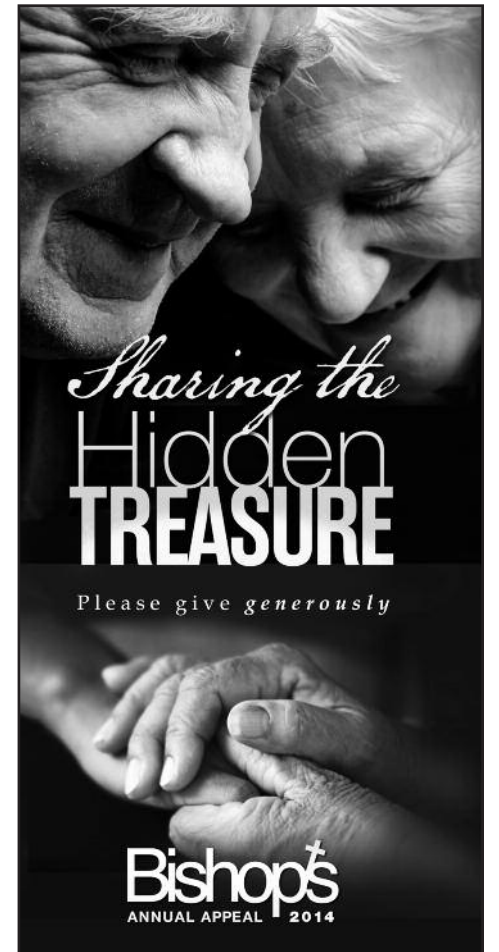
She also urged parishes and their BAA volunteers to try to make as many personal home visits as possible as part of the Appeal, stressing the value of meeting face to face, building relationships and sharing information about ministries.

A video that explored the BAA theme, and examined some of the ministries supported by the Appeal, was also presented at Administration Day.

The impact of the Miscarriage Awareness Committee, as well as a program for those grieving the death of a spouse, and the work of Catholic Family Services were featured in the video, which was later shown in parishes and is also available on the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation website at <http://dscatholicfoundation.ca>

A break-out session about practical elements of implementing the Appeal was also offered to parish representatives and BAA volunteers at Administration Day.

Throughout the rest of the day, a number of presentations focused on initiatives and ministries, including several funded by the BAA (see related articles below). The bishop reported on the permanent diaconate discernment and a decision to move ahead with forming and ordaining permanent deacons in the diocese (see Pages 1-2). As



well, a new book of ecumenical prayers by Fr. Bernard de Margerie was presented, with copies distributed to all parishes (see Page 10).

New staff in parishes, at the Catholic Pastoral Centre and Chancery Office were also introduced to the diocese at Admin Day.

Administration Day speakers highlight ministries

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Four parish nurses working in several Catholic parishes were among a number of speakers and groups providing an overview of their ministry at an Administration Day for representatives from across the diocese Sept. 10, at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Ethna Martin, Deb Bauche, Carol Kostiuk and Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, highlighted the role and impact of having a Registered Nurse as part of a pastoral team.

Parish nurses promote wellness, advocate for the sick, the elderly or the vulnerable, provide resources and referrals, initiate programs and educate parishioners – all within the context of faith and living out the gospel call to care for the sick and suffering, explained the four speakers.

Parish nurses do not take the place of community health personnel or home care, but bring an added dimension of faith and caring to the gospel mission of the parish community, the gathering heard.

Poignant examples of how parish nurse ministry is making a difference in people's lives were also part of the presentation.

Catholic Family Services

Fred Farthing spoke about the work of Catholic Family Services, whose mission is to build strong and healthy families, individuals and communities.

"We have five arms of service," Farthing said of the Saskatoon helping agency, which receives support from the BAA.

These "arms" are counselling (including a no-fee counselling service offered at Saskatoon Food Bank); family wellness and education programs; teen parenting and early childhood services; and professional training programs. As well, efforts in the area of community capacity-building and



Saskatoon parish nurses Deb Bauche, Ethna Martin, Carol Kostiuk and Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, (left to right) spoke at a recent diocesan Administration Day, describing the role of their healing ministry in parish life.

community development involve working face-to-face with clients to connect people in schools and communities as a way to "re-weave the social fabric," he described.

CIC: Lifelong faith

Speakers Michelle Sieben and Elan Ehresman of the diocesan office for Christian Initiation and Catechetics (CIC) discussed how to understand and implement a model of life-long faith formation in parishes, grounded on the effective principles of the catechumenate (RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

"Our goal in the Office of Christian Initiation and Catechetics is forming disciples," stressed Ehresman. (The office is funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

It is not merely a matter of getting the sacraments "done," or having as many children as possible enrolled in catechetics class, she said, but of nurturing lifelong faith and true discipleship. She noted that

a new, more effective model is needed for this new era, when culture does not support and reinforce faith formation as it might have done in years past.

Becoming and forming life-long disciples is about "opening our entire lives to God.... to be changed and transformed by a personal encounter with Jesus," stressed Ehresman.

The creation of disciples happens within a Christian community where Christian life is modeled by those living their faith on a path of conversion, service and ongoing formation – as a lived reality or "apprenticeship."

This kind of formation involves a process that is gradual, community-based, steeped in the Paschal Mystery, conversion-oriented, age appropriate, lifelong, and accommodated to the individual, Sieben said.

"It was the way Jesus taught," Sieben stressed, pointing to the Emmaus story in the Gospel of

Luke, in which the risen Lord meets the disciples where they are, engages them in conversation, answers the longing of their hearts, and reveals himself to them in the breaking of the bread.

Ehresman and Sieben shared reflections and practical ideas from local catechists who are seeking to use this discipleship formation model in their sacramental preparation programs.

Parish representatives were then asked to reflect and discuss how this model of faith formation can be implemented or strengthened in their own communities.

Other speakers

Grief ministry was also highlighted at Administration Day, with Ehresman describing the establishment of a support group for widows and widowers, as part of her work with the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, which is funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Group facilitators Dianna Knaus and Claire Hawkins joined Ehresman to describe the need for the program and the healing and support that it provides to widows and widowers (see Page 4).

Other speakers during the day included Blake Sittler, director of pastoral services and diocesan coordinator of care, who provided an update on the diocese of Saskatoon's Covenant of Care & Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Protocol, urging parishes to be vigilant in keeping training and police checks up to date.

Jocelyn Hamoline, planned giving officer for the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, spoke about wills and estate planning, including a "Just in Case" planning package. Hamoline told parish leaders that she is available to provide presentations on the subject to parishes or interested groups.

PALM revamped

Information was also presented about a change in the structure of a lay ministry association in the diocese.

Previously known as PALM (Pastoral Association of Lay Ministry) with a voluntary membership, the organization is undergoing changes as a result of a strategic planning process in the diocese of Saskatoon. The revamped association will now be more closely integrated into the diocesan structure, with all lay employees in the diocese automatically becoming members of the organization.

The three main objectives of the new lay ministry group will be to provide formation to lay employees, to encourage collaboration between lay and ordained, and to be part of the diocesan consultative process.

A new name was chosen for the group in a contest won in October by Anne Moldenhauer of St. Aloysius parish in Allan: Lay Employee Associates of the Diocese of Saskatoon or LEADS.

Marriage and Family Life

Ministry to those mourning the death of a spouse

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Support and healing for those who are grieving the death of a husband or wife is offered in the diocese of Saskatoon through a program entitled *From Mourning to Dawn*.

The eight-week program of video presentations, personal sharing, and faith-based support strives to move participants through their grief journey – to do the kind of “grief work” that brings healing, say facilitators.

At an Administration Day presentation and in a recent interview, program coordinator Elan Ehresman of the diocesan office of Marriage and Family Life, and volunteer facilitators Dianna Knaus and Claire Hawkins recently spoke about the grief support program and its impact. All three women have experienced the death of a spouse, and have wrestled with that experience in their own lives.

“Losing someone you care about can be one of the most difficult experiences of life. There are no words that can take away the pain of your loss,” states a video introduction from materials used as part of the diocesan program offered to those mourning the death of a spouse.

“It isn’t time that heals, it is what we do in that time,” said Knaus, stressing the importance of journeying through the grieving process.

“By leaning into their own pain and really, really feeling the emotions, getting in touch with those experiences, the healing process can begin,” she said, describing grieving as a work of the heart, rather than of the head.

“Participants move through this very, very dark valley, and we try to see that they don’t stay stuck where they were, but that they can move through.”



Dianna Knaus, Claire Hawkins and Elan Ehresman (l-r) recently spoke at a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 10, describing a grief ministry program for widows and widowers that is being offered in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon through the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

The program is aimed at those whose bereavement happened anywhere from about two months to two years earlier. It is offered to both men and women, and people of all ages and stages of life have participated in the six sessions that have been offered to date, held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

“Through our grief group, we meet people where they are at, and walk through just a short part of their journey with them,” Knaus explained, stressing the safe, trusting, non-threatening setting, where participants can

move forward through instruction, sharing and prayer.

“We witness the power of the group in recognizing the pain of others, and expressing empathy and love toward their fellow participants. The support and encouragement of one another is instrumental in the healing process,” Hawkins said, describing the joy of seeing participants progress on their grief journey and find hope and healing.

The meetings also have moments full of laughter and joy, Knaus added. “It’s a good, safe place where we can walk and share the

Marriage and Family Life
is supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

journey, the highs and the lows, together,” she said. Final sessions focus on what might be next in the journey.

Ehresman described how the program was developed in an effort to address a huge need for grief ministry.

She also expressed a hope that more such programs might eventually be established in other places across the diocese.

Finding leaders for the program, working with them to identify resources and design the present program has been crucial in getting the group off the ground, said Ehresman.

“God is amazing, he just seemed to send the people that we needed at the right time.”

Having facilitators who are grounded in faith is important to the process, she added.

“Before we even meet with our group, we meet to pray,” agreed Knaus.

“We always see God’s touch... We know that it’s not us: God is the one who really reaches in and touches their pain, who brings hope and healing.”

She adds: “We know too that this is just part of their journey. Their journey is going to go on for years.”

“This is just eight weeks to give them a foundation to stand on, some knowledge, and some inspiration, just to know that there is healing, that there is growth and transformation – to know that there is hope.”

Marriage mentors meet with younger couples

BY BLAKE SITTLER

Directors of Family Life Canada, Neil and Sharol Josephson, spoke about marriage mentorship at an event May 12 organized by the ecumenical Saskatoon Marriage Network, attended by some 75 representatives of different Christian denominations.

Marriage mentorship involves a married couple volunteering to meet with another couple (who are younger or more recently married) about once a month for a year to discuss different challenges of living out a lifelong relationship. The mentors do not consider themselves gurus or experts, but merely ask questions to help the couple being mentored to learn about their own marriage, described the Josephsons.

“What is so great about mentoring is that it is cheap, simple, volunteer-run, and it is scaleable so that you can operate this in a church with only one couple or up to 500 couples,” shared Neil.

The Josephsons outlined how they approached couples in their congregation to be mentors, looking

for those who modeled healthy relationships, who were good listeners, who were thoughtful of each other, and who spoke well of each other to others.

“When we first invited couples, some asked, ‘Is our marriage good enough?’ We opened up for them that their struggles were part of their gift,” shared Neil. “Couples who are being mentored will connect to your weakness and what makes you human,” he said.

“Mentors need to see themselves as being in the same boat as the couple they are mentoring,” explained Neil. “They are patients in the same hospital who have simply been there longer.”

At the same time, there are also some situations where mentoring would not be appropriate, for instance in situations involving the “Three A’s” of addiction, adultery or abuse, the Josephsons said.

“Mentoring is not the care to the most profound, deepest hurts in our relationship... that is what counseling is for,” cautioned Sharol.



Miscarriage Awareness: Tree of Hope

As the sun came out after a day of heavy rain, families come forward to bless a newly-planted tree with holy water during a prayer service organized by the diocesan Miscarriage Awareness Committee June 22 on the grounds of Queen’s House of Retreats, 601 Taylor Street West in Saskatoon. The “Tree of Hope” project was initiated to create a sacred space where anyone can come to recall and honour precious family members lost through miscarriage. For more information about the Miscarriage Awareness Committee, visit the diocesan website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/marriage-and-family-life/miscarriage-awareness

Marriage Preparation and Marriage Enrichment

Marriage Day of Reflection: How can we improve and recast our current marriage preparation programs? If you are involved in marriage preparation in your parish, please consider lending your experience and wisdom to a gathering 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 15** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Rd. Saskatoon. Discuss the content and process of marriage preparation, and brainstorm ways of improving the quality of the experience for young couples. Contact Blake Sittler for info: (306) 659-5834.

St. Patrick Parish 8-week Marriage Preparation Program, begins 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11 at St. Patrick Parish Centre, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon. Cost is \$150. Contact: Gail and Pat Fitzpatrick at (306) 382-8955 or e-mail: fitzpatrick@shaw.ca

Weekend Marriage Preparation - Catholic Family Services interdenominational workshops are held in Saskatoon several times a year. Each weekend workshop runs from 6:15 to 9 p.m. Friday evening and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Dates to choose from: Feb. 6-7; March 13-14 or April 17-18. Cost: \$225 per couple. For more information contact Catholic Family Services at (306) 244-773 or at: staff@cfsaskatoon.sk.ca

Holy Family Weekend Marriage Preparation will be offered 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, March 6 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road in Saskatoon. Contact Pat Clarke at (306) 659-5805 or pat@holycathedral.ca

A Catholic Engaged Encounter marriage preparation weekend will be held **March 13-15** at the picturesque setting of St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster, east of Humboldt. Catholic Engaged Encounter is an in-depth, private, personal, marriage preparation experience within the context of Catholic faith. Presentations provide information on a range of issues, and then each couple is offered the time and opportunity to reflect and to dialogue together and deepen their relationship. For information and registration contact Heather and Craig Stomp at (306) 682-3326 or: ceemuenster@sasktel.net Catholic Engaged Encounter weekends are also held at St. Michael’s Retreat Centre in Lumsden. Upcoming dates: Nov. 21-23, Jan. 23-25, March 27-29 or May 1-3. Contact Kim and Vance Weber at (306) 698-2466 or go to: www.ceewest.com

“The Sacred Search” and “Sacred Marriage” - The ecumenical Saskatoon Marriage Network presents author and speaker Gary Thomas, who will speak at an evening for singles in Saskatoon about the topic of his book *The Sacred Search: What if it’s not about who you marry, but why?* from 7 to 9:30 p.m. April 16, 2015; cost is \$20. Gary Thomas will also be the featured speaker at an enrichment weekend for married couples entitled **Sacred Marriage**, running from 7 to 9 p.m. April 17 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18; Cost is \$99 per couple if registering before March 31 (\$129 after March 31). For more information see: www.saskatoonmarriagenetwork.ca

Refugee outreach

Working to help refugees and sponsors

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Christine Zyla has been on a steep learning curve since she arrived at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in August, hired as the new part-time coordinator of the diocesan Office of Migration.

The job includes navigating the complex world of refugee sponsorship, while administering the diocese's role as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the government. That is the agreement that permits refugee sponsorships to be undertaken by parishes, organizations and groups of family or friends in the community.

"The thing that I've learned since I arrived is that this work is certainly complicated, and complex, but actually not that difficult. And that's because of the tremendous dedication and commitment of Ellen Erickson, who built the foundations of this office, as well as the volunteers in the parishes who continually amaze and inspire me," says Zyla.

"I actually feel a bit in awe that my job is to be of service to those folks who are the ones really doing all of the in-the-trenches, on-the-ground work."

With the recent retirement of long-time volunteer and inaugural Office of Migration staff person Ellen Erickson, and funding for the office now in place thanks to a three-year commitment of support from Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, Zyla will carry on with the work originally begun in the diocese under the leadership of the late Fr. Paul Donlevy.

Zyla is already learning to navigate the complex bureaucratic ropes of refugee

sponsorship. She comes to the job from a 30-year teaching career, including some 10 years teaching English as an additional language to newcomers, many of whom were refugees.

Along with the skill sets of organization, communication and relationship from her time in education, Zyla also has a passion for justice and peace work. Her volunteer commitments have included Development and Peace, the Canadian Food Grains Bank, Kairos and the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation.

She sees a lot of relationship-building in the job ahead, facilitating the day-to-day community-building work that happens when a parish or organization welcomes newcomers and gets them settled. Zyla adds that she has already experienced the joy of talking to former refugees, now well-settled, who are coming forward, ready and seeking to sponsor a family member.

"These folks are resilient, courageous, beautiful people, and what a treat to be able to sit down and converse with them and try to find ways to help."

Unlike teaching, or farming, which have definite seasons, this new position has an element of "hurry up and wait" that Zyla is still getting used to.

"I was a stranger, and
you welcomed me..."

- Matthew 25: 35

"Volunteers who work from such a strong faith base have said to me: 'Christine we have to do our best and then let it go. God will take care of it,'" she relates. "It is a really good reminder for me that this is hugely a walk of faith."

"It is very much the Serenity Prayer – Let's have courage to change the things we can, but we also need to have the serenity to accept what we cannot change."

Zyla is happily settling in Saskatoon, although the move home to Saskatchewan has not been without some hurdles. "But I have no complaints," she said, noting the blessings of life here, when so many around the world do without.

Reaching out to help even a handful of the millions of refugees and displaced persons around the world connects to Zyla's faith life and her understanding of the gospel call of Jesus to be one with our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

"And even if you take the faith out of it, this is part of being human... and this is about human dignity. When you hear the stories and see the pictures on the news of those suffering from war or displacement – that is not human dignity. We have to care about that."

She cited Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Refugees: "Solidarity with



Christine Zyla, Office of Migration

migrants and refugees must be accompanied by the courage and creativity necessary to develop, on a world-wide level, a more just and equitable financial and economic order, as well as an increasing commitment to peace, the indispensable condition for all authentic progress."

'No one chooses to be a refugee'

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Carrying signs such as "Walking for a stronger Canada" and "My door is open to refugees," a multi-cultural gathering celebrated World Refugee Day June 20 in Saskatoon, in spite of steady rain. The event organized by the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition included speakers and entertainment.

Klaus Gruber of the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition noted that the decision to change plans at the last minute and hold the event in a more sheltered location – rather than as a walk from the Vimy Memorial to City Hall – is exactly the kind of ordinary, day-to-day decision that most of the world's refugees do not have the freedom to make.

There are about 13 million refugees world wide and another 30 million internally-displaced people who continue to struggle for survival in desperate situations, he reported.

"We need to continue to raise the issue and let people know that refugees are a benefit to the society, that they contribute to a society, that they contribute to our diversity, and we are proud to protect them because they deserve our protection," Gruber said, inviting those who care about the issue to get involved in the work of groups like the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition.

Mesmer, a refugee from Eritrea who now works for the Open Door Society in Saskatoon, spoke about the plight of refugees.

"No one chooses to be a refugee," he stressed.

Refugees are forced from their homes by circumstances outside their control, and are faced with the loss of everything, he said, describing some of the extreme hardships and danger desperate individuals and families face as they leave their homelands.

"Now we are grateful. We are in a very safe place," said Mesmer.

"Thanks to the government of Canada and to the people of Canada for giving help to suffering refugees."

World Refugee Day was first declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN's 1951 convention relating to the status of Refugees.

On its website, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) states: "Conflicts in Syria, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, amongst others, have pushed the UNHCR and its partners to their limits. Each day global headlines talk about the harrowing effect of war on millions of families and individuals."

Holy Spirit Parish commits to funding diocesan Migration Office for three years

Like other parishes and groups in the diocese, Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon has undertaken many refugee sponsorships over the years, responding to the gospel call to welcome those who are suffering or in need, reaching out to individuals and families fleeing war, violence and persecution around the world.

But Holy Spirit parish is now going even further to help answer the heartbreakingly dire circumstances facing refugees – pledging three years of financial support to fund a part-time position to ensure that the Office of Migration remains open in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The Office of Migration facilitates the administration of refugee applications and requests to the government and assists parishes in the specialized and daunting work of sponsorship. "This is important work that we strongly believe must continue," says Fr. Ken Beck, pastor of Holy Spirit.

He went on to say that the annual \$25,000 gift comes from the Bishop's Annual Appeal rebate. "The people of Holy Spirit parish have been very generous."

Bishop Donald Bolen expressed his appreciation for the financial commitment from Holy Spirit parishioners in support of the diocesan office. "I thank God for this generous spirit of stewardship, which is extending beyond parish boundaries to assist the entire diocese in meeting a great need. I am profoundly grateful for the support of Holy Spirit parish in keeping this office going."

Portion of dinner proceeds goes toward refugee outreach

By LEAH PERRAULT

Funds raised at the Bishop's Dinner this year were again directed toward ministry, with support going both to the ecumenical restorative justice outreach of The Micah Mission (see Page 9) and to the diocesan Office of Migration in support of refugee sponsorship efforts.

This ministry was initiated and carried on for many years by the late Fr. Paul Donlevy and a team of volunteers led by Ellen Erickson. Long-time volunteer Erickson was hired part time to staff a new Office of Migration at the Catholic Pastoral Centre two and a half years ago, initially funded by a bequest from the Donlevy family. Financial support for the office has now also been pledged by Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon (see article above).

During the dinner program, Bolen noted a connection to the vision of Pope Francis. "It is a beautiful era in the church with the witness of Pope Francis calling us to have a strong interest in those in need."



Bishop's Dinner speakers in May, 2014 (l-r): former refugee Pastor Ameha Haile, Bishop Don Bolen and Ellen Erickson of the diocesan Office of Migration.

- Photo by Leah Perrault

Erickson also spoke, drawing attention to the overwhelming need for refugee assistance, with the United Nations (UNHCR) reporting more than 11 million refugees worldwide. "Last year, only 9,000 were brought to Canada (sponsored by either the government or private sponsors). Lebanon receives that

same number every 34 hours."

In the late 1970s, when Donlevy began this ministry, the diocese was granted status as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), meaning that parishes, individuals and organizations in the diocese could sponsor refugees under an agreement with the government.

When Erickson first began doing the work associated with being a SAH, sponsoring a refugee was a much simpler process than it is now.

Recent government changes now prevent individuals from sponsoring refugees, and limit the number of sponsorships available to SAHs.

The sponsorship application process has become much more difficult, akin to preparing a complicated legal case. A trained and dedicated staff member is increasingly required to assist desperate refugees from around the world find a new home in a safe and welcoming country.

During the dinner program, Pastor Ameha Haile also shared his story. Born in Ethiopia, Haile's family was torn apart by the 1974 aggression of a government that would bring in a reign of terror from 1978 to 1981. People were killed in their homes and in the streets for any reason the government deemed reasonable.

"Having tried to oppose this regime, in 1980 I fled from fear of death or imprisonment," Haile shared.

"I expected to flee into freedom and peace, but instead I fled into the non-personhood of a refugee camp."

For 24 years, he and his family were confined to a camp without papers confirming their identity, and legally, their personhood.

"We were longing for independence, for the chance to contribute to a society, to build a life for our family," he recalled.

One day in 2004, his papers came from the United Nations, with an opportunity to come to Windsor, ON.

Haile said those papers changed his life:

"It's not a piece of paper to a refugee. It is a recognition that I am a person and that I can be trusted to work, to provide for my family, to contribute and give back to a community and to other refugees much in need."

Catholic restorative justice network organizes national convention in Quebec

BY PETER OLIVER

Ninety-five representatives from the Canadian Catholic church convened at a conference just outside of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec Sept. 19-21 to talk about restorative justice. The conference was organized by the Catholic Connection in Restorative Justice (CCRJ) network and was identified as a founding event.

Talk about a conference like this has been in the air for some time, with several attempts to organize something over the years.

Among the architects of the Canadian gathering were prison chaplain Fr. Ted Hughes, and Bishop Gary Gordon, former bishop of Whitehorse, now the bishop of Victoria. Bishop Gordon is CCCB “Ponens for Prison Ministry,” which is to say he flies the restorative justice flag for the Canadian Catholic Church. Another key player in organizing this conference was Deacon Mike Walsh of Markham, ON, who has a background in the computer industry. Deacon Walsh is also one of the founders of a group called “The Friends of Dismas” (Dismas being the name given to the Good Thief crucified alongside Jesus), established “to encourage people of faith to get involved in creative ministry to those touched by crime.”

Issues of prisons and restorative justice got a whole lot more urgent in October 2012, because of the actions of federal Public Safety

Minister Vic Toews, who took offense at a notice of a part-time contract for a Wiccan minister put out by Corrections Canada. He responded by terminating the contract, but to avoid issues of discrimination he also cut 48 other part-time contracts, including 18 non-Christian and 31 Christian chaplains.

Bishops all over the country were put on alert and people at the grassroots level were feeling motivated to do something. In April 2013, 15 representatives from dioceses and institutions across Canada gathered in Toronto to chart a course forward. This meeting became the impetus for a three-phase process that Bishop Gary Gordon articulated as “Identify the Community, Gather the Community and Grow the Community.”

The Catholic Connections in Restorative Justice (CCRJ) network got to work on the first phase, which was to gather a large national database of Catholics who are involved in restorative justice work. This led to the second phase: the September 2014 conference in Quebec. It was held immediately after the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCB), which also met in the area, facilitating the attendance of several bishops and Salt+Light television.

One highlight of the conference was keynote speaker former Lieutenant Governor and Provincial Justice Steven Point. Point – who is also the former Chief of the Skowkale



Six participants from Saskatoon attended the Catholic Connections in Restorative Justice conference Sept. 19-21 near St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec (l-r): Blake Sittler, director of pastoral services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; Dr. Michael Cichon, St. Thomas More College; Peter Oliver, community reintegration chaplain with The Micah Mission; Dianne Anderson, coordinator of restorative ministry in the diocese of Saskatoon; Russ Powell, chaplain, provincial corrections; and Fr. Kevin McGee, vicar general for the diocese of Saskatoon; with Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, who serves as the “Bishop Ponens for Prison Ministry” for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. - Photo by Blake Sittler

First Nation – gave the opening address, which was a powerful reminder of the heartache that First Nations people experience in our country and the enormous contribution that their culture and teachings can make to the work of restorative justice.

For Dianne Anderson of the diocese of Saskatoon Restorative Ministry office, one of the few First Nations people in attendance, Justice Point’s talk, presence, and example were the high point of the conference. I sat with Dianne and Justice Point in the lounge during the evening that followed. His compassion for her was truly an affirmation of all the sacrifice Dianne has put into reaching out to people in prison and walking

a path of healing. That was *the* high point of the conference for me.

One can hardly talk about restorative justice these days without hearing the name Pope Francis and his call to “get close to the sheep.” True to this call, the conference organizers engaged speakers who could share first hand the healing work of restorative justice.

This included people who had been incarcerated and people who had been harmed by crime.

They gave witness to the effectiveness of the restorative model of justice and spoke to the strength of the human spirit. They filled us with hope!

Extending friendship and support to those who have been incarcerated

BY KATE O’GORMAN

The Micah Mission is an ecumenical non-profit faith-based organization in Saskatoon that provides support to current and formerly incarcerated people.

The work is done predominantly on a volunteer basis, with some 50 volunteers offering their time and

compassion to the three integrated programs that make up The Micah Mission ministry.

Person-to-Person and the Community Chaplaincy program connect volunteers with individuals both within and outside of correctional institutions through visitation opportunities and support

for transition back into the community.

A third program called Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) works with and accompanies people who have been incarcerated as sexual offenders and are transitioning back into the community. The intention is to address the risk of re-offence while keeping both the community and the formerly incarcerated individual safe.

Through a model of friendship, these programs seek to make the reintegration process as smooth and successful as possible, inviting the individual and the community to enter into a process of reconciliation and wholeness.

According to Chaplain Peter Oliver, “many people who find themselves in our correctional facilities are struggling with mental illness, some don’t have good social support systems and they may be in danger of re-offending. These people need assistance and this is what [The Micah Mission] does.”

“We help current and former inmates understand what is happening to them emotionally; we assist people to process how they are being treated by their families; we assist them in finding employment and put them in touch with any social services they may need, and so on,” describes Oliver.

“Our main goal is walking with and accompanying people as they make their journey back into the community.”

Board chair Sharon Wright says: “One of the things I’m most impressed with when listening to



Chaplain Peter Oliver and board members Sharon Wright and Cam Harder (l-r) of The Micah Mission, which offers programs and support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. - Photo by Kate O’Gorman

the stories of our volunteers is that they really develop friendships with those who are incarcerated, which is difficult I think for many people to understand.”

“You can’t journey with someone over a period of time and not develop a sense of community with them,” continues Wright. “That’s what we’re all about. We want those who feel that they are alone to have a sense of community and feel like they belong – because when you feel like you belong, you are accountable and you don’t want to do harm.”

The volunteers and those who serve on the board represent many different Christian churches. “We are an ecumenical group; we have people who are United, Catholic, Quaker, Lutheran, Mennonite and Anglican who are actively participating on our board and in

volunteer support,” explains board member Cam Harder.

“Something I think that this Christian heritage brings to the work is that we come with a Gospel perspective that our value as human beings is not something we ourselves create, nor destroy, but it is a gift from God,” adds Harder.

“So we encounter people with a deep amount of respect. We also recognize that because these folks who have found themselves in prison or being released from prison are loved by God and are valued people, we want the best for them,” he says.

“We want them to live lives that are healthy and whole, where they can use their gifts in a useful way to contribute to the larger community.”

Recently, Bishop Emeritus Gerry Wiesner and Blake Sittler, director of pastoral services in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, have also joined the board of The Micah Mission.

For more information about The Micah Mission visit the website at: www.themicahmission.org

“I was in prison and you visited me...”

- Matthew 25: 36



Washing of the feet

Fr. Steve Morrissey, CSSR, and volunteer Jocelyne Hamoline assisted with liturgies at Saskatoon Correctional Centre during the Easter weekend, including the washing of the feet during celebration of Holy Thursday Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to assist with prison ministry, to help in leading prayers and liturgies throughout the year. If you are feeling called to help with this ministry, please contact Dianne Anderson in the diocesan office of Restorative Justice at (306) 659-5845 or: restorativeministry@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

- Photo by Dianne Anderson

Wish list of donations needed for prison ministry:

- Unused greeting cards (i.e. “I love you” or “Missing you” messages)
- Rosaries
- Bibles
- Reading glasses
- White socks
- Large, XL, XXL t-shirts, sweat pants and parkas
- Volunteers to help with Catholic liturgies and prayer at prison

Drop off donations at the Catholic Pastoral Centre or call (306) 659-5845.

Restorative Ministry is supported by the



Is Our Community Safe? What Can I Do About It?

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10

at St. Anne Parish Hall, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon

He’s been assaulted and she’s been in jail. Hear their stories of hope, and listen to Police Chief Clive Weighill’s challenge: “Let’s get to the root cause of crime!” Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Justice and Peace

Priest provides update about dire situation in South Sudan

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Returning to South Sudan for a visit this summer, Fr. Martin Francis Vuni Asida saw first-hand the worsening situation in the young country, as civil war and famine threaten the lives of innocent civilians.

The Catholic priest shared his insights about South Sudan at a recent Amnesty International meeting in Saskatoon, held at Augustana Lutheran Church. The Sept. 15 gathering included Asida as guest speaker, before the local Amnesty International group held its AGM.

Asida is currently serving in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon as pastor of parishes at Delisle, Vanscoy and Asquith. Originally from the village of Pageri in South Sudan, for several years he was the contact person in Africa for the Saskatoon grassroots non-profit organization, "Friends of Loa," which worked to raise funds to build and repair schools in the area. He has been living and working in the diocese of Saskatoon since October 2013.

A conflict between government troops and those who support the country's former vice-president broke out in December 2013. Since the violence began, it is estimated that some 1.3 million have been displaced, and tens of thousands have been killed. During a return

visit to South Sudan in July, Asida was dismayed by what he saw and heard.

"Close to four million people are at risk of starvation," he told the gathering.

One South Sudanese bishop has been quoted as saying "in all my life I never saw mass graves in South Sudan until this conflict began."

The area is no stranger to war – with decades of civil war before the country achieved its independence from Sudan in July 2011 – but the bishop's words indicate the severity and "new tone" of this most-recent conflict, Asida said. He noted in another statement, the country's bishops described this conflict as "one of the gravest situations we have ever faced."

International agencies issuing reports about the situation in South Sudan are describing atrocities by both sides against civilians, he said.

One such report is "Nowhere Safe" published by Amnesty International in April. Human Rights Watch has stated that the crimes against civilians over the past months, including ethnic killings, will "resonate for decades."

The conflict has come to be divided along ethnic lines between the Nuer and Dinka tribes – and both sides are targeting civilians as a military strategy, said Asida.

A narrow focus on ending the conflict is not going to bring a long-lasting solution to the situation in South Sudan, he said, stressing the need for accountability and a need to heal the deep wounds caused by the violence.

Without real consequences and true reconciliation, peace will not last, he said, asserting that simply restoring the status quo is no solution.

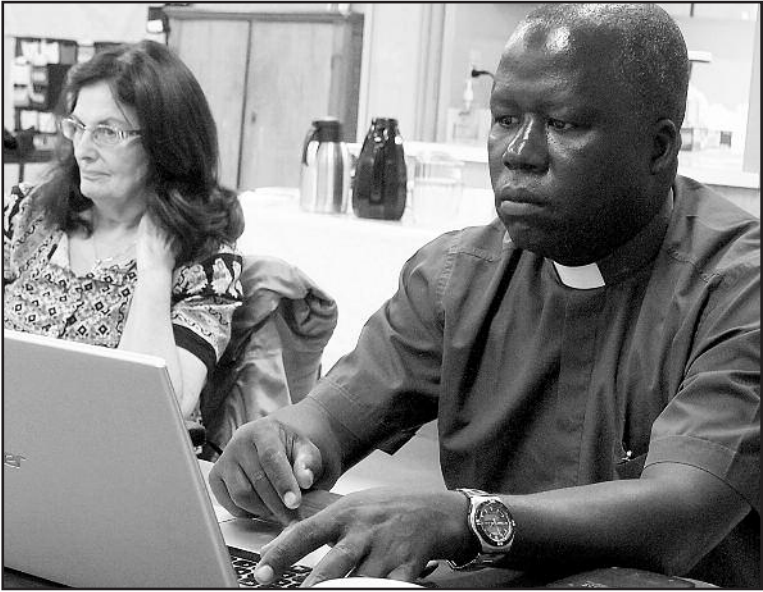
Corruption is a factor in the conflict, with some \$10.8 billion disappearing from the country's coffers – something which "no one can explain," Asida said.

He quoted US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton who said, shortly after South Sudan achieved its independence in 2011: "We know that oil will either help your country finance its own path out of poverty or you will fall prey to the natural resource curse, which will enrich a small elite, outside interests, corporations and countries, and leave your people hardly better off."

Asida noted: "The country has descended very rapidly into corruption."

The conflict is also being fueled by the involvement of other nations, including Uganda, Egypt, and most recently, China, which wants to protect its oil supply from South Sudan, he said.

Political will to stop the conflict and to find new paths for the young



Amnesty International representative Helen Smith-McIntyre and Fr. Martin Vuni Asida at a recent meeting in Saskatoon focused on South Sudan.

country are urgently needed, he said, reporting a recent call from a friend back home, in which he said the country is "fast developing into a situation where you have to kill in order to not be killed."

The United Nations has a presence in the country, but is unable to protect civilians from the violence, Asida said. "Their capacity to defend is questionable."

He noted that some 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, remote from larger centres where the UN and other aid organizations are operating. Transport is particularly difficult during the rainy season – for instance, about 90 per cent of Jongolei is not accessible. "What's happening out there is totally outside of people's purview."

Asked what Canadians can do to help, Asida called for those concerned about the deteriorating situation to lobby Canadian government representatives, asking them to show interest in South Sudan and work to stop the war, and to increase the United Nations personnel and other efforts to protect the civilian population.

A lack of media attention – and a government crack down on South Sudanese journalists and media outlets – means that there is not a lot of worldwide awareness about the situation faced by the young country, he added.

Asida concluded by saying that he supports the call of the Catholic bishops of South Sudan to "re-found our nation on a new covenant."



Development and Peace Award presented to Gwen Stang

Armella Sonntag, provincial animator of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (right) recently presented Gwen Stang of St. Mary's parish in Macklin with a certificate of honour, recognizing her "commitment to the cause of social justice and efforts to improve living conditions of the poorest of the poor in the Global South." Stang has served as the deanery leader for Development and Peace in the Kerrobert Deanery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for many years. As deanery leader, she informs area parishes about Development and Peace campaigns and initiatives, and invites them to participate in workshops, while also serving as a "go-to" resource person, said Sonntag. The award was presented to Stang at a recent justice and peace evening in Kindersley, organized by the diocesan Justice and Peace Office.

- Photo submitted by Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Churches for Environmental Action, in partnership with the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, presents a one-day workshop:

**Making your Case:
Environmental Action as Christian Action
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6**

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 310 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon
Speakers will be Jim Harding and Bishop Don Bolen.
Lunch by donation.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Legacy Ridge Foundation are proud to bring you

"Soul Survival"

**Spiritual Healing and Recovery from Childhood Abuse
January 21, 22, 23**

Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Rd
(Attridge and Forestry Farm Park Dr.), Saskatoon

Presenters:

**Rev. Diane Moore and Sherry Niermann
of Mary's Hope Workshops, Seattle, Washington**

- Healing of spiritual wounds is often the missing link in the trauma recovery process. This conference will examine the spiritual cost of childhood trauma and what can be done to aid in healing the wounds left behind.
- * Includes general information sessions intended for survivors, supporters of survivors, pastoral care providers, mental health professionals, victim service workers, and those involved in the care of childhood abuse survivors.
- * Audience specific breakout sessions will be offered Jan. 22.

Call (306) 659-5800 to register. No name is necessary, we only ask you to register to facilitate meal planning.

There is no cost for this workshop.

(Donations will be accepted toward furthering spiritual care services for survivors of abuse.)

Parishioners urged to speak out against euthanasia and assisted suicide

By MARY DEUTSCHER

The Saskatoon Catholic Physicians' Guild led 50 participants in an evening of discussion on euthanasia and assisted suicide June 24 at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon.

Dr. Ugo Dodd, an ophthalmology resident and a member of the co-cathedral parish community, began the evening by stressing the importance of speaking out on the topic of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Her introduction was followed by small group discussion using questions from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) brochure: "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Urgent Questions!"

Large group discussion began with a clarification of the definition of euthanasia. Dodd quoted the definition provided by COLF: "Euthanasia is the deliberate killing of someone...in order to eliminate all suffering."

She further emphasized: "Euthanasia is NOT respecting a person's refusal of treatment or request to discontinue treatment. Euthanasia is NOT letting someone die naturally by withholding or withdrawing medical treatment when its burdens outweigh its benefits. Euthanasia is NOT the administration of drugs appropriate for the relief of pain and suffering even if some anticipate that the unintended effect might be the shortening of life."

Discussion focused on the importance of palliative care with many participants sharing personal stories of their experiences with good palliative care.

Ethna Martin, a parish nurse from St. Philip Neri in Saskatoon and a member of the Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry, said: "We have 12 beds in the Palliative Care Unit at St Paul's Hospital. We need more palliative care beds. We do have great palliative care provided by the Palliative Care Home Care team but we need more palliative care beds in hospital."

Dodd also highlighted the need for better palliative care training for all health care professionals. "Doctors need to understand what proper pain management is, and all healthcare providers need to see themselves as being able to provide palliative care whether or not they are part of a specialized team."

One participant drew attention to the burden the legalization of euthanasia or assisted suicide would place on doctors who would be told that killing is now part of their professional responsibilities.

Participants also reflected on the challenges of fighting against euthanasia and assisted suicide advocates who frame the debate as a choice between dying in pain or intentional killing, completely neglecting the alternative of palliative care.

This challenge highlighted the importance of sharing stories about good deaths that have occurred with appropriate palliative care, and the joy that the final moments of life can bring.

All present were encouraged to become members of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC). The EPC, which intervenes in court cases and provides educational materials, is in need of financial support.

The Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Societies is a national organization committed to fostering the dignity and sacredness of human life.

The local chapter in Saskatoon is still in its beginning stages and is open to any Catholic physicians or medical students who wish to join its membership. The Saskatoon Catholic Physicians Guild can be contacted through the group's Facebook page or by e-mailing: sask.guild@gmail.com

The evening concluded with a prayer for life led by Fr. Pius Schroh, pastor of St. Paul's Co-Cathedral.

Life-Giving Love:

A national campaign in favour of palliative and home care and against euthanasia and assisted suicide presented by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) supported by bishops of Canada (CCCB)

www.lifegivinglove.com



Walk for Life

Youth and families were among those who participated in an annual Walk For Life Sept. 27 in Saskatoon, carrying balloons that read "Life is Precious" and signs highlighting the loss of human life to abortion. Walkers processed from the riverbank skating shelter along Spadina Crescent, across the University Bridge, up College Drive and back again. The walk was followed by a lunch for participants. In addition to providing witness and raising awareness, the Walk for Life event raises funds for Alliance For Life Saskatoon, which operates a resource centre of educational materials about life issues. For more information visit the website at: www.allianceforlifesaskatoon.ca

Need for parental consent law for minors seeking abortion highlighted at Alliance for Life session

By MARY DEUTSCHER

Alliance for Life Saskatoon hosted an information session June 23 regarding the ongoing campaign for a law that would require Saskatchewan minors to obtain consent from a parent before undergoing an abortion.

Mike Schouten, the director for the www.WeNeedaLaw.ca parental consent campaign, spoke to 40 members of the general public at J.S. Wood Library in Saskatoon.

Schouten encouraged pro-life activists to support "legislation that protects children in the womb to the greatest extent possible." He stated that all pro-life advocates want a complete end to abortion, but stressed that activists must "embrace opportunities to work together to save lives" through incremental laws, because a law that bans all abortions is not realistic right now.

Schouten also encouraged those in attendance to work with their Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, stating, "when a [politician] goes out on the proverbial branch to introduce a law that could potentially save lives, we need to work with them, not cut that branch out from under them."

"Strong families are a building block for societies," Schouten said.

He shared the video testimony of Melissa, a young woman who submitted to an abortion as a teenager without the knowledge of her parents. If her parents had been involved in her decision, Melissa

stated she would not have had an abortion and would have avoided the psychological suffering she endured after the procedure.

Schouten echoed Melissa's statement that to support a parental consent law "you don't have to be pro-life or pro-choice; you just need to be for families and vulnerable women."

Evidence from other jurisdictions shows "when parents are involved, instead of coercive boyfriends, other options are explored," said Schouten.

After the state of Texas adopted a parental notification law in 2000, abortions among 15-17-year olds dropped by 11-20 per cent. Thirty-nine states have laws requiring parental consent or parental notification.

Schouten highlighted the three-step "Mail your MLA" e-mail feature that is available at:

www.sk.parentalconsent.ca

He encouraged Saskatchewan residents to become involved by contacting their MLAs through postcards and regular mail as well.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that of the 1,915 abortions in Saskatchewan in 2010, 353 terminated the pregnancies of teenagers age 19 and under.

Abortion has had no legal restrictions in Canada since the 1988 Morgentaler decision. The Supreme Court struck down the legislation that had been in place since 1969 on the grounds that it violated a woman's security of the person. However the Court also maintained that legislatures remained free to place restrictions on access to abortion.

Canada joins China and North Korea in having no laws restricting abortion.



At the Millennium Cross pilgrimage Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association President Colette Stang introduced several young people who travelled to this year's March for Life in Ottawa.

Annual pro-life pilgrimage held at site of 100-foot steel cross

Prayers to end abortion were offered during a living rosary Sept. 7, part of a 15th annual pilgrimage to the 100-foot Millennium Pro-Life Cross alongside Highway 41, near Aberdeen.

Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association president Colette Stang and past-president Marcy Millette were guest speakers. Millette spoke about the campaign for a parental consent law for minors seeking abortion.

Stang described an ever-

increasing involvement by young people in the pro-life movement, introducing several who were part of a Saskatchewan delegation to the March for Life in Ottawa earlier this year.

Other speakers were Marilyn Jackson of Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre, Denise Roth of Campaign Life Alliance, and Louis Roth of the Knights of Columbus.

For more on this story see the news articles section online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com



Life Chain in Unity

Life Chain events were held Oct. 5 across various cities and towns in Saskatchewan, including this event in Unity, SK. Public witness continues to grow as local Life Chains are organized throughout the province as a reminder to those driving by that innocent unborn life continues to be destroyed in Saskatchewan.

- Photo submitted by Denise Hounjet-Roth

Catholic schools “pool their love” in supporting Saskatoon Friendship Inn

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A partnership between Friendship Inn, the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has again brought in “pools” of food donations, providing much-needed staple items to the city’s largest inner-city food program.

In 2013-14 the amount donated by Catholic schools was equal in value to about half of the Friendship Inn’s annual food budget.

Entitled “Pool Our Love,” the program uses a child’s paddling pool to hold the donations provided by students and their families at 29 elementary schools. Holy Cross Catholic High School is also involved, and this year the high school brought in the most of any single item – pancake mix, reported Friendship Inn’s volunteer and event coordinator, Angela Nimchuk.

Usually each school collects a particular staple item such as flour or oatmeal or pasta during the collection and awareness campaign that runs for a couple of weeks during the school year. However at Fr. Vachon School on Confederation Drive, students launched their first year in the program by collecting a bit of everything, she reported.

The combined totals collected by the 10,230 students from 30 Catholic schools this year was 1,439 containers of pasta, 415 packages of sugar, 861 boxes of dry cereal, 479 containers of oatmeal, 44 bags of flour, 230 bags of pancake mix and 123 miscellaneous items. The estimated money saved by the Inn thanks to Pool Our Love was about \$11,540, said Nimchuk.

“The Pool Our Love for the Friendship Inn program provides the students and staff of our Greater Saskatoon Catholic schools with a concrete way of living out our vision: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World,” said Gilbert Chevrier of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

“By donating food staples the Friendship Inn consistently needs, our students can see how their contributions make a real difference to their sisters and brothers who make up the Friendship Inn community.”

It is easy for schools to be involved in the program and it makes a real difference in the lives of the people whom the Friendship Inn serves so well each and every day, added Chevrier.

“This simple partnership has born wonderful fruit, and we give thanks to God for that.”

The program has also inspired more GSCS students to volunteer at the Friendship Inn – permitting them “to put a human face on the reality of poverty in our community,” he said.

High school students seeking Christian Ethics service hours are among those contacting Nimchuk to book a time to volunteer.

Blake Sittler, director of pastoral services for the diocese of Saskatoon is one of those who gives presentations at schools to introduce the Pool Our Love program. When speaking at schools, Sittler asks the students to imagine their best day ever, and then asks them to stop, and imagine that very same day without any food.

“Is it still the best day ever without having anything to eat? Most definitely not. Food is important to how we are able to exist in the world. It is a basic human right. It is a matter of justice to ensure that the hungry are fed with no questions asked,” says Sittler.

“We also focus on the fact that if the Friendship Inn only gave out food then it should really be called the Food Inn. However, the Friendship Inn is also a place of hospitality and safety where community is nurtured.”

Friendship Inn serves two meals (breakfast and lunch) each day, 365 days a year, in a spirit of welcome, caring and hospitality, serving about 600-900 people daily.

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...”

- Matthew 25:35-36



Sandra Stack is the new executive director at Friendship Inn.

Friendship Inn’s mission inspires new director

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Each and every day of the year, Saskatoon Friendship Inn serves breakfast and lunch to all who walk through the door.

The Friendship Inn builds connections with those in need, and in addition to its free meal service offered in a spirit of friendship and respect, the Inn often provides other needed supports and referrals.

The Friendship Inn’s new Executive Director is enthusiastic about the importance of these services. “I’m really passionate about the Inn’s mission and the opportunity we have to journey with people living in poverty, and to assist them in their needs,” says Sandra Stack.

After moving to Saskatchewan five years ago, Stack found herself drawn to the inner city and the people who call it home.

She learned more about Saskatoon Friendship Inn and began volunteering in January 2012.

“I offered my services as a volunteer, and knew right away that I was home,” she says.

A few months later, she took on the role of Family Worker. “In that position, I had the opportunity to develop personal and meaningful relationships with our guests, as well as with community organizations that support the Inn and its mission to feed the hungry and support the community.”

In her new role as the Inn’s new Executive Director, Stack continues to witness first-hand the positive impact that the meals and the services offered at Saskatoon Friendship Inn have upon the lives of some of our community’s most vulnerable members. Thanks to donors and volunteers, Friendship Inn makes a difference, says Stack.

In its expanded new building, the Inn is able to host community programming, working with a number of partners.

A few examples include: Classic Legal Services, MACSI Addiction Centre, Public Health services, a Mom and Baby Clinic, and Just 4 Dads Parenting class, she notes.

Feeding the hungry remains at the heart of the Inn’s mission, and Stack is grateful for the support that allows this to continue.

“We are currently serving about 900 meals a day to families and individuals living in the inner city of Saskatoon,” she notes.

“Thanks to generous donations this year, we have been able to sustain our meal service through the most difficult months, when families find it harder to make ends meet,” says Stack.

Donations are continually needed, as are volunteers.

For more information, including the latest copies of the Friendship Inn newsletter see the website at: www.sfinn.ca



E.D. Feehan ThinkFast

Students of E. D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon participated in an annual ThinkFast during Lent. The goal was for students to collectively raise \$2,000 for Development and Peace, which the Feehan Family exceeded, bringing in a total of \$3,442.80 in donations. Fifty-three students participated in the 25-hour fast which began Friday, April 4 and ended the next day. Participants engaged in a variety of activities throughout ThinkFast, designed to educate and bring awareness about justice issues faced by many in the Global South. This year’s particular focus was food sovereignty. Representatives of the STM Just Youth group at St. Thomas More College and from Poverty Costs in Saskatoon also provided presentations.

- Photo by Craig Doecker

Development and Peace campaign raises awareness about farmers’ right to save seeds

This fall, Development and Peace launched a new campaign to raise awareness among Canadians about the central role of small family farmers in the Global South in the fight against hunger, and to help defend their right to save, exchange and use seeds.

Under the slogan “Sow Much Love,” the campaign encourages Canadians to take action to protect the rights of farmers over the growing threat of the corporate control of seeds.

“If small family farmers in the Global South do not have access to seeds, it will only make it harder for them to feed their families and their communities. Seeds are life, and a common good that should not be controlled by private interests seeking profit,” says Josianne Gauthier, Director of In-Canada Programs at Development and Peace.

There are currently one in eight people in the world today who suffer from hunger. Small family farmers feed up to 80 per cent of the population in the Global South, but this is becoming increasingly difficult due to a number of threats, including the loss of access to seeds. Development and Peace has called for this injustice to be addressed, stating that small family farmers, who are the stewards of the world’s seeds, must be supported in their struggle to maintain access to seeds.

As part of the campaign, Development and Peace invited Canadians to sign a petition asking the government of Canada and the House of Commons to commit to respecting the rights of small family farmers



to save, exchange and use their seeds. Development and Peace is also encouraging consumers to buy local and organic produce, which supports the biodiversity of our food supply and the right of farmers around the world to use their seeds.

To learn more about the campaign see the website at: www.devp.org/sowmuchlove

Development and Peace was also one of the groups participating in Caritas Internationalis’ Global Week of Action to end world hunger. People from across the world took part, showing their solidarity with those who suffer from hunger. The Oct. 12-18 week coincided with Thanksgiving as well as with World Food Day, Oct. 16.

Treasury of prayers will foster Christian unity

BY BISHOP DONALD BOLEN

Rabbi Abraham Heschel, in the Jewish midrash tradition, stirs the imagination of his readers in writing that “when God, the Holy One, gets up in the morning, God gathers the angels of heaven around and asks this simple question: ‘Where does my creation need mending today?’” Heschel notes that to be faithful to the covenant is to worry “about what God worries about, when God gets up in the morning.”

As Christians, we know that one area that needs mending in our world is the brokenness of the body of Christ. To be concerned with reconciliation among divided Christians is “to be preoccupied with what God is preoccupied with, to yearn for what God yearns for” (CCCB, *A Church in Dialogue*, 2014).

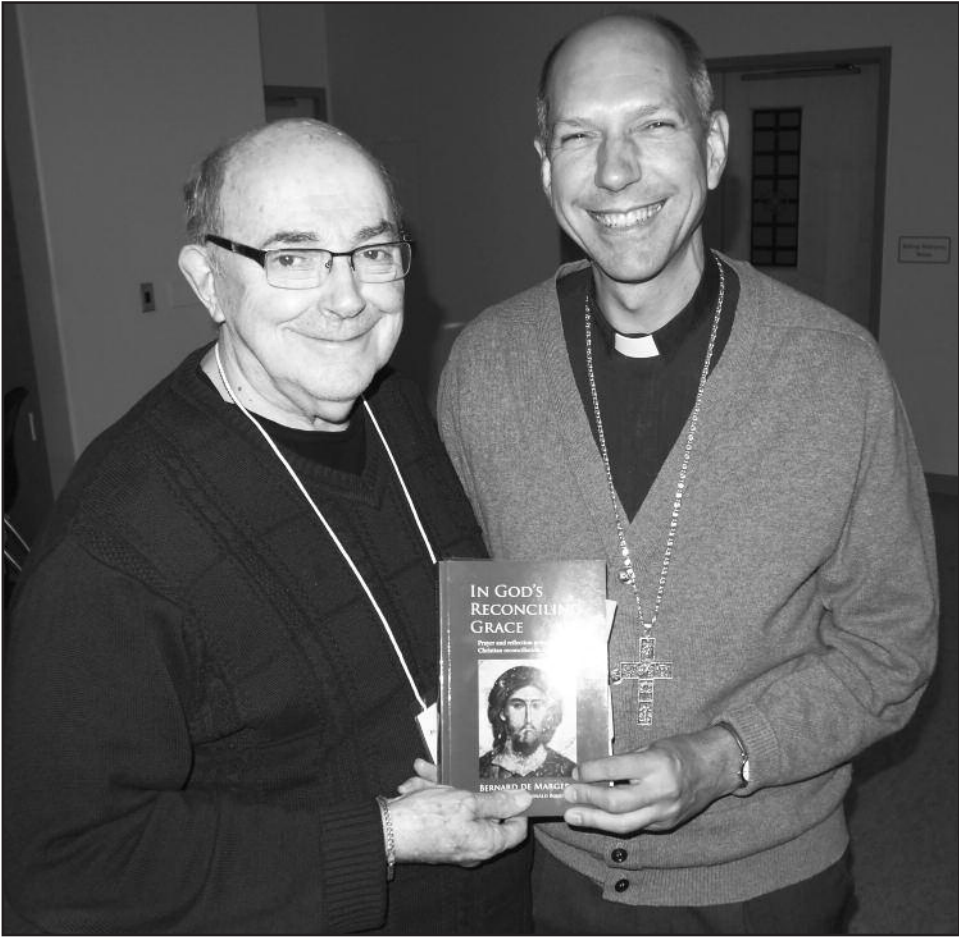
The night before Jesus died, he prayed for his disciples, lifting them into the Father’s hands, saying “all mine are yours, and yours are mine,” praying that they remain united in the unity of the Father and the Son, and asking that they be protected as he sent them into the world. He then prayed for all future disciples, “that they may all be one, ... so that the world may believe...” (Jn. 17: 10-21). A deep faithfulness to the Lord Jesus summons us to pray for and seek the unity of his disciples, not least because our unity is to be a witness to our proclamation of the Gospel.

Because of the intensity of doctrinal conflicts and tensions in the life of the Church through the centuries, we often lost sight of the foundational desire of God that we pray and work for reconciliation. More recently, with better relations between Christians, the temptation is to grow accustomed to our divisions, and to minimize the damage to our Christian mission caused by our disunity.

A new resource is now available to help us to recover that fundamental desire for unity, and to learn to pray, both individually and communally as Church, for reconciliation among Christians. Entitled *In God’s Reconciling Grace*, and being distributed freely by the Diocese of Saskatoon, the book is authored and edited by Fr. Bernard de Margerie.

The resource itself has a long history; it grows out of a life.

When newly-elected Pope John XXIII



Fr. Bernard de Margerie (left) and Bishop Donald Bolen introduced de Margerie’s new book *In God’s Reconciling Grace* at the diocesan Administration Day in September. The book of prayers and reflection texts for Christian reconciliation and unity is available free of charge.

called the Second Vatican Council back in January 1959 and identified the search for Christian unity as one of its goals, something deep stirred in the heart of then-newly-ordained priest of the diocese of Saskatoon, Fr. Bernard de Margerie.

Some 55 years later, we rejoice that the stirring Fr. Bernard felt that day went deep, and has nourished a priestly life at the service of reconciliation.

In preaching and teaching about Christian unity, in building relations with Christians of diverse Christian communities, in founding the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, and in a persevering commitment to pray for the unity Christ wills, he has been and remains a

pioneer who has reminded us that faithfulness to Christ impels us to seek and to pray for reconciliation among Christians.

Through the years, Fr. Bernard came to see the need for a collection of materials to assist Christians in praying for unity. The Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism (1964) identifies ‘spiritual ecumenism’ – including a change of heart, holiness and prayer for Christian unity – as “the soul of the ecumenical movement.”

The Vatican’s Directory for ecumenism (1993) notes that “those who identify deeply with Christ must identify with his prayer, and especially with his prayer for unity.” Despite those strong urgings of the Church there was

little to assist Christians in this regard (other than the annual materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity), and the idea of a collection of diverse texts fostering prayer for unity began to take shape within Fr. Bernard.

After many years of working on such a collection, Fr. Bernard brought together an ecumenical group to assist him with the project. The group’s task included sending out a request for funds to assist with the publication of the volume, and the donations flowed in.

The result is a beautiful 235-page resource which has been sorely needed for a long time.

About half of the materials, including prayers for individual meditation, for parish or congregational usage, and for ecumenical gatherings, were composed by Fr. Bernard. The other half, in his words, have been “gleaned from any number of sources of ecumenical prayer and ecumenical thinking about how to do our part to help heal the divisions in the body of Christ.” They represent a sort of “denominational treasury of prayer” drawing on the riches and resources of diverse Christian communities.

In the 50 years since the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism, we have taken great strides towards reconciliation. Among the steps still needed, perhaps none is more foundational than the conversion of our desires, such that we truly come to yearn for reconciliation. Every effort to foster unity among Christians has its roots in prayer.

In God’s Reconciling Grace is like a school for fostering prayer for unity, and will assist in teaching us many things in our relations with other Christian communities: how to carry each other’s burdens; how to rejoice in each other’s gifts; how to enter into dialogue and build spiritual bonds of affection between us; and how to learn to walk together as we seek to be led by the Holy Spirit and faithfully follow our crucified and risen Lord.

As I note in the book’s introduction, “May it be a book of blessing, tilling our hearts, changing our vision, planting in us the great dream of God that we be one, and making us artisans of reconciliation in the workshop of the Holy Spirit.”

Words from the author

BY FR. BERNARD DE MARGERIE

The book *In God’s Reconciling Grace* is an original and ambitious undertaking. It is an act of Christian ministry in the service of the Gospel.

The prayer and reflection texts contained in the book are intended to help members of all Christian churches learn and grow into ways of thinking, desiring, hoping, and praying for the healing of divisions among Christians according to the unmistakable will and prayer of Christ.

In many places in the church today, it remains unfortunately true that “friendly division is still division.” Many Christians have grown indifferent to these divisions. For many Christian churches, conversion to genuine reconciliation and unity is more in the order of wishful thinking than an actual goal and tangible pursuit.

This book wishes to awaken in the hearts of Christians the same passionate desire that lived in the heart of Christ:

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

- John 17: 21

As well as being intended for private and corporate prayer, the book is meant for meditative reading in the hope of personal and communal transformation. It proposes new ways of thinking, new paths of wisdom, new ways of relating to the church, Body of Christ on earth.

Day in and day out, God offers superabundant grace in the power of the Holy Spirit for the churches to walk a corrected path, the journey of reconciliation and unity. This book wishes to help.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of Christ.

“They go from strength to strength.” -Psalm 84: 5

May *In God’s Reconciling Grace* be a humble servant of our common faithfulness to the mind and heart of the Lord.

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

- 2 Corinthians 5: 18

New book distributed to parishes

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A unique new book of prayers and reflections focused on Christian reconciliation and unity was launched at a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The 235-page prayer resource – entitled *In God’s Reconciling Grace* – is designed to foster greater reconciliation and unity among divided Christians, explained author and editor Fr. Bernard de Margerie. “It is offered as gift, free of charge, to all churches and to all Christian faithful, across

denominational boundaries.”

“This book is a great friend of anybody who wants to be an artisan of reconciliation,” said Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen, adding that he is not aware of any other book like it, in any other language, anywhere in the world.

Printing costs have been covered by donations, and therefore the book can be offered free of charge to churches and interested individuals across the diocese, as well as regionally, nationally and internationally, said Bolen.

A focus on Christian unity has been a priority for de Margerie

throughout his 56 years as a diocesan priest, a calling born in the earliest days of Vatican II.

The founder of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon, de Margerie wrote about half of the texts included in the book, and the rest were “gleaned from any number of sources of ecumenical prayer and ecumenical thinking about how to do our part to help heal the divisions in the body of Christ,” he said.

NEW BOOK continued on Page 11

In God’s Reconciling Grace

Written and edited
by Fr. Bernard de Margerie

An ecumenical prayer resource
for churches and small groups

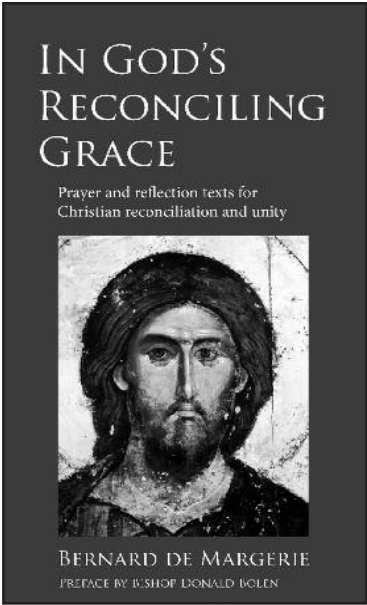
Offered free of charge to all churches and to all
Christian faithful across denominational lines

For use as a school of prayer and discipleship!

Available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre
Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon

For more information please contact: Fr. Bernard de Margerie;
Telephone: (306) 651-7051; E-mail: jumeau@shaw.ca

Shipping and handling charges may apply.



Christian Unity and Reconciliation

Ecumenical formation program launched in Saskatoon

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A unique ecumenical studies and formation program was launched this summer by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon.

The first week-long intensive session of the three-year formation program was held June 24-27 at Queen's House in Saskatoon, with 27 participants delving into the theology, history and practice of ecumenism.

"There really is no other program like it active anywhere in North America," says Dr. Darren Dahl, director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

Dahl notes that the three-year formation program will be held one week each year, with new students joining returning participants in a cycle of study aimed at deepening understanding and commitment to the call to Christian reconciliation and unity.

"We are aiming it at regular lay folks who want to learn about ecumenism, who want to begin to be formed in that sort of ecumenical spirituality in their own particular denominations," he describes.

"Also, more particularly, the program is helpful to those in ministry, or those who want to become ecumenical officers in those churches that have that (position) set up as part of their structure."

Upon completing the three-year cycle, participants will receive a certificate from St. Andrew's College, a theological college operated by the United Church of Canada on the University of Saskatchewan campus.



Saskatoon Catholic Bishop Donald Bolen, Dr. Catherine Clifford of St Paul University in Ottawa, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism director Dr. Darren Dahl, and diocesan Ecumenical Officer Nicholas Jesson (l-r) assisted in the first sessions of a new ecumenical formation program.
- Photo by Nicholas Jesson

The first class included participants from near and far, with a range of backgrounds and representing a variety of Christian denominations.

Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen is enthusiastic about the initiative. "The creation of an in-depth ecumenical formation program is an extremely significant development for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, and will deepen understanding and commitment to Christian unity," Bolen says. "It is the fruit of a long and rich history of ecumenical endeavours undertaken through the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism."

Bolen stresses the potential for the program to make an impact, congratulating the organizers for

taking on an initiative with regional, national and perhaps even international importance.

"With the launch of this program, the Prairie Centre is taking a major step towards the formation of ecumenical leaders for the future, not just for our region, but potentially for participants from far and wide, given the lack of such programs elsewhere and their urgent need," says Bolen.

The new program is a ground-breaking, major initiative for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, agrees the centre's director.

"It is really the first time that the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism has tried to do something with ecumenical education in a kind of big, sustained, structural way, rather than just workshops or seminars here and there," says Dahl.

Establishing the program to a high standard, with a rich curriculum and excellent instructors has been the goal, Dahl adds.

The emphasis of the new program is formation, says Nicholas Jesson, Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

"There is also a study component with assigned reading, and a writing assignment after each year's program."

"As far as we know, this program is unique. There are two

similar ecumenical studies programs for Catholics offered in Washington, DC and in Rome, Italy but there is no other program that brings together lay and clergy from all of the Christian churches," says Jesson.

In addition to Dahl, who facilitated an integration unit, instructors for the inaugural year of the program were Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for "Mapping Ecumenism"; Dr. Catherine Clifford of St. Paul University, Ottawa, for "Principles of Ecumenical Theology"; Dr. Sandra Beardsall of St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon for "History of Ecumenism"; Rev. Dr. William Richards of the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in Saskatoon for "Biblical Foundations of Ecumenism"; and Rev. Richard Vandervort, team ministry leader at Living Hope Christian Reformed Church, Sarnia, ON, for "Spiritual Ecumenism."

Rev. Amanda Currie of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Saskatoon was chaplain for the program. Participants also had an opportunity to participate in a social evening to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

A public panel discussion on "Openings to the Future:

Ecumenism Commission and Prairie Centre for Ecumenism are supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

Ecumenical Signs of Hope," was also held June 25 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, with panelists Dr. Catherine Clifford, professor of systematic and historical theology at St. Paul's University; Rev. Jordan Cantwell, chair of the Riverbend Presbytery of the United Church of Canada and minister at the Delisle Vanscoy United Church (which shares its building with St. Anne's Roman Catholic Parish in Delisle); and Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, the William Hordern Chair of Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.

Participants in the new program are completing their first year of studies, with an eighth and final unit of self-directed study undertaken at home in their local ecumenical context.

In each succeeding year, the first-year curriculum will be offered simultaneously with one of the two groupings of advanced modules.

The second and third years of the program will include themes such as: ecumenical dialogues (theory, attitudes, and methods, as well as discussion of actual dialogues); the practice of ecumenism in common witness and mission; ecumenical covenants; ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue; cultural issues in ecumenical dialogue and common ministry; the practice of ecumenical courtesy; ecumenical leadership; inter-church families; challenging issues (eucharistic sharing, sexuality and gender, papacy and petrine ministry); ecumenism and social justice; and religious freedom.

For more information about the program, contact the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon or see: www.pcecumenism.ca



Panelists (l-r) Rev. Jordan Cantwell, the chair of the Riverbend Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, Dr. Catherine Clifford of St. Paul's University in Ottawa, and Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon spoke during a public session June 25.

New Book: "a school of prayer"

Continued from Page 10

This fall is the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism: *Unitatis Redintegratio*, de Margerie noted. "Fifty years ago, the Catholic Church declared in the most solemn way possible, that from now on, we're going to play a big part to try and heal those divisions, in obedience to the will and to the prayer of Christ," he said.

"I consider the writing of this book – and now its distribution – as an act of ministry, in the service of the gospel... a Christian ministry of reconciliation."

De Margerie describes the volume as a "school of prayer" that seeks conversion of hearts. "The book is a school where minds and hearts can learn, humbly and patiently, the basic gifts, demands, hopes, changed attitudes, that make up an ecumenical heart."

In the introduction to the book, de Margerie stated: "It will

hopefully be offered and placed in the hands of the Christian people, at the grassroots, across denominational lines, on a generously wide basis.

"It is offered especially as a humble gift and instrument to those who are called, or may be called in the future, to spend themselves in this singular act of ecclesial faithfulness, committed prayer and intercession for the healing of the Body of Christ."

Endorsed by local Christian leaders from a range of traditions and denominations, *In God's Reconciling Grace* has five sections.

"Prayer Matters" introduces ecumenical prayer in its many dimensions and implications, including prayers that "correct attitudes, name pitfalls and deal with stereotypes," he said.

In the second section entitled "Christian Communities Praying with and for Each Other" – de Margerie offers resources to

encourage different denominations to pray for each other. "This might be praying for another congregation which is in difficulty, or giving praise to God for the faithful witness that neighbouring congregations are giving to the gospel," said de Margerie.

"Denominational Voices at Prayer" features prayers for Christian unity found within different traditions.

The fourth part of the book offers resource texts as "food for discernment" and the final section contains a number of ecumenical prayer services for Christian reconciliation and unity.

"The favourable time, the time of grace, is now!" urged de Margerie, expressing his hope that leaders and animators will take the new resource and help to breathe life into the use of the book among groups and congregations, families and parishioners.

"All this effort is grace leading to grace," he said.

The Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism

was the beginning of the Catholic Church's commitment to the ministry of Christian unity. How has the Decree transformed our perception of each other and of our own churches?

What does it mean to be A Church in Dialogue?

We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Decree on Ecumenism November 21 and 22

Ecumenical Service, Friday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

St. Philip Neri Parish, 1902 Munroe Ave, Saskatoon

Hosted by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, this service will be an opportunity for all Christians to thank God for opening new doors to Christian reconciliation and unity and to pray for the continued vitality of the ecumenical movement in Saskatoon and throughout the world. Everyone is welcome!

Panel discussion: "To Be the Church in Dialogue"

Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

held during a United Church Presbytery meeting,

Location TBA

Features a panel discussion about local, national, and international dialogue. Everyone welcome

Saskatoon community celebrates L'Arche 50th

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

L'Arche Saskatoon welcomed friends and families to a joyful 50th anniversary celebration on a sunny autumn day Sept. 20, with a lunch cruise on the Prairie Lily riverboat, followed by a prayer service at St. John's Anglican Cathedral.

L'Arche began in 1964 in France, when Jean Vanier invited Raphael and Philippe, two men with intellectual disabilities, to live with him – “to come and share their life in the spirit of the Gospel and the Beatitudes that Jesus preached,” as stated in the L'Arche charter.

Now, in L'Arche homes around the world, people with disabilities and those who assist them continue to follow that model, living together and sharing life as a home and community. Today there are some 140 L'Arche communities around the world in 38 different countries.

L'Arche Saskatoon was founded in 2008, and includes one home, Christopher House, which is home to eight people, including four live-in assistants. Monthly “Friends of L'Arche” gatherings and ecumenical prayer nights also involve others in the local L'Arche community.

To mark the 50th anniversary with a boat ride was an appropriate activity for an organization named after Noah's Ark, which was also the theme of a reflection led by community leader Wyndham Thiessen during the afternoon prayer service.

“The word L'Arche is the French for Ark, for Noah's Ark,” explained Thiessen, as core community member Cody took on the role of Noah and collected animal figurines from among those assembled for prayer.

Rain sticks previously made by community members were used to create the sound of the rain as Thiessen told the story of how in a world of violence, suffering and sin, God called Noah to save the animals and start over.

“We often hear this throughout the Bible: there is a situation that's not tolerable. There is violence, there is sin, and something has to be done. And of course we know God's ultimate response was sending Jesus,” who taught us to respond to violence with forgiveness and love, he said.

In the 1960s, the intolerable situation that Jean Vanier and others



L'Arche Saskatoon community and friends took a riverboat cruise to mark the 50th anniversary of L'Arche.

responded to was the suffering of those with intellectual disabilities who were living in institutions, recounted Thiessen. “It was a small, faithful step. There was suffering, and something had to be done.”

Living together as a community built on love, mutuality and forgiveness began to bring new insights to gospel passages, Thiessen described. “Jean Vanier began to realize that he too was poor, that he too was broken,” he said.

“He also realized quite early on that the people he welcomed, while they were poor in some ways, in other ways they were not poor. They had gifts, they had riches to share with others.”

Thiessen added: “A lot of the gifts that people with disabilities have – gifts of welcoming, of celebration, of forgiveness – these are things that our world really needs.”

Prayers of thanksgiving for 50

years of L'Arche were offered during the prayer service, as well as prayers for L'Arche communities around the world, including those living in the midst of violence and unrest.

Finally, the community thanked God for the gift of L'Arche Saskatoon and for those with “the vision and dream to be ‘Led by the Spirit’ and to build community,

For more information, see: www.larchesaskatoon.org

Graduates of Spiritual Direction Formation Program sent forth

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Eleven graduates of a Spiritual Direction Formation Program offered in Saskatoon in 2013-2014 were sent forth this summer in a celebration at Queen's House of Retreat and Renewal.

Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen presided at the Eucharist, before joining Queen's House director Brendan Bitz and Spiritual Direction Formation Program directors Gisele Bauche, Dianne Mantyka and Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, in a celebration to recognize those who completed the two-year program.

In his homily, Bolen reflected on the blessings of spiritual direction, and the call of spiritual directors to accompany others in their spiritual journeys, grounded in the Word of God. “You are sent forth to be agents of healing, agents of listening, agents of reconciliation,” Bolen told the new spiritual directors.

Offered at Queen's House for a number of years, the Spiritual Direction Formation Program gives participants knowledge and



Spiritual formation graduates and program directors this year were (Standing l-r): Sheila Trumpy, Cathy McGeragle, Carolyn Crittenden, Dianne Mantyka, Bishop Gerry Wiesner, Gisele Bauche, Mona Goodman, and Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers. (Sitting l-r): Heather Hedlin (holding Miriam), Maureen Chastkiewicz, Gloria Daum, Ron Flamand, Kathy Hitchings, Kim Morrison. - Photo by Brian Bauche

skills for providing spiritual direction, while also integrating their own spiritual journey and self awareness, explains program facilitator Gisele Bauche. The three program directors — Bauche, Mantyka and Wiesner

— bring life experience, ecumenical background in theology, biblical studies, spirituality and prayer, and years of experience in ministry, mission and spiritual formation to the program.

Spiritual directors accompany others in their faith journeys, listening with them to the movement of God in their life experiences, and assisting them in articulating their inner experience, says Bauche. Spiritual direction can provide “greater insight, deeper awareness and surer discernment in one's desire and effort to live life more fully.”

A variety of teachers and facilitators contributed to the program content that was offered during the formation program.

Topics include: prayer, discernment and contemplation; dream work; traditional Christian mystics and masters; biblical spirituality; Ignatian and Benedictine spirituality; 12-step spirituality; ecumenism: opening spiritual doors; other religious traditions; First Nations spirituality; eco-spirituality; social justice and spirituality; creative expression; spiritual emergencies; integrating spirituality, intimacy and sexuality.

The Spiritual Direction Formation Program will be offered again January 2016 to July 2017. For further information contact Queen's House (306) 242-1916.

Averyt will coordinate Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program for three dioceses

By KATE O'GORMAN

Renske Averyt is the newest member of the Lay Formation team, taking on the part-time role of coordinator for the Aboriginal Stream. The program is held in Saskatoon, with the Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation Program operating as a joint program of the dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin Le-Pas.

There are 24 new participants beginning in the Lay Formation program this year, 12 of whom are journeying through the Aboriginal Stream. Participants within the Aboriginal Stream come from various communities in and around Saskatoon and many travel from northern Saskatchewan across the Keewatin Le-Pas diocese.

Averyt says she is excited to walk with participants as they journey through this two-year faith enrichment experience.

As Averyt explains, the offer to journey with the Aboriginal Stream was an unexpected one. “I was reluctant at first. I kept coming up



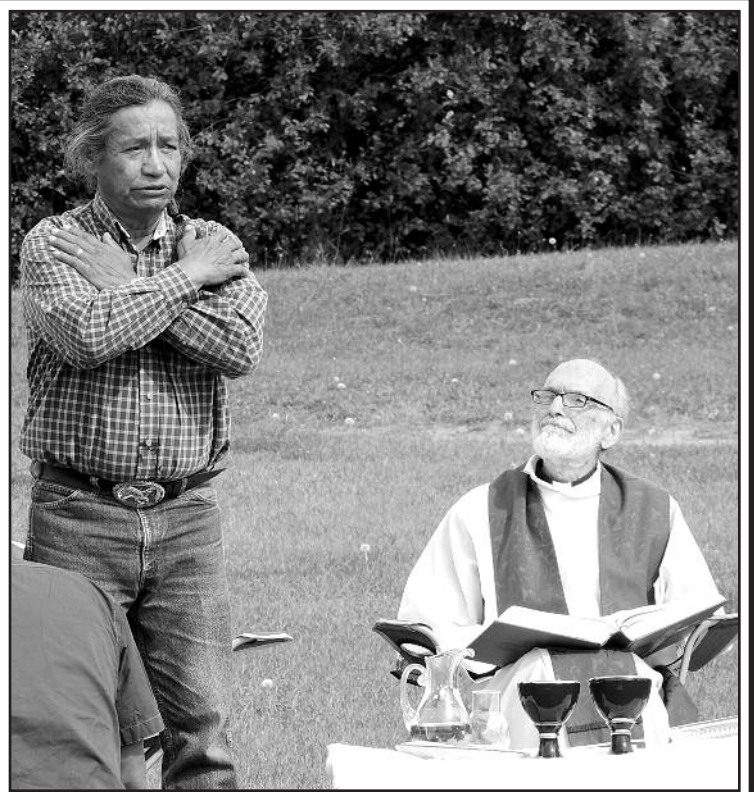
Renske Averyt is coordinator of Aboriginal Lay Formation.

with excuse after excuse for why I shouldn't say yes to this call.” Nevertheless, Averyt took time to discern the invitation to serve within the Lay Formation program. “I prayed a lot and I spoke to my husband about it quite a bit until it struck me; ‘who am I fighting? What is God trying to tell me?’”

Averyt brings with her a rich and unique background. A graduate of the program herself, along with her husband, Averyt is well acquainted with the impact the Lay Formation process can have on individuals and families.

Renske Averyt is married to Rev. Michael Averyt, a former Anglican priest now serving as a Catholic priest with the diocese of Prince Albert. In conjunction with her husband's ministry, Averyt has worked with and shared in liturgical celebrations with various Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan.

Sensitive to the fact that she is not Aboriginal herself – and noting it as a concern in her discernment process in the acceptance of this new role – Avery says: “I know that it will perhaps take some time for us to gel as a community, but I feel it happening already. I can already see how people are growing and changing. The trust between us is starting to build. They are an amazing group of individuals.”



Trip to St. Laurent shrine

Participants in the Saskatoon diocesan, eparchial and Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program travelled to Our Lady of Lourdes St. Laurent Shrine near Duck Lake in September, learning more about Aboriginal spirituality. Guest speaker A.J. Felix led a pipe ceremony and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, celebrated Eucharist. - Photo by Kate O'Gorman

Adult faith formation

Faith education, prayer and community:

Lay Formation missioning held

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty-five graduates of Lay Formation were sent forth this spring by Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen and Keewatin-Le Pas Archbishop Murray Chatlain during a joyful missioning celebration at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

First Nations drums and dancers opened the June 1 celebration for the 2014 class, which included graduates from both the diocese of Saskatoon stream and an Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation stream involving participants from both the diocese of Saskatoon and the archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas.

In addition to the diocesan Latin-rite and Aboriginal Catholic programs, there is also a Ukrainian Catholic Byzantine-rite stream of Lay Formation – an eparchy of Saskatoon group began Year II in September 2014 and will be missioned in 2015, along with another diocesan stream.

Lay Formation groups journey together for two years in monthly

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

"We are very proud of this program and of all the graduates," said Bolen, thanking Lay Formation participants for their commitment. "There are life-giving fruits of the Lay Formation program in all of our communities."

The honesty of the gospel is a call for us to also be honest in our faith, to express our struggles and acknowledge our frailty and weakness, Archbishop Murray Chatlain said in the homily.

"In the Lay Formation group you have had these tremendous community gatherings, a weekend every month, where you have such support and encouragement of your faith, of what's important to you in

your life. That has strengthened you," the archbishop noted. "Now you go out into your communities again and there won't be quite that same support." He encouraged graduates to find and encourage that same kind of faith sharing in their communities, homes, families and parishes.

Lay Formation coordinators Debbie Ledoux and Mona Goodman introduced the 2014 graduates during the June 1 missioning celebration, which included a renewal of baptismal promises and the anointing of each graduate by their bishop.

"Through baptism and confirmation we are called by God to participate in the mission and ministry of the church," said Ledoux. "Motivated by the spirit of the gospel we are called to the life of holiness, prayer and action."

Goodman added: "Such a mission requires ongoing formation and renewal. Over the past two years, these members of our church have diligently and conscientiously



Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation graduate Lana Michel of Pelican Narrows presents gifts to Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin Le-Pas at the missioning celebration in June 2014 at Holy Family Cathedral.

deepened their knowledge of our faith and intensified their spiritual lives through the Lay Formation process."

The two bishops blessed and anointed participants, sending them forth "to proclaim the good news, to serve and to worship in spirit and truth."

Lay Formation 2014 grads are:

• **Kay Burke** of St. Augustine, Humboldt;

• **Bert and Louise Bussière** of St. Philippe Neri, Vonda;

• **Delphine Cadotte** of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saskatoon;

• **Connie Crichton** and **Emma Sysing** of St. Patrick, Saskatoon;

• **Norma Denis**, **Ev Safronetz** and **Joe Simonot** of St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon;

• **Margie Diakuw**, **Connie McGrath** and **Marc Perrault** of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon;

• **Christy and Dan Dupuis** of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Martinsville;

• **Barb Fredrickson** of St. Anne, Saskatoon;

• **Dianna Knaus** of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saskatoon;

• **Darlene Ledoux** of St. Mary, Saskatoon;

• **Maureen Smith-Windsor** of Holy Spirit, Saskatoon;

• **Laura Wirachowsky** of St. Joseph, Saskatoon.

• **Freida Charles**, **Trent Dorion** and **Lana Michel** of St. Gertrude parish in Pelican Narrows; **Marlene Hansen** of Buffalo Narrows; **Julia Lariviere** of St. Mary Magdalene parish in Beauval, and **Jackie Lemaigre** of Our Lady of the Visitation parish in Laloche.



Diocesan and Aboriginal Catholic streams of Lay Formation were missioned by two bishops June 1, 2014 in Saskatoon.

- Photos by Tim Yaworski

Graduates reflect on experience of transformation

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Two members of the 2014 graduating class of Lay Formation recently reflected on the program, describing it as a profound experience of spiritual growth and transformation.

Asked by her parish priest to attend Lay Formation several years ago, Lana Michel of St. Gertrude parish in Pelican Narrows had to wait until the timing was right. The administrative assistant for her First Nations band for the past 23 years, Lana was regularly travelling back and forth from Pelican Narrows to Prince Albert and Saskatoon as she worked on her degree in social work, and it wasn't possible to take on another commitment when her pastor first raised the idea.

A few years later, when there was less travelling in her life, the mother of three was ready to enter the Aboriginal Catholic stream of Lay Formation. It was a good fit for someone who has valued faith and spirituality from her earliest days.

Over the years, she has learned more about traditional First Nations teachings, and Lay Formation has added to her understanding.

Lana described how Lay Formation has been a blessing in her lifetime journey to a closer relationship with God, and each weekend it seemed like God was



Barb Fredrickson of St. Anne parish is anointed by Bishop Don Bolen at the Lay Formation missioning celebration in June.

giving answers for something in her life. Lana added that she "wants to share that peace in a joyful way, and have the courage to do God's will."

Lana's message for all those who are deciding to begin the Lay Formation program is also one of peace and of hope: "God is good. God is great. You are God's child and you are doing God's business."

Barb Fredrickson of St. Anne parish in Saskatoon graduated this spring from the diocesan stream of Lay Formation program.

"One of the things that continues to amaze me is the work of the Holy Spirit that just weaves its way, weekend after weekend through us, and with us – and how that has actually come into my life."

Married for 28 years, Barb is the mother of three young adults and recently became a grandmother for the first time. She works as an educational assistant at Holy Cross High School and as a Continuing Care Assistant on the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul's Hospital.

Lay Formation
is supported by

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

Hearing a presentation in her parish about Lay Formation several years ago, Barb thought it sounded like something she would like to do when she retired. But other events and promptings (including the death of her father and the illness of a friend) nudged her to consider the program sooner rather than later.

"Here I am: in God's time not mine," she said. "I am a lifelong Catholic, and I've just always believed," Barb said.

"But now to understand why we believe what we do has been really enlightening for me: I'm in love with my Church, and I wouldn't have said that two years ago."

The program was less "churchy" than she expected, Barb added, stressing the quality of presenters and the wide range of topics covered in the learning portions of the program.

Throughout the program there has been transformation, she added. "There has been a deepening of a

relationship with Jesus Christ, and learning to pray in a deeper way."

Barb found herself eager for each weekend to arrive, as a time when she could retreat from the world and nurture her soul: "It's a holy place, and so much good happens, so much learning."

Barb was expecting to find friendship and fellowship at Lay Formation, but was surprised by the variety of people enrolled in the program and the many reasons they have for attending.

The small prayer groups that are formed as part of Lay Formation were another ongoing blessing for all concerned, Barb added. "We're such diverse people, but when we come together, that disappears and there's just this huge connection."

Throughout the journey – from the decision to participate in the first place, and all the blessings and challenges that followed, Barb said she has felt that it has been about God's timing. "When I first looked at it and was wondering if could do this, a friend said to me: 'Barb, the Lord educates the called, he doesn't call the educated,' which was such an affirmation."

For more information about Lay Formation, contact Kate O'Gorman at the Catholic Pastoral Centre: (306) 659-5847 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005 Ext. *847.

BRAZILIAN BULLETIN

Diocese of
SASKATOON

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Archdiocese of
MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)

NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL

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

Brazil Mission / Missão Brasil

Walking together in God's mercy for 50 years

Missionaries 1964-2014:

Fr. Emile April	1973-2001
Fr. Bernard de Margerie	1978-1979 / 1990
Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB	1986 / 1988-1989 / 1998-1999
Sr. Lea Desharnais, SND	1990-2002
Sr. Maria Doecker, OSU	1968-1997
Fr. Leander Dosch, OCSO	1968-1971
Fr. Bernard Dunn	1964-1966
Sr. Pauline Feist, OSU	1986-1988
Sr. Bernadine Fetter, OSU	1968-1974; / 1990-1993
Sr. Marie Gorsalitz, OSU	1985-1989
Sr. Marcella Haag, OSE	1968-1969
Alvin Hergott	1967-1968
Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU	1987-2014
Sr. Sida Hrbachek, OSE	1974-1976
Sr. Dolores Jansen, OSE	1968-1982
Sr. Dianna Loeffers, NDS	1967-1974
Msgr. Donald Macgillivray	1964-2002
Mary Ellen Martin	1967-1969
Anne (Elizabeth) Murphy	1967-1971
Sr. Claire Novecosky, OSU	1973-2014
Fr. Robert Ogle	1964-1970
Fr. Les Paquin	1996-2002 / 2006-2008
Fr. Al Pich	1969-1971
Cecile Poilievre	1964-1967
Ida Raiche	1964-1969
Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS	1993-2014
Sr. Marie-Nöelle Rondot, SMS	1995-2014
Jack Scissons	1966-1967
Sr. Joyce Sinnett, NDS	1971-1974
Fr. Bernard Stauber	1973-1980 / 1981-1997
Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB	1967-1992

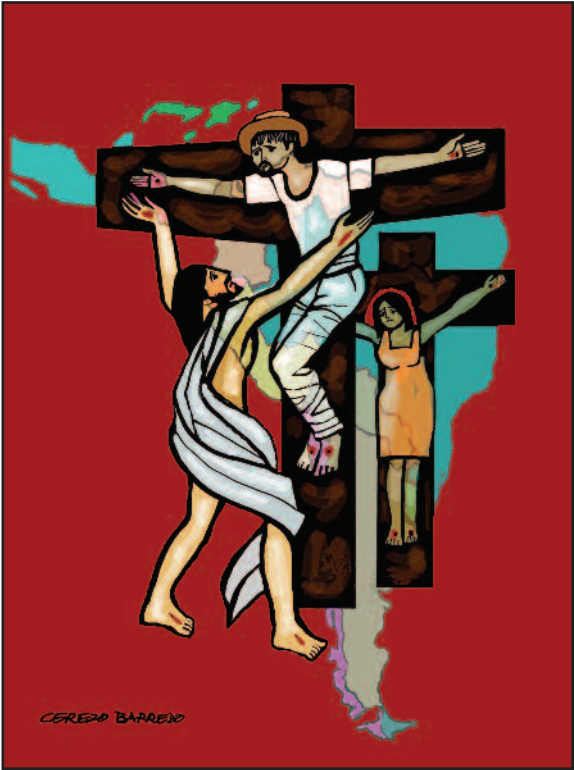
Alphonse Gerwing - Friend of the Brazil Mission - 1979-2007

“What does the Lord require
of you: but to do justice, to
love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?”

- Micah 6:8

“O que é bom e o que Javé
exige de você: praticar
o direito, amar a misericórdia,
caminhar humildemente
com o seu Deus?”

- Miquéias 6:8



Christ takes the poor down from the cross in a painting by Fr. Maximino Cerezo Barredo, CFM, who served many years as a missionary in Latin America. The image was featured during the Brazil Mission celebration Oct. 19 in the diocese of Saskatoon.



The first missionaries from the diocese of Saskatoon went to Maceió in 1964: Cecile Poilievre, Fr. Don Macgillivray, Fr. Bernard Dunn, Fr. Bob Ogle and Ida Raiche (l-r).



Benedictine priests Fr. Al Hergott and Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB, (l-r) were the first Brazil missionaries from St. Peter's Abbey in 1967.

Brazil Mission: history of solidarity, service



Fr. Les Paquin, Fr. Don Macgillivray and Fr. Emile April (l-r) were the last of our diocesan priests to serve in the Brazil Mission.



Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB, died in Brazil in a traffic accident in 1992.



Fr. Emile April spent 28 years in Brazil, walking with the people as they sought justice.

The Brazil Mission had its beginnings in the days of the Second Vatican Council, grounded in St. Pope John XXIII's call for a church that lives the gospel in the world.

As Blessed Pope Paul VI also appealed to Catholic leaders to address the disparity between rich and poor nations of the world, Archbishop Adelmo Machado of Maceió was busy describing Brazil's great need to Saskatchewan bishops who were in Rome for the Council. Saskatoon Bishop Francis Klein and Benedictine Abbot Jerome Weber of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, responded by taking action.

Bishop Klein established the diocesan mission in northeastern Brazil in 1964, by sending three diocesan priests – Fr. Don Macgillivray, Fr. Bernard Dunn and Fr. Bob Ogle – as well as two lay nurses, Ida Raiche and Cecile Poilievre.

A short time later, in 1967, St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster sent its first two missionaries to Brazil: Fr. Alvin Hergott, OSB, and Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB.

Over the next half-century, other missionaries followed, including members of the Sisters of Zion from Saskatoon, Ursulines of both Bruno and Prelate, Elizabethan Sisters of St. Francis from Humboldt, Sisters of Notre Dame D'Auvergne and Sisters of Mission Service. When St. Peter's Abbey joined the diocese of Saskatoon in 1998, efforts were combined into one common Brazil Mission. In total, 31 missionaries from the diocese and abbacy served in the mission (see list, above).

The work of the missionaries from Saskatchewan has included parish ministry,

outreach to the poor and suffering, the formation of lay leaders and base Christian communities, vocation formation, care for at-risk children and families, and practical responses to a number of severe floods.

The missionaries have also walked in solidarity with the people to address social justice issues such as land reform in response to the plight of the landless poor, needs of women and families, the suffering of those cutting sugar cane for pennies a day, a lack of housing and health care, and a growing need for drug addiction recovery programs.

Another priority has been hospitality, and providing a "ministry of presence," building friendships and fostering community.

Support from parishioners in the diocese of Saskatoon and the former St. Peter's Abbey for the mission has always been generous. Assisted by the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC), the Canadian missionaries raised awareness back home about the needs of the poor, the call for justice, and the meaning of mission.

The Brazil Mission has also had an impact on those who heard about the mission through BMAC's efforts, as well as all those who visited or worked alongside the missionaries through the years, including teachers and students from local Catholic schools, World Youth Day pilgrims, and other volunteers. The late Alphonse Gerwing is one example of someone affected by what he saw in Brazil. A charitable foundation now run by his family continues to support projects there, operated through the Rainbow of Hope for Children.

Brazil Mission celebration: walking together

Sandals, and other words and images about walking, or journeying together in faith, were recurring themes during an anniversary celebration Oct. 19 in Saskatoon, held to mark 50 years of the diocesan Brazil Mission and welcome home four missionaries who have now returned to Saskatchewan (see article below).

During the celebration at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Fr. Emile April recalled another anniversary celebration held several years ago in Brazil, when the people there were asked to choose a symbol of the work of the Canadian missionaries to bring up in procession.

"They came up with a pair of sandals," said April, who served as a missionary in Brazil for 28 years. "Just simple, everyday sandals ... They said: 'You have come here, you have been here with us, in our highs and in our lows, in our sufferings, but also in our celebrations: you have walked with us, and for this we thank you.'"

In the days before the Saskatoon celebration, long-time missionary Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU, heard from the Carmelite priests serving at Marechal Deodoro, where she and Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, served the Brazilian people. In solidarity with the diocesan celebration on Mission Sunday, Oct. 19 in Saskatoon, the Brazilian pastors offered all their Masses (in 12 communities of St. Peter the Fisherman parish) for the diocese of Saskatoon.

In another sign of solidarity, two members of parish communities in northeastern Brazil travelled to Canada for the 50th anniversary



Walking in solidarity: 13 missionaries who served in the Brazil Mission came forward for a special blessing during an Oct. 19 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Brazil Mission held at the cathedral in Saskatoon: (l-r) Anne Murphy; Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS; Sr. Bernadine Fetter, OSU; Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU; Sr. Dianna Lieffers, NDS; Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU; Cecile Poilievre; Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS; Sr. Marie Gorsalitz, OSU; Fr. Les Paquin; Fr. Bernard de Margerie; Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB; and Fr. Emile April.

celebrations: Alcilene Lima and Ivoneide (Neide) Marie de Souza represented the people of the archdiocese of Maceió, Brazil.

The anniversary began with celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Don Bolen, Abbot Peter Novacosky, OSB, Bishop Emeritus Gerry Wiesner, and a number of priests of the diocese, including four who served in the Brazil Mission. Music ministry was provided by the diocesan choir, and prayers of the faithful were read in Portuguese, French and English by Alcilene Lima of Brazil, Anita Gooding of BMAC, and missionary Sr. Marie-Nöelle Rondot.

In his homily, April reflected on what has been learned through the Brazil Mission – by

those who served there, those who visited, and those back home, who were formed in missionary awareness and commitment as the mission unfolded.

"First of all, we learned to walk in solidarity with the poor of the world," he said. "That's basically what I learned in Brazil – the need for us as a rich church, a church with all kinds of resources, to walk with the poor of the world; not to turn a blind eye."

Years of service in the Brazil mission also taught humility, he added, relating the story of how he once was called to help disperse a group of landless farmers in a face-off with police. In order to speak to the people, April moved a table from the top of a hill to its base, prompting memorable words from one observer: "Oh yes, we need to remember that! When we speak with the people, we must speak from below, not from the top."

April stressed: "We were not there to give them orders, we were there to learn with them and to walk with them."

"We learned that without justice, charity is an empty word," he added.

"We also learned that the people need to be the subject of their own history; that we will not liberate the people, the people will liberate themselves," he said. "Our job is to support their effort, not to come there with our own solutions."

Sharing examples of the wisdom and faith of the ordinary people of Brazil, April said that "the church needs to value the wisdom of the poor... we need to learn from them."

"We as the church are God's instrument for



Anita Gooding of BMAC, Alcilene Lima of Brazil, and recently-returned missionary Sr. Marie-Nöelle Rondot, SMS, (l-r) lead prayers.

communion and community, for solidarity and reparation," April added. "We see the greatness of God's power when we work together as church."

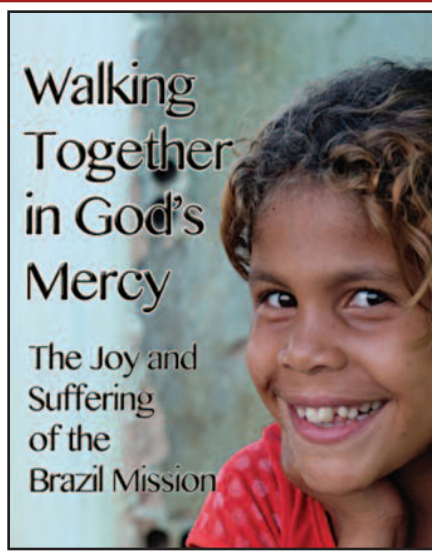
At the end of Mass, Bishop Bolen called forth all the former missionaries present at the celebration, to pray over them with the community, in thanksgiving and blessing.

The Mass was followed by a reception and a program, which included Master of Ceremonies Steve Buttinger introducing the missionaries in attendance, and special guests, including family members of the late Fr. Syl Vredegoor, OSB, and the late Fr. Donald Macgillivray. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of missionaries who have died.

Past and present members of the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC) were also introduced during the program, which included a documentary film about the Brazil Mission (see boxed item at left). - KLY

History and impact of Brazil Mission explored in video

The premiere of a one-hour documentary film about the Brazil Mission was part of the 50th anniversary celebration Oct. 19. "Walking Together in God's Mercy: The Joy and Suffering of the Brazil Mission" was produced by Tim Yaworski. It features an overview of the history and work of the mission, interviews with missionaries and leaders, as well as reflections from some of those affected by the mission – both in Canada and in Brazil. The film is available at the diocesan Resource Library, on YouTube, and on DVD. More information about ordering, prices, etc. can be found on the diocesan website or call (306) 659-5844.



Remaining four diocesan missionaries return to Saskatchewan

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

After serving for decades in Brazil, four women religious from Saskatchewan are adjusting to life back in Canada.

Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU, first arrived in Brazil in 1973, spending the last 41 years as a missionary, along with another member of the Ursulines of Bruno congregation, Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, who served as a missionary for 27 years, beginning in 1987.

Sisters of Mission Service and siblings Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS, and Sr. Marie-Nöelle Rondot, SMS, served 21 and 18 years, respectively, in the Brazil Mission.

These four are among 31 missionaries from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the former St. Peter's Abbey who have lived and worked in the Archdiocese of Maceió, Brazil over the past 50 years.

Since returning in July, the last four diocesan missionaries have been reconnecting with their religious communities, becoming oriented to Canadian life again, and adjusting to many changes that have taken place since they last lived in Saskatchewan.

"This is a time of discernment and prayer, and trying to figure out what is next," describes Sr. Jeannine. "We are a little bit like



Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU, Sr. Jeannine Rondot, SMS, Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU, and Sr. Marie-Nöelle Rondot, SMS, (l-r) found it difficult to say goodbye to Brazil and its people after so many decades living and serving in the Brazil Mission. With return of the four missionaries to Canada this summer, the diocese is now discerning how to best continue its relationship with the Archdiocese of Maceió, Brazil.

fish out of water, trying to reconnect with everyone and everything."

It was difficult to leave the people of Brazil, says Sr. Marie-Nöelle. "It was hard to say goodbye. We do miss them."

Among the many experiences, encounters and ministries undertaken in the Brazil Mission over the years, it is the spirit of the

people that the sisters recall most fondly.

"It was the warmth of the people – how the people were so welcoming in spite of their difficulties," says Sr. Louise. She recalled the patience of the Brazilians as she struggled to learn Portuguese, and the great joy that existed alongside great poverty and suffering. It was "just the joy of the

poor – that you didn't have to be rich to be happy," she describes, recalling the beauty, the dignity and the happiness of people with very little material wealth.

"For me as well, it was the simplicity of the people, so easily approached," agrees Sr. Jeannine, recalling the joy of being with the people. "They shared their lives with us, as we shared ours with

them."

Sr. Marie-Nöelle says that the time spent with people in a neglected and poverty-stricken region is what touched her the most. "Ministry in that area was very much a ministry of presence," she notes.

"They were people who were very excluded."

Those who are poor or marginalized felt empowered and hopeful when the missionaries reached out to them, observes Sr. Claire.

"To have a foreigner come into their home, to visit, and to be at ease with them ... I think for people from an oppressed background that is a way for them to feel that they are given value."

Conditions have worsened in recent times with an increase in drug dealing and violence in the poorest areas, notes Sr. Marie-Nöelle. "We feel very bad for the people up there because they are people who had already been excluded, who have suffered enough in life. And now, instead of life being better, it is worse."

With the departure of the last four missionaries, the diocese of Saskatoon is now discerning how best to continue the connection with Brazil and respond to the gospel call to mission.

Chancellor, judicial vicar and vicar general reflect on roles

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Donald Bolen recently appointed three priests to key roles in the diocese of Saskatoon, filling the positions of chancellor, judicial vicar and vicar general.

Fr. Clement Amofah is the new chancellor for the diocese, as well as serving as adjutant judicial vicar.

Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky was appointed judicial vicar, and is working primarily with matters related to the marriage tribunal and marriage annulments.

Fr. Kevin McGee is the new vicar general, serving as the bishop's "right hand man," as well as being named episcopal vicar of education for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, taking over both roles from Fr. Ron Beechinor, who retired this summer.

Reb Materi, former chancellor and judicial administrator, is continuing to work at the Catholic Pastoral Centre as consultant and assistant to both the new chancellor and judicial vicar.

The new appointees took up their positions in the Chancery this summer, and all three are also serving as Priest Moderators in various parishes in the diocese.

Chancellor

Fr. Clement Amofah has been in Canada since September 2008, when he arrived in the diocese of Saskatoon from Ghana at the invitation of Bishop Albert LeGatt.

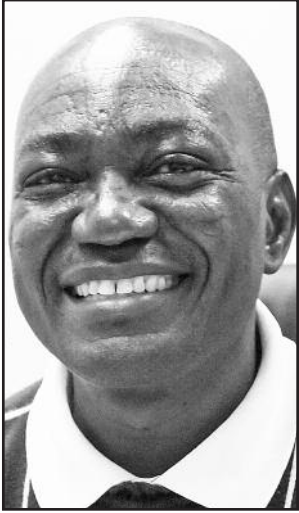
Ordained July 21, 1990, Amofah's background includes civil law, thanks to an innovative bishop in his home diocese of Obuasi who asked priests to take on secular studies and work in the community in a variety of fields – such as law, journalism, medicine, administration, architecture, etc. After studying law at university, Amofah was called to the bar, and practiced in the law courts in Ghana for 10 years, from 1998 to 2008, while also serving as pastor of up to five parishes at a time.

"I enjoyed it," says Amofah. "I was able to help a lot of people. I saw law more as a missionary activity, rather than a profession – to be an advocate for justice."

After arriving in Canada in 2008, Amofah spent several months at St. Paul's Cathedral in Saskatoon before being appointed first as associate pastor and later as pastor to seven parishes in the Wadena area.

In June 2012, Amofah went to Ottawa to pursue studies in Canon Law at St. Paul's University, which he completed in two years, returning to Saskatoon in July 2014 to take up the position of chancellor. Canon law is a bit different than civil law, he noted, but it was not hard to adapt the skills from his earlier experience to this new field of study.

In his role as chancellor, Amofah ensures the written actions of the diocesan curia are "guarded, arranged, and safeguarded," overseeing archival records, and information



Fr. Clement Amofah:
Chancellor



Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky:
Judicial vicar



Fr. Kevin McGee:
Vicar general

management for the Catholic diocese. He also cares for the property of the diocese when it comes to all legal and ecclesial documentation. The chancellor is the one who declares that copies of documents are in conformity with originals, and who signs, verifies and witnesses all official acts emanating from the bishop and the diocesan curia. "The chancellor is the chief ecclesiastical notary of the diocese," he explains.

The chancellor can also take on other duties as requested by the bishop. For instance, the chancellor can be designated to process dispensations and permissions on behalf of the bishop, provide canonical advice, or draw up the acts and instruments related to decrees.

Amofah says he finds joy in the work he is doing, whatever it may be.

"I have come to know that happiness for me does not come from externals.... there are for me two things in this world: things that I can change, and those that I cannot change. Those that I can change, I make every effort to do my best. Those that I cannot change – well, that is why I believe in God. For me, those are matters of faith, and I give them up to God."

Amofah has also been appointed as adjutant judicial vicar, in order to assist in the work of judicial vicar Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky as required. In addition, Amofah is providing parish ministry as Priest Moderator, working with lay Parish Life Directors Don and Bonnie Courchene in Lanigan and Leona Wakelam in LeRoy..

"I enjoy being in a parish, interacting with people, talking to people – for me it is really, really important," Amofah says, adding that he has also appreciated the welcome he has received from staff at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

"If only I will be useful here, that is all my wish."

Judicial vicar

Fr. Marvin Lishchynsky returned this summer from two years of study at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, where he earned a licentiate in canon law. He is now serving as Judicial Vicar in the diocese of Saskatoon, working with former chancellor and judicial administrator Reb Materi and long-time employee Donna Rogal on matters pertaining to marriage annulments.

"It has been a sharp learning curve – and it will continue to be. But I enjoy it, I really do, especially meeting with people," says Lishchynsky, who was ordained in 2004 and served several years in parish ministry before being asked by the bishop to pursue his studies in Canon Law.

Lishchynsky's new role on the tribunal is a pastoral one in many ways, he says.

"There are times when you can almost feel the weight that people are carrying. We need to be there for them, listening to their story, affirming them on their faith journey, and reassuring them that they belong in our faith community. Through our service and ministry, we need to remind them of God's presence and care through it all," says Lishchynsky.

That pastoral side of the job is both a joy and a challenge, he says. "I think of Jesus, who in the gospels, always respects and loves people. He never turns anyone away, or says they are beyond his compassion and love, yet guides people in the ways of truth.

"Our ministry in the marriage tribunal office is similar, respecting people in their current life situation, and pastorally helping them to understand and uphold the Church's teaching on the sacrament of marriage"

He adds that he is also delighted to be back at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon as Priest Moderator, serving on the pastoral team with Parish Life Director Matthew Courchene. Lishchynsky also appreciates the

community spirit of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, saying: "This is a great group of people to be working with."

Vicar general

Fr. Kevin McGee came back from a year-long sabbatical this summer to take up the position of vicar general in the diocese of Saskatoon. "In a way, it was a year of prayerful preparation," he says of the sabbatical. "When Bishop Don first asked me, I felt it easy to say yes – because of Bishop Don. I find that his pastoral leadership resonates with my own vision, particularly as we listen to Pope Francis and his words of encouragement and inspiration."

Originally from Edmonton, McGee was ordained in the diocese of Saskatoon 17 years ago, and served in a number of parishes – most recently as pastor of St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon as well as of St. Michael and St. Peter the Apostle parishes, alongside associate pastor Fr. Patrick Ampani.

The role of a vicar general is to be of service to the bishop, and in the diocese of Saskatoon that includes a focus on personnel issues, and building dialogue and relationships with priests across the diocese. Personnel concerns can be challenging, but McGee stresses the importance of careful listening, something which he also fosters in his prayer life, and his devotion to the contemplative tradition and centering prayer.

"Really the emphasis is on being a pastoral presence. I think the word relationship contains it," says McGee, recalling a homily from Pope Francis about the importance of a bishop developing friendships with his priests. "As vicar general I see myself sharing in that role, in being a presence, hopefully that will build on relationships, and build friendships with my brother priests. Hopefully I will be seen as someone who is approachable, and in some areas can be a bridge in relationships."

In addition, McGee is now serving as episcopal vicar of education for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

"I am getting to know the staff at the school board office, working closely with (GSCS Director) Greg Chatlain, and sitting in on various meetings where my presence as a liaison with the diocese for Bishop Don is a natural fit."

McGee is also the Priest Moderator at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon, serving on the pastoral team with Parish Life Directors Russ and Yvonne Powell. "They are very supportive, and are doing a great job," McGee says. "To be present at St. Augustine is a great joy."

McGee sees his new role as vicar general as an extension or a continuation of his service as a priest in the diocese. "I would hope that wherever I go and whatever I am doing, it is always with a pastor's heart."

Debbie Ledoux appointed Parish Life Director for Our Lady of Guadalupe

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Debbie Ledoux was recently blessed and installed as the new Parish Life Director (PLD) for Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon.

Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee commissioned Ledoux Sept. 14 on behalf of Bishop Donald Bolen, who appointed her this summer as the PLD of the parish of First Nations, Métis, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the heart of Saskatoon.

Ledoux leads Our Lady of Guadalupe in conjunction with a Priest Moderator, Fr. Mick Fleming, CSSR. Her previous roles have included working as pastoral associate for the parish and as coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation in Saskatoon.

Elders and leaders of the Our Lady of Guadalupe community came forward and stood around Ledoux as McGee commissioned and blessed her. A drumming group provided an honour song, and later



Vicar-General Fr. Kevin McGee (left) and Priest Moderator Fr. Mick Fleming participate in the blessing and commissioning of Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon.

drummed for a round dance that wound its way through the church at the end of Mass.

In his homily, McGee noted that all are called to share their gifts with others. "And today we honour and celebrate someone in your

community who has – through a process of discernment and a lot of prayer – opened her heart to receive and say yes to taking on this role for Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, to be that presence, and that word of good hope for you."

He invited the assembly to take a moment to honor the memory of all those who have served the parish community as leaders over the years.

"For Debbie, this role of Parish Life Director is served in collaboration with Fr. Mick Fleming as Priest Moderator," McGee said, noting this requires a lot of trust and collaboration

In addition to trust between the two leaders, there must be trust within the community, McGee said. "You as a parish community are putting your trust in Debbie to give you spiritual and administrative leadership. She is putting her trust also in you. She needs your support, prayers, and at times patience when faced with challenging issues that may require time for dialogue, discernment and prayer."

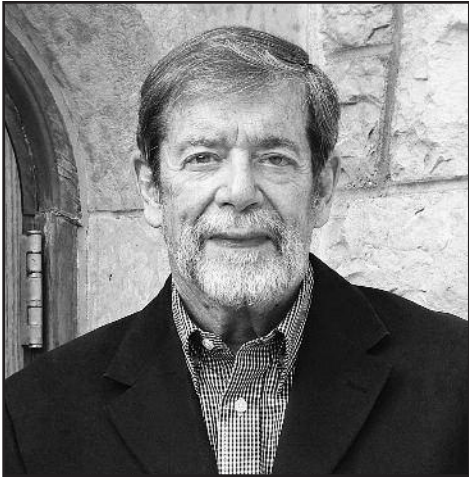
The Feast of the Exultation of the Cross "shows us that we have a God who is completely on our side, and whom we can trust as well," noted McGee.

Addressing the community at the conclusion of the celebration, Ledoux expressed appreciation to God and to all involved in the celebration, to the elders and her mentors, as well as to Fr. Mick, her husband Gil of 40 years, her family and the entire community. She added that she sees her new role as that of a servant to the community.

"On this Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, may this day be for each and every one of us who have not had the best experiences in the residential school and within the Catholic church," she said.

"May we who give honour to Christ's cross today learn to glory in the sufferings of our daily lives. For the same power which transformed the cross into the tree of life, can transform our sufferings into joy, grace, peace and love of God for God is love," concluded Ledoux.

Catholic Education and Catholic Health



Dr. Michael Hayden



Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB

Speakers reflect on Basilian history

BY JACQUIE BERG

The first lecture of the St. Thomas More College *Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies* lecture series, involved a look at Basilians - as seen in both a historical and sociological context.

The lecture entitled "The Basilians: Jesuits Without the Attitude" was held Sept. 25 at the Catholic college on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

Speaking as a historian, Dr. Michael Hayden discussed the origins of the Congregation of St. Basil in reaction to the French Revolution, its slow growth, and its problems dealing with the French government throughout the nineteenth century.

Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, a sociologist and STM's last Basilian on site, identified the reasons why the history and recruitment pattern of the Basilians was so different from those of five other male religious congregations which were founded in France during the same time period.

Discussion also included information about the Basilians' arrival in Canada, the conflict that developed between the French and Canadian branches of the congregation, and the transformation of the Congregation of St. Basil in Canada from a group of conservative, French, anti-modern-world seminary teachers into a body of English-speaking, well-educated high school and university teachers and parish priests.

The lecture concluded with discussion of

what transpired with Basilians from the 1970s to the present in the context of the experiences of other Catholic religious orders and congregations. The floor was then opened to questions and comment, including an assessment of the Basilians' impact on past, present and future University of Saskatchewan students.

Following the public lecture, a statue honouring the legacy of the order at STM was unveiled in the college atrium (*see related article below*). Later in the fall, the Michael Keenan Lecture was also delivered at STM, with Dr Russell Hittinger speaking about the legacy of Pope John Paul II.



New artwork at STM honours Basilians

BY JACQUIE BERG

A sculpture dedicated to the Basilians and their legacy at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon was unveiled by sculptor and STM alumnus Russel Brown Sept. 25, at the Catholic college on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

The new artwork was unveiled following a Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies lecture entitled "The Basilians: Jesuits without the attitude," which highlighted the history and contributions of the religious order (*above*). Plans are underway to rename the college atrium located in the recently-expanded building on College Drive as "St. Basil's Atrium," in conjunction with the establishment of an atrium fund as part of the STM Creating More campaign. The goal is to raise \$500,000.

STM College President Terry Downey spoke to the reason behind the dedication: "St. Thomas More College commemorates the noble legacy of the Basilian Fathers who first created and then sustained,

through untold sacrifices and legendary dedication, this renowned scholarly community," Downey said.

"We are inspired by generations of distinguished graduates who, transformed by a Basilian education, have in turn devoted their expertise and energies to transforming the professions, organizations, communities and countries in which they work and live," he continued.

"This illustrious tradition invigorates us to uphold and enhance the fertile academic presence of a vibrant St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan."

Downey added: "Commitment to the Catholic intellectual life, social justice and the pastoral care of students emboldens us to engage the future."

For more information about the St. Basil Atrium fund and the Creating More campaign contact Dianne Anton at (306) 966-8918 or see: www.creatingmore.ca

Compassionate Healers Mass held

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The gospel call to walk in love, service and compassion with the sick and suffering was highlighted during the ninth annual Compassionate Healers Mass.

Organized by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS), the Compassionate Healers Mass focuses on the Christian call to share in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to pray with and for all those who work in health care - including

medical personnel, spiritual care providers and ministry of care staff and volunteers in parishes and health care facilities, as well as family caregivers and medical and health care students.

Held Sept. 30 at St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon, the Eucharistic celebration included presider Bishop Don Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, homilist Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, St. Philip Neri pastor Fr. Emile April, Fr. Gerard Dewan, and

Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR.

Citing Pope Francis' apostolic letter *"The Joy of the Gospel,"* Bayda urged caregivers not to lose their joy as "missionary disciples" and to remember the source of their ministry - Christian identity and convictions.

In spite of challenges, discouragements, difficult situations, and struggles to live the gospel and continue the healing mission of Christ, Bayda urged health care providers to look for the joy. "Seek that human dimension" that will feed the spirit, finding refuge in meditation and prayer, he counseled. "In Christ, all things are possible."

With symbols of medical care such as a sheet, a blood pressure cuff and chart on display before the altar, prayers were offered for the sick and suffering and all those who care for them in every setting.

Those present were then invited to come forward to commit themselves to go forth into the community to be the presence of Christ, before their hands were anointed with the oil of compassion blessed by the two bishops.

"The church is more than a building. The church is the people of God who know and believe that they are disciples of Jesus Christ," said Bolen during the blessing ceremony.



Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon anoints the hands of Mary Deutscher of the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission during the Compassionate Healers Mass Sept. 30.

"As a follower of Christ you are called to let your faith and your service to others be a sign to the world," added Bayda. "Christ came not to be served, but to serve. And each of us, acting out of love of God and neighbour is called to minister to the needs of the community."

"We are all summoned to be healers. Wounded humanity calls for many kinds of healing: healing for the physical body, mental burdens and addictions carried by many, the elderly, the home bound, those who cry for spiritual support,

especially those who feel they have been abandoned by God, and many who bear the affliction of loneliness and neglect," said Bolen.

At the conclusion of Mass, Sandra Kary, the executive director of CHAS, reflected on the vision of the provincial organization as "a faith community sharing the healing ministry of Jesus."

She commended caregivers for their dedication and leadership, and the faith to see and to serve the whole person. "It is more than a job - you see it as a calling."



Auction in support of St. Mary parish nurse

Hundreds of donated items were auctioned off Oct. 18 at St. Mary's Church Hall in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood. Proceeds of the annual auction go to support the Parish Nurse program at St. Mary's, which provides vital outreach to parishioners as well as to suffering and vulnerable people in the surrounding area.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Baptism preparation in Humboldt

Spearheaded by parish priest, Fr. Ephraim Mensah and the Parish Pastoral Council of St. Augustine in Humboldt, a team of parent volunteers – Melinda Burton, Colleen Scott and Haley Mutimer (second, third and fourth from the left) recently led Baptism Preparation for parents. The young volunteer leaders, who are all active in their faith, welcomed parents and encouraged them in ways to live faith in the context of family life, through attendance of Sunday Mass as a family, and by cultivating Catholic family rituals and prayer at home. The parish volunteer baptism coordinator Kay Burke, also helped prepare parents by leading a baptism rehearsal.

- Photo by Sr Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE



Participants at the starting line set off during the Sept. 13 event. - Photos by Jenn Diehl

Serena runs for the family

By ANNETTE BENTLER

The drizzle did not dampen the spirits of those who ran or walked in Serena Saskatchewan's third annual Run for the Family held Sept. 13 in Saskatoon.

Serena is a non-profit network of members that use and teach the symptom-thermal method of Natural Family Planning. It is an effective, cooperative, scientifically-based and inexpensive method of Natural Family Planning that can be used to avoid or achieve pregnancy.

The Run for the Family includes both runners and walkers, completing three distances: one, three or five kilometres. Strollers are welcome, with prizes and "goodie bags" adding to the fun of the event for all ages.

Participants Don and Deb Larmour said they were thrilled with the positive family atmosphere of the Run for the Family. Vivid red t-shirts worn by the young and not-so-young during the event commemorated Serena Saskatchewan's 40th anniversary.

Rob and Leah Sidloski and their family enjoyed the run regardless of the weather. "It is always super well organized, and it is great to get out and spend the morning with such fun loving and good hearted people. It is so nice that the shorter distances are also offered so our little ones can take part too," said Leah.

Jerome, Annette and Egan Weiler were refreshed after the run. Annette said that "Serena Run for the Family was a life-affirming, enjoyable event...good exercise, fellowship, and fun...all for a good cause!"

Cary and Sandy Molyneux and family also really enjoyed being out with many other families. "The weather wasn't the greatest, but all of the smiling faces made for a great morning. We had a lot of fun and it was great to be able to have the stroller with us."

This event reflects who Serena is –

active, vibrant, healthy, and family-friendly, say organizers, expressing appreciation to all the event planners, volunteers, and donors.

Plans are already underway for next year's event.

For more information about the Run for the Family – or about the Serena symptom-thermal method of Natural Family Planning – e-mail sask@serena.ca or visit "Serena Saskatchewan" on Facebook.



Katherine and Anna Sidloski and Egan Weiler (l-r) were among those to win prizes at the annual Run for the Family.

Nurturing purpose and mission at Saskatoon's Catholic hospital

By ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

It is not uncommon in most hospitals to find physicians, health care personnel, administrators, staff, and volunteers working together to create the best environment possible for patients to heal. Drawing from their long history of faith-based care guided by the founding Catholic Grey Nuns, St. Paul's Hospital's Mission Office takes this concept to heart by encouraging employees to reflect on their personal mission in life and and put it into daily practice in their work at the Hospital.

"St. Paul's works to keep the warmth and pervasive feeling of family as strong today as it was from the first day of inception," said Jean Morrison, St. Paul's Hospital CEO.

"Our Hospital's Director of Mission, Brian Zimmer, plays a significant role in kindling that warmth. To employees and physicians, Brian is more like a member of the family than a co-worker."

Having served 14 years at St. Paul's, Brian Zimmer sees his job as that of mentor and mascot of the institution's core values and how these translate to the respectful, compassionate and holistic care received by patients.

"We help to make it as easy as possible for staff to live the vision, mission and values of our Hospital," says Zimmer, who holds degrees in counselling and theology. "I nurture employees by supporting them in how they are part of a bigger picture," Zimmer says. "As individuals we all have our own spirituality. I encourage people to tap into their spiritual core in order to do the job they need to do."

"Every October Brian Zimmer and his team go above and beyond in coordinating Mission Week at our Hospital," said CEO Jean Morrison.

"Mission Week is our opportunity to not only celebrate and thank staff and physicians for putting their mission into action, but also to provide opportunities for them to rekindle their connection to the Hospital."

During Mission Week, on or near to the Feast Day of St. Marguerite d'Youville (founder of the Grey Nuns), the Hospital serves a complimentary hot meal to all employees, physicians and volunteers and



Brian Zimmer, Director of Mission at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Electric Umbrella

presents professional development awards funded by St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.

Physicians and staff also nominate co-workers for the St. Marguerite d'Youville *Mission In Action Awards* which recognize leadership in demonstrating the Hospital's core values.

St. Paul's personnel are invited to renew their dedication to the mission, vision, and values of the Hospital in a *Mission Week Commitment Ceremony*.

"Our Hospital's Commitment Ceremony is a wonderful way for employees, physicians and volunteers to reflect on why they do the work they do", said Zimmer.

"I love my work. One of my greatest satisfactions is to see a co-worker make the connection between their own spirituality and that of those who founded St. Paul's Hospital. That connection is inspiring, not only bringing meaning and purpose to their work, but also fostering a wonderful healing environment."



Serena Saskatchewan founders celebrate 40 years

Serena Saskatchewan celebrated its 40th anniversary on Feb. 15, 2014 in Saskatoon. It was much like a wedding with a valentine theme, a head table, toasts, and cutting of the cake by founders (l-r) Ewald and Antonia Gossner, Valerie and Ralph Schidlowsky, Kathleen and Harvey Chatlain, Eleanor and Joe Bellefleur, Marion Penna, Michael Pomedli and Joan Halmo, Jim Penna, and Marie-Louise Bernier-Gommers. Current board members were also in attendance, including: Adam and Amanda Lowe, Brad and Wendy Breit, Don and Deb Larmour, Claude and Michele Jalbert, Kevin and Annette Bentler, Jim and Maureen McLane, Andrew and Shanelle Hildebrandt. Contact sask@serena.ca to receive the anniversary newsletter or for more information about this scientifically-based, all-natural method of family planning.

- Photo by Annette Bentler

NFP association teaches Billings Ovulation Method

The Natural Family Planning Association (Saskatchewan) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to teach the Billings Ovulation Method of natural family planning.

The Billings Ovulation Method was developed by Drs. John and Evelyn Billings, and is used by millions of women around the world. It is based on awareness of the woman's natural signs of fertility and infertility, unmodified by any chemical, mechanical, or other artificial means.

The Billings Ovulation Method has been validated by eminent international scientific research and verified as extremely effective by the World Health Organization.

This method takes advantage of the biological fact that women are infertile more often than fertile throughout their reproductive years. When a woman learns the Billings Ovulation Method, she learns to recognize the fertile and infertile phases within her menstrual cycle.

This knowledge can be used to become pregnant, avoid pregnancy, and to safeguard reproductive health. Scientific studies indicate that with proper instruction and motivation, the Billings Ovulation Method in actual practice is 99.64 per cent effective.

For more information contact: NFP Saskatchewan by calling (306) 682-7771, or e-mailing: nfpsask@sasktel.net or find more information on the website at: www.nfpsask.ca



Pilgrimage to Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Bishop Donald Bolen blesses the fields at the 92nd annual Mount Carmel Pilgrimage July 20, with help from altar servers Joan Hill, Emma Syroteuk, Angelica Hill and Kirk Duffley.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

K.C. Charities focus is now providing affordable, faith-based housing to seniors

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Over the past 30 years, a volunteer force working together as K.C. Charities has raised millions for charity, and established affordable seniors housing in two facilities located in Saskatoon.

A 30th anniversary for K.C. Charities was held June 22 at Columbian Manor, with special guests from the Knights of Columbus, various levels of government, and the diocese of Saskatoon in attendance.

The Knights of Columbus have a long history of charitable works in the city of Saskatoon, noted Bob Jeanneau, chair of the executive management committee and a long-time volunteer and driving force behind the construction of the seniors' apartments.

"This 30-year anniversary celebration is a very proud moment for K.C. Charities. We accomplished a lot in this period of time," he said.

Incorporated in 1984, K.C. Charities began when several Knights of Columbus councils in the city got together to raise funds, largely through bingo. The organization operated the Lucky Horseshoe Bingo Hall until 2006. At that time there were some 19 local councils involved in K.C. Charities, Jeanneau noted. "During the fundraising years, very large sums were raised: in the tens of millions," said Jeanneau. "St. Paul's Hospital alone received over \$2 million."

In 1988, K.C. Charities established a Foundation to pursue the dream of building affordable seniors housing. Led by Jeanneau and Peter Harvey, the committee built

Columbian Manor on Louise Street, which opened in 1996. A 16-unit addition followed in 1999, and assisted living units were added to the facility in 2007.

"The Assisted Living Centre is a source of great pride for our organization. The service it provides is for older seniors who are in greater need. The lack of facilities like ours – which are affordable – makes our Assisted Living Centre very unique."

Another parcel of land was then purchased from the city on 20th Street – across the street from St. Mary's Catholic Church – and Columbian Place was launched, providing another 75-suite affordable apartment complex for seniors.

"We secured capital cost funding from CMHC, from Sask Housing and the city of Saskatoon, with additional funding from K.C. Charities," Jeanneau described. "Completed in August of 2012, it was filled immediately."

General Manager Debbie Verbeke oversees the operation of both Columbian Manor and Columbian Place, with a management team that includes Sophie Lachapelle, Chris Reddekop, Michele Lillbek, and Ron and Elaine Frehlich. "All these persons are passionate in their duties, giving overall kind and generous attention to our seniors," Jeanneau said.

"K.C. Charities owns 202 senior apartment units. Each one is 'a place to call home'," said Jeanneau.

Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen and Mayor Don Atchison both expressed appreciation for the work of K.C. Charities. "The diocese, its parishes, priests and religious – all of us are very proud of what K.C. Charities has done for the city," said Bolen.

"This speaks volumes to what can happen when faith-based groups and government work together," added Atchison.

Knights of Columbus State Deputy Gilles Doiron of Moose Jaw congratulated K.C. Charities "for the wonderful work they've been doing over the past 30 years." He noted the facility was recently singled out for recognition in the international Columbia magazine of the Knights of Columbus.

Ron Martens, president of K.C. Charities, concluded the program with words of appreciation for community support, and for the work of countless volunteers over the past 30 years to address community needs.

"Our motto today is to provide faith-based affordable housing for seniors, and that is exactly what we are doing."



Bob Jeanneau



Fr. David Tumback was guest homilist at the Blumenfeld Pilgrimage to Sts. Peter and Paul Church held on Pentecost Sunday June 8. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the church.

Blumenfeld Pilgrimage will celebrate 100th anniversary of historic church in 2015

By TIM YAWORSKI

Some 250 gathered June 8, 2014 for the annual Blumenfeld pilgrimage at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 20 km southeast of Leader, SK.

Built in 1915 and closed in the 1960s, Sts. Peter and Paul Church at Blumenfeld continues as the site of the annual pilgrimage for parishioners from throughout the southwest corner of the diocese of Saskatoon and beyond.

The day was marked by outdoor Stations of the Cross, an outdoor rosary procession led by young girls spreading flower petals ahead of the group, and celebration of the Eucharist in the historic church building. The pilgrimage concluded with a community supper.

Fr. David Tumback of the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon was celebrant and homilist for the 2014 pilgrimage. Tumback, who has family ties in the area, was accompanied by his parents to the annual event: his father Andrew Tumback was baptized at Sts. Peter and Paul Church 92 years ago.

At the start of the standing-room-only Pentecost celebration, concelebrated by Fr. Hoang Nguyen of Fox Valley and Fr. Alphonse Narisetty of Medicine Hat, Tumback noted: "There is a real sense of joy in coming back today. The reason that the church is alive today is because of the sacrifice made many years ago."

Tumback added: "So many years later, we are filling a church that has baptized so many, confirmed so many, has (given) a first communion to many, marriage to many, burial to many. This cycle and this circle continues on."

The gathering hymn *Blumenfeld is Softly Callin'* was led by a choir from local



Outdoor rosary procession at Blumenfeld.

- Photos by Tim Yaworski

communities, which included the song's composer Deacon Bob Williston. Williston is serving as a Parish Life Director and pastoral associate to a number of parishes in the Sandhills region.

The song speaks of the history of St. Peter and Paul Parish, the people who pioneered the region, and the faithful who continue on their faith journey today.

A music CD entitled "Welcome Home" includes *Blumenfeld is Softly Callin'* and 19 other selections composed and performed by Williston. Copies can be purchased at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon or at Universal Church Supplies, 437 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon.

Plans are now underway for next year's milestone 100th anniversary of the pilgrimage church, which will be held Sunday, June 28, 2015, on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.



Latin Mass pilgrims

Members of the Sacred Heart Latin Mass congregation of Saskatoon pray the rosary and stations of the cross while on pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in St. Laurent in September.



KC 25th Anniversary

"Sir Knight" Ray Gehlen, left, of Humboldt, presents a 25th anniversary certificate to Nap Boutin of Humboldt, Faithful Navigator of the Abbot Severin Gertken 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly. Gehlen is Master of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly for Saskatchewan. The presentation was made June 24 at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Abbot Severin Gertken 4th Degree Assembly.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB



Humboldt Vacation Bible School

Saint Augustine Parish in Humboldt held its third year of Cat Chat Vacation Bible School in July 2014. Parent organizers and volunteers were led by Nancy Stock, Melinda Burton, Annette Engele and Roxanne Millette.

- Photo by Sr Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry training offered in Saskatoon one week of summer

By SR. MAYBELLE DELA CRUZ
The Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers (WCACYM) held its Summer Seminar at Queen’s House in Saskatoon this July.

Twenty-seven participants from across Canada came from Vancouver to Nova Scotia, seeking enrichment, education and tools for youth ministry in school, home, or parish settings.

Four dynamic and engaging facilitators led this year’s summer seminar. A CCYMS (Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies) stream featured Anne Walsh, a renowned Canadian speaker and teacher, who addressed the topic of pastoral care. Walsh is a member of the national advisory committee on adult catechesis, working in an advisory capacity to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Another facilitator was Andrew Bartley, founder of Platinum Leadership Company based in Toronto, who taught “Foundations in Ministry Leadership” and “Skills for Christian Leadership.”

In the summer seminar Enrichment Stream, speaker and author Leah Perrault inspired participants to find and live faith deeply in everyday life with her topic “iSabbath: Life, Rest and Ministry for the Rest of My Life.” Perrault is the director of pastoral services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and author of two books, published by Novalis: “How Far Can We Go?” (2009) and “Theology of the Body for Every Body” (2012).

Missionary to the North, Alexandria Lepore, facilitated the course: “Missionary...Maybe” and presented the life of a young adult missionary to the Dene Tha First Nations in Yellowknife, as far north as Tuktoyaktuk (Inuvialuit), the South Slave Region and extending to the Athabasca Region in Saskatchewan. Lepore works as the Associate Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

The CCYMS (Canadian Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies) stream equips participants with knowledge about the



Participants in the 2014 WCACYM summer sessions at Queen’s House in Saskatoon.

Comprehensive Youth Ministry Model, which has three goals: to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person; to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community; and to empower young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to their faith by living and working for justice, peace and human dignity.

Participants in this CCYMS stream go through a three-year cycle. The CCYMS Stream is managed and administered by the

Redemptorists of English-Speaking Canada with Susannah Johnson as director. While students typically start with Year 1, the training is designed so that a prospective student can start with any course in the program.

The summer seminar enrichment stream, which is in its second year, is the result of a collaborative effort involving WCACYM’s core working closely with youth ministers across Western Canada and with liaison Bishop Donald Bolen of the diocese of Saskatoon. The enrichment stream

“seeks, empowers and develops Western Canadian speakers to facilitate continued professional development with topics Youth Ministers care about.”

WCACYM also seeks to build connection among youth ministers so together they can continue to build youth ministry in Western Canada in support of one another.

The WCACYM 2015 summer seminar will be hosted at Queen’s House July 15-19, 2015. For further information, see the website at www.wcacym.ca or contact: wcacym.summerseminar@yahoo.ca

FacetoFace Ministries offers Ignite, bus trip, United Conference

By RITA GAREAU
Over 100 youth chose to experience a new kind of summer at FacetoFace Ministries summer camp: Ignite.

Ignite was a week filled with fun, sacraments, prayer, formation, and fellowship. Through an encounter with Christ, hearts were changed in a real way. The 2014 Ignite theme was “In His Image.”

Another summer event was the annual FacetoFace Bus Trip. This year, 46 teens, eight chaperones and a priest chaplain travelled to St. Paul, MN for a Steubenville conference.

After the conference they headed to Fargo to do service work at a women’s shelter and a homeless shelter, putting faith into action. Also part of the trip was a day at a local amusement park.

“I was touched by how quickly the community atmosphere had formed in the first few days and was honoured by all of the conversations I had with the young people,” said Erin McQuaid, bus trip director.

One young man she spoke with shared how this trip was one of the only places where he felt welcomed and loved outside of his family.

“It was such an honour to be with these youth for nine days of awesomeness!”

The United Conference hosted by FacetoFace Ministries will be held Nov. 22-



Some 100 youth participated in the Ignite summer camp offered by FacetoFace Ministries in Bruno. - Photo submitted by FacetoFace Ministries

Nov. 23 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The conference is designed to unite, support, and challenge the participants in

their faith through adoration, keynotes, and fellowship.

Featured keynote speakers are Ken Yasinski, Leah Perrault, and Matt Nelson.

Anyone interested in participating in the FacetoFace United Conference can find more information or registration online at: www.f2f.ca



Bishop Don Bolen commissioned the Pure Witness Team in September. - Photo submitted by Pure Witness Ministries

Pure Witness ministry year begins

By LAURA RICE
Pure Witness recently began another year of missionary work in the Saskatoon community and beyond. This year there are 15 missionaries on the Pure Witness Team, coming from British Columbia to Nova Scotia and even Ireland.

The missionaries were blessed Sept. 24 by Bishop Don Bolen at a Commissioning Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. Pure Witness Ministries is now able to have a local outreach team, a retreat team, and an office team to help serve the community and put on more retreats for schools

and parishes across Western Canada.

The retreat team is often on the road to Alberta and BC, as well as staying in Saskatoon and around Saskatchewan, to put on fun, interactive retreats for elementary schools, high schools, and parishes. To book a retreat at a school or parish, or contact james.marcoux@purewitness.com

The local outreach team is working within the diocese of Saskatoon to put on monthly events for the whole community, a choral program, and youth group at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. YEP (Youth Evangelization

Program) is held once a month and is for Grade 8 and up. It is a day full of games, praise and worship, talks, testimonies, small groups, Mass, confession, food, fun, and fellowship.

ReConnect also happens once a month (after YEP, in the evening) and are for all ages. Each month is a different event: dances, adoration nights, variety night, and more for parents, kids, youth, grandparents, university students, and everyone else.

For more information see the website: www.purewitness.com or contact Laura Rice by e-mail at: laura.rice@purewitness.com

Youth ministry



The group “For His Glory” performed and led music at Mass.



Brother Stephen Predy, OSB, portrayed Jesus, walking among the crowds in a drama about the loaves and fishes.

Rock the Mount 2014: ‘Be Not Afraid’

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Youth, families and participants of all ages gathered on the hillside at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel west of Humboldt Aug. 16, for a day of music, enrichment and inspiration at this year’s Rock the Mount.

The annual free outdoor event at Mount Carmel again featured Christian musicians, inspirational speakers, and opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, as well as the celebration of the Eucharist with the bishop and priests from the area, and a range of activities, games, and displays.

This year, dramas about the biblical story of Judith, the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, and Christ walking across the water to the disciples in the storm

were among features exploring the 2014 Rock the Mount theme “*Be Not Afraid*.” After a candlelight procession, Rock the Mount ended with Eucharistic adoration, although rain cut short a final praise and worship musical session.

Musicians at Rock the Mount 2014 featured a range of styles, including music by the Amundruds, Vision, and For His Glory.

In his homily at the late afternoon outdoor Mass, Bishop Donald Bolen reflected on those persevering in faith around the globe, caught in a web of violence and conflict. “It’s a world where Christians are being persecuted, I think more now than at any point in history,” he noted.

“In our wounded world, we are called to be people of compassion



Outdoor mass at Mount Carmel Shrine was again part of Rock the Mount.

for those who are suffering and those who are in need; called to be artisans of love and reconciliation,” Bolen said.

Featured speaker this year was Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, of Texas, who shared her conversion story, and an inspiring message about family, authentic love and eternity.

Human existence is filled with longings for greatness, for love and communion, but “then we go to church, and somehow there’s this huge disconnect,” she said, describing growing up seeing church as a boring obligation.

Our desires for greatness and beauty and joy have everything to do with God, but we don’t always

recognize that, Heidland said.

We must recover what it means to be human, she stressed. “So often, instead of loving people, we love things. God is calling us to so much more.”

Pope Francis has also been calling us to truly love one another as a way to overcome a “throwaway culture,” she said. “People are never meant to be disposed of, because the value of a human person is not the value of their use to us, but who they are, made in the image and likeness of God.”

Human beings are fundamentally created for communion and relationship, she said, describing the longing in every heart to overcome isolation. Whether that



Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

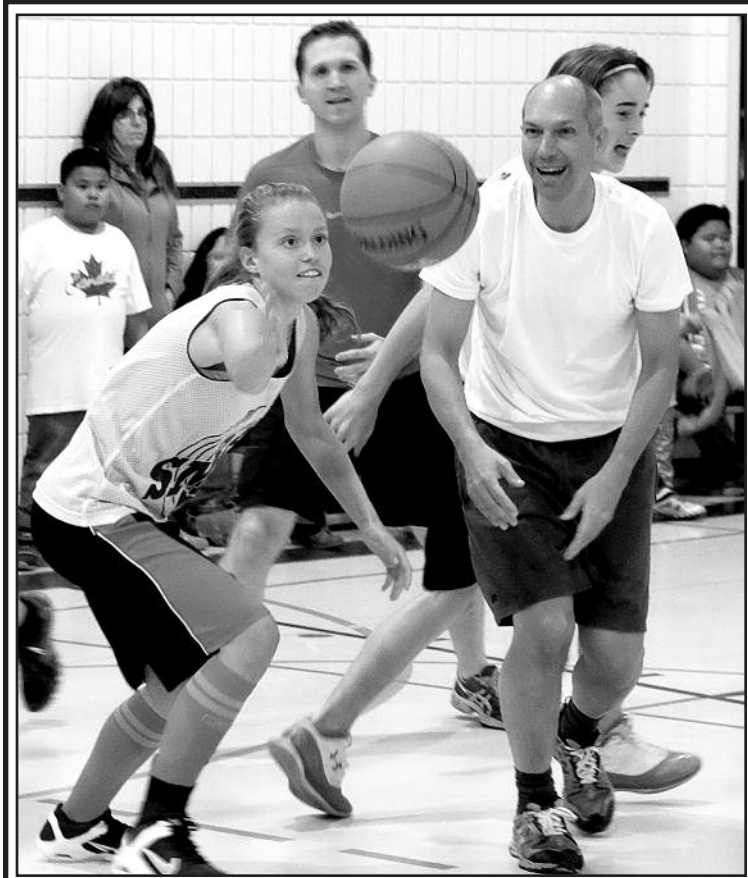
isolation is caused by divorce or death, or “the secrets that we hide, or the wounds that we inflict upon ourselves, or that people have inflicted upon us” we can be free of the walls that are built up around the human heart, she assured the crowd.

“What Christ does is this: he comes to free us from isolation; he comes to restore communion – the deepest kind of communion, which is oneness with him.”

Moments of profound communion experienced in this life – with others, with nature, with those who love us deeply — are a foretaste of heaven, she said.

Recognizing that we can come to Christ just as we are, with all of our brokenness, and be accepted and fully loved, brings healing, forgiveness and reconciliation, Heidland said, describing her own struggles and conversion path.

Heidland was raised in Woodland, WA, and graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno, majoring in communications. Upon graduation, she joined the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), serving at various SOLT missions, including Rome, Seattle and Texas.



Bishop’s Cup 2014

Amy Blom of Vanscoy goes for the ball as Fr. Dan Yasinski and Bishop Don Bolen follow, during basketball action Oct. 22 of the fifth annual Bishop’s Cup, held this year at St. Peter’s Catholic School in Saskatoon. After pizza and a number of short warm up matches, a youth all-star team played against the clergy (bishop, priests and youth leaders), with the youth winning the Cup in overtime, 36 to 34.

Youth Ministry is supported by the



This year’s Rock the Mount was the wind-up event for participants in the FacetoFace Ministries Ignite camp at Bruno.

Thank you to all who made Rock the Mount 2014 possible:

• Bishop Donald Bolen • Benedictines of St. Peter’s Abbey • Bishop James Mahoney Institute of the Family • Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon • Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation • Knights of Columbus Council 1517 • George Mackie Foundation • Westside Refrigeration • TimKip Imaging • Numerous parishes, Knights of Columbus Councils and Catholic Women’s Leagues • Ursuline Sisters • Our Priests who celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation throughout the day • All the actors and helping hands who provided the drama segments • Catholic Christian Outreach • Culligan Water Matters • Barbara Saretsky • Rob Bateman • Brian & Michelle Hergott • Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools • Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Martensville • And many individuals and organizations for their prayers, wisdom, time and resources. Above all, we praise and thank the Lord for providing all that is needed and Our Lady for her intercession. - From the Rock the Mount 2014 Organizing Committee

Vocations

Br. Cosmas professes solemn vows at St. Peter’s Abbey

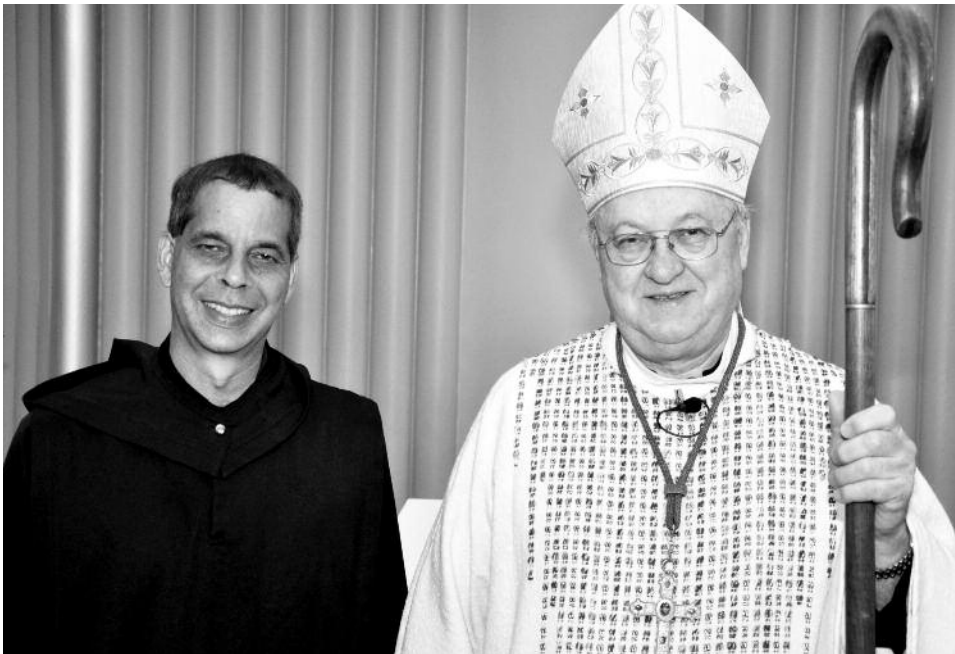
By Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

“Brother Cosmas, we ask you, today, to consider well the covenant you are about to enter with the Lord....To embrace it, you must leave all else aside. Yet this very renunciation, which is evidence of dying to ourselves, at the same time proclaims the victory of Christ’s cross,” said Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, of St. Peter’s Abbey on July 11 at the Rite of Monastic Profession for the solemn vows of Br. Cosmas Epifano, OSB.

A few years ago, the President of Harvard University was asked about the greatest problem facing students, Novecosky recounted during the celebration in Sts. Peter and Paul Church. The president remarked that the students have an emptiness and lack meaning and passion for life.

St. Benedict had a much different vision for his monks when he wrote in his Rule (guideline for monastic life) that as monks progress in their monastic life, their hearts should overflow with the inexpressible delight of love, said Novecosky.

St. Benedict seemed to have an understanding of how the zeal for life can be promoted in community. He was aware that communities are made up of many different personalities and he adjusted for them. St. Benedict wrote in the Rule that the abbot should arrange everything so that the strong



Br. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, (left) professed his final vows at St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster July 11 in a celebration presided over by Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB in Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

have something to yearn for and the weak nothing to run from.

Novecosky said he remembers a plaque that once hung in the entrance of the bishop’s house in Saskatoon and on it were three

simple lines: “See everything. Overlook a great deal. Correct a little.” The wisdom of the plaque speaks to the Rule of St. Benedict, which promotes discretion in making decisions and correcting faults.

St. Benedict was likely very aware of his own imperfections, resentments, lack of patience and judgmental tendencies, Novecosky remarked. Conversion of life is continual and always ongoing.

In May 2011, Brother Cosmas made his simple vows at St. Peter’s Abbey. He also began studying theology in Rome that year. He was ordained a deacon July 30, 2014 at his home parish of Holy Redeemer in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Brother Cosmas served at St. Augustine’s Parish in Humboldt for the summer, before returning to Rome for his final year of theology.

Brother Cosmas, 54, was born and raised in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Following high school he attended Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro, Nova Scotia for eighteen months.

He later earned a three-year bachelor of arts Concentration in Theology degree. Brother Cosmas joined Scarboro Missions as a lay missionary and served overseas in China for four years. Upon returning to Canada, he joined an eremitical community, The Association of Hermits, in his home diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and remained with them for five years.

He served as a caregiver for his parents for seven years. Both his parents are now deceased. Brother Cosmas has three sisters living in Nova Scotia.

Abbot celebrates 50th anniversary of monastic vows as Benedictine

By Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

The Second Vatican Council, with its renewal of church life and focus on greater individual responsibility, is one of the more memorable events for Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB during his 50 years as a monk of St. Peter’s Abbey.

Everyone felt the changes of the council, held 1962-65, particularly at Mass where celebrations in Latin were replaced with the vernacular English, said Novecosky.

The atmosphere of monastic life was transformed through a greater emphasis on equality between monks. The hierarchical separation between priests and non-clerical (brothers) was de-emphasized. This new outlook was evident at monastic office where brothers and priests began to pray together as one group, he commented.

St. Peter’s Abbey later pioneered the introduction of hermit life during the 1970s in North America, with Fr. James Gray, OSB, becoming a hermit, Novecosky said. At one time there were six hermits living in hermitages on the grounds.

Novecosky, who took his first vows as a Benedictine monk on July 11, 1964, is the last vocation from the former St. Peter’s Abbacy, a diocese (abbey nullius) that existed between 1921 and 1998, when it was amalgamated into the Diocese of Saskatoon.

The amalgamation ended an important era for the Benedictines who staffed abbacy parishes for more than 75 years.

The monks had a special bond with the local residents that set the abbey apart from most other Benedictine monasteries, Novecosky said. There were more than 60 professed monks in the community in 1963 when Novecosky joined St. Peter’s Abbey, and that number stands at 19 today.

Role models are always important for encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The most important role models for Novecosky were his parents, Martin

and Elizabeth Novecosky, who spent much of their life on a farm at Burr south of Humboldt, before retiring in Humboldt. “They were amazing people, when you look back, to see how my parents coped with raising a family in the Depression and post-war years,” he said.

Born in 1945 at Burr, just after the Second World War ended, and named Wilfred, Novecosky was the last in a family of eight. “I still have the hospital bill for \$10, the cost of the eight days my mother was in hospital,” Novecosky noted.

Raised on a mixed farm, he attended Willow Ridge School, a one-room school for eight grades. After school and on weekends, he worked alongside his siblings, doing farm chores.

“When I finished Grade 8, there were no school buses, nor was there TV! I went to St. Peter’s College at Muenster for my four years of high school and first-year university. I took part in all the sports, which I loved,” he said.

In 1963, Novecosky entered the monastic community of St. Peter’s Abbey as a novice and made his profession of vows on July 11, 1964, when he took the name of Peter.

He studied philosophy and theology in the seminary at St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minn. and was ordained to the priesthood in 1970. Three Benedictines from St. Peter’s Abbey were ordained that year, the other two being Fr. Damian Yaskowich and Fr. Bernard Stauber.

“This was the era of the Second Vatican Council, the Vietnam War, and major social and cultural changes in society,” Novecosky remarked. “All of my 22 classmates from St. John’s eventually left monastic life. The three from St. Peter’s all persevered.”

After ordination, Novecosky became a prefect at St. Peter’s high school and taught there. He expected to remain in the teaching role the remaining years of monastic life. However, the high school closed in 1972. He then worked with

the *Prairie Messenger* and St. Peter’s Press for almost 20 years. He became involved with formation work at the abbey and served as guest master for more than a decade.

In 1978, Novecosky began to serve in a leadership role in the monastery. “It was a very enjoyable time, a time which saw the introduction of computers, faxes and now the Internet,” he commented.

The year 1990 was an important milestone for St. Peter’s Abbey when Abbot Jerome Weber, after reaching the age of 75, resigned as abbot. Abbot Peter, 45, was chosen the fifth abbot of the community, and the second (after Weber) to be born and raised in the local district. He will be celebrating his 25th anniversary as abbot next year.

While serving in his leadership role, Abbot Peter has been involved in the church on a broader scale.

As ordinary (the title given to an abbot of a diocese or abbey nullius), he became a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). He attended the annual plenary meeting in Ottawa; the annual regional meeting in Edmonton; and other meetings of national committees which meet three or four times a year. He was national spiritual advisor for the Catholic Women’s League of Canada for five years (1993-98). The position gave him the opportunity to visit every province in Canada.

Novecosky accompanied the Western bishops on their 1993 and 1999 *ad limina* visits (held every five years) to Rome.

He has served as secretary for the Western bishops since 1992. He attended, as well, meetings for abbots in the United States and Rome. Abbot Peter visited the abbacy mission team in Brazil several times in the 1990s. In 1992 he attended the funeral of Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB who was killed in Brazil. Novecosky’s most recent visit to Brazil was in 2014.

Since 2010, Novecosky has been a member of the Canadian Religious



During the Mount Carmel pilgrimage July 20, Bishop Donald Bolen congratulated Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, (left) on his 25th anniversary of monastic profession and Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, (right) on his 50th anniversary.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

Conference (CRC) Council. The CRC represents 17,000 religious across Canada and meets three times a year in Montreal.

During the 1980s, Novecosky became a member of the Knights of Columbus (KC), and in the early 1990s he was installed into the KC 4th degree. From 2000-2002, he was KC state chaplain in Saskatchewan and served in that role again from 2008-2010. He was also chaplain for the Saskatchewan Knights Charitable Foundation from 2002-2008. While serving in this capacity, he attended many provincial and supreme KC conventions.

“I acquired a reputation for being a traveling abbot. It’s one of the hazards of the job! Another hazard is the many meetings one has to attend, both at the monastery and on various boards for Catholic organizations,” Novecosky commented.

“In 2003, St. Peter’s Abbey celebrated its 100th anniversary at Muenster. We had wonderful weather and there was a marvelous spirit. We celebrated a long-standing relationship of mutual support and friendship with the people of this area.”

In 2004, Novecosky became editor of the *Prairie Messenger*, replacing Fr. Andrew Britz, OSB who was suffering from Parkinson’s disease.

“The abbacy has changed a lot in the past 100 years and more so in the past 20 years. So has the larger community. One of my beliefs is that we can’t clearly foresee the changes that are coming in the future; we can’t always plan for them. But if we are flexible, adaptable and creative, we will be well equipped to manage any crisis or challenges that come our way,” said Novecosky.

Sr. April Mireau, PM, professes her first vows in Prince Albert

Sr. April Mireau, PM, professed first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience Aug. 9, 2014 in Prince Albert, in the presence of her religious community of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and her family.

Bishop Albert Th  venot, MAfr., presided at the Eucharist. The theme Sr. April chose for the ceremony was “My Beloved is Mine and I am His” (*Song of Songs 2:16*) At the end of the Mass, she consecrated herself to Mary, according to her community’s tradition.

Following the ceremony, the celebration continued with a meal and program. Find more info online at: www.presentationofmary.ca

Smith-Windsor ordained to transitional diaconate

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Donald Bolen ordained diocesan seminarian Greg Smith-Windsor of Saskatoon to the order of deacons on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus June 27, 2014 at St. Patrick parish – another step on Smith-Windsor's journey to ordination as a priest for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Diocesan vocations director Fr. Gerard Cooper presented the candidate to the bishop. St. Patrick parishioners Connie Crichton and Joe Sikora provided testimony about Smith-Windsor, as did Fr. Kevin McGee, who was pastor at St. Patrick parish when the seminarian served his internship there in 2012-13. All three spoke about Smith-Windsor's openness and willingness to serve.

"What I saw from the beginning was that Greg was full of love for God and the Eucharist," said Crichton. Sikora noted Smith-Windsor's optimism, reverence and

confidence. McGee described the seminarian's "openness to others, to welcoming others into his life, to being touched by others," which he witnessed both in Smith-Windsor's parish internship and in walking together along some 800 kilometres of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in Spain this spring.

Smith-Windsor's familiar phrase "no worries" indicates his ability to let go, and move forward, whatever the circumstances might be, McGee said.

Bolen expressed thanks to all those who have contributed to the candidate's faith formation, including his parents, Kent and Maureen Smith-Windsor.

In his homily Bolen reflected on the language of Christ, who uses metaphors, parables, words and action to express the profound love, forgiveness and nearness of God.

"At the end of his life, Jesus spoke with a new language: the language of sacrament, of the Lord's Supper, and the language of self-gift, of blood poured out and body broken on the cross, revealing a love that knows no bounds. And then there is the Father's language of resurrection: a language that unleashed an explosion of hope."

The Lord calls us to the freedom of full discipleship, as expressed in the Suscipe prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola (a favorite of Smith-Windsor's), and other similar

prayers, such as the Methodist Covenant Prayer, which dedicates all to God, said the bishop.

"That decision is not once and for all, but needs to be reaffirmed, day in and day out, in your actions and in your heart," Bolen said, emphasizing the importance of the "long haul," strengthened by Christ's ever-faithful presence.

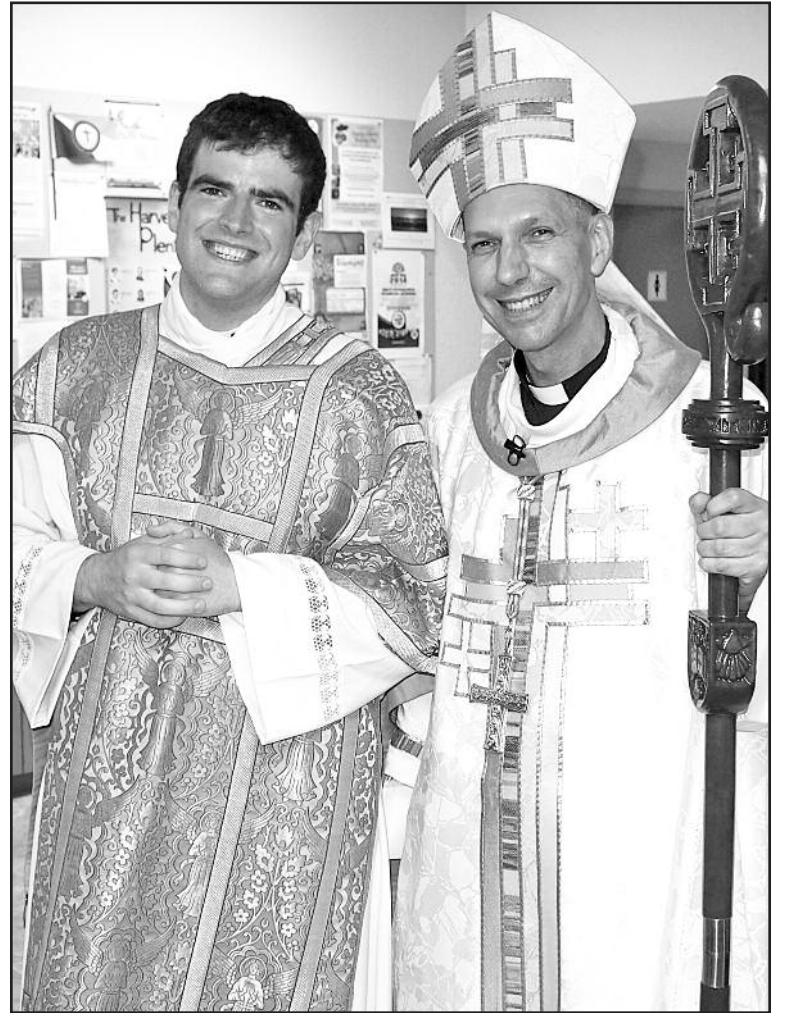
A deacon is "to be a sacramental sign of Christ's service to the world," Bolen stressed.

"I ask you to be preoccupied with injustice, to be actively concerned with those who are suffering in our midst, to be engaged in the lives of the poor, the struggling, the abandoned... be an artisan of justice, take time to listen to the poor, bring the mercy of the Sacred Heart to those who are suffering."

During the ordination rite that followed the homily, Smith-Windsor made promises of celibacy and obedience.

The community prayed for Smith-Windsor as he lay prostrate on the floor before the altar, during the litany of the saints. Ordination as deacon was conferred through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination by the bishop.

Fr. Daniel Yasinski and Fr. Colin Roy – who were both ordained as priests in the diocese last year – came forward to present the vestments of a deacon to Smith-



Deacon Greg Smith-Windsor (left) with Bishop Don Bolen at the celebration June 27 at St. Patrick Parish in Saskatoon.

Windsor, and the bishop presented him with the book of the gospels.

At the conclusion of the celebration of the Eucharist, the newly-ordained deacon expressed his thanks to God, to the community, and to all those who have supported him in his faith

journey, especially his parents and his brothers and sisters.

Smith-Windsor served a six-week internship at St. Joseph parish in Kindersley over the summer, before returning to the seminary this fall for another year of study.

Msgr. Stan Urbanoski reflects on vocation at 60th anniversary

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A celebration was held June 19 at Columbian Manor in Saskatoon to mark the 60th anniversary of Msgr. Stan Urbanoski's ordination to the priesthood.

Displays prepared for the celebration included photos from the ordination June 19, 1954 at St. Helen's church, Brooksby, SK., as well as photos of Urbanoski's early family life, details about his years of pastoral service in the dioceses of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, and blessings from three popes marking different milestones, including this year's message from Pope Francis.

"The life of the priest is very much the life of the people he serves," said Urbanoski during the anniversary celebration. "We are very much like you, we struggle just like you do... We rejoice with the family that has the baby to be baptized, the couple that wants to be married. We weep with people who weep because someone precious had died within the family... We feel the experience of people."

Master of Ceremonies Dorothy Braidek introduced special guests, including Msgr. Urbanoski's brother Bruce, and his sister Valerie Bleakney, as well as Msgr. Raymond Senger and Fr. Jerry Talarisky.

Bob Jeanneau of the Knights of Columbus described Msgr. Urbanoski's important role at Columbian Manor, where he has said daily Mass for some 17 years – a big part of community life at the facility run by K.C. Charities.

Msgr. Stan Urbanoski's sister Valerie Bleakney gave a presentation about their home life growing up on the family farm near Brooksby, SK (near Melfort). Stan was one of six children of Joseph and Sophie Urbanoski.

Valerie recalled life in the early



Msgr. Stan Urbanoski cuts the cake, watched by Msgr. Raymond Senger and MC Dorothy Braidek at a celebration held at Columbian Manor in Saskatoon to mark Msgr. Urbanoski's 60th anniversary of ordination.

days: how her brother would sing Wilf Carter songs as he went to fetch the cows, and how her brothers would catch gophers for the bounty paid by the municipality. Stan attended the nearby two-room country school before taking Grades 11 and 12 at Fairy Glen. After studying philosophy and Latin at Battleford, he attended seminary at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton and then St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, where he studied in Polish.

Bleakney recalled her brother's ordination day in 1954 during a wet spring, with celebrations planned for outdoors, as there was no building big enough to

accommodate the large numbers attending. In answer to her mother's prayers, the day was sunny and dry, she recalled. Bishop Leo Blais of Prince Albert presided at the ordination celebration, which was followed by a meal cooked by many women from the area.

"It was a very special service for all of us. The thing that struck me was the procession that got together at the church and came into our yard... and Stan asked Mom and Dad for a last blessing, before we processed back to the church."

Bleakney noted that her brother has served under seven popes in his 60 years as a priest: Pope Pius XII, Saint Pope John XXIII, Blessed Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul I,

Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

Urbanoski recalled how the year of his ordination was a Marian Year, marking the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the Immaculate Conception as an article of faith, and he described the Eucharistic Congress celebrated throughout the diocese of Prince Albert in 1954.

He expressed appreciation for the richness of the faith that he has experienced over his lifetime. "I consider myself and my family to be so, so rich because we lived in that era," he said.

"A priest is taken from a family, and a priest comes out for his ministry without being fully prepared, not fully developed; gradually, gradually being able to become like Christ, learning slowly to love the Lord, to love the people, and sharing in the life and death of the blessed Lord."

Urbanoski's first appointment was as the first resident priest at Alvena, responsible for six churches. "But the astounding thing was I had three ordinaries," he said, describing how three of the parishes he was responsible for were in the diocese of Prince Albert, two were in the diocese of Saskatoon, and one was in St. Peter's Abbacy.

"From then on the work of the blessed Lord continued, and I consider these last 17 years really the best," Urbanoski said of his retirement.

"I am not stressed as much as I used to be, not as many obligations and responsibilities."

Celebrating Mass at Columbian Manor with people of faith is a blessing, he said.

No priest has ever demanded the priesthood, Urbanoski noted. "The call came, we recognize it in our heart and we say 'yes, Lord' and then the rest is history. But it is only

later in life that we really appreciate everything that is connected with this sacrament of Holy Orders. We always have to remember this is not for myself, it is for the people. And how often we have to be prodded, to be reminded: you are a priest, doing things in the person of Christ; not relying on yourself, but in the person of Christ reaching out to people."

During the program, Columbian Manor resident Don Sirois performed selections on the saxophone, and a hand-made card filled with greetings from residents was presented by Rudelpha Parashuk.

"How privileged we are at Columbian Manor to have daily Eucharist. This is truly holy ground," Parashuk said. "You are such a fine example of faith through your love of perfection through the Word of God."

Urbanoski's years of pastoral service has included Holy Trinity parish at Alvena, St. Michael at Krydor and various missions at Fish Creek, Tarnopol, Queen of Peace and Assumption parishes near Prud'homme and St. Stanislaus near Alvena.

Urbanoski was the first pastor at the new Polish parish in Saskatoon, Our Lady of Czestochowa.

He also provided chaplaincy at University Hospital and later at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Urbanoski also served at Dodsland, Coleville, Viscount, Meacham, and Winfield, as well as at St. Peter the Apostle and St. John Bosco parishes in Saskatoon.

He served in a number of other parishes and missions, and as a replacement, including time at Wadena, St. Front, Lintlaw, Rose Valley, Beechy, Unity, Davidson, Elrose, Eaton, Isle-La-Crosse and Val Marie.

Humboldt farewell to sisters

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

With joy and thanksgiving, through tributes and stories, parishioners at St. Augustine Roman Catholic parish in Humboldt recently expressed appreciation to the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno, who are leaving the community after 101 years of teaching and service.

“Leaving a Legacy” was the theme of the May 18 event, and also the title of a collection of memories and messages presented to the sisters by parishioners during the program.

The day began with celebration of Mass by St. Augustine pastor Fr. Ephraim Mensah, concelebrating with Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, and Fr. Matthew Ramsay.

Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSU, Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, and sisters of other religious orders – including the Sisters of Saint Elizabeth and the Missionary Apostles of Christ in the Eucharist – were among other special guests at the celebration that continued with a banquet in the parish hall, attended by friends, family, Ursuline associates and colleagues.

The Ursuline motto “*Soli Deo Gloria*” For the Glory of God – has guided the sisters in their ministry and service, Mensah said. “Your presence will never, ever be forgotten: thank you, thank you, thank you.”

In the program following Mass, Parish Pastoral Council member and MC Frieda Baur noted the artwork and messages covering the walls of the hall, created by students from St. Dominic and St. Augustine Catholic schools.

Baur described the impact and influence that the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno over the

101 years since they first arrived in St. Peter’s Abbey in September 1913.

As teachers in schools throughout the area, through the education they provided at St. Ursula’s Academy for girls from 1922 to 1982 in Bruno, in music education, in parish ministry and pastoral outreach of all kinds, the sisters have touched the lives of countless people, she said.

Parish Council Chair Carol Bergermann said that the Ursuline sisters have been instrumental in the faith development at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt.

“As the sisters close this chapter of their lives, we are saddened. As the page is turned to the next chapter, we want to wish the sisters well in their new home,” she said, presenting a “Leaving a Legacy” memory book to the sisters, as well as a plaque of appreciation that will be placed in St. Augustine church. Baur also announced a family bequest to be given to the Ursuline sisters in memory of the late Marina Stroeder.

Abbot Peter Novecosky spoke about the impact of the sisters upon their arrival in the Brazil Mission. Denise Germaine described the impact that the Ursuline sisters had on her and others when it came to music training and education.

Jenny Irwin of the Catholic Women’s League and Ray Gehlen of the Knights of Columbus also brought messages of appreciation. “Even though we may have unintentionally taken you for granted, we have always felt grateful and rewarded that you were here,” said Gehlen in an emotional moment of farewell. “Thank you and God bless you all.”



Carol Bergermann (right) of the parish pastoral council presents a “Leaving the Legacy” book to the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno, received on their behalf by Sr. Maureen Maier, OSU.

Nestor Trach spoke on behalf of all those who worked with the sisters in the Catholic education system, recalling the inspiring and at times challenging example in the hard work and diligence of the Ursulines.

“Sisters, you were our mentors, you were our friends, you were our spiritual guides, you were our friends, you were our inspiration, you were our friends, you were the only Christ that many students and teachers met – and you were our friends,” Trach said.

“You have left your mark on each of us, you have been the example to so many of us, and you leave your legacy – the great legacy of the pillars that built a good, strong Catholic education for the future. For this we say thank you, all sisters, present and past.”

Sr. Loretta Konlup, OSU, responded to the tributes on behalf of the order, with words of praise to God, and of thanksgiving to the parish community.

“On behalf of the Ursuline community, our hearts are filled with gratitude,” Konlup said.

She thanked God for the privilege provided to the Ursuline sisters in serving the people of the area – “and for the cooperation that we all received – most of the time – from your dear parents and relatives and other teachers,” she added with a smile.

“We leave our blessing with you and ask for God’s grace for all of us to remain faithful to where he is leading.”

Sisters of Sion mark jubilees at combined celebration in Saskatoon

By FRANCINE AUDY

Two sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion recently marked milestone anniversaries of religious life, celebrating a golden and a diamond jubilee in a joint celebration in Saskatoon.

The 50th anniversary of Sr. Jocelyn Monette, NDS, and the 60th anniversary of Sr. Theresa (Terry) Horvath, NDS, were celebrated Aug. 30 at St. Philip Neri parish.

Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, presided at Mass, with concelebrants Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Fr. Emile April, Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, Msgr. Stan Urbanoski, and Fr. Phong Pham.

Saying yes to God 50 or 60 years ago is not so challenging as saying yes to that call day after day, said Novecosky, highlighting the gifts of perseverance, commitment, and hope required for saying yes even through “the heat of the day or seasons of drought.”

Both Monette and Horvath have served as teachers, Novecosky noted, while “Sr. Theresa was also a nurse, and Sr. Jocelyn has immersed herself in Scripture study.”

Above all else, “we celebrate the gift of perseverance of our God” said Novecosky. “It is God who perseveres in calling us daily,



Sr. Theresa (Terry) Horvath, NDS



Sr. Jocelyn Monette, NDS

trusting us, forgiving us, and showing us mercy. It is God who challenges us to expend our journey in faith and walk through new doors and call others to growth.”

During a renewal of vows, Monette and Horvath recommitted themselves to “follow Christ in consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience in community, according to the constitution of the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion.”

Article 14 of the order’s constitution says: “Our vocation gives us a particular responsibility to keep alive in the Church the consciousness that, in some mysterious way,

Christianity is linked to Judaism from its origin to its final destiny.”

A slide show and poster presented after Mass showed highlights of the lives of the two sisters and their many years of service. A reception attended by some 70 friends and colleagues followed Mass.

Born in Wakaw, Horvath began her connection with the Sisters of Sion as a student at Sion Academy in Prince Albert. Horvath pronounced her first vows on October 2, 1954, and her perpetual vows Sept. 8, 1961 at the order’s mother house in Paris, France.

Horvath taught in Saskatchewan and in the United States, before her interest shifted from teaching to nursing. She became an RN and had a nursing career that spanned from 1979 to 1999.

Monette was born in Gravelbourg and raised in rural Saskatchewan. Her journey through religious life began gradually. Monette joined the novitiate in 1962, and pronounced her final vows at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon in 1964.

Monette attended Teacher’s College in Saskatoon (1964-65) and received her Bachelor of Physical Education in Edmonton in 1970, one of the “first two nuns in Canada

to receive this degree.” She obtained her Bachelor of Education in Saskatoon and Masters of Religious Education in Toronto.

Monette has lived and worked in Saskatoon, Calgary, Toronto, Rome, and Jerusalem. She taught at Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon (1967-72) as well as at Bishop Carroll High School in Calgary. She has led bible workshops, facilitated parish missions, retreats and has escorted over 100 pilgrimages to the Holy Land and other biblical lands.

She is also editor of a journal of biblical reflection, *Word Is Life*. While in Toronto, Monette served on a Holocaust Education Committee, the Canadian Bible Society Board and the ecumenical and interfaith commission for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

For those who feel God’s call to religious life, Monette said: “Take time to discern; gather information and investigate the many available options.” As Frederick Buechner wrote: “Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.”

The Sisters of Sion follow the biblically-based Jesuit spirituality. The religious order also has an associate program that welcomes men and women associates. See: www.notredamedesion.org

Classical guitarist’s art is grounded in faith

By KATE O’GORMAN

Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioner Zeljko Bilandzic, an accomplished musician and composer, recently released a new album entitled *Longing for the Bride*.

This compilation captures Bilandzic’s dazzling talent as a classical guitarist playing the music of J. S. Bach, Albeniz, Tarrega, Josquin des Pres, Barrios, Villa Lobos as well as his own compositions.

Originally from Sarajevo, Bilandzic came to Canada as a survivor of the Bosnian war in 1997. During the Siege of Sarajevo, Bilandzic was recruited to dig trenches as a civilian, and in that three-day period he witnessed two of his friends and colleagues being killed.

“It was a very difficult time” says Bilandzic, “and quite miraculous that I survived”.

After establishing himself in Saskatoon, he began attending St. John Bosco parish and was baptized in 2001. A couple of years later Bilandzic felt a call to focus more intentionally on his music and published his first CD, *Christmas Music for the Classical Guitar*, in 2008.

Finding the means to record and produce his two albums has not always been easy. However, as Bilandzic notes, “God has put the right people in my life at the right time to help me make it happen”.

Bilandzic has been playing guitar since the age of 13. As a child he was inspired by a fellow Sarajevo classical guitarist, Ivan Kalcina. “My parents had a record

of his that I used to listen to” explains Bilandzic. “It was quite astonishing what he was able to accomplish – it still is. [Kalcina] has always been a role model for me.”

Bilandzic’s deep faith and commitment to the Church has been highly influential in his music. As a composer, he gravitates towards sacred music and has composed various choral, piano and guitar pieces for the Mass. Many of the tracks on his albums have been recorded in the sanctuary of St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon.

“I have experienced many graces from God when writing music,” describes Bilandzic.

Throughout all of Bilandzic’s compositions there is a distinct thread of Christian hope. He describes how he feels a strong

connection with the poor and marginalized and makes room for the possibility that his music is a gift from God to help alleviate some of the suffering many people experience.

“I use whatever God gives me and hope that people will be able to find meaning in it for themselves. I believe that we should witness to the greatness of God with everything that we have” says Bilandzic, a graduate of the Lay Formation in Saskatoon.

“My music is a way for me to evangelize.”

As a skilled visual artist, Bilandzic also produced the art work for his album cover and has created a series of religious images using computer-generated graphics.

Longing for the Bride is available in Saskatoon from St.



Zeljko Bilandzic

Mary’s Catholic parish, Universal Church Supplies and McNally Robinson Booksellers. More information can also be found at www.reverbnation.com/zeljkoibilandzic

Parishes hold celebration to honour Myrna Wolfe and Pat Bitinsky

By THERESA AUSTIN AND KIPLY YAWORSKI

The twinned parish communities of St. Michael and St. Peter the Apostle recently bid farewell to two long-serving employees, with a combined celebration Oct. 19 in Saskatoon.

Myrna Wolfe, who served 25 years at St. Michael parish, and Pat Bitinsky, who served 23 years at St. Peter the Apostle, were the guests of honour at a program attended by some 200 parishioners, friends and colleagues, including several priests they served with over the years.

Myrna and her husband Bob Wolfe, and Pat and her husband Jim Bitinsky were ushered into the church to begin the evening celebration with prayer. Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, the present pastor of St. Michael and St. Peter parishes, led a brief prayer service, with music provided by choir members from both communities.

A reception and program followed in the church hall. A song by CWL members, the sharing of stories and anecdotes, and a slide show of photographs were all part of the program.

Speakers included representatives of the CWL and the Parish Pastoral Council expressing words of appreciation.

Diocesan Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee – who served as pastor of both St. Michael and St. Peter – brought greetings from Bishop Donald Bolen. Former pastor Fr. Patrick Ampani spoke on behalf of all the priests who served with Myrna and Pat.

Other priests attending were Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Msgr. Raymond Senger (who served with Pat and who presided at the wedding of Myrna and Bob 45 years ago), and Keewatin-Le Pas Archbishop Murray



Monsignor Ray Senger, Pat Bitinsky, Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Fr. Kevin McGee, Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Myrna Wolfe, Fr. Patrick Ampani, and Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP (left to right) at an Oct. 19 combined celebration in Saskatoon for the retirement of long-time employees Myrna Wolfe (from St. Michael parish) and Pat Bitinsky (from St. Peter the Apostle parish). - Photo by Trish Holst

Chatlain, who prayed a blessing over Pat and Myrna and their families at the conclusion of the program.

Myrna and Pat also spoke during the evening, sharing thoughts about their years of ministry and their retirement, as well as expressing gratitude for the celebration.

Faith formation at St. Therese, Bruno

ST. THERESE INSTITUTE

Thirty-five students from across the country recently started a nine-month formation program at the St. Therese School of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK.

As well this spring, Bishop Donald Bolen commissioned 23 first-year students of the Catholic Studies for the Lay Apostolate program, as well as blessing eight second-year students at the May 24 celebration.

Upcoming public programs at St. Therese include:

- **February 19 to 22 - Lenten Conference** with Fr. Donald Calloway of the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts – “The Surfer Priest” speaks on Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his own conversion story. Cost: \$275 if registering before Jan. 19 (\$350 after) or Commuter rate: \$160 before Jan. 19 (\$200 after). More info at: <http://st-t.ca/lent>

- **March 6 to 15: Triumph** – a nine-day gentle retreat focused on healing, conversion and being more deeply united through Jesus. For



Young adults in the 2014-15 formation program at St. Therese come from Saskatchewan, B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland. - Photo submitted by St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

registration or more info call (306) 369-2555, or: <http://st-t.ca/triumph> Cost: \$895 if registering before Feb. 20 (\$950 after)

- **May 3 to 7 – Theology of the Body** with Christopher West – Embark on a life-changing journey through St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, an integrated vision of the human person, body and soul. More information or registration: <http://st-t.ca/tob> or contact Carolyn

at (306) 369-2555. Costs: \$495 if registering before April 19 (\$525 after), Commuter Rate: \$320 if registering before April 19 (\$350 after). Group rates also available.

The annual Springtime of Faith conference series will include:

- **March 22-27: Called for a Purpose:** A Theology of the Laity
- **March 22-27: TeenSTAR:** Teacher Certification Training
- **April 12-17: Ignatian Discernment I:** An Introduction
- **April 12-17: Heart of Worship:** Liturgy and the Sacraments
- **April 19-24: Ignatian Discernment II:** Applications
- **April 19-24: To Know Christ Jesus:** The Heart of Catechetics
- **April 26-May 1: Apostles of Hope:** Ecumenism & Apologetics
- **April 26-May 1: Holy Family:** Apostolate of the Christian Family

<http://st-t.ca/events>

Helping Kenyan orphanage

By MICHELLE PETERS

“Kenya Orphanage Mission: Jesus Leads Us” is an organization that helps raise funds for a boarding school and orphanage in Kenya, Africa.

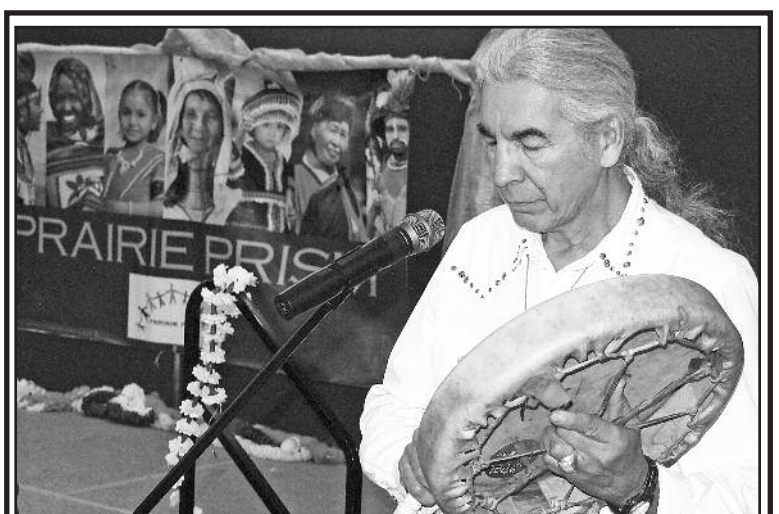
Chelsea Pratchler was one of two young women from Canada who spent three months at the mission in Kenya last year. She shared her experience at St. Mary’s parish in Lanigan in the spring, describing the struggles that the sisters face to fund the school and the desire to support more orphans.

The committee is hoping to put a sponsorship program in place so that more orphaned children can have opportunities for catechism, education, and housing.

One of the priests in our own diocese, Fr. Modestus Ngwu, will be visiting the mission in December. He is a cousin to the founder of the mission, Sr. Augustina Ngwu, who died after a car accident in 2011. The staff, students, and sisters in Kenya are

looking forward to his visit, and the committee will share his experience with the Saskatoon diocese when he returns.

For more information about how to help the Kenya Orphanage Mission, contact Michelle Peters at (306) 682-0775 or visit the website at: www.jesusleadsus.com



During a Prairie Prism program celebrating many different cultures Sept. 28, Joseph Naytowhow welcomed all to Treaty 6 territory.

Prairie Prism: celebrating the cultural diversity in community

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Getting to know the neighbours was cited as one of the benefits of a showcase and celebration of cultural heritage held Sept. 28 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Prairie Prism highlighted the culture and contributions of many nationalities and ethnic traditions during the free Sunday afternoon event that featured music, dance, food, activities and storytelling. A number of community organizations and support agencies also set up information booths.

Performers included a drum group from Leask, musicians from different cultures, as well as Bengali, German, Brazilian, Assyrian, First Nations and Irish dancers. Storytellers shared tales from First Nations, Peru, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uganda and the Philippines.

“A prism – it’s a great metaphor,” said MLA Rob Norris

who brought greetings from the provincial government. “It allows us to see a reflection of our provincial motto: ‘From many peoples strength.’”

Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison reflected on Saskatoon as a “city of bridges” where bridges are about more than simply transport. The description also calls for building bridges among people, he stressed, noting the wide variety of other Culture Days events also happening on the same weekend.

Prairie Prism sponsors included Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Sask Culture, Affinity Credit Union, University of Regina, India-Canada Cultural Association, Areva, Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Public Schools, Anglican Cathedral of St. John, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and the Mennonite Central Committee.



Steps in Faith for Humboldt youth

Two photos were merged into one in order to capture the entire large group of youth who made a recommitment of faith this spring at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt. In collaboration with St. Dominic and St. Augustine Catholic schools, sessions were led by associate pastor Fr. Gregory Roth, who taught the Grade 8 students and accompanied them in their journey of faith through the school year. Forty-one students made the decision to affirm their faith publicly at a Mass led by Bishop Donald Bolen. Fr. Gregory Roth has since been appointed pastor of parishes at Unity and Tramping Lake.

- Photos by Sr Maybelle dela Cruz, MACE

Foundations series explores theology and influence of five “Great Catholic Thinkers”

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The latest Foundations: Exploring Our Faith series in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is taking a look at some “Great Catholic Thinkers.”

Organized by Sharon Powell, coordinator of the Foundations office at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, the latest series is held 7 p.m. on five Monday evenings over three months at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Pre-registration is not required, and those interested can attend any number of sessions.

St. Thomas Aquinas

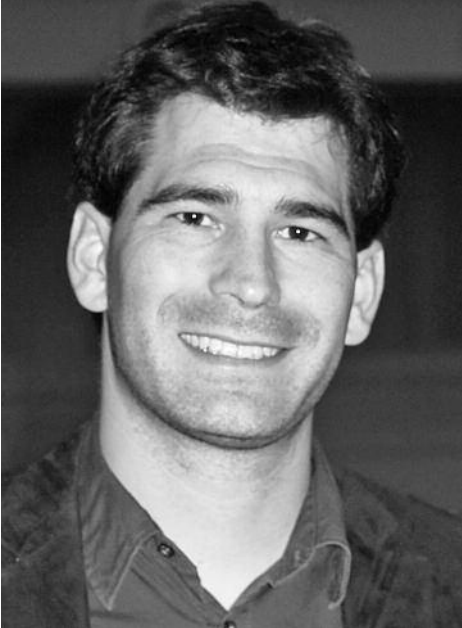
The series opened Sept. 29 with a presentation about the life and philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, a brilliant thinker and profoundly influential theologian of the 13th century recognized as a Doctor of the Church – a title given to those providing particularly important insights into doctrine or theology.

Dr. Jordan Oliver, a recent PhD graduate from the University of Saint Thomas Center for Thomistic Studies in Houston, presented the first session.

Oliver opened his talk with a quotation from Aquinas: “Better to illuminate than merely to shine.” In the discussion that followed, participants determined that the words indicate a strong belief in the importance of contemplating truths and sharing them with others, shining light on the glory of God, rather than simply pursuing or holding on to truth for one’s own benefit. “This is closely connected to St. Thomas Aquinas’s own activity as a teacher,” said Oliver.

Introducing Aquinas in the context of his time and place, Oliver explored his personality and life story, before diving into the writings, thought and influence of the Dominican friar known both as “the Dumb Ox” (probably because he was a large, quiet man), and “the Angelic Doctor” (recognizing his great brilliance and faith).

St. Thomas Aquinas held that philosophy



Speaker Jordan Oliver introduced the life and the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Upcoming sessions at Cathedral of the Holy Family:

7 p.m. Nov. 17 - “The First Modern Theologian”
An introduction to Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ,
Presented by Bishop Gerald Wiesner

7 p.m. Nov. 24 - “It’s True because it is Beautiful”
The theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar
Presented by Blake Sittler

and reason benefit theology, and used Aristotle and his methods to discover truths. Aquinas explored Christian revelation through rational insights and argument while also recognizing that some theological truths exceed a human being’s reason, and that faith and charity are also needed to achieve wisdom.

Aquinas maintained “there are certain elements of faith that can be proved through reason and philosophy, and some that can’t,” said Oliver.

Summa Theologica is his masterpiece of theological thought and writing, and the saint also wrote reflections and hymns, such as Pange Lingua, written for the feast of Corpus Christi, related Oliver.

He also described how after a spiritual experience at prayer, Thomas Aquinas said everything he had written “now seems like straw.” He died in March 1274 after sustaining a head injury en route to the second Council of Lyons.

Not everyone was in agreement with all that Aquinas wrote, noted Oliver. “Aquinas didn’t become the common teacher of Catholic faith right away.”

However, in subsequent years, the philosophy, writings and thought of St. Thomas Aquinas exerted enormous influence on the theology of the Catholic Church. Thomist thought eventually was used as the core of studies undertaken by priests or those studying Catholic theology, he noted.

Oliver then walked participants through Aquinas’ arguments for proving the existence of God, and presented several discussion questions to consider the saint’s teachings.

St. Augustine of Hippo

The next week the series continued with a look at another Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine of Hippo, led by Dr. Christopher Hrynkow, Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of religion and culture at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, where he also contributes to the minors in Catholic Studies and in “Social Justice and the Common Good.”

Augustine’s writings and philosophy have greatly influenced the Church and western civilization for millennia, and it would be hard to say whether he or Aquinas was the greatest influence, said Hrynkow.

Entitled “A Restless Heart’s Contribution to Catholic Thought,” Hrynkow’s talk Oct. 6

Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* is supported by the



included a description of the faithfulness of the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Monica, who prayed for 20 years that her son would return to the Catholic faith.

Hrynkow described the life of Augustine, who was the son of a Roman pagan father and a Christian mother, born in North Africa, raised in the Catholic faith, but who left the church at the age of 19, taking a mistress, fathering a son, and exploring various faiths and heretical sects, before converting back to Christianity some 20 years later, being baptized in 387. He was a professor of rhetoric, and a brilliant thinker.

Like Aquinas, Augustine of Hippo drew upon the works of philosophers to enhance understanding of the world and of Christine doctrine. “Augustine baptizes Plato, as Aquinas baptizes Aristotle,” Hrynkow said

The book *Confessions* is Augustine’s personal account of his early life and conversion – and a remarkable document that serves as one of the first examples of autobiography in the western world, said Hrynkow.

In *Confessions*, the saint addresses God with the words: “You move us to delight in praising You; for You have formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in You” — a summary of the longings that are part of human experience for so many over the centuries, Hrynkow said.

With the Roman Empire declining – and some blaming Christianity — Augustine developed the concept of the Catholic Church as the “City of God,” as opposed to an earthly city. His writing was grounded in the



Chris Hrynkow described St. Augustine’s work and his impact on Christianity.

doctrines that were addressed at the Council of Nicaea and the Council of Constantinople.

Augustine’s thoughts on the doctrine of God’s grace, on predestination, on original sin and on the fall continue to echo in the Christian world view and among different Christian denominations, said Hrynkow, taking participants through some of the saint’s philosophy and thinking, especially as outlined in *The City of God*.

Other sessions

Hrynkow also led a session about Dorothy Day Oct. 27, mapping her contributions to Catholic thought and practice.

Upcoming sessions in the series will include a presentation on the theology of Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ, with guest speaker Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Blake Sittler, M.Div, will introduce the theology of Hans Urs von Balthazar in the final session of the series at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, also at the cathedral.

Watch for details about the next Foundations series in Lent 2015, featuring Bishop Donald Bolen speaking about the theology expressed in the artwork of the stained glass windows at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

For more information about Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together, including sessions available to parishes or other organizations contact coordinator Sharon Powell at (306) 659-5831 or see: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/foundations

Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* is one of the ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in the diocese of Saskatoon.

51st International Eucharistic Congress Cebu City, Philippines, Jan. 24-31, 2016

Ministry to Tourism in the diocese of Saskatoon is seeking to determine the level of interest in the upcoming Eucharistic Congress: www.iec2016.ph

If you are keenly interested in joining a Saskatoon delegation please contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter at Kleiter@shaw.ca or (306) 244-3747.

Indicate if interested in extending your time in the area, for example in Southeast Asia, Australia and/or New Zealand.

Pilgrim journeys to biblical lands are on the travel wish list for many people

MINISTRY TO TOURISM

Many people, whether they are religious or not, have placed the Holy and biblical lands on their “wish list” of travel destinations.

Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism is currently offering his 23rd Pilgrim Journey to Biblical Lands in September/October 2015.

Asked what makes his Pilgrim Journeys to Biblical Lands unique, Kleiter simply responds “It is the experience that people enjoy when their body, mind and spirit are fully addressed during the journey.”

Kleiter notes that there are a number of so-called “pilgrimages” on the market, which generally involve large bus groups of 30-50

persons rushing through the holy sites. He states that Ministry to Tourism strives to offer a better experience. “I have learned over the years that once people decide to make this destination a reality, they want a design that fully supports their travel investment. People who have travelled have come to appreciate the details that mark a quality experience when travelling in foreign lands.”

He stresses, for example, that the location of accommodations and even the selected menus of the area (not institutional food) along with qualified and proven guides, all ensure the best use of the limited time for a Pilgrim Journey. Next autumn’s travel opportunity will be

characterized by offering many choices.

The Core Land program to Biblical Lands for 2015 will take place from Sept. 5-17 offering a classic program visiting Israel and Jordan. The land cost is US \$3,146.00 per person sharing.

Or you can choose to extend the Core Land program, Sept. 5-17, with a 10- or 21-day cruise with a focus on ports where the apostles first brought the gospel. It is possible to visit Biblical Lands from a cruise. Some people prefer to settle in one place and from there enjoy ports of call, especially when many stays allow 2-3 days in an area enabling participation in Ministry to Tourism’s

exclusively designed shore experiences built on the Pilgrim Journey’s theme.

Cruise I is a 10-day cruise, Sept. 17-27, aboard Oceania’s *Riviera* featuring visits to Ephesus, Northern Israel and Greek Islands mostly in the footsteps of St. Paul.

Cruise II – “Footsteps of Discovery in Biblical Lands” – is an Oct. 4-25 trip from Istanbul to Dubai aboard Oceania’s *Nautica*.

If a cruise is your choice, pilgrims also have the option to take a 7-day land tour, Sept. 27-Oct 4, before or after a cruise to explore around Turkey and Northern Greece where St. Paul first brought Christianity to Europe.

To enrich these choices before and during the Pilgrim Journey, artist and spiritual guide Gisele Bauche has been engaged as a special guest facilitator to enhance whatever program you choose.

Contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter as soon as possible to discuss the best options, while there is still space in the small party of 15-20 persons. The first preparation and orientation gathering for booked pilgrims will be held in early April 2015, with Gisele Bauche and Fr. Kleiter.

Contact: Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism: (306) 244-3747; E-mail: Kleiter@shaw.ca or see Ministry to Tourism’s Website: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

FOUNDATIONS: *Exploring our faith together*

Cost: \$5 per person for 1 session; High school students free.

Note: Anyone is welcome to attend sessions — it is not necessary to be a member of the parish organizing the event.

Pre-registration is encouraged, with the contact person listed below.

Course	Parish	Dates	Contact	Speaker
Building Parish Community & Hospitality: “A Christian Way of Life” Explore how hospitality fulfills the command of Jesus to “Love one another as I have loved you.” Our baptism calls us to Christian/parish community — how might we respond?	St. Theresa Rosetown	7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12	Judy 306-882-2488	Sr. Dianne Sehn, OSU
Twelve Signs of a Healthy Spirituality Sometimes we ask, "How do I know I am on the right track in my faith life?" A sign of a good faith life is when a person becomes a positive influence on others. The more healthy our spirituality the more effective we become as a witness to Jesus. Fr. Paul will discuss traits that show God is working in a person's life.	St. Michael Cudworth	7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12	Carol 306-256-3631	Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB
Me, Myself and Marriage A humble and humorous attempt by Colm Leyne to understand oneself in light of living the vocation of marriage through scripture, the catechism and embarrassing moments. Come laugh and hopefully learn.	Christ the King Foam Lake	7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13	Candace 306-272-4734 f	Colm Leyne
# I Believe Because What is faith? Why do we believe? How do we nurture our own faith? Are there disciplines we can practice that will help us to believe more deeply? What can I do practically to ensure my family's faith is increased? The goal is to have everyone who attends and participates in the discussion going home more confident about how to nurture the gift of faith offered to us by God.	St. James Wilkie	7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18	Colette 306-843-2260	Colm Leyne
Me, Myself and Marriage A humble and humorous attempt by Colm Leyne to understand oneself in light of living the vocation of marriage through scripture, the catechism and embarrassing moments. Come laugh and hopefully learn.	St. Peter Unity	7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19	Terri 306-228-2341	Colm Leyne
Who was Mary Magdalene – Really? It's time to clear her reputation and discover the real Mary Magdalene of the scriptures. We can learn much from her story.	Holy Spirit Saskatoon	3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20	Delores 306-374-1425	Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU
Human Trafficking: The Modern Form of Slavery Canada is a country of destination as well as a source and transit country in human trafficking. Thousands of vulnerable women, boys and girls from poor countries or poor regions within Canada are prey to sexual, agricultural, domestic, and organ exploitation. Canada has legislation in place, but does not have the personnel or financial resources to prosecute. How can we take action and be part of the solution?	St Philip Neri Saskatoon	3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27	Ethna 306-343-0325	Savelia Curniski of Nashi
Health in the Context of Faith: Finding a new paradigm What is our role in choosing health? In our personal recovery?	Columbian Manor Saskatoon	2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3	Dorothy 306-668-2048	Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB
Intentional Leadership Jesus is the greatest leader that ever lived. He held no formal position of leadership yet he influenced and changed the world. His example proves that you can lead and influence others, whether you hold a formal position of leadership or not. Using Jesus as our example, explore how to engage the five observable behaviours of effective leaders.	Sacred Heart Denzil	7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5	Cecilia 306-358-4212	Patrick Clarke
Reflections on S. Koder's painting “The Meeting” (The Visitation) Join us for a look at artwork that draws us into scripture reflection.	St. Francis Xavier Saskatoon	7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11	Irene 306-933-1108	Fr. Paul Facht, OMI

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Faith formation - St. John Bosco Parish, 1202 Avenue O South, Saskatoon will host a series of talks on faith formation and couples' prayer. Talks begin each evening at 7 p.m. and include: "Forming Intentional Disciples" **Wednesday, Nov. 12**; "What Happens at Mass" **Wednesday, Nov. 19**; and "Praying with Sacred Scripture" **Wednesday, Nov. 26**. Presented by Matthew Courchene. All are welcome.

St. Joseph's Parish Craft Fair will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 15** at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 1006 Broadway Ave., & 8th St, Saskatoon. Concession on site. No entry fee.

Ecumenical Conversation on “The Joy of the Gospel” a letter written by Pope Francis, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Nov. 15** and **Dec. 13** at Queen's House, Saskatoon. Cost is \$55/per day (includes lunch). Register at: (306) 242-1916.

Sion Academy Alumni, Family and Friends: fundraising steak dinner at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club **Friday, Nov. 21**. Tickets: \$25, available at: p.z@sasktel.net

30th Anniversary - Saint Anne's (Saskatoon) Knights of Columbus are celebrating their 30th year as a council 6 p.m., **Saturday, Nov. 22**. All Knights and spouses are invited. Tickets \$25 each; contact: Stan Schroeder at (306) 242-2925.

Fruitcakes and Christmas Cards - Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan is selling fruitcakes and religious Christmas cards as an annual fundraiser. Made in Yorkton, the fruitcakes come in two sizes: a one-pound round cake is \$12 and the boxed 2.5-pound round cake is \$20. Packs of 10 religious Christmas cards are \$8 or 3 packages for \$20. There are a variety of designs to choose from and all come with a scriptural verse. These cakes and cards will be sold at various churches in Saskatoon. For other orders, please contact Denise at (306) 249-2764.

FacetoFace United Conference 2014 will unite, support, and challenge participants in their faith through adoration, keynote talks, and fellowship **Nov. 22 and 23** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Speakers are Ken Yasinski, Leah Perrault, and Matt Nelson. Cost is \$60. Find information or registration online at: www.f2f.ca/united-conference

Knights of Columbus Culture of Life, Fundraising Dinner Dance and Auction will be held **Feb 28** at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. Tickets are \$35 each, Contact Louis (306) 249-2764 or John (306) 477-1748.

40 Hours for Life - From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, a daily public witness against abortion and for life will be held outside City Hospital in Saskatoon. For an hour every day, participants walk/stand and pray for an end to abortion. There are two ways to participate. One is to attend the 4:30-5:30 p.m. daily witness and the second is to attend the Monday to Friday morning witness starting at 10 a.m. Signs are provided and an information session will be held on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Location and time of the information session will be announced through the parish bulletins. Consider making 40 Hours For Life part of your Lenten fasting, praying and almsgiving.

Swing into Spring - The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation 14th annual 'Swing Into Spring' Fashion Show and Dinner will be held **April 30, 2015** at TCU Place in Saskatoon, an evening where fashion, food, and friends come together to support faith in education. For info about this popular event contact catholicschoolsfoundation@gscs.sk.ca or (306) 659-7003. Proceeds of this event will support faith-based initiatives in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

The Msgr.
Michael J. Koch
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Story Time thanks

Grateful participants in Children's Story Time send out thanks to the Time Out For Moms group for donating a brand new toy kitchen set, play rug and cushy chair to the children's corner at the Michael J. Koch Resource Library at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Children's Story Time 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.

- Photo by Sharon Leyne

“Joy to the World” artwork blessed at cathedral chapel

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Annunciation artwork placed in the Queen of Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon was blessed May 25 by Bishop Donald Bolen.

The “Joy to the World” Annunciation mosaic and stained glass art installation was designed by Toronto artist Sarah Hall. Wilhelm Peters and two artisans from Glasmalerei Peters Studios in Paderborn, Germany, were on hand for the installation of the artwork fabricated in their facility.

Hall also designed the stained glass windows in the Cathedral’s main sanctuary and the solar art glass in the building’s spire.

The new mosaic in the cathedral’s side chapel features an image of the Angel Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she will become the Mother of God – the moment when the Incarnation became reality, thanks to Mary’s response: “Let it be done unto me according to your word” (*Luke 1:38*).

The seven-foot figures were inspired by a fresco in Santa Felicita Church in Florence, painted by Jacopa da Pontormo in the early 16th century.

In Saskatoon, the figures of the Archangel and the Virgin are placed on an image of the earth and the cosmos, stretching out in the shape of a chalice on the stone of the chapel wall behind the altar. On either side are stained glass windows incorporating prairie and Eucharistic imagery, framing the Annunciation in this time and place.

Hidden among the mosaic tiles that make up the earth are a few with barely visible, daintily etched words such as “Saskatoon,”



Young artisans from Germany, Bishop Don Bolen, artist Sarah Hall and Wilhelm Peters of Glasmalerei Peters Studio stand in front of the new mosaic in the Queen of Peace Chapel.

“Paderborn,” “Holy Land” and even “Roughriders” – continuing a long tradition in art of hidden signatures and messages, often humorous.

“Beauty is something that allows us to believe that this world is God’s work, that it’s all in God’s hands,” Bolen said in the homily at Mass before the blessing ceremony. “Beauty is something that taps into such a deep place of joy and life within us. Beauty

is one of the reasons why we can be a people of hope.”

The human drive to share in the creativity of God is another reason for hope, he added. Human beings created in the image and likeness of God share God’s desire “to create, to bring forth life, to bring forth beauty, to bring forth peace and reconciliation,” Bolen said.

In the blessing celebration in the chapel

after Mass, Fr. Colin Roy read the account of the Annunciation from the gospel of Luke, and Fr. David Tumback sang a Marian hymn. Bolen blessed the artwork and offered prayers of thanksgiving for the artist, artisans and donors.

“Give to this sacred place your love, and let this living sign of your faithfulness fill all our hearts with hope, and grace, so that we may bear witness to the truth and bring true joy to the world,” prayed the bishop.

The day before the blessing, artist Sarah Hall gave a tour of the glass art in the cathedral to members of the Saskatoon Glassworkers’ Guild, describing the inspiration and creation of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the solar art glass windows in the spire, and the mosaic in the chapel.

Hall reflected on her own journey as an artist, and how as a child waiting for her father at meetings in a church, she was fascinated with the stained glass windows and their interplay of images, colour and light. “It wasn’t just the images that I loved but how colour and light really transform how we feel, and how they transform the space.”

Hall began her studies at Sheridan College in Ontario and continued her education in the Architectural Glass Department at Swansea College of Art in Wales, UK., before apprenticing at the Royal College of Art in London and studying Middle Eastern techniques in glass for a year in Jerusalem. She opened her own studio 37 years ago. All of her glass artwork is fabricated at Glasmalerei Peters Studios in Paderborn, Germany.

Restored Bruno grotto includes Marian mosaic

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The restoration of a 75-year-old grotto on the grounds of St. Bruno parish in Bruno, SK. includes a mosaic of Mary, Mother of Mercy designed by a locally-born artist who warmly recalls processions in honour of Mary in her home community.

Artist Sharon Pulvermacher of Regina created the Marian mosaic to adorn the newly-restored outdoor grotto, which was originally constructed in 1936-38 in thanksgiving to Mary for her protection from

epidemics sweeping the Prairies.

Engravings on either side of the mosaic now feature the beloved *Memorare* prayer to Mary, and a “Look to the Star” reflection by St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

The grotto’s restoration was undertaken in 2013, led by Sharon’s mother Florence Pulvermacher, a lifelong member of the Bruno community. The project was supervised by pastor Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, with members of the parish donating time, expertise and financial support.

Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon blessed the grotto during a rededication celebration held May 24 at the parish in Bruno.

The artist grew up in Bruno, and was baptized into the St. Bruno Roman Catholic community.

“Marian devotion was important in my family and we would often pray the rosary after supper,” Sharon recalls. “May is my birth month and somehow, my coming into the world at this time also brought me closer to Our Lady, as it was her special month too.”

An annual procession out to the grotto was a highlight for Sharon and for other young girls in the parish who would carry flowers in the procession. Over the years, the annual procession has continued, but the grotto fell into disrepair.

“When my mother, Florence Pulvermacher, invited me to work with her to renew the site, I agreed immediately. It was an opportunity to work with my 92-year-old mother, honour Our Lady, and give back to my hometown parish,” says Sharon.

“I was inspired by the wealth of Marian imagery that has been created over the centuries, dating as early as the fifth century.”

Sharon chose handcrafted Mexican glass smalti for the mosaic image. “Technically, it was a greater challenge to use, but the final result is more lively and energetic than possible with mass-produced glass tile.”

Her contemporary rendering of Mary, Mother of Mercy echoes the grotto’s earlier painting of the Madonna and Child by Count Berthold von Imhoff, as well as images of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Mary is shown holding the Christ Child with a mother’s great tenderness. “She is a woman of life experience and self-knowing. She is the mediatrix of all graces,” describes Sharon. “As such, she is confidently moving toward us, with her left hand extended in invitation. Some would say in a questioning pose. Perhaps it is a questioning invitation?”

The Christ Child sits upright on her right arm “clothed in the sun-filled blue of the prairie sky,” says Sharon. “His right hand is welcoming and open, while his left hand’s two raised fingers denote his dual nature, both human and divine.”

In the mosaic image, Mary is wearing the night sky as her dress. It is “a celestial dome of spiraling genesis,” says the artist, noting



Artist Sharon Pulvermacher (left) and her mother Florence, in front of the “Mary, Mother of Mercy” mosaic, which is part of the restored grotto at the Catholic Church in Bruno, SK. - Photo by Susan Pulvermacher

that in her title of “Star,” the Blessed Virgin Mary is our guide, “compassionately showing us the way through our darkness to her son.”

The artist adds: “We can share all we are with her: our doubts, our darkness, as well as our joy. She will hold us with the same love she holds her son.”

The grotto walls are painted with warm, earthen tones, echoing the symbolic meaning of a grotto as “a womb, where even the living rock brings forth life.”

The artist expressed appreciation to all who supported the project, including those who prayed, provided expertise, and hands-on assistance.

The fieldstone structure housing the mosaic has weathered 75 prairie winters, Sharon points out. “It is my hope that this grotto continue to be a haven, a source of connection” to Mary, our Mother of Mercy.

The grotto, situated in the pine grove behind the church in Bruno, is always open to visitors.

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