

Responding to  
Supreme Court  
legalization of  
Physician  
Assisted Suicide

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St. Donatus  
celebrated  
its 100th  
anniversary  
this summer.

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Young "Featherlings"  
were among a cast of  
all ages performing a  
drama at this year's  
Rock the Mount.

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# Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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NOVEMBER 2015



## Called to serve

Sisters from across the province – including some of the Bruno Ursulines pictured above – were special guests Oct. 1 at Wascana Park in Regina for the unveiling of a monument commemorating pioneering women religious who established education and health care institutions across the province. Some 5,500 Catholic sisters have served across Saskatchewan since the first Grey Nuns arrived at Île-à-la-Crosse in 1860. The monument by sculptor Jack Jensen features two Catholic sisters in bronze: one a teacher, the other a nurse. Catholic Connections launched the project, with support from private donors, dioceses, men's religious orders, and Catholic organizations across Saskatchewan. To learn more about the project see: [www.calledtoserve.ca](http://www.calledtoserve.ca) - Photo by Scott Gay

## Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) to equip missionary disciples

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) recently expressed enthusiasm for a proposed formation program envisioned as a way to empower and equip Catholics to serve on the peripheries and in areas of greatest need.

Dubbed the Justice and Outreach Year (or JOY) of Formation, the diocesan program could begin as early as the fall of 2016, and would be open to laity – men and women – as well as to any interested consecrated religious or clergy.

"There is a crying, crying need out there," said DPC member Norma Denis, who has been working at St. Mary's parish, and has witnessed the poverty, gang violence and suffering in the core neighbourhood. "We see it every day."

Working with refugees in the past and presently serving at a local nursing home, Wadena Deanery DPC representative Cecile Halyk of Christ the King Parish in Foam Lake

says she too has seen a great need for more outreach – and a need for more support and preparation for those who are doing the outreach. "I love the idea of the program. We need some expertise. We need to learn, so that we can be those people who go out, and be present for those who need our help," she said.

"These are the services (consecrated) religious used to do ... now someone has to step in and do that outreach," agreed Sr. Viola Bens, OSE.

Bishop Donald Bolen and committee members gave updates to the DPC about both the Justice and Outreach Year and plans for the formation of permanent deacons.

The new one-year JOY program (open to all) is also envisioned as eventually being part of a discernment process for men who are exploring the possibility of ordination as permanent deacons in the diocese of Saskatoon.

DIACONATE/ Page 2



## Star Blanket for Papal Nuncio

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux (left) and Elder Gayle Weenie presented a star blanket to honour Apostolic Nuncio in Canada, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, during his recent visit to Saskatoon. Find more coverage of the Nuncio's visit on Pages 14-15.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

## Refugee sponsorship by parishes continues in diocese of Saskatoon

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parishes, groups and individuals in the diocese of Saskatoon are actively reaching out to assist refugees, says Christine Zyla, coordinator of the diocesan Office of Migration.

The Migration Office has been responding to many inquiries in recent weeks about how to help refugees – particularly in light of worldwide attention on the plight of some four million Syrian refugees fleeing violence, war and persecution.

"We currently have five Syrian cases in process," Zyla recently reported. "And we are planning to proceed with at least four more in the coming weeks, as the interest in private sponsorship (that is, sponsorship not undertaken by the government) continues to grow."

In addition to the Syrian cases, there are some 20 sponsorships underway this year for refugees from other countries, as well as many files from cases submitted in previous years that are still waiting for arrival dates, reported Zyla.

She stresses that the refugee crisis is even greater than the Syrian crisis. "Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo – I could go on," she said.

"Although the focus has been on Syria, the Mediterranean is a graveyard, not only for Syrians, but for Eritreans, for Iraqis, for so many – and so is the Sinai desert, where Eritrean refugees are walking to get somewhere safe."

A refugee family of seven from Syria arrived Sept. 17 at the Saskatoon airport, co-sponsored by St. Philip



Maral and Kevork Kasarjian and their family fled Syria, and were recently welcomed to Saskatoon, co-sponsored by a family member and St. Philip Neri Parish.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Neri parish and a family member in Saskatoon.

Kevork and Maral Kasarjian and their five children fled war-torn Syria to Lebanon, where they spent a year and a half in a refugee camp, before finally arriving in Canada this fall. The family are settling into the community, with Kevork and his son now employed and the younger children attending school.

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## Justice / Outreach Year also part of discernment for diaconate

(Continued from Front Page)

The update on the work of the two committees was also presented to parish leadership and ministry representatives attending a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 10.

Bolen recalled the extensive diocesan consultation held in 2014 to explore the idea of ordaining permanent deacons, which garnered strong opinions on both sides of the question.

“We looked at different models of the diaconate, and eventually experienced a coming together of minds and hearts as we were increasingly drawn toward a vision of the diaconate that would have as its primary focus a ministry of outreach that would summon the whole church to a ministry of service and compassion to places of great need,” Bolen said.

“In our vision, a permanent deacon’s liturgical ministry would flow from active service, and the deacon would serve as a sacramental sign of the service we are all called to.”

Resonating with Pope Francis’ renewed emphasis on Christian outreach to those in greatest need, and the call of all the baptized to reach out in compassion and pursue justice, the diaconate discernment also brought forward the idea of a Justice and Outreach Year of Formation open to all of the baptized, women as well as men, said Bolen.

“This came out very strongly from the Diaconal Discernment Committee,” noted co-director of Pastoral Services Leah Perrault. “People said ‘yes, maybe we need a diaconate, but more than that, maybe first of all, we need all our people to be better equipped to go forth and do ministry of outreach, regardless of whether we have a permanent diaconate’.”

Two committees were established: one tasked with preparing a draft outline and curriculum for a Justice and Outreach Year of Formation, while the other was to study the basic norms for the formation of permanent deacons and how they could best be applied in the local context.

A third committee will eventually be called upon to assess the financial and human resources required for the two initiatives and to reflect on how the programs can be financed without draining funds from existing programs, added the bishop.

At the diocesan Administration Day, co-director of Pastoral Services Blake Sittler presented the report from the Justice and Outreach Year of Formation committee, which also included Mona Goodman, Debbie Ledoux, Kate O’Gorman, Peter Oliver, Myron Rogal and Gertrude Rompré.

The formation outline focused on outreach to those on the peripheries of society, including the poor, the marginalized, the refugee, the new Canadian, Canada’s Indigenous people, and the newly-released prisoner.

A draft proposal would have program participants gather on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year, with participants spending Sundays serving back in their home community. Friday nights of the program would be spent in theological reflection on their ministry and the outreach that participants experienced in the previous month, and Saturday would be a practical exploration of outreach opportunities.

“Rather than trying to bring the peripheries of the world to the classroom, we will take the classroom to the peripheries,” suggested Sittler.

“Catholic Social Teachings are rich and vast... this year needs to plumb the depths and breadth of these gifts with practical experience through hands-on ministry,” he said. “Whatever service we offer as Church needs to be evangelical; our service cannot be limited to one of pragmatic justice or pious charity, but needs to inspire in those people who experience it and witness in it a sense of the closeness of Jesus to all people and all of creation.”

This would be a stand-alone program, with no pre-requisite required, noted Perrault.

Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee presented the report from the second committee on how best to engage in the formation of permanent deacons in the diocese of Saskatoon – a committee which also included Michelle Sieben, Dr. Terry Downey, Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, Deacon Paul Labelle, Linda Labelle, and Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers.

The proposed Justice Outreach Year of Formation would provide an appropriate “context for discernment and a period of preparation known as a propaedeutic period” for those who are interested in the diaconate, especially given the diocesan model



### World Meeting of Families

Delegates from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon were among some 20,000 from around the world attending the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia Sept. 22-25. Marriage Task Force members at the event were: (left to right) Phil and Mary Wrubleski, Blake Sittler, Barb and Fred Farthing. “Love is Our Mission: The Family Truly Alive” was the theme of the world meeting, which was followed by a Festival of Families attended by Pope Francis. Find news articles about the event on the website at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news)

- Photo submitted by Blake Sittler

with its focus on service, said McGee. After this period of discernment, should the aspirant be officially accepted as a candidate to the Permanent Diaconate, and therefore requiring further formation and study, existing resources and programs would be drawn upon when possible, McGee said.

Screening and evaluating candidates for the permanent diaconate was also addressed, said McGee. “This process would take into serious consideration that many candidates for the permanent diaconate are married, and have families. Efforts will be made to include spouses and children in the formation program, at all levels.”

The bishop said discussion, planning and consultation will continue in the months ahead, with a view to possibly starting the JOY formation in the fall of 2016.

## Ministry year and BAA launched at diocesan Administration Day

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Another ministry year was launched in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon at an Administration Day held Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Representatives of parishes from across the diocese gathered with ministry leaders, representatives of Catholic organizations, and Bishop Donald Bolen for the day of information and reports.

### BAA 2015

An overview of the 2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal was provided by BAA coordinator Cathie Rogers. The 2015 goal is the same as last year – \$1.5 million, needed to fund a wide range of ministries and programs across the diocese of Saskatoon.

“Whatsoever you do for the least of these” is the 2015 theme, taken from the parable of the last judgment in Matthew 25.



Deaf Ministry, provided by Roberto Godoybaca, is one of many ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

“Our Bishop’s Annual Appeal always has two directions: to build up the parish community by strengthening our formation, and to reach out in love,” noted Bolen.

“This year our focus is very much on reaching out. In our theme text from the parable of the last

judgment, Jesus not only reaches out to the poor, but identifies himself with the poor, saying ‘I was hungry and you fed me. I was a prisoner and you visited me’.”

When it comes to “reaching out in love,” donations to the Appeal support ministries such as Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy provided at Royal University and Saskatoon City hospitals, as well as spiritual care through St. Paul’s Hospital.

For some 25 years, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal has supported Deaf Ministry, one of the programs of outreach and inclusion that is highlighted in a video to be shown in parishes this fall. “This is a very important service to bring to our deaf people,” says Roberto Godoybaca, who provides sign language interpretation each week at St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon. “Without it, they would not feel they also are a part of the body of Christ.”

Supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the diocesan office of Restorative Ministry provides pastoral outreach at local prisons, and engages volunteers and parishes in answering Jesus’ call to care for the prisoner.

“When I go into the prison and I visit the inmates, I am letting them know that someone cares,” says Restorative Ministry coordinator Dianne Anderson in the 2015 video. “We all need that love. We all need forgiveness.... I remind them of how Jesus stretched out his arms and said ‘forgive them, they know not what they do’.”

Prison ministry volunteers Russ and Yvonne Powell have seen firsthand the challenges of prison ministry and the hope it is bringing into darkness and pain. “We can see hope in their eyes, and you can see their yearning, to want to change,” says Yvonne. Some of the men they encounter at the jail fall in love with Jesus, others cling to prison ministry in the hope of finding a new way of life, she said. “I see prison ministry as a place where we can help them to heal.”

Marriage and Family Life, Catholic Family Services, Saskatoon Friendship Inn, and Justice and Peace are other areas of outreach supported by the BAA. “Each person is an intrinsic gift to be cherished,” stresses Myron Rogal, coordinator of the Justice and Peace office – a position that recently became full-time in the diocese of Saskatoon, supported by donations to the Appeal.

As Justice and Peace coordinator, Rogal works with a range of partners in the community to address such issues as poverty, homelessness, human trafficking, the environment, and threats to life through abortion, assisted suicide or

ethanasia. The diocesan office promotes the call to build peace, raises awareness about the plight of suffering people around the world, and works to foster healing and justice with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal peoples.

Ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal that are “building up the church” include youth ministry, Lay Formation and Aboriginal Lay Formation, the diocesan Resource Centre, Foundations: Exploring Our Faith Together programs, diocesan communications, vocations promotion and the education of priests and future priests. The Appeal also supports Christian Initiation and Catechetics, which assists parishes as they bring people of all ages to life-long faith and discipleship through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

### Other reports

Administration Day continued with presentations from Muenster Engaged Encounter, Farmland Legacies, the Evangelical-Roman Catholic Dialogue, the diocesan Office of Migration, and the Diocesan Council of Truth and Reconciliation, as well as a session on regulations related to charitable giving. There was also an update on the permanent diaconate process (see article on front page).

The day concluded with remarks from the bishop, including an invitation for parishes to participate in the upcoming Year of Mercy, which begins on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8.



### Summertime welcome

Four priests from Africa were welcomed to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon at a Eucharistic celebration June 21 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon: (left to right) Fr. Francis Akomeah and Fr. Anthony Atter of Ghana, Bishop Donald Bolen, Fr. Charles Nweze of Nigeria, and Fr. Augustine Osei-Bonsu of Ghana. The bishop was joined by several priests of the diocese in celebrating the Mass of welcome, including Fr. Richard Doll, OMI (serving as pastor in Vanscoy and Asquith). Later in June, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Murhumwa of Congo also arrived, to serve as pastor of Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens, the Francophone parish in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

With funding from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, this newsletter is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

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# Refugee outreach in diocese

(Continued from Front Page)

Three congregations in the city – Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens, St. Anne Catholic Parish and Resurrection Lutheran Church – are working together on a Syrian refugee sponsorship. Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Philip and Holy Spirit parishes are also involved in Syrian sponsorship cases, Zyla reported. St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church is planning to get started on a Syrian sponsorship as well, reported Zyla.

Many of these parishes – along with St. Mary, Holy Resurrection Orthodox, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox, St. Augustine, St. Francis, St. Joseph, and St. Patrick parishes in Saskatoon – have sponsorships from other countries as well.

In addition to the recently-arrived family from Syria, St. Philip Neri parish has welcomed two refugees fleeing religious persecution in Pakistan, and are waiting for four other family members to join them, all sponsored by the Saskatoon parish.

“Holy Spirit is trying to bring a family of four from Syria (currently living in Lebanon), and they also have a sponsorship underway to bring a young Syrian couple here to join their childhood friend who is acting as the co-sponsor. Our Lady of Lourdes is working with a local crop scientist who has family members in Kurdistan,” Zyla described.

In a recent report to parishioners,

the Holy Spirit refugee committee wrote: “In the fall of 2014, when the federal government indicated that they would ‘fast-track’ the Syrian refugee applications, Holy Spirit Refugee Committee submitted an application for a family of four. This family is currently living in Lebanon. It was suggested that the family could be here within six months. Currently, we do not have any indication as to when they will arrive.”

The parish also applied in June 2015 to sponsor a young couple from Syria. “The plight of all refugees is ongoing,” the report continued. “We learned that the younger brother of another man we agreed to co-sponsor (has) died along with 900 others, mostly Eritreans, trying to cross the Mediterranean in the spring of this year.”

Holy Spirit refugee committee is also waiting for ten other individuals they are co-sponsoring. In June they welcomed two couples who had been waiting about five years to reach Saskatoon.

“The long wait times that you have been hearing about on the news are very much the reality, although we have been told that there are plans to increase the number of visa officers working on the overseas files, which should make things faster,” Zyla said. “The wait times are frustrating – as is the lack of information on each family’s process – but if a parish does decide to take on a sponsorship there’s a lot they can do while they are waiting.

That includes getting a committee together who are ready to do the work, finding out what agencies in the city are there to help, where to go for language classes – all of those things that the parish volunteers will need to do once the arrival happens.”

Sponsoring groups can often get in touch with the refugees overseas, before they arrive, she noted. “They can start building that relationship of friendship that is truly the best part of the sponsorship experience.”

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) – one of about 95 across Canada. “My job in the Office of Migration is to coordinate the work, handle the paperwork, keep track of the numbers, monitor the arrivals, make sure everything is running smoothly,” described Zyla.

As a SAH, the diocese must ensure that the numbers of applications do not exceed the allocations permitted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and that the Constituent Group (parish or organization) has the means to fully support the refugee for a period of 12 months, since privately sponsored refugees do not have access to government support.

“A sponsoring parish or group can count on spending about \$30,000 (for a family of four), but it could be more if there are unforeseen things, or it could be less if the family gets on their feet fairly quickly, which a lot of them do,” Zyla said. Entering into a private sponsorship is a legal



**Archbishop from Iraq visits Saskatoon**  
Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis, OP, Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah in Iraq, visited Saskatoon this summer. On a visit to the diocesan cathedral are (left to right) the archbishop's nephew Nabil Haskil of Saskatoon, Fr. Sabah Kamora of Sacred Heart Chaldean, the Archbishop, and his niece Najlaa Haskil of Saskatoon. During his visit, the archbishop spoke about the challenges facing Christians in Iraq, as well as the situation of Chaldean Catholics around the world. See the article at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news) - Photo by K. Yaworski

commitment to support the family for a year, which includes “weathering all the storms of culture shock, and settling into a new country.”

Parishes that can’t manage to undertake a sponsorship themselves might consider assisting those parishes in the diocese that are actively involved in a sponsorship, she suggested. “Really, it is the volunteers who do the tremendous amount of work that is happening in our diocese. The volunteers in the parishes are absolutely amazing,” said Zyla.

A training session for those interested in sponsorship was held Oct. 17 in Saskatoon, co-hosted by the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon and the Mennonite Central Committee. About 50 people attended, many of them new to sponsorship.

The bishops of Canada have endorsed a joint fundraising campaign to assist Syrian refugees, encouraging donations to Development and Peace, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), which have all been actively assisting refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries.

“The Catholic community, and in fact, the broader community within and beyond the diocese, is demonstrating a tremendous outpouring of compassion and care for those who are suffering,” said Zyla.

“There are sincere efforts underway to find ways to work in opposition to what Pope Francis calls ‘the globalization of indifference.’ What we need, instead, is the ‘globalization of hope’.”

## Saskatchewan bishops issue pastoral letter about assisted suicide

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A pastoral letter about the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia was released this summer by the five Catholic bishops serving in Saskatchewan.

The Supreme Court of Canada overturned existing laws against assisted suicide in a Feb. 6, 2015 ruling, giving Parliament one year to write a new law.

“At this critical moment in our nation’s history, our faith in Jesus Christ impels us – as the Catholic bishops exercising ministry in Saskatchewan – to reach out to Catholics and invite all to focus attention on the vital issue of legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia,” begins the letter signed by Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina, Bishop Albert Thévenot of Prince Albert, Bishop Don Bolen of Saskatoon, Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas, and Bishop Bryan Bayda, Eparchial bishop of Saskatchewan.

“This is of grave concern to all of us. In particular, we must consider how this decision will impact the most vulnerable among us – including our elderly, those who are dying, and our sisters and brothers who live with disabilities or mental illness,” wrote the bishops in the July 13 letter circulated to parishes across the province.

“We also face threats to freedom of conscience and religion, particularly for medical professionals who may be pressured to act against their calling as healers,” continued the pastoral letter, which urges individual Catholics to take action on the issue.

“We encourage the Catholic

faithful and all Canadians to respond courageously to the challenges posed by the Supreme Court’s ruling, by raising their voices in defense of the life and the human dignity of all persons, especially the most vulnerable. As Saint John Paul II exhorted us, ‘Be not afraid!’”

The bishops’ suggestions included urging the federal government to ensure that new legislation on assisted suicide is as restrictive as possible; asking governments and professional associations to ensure that freedom of conscience will be respected for all health-care professionals who do not accept killing as a solution to pain and suffering; supporting Catholic physicians, nurses, health professionals and administrators as they stand up for their faith in the face of changing circumstances and new demands; and pressing for improved access to palliative care, including proper pain and symptom management.

“Instead of hastening death for Canadians who are ill or dying, we must support them with high quality palliative care,” wrote the bishops.

Followers of Christ are called to serve the vulnerable and the voiceless, affirmed the Saskatchewan bishops. “Exercising our responsibility as Christians to act on our concerns about these vitally important matters will encourage the development of health and social policies that are consistent with social justice teachings,” states their letter.

“We affirm with deep gratitude and encourage with genuine care all

who work to uphold the value of human life and dignity from conception to natural death,” write the bishops.

“All human life deserves respect and protection. We share a common responsibility to serve the sick and the aged, not only by attending to

physical illnesses, but also by caring for the well-being of the whole person, in imitation of Christ the Healer.”

## Policy limiting conscientious objection adopted by College of Physicians and Surgeons of Sask.

By MARY DEUTSCHER

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) has passed a controversial policy on conscientious objection. The policy passed by a vote of 9 in favour, 3 against, with 3 abstentions at a Sept. 18 council meeting, despite having received criticism from a number of groups.

One council member warned that the policy as passed will put good physicians in jeopardy, and that the council should anticipate physicians being brought forward for disciplinary action.

Saskatoon physician Dr. Sheila Harding expressed concern about patient welfare under the new policy. “I am deeply dismayed by this policy,” Harding said. “It requires that, in some circumstances, doctors must intentionally harm our patients or risk discipline by our provincial regulatory authority.”

The Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada (CMDS) is consulting its legal team to determine whether it will begin a legal application similar to the one that was begun against a conscientious objection policy in Ontario earlier this year.

Concerns regarding the policy have centered on two main areas. First, the ambiguous wording in the requirement that physicians “make arrangements” for their patients to access treatments that the physician finds morally objectionable. Second, the requirement that physicians provide treatment when it “must be provided within a limited time to be effective and it is not reasonably possible to arrange for another physician or healthcare provider to provide that treatment.” This could potentially include, for example, the chemical abortion pill RU-486, which was approved by Health Canada this summer for use in first trimester pregnancies.

Much of the discussion around previous drafts of the policy concerned the moral implications of making a

formal referral. Most physicians who exercise a moral objection to procedures, such as sex-selective abortion, are willing to provide patients with information on how to legally access the procedure, but are not willing to be directly involved by providing a referral.

As Cardinal Thomas Collins explained in his March 24 letter concerning a similar policy in Ontario, “by insisting they provide an effective referral on [matters of conscience], in essence, the physician is being asked to serve as an accomplice in the procedure.”

Although the new policy specifically states that it does not apply to “physician-assisted dying,” concerns were raised at the council meeting that the policy could be applied to euthanasia and assisted suicide in the future. At the same meeting, the CPSS Council began a public consultation on another document entitled Physician-Assisted Dying Draft Guidance Document (for which the public consultation ended Oct. 20).

The guidance document was drafted by a subcommittee of the CPSS, and is meant to guide physicians regarding assessment of the criteria outline by the Supreme Court of Canada in the landmark Feb. 6, 2015 Carter decision that decriminalized euthanasia and assisted suicide. The document does not provide clinical guidelines for performing these practices.

Regarding conscientious objection by physicians, the Physician-Assisted Dying Draft Guidance Document states that it “does not address the extent to which individual physicians may be expected to ensure that patients seeking information about physician-assisted dying receive that information or the extent to which physicians may be required to refer patients to another provider if the physician is unwilling to provide physician-assisted dying.”

It goes on to say that within the CMA Code of Ethics, “physicians can follow their conscience when deciding whether or not to provide physician-assisted dying.”

# Foundations series examines Pope Francis’ encyclical about care for our common home

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

“Pope Francis’ Vision on Care for Our Common Home” was explored during a recent Cathedral Series presented at St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon by Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, and Dr. Chris Hrynkow.

Released earlier this year, the papal encyclical *Laudato Si’* (or “Praise be”) presents a clear social teaching on the environment, challenging human beings to see themselves in an intertwined relationship involving self, neighbour, creation and God, the speakers said during the introductory session of the three-evening series, organized through the diocesan Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* program.

“I love the fact that Pope Francis uses the term ‘our common home,’” said Schachtel, a facilitator with a background in culture and spirituality. “He helps us to realize that we are kin ... and every part is necessary to the whole.” And as with a family home, there are some rules for our common home the earth, she added: “take only your share”, “clean up after yourself”, and “keep your home in good repair for future generations.”

Readable, invitational and situated within Catholic Social Teaching, Pope Francis’ encyclical is a call to conversion and to action in caring for the environment and for the poor, said Hrynkow, an assistant professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at St. Thomas More College.


“It is a strong wake up call to bear witness to all the negative effects of social and ecological degradation adversely affecting people and the planet,” said Hrynkow.

It is a call to justice, identifying a “grave social debt towards the poor,” who are neglected in a global system of over-consumption by some, at the expense of others, he added.

“As Catholics we are called to wrestle with this document with an informed conscience.” *Laudato Si’* repeats teachings that were also highlighted by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, but Pope Francis’ style is now providing an “amplification” of the call to care for the earth, Hrynkow said. Pope Francis’ earlier apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* also previewed these concerns, saying “The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters.”

The series included time for discussion about the challenges of the document, and a look at the practical implications of Pope Francis’ call to heal broken relationships with the earth and our brothers and sisters.

*Find info on other Foundations programs at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/foundations](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/foundations)*



**Dr. Chris Hrynkow and Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, explored *Laudato Si’* in three sessions.**

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

## Farmland Legacies: sustainable farming and care for the poor

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

The work of Farmland Legacies was highlighted at a recent Administration Day in the Roman Catholic Diocese Saskatoon – with a focus on a project to provide sustainably-raised, high-quality beef to Saskatchewan food banks.

At the gathering of parish and ministry leaders Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Duane Guina, executive director of the non-profit organization based on a farm in the Wynyard area, spoke about the importance of sustainable agriculture and just food systems, as well as relating the history of Farmland Legacies and the impact of the “Legacy of One” project.

“As soon as we have accepted the right to life, well what sustains life? First of all, it is food. ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food’ – that’s a basic Catholic social teaching,” said Guina.

“In his recent encyclical *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis made the connection between current agricultural practices, such as water contamination and deforestation, but also to unjust structures in the food system, which can be unfairly stacked against the interests of rural communities and the common good,” said Guina.

Started by the Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan back in 1998 as a response to the agricultural crisis that was happening in the province at the time, Farmland Legacies holds farmland in trust, links land with farmers and works with other organizations to promote and communicate sustainable values and practices, which also enhance community life. The non-profit organization envisions “a healthy mix of farms and food”, in a landscape with balanced soils and healthy ecosystems, that is home to farmers of all ages, with diverse farm interests, and with market influence shared by many.

“How we farm has a considerable impact on everything around us, from human nutrition and opportunities for fulfilling work, to the well-being of our waters and forests and ecosystems,” Guina said.

Guina then pointed to a project related to poverty and those using food banks and the Friendship Inn. As part of this Legacy of One program, donors contribute funds to Farmland Legacies that go toward raising quality beef to provide a much-needed source of protein to Saskatchewan food banks, which are serving some 10,000 people a month.

“Good quality protein, such as something like a basic hamburger that most of us take for granted, seldom arrives in those food hamper baskets that go out to people,” he said. “For as little as \$1 a serving we can provide top-quality, grass-fed, finished beef off of our farm,” he said. “It skips a lot of middle people in the process, and shortens the distance from farm to table, which is also good for the environment.”

A small family business processes the meat raised for the program. “It is provincially inspected; it is a safe, high quality product,” Guina described.

The Legacy of One program is based on the simple principal that everybody can do a little, Guina said.

“Everybody has the power to make a difference, no matter how small. And together, many small things make big things possible.”

Launched in the fall of 2014, the program has now delivered 20,000 servings of beef to Saskatchewan food banks.

“This year we hope to do 30,000, and we are hoping for 50,000 next year, and the year after that 100,000 – and that, believe me, would still not put a serving of protein on everyone’s plate,” he said.

“It is staggering when we look at what poverty and hunger is around our province.”

It takes time to produce a serving of good, high-quality beef, he noted. “It’s nearly a three-year process. So it is critical to us to get that support ahead of time.”

Over 50 animals were born this year, but if the program does not acquire sponsorship for them, in time the animals will not be able to be held back for the project.

“It will be as fast as the Spirit lets it unfold,” said Guina, describing the effort as “grassroots faith in action.”

He urged those interested to check out the organization website at [www.farmlandlegacies.org](http://www.farmlandlegacies.org)



Duane Guina



Farmland Legacies is seeking donations to assist in providing beef to food banks.

- Submitted photo

## Rogal provides overview of papal encyclical on care of environment

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

At this year’s diocesan Administration Day, Myron Rogal of the Justice and Peace Office for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon provided an overview of the recent *Laudato Si’* encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis and the call to care for our common home.

“The spirit in which *Laudato Si’* was written is one of dialogue, an entry point for Catholics into the discussion and it is a reminder that we do live in a small world after all,” said Rogal. “Caring for the environment is no longer optional for people of faith.”

A movement from independence to inter-connectedness and inter-dependence with all of creation is one theme of the new encyclical, he noted. “Pope Francis references Pope Benedict XVI in saying that every economic choice has a moral consequence,” said Rogal. “When we are looking at our lives, we can no longer compartmentalize.”

It is a call to be set free from materialistic tendencies and consumerism. “This is calling us to our true nature of authentic human freedom.” One of the unique features of the encyclical is how it questions the concept of economic growth, Rogal noted. “Is growth always a good thing?”

The new papal encyclical has a sense of urgency, and quotes others broadly, including international accords, research papers, and individuals from other faith traditions, Rogal pointed out.

Over and over again, *Laudato Si’* stresses that poverty and the environment are intrinsically connected, he said. “Without focusing our attention on both of those issues... we won’t find a solution to either.”

Justice & Peace is supported by the



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Walk for Life

An annual Walk for Life in Saskatoon Sept. 26 once again included many family groups and youth walking from the Vimy Memorial Bandshell to College Drive and back. The walk is the main fundraising activity for Alliance For Life, which operates a local resource centre of educational materials about life issues. See: [www.allianceforlifesaskatoon.ca](http://www.allianceforlifesaskatoon.ca)

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

## Life Chain held in three locations across diocese

**BY DENISE HOUNJET-ROTH**

The annual Life Chain was held Oct. 4 at the corner of Idylwyld and 22nd Street in Saskatoon.

Some 116 people gathered from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. to witness to the sanctity of human life. Present were two priests from the diocese of Saskatoon, Fr. Phong Pham and Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor. The response from those driving by was generally positive.

Other Life Chains held in the diocese included one in Humboldt and another in Unity, where it was a joint effort of the Baptist and Catholic Churches with both Pastor Ron Rutley and Fr. Greg Roth in attendance.

Life Chain takes place on the first Sunday in October throughout North America. In Saskatchewan, approximately 10 cities/towns take part in Life Chain. It has always been a peaceful and prayerful event.

In Saskatoon, 40 Hours For Life was held from Sept. 23 to Nov. 1 this year. Every day, for 40 days, people gathered in front of Saskatoon City Hospital to pray for an end to abortion.

From Monday to Friday, the vigil took place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, with a focus on offering help to those who may be scheduled for an abortion or in giving help to those who have already had an abortion. Every day the vigil was also held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., with all welcome to join in prayer to end abortion.

As one of the signs carried by participants says: “A pregnant woman needs support and not abortion.”

## Justice and Peace

### **“A Church Seeking Justice”**

**Excerpts from text boxes on Canadian issues:**

#### **The Voices of Our Sisters**

Between 1980 and 2012, 1,017 Indigenous women and girls in Canada were murdered and 164 were designated as missing and never found. We can no longer be indifferent to the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. We need to open our hearts to the pain and suffering of Indigenous families and communities. Remembering together, mourning together and working together, we can make a difference. How can we as parishes and dioceses stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and all Canadians in the effort to put an end to violence against women and girls?

#### **Assisted Suicide**

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to strike down our laws against assisted suicide presents an urgent and immediate challenge. The unanimous decision of the nine justices will entrench the idea that some lives are not worthy of living and will devalue the lives of our elders and persons who live with a disability, mental illness, depression or dementia. How can we as a society prevent seriously ill patients from feeling pressured to accept death as a cost-saving measure? How can we protect the dignity and conscience rights of physicians and other health professionals who may be expected to participate in the intentional killing of their patients?

#### **Refugee Sponsorship in Canada**

The United Nations reported that at the end of 2014, the number of people displaced by wars, conflict and persecution had reached 59.5 million – the highest level ever recorded.(1) Over 10,380 asylum seekers came to Canada in 2013 and made a refugee claim. Churches help settle many refugees in Canada, but worry about long processing times and government cuts to health coverage for some refugees. Should Canada accept more refugees? Should your church community? What could speed up processing, better ensure health coverage and facilitate refugee integration in your community?

(1) UNHCR, 18 June 2015. <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

#### **Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada**

Over 33,000 companies and agencies have applied to the federal temporary foreign worker program in Canada, causing the program to triple to 338,189 workers in the last decade. Temporary foreign workers do not just work on farms or in fast-food restaurants: they work for the country's chartered banks, biggest telecomm firms and even government departments. What number of temporary foreign workers should Canada accept? Are there good reasons why temporary foreign workers should not receive full provincial health coverage?

#### **Poverty**

Canada is a wealthy country, yet has an ever-widening gap between rich and poor. 4.8 million Canadians live in poverty, including 1 million children. In 1989, all parliamentarians committed to ending child poverty in Canada. Today, 1 in 7 children lives this reality, with 4 in 10 Indigenous children living in poverty. Current levels of poverty cost us billions of dollars in terms of increased health and social services costs and severely damage the fabric of our society as a whole. Why does a wealthy country like Canada not dedicate more of its resources to reducing poverty? Provinces like Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador have adopted poverty reduction plans; should we not have a national poverty reduction strategy?

#### **Canada and Peacemaking**

Canada has an honourable record as a peacemaker. Since 1956 over 125,000 troops have served on peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations. In recent years, however, and despite the great need for peacemaking in troubled areas of the world, Canada's contribution to international peacemaking and peacekeeping has been greatly reduced. At present, only 132 Canadians are serving on peacekeeping missions. This contrasts sharply with an increasing and expensive Canadian military involvement in conflicts in Afghanistan and the Middle East. What role ought Canada to play in ensuring that the world is a safe and peaceful place for future generations?

#### **Economic Success?**

The usual norms applied to determine economic success in Canada fail to capture the reality of day-to-day life for many. This results in the odd situation whereby the economy is apparently doing well but many people are not. Our faith tells us we are judged on how we treat those most in need. Are we willing to do what is necessary to ensure that Canadians living in poverty, Indigenous people and the most vulnerable among us have the same access to education, health and social services as other Canadians?



Bishop Donald Bolen (right) presents a CCCB document marking the 50th anniversary of the Decree on Ecumenism to Pope Francis. The CCCB Justice and Peace Commission has just recently released another document, *A Church Seeking Justice: The Challenge of Pope Francis to the Church in Canada*.

- Photo by L'Osservatore Romano

## **New “Church Seeking Justice” document examines range of justice and peace issues in Canada in light of Pope Francis’ teachings**

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

A new resource from the bishops of Canada highlights a number of serious justice and peace concerns facing this country, using the lens of Pope Francis’ teachings.

*A Church Seeking Justice: The Challenge of Pope Francis to the Church in Canada* was released Sept. 3 by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

“It’s the kind of document that is well read before, during, and after an election campaign, because it addresses issues that are abiding,” says Bishop Donald Bolen of Saskatoon, chair of the CCCB commission for justice and peace.

Text boxes throughout the 20-page resource (*see excerpts, left*) reflect upon missing and murdered indigenous women, assisted suicide, refugee sponsorship, temporary foreign workers, income and salary disparities, youth and indigenous unemployment, arms sales, Canada’s peacekeeping role, Canadian mining companies abroad, inequality and solidarity, poverty and the environment.

The main body of the document explores Catholic social teachings that Pope Francis has highlighted in an immediate and personal way throughout his pontificate.

“From the very beginning of Pope Francis’ pontificate, justice and peace has been at the forefront of his teaching,” says Bolen, noting the pope’s words to journalists shortly after his election in March 2013: “How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!”

Appointed to the CCCB justice and peace commission in his second year as bishop, Bolen was named chair of the commission a year ago. “It has been a beautiful but a demanding thing to be mandated by the bishop’s conference to address

justice and peace issues, in the midst of Pope Francis’ pontificate,” he admits.

At first, Bolen tried to read everything Pope Francis said about justice and peace issues, but found that he couldn’t keep up. “Hopefully this document will help all of us to keep up with the central themes that Pope Francis has been addressing.”

The pope speaks as someone who has experienced the internal conflicts, significant political crisis and widespread poverty of his home country in South America.

When the body of Christ suffers in any part of the world, we all suffer, notes Bolen. “And through our political and economic practices and institutions, we are directly implicated in the structural inequality affecting the developing world, which keeps some people poor and allows wealth to be concentrated in others,” he adds.

“There are also many people in this country who deal with injustice and unnecessary suffering in many ways. In this text then, we are eager to invite a conversation to take place between Pope Francis and our experience here in Canada.”

The challenge posed by the document is a gospel challenge, stresses Myron Rogal, the coordinator of the Justice and Peace Office in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

“*A Church Seeking Justice* is a signpost which crystalizes the reality of our Canadian story by pointing to areas in need of healing with a sense of urgency and hope in Christ,” says Rogal.

The document points to the breadth of Catholic social teaching, says Bolen. “It highlights that justice and charity go hand in hand, but the gospel response is never just one or the other – it is always both.”

“The world needs something

more from us than a few sporadic acts of generosity,” states the document in Paragraph 4. “(Pope Francis) calls us to promote the integral development of the poor, working for access to education, health care, employment with a just wage, and on another level, working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty, yet without overlooking the small daily acts of solidarity which meet real needs of those we encounter. Above all, he asks that we not water down the Gospel message, which is so clear and direct, simple and eloquent. By his words and his actions, Jesus summons us forcefully to humble and generous service, to justice and mercy towards the poor.”

“It is about the way we live our lives, the way we participate in society, the decisions we make with our free time, the social and charitable activities we’re engaged in, the way we shop, the way we invest time and resources, the issues we speak out on, and the way we help mold our faith communities,” says Bolen.

“Jesus’ ministry was a constant outreach to those on the margins of society, those in need. He not only reached out to them to draw them into the life of the community, to draw them into God’s mercy, to assure them they were loved by God, he also identified directly with them, saying ‘whatever you do to these, you do to me.’”

Bolen hopes that the resource will be used in parishes and by social justice groups, in schools and families. “It will also be a key resource that we will turn to as a diocese, as we continue to develop a planned Justice and Outreach Year of Formation.”

The document is available on the [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca) website or call (306) 659-5851 for information.

# Graduates reflect on transformative experience, joys of Lay Formation

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Reflecting on their experience in the Lay Formation program, three recent graduates expressed thanksgiving for the blessings of community and the faith enrichment they experienced.

Thirteen participants from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon and 16 from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon were blessed, anointed and sent forth by Bishops Bryan Bayda and Donald Bolen in celebrations June 6 and 7 in Saskatoon (see article next page).

“One of the things that I realized over the past two years was how much I needed to know and how

much I wanted to know,” said Iris Owchar, an eparchial Lay Formation graduate from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in Saskatoon.

“The more I came, the more I looked forward to coming,” she said of the Lay Formation program, which is offered as a live-in experience in Saskatoon, held one weekend a month from September to June over two years.

“We could come here and we could just rest in the arms of the Lord,” she said. “I just felt this incredible warmth and encirclement, and the Holy Spirit just moving through me. It’s just been a wonderful experience in many, many facets.”

Learning, prayer and community life are all part of the transformative experience of Lay Formation.

“I’ve grown in my faith, I certainly pray more.... I think I learned that: every moment of every day is a prayer, and you can thank God for that moment, at that time you don’t have to wait until the end of the day to do it.”

As a result of her Lay Formation experience, Iris says she has a new confidence that has her watching out for where she can best serve God and others. She is also more comfortable in sharing faith and trying to offer a quiet example to her grown children, she said,

recommending the program to all who are seeking growth or healing. “It’s a personal journey, it’s something from within.”

Gerard and Lynn Onushko, parishioners at the Cathedral of the Holy Family who have been married for 36 years, joined the diocesan Lay Formation program at the strong invitation of fellow parishioner and program coordinator Mona Goodman.

Gerard had a strong desire to undertake the faith enrichment program as a couple. “I said to Lynn, ‘I’m not taking it without you. I don’t want to go behind or ahead of you, separate, I want us to go together’ – and it’s been beautiful.”

At first Lynn struggled with the program, finding herself feeling uncertain about the unknowns. Persevering through the first weekends, she found herself relaxing and building connections with others in the program – and recognizing the hand of God in all that was happening.

“It is a gentle stirring within you and it will just guide you along,” said Lynn. “And it is gentle. When people say: ‘Listen to the voice of God,’ well I’m expecting cymbals ... (but) it can just be gentle.”

Gerard, who grew up in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, was delighted that he shared his diocesan Lay Formation journey



Lynn and Gerard Onushko were sent forth from the diocesan Lay Formation program in June, after two years of deepening their prayer life, their understanding of the faith, and their sense of community.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

with a stream from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. “It was an amazing journey, it brought back a lot of memories and a lot of tears,” he said. “When they weren’t with us, when we had our separate sessions, I really missed them.”

Lynn joined the Catholic Church as an adult, taking part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and Lay Formation was another step in her faith journey.

She was inspired by the dedication and commitment of those in the program – especially among those who travel hours each month to get there. Her own faith has moved beyond just Sunday Mass, Lynn said.

“It’s a big commitment, two years, one weekend a month. But if you are on a lifelong journey, with the Lord, this is a very small commitment,” said Gerard.

Thinking of it as 20 weekends rather than two years helps in tackling the commitment, added

Lynn. “The more you get involved, it’s the relationships that you build, it’s the people you are connecting with, and touching, and they’re touching you,” said Lynn.

The Onushkos also stressed the excellence of the presenters, facilitators and educators who help to lead the program and who provided a “wealth of knowledge.”

As for anyone who might be thinking of Lay Formation, but hesitating, Gerard has this advice: “Go in faith, just go. You will not be sorry, I guarantee that.”

Lynn added that the decision to take Lay Formation has to happen at the right moment in a person’s life. “Also we say, ‘I’m so busy,’ but you have to evaluate too: what am I busy doing?”

For more information see the Diocese of Saskatoon website at [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com) or call the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon at (306) 242-1500.



Lay Formation 2015 graduate Iris Owchar was part of the eparchial stream.

## Lay Formation: Deb Rolfes and love of scripture

By MONA GOODMAN

Israel – the land and the people, our roots and our foundation, the covenantal relationship established with God’s chosen people – is a grounding rod for Deb Rolfes. “Israel was called to become a faithful community,” says Deb, and she is part of that fabric.

Debora Rolfes lives in Saskatoon, teaches at the University of Saskatchewan in the faculty of Engineering, and is married to Matt. They have two children – Hanna (Hannah – to be gracious, to implore – mom to Samuel) and Benjamin (thirteenth and youngest son of Jacob, his second son with Rachel – Joseph was the first – Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin). The names of Deb’s children, whether consciously or not, portray Deb’s deep desire to be one of God’s chosen people.

Deb was part of a moms’ group at St. Philip Neri parish, which read and discussed faith books while the kids played together. It was here where a thirst for more began. She wasn’t sure what she was seeking, but her pastor invited her to take Lay Formation in 2000. The Lay Formation Program represented the diversity of the Catholic Church, and respect for the Church grew from that experience. In Deb’s first year, Arlene Boulanger was the scripture teacher, and Deb fell in love with scripture and the way Arlene wove it into everyday life. Deb knew then that she wanted to be a scripture teacher. When Arlene said she was going to take some time off to get a degree at Emmanuel St. Chad, an Anglican seminary that is part of the Saskatoon Theological Union at the University of Saskatchewan, Deb decided to do that too.

Deb’s faith grew in increments, yet it was

### Lay Formation Alumni Profile

Deb Rolfes

St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon

Missioning Year: 2002

always in one direction – deepening her relationship with God in the Catholic Church. An appreciation of other religions was cultivated, yet there was a call to move more deeply into God’s covenantal relationship of the Old Testament. Like ādām who was formed out of dāmā (ground or land), Deb says she feels the same birthing process within. Her longing and connection to Israel is visceral.

Deb completed her Masters of Theological Studies in 2006 while working full-time. In 2007, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon sent a group of people to study in Israel for a month. Deb was part of the Christians Studying Scripture group. They toured Israel, gained an appreciation of the geography, and studied Exodus under several different Rabbis.

This experience cemented her love of scripture, particularly the Old Testament within a Jewish perspective. “These are the people who were engaged at an early stage of looking at the sky and wondering if there is a God. They wondered and wrote it down...very humble, very real.”

Deb Rolfes began teaching for the Lay Formation Program in 2006, when she took over for Arlene and taught “Egypt to the Promised Land.” Deb states: “I have a passion for scripture. Someone left us a love letter and we don’t read it! It’s such a privilege to come in and introduce people to scripture.”

Together, Darcie Lich and Deb teach



Lay Formation coordinator Mona Goodman (left) with Lay Formation graduate, facilitator and tour leader, Deb Rolfes, whose passion is scripture.

- Submitted photo

Israel, a foundational human history piece. “How did they get here? What were their journeys like? We need to know these as our own stories,” says Deb.

In 2011, Deb provided scripture guidance on a tour of the Holy Land with Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism. She knew she was on holy ground when she stepped on the land. God’s fidelity, steadfast love, and ‘hesedness’ rose up and enveloped her whole



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being. Israel is her spiritual home, a place that evokes a deep sense of belonging, a place that is familiar.

For Deb Rolfes, Israel’s covenantal promise – “You shall be my People, and I will be your God” – calls all of us to a place of fulfillment, a place for settlement and rest (Josh 1:13); we are home. Israel is stewardship, exile, and restoration reflecting the Paschal Mystery in our own lives. A deep sense of pure joy emanates from Deb when she speaks about Israel. The land emits God’s heartbeat, and that intimate connection grounds her heart.

Several years ago, Deb was approached about leading a group of Lay Formation Alumni to the Holy Land. Her passion for the Holy Land and her ability to kindle a love of the Old Testament and scripture for the participants in the Lay Formation program made Deb a perfect fit. After a time of discernment, she said yes and put together an itinerary, leading her first group to the Holy Land and Jordan in May 2015. She is planning another trip to the Holy Land in May 2017 between the Lay Formation weekends. There is room for 20 people.

For more information contact Deb at [drolfes@sasktel.net](mailto:drolfes@sasktel.net)

# Bishops send forth Lay Formation graduates

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

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

The purpose of the Lay Formation program is to help adult Catholics fulfill their baptismal commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, through a process of formation and faith education.

The program emphasizes spiritual growth and personal transformation, as participants deepen their relationship with God, expand their prayer life, learn more about the Catholic faith and experience Christian community during a live-in experience held at Queen's House of Retreats one weekend a month, from September to June, over two years. Some 850 participants have graduated from the program since it started in 1987.

Participants in three streams of Lay Formation now journey through the program in alternating years: a diocesan Latin-rite stream, an eparchial Byzantine-rite stream and

an Aboriginal Catholic stream. Each year, groups spend time together in formation, in prayer and as a community, as well as gathering in their individual "streams," focusing on their own traditions and spirituality.

Thirteen eparchial graduates from across the province were sent forth June 6 by Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR.

Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki, SSMI, introduced the graduates at the missioning celebration held at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Saskatoon. In his homily, Bayda reflected on the meaning of mission.

The next day, diocesan Bishop Don Bolen sent forth 16 Lay Formation graduates from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in a missioning celebration on the Feast of Corpus Christi June 7 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. He was joined at the altar by Bishop Bayda, Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee, and other priests from across the diocese.

The diocesan celebration included turning to the four directions during the Great Amen, and taking the collection in a Star Blanket. The collection went toward



Diocesan and eparchial Lay Formation graduates of the class of 2015 gather with team members and two bishops at the diocesan missioning celebration at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

the Steven Ballantyne Bursary Fund, established to assist Aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation participants in attending the program.

In both eparchial and diocesan celebrations, participants renewed their baptismal promises, holding a lit candle, and then were anointed by their bishop.

Diocesan team members Kate O'Gorman and Mona Goodman opened the diocesan missioning celebration. "With great joy and grateful hearts we gather as church and together we recognize and give thanks to God for this work that God has begun in these holy people," said O'Gorman.

Bolen urged the Lay Formation

graduates to also recognize the broken Body of Christ in the poor and the suffering.

"You are going forth into the world as people who have been fashioned ever-more-deeply as disciples. We believe that you are going forth with joy, we believe that you are going forth with hearts ready to serve," said Bolen. "Live deeply, fully and in joy, even in the giving of yourselves, even in being broken for others."

The 2015 Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Lay Formation graduates were: **Barbara Bodnarchuk, Iris Owchar, Amy Rybinski, David**

**Rybinski, Shelley Sadoway, Kalyn Smith and Mitchell Smith** of Saskatoon, **Geraldine Koban** of Yorkton, **Rose Mydynski** of Vesna, and **Shelley Kuzyk, Eugene Stychyshyn, Tyler Woloshyn and Lubomyra Zorniak** of Regina.

This year's diocesan graduates were: **Renee Achtmichuk and Laurie Bourgeois** of Wadena; **Marie Dewald** of Denzil; **Monica Purnama** of Humboldt; and **Marissa Alarcon, Ruel Alarcon, Colette Chantler, Jean Flad, June Gorgchuk, Opal Hamel, Agnes Helmink, Douglas Mills, Carrie Mills, Gerard Onushko, Lynn Onushko and Elizabeth Wojnakowski** of Saskatoon.

## At 90, Elizabeth Kokotailo continues to serve her beloved, long-time parish of St. John Bosco

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

One of the blessings of parish life across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is found in the faithful hearts and willing hands of those long-time members who work year-after-year to support their faith community, providing ministry, service, friendship and outreach.

At St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon, 90-year-old Elizabeth Kokotailo has been involved in parish life for nearly 50 years.

A long-time member of St. John Bosco choir, as well as of Parish Pastoral Council and the Catholic Women's League, Elizabeth Kokotailo – affectionately known as Liz – is "the joy of our parish," says fellow parishioner and parish council member Wendy Lang.

"Liz is just an amazing woman — she always has a smile. She is 90 years old and still active on parish council," relates Lang, describing how Liz faithfully provides a written report about the CWL council at every parish council meeting. "She is a big part of the heart of our community."

Still living in the Montgomery neighbourhood home that she and her late husband Walter Kokotailo built in 1964, Liz (née Saretsky) raised six children – four boys and two girls – including a nephew left orphaned after the death of his parents in a car accident in 1967. Liz has 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

When she turned 90 years this May, the St. John Bosco parish community celebrated with her – Fr. Marvin

Lishchynsky called Liz up from the choir for a blessing, and the congregation gave her a standing ovation. A scrapbook of greetings was collected, with family, friends, members of the seniors' club, the school and parish communities writing messages of love and good wishes.

The family began attending St. John Bosco parish even before the church itself was built – Mass was celebrated at the school for a couple of years, Liz recalls.

She has always been involved in the Catholic Women's League at the parish, recently receiving her 50-year pin.

One of her regular commitments includes volunteering when St. John Bosco CWL members take their turn at the CWL Clothing Depot located on the lower level of Saskatoon Friendship Inn on 20th Street.

"We help sort donations, and I'm on sales twice a month," says Liz, noting the importance of the Clothing Depot to those in need. "There are so many poor people...it's a good cause."

She adds with a laugh: "Ladies in the parish will give their donated clothes to me now that they know that I go there all the time – the word has been passed around."

Liz was first recruited for the choir back when they sang from the loft, led by the late Mrs. Beck on piano. Today the choir sings near the front, led by Anita Langford, with all ages participating, and with the addition of instruments such as a violin, clarinet and drum.

"Anita always makes sure that the congregation knows



Elizabeth Kokotailo, 90, continues to serve as an active member of St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon. A scrapbook of birthday greetings from parishioners, friends and family members was presented to her in May.

the song. She stresses that. And I like that too," says Liz, laughing again. "I'm an old timer!"

Liz has served on Parish Pastoral Council at St. John Bosco for many years. "It's so nice on parish council, you get to know the younger people, and the ideas they have for the parish. If it wasn't for those who come in, I don't think St. John's would be here," she says.

Much as she loves serving on Parish Pastoral Council, Liz says she would be happy to step aside in order for somebody else to take it on. "But they always say they don't have time. I try every year," she says – again with a little laugh.

Liz says that she tries to share with others the welcome that she herself feels at St. John Bosco.

"This is a good parish because of every priest we have had, every (parish) life director we've had, and all the people who help. It has to be the parishioners... they are active at our parish, and they work together," says Liz. "That is what makes such a difference. It's never just one person."

The spirit of St. John Bosco parish is what keeps Liz involved. "I am at St. John's because it is actually a community of people who have faith and light. They always show the light," she said.

"St. John's is so welcoming. That's why I stay there. I will never change, because they are my community. St. John Bosco is my community. I'll never stop. People light up, and we join together, and we have fun. That's what keeps me here."



Elizabeth Kokotailo (front, centre) is a long-time member of the choir at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon, where she is also active in the CWL and serves on parish council. - Photos by Kiply Yaworski

# GSCS opening celebration focuses on the “why” of Catholic education

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

“Go Make Disciples” was the theme of an opening celebration for some 2,000 Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) teachers and staff Aug. 28 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Eucharist was celebrated with Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Fr. Sabah Kamora of Sacred Heart Chaldean Church, homilist Fr. Andre Lalach of the Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Dormition of the Blessed Mother of God, and other clergy. Readings and prayers were proclaimed in several languages, including Ukrainian, Aramaic, English, French and Cree.

“Looking around, I am reminded of what a diverse group we are,” said Diane Boyko, GSCS board of education chair. “The readings in the different languages remind me of Pentecost. Here we are, Christ’s followers, gathered together, anticipating a new beginning — the beginning of our school year.”

Boyko stressed the important role of each staff member in the mission of Catholic education, quoting St. Teresa of Avila: “Know that Christ has no hands or feet but

yours.” Boyko added: “You are how God serves the world...you create a nurturing, welcoming environment, an environment in which the seeds that are planted can sprout and flourish.”

Every school year includes challenges, she acknowledged, listing efforts to meet a range of diverse needs and an ongoing struggle to find resources.

Priorities in the coming year will include construction starts on six new Catholic schools. The elementary schools will be built in the communities of Warman and Martensville and in the Saskatoon neighbourhoods of Stonebridge, Rosewood, Hampton Village, and Evergreen, with an anticipated 2017 opening date, Boyko said.

She described board efforts to advocate for education funding, the ongoing and important fund-raising support of the GSCS Foundation, and the work of the school district’s *Together in Faith and Action* Committee to support and enhance service projects and social initiatives, faith formation of staff, and connections between home, school and parish.

“It is in a spirit of humble service, compassion, mercy and forgiveness that our schools in faith walk together towards our common goal of educating children, rooting

them in the Catholic faith and identity, helping them to grow and to think as disciples themselves, so they in turn will reach out and transform the world,” Boyko said.

GSCS Director of Education Greg Chatlain reflected on the “why” of Saskatoon Catholic schools, focusing on the parable of the last judgment from Matthew 25.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta described the gospel in five words, one for each finger: “You did it for me,” Chatlain said. “This, ladies and gentlemen, is our ‘Why’. This is our call, regardless of our role in Catholic education,” he said.

The call to feed the hungry is lived out in Catholic schools in a myriad of ways, such as the extra lunches and clothing provided by teachers out of their own resources to students in need, as well as the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual formation provided each day in schools, Chatlain said.

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” is the call to welcome and accept each and every child unconditionally, he continued. “Unless students feel that welcome and acceptance, very little learning will happen.”

In Catholic education, “I was



**Blessing of school sites**  
Fr. Kevin McGee blessed the sites of six future elementary schools in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools district on Sept. 15, 2015. At each stop, First Nations and Métis Cultural Leader Delvin Kanewiyakiho sang an honour song, and Elder Celia Clennell conducted a First Nations blessing and offered tobacco. Students from the various neighbourhoods provided a scripture reading and led prayer intentions. Expected to open in 2017, the new schools include four in Saskatoon — St. Nicholas, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic schools — as well as Holy Mary Catholic School in Martensville and Holy Trinity Catholic School in Warman.  
- Photo by Derrick Kunz



Colm Leyne, coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was guest speaker at an opening celebration for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools staff.  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

naked and you clothed me,” reflects all that is done to help protect the vulnerable, Chatlain said. “The worst part of my job is receiving reports in my office about suspected or reported abuse of children,” he said, adding that he takes comfort knowing that teachers and staff are there to protect the vulnerable, to be their voice and to walk with them in love, care and respect.

“At those times when you can become dismayed or disillusioned at the cruelty of our society, our call brings us back... renewed and continuing to be that voice, to struggle for peace, to struggle for justice, to struggle for harmony, for change,” Chatlain said.

Living the call of “You did it for me” provides hope to students, families and the community, he added.

“We seek God and we have hope that we will some day rest in the Lord. In the meantime, our

students encounter hope each and every day because of the good in you and in our schools... Through living our call, our students and our families experience real hope.”

Other speakers at the opening celebration were Laurie Karwacki, chair of the GSCS Foundation, and keynote speaker Colm Leyne, coordinator of youth ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The young father of two small children urged GSCS teachers and staff to ground themselves in the real reason for all they do — the love of Jesus Christ.

“The children that you will receive in your schools next week are God’s gift to you,” he said.

“When you know God’s love and mercy, you can give it,” Leyne added.

“When they look in your eyes, will they truly see the light of Christ?”

# St. Thomas More College celebrates start of academic year

By JACQUIE BERG

St. Thomas More College faculty, along with staff, alumni and community members, gathered Sept. 27 to celebrate the start of another academic year.

Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was guest presider at the 2015 STM Academic Mass, joined by Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, Fr. Mark Blom, OMI, and Fr. Andre Lalach.

Many faculty members were attired in their academic gowns, part of a procession entering the chapel. Student representatives, faculty and staff also participated in various roles in the liturgical celebration.

The Mass was also in remembrance of long-time faculty member, Dr. Ernest McCullough, who died in July.

Dr. McCullough inspired students, faculty and staff at STM for 25 years in the department of philosophy and in administrative roles. He was employed at STM from 1968-1993, served as acting principal 1974-75 and was Head of the Philosophy Department 1974-77 and 1983-88.

The year ahead at STM includes a number



St. Thomas More College celebrated the start of the academic year Sept. 27. - Photo by J. Berg

of special events as part of the 2015-16 Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies Lecture Series.

As part of the Creating More Campaign, the *Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies* was established in fall 2012 by St. Thomas More College, to provide intellectual leadership for STM and the broader Catholic

community. Made possible by Leslie and Irene Dubé’s \$1 million endowment to the college, the chair will support scholarship and research related to Catholic teaching and tradition, foster Catholic education, and promote ecumenical dialogue and awareness of other faith traditions.

Offerings in 2015-16 will provide opportunities that bring Catholic tradition into dialogue with contemporary culture, encouraging discussion and contemplation of current concerns. The series runs throughout the academic year and all lectures are open to the public.

Guest speakers and topics for this third year of the series include Kristina Zammit Endrich, *Exploring the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary through Art*; a three-day conference – Restorative Justice: *Building a Culture of Hope* – with numerous guest speakers including Bishop Barry Gordon, Judge Steven Point, Senator Lillian Dyck and Rev. Brian Rude (see article on Page 13); the Keenan Memorial Lecture, with Maria Campbell, OC, speaking on *Reconsidering Reconciliation*; Bishop Kenneth Kearon of Ireland giving a lecture as part of the De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity; a spring mini-conference “*Laudato Si’* on the Prairies”; and a Basilian History lecture presented by Dr. Michael Hayden and Rev. Dr. Ron Griffin, CSB.

Christian Initiation and Catechetics

Exploring Catholic faith through Vacation Bible School in Foam Lake

By Liz Premak

Christ the King Roman Catholic parish and Catholic Women's League hosted a five-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Foam Lake at the end of August — the perfect time to organize one last vibrant and uplifting adventure before the sound of school bells rang.

Some 20 eager participants, ages 4-12, attended the CatChat VBS program with a handful of enthusiastic and dedicated leaders. Together, they discovered God's never-ending love.

The theme for the week was *Training To Be Champions For Christ*.

The children were challenged and engaged in five stations set up for the program, discovering how to be the greatest champion for themselves, for their neighbour and ultimately for God.

Throughout the week, groups heard Bible stories, memorized special scripture verses for each day, and learned about specific saints and their achievements. They were challenged to accomplish different feats of courage to help them on their journey to become

champions for Christ, reporting back to the group the next day.

The faith station instilled the meaning of B.I.B.L.E.:

- B for BLESSING: to be a blessing to God and others,
- I for INSTRUCTION: learning about God and following the Ten Commandments,
- B for BEATITUDES: having the right attitude to pave the way to Heaven,
- L is for LOVE: the first of the Fruits of the Spirit,
- E is for ETERNITY: the victory in heaven.

Other stations included energetic music with inspirational lyrics and choreographed movements that gave everyone a chance to let loose. Some songs were requested repeatedly, evidently hitting home with meaning and enjoyment.

Snack time each day featured colorful and meaningful snacks. Games also complimented the daily themes with a mini-Olympics held on the last day. Emphasis was on the fact that everyone was a winner when running the race for God.

Each participant created many take-home craft projects to share



A collage of faith station activities during the CatChat Vacation Bible School held at Christ the King parish in Foam Lake. - Photos by Liz Premak

with family. Every age group dived in with enthusiasm and the end results were remarkable. Colourful bible covers and banners, sports

bracelets, bookmarks, stained glass votives and keepsake picture frames with group photo, were among the projects energetically worked on.

Mid-week was extra busy with Christ the King pastor Fr. Raphael Vezhaparambil, VC, attending the festivities. He celebrated Mass with the children, complete with inspirational hymns, children's participation, and a heartfelt homily.

Fr. Raphael reminded everyone that God is their very best and most trusted friend and that no matter where they are or what their needs, God is always there for them.

Fr. Raphael also handed out a picture card of Mother Mary to each child.

As the VBS week progressed, each athlete-in-training received a colourful T-shirt, memorabilia and memories of fellowship and learning.

A pizza lunch, sponsored by the local CWL, concluded the week's activities with Fr. Raphael providing ice cream treats.

Organizers found the CatChat Vacation Bible School program to be well mapped out, with the overall consensus being that this adventure was a "total success."

Christ the King parish intends to host another VBS in the upcoming year.

RCIA: liturgy an encounter with Jesus

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Practical insights into how to facilitate liturgy as an encounter with Jesus Christ for those journeying through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) were provided in a workshop June 5-6 in Saskatoon.

Celebrating the Rites of the RCIA in a way that brings conversion and forms disciples was the challenge presented by speakers Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal of TeamRCIA.com, who led discussion, provided strategies and modeled liturgies for participants

from across Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

The event was organized by the Western Conference for the Catechumenate, which was founded in 1990 to provide information and enrichment to parishes about the RCIA, the process by which unbaptized adults are brought into the Catholic Church.

The RCIA path of faith formation includes a parish-centred process of inquiry, as well as growth and catechesis grounded in conversion and the paschal mystery, which is marked along the way by

liturgical rites of acceptance, of election and of initiation, as well as other liturgical blessings and Scrutinies. These rites are then followed by a period of mystagogy — a time of reflection and a deepening faith — all leading to life-long discipleship.

The workshop led by Wagner and Macalintal began with a session on evangelization, presenting suggestions for inquiry discernment, in which RCIA team members listen carefully to each inquirer who approaches the parish, in order to develop an



Participants in a Western Conference for the Catechumenate workshop June 5-6 gather around the baptismal font as facilitators modelled a walk through of the Rite of Acceptance. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

individualized plan of formation.

Wagner explained that this way of "honouring God's varied forms of grace," includes meeting with inquirers individually to ask where they have been, where they are now and where they want to get to — determining why they are approaching the Church for answers or belonging.

Hopes and expectations are further clarified with other questions, such as "Where do I want to get to? How am I going to get there? How will I know I have arrived?" — the answers to which will shape the journey that follows.

Wagner and Macalintal then concretely demonstrated how insights gleaned from such discernment could be incorporated into the rites.

At the opening session, the duo led participants through an adapted Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens in which an inquirer's personal conversion journey, hopes and longings (gleaned from interviews) were echoed in the prayers of the celebration. The next day they also modeled a Celebration of the Word with a Blessing of a Catechumen and an adapted Scrutiny.

Each experience was followed by a "mystagogical reflection" modelled by the workshop facilitators, drawing out how the particular liturgical celebration embodied an encounter with Jesus Christ, what the rite revealed about faith, and

how it called forth conversion.

Mystagogical catechesis begins with the rite itself as an encounter with God, followed by a recollection of the event's symbols, actions and words, "taking time to remember." This is then followed by reflection, sharing what was "most memorable, engaging, discomfiting." That reflection then leads to catechesis, exploring what scripture and tradition teaches, what can be learned from the symbols, the actions and words of the rite.

Participants are actively invited to make connections to their life and relationships and to the world. The process ultimately leads to a point of conversion, or "how it challenges, confronts, affirms; why it matters," said Wagner. "How will I live differently now?"

Mystagogy is scripturally based, takes place within a liturgical setting, and has as its goal the formation of Christian disciples, rather than simply providing information. It is an encounter with Christ that "enables us to live what we celebrate," he said.

During the workshop, Wagner and Macalintal also provided insights into how to read any particular rite — understanding its purpose, its structure and its symbols — and how to prepare a liturgy grounded in key principles (for example: "the theme of every liturgy is the paschal mystery") and four liturgical arts: word, music, movement and environment.



Youth from St. Augustine parish in Humboldt after celebration of confirmation and first Eucharist with Bishop Don Bolen, as well as Abbot Peter Novocosky and pastor Fr. Ephraim Mensah. - Photo by Monica Purnama

Initiation Sacraments 2015:  
Confirmation and First Eucharist  
celebrated across diocese

Christian Initiation  
and Catechetics  
is supported by the



Bishop Donald Bolen addresses young candidates for confirmation and first Eucharist at Holy Family Cathedral. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

# Rock the Mount held Aug. 15

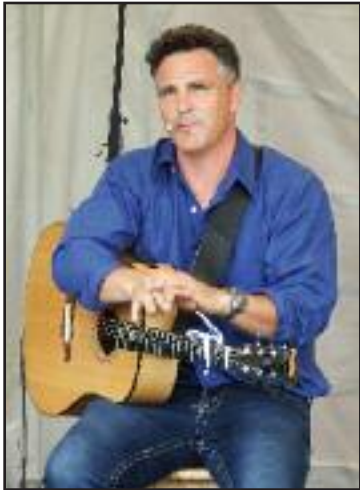
**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

Rain caused an earlier ending for Rock the Mount this year, but didn't dampen the spirits of participants, or stop the core offerings of the annual celebration of Catholic faith held at the Mount Carmel Shrine west of Humboldt.

"Despite the rain, it was a beautiful day," committee chair Emily Hill said of the event held Aug. 15 on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "We got the Rosary in right off the start, as well as the penitential service. Then it poured over the lunch hour... (Later) the sun came out long enough for us to fit in some music, drama, and a talk."

A drama entitled *The Keeper of the Keys* – written by Jenna Hill especially for this year's Rock the Mount – was staged in the afternoon, with young actors moving from set-to-set around the hill, with the action narrated by a team of voice actors.

The allegorical tale described the quest of Tippin Alderbranch (played by Kirk Duffley) and



Mark Mallett provided music.

Thistlewitt Greenbow (played by Toryn Simoneau) to find help and salvation for the enslaved people of the land of Hyrn'nau.

Rain and wind hit the hill again just as Mass began. "I loved how Bishop Don left the shelter of the chapel to give his homily in the rain, standing in solidarity with us," said Hill, adding that she was also moved by "the joy that was on everyone there, despite conditions."



The Keeper of the Keys drama was performed all around the hillside.



Shortly after the opening procession at Rock the Mount, rain and wind hit the hill, prompting organizers to end this year's event right after Mass.



Families and youth again gathered on the hillside at Mount Carmel for the annual Rock the Mount celebration of Catholic faith. - Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Catholic singer-songwriter Mark Mallett and his wife Lea were musical guests, and the speaker was Fr. Denis Phaneuf, a priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon who recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination.

Phaneuf described discovering God in a real and intimate way after serving as a priest for several years, when participants at a prayer meeting prayed over him.

He shared examples of God's providential care in his own life, such as concrete answers to prayer when he helped operate a house of healing for alcoholics. "We were inspired to start it, but we really had to walk by faith." At times when low on food or money, the group would turn to the Lord in prayer, and donations of food would arrive, or a much-needed cheque would

come in the mail, Phaneuf described. "It was wonderful just to see how God works providentially."

"I invite you to think about how God works providentially in your life, how he cares for you, how he is the keeper of your lives, and how he loves you so much. God provides salvation. 'For God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten son, so that all those who believe in him will have eternal life. (John 3:16)' – that's how far God went."

Phaneuf concluded with a reflection on the meaning of the cross as "forget about yourself."

"Get up in the morning and say 'what can I do for my husband, what can I do for my wife? What can I do for my kids? What can I do

for my church, what can I do for my neighbour?' And let the Lord inspire you," he urged. "You know what will happen? You will find joy, and more joy."

The struggle in living for others is the worry that our interests will somehow be neglected, acknowledged Phaneuf.

"However, 'I will take care of you,' says the Lord. 'I will take care of you, and you will experience my provident love. You will experience my care, you will experience my love for each one of you,'" Phaneuf said.

"But what you must do is take the first step: forget about yourself and think of others, give to others, and that way you will find your freedom and find your joy."

## Pure Witness missionaries reach out to youth and families

**BY LAURA RICE**

Pure Witness Ministries recently began a fifth year of serving the youth and families within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and across Western Canada with 17 missionaries in total on the Retreat Team and staff.

Pure Witness Ministries is presenting

ALIVE Retreats in schools and parishes within Saskatchewan and Alberta and is travelling to British Columbia as well this year.

School and parish-based ALIVE retreats involve talks, music, drama and skits, games and small groups, all designed to encourage young Catholics to set Christ at the heart of their lives so that they can make good and

positive life choices and become pure witnesses in the world.

Pure Witness Ministries also provides retreats for parishes doing sacramental preparation, as well as parish missions. To book an ALIVE Retreat, sacramental retreat or parish mission for a school or parish, call (306) 934-3511 or e-mail Pure Witness Ministries at [retreats@purewitness.com](mailto:retreats@purewitness.com)

YEP and ReConnect also continue this year in Saskatoon, providing youth and families with fun, Catholic fellowship and enrichment.

YEP (Youth Evangelization Program) is a program held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Saskatoon for the past four years. YEP is a day for youth Grade 8 and up that involves music, skits, talks, testimonies, small groups, games, and fellowship. Youth from all over the diocese

are invited to come out for the day to learn and grow more in their Catholic faith as well as to meet new people.

ReConnect happens in the evening after a YEP and is designed for families to come together to gather and enjoy fellowship and fun, while celebrating the richness of the Catholic faith together. These events include activities such as Eucharistic adoration, dances, variety nights, and more.

The next YEP will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, followed by ReConnect at 7 pm. at Our Lady of Lourdes parish, located at 12th Street East and Wiggins Avenue in Saskatoon.

For more information about Pure Witness Ministries, retreats, the missionaries, or details/dates of upcoming events this year visit the website: [retreats@purewitness.com](http://retreats@purewitness.com)



City Deanery focus on youth ministry

Outreach and ministry for Catholic youth was the focus of a recent City Deanery public meeting held at St. Mary's in Saskatoon. The event Sept. 24 included presentations and discussion among parish representatives and those involved in youth ministries, including (l-r) Jon Courchene of FacetoFace Ministries, Fr. Michael Dechant, OMI, and Fr. Mark Blom, OMI – part of a new young adult initiative by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Saskatoon – and Colm Leyne, diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Youth Ministry is supported by the

**Bishops**  
ANNUAL APPEAL



Pure Witness Ministries recently celebrated a commissioning Mass with Bishop Donald Bolen at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. - Submitted photo

## Youth Ministry and Evangelization

# 'Search' retreats revived in diocese

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

This spring, 10 youth took part in the first Search retreat to be held in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for many years.

A second Search retreat was also held Oct. 16-18, 2015 with 14 registered, and plans are underway to continue the powerful youth program in the diocese, says Youth Ministry coordinator Colm Leyne.

An intense weekend of spiritual growth, Search challenges high-school-aged youth to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and to make a conscious, adult commitment to their Catholic faith, explains Leyne, who worked with a local group of volunteers and Search alumni to revive the program.

Consisting of talks, music, prayer, spiritual direction, fellowship, and sacraments, the weekend encourages youth to "Search for Christian maturity."

This is accomplished by having the searchers come to know themselves, others, and God in a more loving and personal way. Like other similar experiences such as Cursillo or a Live-In retreat, the Search weekend is an experience of love, describes Leyne.

"Some of the youth were definitely hesitant when they came Friday night," he said of the first

Youth Ministry is supported by the



weekend, but by Saturday evening participants from across the diocese had bonded as a group and were filled with enthusiasm about the retreat held April 17-19 at Bishop James Mahoney high school and St. Anne parish in Saskatoon.

Search team member Adriana Viale said the experience was phenomenal for the young participants and for the entire team. "We can see the real work that God has done through everything that happened this weekend," she said of the April Search event. "They really experienced God's love through each other... it was incredible to see how they flourished."

The retreat wound up with a reflection on "where to go from here," Vale said, describing how participants choose several concrete actions to pursue, as a way to continue to strengthen their faith in the days ahead. "They have an action plan," she said.

"Whether they just made an



Participants and team members celebrated the conclusion of the first Search youth retreat to be held in the diocese of Saskatoon for many years. The April weekend retreat was held at Bishop James Mahoney Catholic High School and St. Anne's parish in Saskatoon. A second Search retreat was held this fall. -- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

adult commitment, or a new commitment – this is going to be a monumental part of their faith journey," she predicted.

Follow-up is important, added Leyne, saying that team members will stay connected with Search participants. "This is a mountain top experience, but we're not just going to just say go back to the valley," he said. "There will be opportunities to connect, and to follow up."

During a closing Mass with the weekend's spiritual director, Fr. Modestus Ngwu, OP, on April 19, families joined Search participants and the Search team to celebrate. Searchers received a lighted candle and a cross, before being sent forth to live their faith in the world.

"This was the best weekend of my life," said participant Cascilla Christopher.

"It was way better than I expected," she said. "I thought it was going to be just sitting around and talking about God.... But it was way more than that." She spoke about the power of Search in interacting together as a community, "meeting other people who are like minded, and also searching."

Another participant, Jazmine Gamboa, said the weekend was filled with surprises – and fun. "I got to meet new people and have a new experience," she said. "By going to Search, you also get to create a better relationship with God."

Agatha Kiarie said the

experience was great, with touching moments that drew her closer to God.

"It was fantastic," said Kohen Volk. "I'd recommend it to everybody. I loved it."

The impact of the weekend surprised some participants, who weren't expecting such a positive experience. For anyone considering Search, participant Tanner Sieben said he would highly recommend it: "just trust that it's going to be a really fun time – it was great, a very good experience."

For more information about Search weekends, contact Colm Leyne at the Catholic Centre youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or call (306) 659-5843.

## Summer of blessings for FacetoFace Ministries

BY JON COURCHENE

The summer of 2015 was filled with blessings for those involved with FacetoFace Ministries, based out of Saskatoon, SK. The staff, volunteers, and many participants testify that they encountered Jesus Christ in a new or deeper way during the events. FacetoFace Ministries was able to minister to almost 400 youth through the different events, including the Family Life Conference, FacetoFace Bus Trip, and three FacetoFace Ignite Camps.

For the second year in a row, FacetoFace Ministries was invited to Lac St. Anne, AB., to lead a youth tent at the Family Life Conference. Families came from all over Western Canada for the event. FacetoFace facilitated nine youth sessions leading the youth prayer, praise and worship, keynote talks and activities.

The FacetoFace Bus Trip was another huge success. The nine-day pilgrimage filled up within a month of registrations opening, illustrating the great desire in the youth to grow in their faith.

The group travelled to Spokane, WA, to a Steubenville Conference, which many viewed as the highlight of the trip, with 1,500 youth together worshipping Jesus in Eucharistic adoration. The trip also consisted of daily Mass, doing missionary work, and going to an amusement park.

For the first time ever, FacetoFace led three Ignite Camps in one summer: Ignite Saskatchewan, Ignite Alberta, and Ignite British Columbia.

The Ignite theme was *Overflowing*, based on Romans 15:13. Participants were invited to trust in God's love for them, receive His grace, and be filled to overflowing by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Eucharistic adoration was held during Ignite Saskatchewan this summer at Bruno, SK.



Participants at Ignite Saskatchewan July 19-24 in Bruno, SK., one of three summer camp programs offered by FacetoFace Ministries this year, to youth in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. - Submitted photos

"Each week was incredible in its own way, filled with God's grace and joy," stated Ignite Director Amanda Hertz. "Ignite BC was an amazing inaugural year; we were blown away by the immediate openness and amount of conversion!"

Lauryn, an Ignite BC participant exclaimed: "The one thing that I will never forget about Ignite was, after confession, the feeling of God's overflowing love in me and how I could share my love with everyone there."

"I finally felt worthy to be there in God's presence, knowing that I was His daughter and I was loved. I just stared and stared at the Eucharist and experienced true joy," shared Khrystia.

FacetoFace Ministries now looks ahead to

fall and winter programming. Having recently facilitated a Youth Retreat in Leoville, SK. on Sept. 26 and 27, the ministry team turned their attention to the FacetoFace United Conference to be held Nov. 21 and 22 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

The United Conference will have both a youth track and an adult track set to encounter Christ, exploring the conference theme of mercy.

Registration for the United Conference is \$60. For information see [www.f2f.ca/united](http://www.f2f.ca/united) or call (306) 381-7789.

FacetoFace Ministries still has openings for retreats this coming year. "If any parishes are looking for a youth retreat or confirmation retreat, we would be happy to serve," offered Dan Brule, a FacetoFace employee.

**United Conference**  
November 21 & 22, 2015  
Youth Track and Adult Track  
Holy Family Cathedral, Saskatoon

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Conference Theme: Mercy  
In union with the universal Church who is about to enter a Holy Year of Mercy, our theme of mercy is to help us encounter the love and mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.  
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**FACE TO FACE**  
ministries

# Prayer shawls offer a tangible sign of care

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

There are many ways to express care and compassion to those who are sick or dying. One faithful group of volunteers is doing it through the work of their hands, creating gifts that are infused with prayer.

Volunteers involved in prayer shawl ministry spend hours knitting or crocheting the soft covers, which are perfectly sized to wrap around the shoulders of someone who is ill, bedridden or in distress.

Often using materials purchased or donated by others in a parish community, those creating the shawls are encouraged to begin with prayer and to pray for the recipient with every stitch, says Céline Hudon, coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. “This is definitely a spiritual practice, a spiritual discipline.”

When the shawls are finished, they are blessed within the parish community, and distributed with a message describing the prayers behind the gift.

“It is the prayers that go into this, and the prayer cards that remain with the patients, which are so meaningful,” stresses Hudon, expressing a hope that awareness, participation and support for this sometimes hidden ministry might grow in every parish.

For those facing illness or turmoil in hospital, struggling with a diagnosis or filled with uncertainty and fear, the prayer shawls are a tangible sign of community support, and are a great source of comfort, says Hudon, who along with other hospital chaplaincy volunteers, distributes the shawls to patients.

“We give them to those who are in palliative care, those who are in trauma ... many go to cancer patients, who are often cold. We have some small ones for babies, we have some for men.”

Funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the office of Hospital Chaplaincy provides Catholic spiritual



Coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy Céline Hudon (left) with Patrice Harekin, one of the volunteers who makes prayer shawls for those in hospital.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

care at Royal University Hospital and Saskatoon City Hospital in Saskatoon, answering the call of Jesus Christ to visit and care for the sick. Priest chaplains are available to provide sacraments, and coordinator Céline Hudon visits patients, offering comfort, a listening ear and prayer to those who are facing illness, sickness, trauma, or death. Hudon also trains and coordinates a team of volunteers who assist with visits, prayer and the distribution of communion.

For more information about hospital chaplaincy, contact the diocese at (306) 242-1500.

Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by the

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# Compassionate Healers Mass for all in health care

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Homilist Bishop Bryan Bayda encouraged all those attending the annual Compassionate Healers Mass Sept. 29 in Saskatoon to evangelize the world by sharing their personal stories of encountering Jesus Christ.

“Reflect on how you have encountered Christ, particularly in those who are suffering,” said Bayda. “How have you encountered Christ in those you minister to?”

The Compassionate Healers Mass is organized by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) for all those who are involved in the medical or health fields, or who provide care or outreach to the sick, whether as professionals, staff members, administrators, volunteers, parishioners or family members. Bishop Donald Bolen and other priests concelebrated the Mass at Dormition Ukrainian Catholic parish.

“Your real life stories of encounter with Christ become a powerful witness and act of mercy to others who may feel alone as they face similar challenges in their lives – who discover, in fact, that they are not alone,” said Bayda, emphasizing the need to bring Jesus to those who are suffering, and to relieve the pain of loneliness.

Bayda then read a Sept. 18 message to Canadian citizens from the Catholic Bishops of Canada expressing serious concerns about the issue of assisted suicide.

The Feb. 6 Supreme Court ruling on assisted suicide legalizes the taking of innocent life, stressed the Canadian

bishops’ statement. It puts at risk the lives of the vulnerable, the depressed, those with physical or mental illness, and those with disabilities.

“In the face of the terrible suffering that can be caused by illness or depression, a truly human response should be to care, not to kill. Likewise, the response to the anguish and fear people can experience at the end of their lives is to be present to them, offering palliative care, not intentionally to cause their death.”

The bishops also expressed concern about the short, one-year time period given by the Supreme Court for the government to address the issue. “We urge the government that is elected on Oct. 19 to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause and extend this timeline to five years.... We need to allow ourselves time to reflect before acting, time to consider seriously the consequences of our actions in dealing with this crucial moral issue.”

In the letter read by Bayda, the Canadian bishops also emphasized the need to uphold and protect the conscience rights of all those who work in health care: “It is an affront to the conscience and vocation of the health-care provider to require him or her to collaborate in the intentional putting to death of a patient, even by referring the person to a colleague.”

The bishops concluded by calling for “a spirit of collaboration in building a society more compassionate, more respectful of the dignity of all human life, more just and more generous.”

# Tradition of spiritual care continues at St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon

By COLLEEN GNYP

Being sick and in the hospital can be a worrisome and sometimes unnerving experience. When our health is altered, or a close friend or family member is ill, we feel vulnerable. Having someone to speak to or receiving the simple gesture of a comforting hand on the shoulder can help us cope.

At St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon, complete care for a

patient – physical, emotional, and spiritual – dates back to the leadership of the Grey Nuns, who founded the Hospital in 1907. Spiritual care has always been part of the Catholic hospital’s holistic approach to healing.

St. Paul’s Hospital has been leading Spiritual Care in the Saskatoon Health Region since 2000, and has been offering nationally accredited programs in

Clinical Pastoral Education since 1992.

Connie Lachapelle, Manager of Spiritual Care Services is one of the staff members who assist patients and their families from all faiths and backgrounds with their spiritual care needs.

“What we do is listen to the stories and focus on the people,” she says. “It is a ministry of presence. We build relationships, so a person knows they are not alone, that someone is prepared to be with them and provide comfort during the changes to their health.”

Every patient admitted to St. Paul’s for an extended period of time will receive at least one visit from Lachapelle or her team members. She divides her attention between these visits and calls to attend to the bed-sides of patients who are critically ill.

“We usually see patients or families in crisis,” says Lachapelle. “Whether it is helping someone cope with illness, a family struggling to make decisions for a loved one’s care or assisting family members to make arrangements for a funeral, I am there as a spiritual resource. My role is to listen with compassion and give hope, but not false hope, during their journey at the hospital.”

This journey to healing often involves the help of other members from St. Paul’s Hospital staff, generally nurses and social



Connie Lachapelle, Manager of Spiritual Care Services speaks with a former patient in the Multi-faith Stillness Room at St. Paul’s Hospital.

- Photo by Electric Umbrella



## Hospital Gift Shop needs volunteers

Volunteers Yvonne Benesh and Helen Ritchie are among the volunteers who work in the St. Paul’s Hospital Gift Shop. Volunteers work four-hour shifts between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Proceeds support needed patient items and services at St. Paul’s Hospital. The Gift Shop is managed by the St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation and supported by a volunteer staff, including members of the SPH Nurses Alumni. For more information about this volunteer opportunity contact Kathi Lewis in Volunteer Workforce at (306) 655 5823. No experience is required – just a caring and compassionate attitude and the desire to support our patients and staff at St. Paul’s Hospital.

- Photo by Electric Umbrella

SPH Spiritual Care is supported by the

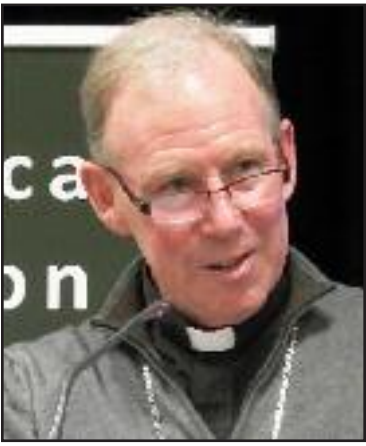
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Prayer and Ceremonial Room and a Multi-faith Stillness Room.

The spiritual care program at St. Paul’s Hospital receives support from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy is provided at Saskatoon City and Royal University Hospitals through a diocesan office, coordinated by Céline Hudon, which is also funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

## Restorative Justice



Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria was one of the speakers at an Oct. 1-3 Restorative Justice conference in Saskatoon. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

## Building a Culture of Hope event calls for justice focused on individuals, relationships and healing

BY GERTRUDE ROMPRÉ

What does it mean to call someone home? This was the key question posed by Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Victoria at the Restorative Justice: *Building a Culture of Hope* Conference held at Queen's House and St. Thomas More College from Oct. 1-3, 2015.

Restorative justice, Bishop Gordon said, is about asking

different questions than those posed by our current retributive criminal justice system.

Rather than asking "What law is broken? Who broke it? How shall the state punish that person?", restorative justice process focuses on the person(s) and relationships that are harmed when a crime is committed.

Restorative justice holds the person responsible for that harm to account and, ultimately, seeks to bring healing to the broken fabric of our communities. It is about giving people the possibility of coming home to themselves and to their communities.

A practitioner of restorative justice and a storyteller, Gordon addressed a diverse crowd at two

*"Hope resides in the resiliency of the human spirit. Hope resides in the power of the human spirit to enter into dialogue and relationships. Hope cannot be legislated. But our legislators and our courts can at least open doors to possibilities of hope rather than closing them."*

- Bishop Gary Gordon

public lectures. The first lecture focused on the theme of the conference and explored what is needed to build a culture of hope.

The second lecture went further to suggest that there is something beyond justice: mercy. Mercy is only made possible through divine grace that allows us to break the cycle of violence that a retributive model of justice only serves to fuel, said Gordon.

Other speakers at the event included Rev. Brian Rude, who

serves as a Lutheran minister and practices restorative justice in El Salvador, and Honourable Justice Steven Point, who spoke about restorative justice from an Indigenous perspective.

Workshops on the foundations and practice of restorative justice were also led by the members of STR8 UP (on leaving gangs and joining the community), Moira Brownlee (on the media's role in promoting or preventing restorative justice), Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz (on putting the victims of crime into the equation), David Feick (on prison visitation) and Chris Hrynkow (on finding a socially just alternative to a broken system).

A panel discussion explored the topic, "When those we Love Go Missing, Are Harmed, and are Found Murdered."

The most poignant moments of the conference occurred when Carole Wolfe made her First Voice presentation, telling her own story of her search for her missing daughter.

Similarly, Adam Gervais gave a First Voice presentation about his own experience of being harmed in an unprovoked assault in 2006.

Giving voice to those directly harmed by crime is a key element of restorative justice; bringing people rather than simply the law, into the centre of the equation.

The Restorative Justice: Building a Culture of Hope Conference was a joint initiative of the Micah Mission, St. Thomas More College, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Lutheran Synod, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.



### Prison Ministry

Bishop Donald Bolen, Fr. Steve Morrisey, diocesan Restorative Ministry Coordinator Dianne Anderson and a number of volunteers provided liturgies, prayer and Easter outreach at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre for this year's Triduum, including the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday by Fr. Steve, a way of the cross in the prison yard (above), the veneration of the cross on Good Friday (left), and celebrations of the Eucharist on Easter with the bishop. Dianne Anderson continued a tradition of giving every man in the Correctional Centre a chocolate rabbit, as a way of sharing Easter joy, even with those unable to attend services. Volunteers are always needed to assist with prison ministry. For more information contact Dianne at (306) 659-5845.

- Photos by Dianne Anderson

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### Voices of Our Sisters

Professor Winona Wheeler of the University of Saskatchewan (left) and Glenda Abbot, the program coordinator for Wanuskewin Heritage Park, presented *The History of the Indigenous Woman* to an ecumenical gathering in Saskatoon this spring. The issue of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls was the theme of *Voices of Our Sisters*, an April 18 ecumenical joint study day held at Mayfair United Church in Saskatoon attended by over 200 people. The impetus for the day was the 2014 release of a federal government special committee report called, "Invisible Women: A Call to Action." After studying the report, the Roman Catholic Diocesan Commission of Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) proposed the idea of hosting a day of reflection. Bishop Donald Bolen requested that it be done with other churches. Another speaker at the ecumenical event was Pauline Muskego, the mother of Daleen Bosse, who was murdered a decade ago in Saskatoon. Pauline spoke of Daleen as a little girl, of the young woman and mother that she became, and the family's mourning process that continues to this day. For more about the event see the diocesan articles (April) posted on the website at: [www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news) - Photo by K. Yaworski

## Leaders call for a transformative vision of justice that brings healing and restoration

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Church and indigenous leaders speaking during a restorative justice conference in Saskatoon called for a vision of justice that is genuinely transformative.

Harry Lafond of the Treaty Commissioners' Office and Victoria Bishop Gary Gordon, Correctional Ministry Liaison for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), gave a joint statement Oct. 2 at Queen's House, urging a more effective solution than a simplistic "tough on crime" response.

"True restorative justice means effective intervention, restitution, and rehabilitation that heals individuals, families and communities and must include both those who have been harmed and those who have inflicted the harm," said Lafond, one of the panelists at a media event held in conjunction with a *Building a Culture of Hope*

Conference on restorative justice Oct. 1-3 at Queen's House and St. Thomas More College (see related article above).

Lafond disputed the belief that putting people in jail and keeping them there longer, "out of sight and out of mind," will create safer communities. "This is a simplistic response to broken social, economic and cultural conditions," Lafond said. "Perhaps no other group in our country has experienced this sad reality more than our Aboriginal brothers and sisters."

The rate of incarceration for Aboriginal Canadians is seven times the national average, pointed out Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen, chair of the CCCC national justice and peace commission, who attended the public event in Saskatoon along with visiting Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi. "When it comes to restorative justice,

when it comes to our prisons, in this country we have a problem – and within this province we have a problem," asserted Bolen.

Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi said society must work to bring healing rather than punishment. "Society must be prepared to take care of a person who suffers, who is in difficulty," he said. "We always consider that redemption – restoration – is possible."

"Creating a vision of restorative justice is challenging work," said Lafond. "It invites dialogue that pursues fundamental questions of safety, freedom and cultural security."

He added: "This dialogue is especially challenging and vitally important in the context of those who have lived with the profound harm done by policies of assimilation (for example, residential schools), or those who have been excluded from



Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, Harry Lafond of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and Apostolic Nuncio to Canada Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi (l-r) spoke at a Restorative Justice gathering in Saskatoon Oct. 2.

Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

participating in determining the direction of their own communities and lives."

Gordon, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, noted that when prisoners are simply pushed "out of sight and out of mind," no one asks the questions that will bring about real change for individuals and for suffering communities. "Our cultural landscape and economic direction continue to be dominated by a 'throw-away' mentality, which is sometimes justified by arguments of personal freedom and security, rather than inclusion, protection, and

the inherent value of every person, family and community."

"Many church and aboriginal leaders are demonstrating the way the wisdom of the elders and traditional cultural interventions can be used to create restorative justice processes to heal the effects of crime," Gordon added.

"As leaders, we endorse dialogue with our governments and the courts, so that these processes can be more widely adopted, and our communities can be made safer through the transformative work of restorative justice," he said.

# Joyful visit of Papal Nuncio highlights faith and service

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

During a recent pastoral visit, Pope Francis' representative in Canada witnessed the diversity and outreach of the Catholic community in Saskatoon, and shared words of encouragement, love and support.

Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, was in the province for the Oct. 1 dedication of the "Called to Serve" monument honouring the contributions of Catholic sisters to Saskatchewan. After the dedication celebration in Regina, the Nuncio visited Saskatoon Oct. 2-3, before travelling on to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert.

It was an historic moment for the Catholic community, as none could recall a similar pastoral visit by an Apostolic Nuncio in the past, said Bishop Don Bolen of the diocese of Saskatoon.

"The two days with Archbishop Bonazzi in our midst were truly wonderful. His graciousness, simplicity, deep listening heart and pastoral wisdom made every visit, every stop a celebration of our faith," said Bolen.

"The Nuncio embodies Pope Francis's own warmth and down-to-earth style of leadership; he wanted to be close to the people, and succeeded in bringing Pope Francis's own warmth and pastoral concern very close to us. What a great blessing his visit was!"

### Prayers for Ukraine

On his arrival, the Nuncio was welcomed with bread, salt and flowers at Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual Catholic School by two Grade 8 students. Children in traditional dress lined the sidewalk singing, as the



Archbishop Bonazzi visited the prison Oct. 3 during his visit to Saskatoon. - Photo submitted by Dianne Anderson

archbishop and other special guests entered the building for an assembly with students that included the singing of the Lord's Prayer in Ukrainian, as well as a trivia contest of questions about the Apostolic Nuncio and the school, moderated by principal Shelly Lord.

The Apostolic Nuncio addressed the children, leading them in a prayer for peace and freedom in Ukraine.

After a reception in the staff room, the Nuncio was given a tour that included visits to the kindergarten classroom, the singing of O Canada in Ukrainian by a Grade 2 class, and an explanation about a display of painted spoons created by students in memory of the Holodomor starvation genocide of 1932-33 in Ukraine.

### St. Mary Catholic School

A visit to St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre followed, where the Apostolic Nuncio met with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) board and administration members, Saskatoon Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, elders and community representatives, as well as teachers and doctors who

work at the elementary school in the city's core neighbourhood.

St. Mary's serves a primarily First Nations and Métis student population, explained GSCS board chair Diane Boyko, describing the history of the school and the opening of the new building in 2012. The school includes an early learning centre, an optometry clinic, and a pediatric clinic.

The clinic was initiated after a Saskatoon Health Region study in 2006 that revealed the health disparities that exist in Saskatoon between low-income and affluent neighbourhoods. The tribal council, the college of medicine and GSCS worked together to establish the clinic, which improves accessibility for disadvantaged patients and families, explained Boyko. "We constantly strive to ensure that the children have the supports that they need."

Chief Thomas welcomed the Nuncio to Treaty 6 territory and spoke about the importance of partnerships in meeting the needs of children.

Principal Katrina Sawchuk said the work of the wellness programs in the school translates into higher student achievement. "Literacy outcomes are up... we should all feel affirmed by the good work that we are doing here."

The Nuncio expressed appreciation for the collaboration underway at the school, before pediatrician Dr. Maryam Mehtar led the Nuncio on a tour of the clinic, and Sawchuk provided Bonazzi with a brief tour of the school, including a visit to the on-site Early Learning Centre, where families were gathering for a regular Friday lunch. In another classroom, where children in a circle were learning about First Nations traditions, Chief Thomas presented the Papal Nuncio with a gift of beaded moccasins.



Greeting a child at Sacred Heart Chaldean Catholic Church.



Archbishop Bonazzi was welcomed to Treaty 6 territory by Chief Felix Thomas, during a tour of St. Mary's school. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski



A moment of fun shared by the Apostolic Nuncio and Saskatoon's two bishops at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Bonazzi also met with representatives of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, which serves First Nations, Métis, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Catholics in Saskatoon.

Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux, Elder Gayle Weenie, and Deacon Paul Labelle greeted the Nuncio, and Weenie explained First Nations traditions that are incorporated into parish life. The Nuncio took part in a smudging ceremony, and was presented with a Star Blanket.

### Restorative Justice

The Apostolic Nuncio spoke briefly at a Restorative Justice Conference media event Oct 2, highlighting the need to focus on the healing and restoration of "those who have been harmed by

crime and those who have inflicted the harm." (see article on Page 13).

The next day, the Apostolic Nuncio joined Bishop Bolen and Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria on a visit to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, joining a sharing circle with inmates led by Dianne Anderson of the diocesan office of Restorative Ministry, and volunteer Russ Powell.

### Catholic health

Bonazzi also met Oct. 2 with Catholic health leaders at Trinity Manor, a faith-based facility offering both independent and assisted living accommodations. The Apostolic Nuncio expressed appreciation to all those continuing to advance the legacy of Catholic health care. "This is part of the mission, of the nature of the Church," he said.

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The Apostolic Nuncio greets a resident at Trinity Manor after celebration of Vespers, as spiritual care coordinator Terry LePage looks on.



After meeting with clergy and religious from the diocese and eparchy at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral (top), the Nuncio joined them for lunch at St. Mary's Parish (bottom). - Photos by Kiply Lukan Yaworski



The Apostolic Nuncio presided at Mass Oct. 3 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski



A First Nations dancer accompanied the procession of gifts at Mass.  
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

## Cultural diversity showcased during visit of Pope Francis' representative to Canada

(Continued from previous page)

"Always when we come into contact with the old person, with the sick person, the person in need, we can remember the synthesis of the gospel of Mother Teresa in five words, on one hand: 'You did it for me' (from Matthew 25)."

Conveying the gratitude and blessing of Pope Francis, the Nuncio urged leaders in Catholic health care to take the upcoming Year of Mercy as an opportunity for reflection and to seize new opportunities to expand outreach, since "what must be done is greater than what has already been done."

### Vespers at Trinity Manor

In addition to attending a reception at, and touring, Trinity Manor and nearby Samaritan Place (which provides higher levels of care as part of the Saskatoon Health Region), the Apostolic Nuncio joined in praying Vespers at the Trinity Manor chapel.

Bonazzi addressed the residents, which include many retired clergy and consecrated religious, noting the "joy of living in the Trinity!" He asked two things of his listeners: prayers for the Synod on the Family about to begin in Rome and for the upcoming Year of Mercy, which opens Dec. 8.

"The Church is to be the icon (of mercy), but not only the icon, but the one who conveys and who transmits to the human family, the mercy of God," he said. He noted that even before he declared a Year of Mercy, the Holy Father had dedicated a year to draw attention to the gift of Consecrated Life in the world.

Addressing those in consecrated life, Bonazzi said: "On behalf of Pope Francis, I convey

my gratitude and the gratitude of the church for the gift you have revived and which you are still sharing.... A great love is always journeying, always marching ... always moving."

### Mass at Chaldean Church

Sacred Heart Chaldean community celebrated Eucharist with the Apostolic Nuncio Oct. 2, followed by a community dinner. During the Mass concelebrated with Bishop Bryan Bayda of the eparchy and pastor Fr. Sabah Kamora of Sacred Heart, Bonazzi spoke to children participating in the catechism program, encouraging them to "have a friendship with Jesus Christ."

Bonazzi also expressed love and concern for the Christian community undergoing persecution and suffering in Iraq and throughout the world.

The archbishop encouraged the parish to work together to follow Jesus and serve those most in need. "To follow Jesus is a way for us to experience happiness... real happiness, true happiness, with the grace of God."

### Eparchial visit

An early morning Moleben service at the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of Blessed Nun Martyrs Olympia and Laurentia was held Oct. 3, with the Apostolic Nuncio and Saskatoon Bishops Bayda and Bolen in attendance.

Sr. Sophia of the Ukrainian Sisters of St. Joseph presented the Nuncio with an icon of the two 20th-century nun martyrs, whose relics are housed at the Saskatoon shrine.

At the nearby Musee Ukraina Museum, the Apostolic Nuncio was greeted by Bishop Bayda and leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. Bonazzi



Papal Nuncio Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Bishop Don Bolen, Bishop Bryan Bayda, Fr. Pius Schroh, Fr. Nestor Silva, OMI, and members of the Filipino Catholic community gathered for a group photo at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral after an outdoor procession to pray the rosary Oct. 3 – the final event of the Nuncio's pastoral visit. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

viewed museum exhibits, describing the building as "a sanctuary of culture."

Following a reception at the museum, Bonazzi joined Bayda on a visit to St. Joseph's Nursing Home, before returning to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St. George for a meeting with clergy and religious from both the eparchy and the diocese of Saskatoon, followed by lunch at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

The Nuncio spoke to clergy and religious about principles of priestly life, which he said apply to the journey of every Christian.

The call of the priest, and of all Christians, is to listen to the word of God. "What Christ does in me is more important than what I do myself," he said, stressing the importance of service, and the value of the cross.

### Diocesan celebration

The Nuncio met briefly with participants in the diocesan, eparchial and aboriginal Catholic Lay Formation program, immediately before a diocesan celebration of the Eucharist held Oct. 3 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

The diocesan Mass reflected

the diversity of the community, and included prayers in nine languages, as well as an honour song during the procession of gifts, with the gift family accompanied by a First Nations dancer.

"How significant it is that the Cathedral of your diocese is dedicated to the Holy Family, because the vocation of the church is to be a family, a family of people from every nation, every tribe, every culture, recognizing ourselves as brothers and sisters, children of the one Father," said Bonazzi, conveying the request of Pope Francis for prayers for the Synod on the Family in Rome.

"The mission of the family today, as yesterday, is that of proclaiming to the world, by the power of the Sacrament of Marriage, the life of God," wrote Pope Francis in a letter to the World Meeting of Families, which was quoted by Bonazzi.

"Marriage embodies and enshrines in itself the life of God, the richness of God who is love. For this reason, for the Church, the family is not first and foremost a cause of concern. Here we see that marriage experiences several problems, but for the church, family is not first and foremost a

cause for concern, but rather the joyous confirmation of God's blessing upon the masterpiece of God's creation – man and woman," Bonazzi said.

"For all the obstacles we see before us, gratitude and appreciation should prevail over concern and complaints."

After Mass, the community gathered for a multi-cultural meal with food prepared by Vietnamese, East Indian, Filipino, Ukrainian and First Nations communities.

### Rosary procession

The Apostolic Nuncio's visit concluded Oct. 3 with a candlelight rosary procession around St. Paul's Co-Cathedral in downtown Saskatoon with the Filipino Catholic community, held in spite of a steady rain.

The Nuncio expressed his joy at the faithfulness of the Filipino people, and spoke about the power of prayer and the gift of the rosary.

Closing with words of thanksgiving at St. Paul's, Bonazzi prayed a blessing over the people as the representative of Pope Francis. The people in turn sang a blessing over the Apostolic Nuncio, to end his two-day visit to Saskatoon.



The Papal Nuncio blesses newlyweds attending Vespers at Trinity Manor in Saskatoon.



Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi visits with six-month-old Kalyna and her mom at the Musee Ukraina Museum.



The Papal Nuncio blesses youth after a rosary procession around St. Paul's Co-Cathedral.

- Photos by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Vocations

Fr. Gregory Smith-Windsor ordained by Bishop Bolen at Cathedral of Holy Family

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A new priest for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was ordained June 19, 2015 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Fr. Gregory Smith-Windsor of Saskatoon was ordained by Bishop Donald Bolen in a joyful celebration that included family, friends and clergy from the diocese of Saskatoon and beyond.

Diocesan director of seminarians Fr. Gerard Cooper presented Smith-Windsor for ordination, and asked Fr. Stevan Wlusek, rector of St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario to provide his testimony about the candidate.

Wlusek described Smith-Windsor's zeal, joyful demeanor and evangelizing spirit. During his time at the seminary he served the homeless at a downtown hospitality centre, spent time with the local L'Arche community and spent a summer working with Catholic Christian Outreach.

Smith-Windsor served his year of pastoral internship at St. Patrick Parish in Saskatoon, where he was ordained deacon last year.

"He has manifested a strong prayer life throughout his years of seminary formation and his deep love for Jesus, and Jesus' Blessed Mother," said Wlusek.

The assembly responded "Thanks be to God" and broke into applause as Bishop Donald Bolen accepted the seminary rector's testimony.

In his homily, Bolen cited Smith-Windsor's own testimony at a prayer vigil the evening before the

Vocations and education of future priests is supported by the



ordination. At university the young man was touched by the words of a visiting Jesuit priest about the self-gift lived out through celibate priesthood.

"Priests don't necessarily have their ego and their self interest pulled out of them in the way that parents do by necessity, looking after their kids," noted Bolen, "So we have to do it by entering deeply into other lives,... and allowing God to do that work."

The bishop added that "through generously and deeply entering into people's lives, and walking with them and bringing the gospel, and listening to the gospel in their lives, you will see a door and that door will lead you to life."

Bolen pointed to the moment in the Eucharistic celebration when the priest takes the body of Christ and breaks the body of Christ for the community.

"Be mindful of the depths of that mystery – that the God who comes to dwell in our midst, who desires to give of self to us, who somehow allows us the privilege to put himself in our hands, so that as we break him for others, and others receive the balm and

the mercy of that breaking," he said.

"And of course you are invited to change parts – to let the Lord take you in his hands and to break you so that balm and mercy might be poured down on others through your life."

Bolen also noted the role of desire in Smith-Windsor's vocation journey. "A desire began to form, connected to that idea of self-gift," the bishop said.

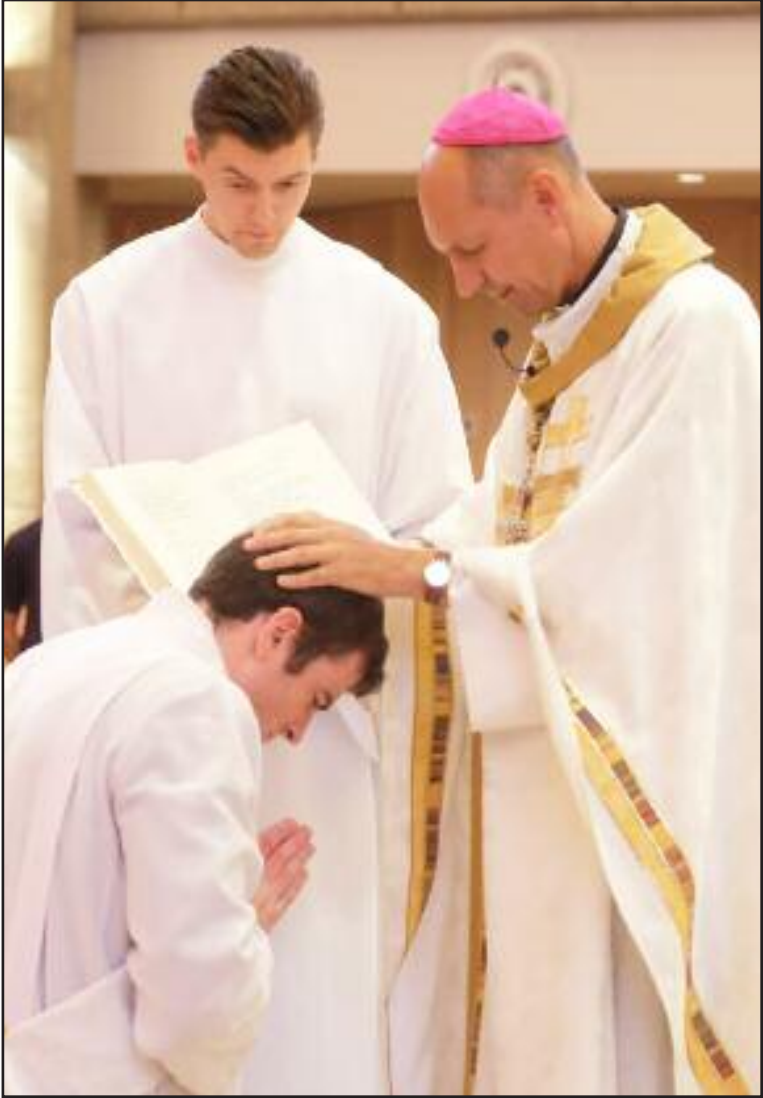
"When God calls us by desire it is kind of a high-risk calling, but it is a deep and beautiful way of being called... it is being called from the inside as well as from the community."

Bolen urged Smith-Windsor to "stay centred at what truly is at the heart of things... find a thousand different ways to speak of the incarnation and the paschal mystery... stay centred in your ministry on God's love, centred on God's boundless outpouring of mercy."

The rite of ordination continued with Smith-Windsor declaring his intention to care for God's people, promising to serve faithfully and reverently, and pledging obedience to the bishop and his successors.

As a sign of surrender to God, Smith-Windsor lay prostrate upon the floor in front of the altar, while the assembly prayed for the intercession of the saints and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The bishop then conferred ordination by laying his hands upon the head of Smith-Windsor – a gesture repeated by the priests present at the celebration, as a sign



Bishop Donald Bolen conferred ordination upon Fr. Gregory Smith-Windsor June 19 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

of unity and shared spirit.

After a prayer of consecration by the bishop, Smith-Windsor was vested with the stole (a sign of priestly office) and chasuble (the Eucharistic vestment), assisted by Fr. Kevin McGee and Fr. Geoffrey Young. The bishop presented a chalice and paten to the newly-ordained priest, with the words: "Know what you are doing and

imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross." Smith-Windsor then joined the bishop and priests at the altar to celebrate Eucharist.

The son of Maureen and Kent Smith-Windsor, Fr. Gregory Smith-Windsor is serving as associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Holy Family parish in Saskatoon, with pastor Fr. David Tumbach.

Benedictine priest, Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, ordained in Humboldt

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

On the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, 2015, Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, was ordained to the priesthood in a solemn and joyful celebration at St. Augustine parish in Saskatoon.

Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster presented the candidate to Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, providing testimony about Epifano's life, studies and readiness for ordination.

Born in 1960 in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Epifano attended teacher's college and university. In 1990 he joined the Scarboro Missions as a lay member, and from 1991 to 1995 he worked as a teacher in Southern China. "I think that would indicate that he is not afraid to try something new," observed Novecosky. "He then lived as a hermit in Antigonish, Nova Scotia for the next five years. I think this indicates his quiet demeanor and prayerfulness."

Epifano came to St. Peter's Abbey in 2010, and made his solemn final vows as a Benedictine monk last year. "At the Abbey he has become a valuable member of the community, ready to pitch in to help where needed, and eager to nourish his prayer life," said Novecosky.

For the past four years, Epifano has studied theology at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome. He was ordained a deacon July 30, 2014 at his home parish of Holy Redeemer in Sydney, Nova Scotia, before serving at St. Augustine in Humboldt for the summer and then returning to Rome for his final year of seminary studies.

Observations about Epifano's time at



Bishop Don Bolen, newly-ordained Fr. Cosmas Epifano and Abbot Peter Novecosky (l-r) after the ordination celebration at St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

seminary from rector Msgr. Roderick Strange were shared by Novecosky. "It has been a real pleasure to have Br. Cosmas as part of Beda community," wrote Strange, commending Epifano to the bishop for priestly ordination. "He is a wise and gifted man, committed to his calling. He will be able to do much good to those he serves."

In his homily, Bishop Donald Bolen began by describing the "great joy" that the diocesan church experiences in its relationship with St. Peter's Abbey.

"The monastic witness that you give is a gift for all of us," he said. It demonstrates "that God is at the centre of things, that there is nothing more important in this life than seeking

God, that the fundamental human experience that you live in your daily life of prayer and work and service at the Abbey is deeper than anything that our culture can offer in terms of a remedy for our ills, a source for happiness."

Bolen noted that some monks – like Epifano – in living their monastic vocation are also called to the priesthood. Bolen expressed gratitude for the Benedictines who serve as parish priests in the diocese: "through that specific ministry, you have shaped and enhanced our diocesan life."

Bolen reflected on themes of mystery, God's call, obedience and the shape and cost of priestly discipleship.

Bolen noted St. Paul's description of clay

jars holding the treasure of Christ's word. "We are clay jars... it is very important for all of us to hear that, but very important for a priest to come back to that text often, very important for a bishop or an abbot to come back to that point often also," he said. "God is the one taking the lead here. And the cost of that life of discipleship – in addition to a deep and abiding honesty, which is required of you – is a gift of yourself."

Quoting Catherine Doherty, founder of Madonna House, Bolen urged: "Love, love, love – never counting the cost."

The rite of ordination continued with Epifano promising to serve faithfully and pledging obedience to the abbot and each of his successors. Epifano then lay prostrate upon the floor in front of the altar, while the assembly prayed for him as the choir led the litany of the saints. The bishop conferred ordination by laying his hands upon Epifano's head – a gesture repeated by the abbot and all the priests present at the celebration.

Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, and Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, assisted Epifano in putting on the stole and the chasuble. The gifts were brought forward by Epifano's three sisters and other family members.

The bishop presented a chalice and paten to the newly-ordained priest (a gift from his home parish of St. Nicholas in Sydney, Nova Scotia). Epifano then joined the bishop and priests at the altar to celebrate Eucharist.

Epifano's first Mass was celebrated July 17 at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, and he preached at the Mount Carmel Pilgrimage on July 19. He is now serving as associate pastor at St. Augustine parish in Humboldt, with pastor Fr. Ephraim Mensah.

## Vocations: Year of Consecrated Life

# Ursuline celebrates 100th birthday

By **THERESA FEIST, OSU**

Sr. Dorothy Bertsch, OSU, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 17, 2015.

Born in 1915 on the home farm near the village of Tramping Lake, she received her mother's name, Gertrude, in the sacrament of baptism that same day at St. Michael's Church. At age eight, she would make her first communion and receive confirmation in the same church.

Sr. Dorothy's family and Ursuline community came together April 19, 2015 at St. Angela Merici Retirement Residence in Saskatoon (about 75 people). The program featured congratulations in word and song.

Sr. Rosetta Reiniger, OSU, presented a biographical history of Sister Dorothy's life as a powerpoint. Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving (he had once been a student in Sr. Dorothy's first communion class). Tributes came from Bishop Don Bolen of Saskatoon, and a former Gr. 7-8 student, Gerald Vandergraaf. A banquet followed. Visiting followed well into the evening.

Relatives reminisced how Gertrude by age nine, took on the responsibilities placed on her by her mother's serious illness. She did household chores, washing clothes, cooking, baking bread, tending a four-year-old at her side, even as she helped her siblings with their homework by the light of a coal-oil lamp.

As a child she was close to nature. She loved the pastures, the rocks, and the gooseberry bushes. She knew God's presence here, and taught her nieces and nephews about Jesus and the Bible. Evenings were often saved for rosary and other prayer. School lessons were kept fresh in her mind, faithfully continued at home.

In her heart, she knew she would one day go to Prelate to become a sister. The Ursuline sisters had come to Tramping Lake in 1925, and Gertrude admired them. On August 15, 1933, she was received into her new life with the Ursuline community.

Two years later, Sr. Dorothy was teaching. Dante, a rural school, (Grades 1-9) was the first assignment and she taught there for three years. The "dusty thirties" meant scoops of

dust; it meant hard work, few books. It meant \$400 a year for salary, a January to March period of "being snowed in", and a trip to Prelate for Easter.

Additional certification followed from Moose Jaw Normal School. Then a total of 45 challenging, amazing years of teaching at Rural Glen Eden, Revenue, Billimun, Denzil, Goodsoil, Barthel, Liebenthal, Fox Valley, Quinton, Primate, Cosine.

Teaching was not limited to school hours only. There were parish ministries: catechetics, workshops and meetings, sacramental preparations, sacristan work, enormous decorating for ordinations, to mention a few "bonus" occupations.

Sr. Dorothy celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1985. For a brief time, she dabbled in the "culinary arts" at the Generalate. A year later she served as receptionist, librarian and study supervisor at St. Angela's Academy.

Then came the day when a fall and surgery resulted in a change of address. St. Angela Merici Retirement Residence became home, where Sr. Dorothy continues to give thanks for



**Sr. Dorothy Bertsch, OSU**

- Photo by Sr. Armella Rolheiser, OSU

every one of her 100 years. "My God stands by me, all my trust is in Him," she says.

## Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, enjoys outdoor work at Abbey

By **FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB**

The grounds of St. Peter's Abbey and St. Peter's College have taken on a neater, more pleasant appearance in the past few years. Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, has been trimming trees and clearing brush with the chainsaw and tractor.

Muyres, 80, enjoys doing outdoor work in the summer months.

The Benedictine, who grew up on a farm, finds laborious work relaxing and is comfortable around machinery. He spends many hours every summer trimming the lawns which cover several acres. Muyres helps cultivate the abbey potato and corn crops, and maintain the roads in summer and winter. He has serviced the farm equipment with the help of his brother Richard and his brother-in-law Frank Steier, an Oblate of St. Peter's Abbey.

The public is most familiar with the pastoral work of Muyres who has served as a priest in the Muenster district for 54 years, and 12 years as a chaplain in the Humboldt hospital. This year is a milestone for the Benedictine who retired from the diocese at the end of June as a pastor and celebrated 60 years of profession as a Benedictine monk.

The Muenster district is home to Muyres, who was born in 1935 on a family farm near St. Gregor, 11 kilometres east of Muenster. He attended St. Gregor School, a one-room school, from 1941 to 1951 where he was taught by Henry Murphy for 10 years. Grades 11 and 12 were completed at St. Peter's High School (located at St. Peter's College), followed by one year of university at St. Peter's College.

High school and university at St. Peter's College were an easy adjustment for Muyres, who appreciated the daily routine of classes and prayer. He thrived at sports and was always eager to join in. In 1954 he entered the novitiate at St. Peter's Abbey and then attended seminary from 1955 to 1961 at St. John's College.



**Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, retired from parish ministry this year – which also marks the 60th anniversary of his profession as a Benedictine monk.**

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

The seminary opened up a new world of learning, research and many new possibilities, he said. There was excitement, too, at St. Peter's Abbey in the 1950s and 60s when a building program expanded present structures and erected new ones. The opening of the Second Vatican Council in 1962 was a definite highlight, he said.

St. John's Abbey was the perfect setting for Muyres, whose ancestors were from the area. His great-grandparents, John and Agnes, lived at Holdingford, Minnesota, about 30 miles west of St. John's. While attending seminary, Muyres visited a number of his relatives in Minnesota. Several of them visited him at St. John's Abbey.

Bishop Francis Klein ordained Muyres to the priesthood at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster on June 10, 1961. That same parish was also the final pastoral assignment for Muyres, who served there for 11 years, before his retirement.

"I never thought very much about what I was going to do in the future. I just wanted to finish high school and then make a decision when that time came," Muyres said while reflecting on his past.

"The thought of being a monk or a priest never really entered my mind. The pastor was very highly respected in our family and in our parish, but my parents and grandparents never spoke to me directly of becoming a monk or a priest. They were pleased when I finally did make up my mind to join St. Peter's Abbey."

Frank and Albertina Muyres raised six children on their family farm, two of whom became religious. Daniel joined the Benedictines and Jane joined the Ursuline Sisters in Bruno.

As a young man, Muyres was kept busy helping his parents and five siblings on their farm. He remembers travelling to and from school by horse and caboose in

## The Year of Consecrated Life

**Nov. 30, 2014 to Feb. 2, 2016**

...to look to the past with gratitude,  
...to live the present with passion,  
...to embrace the future with hope!



winter through deep snow drifts. In the spring and summer he either walked to school or travelled by horse and buggy. Sports were a favourite activity at school, especially soccer in winter and softball in summer.

"It was always interesting to watch the huge trains steam by on the railroad (tracks) that had to be crossed on the way to and from school," he recalled.

Church was important to the Muyres family who were members of St. Gregory parish in St. Gregor. Visiting was an important part of family and church life, especially on Sundays. Relatives would get together for Sunday meals.

"You always knew the name of everybody you met at school, at church, in the store or on the street and everyone knew you. You were never a stranger. There was a real sense of closeness and of security in growing up in the community of St. Gregor," he recalled.

Following ordination in 1961, Muyres has served in many roles at St. Peter's Abbey. He taught English, Latin and science to high school students at St. Peter's College and helped with sports activities. He was an assistant in the business office at the Abbey and

held the position of business manager, overseeing the accounts of St. Peter's Abbey, College, Press and Farm. He was the business manager and later financial manager for the diocese of Muenster.

In 1974-75, Muyres attended Saint Paul University, Ottawa, completing a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies - Counseling.

In 1977, Muyres and Fr. Werner Renneberg, OSB, went on a 23-day tour entitled "In the Footsteps of St. Paul." They traced the missionary routes of St. Paul and visited holy sites in Israel and Athens.

Muyres has served the parishes of St. Augustine, Humboldt; St. Bruno, Bruno; St. Scholastica, Burr; Holy Rosary, Leroy; Sacred Heart, Watson; Holy Guardian Angels, Englefeld; Holy Trinity, Pilger; Canadian Martyrs, Middle Lake; St. Joseph, Fulda; and St. Peter's Parish, Muenster.

In 2004 he began to reside full-time at St. Peter's Abbey. Before that he had spent many years living in a rectory while serving various parishes.

"I have met many, many wonderful people in all of the parishes that I served. They have continued to be real pillars in their parishes," he said.

Vocations: Year of Consecrated Life

Benedictine Monk balances prayer and work

By Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

Several rows of sunflowers added some colour and charm to one of the St. Peter's Abbey gardens during the summer. The sunflowers, which occupied a plot south of the abbey at Muenster, were planted and maintained by Br. Wolfgang Thiem, OSB.

Br. Wolfgang, 91, has a green thumb and loves spending some of his time doing garden work. His fellow Benedictines recall the large pumpkins he used to harvest and the many pumpkin pies that they enjoyed. Br. Wolfgang especially enjoys growing large, red tomatoes in the abbey greenhouse. The tomatoes have made him famous among visitors who often comment on their quality.

Br. Wolfgang's love of gardening is emblematic of his enthusiasm for monastic life where he has carried out many roles, from serving as a carpenter and mason to gardener and cantor at office. Some of his other hobbies are reading, and listening to international news, which he likes to discuss with his confreres, and cross-country skiing in the winter. He made a noteworthy decision in 2013, on his 40th anniversary to monastic profession, to take piano lessons from Br. Benedict van Ginkel, one of the novices.

The Rule of St. Benedict stresses the importance of living a life of moderation, both in prayer and work. Br. Wolfgang has exemplified this teaching well as a Benedictine monk where he is known for being pleasant and "cool as a cucumber." He does everything at a leisurely pace, whether in his walking and talking or his work and recreational activities.

He is faithful to attending monastic office where he was often assigned the role of a cantor or reader.

Blessed with good health and a sense of humor, Br. Wolfgang likes to demonstrate, especially to younger monks, his strength by improvising a punch or karate kick in their direction. He often tells them he is "mean and lean."

The good health and sharp mind of Br. Wolfgang were especially noticeable six years ago during renovations to the college building of Michael Hall and St. Peter's monastery. He helped with renovations on the top floor of Michael Hall in 2009 and was a major contributor to renovations to the upper and lower floors of St. Peter's monastery between 2010 and 2012.

Br. Wolfgang was born in 1924 in Schwab

Year of Consecrated Life



Gmund, south central Germany, in a predominantly Catholic area. The Second World War was devastating Europe when he graduated from high school. Students in his school were taught German and two foreign languages, so he used the opportunity to learn some French and English.

At the age of 18 he was drafted into the German military. At the end of the war, Br. Wolfgang was taken prisoner by the Americans on Christmas Eve in 1945. He had served two-and-a-half years in the military and was to spend another three-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war.

Following the war, Br. Wolfgang came to Canada, where he joined a secular institute founded by an Oblate priest in Trois Rivieres, Quebec, and helped build residences and a chapel for the women of the secular institute. He worked at brick-laying in the summer, and



Brother Wolfgang Thiem, OSB, enjoys the Abbey garden. - Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

in the winter he did inside carpentry work. He travelled to Haiti where he helped construct buildings for the secular institute.

Br. Wolfgang spent a few months in a Trappist monastery and read the *Prairie Messenger*, the most-worldly newspaper allowed there. He decided, in the summer of 1971, to visit St. Peter's Abbey. He had helped the Trappists with haying and found himself doing the same work at the Abbey. Br. Wolfgang entered the novitiate of St. Peter's Abbey and made his profession as a brother in March of 1973.

Priest Prophet King: Catholic men's group nurtures faith

By Fr. Steve Morrissey, CSSR

Being in Saskatoon has allowed me to join a wonderful new men's group named PPK – Priest Prophet King – which is now meeting monthly in our city.

This Catholic men's group meets monthly to share faith, gathering to talk about Christ, and learn more about our Catholic faith.

I feel blessed to have received the invitation to join this group and in turn I want to extend the invitation to other men to explore how "Iron sharpens Iron" (*Proverbs 27:17*). PPK emphasizes that Christ is at the centre of our beings, and that we are all made in His image.

Millions of people gather around the world (for instance, during this Year of Consecrated Life and as part of the Pope's recent visit to the United States of America) simply because people have said "Yes" to vocations, and to living out a few simple words: "Do this in memory of me." We are part of those millions.

Jesus' incredible influence in our world (which is an influence that we are called to share) is what brings those millions together. Those simple words are an invitation to be a part of the millions and live our faith.



Fr. Steve Morrissey, CSSR, reflects on vocation, and the value of a new faith-sharing opportunity for men in Saskatoon. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

Many of us know a popular refrain from scripture: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me..." (*Matthew 25:40*.) If we can talk about our future, if we can talk about how we respect our brothers and sisters, as a family unified in Christ, then we also must talk about Christ.

Here in North America we are all very blessed, because the call to live our faith is ever present to us. If our families see something that truly matters to us, it will enter into their hearts as well.

Safety truly matters as well, and PPK provides a safe place, a place with no judgment or prejudice, a place to talk about faith, and to gather to share our lives. The new and ever growing group titled PPK is truly a place where men of any age can gather to share faith.

PPK embodies an amazing truth that I believe needs to be shared – it is a truth that lies behind our understanding of scripture, in particular the scripture verse: "where two or three gather in my name..." We all need to find the "two or three." We might find them in a Cursillo community, we might find them in a small group of friends who gather to pray, or we might find our group of two or three in any setting or program that helps us explore our faith. A few weeks ago, I found this at PPK.

The words priest, prophet, and king sum up many great truths, which come alive via our faith. One of the great truths about these words is how they signify the ways in which we share the ministry of Christ.

At our baptism, we all enter into this three-fold mission of Jesus Christ as priest, prophet and king.

Upon ordination, each new priest is also invited to share in the

ministry of priest, prophet and king, and, ultimately, to extend those aspects of ministry to those around him. It is a true joy and a great honor to strive towards those expectations.

Vocations are really everybody's business. They are the business of each and every follower of Christ. We are all called to pray for vocations and the growth of our Church. I really believe that we need to talk about vocations, and that means we need to talk about Christ. We need to talk about our faith life with those around us and we need to encourage others to enter into that same conversation.

In this diocese, a portion of the gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal support the promotion of vocations and the education of young priests for the diocese.

The diocese of Saskatoon is surely blessed! I have witnessed seven ordinations since I arrived here in 2011. Seven new young priests have embraced serving Christ in this diocese – and as those new priests are highlighted, the many priests and religious who have served and continue to serve are also remembered and appreciated.

Some 20 years ago, I was ordained to the priesthood and almost 25 years ago, I became a member of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists).

In living out my vocation, I have had the pleasure of being a youth minister and member of the Redemptorist Youth Mission Team in Saint John, NB. I have also served the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, ON. as youth minister, deacon and associate pastor. At the end of my years in Sudbury, ON. I worked and served in northwestern Alberta. Six years in Grande Prairie, AB. saw me serving the school system as coach of both the girls' and the boys' tackle football teams, as well as undertaking many other roles. Grande Prairie also saw

me sharing in the joys of once again being an associate pastor.

This was followed by six years in Newfoundland, before I was invited to move to Saskatoon.

I am presently blessed to serve as the associate pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Saskatoon, as the chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council Our Mother of Perpetual Help (9539), as one of the on-call chaplains in the hospital system, one of the chaplains in the correctional system, a school chaplain, and most recently, have the opportunity to serve as the Priest Moderator in the Trinity Parishes of St. Denis, Prud'homme and Vonda.

It is often said that no man (or woman) is an island. We need each other. PPK provides a place for men to meet and share faith. It provides another avenue for men to support each other. It provides a place where Christians are invited to reach out to others in faith.

PPK provides an evening gathering where the sacrament of reconciliation is shared, fellowship is shared, joy is shared, and faith is shared – as is much laughter and a few snacks and libations.

I value community. I truly value the gift that all "sheep and goats" (Mt. 25) must hear; all in need of comfort must hear, all who can offer visitation and compassion must hear – the gift that can be summed up in the simple phrase: "Whatsoever you do..." and how we as Christians share in that gift.

Priest Prophet King is a group where men can offer their lives to one another to serve in that fashion – for the purposes of continually developing and growing our faith community in Saskatoon. I sincerely hope other men will consider the invitation to attend.

For more information about the Catholic men's group "Priest Prophet King" in Saskatoon, including details about the next monthly meeting, see the website at: [www.priestprophetking.org](http://www.priestprophetking.org)



Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

An Intercontinental meeting of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary from the English-speaking countries of Canada, the United States of America, the Philippines, Japan, and Gambia was held Oct. 6-15 at Queen's House in Saskatoon, to prepare for a General Chapter to be held in Rome in 2017. The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary minister in 19 countries around the world.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

## Vocations

# Ordination anniversaries celebrated

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Two priests ordained on the same day in 1965 by Bishop Francis Klein celebrated their 50th anniversaries in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon this year.

A celebration for Fr. Denis Phaneuf was held May 31 at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral, while Monsignor Raymond Senger's anniversary was marked June 6 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon and June 8 in his home town of Tramping Lake, SK.

Born in Prince Albert and educated in Saskatoon, Fr. Denis Phaneuf studied theology at St. Paul's Pontifical University in Ottawa before his ordination on June 5, 1965.

Phaneuf has served at parishes across the diocese, including Elrose, Forgan, Kyle, Delisle, Vanscoy, Mildren, Harris, Eston, Eaton, Plato, Wadena, Rose Valley, Quill Lake, St. Front, Wynyard, Foam Lake, Wishart, Lintlaw, Kelvington, Fosston, Prud'homme, Martensville, Cudworth, St. Benedict and Pilger, the military base at Dana, as well as St. John Bosco, St. Philip Neri, St. Paul Cathedral, St. Michael, Holy Family and Holy Spirit parishes in Saskatoon.

Fr. Denis Phaneuf also co-founded My Father's House for Alcoholics, and spent time in hospital chaplaincy and mentoring other ministries and movements.

"My heart is full of praise and thanksgiving for 50 years of having the privilege to serve the Lord here in this diocese," said Phaneuf at the prayer service held during a come-and-go tea with family, friends, colleagues and many former parishioners.

Members of the Emmanuel Community provided music during the service, and Bishop Donald Bolen extended a blessing over Phaneuf and over all those living in consecrated life.

In a brief address, Bolen spoke about "the beauty and the tenderness of faithfulness over time."

This can be seen in every vocation, including marriage, religious life and single life, as well as the priesthood, the bishop noted.

"We thank you for your faithfulness over time to the Lord, and we thank the Lord for being faithful to you, giving you special gifts, gifts that are at the service of the people of God," Bolen said to Fr. Phaneuf.

Born and raised at Tramping Lake, Monsignor Raymond Senger became a teacher before being accepted into St. Pius X Seminary in Saskatoon, and then continuing his formation at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario.



Monsignor Raymond Senger and Bishop Don Bolen (l-r) at a 50th anniversary celebration for Senger at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.



Fr. Denis Phaneuf was blessed by Bishop Don Bolen at his 50th anniversary celebration at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral, where he was ordained on June 5, 1965 by Bishop Klein.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Ordained June 5, 1965, Senger celebrated his first Mass at St. Michael Church in Tramping Lake. While serving as assistant priest at St. Joseph parish in Kindersley, he taught in the Catholic school system. Senger has also served parishes in Marengo, Eaton, Watrous, Young, Colonsay, Bigger, and Landis, the radar base at Alsask, as well as at St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Peter the Apostle and

St. Francis Xavier parishes in Saskatoon. He most recently served as pastor at St. Ann Senior Citizen's Village in Saskatoon. He was named Monsignor April 2, 2012, a pontifical honour conferred by Pope Benedict XVI.

Senger's anniversary celebrations began with Mass June 6, concelebrated with a number of his brother priests. An honour guard was formed by members of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, which Senger has served as chaplain. Bishop Donald Bolen gave the homily, reflecting upon the readings chosen by Senger for the celebration, including Micah 6.

"Monsignor Ray, thank you for staying close to that calling, for your ministry never losing sight of the simplicity of the gospel call 'to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8)," said Bolen.

Bolen noted Senger's diligence and faithfulness in his parish work, and his love of the people he served. The bishop quoted Senger's own reflection on his call, in which the jubilarian wrote: "My priesthood has been a great blessing and wonder in my life. I am always aware of my unworthiness and of His love for me."

An afternoon tea was also part of the celebration at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon, followed by a supper and program of speakers. Senger's anniversary celebration two days later in Tramping Lake included Mass at St. Michael Church (*article at left*).

## Tramping Lake celebration for 50th anniversary of ordination

BY CHRISTINE LANG

Fifty years ago, on June 6, 1965, our little village of Tramping Lake, Saskatchewan was all abuzz with preparation for a special event, as newly-ordained Fr. Ray Senger celebrated his first Mass at his home parish of St. Michael's.

People processed from the Senger home to St. Michael's Church. The ladies of the CWL prepared a banquet fit for such a joyous event.

Fifty years later, on June 8, 2015, at St. Michael's parish, a 50th anniversary Mass was celebrated for now-Monsignor Senger.

Seven brother priests concelebrated Mass for the occasion, and the CWL served a banquet, with some 130 guests attending. A short program followed, with greetings from the town, the Knights of Columbus, the CWL, and the parish.



Celebrants at the 50th anniversary Mass for Monsignor Raymond Senger at St. Michael's parish in Tramping Lake (left to right): Fr. Greg Roth, Fr. John Zunti, OMI, Fr. Matthew Ramsay, Fr. Michel Bedard, Monsignor Raymond Senger, Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Fr. George Chatolil, VC, and Fr. Louis Hoffart, OMI.

- Photo by Christine Lang

## Novocosky reflects on many changes since being named Abbot 25 years ago

BY FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB

"A lot of things have changed in the last 25 years since becoming abbot in 1990," Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB said to more than 200 who came to honour him, June 6, at a 25th anniversary celebration.

When he was named abbot in 1990, St. Peter's Abbey was the centre of an abbacy (diocese) and staffed about 20 parishes with Benedictine pastors, he noted. There were 34 monks, twice the number that is in the community today. The abbacy sponsored a mission team in Brazil. The abbey guest wing was just developing. The rural population was dwindling and farms were growing larger in size. The older generation was being replaced by younger adults with fewer children. Many of the industries in our area were thriving.

"A couple of weeks ago, I came across some documents in a file from 1990. Our community was preparing for the election of an abbot, after Abbot Jerome resigned at age 75. There was a meeting here of lay leaders in our parishes at that



Abbot Peter Novocosky with a portrait that was commissioned for his 25th anniversary celebration.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

time. They were asked what qualities the new abbot should have. Close to the top of the list was a request that the abbot should be more visible in the wider community," Abbot Peter said.

"This creates a bit of tension with the Rule of Benedict that says monks should stay at home in their monastery. Well, some people thought I interpreted that request by buying shares in Air Canada," he joked. Abbot Peter is a member of a

number of committees which hold meetings away from the abbey. He is a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and sits on several CCCB committees. Abbot Peter is a member of the Canadian Religious Conference, which is a gathering of religious superiors across Canada. He is involved with the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus and other organizations. He is the former national director of the

Catholic Women's League of Canada.

"I guess people think that I like going to meetings, or that I like travelling," he joked. "The fact is that we are called to serve, not only at the local level, but also at a wider level. And one of the perks of serving at that level is that you get to meet a lot of good people; people who are dedicated, who are busy in many ways, but people who are ready to serve their community and church on a wider level. I have learned a lot from their example."

Abbot Peter expressed appreciation to his monastic community of the past and present for support in building and maintaining the Benedictine community. He thanked his parents and family for all they have done for him.

"I ask that you pray for me and for our monastic community. Our relationship has been one of mutual support for one another, and cooperation. I hope it continues that way. May God bless us all and fill us with gratitude for all the gifts of

health, mind and body that we have received," he remarked.

Congratulations were given to Abbot Peter by Prior Rudolph Novocosky, OSB, on behalf of the monastic community of St. Peter's Abbey. Jordon Bergermann of Muenster brought congratulations on behalf of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus, and Nap Boutin of Humboldt presented a 25th anniversary book of the Abbot Severin 4th Degree Council. Arnie Novocosky, brother, congratulated Abbot Peter on behalf of his family.

Dr. Zygmunt Kondzielewski of Humboldt unveiled a portrait of Abbot Peter that was commissioned by St. Peter's Abbey.

The emcee for the occasion was Lawrence Novocosky, nephew and godchild. The six siblings of Abbot Peter were in attendance: Arnie (Pat) Novocosky of Saskatoon; Edith (Peter) Knaus of Tisdale; Emma Zubot of Burr; Freda (Ardel) Paproski of Hudson Bay; Agnes (Walter) Trotic of Ladner, B.C. Two siblings are deceased: Leonard and Irene.

# Saskatoon priest honoured for contributions to Institute

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

Fr. Gerard Dewan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was recently recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) presents its highest award – the medallion of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit – to women and men “for their generous response to Mary’s call to live Jesus’ own life through acts of charity and lives that give witness to Christian hope.”

The award was presented to Dewan, as well as to IPF supporters Sharon and Dr. Stephen Doran of Omaha, at a celebration this June in Nebraska.

“For your priestly example, your prayerful heart and for your generous service to the mission of IPF, we gratefully confer upon you, Fr. Gerard Dewan, the Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Award,” said IPF Executive Director Fr. Rich Gabuzda during the award presentation.

The Institute for Priestly Formation was founded to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests



Fr. Gerard Dewan of Saskatoon and Sharon and Dr. Stephen Doran of Omaha, Nebraska (l-r) were recently presented the Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit award at the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha.

in the Roman Catholic Church.

Dewan participated in IPF’s Spiritual Exercises Program (a 30-day retreat) in the summer of 2001, and then participated in the Spiritual Director Training Program there from 2002-2005. The following year, he began serving as a spiritual director for IPF’s Seminarian Summer Spiritual Program, serving for nine

summers. He has also served as a spiritual director and staff member of the IPF Spiritual Director Training Program at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois.

“Due to increasing health problems and following a period of discernment, Fr. Gerard retired from active ministry this past March. In that capacity, he continues to offer spiritual

direction and to engage in a ministry of intercession on behalf of priests, seminarians and those in need,” said Gabuzda.

“If ever there was priest with a heart for priests, Fr. Dewan is that priest,” he added. “He knows well how much the Lord wants to heal individual priests and to heal the priesthood in general. Fr. Dewan has been generous in sharing that healing ministry with all of us over these many years.”

Dewan grew up as one of nine children on a family farm in southwestern Ontario. With a degree in business administration and accounting, he worked for six years at a grain terminal and farm distribution center as a Certified General Accountant and later as an assistant manager of an agromart for two years.

Dewan studied for the priesthood at St. Peter’s Seminary, London, Ontario, and was ordained to the priesthood for the diocese of Saskatoon on May 20, 1988. He has served as pastor in urban and rural parish clusters in the diocese, as rector of St. Paul’s Cathedral, and as chaplain to hospitals and a variety of groups and institutions.

Dewan has also served in several capacities at St. Peter’s

Seminary, London, Ontario and later as spiritual director at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He now lives in Saskatoon.

“I’m blessed, humbled and honoured to have received the Our Lady of Guadalupe, Spouse of the Holy Spirit award from IPF,” said Dewan.

“My personal experiences of the core mission of this holy institution – to aid bishops in the formation of well-integrated ‘men for others’ who ceaselessly desire to be radically conformed to the priestly heart of Jesus Christ in service to the Church – has blessed my priesthood,” said Dewan.

“The Institute responds to the need to foster spiritual formation as the integrating and governing principle of all aspects of priestly formation. To accompany priests and future priests as a spiritual director to ‘fall more deeply in love with God’ has been a great grace,” he added.

“With my vocal cord challenges, it was discerned that the Lord had called me to assist in forming the future proclaimers through intercession, witness and spiritual direction,” said Dewan. “I am truly grateful for being part of the IPF family.”

# World Catholic Education Day celebration: Redemptorist priest and Ursuline sister describe call to consecrated life

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**

“Answering the Call” was the 2015 Catholic Education Week theme explored by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) May 11-15, with a particular focus on the call lived out by those in consecrated life.

“This theme was chosen to help commemorate the Year of Consecrated Life, and to help students come to a deeper understanding of what it means to answer God’s universal call to holiness,” explained Gilbert Chevrier, who coordinated the division celebration just before his retirement as GSCS director of religious education.

Sub-themes for each weekday of Catholic Education Week were the focus of prayer and discussion in schools across the GSCS district, with God’s call put into terms that even the youngest students could understand: “Why do you answer a call?” (relationship); “Call waiting” (discernment); “How do you answer the call?” (service); “The universal call to holiness” (marked by a special day of prayer in schools); and “Forwarding the Call” (evangelization).

World Catholic Education Day was celebrated on the Feast of the Ascension, May 14, with all Saskatchewan Catholic schools invited to join together in prayer.

There was a celebration of a liturgy at 9:30 a.m. in schools across the province that day, said Chevrier, with thousands connected at the same moment by prayer. That afternoon, a division-wide GSCS celebration was also held at St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon, with student and staff representatives invited from each school.

The World Catholic Education Day liturgy in Saskatoon was led by Fr. Kevin McGee, and included prayers presented by students, and words of welcome from Diane Boyko, chair of the GSCS board of education.

Redemptorist priest Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR, and Ursuline Sr. Teresita Kambeitz,



Students and staff representatives from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools gathered May 14 at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon for a World Catholic Education Day celebration, featuring guest speakers Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR, and Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, speaking about the call to consecrated life.

OSU, presented testimonies about their vocations, and how they came to answer the call to consecrated life.

Born and raised in Newfoundland, Fleming spoke about major influences in his faith journey, in particular his grandmother and Sr. Mary Angela Fowler, RSM, a teacher in the Catholic school system who worked with him one-on-one to help him overcome a speech impediment.

“I discovered this woman had incredible love. Her vocation as a Sister of Mercy, her vocation as an educator, influenced me greatly,” he described.

After the accidental death of his younger brother, Fleming underwent a crisis of faith in high school, leaving the church for several years.

Through service to young people in the south Bronx neighbourhood of New York, and then back in Canada, Fleming eventually renewed his connection to his Catholic faith. He joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1982, and in 1988 was ordained as a Redemptorist priest.

In his years as a priest, Fleming said he has been “shaped and formed and molded by the love of God’s people.”

Redemptorists serve among all sorts of people who are struggling or seeking meaning in their lives, Fleming described. “It all begins in a call that recognizes that all of us are children of God.”

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, told youth gathered for the World Catholic Education Day service that one of the most important decisions they will make is “where you are going to direct your love.”

Born and raised in Richmond, SK., Kambeitz said it was while on retreat as a student of St. Angela’s Academy Catholic school in Prelate that she experienced a life-changing encounter with God. While praying the stations of the cross she experienced a call to respond to the love of Jesus that eventually led to her becoming an Ursuline sister.

“A sister is basically a woman who has made three solemn promises to God: to share her love, to share her goods, and to share her services as needed, within a recognized family of sisters — and my particular family is the Ursuline family,” Kambeitz said.

“That word ‘sister’ tells you where I’ve been called to give my love. I’ve been called to be everybody’s sister. Everywhere I go, when people hear me called ‘Sister’, they

Year of Consecrated Life

know what to expect, because they know how sisters love,” she told students gathered for the day of prayer.

As an Ursuline, Kambeitz served as a teacher in the Catholic school system in Swift Current and in Saskatoon, as well as teaching at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, and in places around the world.

“It has all been gift,” she said. “When I look at my life and I see how I have been blessed – I’ve been blessed with so many opportunities to meet people, so many opportunities to do ministry, so many opportunities to touch people’s lives, in short, so many opportunities to be everybody’s sister.”

Since the earliest days of Saskatchewan, there have been some 5,500 sisters in some 60 different orders who have served in almost 300 schools, and over 40 boarding schools and over 40 hospitals in the province, she noted.

“In one way or another these women felt called by Jesus to serve his people in this province... when you come right down to it, it is all about Jesus – the experience that we have of Jesus’ love for us, and we then turn and love, and show that love in serving his people.”

During this Year of Consecrated Life, proclaimed by Pope Francis to run from Advent 2014 to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Feb. 2, 2016, GSCS will continue to celebrate the important contributions of those in consecrated life to Catholic education in our communities, said Chevrier.

## Ecumenism

# Program participants undertake week of intense ecumenical study

By KATE O’GORMAN

Students representing a plethora of Christian traditions and churches gathered together for a week of intensive study June 23-26 in Saskatoon, undertaking the Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation (PESF), a certificate program offered through the Prairie Center for Ecumenism (PCE).

Held for one week each summer, PESF introduces theological concepts and principles of ecumenism. As students advance into their second and third years of study and formation, practical, real-world applications of ecumenical dialogue are examined and worked through.

While first-year students were introduced to topics such as the historical development and biblical perspectives of ecumenical thought and practice with instructors Rev. Michael Poellet, Nicholas Jesson, Fr. Bernard de Margerie, Rev. Amanda Currie, Dr. Darren Dahl and Bishop Donald Bolen, those enrolled in the advanced year entered more deeply into their own ecumenical formation through an immersion into dialogue.

Visiting scholars Dr. Timothy George and Sr. Donna Geernaert modelled the ecumenical conversation with the second-year students, as each shared theological insights from both a Baptist perspective and a Roman Catholic vantage, respectively.

Students were then given an opportunity to bring their own traditions to the dialogue table as first-hand ecumenical encounters were integrated into the program content.

“This program isn’t just about giving people information, it’s about forming

Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism are supported by the

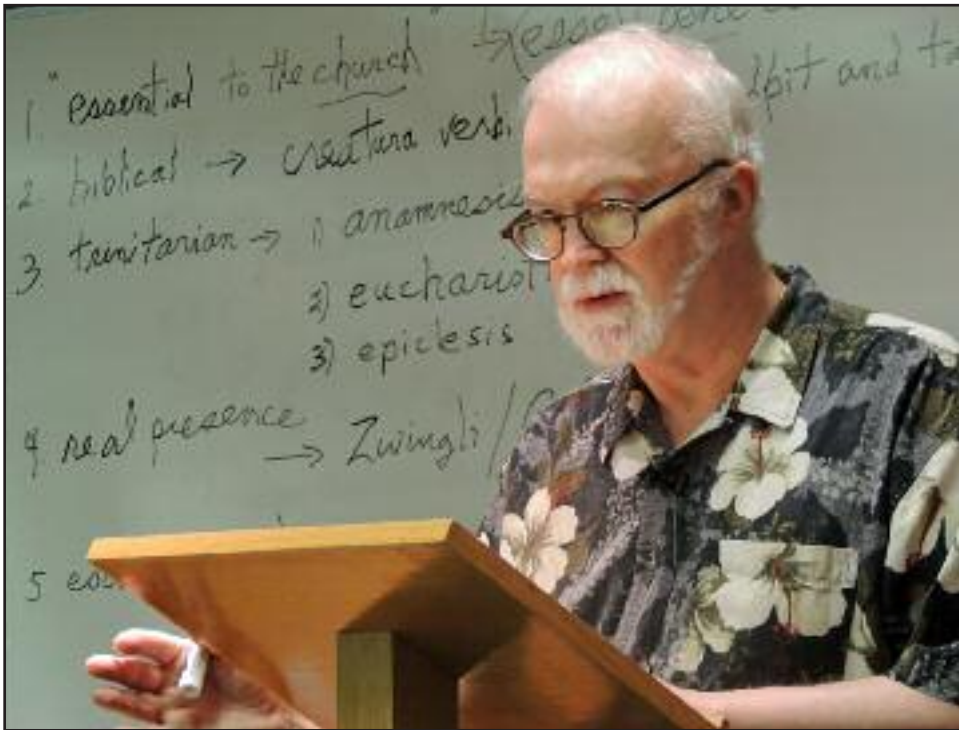


The 2016 Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation will be held June 21 to 24, 2016: Year 1 and Year 3 and the first convocation

leaders,” said Nicholas Jesson, Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, as he addressed the second-year participants. “The hope is that participants will bring an ecumenical perspective into their ministries and work.”

One of the unique aspects of the PESF is its calibre of instructors. “Once students have completed their three years of study and formation they will have studied with a notable group of local ecumenical scholars and practitioners as well as a number of internationally-recognized ecumenists,” explained Dr. Darren Dahl, director of the PCE.

While the program offers on-site curricula each summer, the study and formation continues throughout the year. Students are encouraged to read relevant texts as they pertain to ecumenical theory and dialogue



Visiting scholar Dr. Timothy George of the Beeson Divinity School in Alabama spoke on ecumenical understandings of the Eucharist at the Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation held in Saskatoon June 23-26. The three-year program involves a week of classes held in June and self-directed study during the year.

- Photo by Kate O’Gorman

and offer their reflections, while also incorporating their learning into everyday endeavours and projects.

Identifying ways in which ecumenical principles can be integrated into one’s work and ministry and engaging in deliberate ecumenical conversations within one’s community is the goal.

When asked to share highlights of the week, one student commented that, “A lot of personal learning happened. You have to have a willingness to learn and to be open.”

As classroom conversations continued into the hallways and dining room, another participant said the content was “very

stimulating and eye opening. It has been a totally enriching experience!”

Students who complete all three years of the program receive a certificate in Ecumenical Studies and Formation from St. Andrew’s College and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

The 2016 Program for Ecumenical Studies and Formation will be offered Tuesday, June 21 to Friday, June 24, 2016 (with this year featuring Year 1 and Year 3, and the first convocation) in Saskatoon. For more information, visit the website at [www.pcecumenism.ca](http://www.pcecumenism.ca) or call (306) 653-1633.

## International Evangelical-Catholic Consultation meets in Saskatoon

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The international Evangelical-Roman Catholic consultation met in Saskatoon Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2015, offering the public a rare chance to learn more about the international dialogue process, and the relationship between Catholic and Evangelical Christians around the world.

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity convened this round of international consultation in 2009. The group of 14 theologians, pastors and other leaders from Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, Guatemala, Kenya, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United States and Canada have been discussing challenging issues that have divided Catholics and Evangelicals, including the relationship between scripture and tradition, and the role of the church in salvation.

At the international level, there have been two earlier phases of dialogue between Roman Catholics and Evangelicals. The first phase resulted in the 1984 report *Evangelical-Roman Catholic Dialogue on Mission*. The broad focus of the report was on the Christian mission, but it included initial treatment of a variety of theological points of tension, including the scriptures, salvation, the church, Mary and the saints, and the sacraments. A second phase of dialogue (1993-2002) produced a report entitled *Church, Evangelization and the Bonds of Koinonia*.

The current round of international consultation has held meetings in São Paulo, Brazil (2009); Rome, Italy (2011); Wheaton/Chicago, USA (2012); Guatemala City, Guatemala (2013); Bad Blankenburg, Germany (2014), and finally this year’s gathering in Saskatoon.

“The consultation members have had some real breakthroughs – the challenge will be for our churches to come to those same insights,” said Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen.

A member of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Bolen was one



Members of an International Evangelical-Roman Catholic consultation recently met in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Msgr. Gregory Fairbanks

of 12 participants from 10 different countries who gathered at Queen’s House in Saskatoon, in a process that included work on a joint statement.

Although there is an Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue underway in Saskatoon at the local level, at the international level, the process is described as a consultation rather than a dialogue, Bolen noted.

“Most ecumenical dialogues are geared toward a resolution of our differences; they are geared toward full unity, full community. Many Evangelical Christians are not sure that they want to be in full communion with the Catholic Church – but they are ready to be in consultation, they are ready to be in conversation about what we believe in common and where our convictions differ, and they are ready to identify what we can do together.”

Very real tensions exist between Catholics and Evangelicals in some parts of the world, Bolen pointed out. “One Evangelical member of the international consultation comes from a

community where Evangelicals feel really persecuted by Catholics, so he feels uncomfortable saying all Catholics are Christians, but because of the consultation process, he doesn’t feel uncomfortable saying that the Catholics around the (consultation) table are Christians,” Bolen said. On the other hand, “in places like the United States and Canada, there is a growing relationship between Evangelicals and Catholics, and on many moral questions, we stand side by side.”

“These are two groups of committed Christians who are trying to be faithful to their traditions, trying to be in a deep conversation, who are summoned by Jesus’s desire that his disciples be one (John 17), and committed to being faithful to Christ wherever that leads them.”

A public panel discussion during the Saskatoon event highlighted the relationship between Evangelical and Catholic Christians around the world, said Nicholas Jesson, Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. As co-chair of a local

Catholic-Evangelical dialogue, Jesson was one of the moderators for the discussion.

The panel included the two co-chairs of the international consultation, Msgr. Juan Usma Gómez of Colombia, who works at the Vatican, and Rev. Dr. Rolf Hille, a Lutheran from Germany who is director for ecumenical affairs for the World Evangelical Alliance.

Panelist Dr. James Nkansah-Obrempong of Kenya described how Evangelicals view Catholics in the Global South, particularly in the African Context. Bishop Rodolfo Valenzuela of Guatemala spoke about how Catholics view Evangelicals in Latin America.

Another public event Aug. 30 at Circle Drive Alliance Church featured a lecture by international consultation member Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky, a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and a professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He spoke about the early Church Fathers from an Evangelical perspective.

As for the impact of the international Evangelical-Catholic consultation, Bolen says: “We are witnessing to the Christian community, and to the world around us, that Evangelicals and Catholics talk to each other: talk on deep matters of faith with respect for each other.”

Bolen expressed hope that the document prepared by the international consultation group will also be of importance worldwide to the relationship between Evangelicals and Catholics. In addition to identifying what is held in common and outlining differences, the document will offer practical suggestions for what can be done together in terms of prayer, mission and service.

“We believe that we have made important progress. We have identified aspects of common faith, we have identified where we differ, and in approaching those differences we have come to some new understandings about our differences, and we are closer than we were.”

# Blumenfeld pilgrimage marks historic church’s centennial

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Hundreds of area residents past and present arrived at Blumenfeld, SK. from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and beyond June 28 to mark the 100th anniversary of historic Saints Peter and Paul Church.

A homecoming for many, the annual pilgrimage under brilliantly sunny prairie skies also brought together several surrounding parish communities for a day of prayer and worship, celebration, fellowship and song.

Celebration of the history of the 100-year-old building included reflections on the contributions of settlers, and of the Oblate priests and Ursuline sisters who served them.



Volunteers ran a concession during the day.

Among the day’s many highlights were the blessing of the graves in the church cemetery; devotions such as outdoor Stations of the Cross and the rosary; a procession led by children scattering flower petals before celebration of Mass; opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation; lunch and supper, as well as local delicacies such as “Grebbele,” a dessert consisting of fried dough with an assortment of toppings.

Mass was celebrated outdoors by Bishop Donald Bolen, local pastor Fr. Hoang Nguyen, and several visiting clergy, with music ministry led by musicians from the surrounding area.

Hymns included a song written for the occasion by Deacon Bob

Williston entitled Blumenfeld is Softly Callin’. The day was also an opportunity for the community to bid farewell to Williston and his wife Joan, after the deacon’s retirement from the position of Parish Life Director at parishes in Leader, Lancer and Prelate, and as Pastoral Associate at parishes in Fox Valley, Burstall, Richmond and Liebenthal.

Closed as an active parish in 1964, the Blumenfeld church has continued to serve as a gathering place for the region as the site of the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of the Sorrows that began during the Great Depression. A volunteer committee cares for the pilgrimage site, accepting donations for the upkeep of the church building, which was designated a heritage site in 1983.

The shrine’s outdoor stone grotto was the location of the anniversary Mass held the day before the feast of St Peter and St Paul, patrons of the historic church.

The prairie church is part of a sense of home for those in the area, said Bishop Don Bolen. “This farming district (was) settled by your ancestors at the turn of the century – here, where the sky is more vast than the mind can comprehend; here, where meadowlarks sit on fence posts singing their hearts out; here, where wheat fields thrive on spring rains (and hopefully some summer rains



Children scattering flower petals led a pilgrimage procession before Mass.  
- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

coming soon); here, where those crops suffer in the hot dry sun, where they wave and bow in the August winds; and here, where a beautiful church sits on a hillside, speaking God’s glory to all who pass by.... this is the landscape whose austere beauty is etched inside you.”

Reflecting on the life, mission and martyrdom of Peter and Paul, Bolen said that the paschal mystery of death and resurrection is also etched on every human life, in every time and place.

“Through the Holy Spirit everyone is offered the possibility of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus in a way known only to God,” he said. “Not only Peter and Paul, but everyone.”

Over the past 100 years, death and resurrection has also been experienced in the life of Blumenfeld parish, he said.

“Death and resurrection has been happening in the midst of the struggles and joys here, amidst the

celebrations of new birth, first communions and weddings, in the midst of seasons of abundance and harvests over-flowing, but also in the midst of dust storms and discouragement, thistles and drought and dying,” he said.

“Somehow the God whose face we have seen in Jesus, in his dying and rising, has also been present and been made known to us all – and to those that have gone before us – in the life that has been lived here and in the life that continues to be lived here.”

Like the empty tomb, the closed Blumenfeld church is a sign of contradiction that speaks strongly of life and the power of the resurrection, Bolen said. “This church tucked away off the highway but with its spires reaching high to the sky is a sign of something that is not closed and will not close, is not dead and will not die -- a sign of life and goodness and blessing, a sign of mercy within mercy within mercy.

## Our Lady of Lourdes anniversary focuses on community and evangelization

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A weekend of celebration with a focus on community and evangelization recently marked the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon.

Events included celebration of the Eucharist followed by a banquet Sept. 19, as well as a parish barbecue after Sunday Mass Sept. 20.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish began as a chapel of ease initiated by St. Joseph Church in 1962, with the church constructed in conjunction with Bishop Murray School. Our Lady of Lourdes was officially established as a parish in 1965, with Fr. Donald McIntosh, OMI as the first pastor.

The 50th anniversary banquet program began and ended with music – pastor Fr. Phong Pham opened with a song about the love of God, and at the conclusion of the evening all those assembled held lit candles and sang the Lourdes’ hymn, Immaculate Mary.

Adrien Piche was Master of Ceremonies, and youth from the parish and from Pure Witness Ministries served those attending the banquet. Parish pastoral council chair Chris Donald read a message of appreciation and congratulations from Bishop Donald Bolen, who was away, attending the national bishops’ plenary session.

Special guests at the anniversary banquet included former pastor Fr. Denis Phaneuf, Fr. Clair Watrin, CSB, and Sr. Juliana Heisler, NDS, who served for some 18 years as Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Lourdes, pioneering that pastoral leadership role in the diocese.

Welcomed with a standing ovation, guest speaker Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, reflected on the role of the parish and the call for each one of the baptized to be Christ’s witness in the world.



Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with celebration of the Eucharist, an evening banquet and a parish barbecue. - Submitted photo

In his talk, Wiesner explored Pope Francis’ definition of a parish, from the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Joy of the Gospel, which says: “The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.”

“God wants community,” Wiesner said. “We see this from the first moment of creation. God creates human beings in his own image and likeness. The image of God is that God is a community,” he described, pointing to the Trinity. “When God is at home, God is community. God is family.”

One of the first things Jesus Christ did was to form a community, Wiesner added. “And Jesus left us with one new commandment – ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ He also reminds us that we are to wash one another’s feet – God loves community. “

Wiesner recalled Saint John Paul II’s call

to “make the church a home and a school of communion,” in order to be faithful to God’s plan and to respond to the world’s deepest needs.

To meet this challenge in an authentic way, it is necessary to work on a spirituality of communion, Wiesner stressed. And in order to develop a spirituality of communion, it is necessary to recognize “the Light of the Trinity shining in the face of our sisters and brothers,” he said. “Living a spirituality of communion includes the ability to see our brothers and sisters as part of the mystical body, the real body of Christ.”

Having a spirituality of communion also means cultivating an ability to see what is positive in others and to prize that as a gift from God, he added. This is a process of coming to see that another person’s gift is “a gift from God to me,” Wiesner said, encouraging his listeners to give much-needed affirmation to others.

“Finally, a spirituality of communion means knowing how to make room for our brothers and sisters. Part of making room for others includes resisting the selfish temptations that constantly beset us and which promote careerism, distrust, jealousy, and competition.”

Formed and nurtured in the parish, each one of the baptized is called to be a missionary disciple. “All the baptized, whatever their position in the church, or their level of instruction in the faith, are able to become agents of evangelization,” Wiesner said. “We don’t have to be called by our parish priest or the bishop to evangelize... by virtue of our baptism and confirmation we have the call and the responsibility to evangelize.”

This includes sharing and making present the message of Jesus whenever we gather with others in our own faith communities, as well as sharing the message with those in our families and communities who lack a meaningful relationship with the church, and those who don’t know Jesus, Wiesner said.

The first and most important way to evangelize is by example. “Be a witness before the world to the resurrection and life of Jesus. Be a witness, be a sign of the living God... A witness is someone who gives evidence, who gives credible evidence,” Wiesner said, stressing that the world is hungry for “evangelizers who speak of a God they know.”

In conclusion, Wiesner urged Our Lady of Lourdes parish to continue to “work hard at being a community and our call as individuals and as a community to share Jesus’ message with others.”

Born in Macklin, SK, the retired bishop of Prince George now lives in Saskatoon. After his ordination in 1963, Wiesner spent many years teaching theology and was part of the team that helped develop the Lay Formation program in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. During his time as bishop of Prince George (1993-2013), he served in a number of positions with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, including two years as president of the national body.

# St. Donatus celebrates 100 years of faith on the prairies

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parishioners past and present gathered June 20, 2015 for a 100th anniversary celebration at St. Donatus parish, located under a vast prairie sky south of Macklin, SK.

“Generations of families, friendships and prayer” were remembered and celebrated during the centennial, held to mark the construction of the church building in 1915 in the earliest days of the St. Donatus settlement.

“The church is, and always has been the centre of our community,” said parishioner Carlene Friedrich in a report about the celebration. “Our parish began with masses held once a month in the homes of different parishioners. In 1915 the church was officially dedicated to St. Donatus – a Roman Soldier, Martyr and patron saint of the elements, or weather.”

“The parish of St. Donatus has always been a mission. Through all the years we have been fortunate to be served by a resident priest from one of the larger, nearby parishes,” she noted.

“Thank you to our faith community, both past and present, who, through their dedication week after week and year after year, keep St. Donatus a holy place, a place where you can feel connected to God and to each other, and a place you can always call home.”



A 100th anniversary Mass was held June 20.



Some 200 people attended a banquet in the nearby hall, following the 100th anniversary Mass at St. Donatus Church in June.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, and Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, OMI, were among many who returned home for the anniversary celebration, joining Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and pastor Fr. Augustine Ebido in the celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a banquet.

In his homily, Fr. Ron Rolheiser reflected on the deep prairie roots of those who have lived, worked and worshiped in the St. Donatus community.

“We are here to re-ignite something that was given to us by this unique little parish,” said Fr. Ron. “The parish is first of all about community, about families,” he said, reciting a litany of parish family names and their geography, located on farms surrounding the hub of the prairie church.

“This is a privileged occasion to try and touch those roots and to drink from those roots,” he said, listing such gifts as faith,

community, an “ethic of work, humility and sacrifice,” and “souls that are partly shaped by prairie geography.”

“Those who grew up in this community caught the faith,” Fr. Ron said. “We caught it here, we caught it at our family tables at home. We have faith because of this little place and what it did for us.”

Growing up in St. Donatus “we inhaled the value of family and community of being together, and this church has been the centre of that – but it hasn’t always been easy,” said Fr. Ron, cautioning against over-romanticizing the past and noting the complexities, the temptations, heartbreaks, the sad deaths, the breakdowns and the break-ups that are always part of community life. “There are no simple farm folk. There are no simple places,” he said. “But the centre always held.”

Fr. Ron also reflected on how the prairie landscape has shaped the souls of those raised

in the community. “We are also formed by the prairies. – the barren hills here, the wind storms, the drought, the winter blizzards, the rain, the country roads, the desolate telephone poles, the colour of harvest.”

This is a landscape that breeds qualities such as practicality, earthiness, and toughness. “But more deeply, the prairie has given us a unique capacity to carry loneliness,” said Fr. Ron. “It gives us a certain capacity to handle solitude that many people today just haven’t got.”

The prairie landscape also breeds a certain sense of humility and self-effacement. “When you grow up in St. Donatus, you know you are not the centre of the planet, and that’s a really, healthy thing to know,” Fr. Ron observed.

There is also a wonderful resiliency that comes from the prairie soul, he added, describing it as “a toughness of hope” grounded in a reliance on God. “You learn that there’s always a morning after.”

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration, the bishop expressed appreciation to all those who have lived and served in the parish, and continue to keep it alive and well, noting how much the small prairie community reminds him of his own parish growing up west of Gravelbourg.

“I also want to thank this prairie community for its gift to the larger church – many people from this community have gone on to serve far and wide in many beautiful ways,” said Bolen.

A banquet followed for some 200 people in the nearby parish hall, with a program that included sharing stories, anecdotes and history from 100 years of parish life.

## For 50 years Polish Catholics have nurtured their faith at Our Lady of Częstochowa

By EDWARD KARPIŃSKI

Our Lady of Częstochowa parish recently celebrated 50 years of serving the Polish Catholic community in Saskatoon.

As survivors of World War II were coming to Canada, the Polish people among them felt a need and desire for a Polish church where language issues would not hold them back in their religious and cultural life. When Polish-speaking priests came to sporadically minister to the people, the desire began to seem achievable. On the inspiration of Father Józef Smyczek, the Polish Catholic Association of Saskatoon was formed.

Within weeks \$20,000 was raised and permission obtained to build a church. Building committee members were K. Baraniecki, B. Danko, J. and S. Pronkiewicz, P. Sapieha, J. Slawinski, M. Tuczynski and K. Żródlowski.

The association purchased a lot. A basement was constructed and the



Bishop Donald Bolen presents Papal Blessings to the founders of Our Lady of Częstochowa church – Stefania Pronkiewicz, Kazimierz Baraniecki and Antonina Danko – as pastor Fr. Andrzej Wychucki looks on during a 50th anniversary celebration for the Saskatoon Polish parish held in July.

- Photo by Michal Kilanowski

wooden church, purchased from the Canadian Air Force, was moved onto the site. Bishop Francis Klein consecrated the church on July 22, 1965, dedicating it to Our Lady of Częstochowa. Father Stan Urbanoski was the first pastor.

This achievement by the 60 families was possible due to the

determination, generosity and personal physical work of people who felt a deep need to maintain their faith and to enhance it’s expression.

In the culture of their religion were many feast days, days of observance, a rhythm of devotions that bound them to their faith and

nourished it. They followed the rhythm of the Church calendar: the Christmas home visits by the pastor, children on a caroling route, the communal Oplatek gathering and meal, the Candle Mass of the Virgin, the blessing of Easter food, the parish patron saint celebrations and festivities.

The Parish Polish Language School was established in 1966. The Women’s Sorority was formed in 1968 with Maria Boryska as president. The women raised money through sales, catering meals, bingos, and pay-as-you-eat potlucks. They prayed together as “The Living Rosary.” They visited the sick and the lonely. The Youth Group presented Nativity plays, offered Mother’s Day breakfasts, and took part in religious and cultural events.

In 1984, to celebrate the visit to Canada by Pope John Paul II, a statue of the pontiff by Bill Epp was placed in front of the church building at 301 Avenue Y South in Saskatoon.

During Jubilee celebrations July 26, Bishop Donald Bolen celebrated Mass with the community. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus provided an honour guard. The choir led in singing a version of the Black Madonna hymn composed by Bożena Pawłowska-Kilanowski. The bishop presented documents of papal blessing to three parish founders: Stefania Pronkiewicz, Kazimierz Baraniecki and Antonina Danko.

During the banquet that followed in the church hall (which was filled to capacity with some 160 in attendance) the Polish Catholic Association president R. Klimkiewicz also presented plaques to honour the three surviving founders, who accepted not only for themselves, but for all who had built the church and community.

Parishioner Dr W. Olszyński, Honorary Consul for Saskatchewan of the Republic of Poland, gave a commemorative address.

## Latin Mass marks 25 years in Saskatoon

By JULIE ABERNETHY

On May 3, 2015, Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community celebrated 25 years in Saskatoon – one of the longest-running Latin Mass groups in Canada.

Bishop Don Bolen, Monsignor Stan Urbanoski and Fr. Andrew Wychucki joined some 100 members of the community for the crowning of the statue of Our Lady, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying of the rosary and a potluck held to celebrate the event.

Community members say that they appreciate the beauty of the Latin Mass in offering reverence to God, for the beauty of the chant, and for how the ‘dead’ language of Latin comes alive in the liturgy.

After Bishop James Mahoney gave permission to have the Latin Mass in Saskatoon, about 25 attended, most over 45. Today the growing community of about 120 includes many young families and the average age is about 25. Activities have expanded to include potlucks, coffee socials after Mass, pilgrimages, and Christmas plays.

However, it is not the community events that draw most to the Latin Mass.

“We attend the Extra-ordinary Form [Latin Mass] because God’s presence can be felt in all aspects of the Mass: in the sacred music, in the humility of the priest, in the unity of the people, and even in its profound moments of silence,” say Ashton and Mary Hachen, who have been attending the Mass for a few years.

“When I heard the Gregorian chant, I knew that this is where I had to go to Mass,” says Naomi Charles. She and her husband have been attending the Mass for eight years and were the first couple of the community to be married in the Extra-ordinary Form.

“It has been part of our journey to gain a deeper understanding of the Mass, its history and what it has to offer us,” say Bryan and Lindsay Cey. “The Latin Mass community is a close-knit community and we enjoy the way the community places great importance on celebrating feast days.”



An anniversary cake is cut during the community celebration.

- Photo by Julie Abernethy

Participants who do not speak Latin or understand it, can follow a translation in a missal. The Latin Mass is part of Catholic faith and tradition and continues to play an important part in the Church. As my mother observes: “It is not the old Latin Mass, but the new Latin Mass, since many are discovering it for the first time.”

The Latin Mass is celebrated every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa parish at 301 Ave Y South in Saskatoon. Everyone is welcome. For more information see the website at [saskatoonlatinmass.com](http://saskatoonlatinmass.com)

# Trinity Manor offers faith-based housing for seniors

By KATE O’GORMAN

The new faith-based facility in Saskatoon known as Trinity Manor at Stonebridge is a combination of independent and assisted living accommodations. This innovative and comfortable home for those aged 55 and over, offers comfort, security, on-site medical support as well as spiritual care within a community-based environment.

The Trinity Manor project, undertaken by the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (now known as Emmanuel Care), began as a desire to offer seniors housing options that could meet their needs from within a single Catholic “campus of care,” thereby supporting an “aging in place” concept.

Seniors have access to high-quality independent living, and if their care needs increase over time, they have the option to remain in the

same facility and among the same community, while having those needs met, explains Scott Irwin, president of CHMS.

“It is a bonus that Samaritan Place is literally right across the driveway and offers nursing home services, which can be accessed through CPAS (Client Patient Access Services) and the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority’s admission process.”

During the planning of Trinity Manor at Stonebridge, it became apparent that many of the religious communities of sisters, brothers and priests throughout the province also had similar needs for residential care, notes Suzanne Turmel, CEO of Trinity Manor. “Our religious wanted to have a place where they could all go to receive healthcare services within one organization.”

With declining numbers and fewer young people entering the



Suzanne Turmel, CEO of Trinity Manor, says the facility is a unique answer to seniors’ housing needs.  
- Photo by Kate O’Gorman

religious life, Turmel explains that the communities approached the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (Emmanuel Care) to see what could be done for them – and for others – in terms of elder care.

“We offer three meals a day from our chef,” says Turmel. “We have staff on hand 24 hours a day in case of emergencies. Someone will come to your room to assist you in whatever way needed and if [medical] care is needed, there are nurses on hand... I think this kind of model makes people feel very secure.”

Trinity Manor is unique for the seamless way in which residents can transition from independent senior care to more assisted personal care when it is needed. “There is a huge need for this,” says Turmel.

Trinity also offers a plethora of activities for residents through the

facility’s life enhancement programs. “We have an exercise room and a pool so that people can take care of their physical well-being,” says Turmel. Yoga, tai chi, walking groups and gardening programs are also available. Residents can also take in a lecture or enjoy a movie-night with their neighbours.

Regularly scheduled events are offered daily and people are invited to sign up and participate or not as they so choose. “The concept is ‘cruise ship’ living,” explains Turmel. “We encourage people to get out of their rooms and become engaged in community activities.”

Nearly half of the residents at Trinity Manor are religious and ordained, and Mass is offered every day with chaplaincy services are available. In terms of offering spiritual care, services are being developed to address the diverse religious needs of all residents, taking into account the variety of Christian traditions and faith backgrounds represented in the community.

“One of the things written in the mission for Trinity Manor is to have a strong spiritual care community, but also to do outreach with our neighbours within Stonebridge,” she explains. Ideas such as partnering with local schools and libraries will be explored.

“I want to see what value and service our residents can be within the community, helping in whatever capacity they can. We want to be active within the local churches as well. The religious communities are already very involved and we see an opportunity for all our residents to

piggyback onto these initiatives. Seniors have a lot to give and the outreach programming initiatives will be a large part of our mandate.”

Trinity Manor is a for-profit business with a goal of becoming a revenue-generating facility for Emmanuel Care (the former Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan). These funds will go towards the promotion of future Catholic health care initiatives throughout the province.

The facility offers two buy-in options for residents, the first being a life-lease arrangement which offers buyers first priority should they get sick and need to transition into personal care. The other option is a straight rental.

According to the Trinity Manor CEO, there is interest in bringing this model to other Saskatchewan centres. Future opportunities may also consist of expanding the model of care to include other needs such as palliative care, post-surgical care, and more.

In essence, I think the experience here has been very, very positive,” concludes Turmel. “What people need when they come to a place like this is to feel that they are not a number; that they will have someone that will care about them and basically make sure that their needs are met – whether it be on the personal care side or on the independent side.

“It’s just about having people care about you. Here, people know that someone will be looking after them. Trinity is a caring community where people can feel safe and secure and where people are free to be independent. It feels like home!”



Trinity Manor residents gather in the chapel for vespers – the new faith-based facility is committed to offering spiritual care.  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



**St. Therese welcomes students**  
St. Therese Institute at Bruno, SK. has welcomed 38 students to this year’s nine-month faith formation program. Students come from across Canada to undertake Catholic Studies for the Lay Apostolate. Many programs and events at St. Therese are also open to the public, invited to join the students for faith enrichment. Find more information at [www.StTherese.ca](http://www.StTherese.ca) or call (306) 369-2555.  
- Photo courtesy of St. Therese



**Cudworth celebration**  
Bishop Donald Bolen joined the Cudworth congregation Aug. 16 for their Sunday Mass, officially installing Fr. Colin Roy as the new pastor of St. Michael, St. Benedict and Canadian Martyrs parishes, with parishioners also present from St. Benedict and Middle Lake to celebrate the occasion. Roy is from the Hoey area where he grew up on a farm, which his parents still operate today. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2013. The three parishes welcome anyone to join them for Sunday Masses. Mass schedules can be found at the Saskatoon diocesan website: [saskatoonrctdiocese.com](http://saskatoonrctdiocese.com)  
- Photo by Bernice Jungwirth

## Donlevy contributions recognized

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The contributions of the late Urban and Rod Donlevy to Catholic health care in the province of Saskatchewan were recognized at the national conference of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) held in Saskatoon this May.

Rod Donlevy died Christmas Day 2014, and Urban Donlevy died May 24, 2015. Among their many contributions to health care, the brothers were instrumental in the development of Samaritan Place, a long term care facility, as well as nearby Trinity Manor at Stonebridge, a 174-suite seniors’ independent and assisted living complex in southeast Saskatoon.

In a presentation at the CHAC conference, Scott Irwin of Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (which this fall was renamed Emmanuel Care), and Bishop Donald Bolen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, paid tribute to the Donlevy brothers .

Bolen also announced that stained glass artwork by Toronto artist Sarah Hall, with connections to the new cathedral in Saskatoon, will be displayed at both Samaritan Place and Trinity Manor with a dedication to Rod and Urban Donlevy: “for lifelong contributions to Catholic health ministry in Saskatchewan, with great affection, and deep gratitude.”



**Volunteer appreciation**  
The profound impact of walking with those who are sick, dying, elderly or isolated was celebrated April 21 at a Pastoral Care Appreciation evening for volunteers who serve at hospitals, care homes and in parish communities in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Sponsored by the diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy office and the Knights of Columbus, the appreciation evening began with prayer at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, followed by a reception. Guest speaker was Bishop Don Bolen. For more coverage of the evening see the article at: [www.saskatoonrctdiocese.com/news](http://www.saskatoonrctdiocese.com/news)  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

# Catholic Engaged Encounter offers couples time to reflect and dialogue

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Catholic Engaged Encounter is offered annually at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, but organizers would be delighted to present the weekend of inspiration and preparation more often to couples preparing for marriage.

At a recent diocesan Administration Day, Engaged Encounter team members invited parish leaders to encourage couples to consider the program, describing its benefits, and expressing a need for higher numbers to attend the weekend, with the next one scheduled for April 1-3, 2016.

"We have many couples who report that they came believing they knew everything about each other and their relationship, but that they left having learned more, and deepened their relationship, feeling more committed to each other, aware of things they need to follow up on, and glad that they took the time to come," said Lynn Freistadt, who, along with his wife Wanda, serves on the Engaged Encounter team.

Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, team member and guest master at St. Peter's Abbey, gave a brief history of Engaged Encounter, which has been in existence for some 40 years. "The concept of the Engaged Encounter came out of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter," he said.

The international Catholic Engaged Encounter program recently accepted an invitation from the Pontifical Council of the Laity to attend the world congress of ecclesial movements and communities in Rome, Wasylyniuk noted. "It is officially recognized by the Vatican as a movement of the faithful."

The program has been offered in St. Peter's Abbey, in the diocese of Saskatoon and in the archdiocese of Regina. The Muenster program is now alone within the diocese since the Saskatoon Engaged Encounter program has ended (the Abbey



The Engaged Encounter team spoke at a recent Administration Day in Saskatoon: (left to right): Lynn Freistadt, Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, Lenore Wourms, Barry Wourms, Wanda Freistadt, Angela Yakimoski (carrying baby) and Kevin Yakimoski. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

joined the diocese of Saskatoon in 1998. However, in recent years, numbers have declined.

Engaged Encounter at Muenster cannot continue without support from parish leaders in the diocese, stressed Wasylyniuk. "And what we mean by support is the sending of couples to Engaged Encounter."

Other team members also spoke passionately at the diocesan Administration Day, providing information about the format and the quality of Engaged Encounter.

"Couples are given an opportunity to look at their relationship through individual reflections, private sharing and discussion, guided by the presentations given by the team," said Wanda Freistadt.

"We share our marriages, our relationships, our lives with the couples who are participating. Our priest present is integral, presenting with us, clarifying church teaching, and giving his personal experience and insights into relationships, vocations,

marriage, family and life. He also shares his life with the couples."

Engaged Encounter sessions begin with a presentation by the team, followed by a set of questions given to each of the couples to reflect on, described Lynn Freistadt. At the heart of the Engaged Encounter experience is the engaged couple spending time together, deeply communicating with each other.

"The individuals actually separate and write their answers to the questions. After a time... they exchange their writings and read and discuss them. This is the process that truly encourages couples to encounter each other and God," he said.

Fifteen talks throughout the weekend fall into five themes: family of origin, sacramental marriage, communication, intimacy, and values, listed Wanda.

"Each of the talks then provides an opportunity to look at the topics in a concrete, practical way, using the examples from the lives of the presenters," added Lynn. "Our

## Catholic Engaged Encounter

April 1-3, 2016

St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster

Register online at

[www.ceewest.com](http://www.ceewest.com)

or call (306) 682-3326.

intent and prayer is that the couples will be able to go home with the tools and the desire to continue their encounter in their marriage."

"Our goal and our purpose is about an encounter," agreed Angela Yakimoski, who along with husband Kevin is a team member from St. Scholastica parish in Burr.

"It is an encounter that happens with couples together, it is an encounter that happens with God. We are guides for them to help them start the conversations that are crucial for marriage." Both Angela and Kevin stressed the importance of engaged couples carving out time for this vital encounter, to listen, talk and interact – and to really focus on their relationship.

"What Catholic Engaged Encounter offers is the program, and St. Peter's Abbey is the space where it can happen," said Kevin. Electronic devices are put aside, and the weekend provides the time for couples to encounter each other, and to encounter Christ – including through the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation if so desired.

"I urge you the laity and the clergy: let's create a space where couples will have this grace bestowed upon them. This weekend, as my wife says, is only the beginning."

Kevin said that clergy would be welcome to attend any Engaged Encounter weekend, or portion of a weekend. "Meet the team, pray with us – pray especially for the couples and their children to come – they are the future of the church."

# Conference gives strategies for Creating Cultures of Parish Generosity

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Framed in prayer and theology, and filled with practical tools and strategies, a two-day workshop held recently in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon examined realities of religious giving, and how to create cultures of parish generosity.

The conference, which also attracted participants from several dioceses as well as some from other Christian traditions, opened with introduction by Don Gorsalitz of DCG Philanthropic Services, who initiated the event.

Gorsalitz related how when he first became involved in efforts to build a new church building, he was startled to learn that 41 per cent of the congregation were giving only from \$1 to \$249 per year to the parish. He came to realize that people do not give without a clear understanding of need and vision.

"We have to ask, we have to demonstrate the need, and if we do that, people will respond generously... There is a tremendous capacity to do more in our faith community," Gorsalitz said, pointing to the many needs that Christian churches are being called to address, and a need to inspire greater participation.

Workshop facilitator, Dr. David King of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University, Indianapolis – has researched various denominations, taught in seminary, speaker throughout North America, and is also an ordained Baptist minister.



Dr. David King

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

He said that his goal during the Sept. 10-11 gathering in Saskatoon was to offer a greater understanding of how faith inspires and informs giving.

King began by looking at the altered landscape of religious giving, examining statistics for the United States and Canada among various denominations and age groups, in different regions, for different levels of church attendance.

Studies about why Catholics give and other trends in the culture and the philanthropic landscape were also presented. "The sky is not falling, but the ground underneath us is shifting," King said of the statistics and insights that he provided participants.

Growth areas for Catholic giving include a shift from cultural

models of "paying the bills," to "living the vision," King articulated, before providing tools and insights into how to generate a participatory parish culture, and greater spiritual engagement through giving.

"Fundraising is not about money," King said. Instead, he showed how fundraising is about vision, participation, experience and relationship.

"Our theology of money or stewardship can either enhance or inhibit religious giving," he said. "We are looking at organizational and cultural change, shifting language and the culture we inhabit."

"Do we see fundraising as a task, a necessary evil? Or as a ministry?" he challenged, asserting it is actually part of our Christian calling in providing ministry to all the people of God.

Keys to effective stewardship are leadership, institutional clarity, organizational readiness, best practices and theological integrity, he listed. The first task of leadership is to "define our reality," and the last task is to say "thank you," King noted.

Institutional clarity involves being clear about the mission of the faith community. "Does your budget align with your mission?" he asked. "Sometimes, our resources are going one way and our mission is going another."

Finding out whether the people in the community know and understand the mission, and share in it, is crucial, he added. It is also

important to determine if stewardship is a priority, and whether the parish is ready to actually receive the donations and apply them to a clearly defined mission.

Building a parish culture of engaged participation is "probably the best way to bring about transformational giving," said King, stressing the importance of healthy, vibrant parishes and strategic leadership to encouraging a culture of generosity.

Pay-the-bills congregations frame religious giving in mostly unspiritual terms as necessary to keep the doors open. Share-the-vision congregations tend to connect and integrate money and spirituality, according to sociologist Peter Munday.

A share-the-vision congregation has a culture that says "we may not be rich, but we have more than enough," and "we can dare to dream and grow in faith," described King. The message to donors in a share-the-vision congregation is "partner and grow in faith with us" – which is shown to be the most effective and authentic way to engage in religious fundraising, he said.

Hand-in-hand with clearly articulating and living their mission, parishes and faith communities are called to transform people into generous givers – "to transform people in their walk of discipleship, which will transform the entire community," he said.

King presented the paradox of generosity: "how in giving we win and by grasping you lose," and

pointed to the inspiration of giving that happens by using stories, videos and conversation.

"Generosity is a learned or condition response, motivated by religious practices, shaped by our childhood experiences, influenced by our life experiences, and a habit of the heart," participants heard.

King provided a range of insights about the spirituality of giving, with quotes from leaders and theologians such as Pope Francis and Henry Nouwen. A quote King shared from Christine Pohl summarized the spiritual response at the heart of giving: "When we understand the grace we've received, we are able to turn outward in gratitude and generosity."

King also addressed the fears that some leaders have about "money talk."

He encouraged parish leaders to be intentional and thorough in doing the work of understanding patterns of giving in their parish, and in moving forward with a plan for increasing engagement and stewardship.

"This work is part of the pastoral care we do to disciple generous people," he said.

The process includes telling the story, asking, learning and planning, and keeping the momentum going, King outlined, providing participants with practical strategies and tools for moving forward to clearly define mission and need and to nurture a parish culture of generosity and gratitude.

# Friendship Inn meals provide helping hand, thanks to community support

BY AMY BRATTON

Many of us rarely give a second thought to the source of our next meal. To people living in poverty, a lack of proper nutrition gnaws away at every aspect of their daily lives while causing high levels of illness and stress.

With the support of generous donors, the Friendship Inn empowers youth and adults to bridge the gap between cheques and to better manage other day-to-day challenges.

Donors help the Inn to provide up to 1,000 meals each day, free of charge, to those in need.

The Friendship Inn is a community initiative that is supported completely by donations of the Saskatoon and area community. The donation of funds,

food and volunteer time from businesses, individuals and community groups are what sustain the work that happens at the Inn.

There are many ways to help the Friendship Inn. Monthly or one-time donations to the Friendship Inn help keep the doors open and the lights on.

Donors receive a tax receipt for their donation. Sponsor the cost of one meal with a donation of \$750, and choose the menu for that meal. Donors can also sponsor a Day at the Inn for \$5,000, or a whole week at the Inn for \$35,000.

Food donations are essential for providing nutritious meals for the guests of the Inn. Most of the food served at the Inn is donated.

Call the Inn anytime to find out what items are currently most

needed. Staples such as pasta, rice, oatmeal, sugar, and peanut butter are always needed. Fresh fruits and vegetables are always welcome.

Volunteering is another way to support the work of the Friendship Inn. The Inn operates with a small staff supported by five to 25 volunteers each day. Volunteer just once, or on a regular basis. Groups of up to 12 are invited to sign up to serve a meal together. Holidays, such as Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving are a great time to volunteer at the Inn.

Visit [www.friendshipinn.ca](http://www.friendshipinn.ca) for more details on how to support the Inn. Call or drop by any day between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 619 20th Street West, Saskatoon, (306) 242-5122.



Those dealing with challenges, including families, children, the working poor and others find welcome and support at Friendship Inn. Visit [www.friendshipinn.ca](http://www.friendshipinn.ca) to find out more about the Inn, which provides two meals a day, 365 days a year, in a spirit of friendship. - Submitted photo

## Run for Family reflects essence of Serena: vibrant, healthy, family-friendly



All ages participated in the fourth annual Serena Run for the Family Sept. 12 in Saskatoon, supporting the Natural Family Planning ministry of Serena Saskatchewan. -Photo by Jim McLane

BY ANNETTE BENTLER

On a glorious autumn day in September, the fourth annual Serena Run for the Family was held in Saskatoon.

Images of diamonds were present everywhere to honour Serena Canada's 60th anniversary: on the t-shirts, painted on the trail, on the runners' bibs, on the water bottles, chocolate diamonds on the cupcakes, ring pop candies in the goodie bags, and toy rings.

The Run for the Family includes both runners and walkers, from babies to grandparents, completing three distances: one, three or five kilometers, with prizes and "goodie bags" adding to the fun of the event for all ages.

One family participated simply because

they saw a poster at the park that advertised: "strollers are welcome."

The event is planned to reflect Serena – active, vibrant, healthy, and family-friendly. Organizers expressed appreciation to all the participants, volunteers, and donors. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

Serena is a non-profit service that uses and teaches the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning. It is an effective, cooperative, scientifically-based, healthy and inexpensive method of Natural Family Planning that can be used to avoid or achieve pregnancy.

For more information e-mail Serena Saskatchewan at [sask@serena.ca](mailto:sask@serena.ca) or visit "Serena Saskatchewan" on Facebook, or see the national website at: [www.serena.ca](http://www.serena.ca)

## Kenya Orphanage: Jesus Leads Us mission continues

A mission effort to help an orphanage in Kenya continues, reports Michelle Peters of St. Scholastica parish at Burr, Saskatchewan.

Kenya Orphanage Mission: Jesus Leads Us was established in 2011, following up on several visits and fundraising efforts to help an order of sisters, the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ), care for orphans at Outspan, Eldoret, Kenya.

"Since Fr. Modestus Ngwu [who is presently serving in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon] visited Ancilla Boarding/Day Academy, we have had great help through the Holy Spirit for our mission," reported Peters.

"A gracious supporter read about us in last year's Diocesan Newsletter. They made a very generous donation and gave us advice, along with Fr. Modestus, on how to support the sisters and orphans.

"We now have cows, chickens, and a garden filled

with vegetables and fruit trees." Peters shared reports from Kenya about the initiative:

"You can't imagine their [the orphans] excitement whenever they come to work in the garden. It gives them a sense of belonging and ownership. In fact, they want to come to the garden every day but we can't allow them because their program in the school is quite tight. So they can only work in the garden on Saturdays after their morning preps."

Kenya Orphanage Mission: Jesus Leads Us is striving to help the mission grow in sustainability as well as complete the construction of the orphanage/boarding school.

"We are always in need of prayer, missionaries, and financial support," said Peters.

To find out more, see the [www.jesusleadsus.com](http://www.jesusleadsus.com) or contact Peters at (306) 682-0775.

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

**Cat.Chat in Concert** – Sharing the treasures of the Catholic faith with families and children in a lively, fun, music-filled program, Cat-Chat will perform 6:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 10** at the Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Advanced tickets are \$7 each or \$25 per family (At the door: \$10 each or \$35 per family). For tickets contact Patrick Clarke at (306) 659-5805. Based in Bruno, Saskatchewan, Cat.Chat tours extensively across North America, and now has a television series on EWTN. The Cat.Chat Family and Moses the Cat touch the hearts of kids and families in an inspiring and entertaining way. Highlights of the concert include spectacular and energetic songs, unicycling, juggling, crowd interaction and dynamic teaching about the Catholic faith.

**The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary** are offering a Personal History Weekend Retreat for young, single, Catholics 19 years and older (men and women) **Nov. 6-8** in Saskatoon. Through reflection, writing and prayerful discernment, explore your gifts, your dreams, your relationships and see how God is inviting you to move forward in discipleship and holiness. Live-in weekend costs \$50 (includes meals), and runs from 7 p.m. Friday, Nov 6 to noon Sunday Nov 8, at Discernment House, 851 University Drive, Saskatoon. Contact Sr. Lucie Hamel at (306) 244-0726 or [sk.dhouse@gmail.com](mailto:sk.dhouse@gmail.com)

**St. Joseph's Parish Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 21** at the Parish Hall (1006 Broadway Ave.) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All crafters are welcome. Contact Maureen Anspach (306) 244-8536 or the parish office (306) 244-1556 before Nov. 13 to book a table (\$30).

**Conseil Pastoral Francophone Inter-Diocésain de la Saskatchewan** - La nouvelle évangélisation: une affaire de famille - Les **21 et 22 novembre 2015** à la Cathédrale Sacré Cœur de Prince Albert. Conférencière invitée, Madame Michèle Bouva d'Ottawa, directrice de l'Organisme Catholique de la Vie et de la Famille. Deux présentations "La famille a-t-elle besoin d'être évangélisée?" et "La famille: apôtre d'apôtres! Le Christ cherche des apôtres parmi les baptisés. Sommes-nous appelés?" La journée débutera à 9h le 21 novembre avec dîner, banquet et soirée animée. La messe sera dite le dimanche 22 novembre à 9h. Pour plus de renseignements (306) 270-7191.

**The God Story Continues in Our Stories: Seeking God in Everyday Life** – 7 p.m. **Monday, Nov. 16** at St. Anne Parish, 217 Lenore Dr., Saskatoon – a Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* session with Leah Perrault. Contact Sr. Dianne Sehn to pre-register (306) 931-4700. Cost \$5. Also offered 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 at St. Peter Parish, Unity. Contact Terri (306) 228-2341.

**Holy Year of Mercy** – 2 p.m. **Monday, Nov. 16** at Columbian Manor, 2940 Louise Street, Rosetown, SK., – a Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* session with Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI. Contact Sophie to pre-register (306) 373-8160. Cost \$5.

**Eucharist: A Way of Life** – 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 18** at St. Theresa Parish, Rosetown, SK., – a Foundations: *Exploring Our Faith Together* session with Sr. Dianne Sehn. Contact Judy to pre-register (306) 882-2488. Cost \$5.

**World Youth Day** - Are you 18-30 years old and thinking about attending World Youth Day this summer in Poland? The Emmanuel Community of Saskatoon is traveling to Krakow and looking for young people to join them! The group is visiting Auschwitz, the John Paul II museum, attending a pre-forum in Czeszochowa and celebrating WYD in Kraków with Pope Francis. For more information: [porterjenny14@gmail.com](mailto:porterjenny14@gmail.com)

**Serena Saskatchewan annual social** will be held 6:30-9:30 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 6**, at Our Lady of Lourdes, 1235-12th Street and Wiggins Ave., Saskatoon, with a catered banquet, wine, door prizes, entertainment. Guest speaker is Shawna Sparrow. For tickets (\$25 each), contact Serena at [sask@serena.ca](mailto:sask@serena.ca) or text (306) 934-8223.

## Queen's House of Retreat and Renewal

• 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon • Registration or more information: (306) 242-1916 or visit the website at: [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org)

*Queen's House is a gathering place and oasis in an ever changing world, nestled in a quiet corner of Saskatoon on the bank of the river.*

### Upcoming programs:

**A DAY AWAY** - Facilitator: Gisele Bauche. Second Wednesday of the month, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Nov. 12, Dec. 9.** Cost \$25 with lunch. Come spend "time away" in quiet reflection, input, sharing, prayer, scripture study and contemplation.

**MARANATHA YOGA** – Facilitator: Kate O'Gorman. **Mondays until Dec. 7** (7:15 – 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$96/12 weeks or \$10 drop in.

**THE BOOK OF EXODUS** - Facilitator: Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI. First Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. – noon. **Nov. 4, Dec. 2.** Cost: \$15. An exploration of Holy Scripture with a dynamic and seasoned instructor. Come for one or all sessions.

**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL** - Facilitator: Sr. Teresita Kambeitz OSU. Thursdays, **Nov. 5 and Nov. 9.** 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$10/session. Sr. Teresita shares a variety of understandings and insights regarding this remarkable document authored by Pope Francis.

**DIALOGUING WITH POPE FRANCIS** - Facilitator: Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers. 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cost: \$60/day. **Saturday Nov. 21:** Laudato Si' - Why is it so Hard to Change? / **Saturday Dec. 13:** Year of Mercy - Challenges and Opportunities.

**IGNATIAN RETREAT: FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS** - Facilitator: Linda Labelle. **Friday November 20, 7 p.m. - Sunday November 22, lunch.** Cost: \$250 live in; \$200 commute. St. Ignatius of Loyola calls us to an awareness that everything about us comes from God, even our ability to reflect on God's love. In the tradition of St. Ignatius, participants will enter into a time of quiet reflection with Sacred Scripture, prayers and exercises. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will close with Sunday Eucharist followed by lunch. All are welcome.

**GATHERING OF MEN RETREAT** - Facilitator Brad Bodnarchuk, from 7 p.m. **Friday, November 20 until Sunday, Nov. 22** at 1 p.m..

**ADVENT RETREAT: THE SPIRITUALITY OF WAITING** - Facilitator Gisele Bauche, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 28.**

### Ongoing:

**COME AND GO ICON WORKSHOPS** with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays.

**TAIZE PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** - 2nd Tuesday of month 8-9 p.m.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BROTHERS' KEEPERS BREAKFASTS** - Second Tuesday morning of each month beginning at 7 a.m. with breakfast at 8 a.m.

**CENTERING PRAYER**- 7 pm Mondays (holidays excepted).

# Archivists from across Canada build bridges

BY MARGARET SANCHE

In September 2015, 54 archivists travelled from across Canada to spend three days at Queen's House in Saskatoon for the annual conference of their professional organization, the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG).

Participants included the archivists of Roman Catholic dioceses across Canada and archivists for religious congregations, as well as one archivist of a Ukrainian Catholic eparchy and one religious congregation archivist from Wisconsin, U.S.A.

The many beautiful bridges of the host city gave the conference its theme: *Catholic Archivists: Building Bridges of Faith and Understanding*.

Over three days there was much sharing of information, concerns, ideas and stories. In addition to the formal presentations, there were many opportunities for conversations and networking over meals and refreshment breaks, as well as prayer and communal worship in Eucharistic liturgies.

Among the conference's formal sessions was a presentation by Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, about the history of the 61 congregations of women religious that have served in Saskatchewan since 1860.

In another session, Fr. David Tumback and Rosa Gebhardt of the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon spoke about dealing with the many sacred items – liturgical vessels, vestments, liturgical books – which are given to archives in conjunction with the closure of churches and convents.

Tumback spoke about what to keep and what not to keep for historical purposes, and reviewed canonical guidelines, while Gebhardt presented ideas for the respectful “re-purposing” or “transforming” of beautiful fabrics from no-longer-useful-vestments into works of art for the enhancement of liturgical worship spaces.

Another session dealt with the practical aspects of the care of artifacts of various kinds and one presentation offered suggestions and ideas for outreach projects.

One day during the conference, there was a built-in opportunity for archivists to build bridges, by sharing information, ideas and concerns.

Some of the challenges discussed were the need for



Archivists of Roman Catholic dioceses and religious congregations across Canada – as well as one archivist of a Ukrainian Catholic eparchy and one religious congregation archivist from Wisconsin – gathered in September for a national conference of the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG), at Queen's House in Saskatoon..

-Photo by Kiply Yaworski

records management in religious congregations, dioceses and parishes, planning for selective digitization of records and photographs, and the developing of policies for the collection, care and research use of the historical records of dioceses or religious congregations.

An ongoing concern for many of the religious congregation archivists is the need to provide for the future care of their records.

Two examples of collaborative “bridge-building” were presented — that of a congregation of women religious in Ontario, Our Lady's Missionaries, which is in the process of placing its historical records and artifacts in the care of a local historical museum and archives, and that of the diocese of Saskatoon, in which the records of several congregations of women religious, as well as those of the Oblates of the former St. Mary's Province, are now housed and cared for in the new diocesan archives facility at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

During their time together, the archivists toured the Western Development Museum and visited the new Cathedral of the Holy Family, where they heard a talk on the stained glass windows, toured the diocesan archives, and gathered in

the Queen of Peace chapel for Eucharist, with Bishop Don Bolen presiding.

Bolen thanked the archivists for their work in caring for the records of the history of the Church, following in the footsteps of those un-named early Christians who gathered and cared for the letters of Paul and others, and the Gospel writings of the early evangelists and their Christian communities – writings which came to form our New Testament scriptures.

Bolen stressed the many ways God has been revealed to us through faith and tradition. “That is all of our story, repeated in time: God reaches out to us in mercy. And a part of what archivists do – working in the Church, or for Christian communities – is to remember those acts of God's mercy; to be keepers of the memory of mercy.”

Before blessing the archivists, the bishop reminded them that their work as keepers and bearers of the memory of mercy is a holy task, that they are “engaged in a holy work, God's work, evangelizing work.”

The next Catholic Archivist Group conference will take place in Halifax in May, 2016.

## Special tours offered for the Year of Mercy

A Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy will be marked in the universal Church from Dec. 8, 2015 to Nov. 20, 2016.

Pope Francis has proclaimed the upcoming Liturgical Year as a Holy Year of Jubilee that has as its centre the mercy of God.

While popes typically announce a jubilee every 25 years, Pope Francis has decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee “in which the Church may render more clear her mission to be a witness to mercy.”

Pope Francis is inviting all people to find “the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and woman of our time.”

The opening of the “Holy Doors” in the major Roman basilicas and our passage through these doors, as well as our pilgrimages to significant shrines and many

Cathedrals of the world symbolize our repentance and recommitment to a life of faith in our merciful God.

Ministry to Tourism is offering a number of Pilgrim Journeys during the Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016 to destinations that will open hearts to the action of a merciful God who reigns beyond all human accomplishments and sinfulness, according to Fr. Ralph Kleiter.

“May our reflective travel serve as a ‘Holy Door,’ offering an experience of passage and transition in our spiritual journeys,” he said.

Pilgrim Journeys in 2016 include:

**Alaska Inspirations** - A “Retreat at Sea will focus on the grandeur of Alaska and our “Care of Creation.” In advance of the annual ‘World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation’ on Sept. 1, participants will board the Crystal Serenity for a 10-day cruise, Aug. 9-16, 2016 from

Vancouver to Anchorage, with an optional three-to-four-day post-cruise visit to historic Denali National Park.

**The Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal)** includes a choice of three core programs, each offering destinations accompanied by reflections on the Hispanic World, all begging the loving mercy of God.

The core program Oct. 30 to Nov. 10, 2016 includes Santiago de Compostela (Holy Door), Douro Valley River (7-day cruise) and Fatima. This can be enhanced with an 11-day pre-core program to Madrid, northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela Oct. 20-30, 2016, and/or a 13-day post-core program from Lisbon (Cascais) to Southern Spain and Madrid.

**Pilgrim Journeys to Biblical Lands and Beyond** are focused on “once in a lifetime” destinations, all offering compre-



### Divine Mercy Sunday

Fr. Daniel Yasinski led a Divine Mercy Sunday celebration April 12 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. The annual event is held on the Sunday after Easter, with the 2016 celebration to be held April 3, 2016. Divine Mercy Sunday will receive particular attention this year, as the church enters a Year of Mercy beginning Dec. 8. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

hensive presentations of our Judeo-Christian roots, walking in the footsteps of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus of Nazareth, and the Apostles who began the outreach of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Year of Jubilee 2016 theme of mercy will ring out as pilgrims learn the history of human achievement and sin followed by God's endless mercy and forgiveness, said Kleiter. “In short, we will never be the same!”

Experience **Biblical Lands and Seas** in Israel and Jordan, Sept. 1- Sept 12, 2016, from Tel Aviv, Israel to Amman, Jordan.

**From Byzantine Icons to Holy Doors of Rome** will be offered Sept. 12-20, 2016. At Istanbul and Venice, discover the roots of the Eastern and the Western Church. The journey emphasizes significant places in the ministry of St. Paul and historic ports leading to Rome, the Eternal City. A “Portfolio

of Excursions” will highlight days of sightseeing such Assisi (St. Francis) and Holy Year papal events. The 18-day journey includes Istanbul (two nights), an 11-day Crystal Symphony cruise, and five nights in Assisi/Rome. There are optional extensions after room for enrichment, and a special discount for booking two or more programs. During the Holy Year of Mercy, Ministry to Tourism in each of the above programs special local guides and enrichment opportunities as part of all the programs, noted Kleiter. “Important liturgical events at designated holy shrines and sights as well as special features and tools, will enable a ‘discovery of the sacred in reflective travel,’” he said.

For full details, including costs, contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism, (306) 244-3747; e-mail: kleiter@shaw.ca or visit the site at: [www.pilgrimjourneys.ca](http://www.pilgrimjourneys.ca)

The Msgr.  
Michael J. Koch  
Resource Library  
is supported by the

**Bishops**  
ANNUAL APPEAL



### Catholic resource library

Guest readers like Stephanie Hughes are again sharing beloved books at Children's Story Time held 10 a.m. Thursdays at the Msgr. Michael J. Koch Resource Library. The diocesan library is located at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon (second floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family), and is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed over the noon hour). Library volunteers are always needed and welcome – for more information contact Sharon Leyne at (306) 659-5853. - Photo by K. Yaworski

# Operational funding approved for second L’Arche home in city

BY WYNDHAM THIESSEN

In a few months, L’Arche Saskatoon will be welcoming new residents to a second L’Arche home as part of a province-wide initiative to provide new homes for individuals currently living in the Valley View institution in Moose Jaw.

The L’Arche community purchased a second house in 2012, but when operational funding was not approved by the Ministry of Social Services at that time, the

house was rented out to tenants.

Now that operational funding has been approved, the L’Arche community will be able to welcome a total of four individuals with intellectual disabilities to the new home, including two people from Valley View and two individuals from Saskatoon.

Three or four assistants will also live there, providing needed supports and sharing in the daily life of the home.

There is a lot of work that needs



L’Arche residents and friends hold up weaving created at a part-time workshop established with a vision of “making art, making friends, making peace.” L’Arche is presently seeking donations, quality furniture and household items for another home opening in Saskatoon.

- Submitted photo

to be done before new residents can move in. The Ministry of Social Services has provided funding to build two wheelchair-accessible

bedrooms and a bathroom in what is currently an attached garage.

The house also needs to be furnished, so L’Arche is seeking donations of quality furniture and other household items. L’Arche Saskatoon is hoping that new residents can be welcomed in early 2016.

The L’Arche community has also been growing on another front. Three years ago, L’Arche Saskatoon began a part-time workshop, which involved a small group of individuals with and without disabilities meeting together with a vision of “making art, making friends, making peace.”

The Ministry of Social Services approved funding this year to make the workshop a full-time program. This funding has made it possible for L’Arche to hire two full-time assistants and to welcome three more participants, including two participants in wheelchairs (thanks

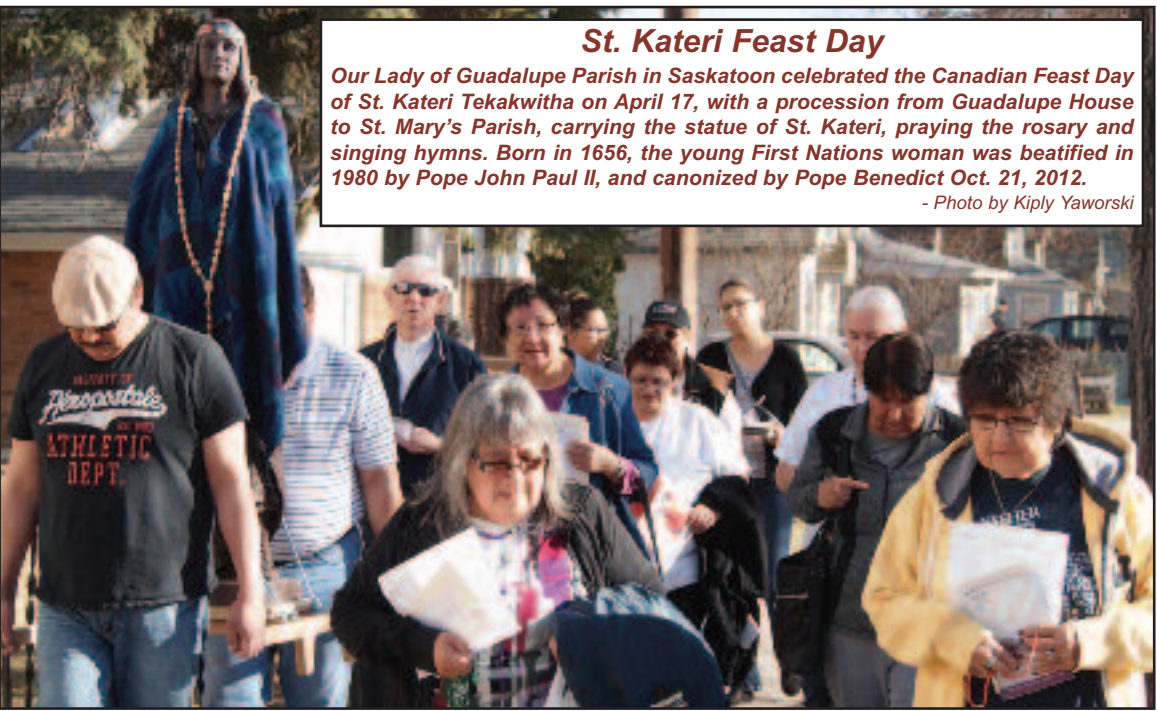
to a grant from the Kinsmen Foundation covering half of the cost of a wheelchair accessible van).

The group spends time each day out in the community doing various social activities, as well as some time engaged in creative pursuits such as weaving and card making at Zion Lutheran Church, which has provided the workshop with space.

The participants also serve and help others as opportunities arise (e.g. visiting people in a seniors’ home). The workshop is currently seeking volunteers to help with their activities.

L’Arche Saskatoon also holds weekly ecumenical prayer nights, monthly “Friends of L’Arche Gatherings,” and a monthly Collective Kitchen.

For more information about L’Arche Saskatoon contact Community Leader Wyndham Thiessen at (306) 262-7243 or wthiessen@larchesaskatoon.org



## St. Kateri Feast Day

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon celebrated the Canadian Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha on April 17, with a procession from Guadalupe House to St. Mary’s Parish, carrying the statue of St. Kateri, praying the rosary and singing hymns. Born in 1656, the young First Nations woman was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, and canonized by Pope Benedict Oct. 21, 2012.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

# Year of Consecrated Life marked at Knights of Columbus event

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Some 100 consecrated women and men from several religious orders were the guests of honour at a banquet Sept. 8, hosted by the Knights of Columbus Denis Mahoney Council at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Held to mark the Year of Consecrated Life (which continues until the Feast of the Presentation, Feb. 2, 2016), the evening was emceed by Myron Rogal, coordinator of the diocesan Justice and Peace Office. Proceeds of the dinner went to support diocesan vocation efforts.

Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Gil Wist, members Andy Wilson, Reg Bilodeau, and a team of volunteers, as well as many guests from across the diocese, were on hand to thank consecrated religious women and men for their service and witness.

On display in the hall was a large cloth map of Saskatchewan, showing all the places where religious women have served in the province, since the first three Grey Nuns arrived at Île-à-la-Crosse in 1860. The map was created by Sr. Sylvia Obrigewitsch, NDS, for a 2005 homecoming organized for women religious who served in Saskatchewan, said Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU.

“As part of that celebration, we tried to get in touch with all the orders that had ever served in Saskatchewan, and got in touch with their archivists to send us the names of all of the Sisters,” she described. “I was really startled to discover there were 61 orders, with over 5,500 Sisters that served in Saskatchewan.”

Consecrated religious orders in Saskatchewan have owned and operated 23 hospitals and worked in another 20, and have owned and operated 45 boarding schools and taught in almost 300 schools, said Kambeitz, describing how these women built the foundations of health care, education and social welfare.

During this Year of Consecrated Life, the



Consecrated religious were honoured Sept. 8 at a banquet hosted by the Knights of Columbus at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

provincial Catholic Connections Committee has commissioned a monument recognizing the contributions of women religious to Saskatchewan, she added. The monument will be unveiled and blessed in Wascana Park, near the legislative building in Regina, at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 1, followed by Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

Bishop Donald Bolen noted that the Congregation for Religious Life has called for the Year of Consecrated Life to be celebrated by looking to the past with gratitude, living the present with passion and looking to the future with hope.

As part of looking to the past with gratitude, Bolen listed the initials of all the religious orders who have enriched his own life over the years. “Going through this sort of exercise brings to light what an extraordinary contribution consecrated women and men make to the life of the Church. This has been

our Catholic experience and it has been a joy and an unfathomable gift,” he said.

“Dear Sisters, Fathers and Brothers, you have been for us close friends and mentors, spiritual supports and fonts of wisdom, sources of honesty and daily inspiration in your faithful witness. You have shown us God’s tender mercies. With boundless gratitude for all that has been, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.”

As for living the present with passion, “religious life is a passionate matter because we follow a passionate Saviour, a passionate God, who wanted to come and dwell with us, who wanted to give us everything, so that we might have life,” Bolen said.

“Religious life is not for the unadventurous... thank you for giving it all. Your ministry has enriched all of our lives. Thank you for your compassionate, missionary discipleship.” In looking to the future with hope,

“we cannot give up on God and what God is doing in our midst,” said Bolen.

During his presentation he quoted a number of writers and poets, including Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, who wrote: “Above all, trust in the slow work of God ...give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.”

The bishop concluded with a reflection on a line from ee cummings: “always the beautiful answer who asks a more beautiful question”, observing that the beautiful question from the Lord is “will you follow me?”

“And your beautiful answer? It is your life, it is your faithfulness, it’s your joy – it is you. Thank you very, very much,” said Bolen.

The evening was organized by the diocesan Vocations Office and Knights of Columbus Council 8215. The Knights of Columbus hope to make this an annual event.